



World Vision

For Children. For Change. For Life.



Act now.

Make a difference.

Safe and secure: Our children are. But millions around the world aren't. Too many children lack access to good food, education, housing and health care which pushes them to work in what are known as the 3Ds - dangerous, dirty and degrading jobs, such as mining which is one of the most dangerous industries where children toil.

As Canadians, we would never allow this to happen to our kids, so we must do what we can to help those children and families around the world, who are struggling in poverty, to stand up for their rights and be heard.

THIS IS THE START.

By reading this, and the two children miners' stories included in this Help Wanted: End Child Slavery feature, you will already better understand the global child-labour issue. And we hope you will then visit our site and sign our online petition, a petition that promises to help eliminate the worst forms of child labour around the globe. For the health, well-being and future of millions of kids, it starts here: www.endchildslavery.ca

DID YOU KNOW?

There are an estimated 115 million child labourers worldwide, and at any given time, approximately 1.2 million of them are trafficked for labour or sexual exploitation.

fact

According to the International Labour Organization, nearly 21 million people worldwide (both adults and children) are forced into labour; about 80% work in mines, factories, farms and private homes; while about 20% are forced into sexual exploitation. (ILO 2012)



Child Labour **vs** Child Work

The difference is an important one. Child labour is when a child's work interferes with their health, schooling and/or personal development.

For example, if an eight-year-old girl is forced to work for 12 hours a day without pay and is not given the opportunity to go to school, then this is considered child labour.

However, if an eight-year-old girl helps out with safe and age-appropriate tasks at home or on a farm for a couple of hours a day, and is given time to play and go to school, this is not considered child labour but child work.

Beyond interfering with a child's health, schooling and/or personal development, the worst forms of child labour are harmful to the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. This work is a form of slavery. Children working these jobs may be separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets of large cities. Regardless of the job, these children are being exploited.

What are 3D jobs?

The 3Ds refer to child labour that is dirty, dangerous and degrading. Millions of boys and girls around the world are being pushed, forced or trafficked into these types of jobs. 3D jobs can be found in sectors such as agriculture, fishing, domestic service and manufacturing. Mining work represents one of the worst forms of child labour. 3D jobs refer to any labour that is likely to be hazardous, or that interferes with the child's education, is harmful to their health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.



A child miner

Toxic minerals, collapsing tunnels, explosions: artisanal mining leads as one of the most hazardous industries for child labourers

Jean* is tired. As an 8-year-old boy, he does not spend his days learning multiplication tables like your average grade-three student in Canada. Rather, Jean is a miner in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He rises with the sun every morning to go to work with his mother and baby brother. His job is to collect clumps of rock from the surface of an artisanal cobalt mine and carry them to rinsing pools where others, mainly women and girls, are washing and sieving to collect valuable minerals. He also minds his baby brother. At this tender age, Jean has already seen someone killed while mining. This is his reality.

For 115 million child labourers around the world, everyday life is harsh. Like Jean, they are forced to work in the most challenging of everyday conditions to survive. And mining is one of the most dangerous of all industries where children as young as Jean and younger spend their days; days that are harmful to the mind, body and spirit.

MINING JEOPARDIZES A CHILD'S EDUCATION AND FUTURE

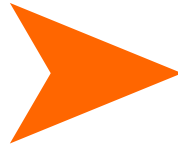
Jean will work, usually without a meal, from 6:30 am until 2 pm, which is when he leaves to attend school. His education is important, and although Jean's parents need him to work to help pay his way, he hopes that his studies may lead him to a better life. "I would never want to do this," Jean says of his grueling mining work.

For the future, he dreams of earning an undergraduate degree, of becoming a chauffeur. But it is difficult. Jean misses a great deal of school each week, either because he must work, because he has been injured at the mine or because he is sick. Jean is, in fact, behind in his studies and has already had to repeat a year. And school is expensive. Prohibitive for most. Kids drop out – when we visited Jean, we talked with 53 of the many children working at the site and a full 29 of them had already left school because they or their families could not afford it.

MINING RAVAGES A CHILD'S BODY

Mining and quarrying are forms of work dangerous to children in every way. Being lowered deep through tunnels only as wide as their bodies; hauling loads weighing more than they do; sitting for hours under the sun, pounding boulders into road gravel; squatting the whole day in dirty water or sifting through sand for a precious gem: These are not the places for children.** ➤

Artisanal Mining: What is it?



Artisanal miners use their hands and artisanal tools to collect raw material, extract metal and sell it through informal channels. Millions of people, including children, are mining this way in unregulated, dangerous, dirty and degrading conditions. Artisanal and Small Scale Mining (ASM) is a serious problem, not only for mining companies that have often received formal licences from the government for those minerals, but also for governments that often don't receive any benefit, royalties or taxes from these operations. Artisanal mining is often a response to poverty, so government needs to both support good development in artisanal mining areas, but also regulate such mining to create safer conditions and to be able to tax appropriately.

*Jean's name and select personal details have been changed to protect his identity. ** (ILO 2011)

1,000,000

This is the number of child miners worldwide. They work in Africa, Asia-Pacific, South and Central America, and Europe, mining everything from gold to gravel. (ILO 2006)

The artisanal mine where Jean works is also unregulated and dangerous. It is typical of thousands that dot the landscape of Africa, Asia-Pacific, South and Central America, and Europe. Workers use rudimentary tools – hammers, chisels, picks, shovels and their bare hands – to extract minerals from the earth. Some work on the surface picking through riverbed terrain; others work through rubble left from large-scale industrial mines. Jean joins his mother at the mine site. He spends his time lugging rocks and minerals. It is dusty, dirty and repetitive work. He works all year round, and this type of labour takes its toll on the body; especially young, growing bones and muscles. “Since working here, I have problems with my skin, body pains, and pain in my eyes,” Jean says. He also suffers from a persistent cough. “These problems are frequent if I come to the mines; when I don’t work here, I feel fine,” he says. Many of the children who work at the mines suffer from the same conditions as ➤



THE DANGERS OF THE MINES

Mining is one of the worst forms of child labour. Children as young as 4 and 5 years of age work in quarries and mines, and face significant short- and long-term risks.

It is heavy work and can permanently damage a growing child’s bones and muscles.

Minerals mined are often hazardous. Exposure to uranium and mercury are not uncommon and can also have profound health effects.

Falling down open mine shafts, being trapped or injured by collapsing tunnels, or drowning while mining underwater are real and serious threats.

Jean. It's no wonder, given the environment: the air is laden with dust, streams are polluted with waste and workers are handling toxic minerals such as copper and cobalt. Cobalt, for example, can damage the heart, thyroid and lungs. (In one study, far higher levels of toxic metals such as cobalt were found in children compared to adults working in the southern DRC, even though they had less direct exposure to the metals. Frighteningly, radioactive uranium is also often found alongside copper and cobalt in these mines.)

MINING SQUASHES A CHILD'S SPIRIT

Children like Jean must beware the dangers of the mine environment – the deep holes, the tunnels that threaten to collapse, the explosions. There is no safety gear and no safety regulations. Mining and quarrying are physically dangerous – the heavy and awkward loads, the strenuous work, the heavy tools and equipment, the exposure to extremes of heat and cold. The work is morally and psychologically risky, too, given that mining often takes place in remote areas where law, schools and social services are unknown, where family and community support may not exist and where boom-or-bust conditions foster alcohol abuse, drugs and prostitution. This is not the childhood most Canadians know: no playtime, no afternoon nap, no summer holidays. This hard labour damages a child's mind, body and spirit; it robs children of their childhood.

BUT IS THERE A WAY OUT?

We ask Jean if he can imagine leaving the mine. "Yes... if I find someone to support me," he says, "because my parents can't. ☹"

what

World Vision is doing to help

Mining work, like that of Jean's, represents one of the worst forms of child labour. World Vision is beginning to take a closer look at the impact of industrial mining and artisanal mining in the communities in which we work. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), nearly half of the communities in which we work have artisanal mining nearby. We are now exploring how we can address this challenge in our programs and in our advocacy strategies.



All photos unless otherwise indicated were taken by World Vision DRC, with permission of authorities, of artisanal miners and mining in Katanga.

Forging a New Path

Sponsorship and education bring hope and opportunity for children who labour in the dangerous gold mines and quarries of the Philippines

A FAMILY AT WORK

Gold is not a glamorous life for many in this world. Jestoni*, 18, used to shovel mud and crouch over a large sifting pan for hours searching for tiny pebbles and specks of the precious metal, specks smaller than a grain of rice. The young man became a miner when he was just 14 years old in the dangerous mines of Agusan del Sur, Mindanao in the Philippines. Of course, he was not alone. Gold mining is the primary livelihood for the people living in this province, which is known as the top mining area of the country, and it is toxic and dangerous work.

Jestoni's story, however, is a story with a happy ending. Through World Vision sponsorship, he is now forging a new life. Jestoni and his family were not always miners. They were farmers, but when frequent flooding destroyed their crops, they had no choice but to leave their farming life. "We didn't have any other way to earn," explains his father, Ceasar, 52. So Jestoni – the sixth of seven children in his family – was forced to quit school and join his father and older brothers in the mines.

Mary, Jestoni's mother, knows that mining is dangerous for her kids. But this is not about choice. "As a mom, I worry about their safety but we have to go on," she says. "We have to earn to provide our daily needs." ➤

*Jestoni's name and select personal details have been changed to protect his identity.



CHILD MINERS OF THE PHILIPPINES: A HARSH REALITY

A survey of children conducted by the National Statistics Office of the Philippines in 2011 reports that 5.5 million children in the Philippines, aged 5-17 years, are engaged in child labour, of which 3 million were in hazardous work. Over 20,000 children are engaged in mining and quarrying.

I FELT SO MISERABLE, AND THEN I REALISED THAT I DIDN'T LIKE WHAT I WAS DOING. I JUST WANTED TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL –JESTONI, 18

DANGEROUS REALITIES

Mary should worry. These artisanal mines pose real danger. Because operations like these in the Philippines and all around the world are low-tech and largely unregulated, there are no safety standards. Child labourers face hazards such as tunnel collapses, falling rocks and exposure to toxic chemicals. There is also the harsh physicality of the work: Jestoni needed to carry heavy sacks of rocks from one area on the site to another where the stone would be processed in search of gold.

"I used to complain on [sic] body pains due to heavy loads," Jestoni remembers.

Jestoni recalls his scariest day. There was a landslide and everything went black, he says. "It was too dark but I ran as quickly as I could. I felt so miserable. I didn't like what I was doing. I just wanted to go back to school."

It was, however, the fatigue that finally forced Jestoni to quit his studies in his second year of high school to work full time in the mine. "I was so tired, so weak," he says, "since I had to work at night and go to school the next day."

His parents could *not* afford not to send him to the mines. Every day, Jestoni had to work for eight to 12 hours or more. His pay: P200 or \$4 US dollars, on a good day.

REGAINING CHILDHOOD. REGAINING HOPE

Jestoni's story, thankfully, is a story with a happy ending as he was able to return to school thanks to World Vision's sponsorship programme in Agusan del Sur.

"We reach out to their parents and [encourage] the children in labour to the schools nearby," says Frank Salindato, a World Vision program officer, since it is "because of mining, [that] children often quit school to work all day to earn income." ➤



f**y****i** The situation is getting worse

More children around the world are becoming involved in hazardous work. From 2008-2012, there has been a 20% increase in the number child labourers, aged 15-17, from 52 to 62 million.



All photos of Jestoni and his village, Agusan del Sur Mindanao, Philippines, were taken by Crislyn Joy A. Felisilda.

At the age of 16, Jestoni went back to school. He's now preparing to graduate high school next year and is excited about fulfilling his dream of becoming a police officer. He's also taking the initiative to encourage his friends who are still in the mining site to go back to school.

"I hope they'll realise the importance of education before it's too late," he says.

Jestoni's mother couldn't be happier. Since Mary and her husband have just a Grade 4 education, they hold on to the hope of education for Jestoni and his siblings. "I don't want my children to be like me," Mary says. "I want them to finish school and find a job."

Jestoni, along with other kids in the community, are actively involved in World Vision activities like birthday parties, children's congress and youth camp.

"Through World Vision, I was given another chance to learn in school, play games with friends, and dream of my future," Jestoni says gratefully. "Nothing can replace the importance of education, even the most expensive thing in the world."

"Having left the dark tunnel in the mining site, I can now see a brighter future." ☺

UNDER-AGE INJURIES: THE IMPACT OF HAZARDOUS WORK ON CHILDREN*

1. Children have thinner skin so toxins are more easily absorbed.
2. Children breathe faster and more deeply, so can inhale more airborne pathogens and dust.
3. Children dehydrate more easily due to their larger skin surface and because of their faster breathing.
4. Children absorb and retain heavy metals (lead, mercury) in the brain more easily than adults.
5. Children's endocrine systems (which play a key role in growth and development) can be disrupted by chemicals.
6. Children's enzyme systems are still developing so are less able to process and detoxify hazardous substances.
7. Children use more energy when growing and so are at higher risk from metabolized toxins.
8. Children require more sleep for proper development.
9. Children's less-developed thermoregulatory systems make them more sensitive to heat and cold.

*(Hazardous Child Labour Report: ILO 2011)

what

World Vision is doing to help

World Vision is taking a close look at the impact of industrial and artisanal mining in the communities where we work, such as in the Philippines and the Democratic Republic of Congo. For example, we have completed a research project in one of these areas in the DRC and are using these recommendations to:

- 1. Speak with the DRC government about actions it can take.**
- 2. Participate in discussions with the Canadian government** and mining companies regarding actions they can take to reduce the number of children working in artisanal mining.
- 3. Work with the World Vision Area Development Programs** that have artisanal mining taking place in and around their communities to design an appropriate model to ensure that children are removed from the worst forms of labour associated with the mines. Also, to help the affected families access education, health care, shelter and economic development.



HOW CAN YOU, AS AN INDIVIDUAL, CREATE CHANGE

The Help Wanted: End Child Slavery campaign invites you to help better the lives of children the world over. We offer Canadians four concrete ways to pledge their support:

- 1. SHARE THIS RESOURCE.** Discussing the issue with your community will help everyone understand the global nature of this child labour issue. Education is the key to change.
- 2. BE INFORMED.** Canadians can choose to buy from companies that are serious about fighting child labour. This means getting informed about brands and products, joining ethical consumerism initiatives, and looking for Fairtrade, UTZ Good Inside or Rainforest Alliance marks and seals that indicate ethically sound products.
- 3. USE ONLINE RESOURCES SUCH AS THE WWW.GOODGUIDE.COM.** This impressive website rates companies and products on environmental and social performance as well as health risks. Look also at WWW.RANKABRAND.ORG and WWW.ETHICALCONSUMER.ORG. These two websites help filter the social and environmental ratings of a company.
- 4. SIGN OUR PETITION AT WWW.NOCHILDFORSALE.CA.** By lending your name to our petition, you are asking the Canadian government and businesses to take action to help stop the Worst forms of child labour.



Everyone Can Help

Impoverished children often need to work to help support their families. The mission, then, is to ensure that their jobs are safe, age-appropriate and do not negatively impact their access to school or their physical, mental and social well-being and development. But finding a permanent solution to this problem is no easy task. In working to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, we must also take steps to ensure these children have access to resources that ensure that their basic needs are met so that they are not forced back into working in even riskier 3D jobs and more desperate economic situations.

The responsibility falls on all of us, from governments and business owners to individuals, to push for change. To address and end the worst forms of child labour, those in positions of power and influence must:

1. **Understand the situation.** Governments and business leaders must be fully aware of the worst forms of child labour in their country, area or industry. There must be an understanding of what industries children are working in, why they have been forced to work and how the labour is impacting their well-being.
2. **Adhere to international laws and conduct codes.** Ensure government laws, business policies and codes of conduct adhere to regional laws, conventions or protocols, particularly those that protect a child's right to safety, health and development as well as that prohibit children from working in the worst forms of child labour as defined by ILO Article 3, Convention 182.
3. **Act preventatively.** Holistic-minded development actions must be taken to prevent children from becoming vulnerable to the worst forms of child labour. These actions would support and lead community programs that enable children and families to participate in safe, reliable and legal work that meets and respects their economic, social and cultural rights.
4. **Prioritize the needs of the child worker:** That means supporting the children's safe return home where necessary, helping shelter them, and address their health and developmental needs and their access to education when they are removed from dangerous jobs.

5. **Promote justice.** We must ensure that individuals or companies that violate the right of a child to safety, health, protection and development are held accountable for their actions, pay some form of restitution and, where a criminal act has taken place, are brought swiftly and fairly to justice.
6. **Ensure children's rights.** Support the implementation of government and business policies and codes of conduct that respect, prioritize and protect children's rights in the production of goods, including accessing raw materials, or provision of services.
7. **Strive for improvement and transparency.** Corporations and industries should increase the number of products and services that are free from the worst forms of child labour and ensure consumers are able to clearly identify these products and services so that they may support ethical consumption.



Act now.

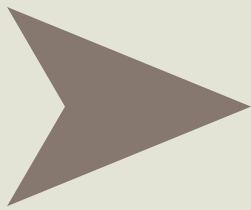
Make a difference.

Find out more at www.nochildforsale.ca

WHAT IS THE ONLINE PETITION?

We want the Canadian government and Canadian businesses to be global leaders in efforts to end the worst forms of child labour. Through the No Child for Sale campaign we are encouraging Canadians to communicate to our government and businesses about what they need to be doing to be global leaders in this fight. Our online petition is one way we are encouraging Canadians to communicate to government and business leaders. However, the campaign will also support other actions Canadians can take to end child slavery, such as writing to their Member of Parliament. Visit www.nochildforsale.ca to learn more.

OTHER ACTIONS CANADIANS CAN TAKE



CHILD SPONSORSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Though long-term sustainable sponsorship, families are able to have access to things like clean water, agricultural tools to grow healthy food and livelihoods training. This means families have income to pay for the health and education needs of their children. Communities are also empowered to work with their local governments to advocate for the specific needs of each community, be it health, education or protection. With these support services and self-reliance in place, children's vulnerability to trafficking or being pushed into dirty, dangerous and degrading labour is significantly reduced.

World Vision has been working in communities around the globe for over 60 years. For more than a decade, we have been prioritizing the prevention of child trafficking and child labour. We work to change and enforce laws; educate children, families and communities about children's rights; and provide the much-needed support that allows people to overcome poverty which often leads to child trafficking and child labour.