



# Child labour in Uganda

An annotated bibliography

May 2022

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### **Work No Child's Business (WNCB)**

The WNCB alliance consists of **Save the children the Netherlands; UNICEF the Netherlands and the Stop Child Labour Coalition.**

The alliance aims to achieve that children and youth are free from child labour and enjoy their rights to quality education and (future) decent work. We work in six countries: Cote d'Ivoire, India, Jordan, Mali, Uganda and Vietnam.

In Uganda, the WNCB programme works with the **Stop Child Labour coalition (partners are Hivos, Nascent, EWAD and UNATU) and Save the Children Uganda.**

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# Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the child labour situation in Uganda. It does so through an annotated bibliography, consisting of academic articles, studies and reports that are collected through desk research by students of Leiden University in the Netherlands in 2020. In 2021, the bibliographies were updated and re-organised, using both online search tools and the Makerere University library in Kampala, Uganda, by students James Ahabyona and Vanessa Cordeiro, under the technical assistance of the research working group within the “Work: No Child Business” (WNCB) programme. This document contains 51 relevant materials published between 2000 - 2021.

The materials in the annotated bibliography are categorized as follows: (1) introduction to child labour in Uganda, presenting prevalence, history, and socio-cultural causes; (2) WNCB focus themes of child labour which are education, child protection, responsible business, and gender; (3) WNCB focus sectors of child labour in Uganda which are agriculture and plantation; artisanal mining; commercial sex exploitation and domestic servitude. It also includes cross-border trade and child trafficking and although no WNCB focus sectors, important for an all encompassing overview.

The following paragraphs present the main findings in a summary and recommendations for further research to create an even more holistic understanding of the child labour situation in Uganda.

## Summary

*All information presented and discussed in this chapter is taken from the sources as outlined in the annotated bibliography.*

Uganda has the world’s second youngest population with 78% of young people under 30 years old and 49.3% of children under 15 years old. Children now account for 22.2% (2,525,644) of the nation’s working labour force, up from 16% in the 2010/2011 national household survey (ILO & UPEC, 2013). This figure could be higher because there is limited data on the issue of child labour and some scholars believe that children make up 40% of the labour force in the country. Out of the over 2 million engaged in work, up to 507,000 are involved in hazardous work. The proportion of children in hazardous work was more than twice (61%) in urban areas when compared to the rural areas (23%). It is worth noting that by regional disaggregation,

Kampala city has the highest proportion of children in hazardous work (88%) when compared to all other regions (ILO & IPEC, 2013). Post-Covid figures are predicted to show an increase in the number of children working.

The majority of Ugandan child labourers work in agriculture (94,9%), while 1.8% work in other industries and 3.3% work in the service sector. There are also many children who are heavily involved in the extractive business which is on the rise. This figure is still a mystery because most of the work is done illegally and there are no records to demonstrate how many minors are involved in this dangerous occupation (Akumu, 2016). Child miners face many potential health consequences due to the nature of their work, including over-exertion, respiratory ailments, headaches, joint problems, as well as hearing and vision loss. In addition to the dangers that all child miners face, child gold miners may be exposed to the very poisonous chemical of mercury that is used to extract gold.

Those enslaved in domestic servitude account for a sizable portion. Most Ugandans however are unaware of the fact that almost every home in urban areas employ children as maids or shamba boys, though the scale of the problems needs to be determined. Finally, a considerable number of children are trafficked into town to engage in commercial sex exploitation (CSE), which is considered one of the worst types of child labour by the National Child Labour Policy of 2006. This policy has recently been updated.

## Recommendation follow-up research

To create an even more holistic understanding of child labour in Uganda, there are various recommendations for follow-up researched outlined below. These recommendations are derived from the sources gathered in the annotated bibliography.

In the literature poverty is considered as one of the main determinants for child labour occurrence. The vulnerability to poverty in Uganda has significantly decreased between 1992 and 1999. In the meantime, child labour occurrence hasn't seemed to decrease. Further research could explore this discrepancy, and to conclude whether that trend has continued, when looking at the situation after 1999. Follow-up research could also dive deeper into the causes of poverty as various sources conclude that climate change and urbanisation has increased poverty rates. A more detailed exploration on the causes of poverty and its relation with child labour can help in addressing child labour elimination more sustainably.

The elimination of child labour in Uganda has been attempted through a variety of national frameworks, policies and projects. Uganda has also ratified the necessary treaties, complying with international obligations. Nevertheless, poor enforcement to combat child labour practices is a reality that seems hard to tackle. It is recommended to stimulate follow-up research on corruption as mentioned as one of the potential factors causing the attempts not to reach the desired impact.

Specific attention in further research can be given to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of the COVID-19 measures on child labour. Uganda has had the longest school closure globally and most children haven't attended any form of education for a period of two years, although there have been several initiatives of home-based schooling, alternative schooling and online schooling.

On a last note, the impact of child labour on children's mental health has been researched in the refugee communities in Uganda. It is recommended to also apply such research in the host communities and generally in the Ugandan population.

# Annotated bibliography

## Introduction

### Prevalence

1. Agaba, A. (2006). *Child labour in Uganda: Socio-demographic Characteristics of labourers* [Graduate thesis, Makerere University].

**Key words** Caregivers, socio-economic factors of child labour

**Source** Graduate thesis

**Description** The author elaborates on the socio-economic characteristics of children involved in child labour and of their caregivers, presenting that most of children involved in child labour had dropped out already in primary school due to high costs. Place of residence, value given to education and income of caregivers are other deciders.

2. Angemi, D. (2012, February). *Poverty, vulnerability, and child labour: evidence from Uganda* [Ph.D. dissertation, University of Nottingham].

<http://eprints.nottingham.ac.uk/12459/>

**Key words** Child labour in agricultural sector, poverty prevention programmes, poverty reduction programmes, vulnerability assessment

**Source** Ph.D. dissertation

**Description** Thesis that presents (1) a relationship between vulnerability and poverty; (2) the value of quantitative and qualitative approaches to poverty analysis and (3) the role of child labour in Uganda. It hypothesise that over the past decade, along with strong poverty reductions, vulnerability to poverty in Uganda has decreased from 57% in 1992 to 25% in 1999 and highlights the importance of distinguishing between effective implementation of poverty prevention and poverty reduction programmes.

The thesis also examines the extent to which children contribute to household agricultural activities and concludes that children play an important role.

**Evaluation** By integrating qualitative and quantitative data, a new understanding of poverty is created.

3. Gordon, D., Eroğlu, S., Fahmy, E., Fifita, V., Nandy, S., Oloya, A., Pomati, M. & Anderson, H.,. (2019, March). *The Extent and Nature of Multidimensional Child Poverty and Deprivation*. University of Bristol and the University of Cardiff, in close collaboration with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and UNICEF Uganda.

<https://www.unicef.org/esa/sites/unicef.org/esa/files/2019-10/UNICEF-Uganda-2019-Child-Poverty-Report-Vol1.pdf>

**Key words** National household survey, low-income families, poverty

**Source** Report

**Description** The goal of this report is to provide additional analysis of the 2016/17 Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) and to demonstrate the extent and nature of child poverty in Uganda using the most recent and reliable data available. The report examines children living in low-income households as well as those experiencing multidimensional poverty in order to provide a comprehensive picture of how poor children live in Uganda today. This brief overview has demonstrated that poverty and hunger have decreased in Uganda over the last century, while living conditions have improved. Clearly, significant progress has been made. Nonetheless, it remains a poor nation with some of the worst health and education outcomes in the world. There is still much work to be done. Uganda may also be in danger of falling behind the other African countries in terms of providing for and bettering the lives of its children.

4. International Labour Organisation. (2004, June). *Report of the sectoral study on Child Labour and the Urban Informal Sector in Uganda.*

[http://ilo.org/ipecc/informationresources/WCMS\\_IPEC\\_PUB\\_703/lang--en/index.htm](http://ilo.org/ipecc/informationresources/WCMS_IPEC_PUB_703/lang--en/index.htm)

**Key words** Education, hazardous work, urban centres

**Source** Report

**Description** The report presents the findings from a sectorial study on child labour in the urban informal sector in Uganda. The study found that children below the age of 18 accounts for 52% of the household labour composition; Nearly 90% of all working children aged 5-17 are not in school or permanent education, with over half of these children being orphans without one or both parents; Over 60% of working children have either shifted location temporarily or migrated from one place to another; 81% of working children work outside of the household; 97% of all working children are child labourers; Over 80% of child labourers are involved in hazardous work; Nearly 70% of child labourers had fallen sick within 6 months of the survey. Almost 70% of households surveyed were in support of child labour.

5. International Labour Organisation. (2010, May). *Joining Forces against Child Labour: Inter-agency Report for The Hague Global Child Labour Conference of 2010.*

<http://www.ilo.org/ipeccinfo/product/download.do?type=document&id=13333>

**Key words** Global Child Labour Conference, HIV/AIDS, inter-agency report

**Source** Report

**Description** This inter-agency report was written on behalf of the ILO and its partners in order to share knowledge and best practices on child labour and was prepared in advance of the Global Child Labour Conference. It provides country specific child labour context,



interventions implemented and it highlights areas for improvement.

While Uganda has increased education enrolment, it also has one of the highest rates of children working aged between 5 and 14 and who work while attending school. The report also provides information on the effects of HIV/AIDS on child labour participation.

Evaluation The report is valuable in comparison the Ugandan context of child labour and interventions to other countries.

6. International Labour Organisation & the Uganda Bureau of Statistics. (2001). *Child labour in Uganda: A report based on the 2000/2001 Uganda demographic and health survey*.

Key words Child labour, education rates, school enrolment

Source Report

Description The report provides a statistical overview covering the population, age and gender of children, educational enrolment rates, orphaned children, and children living in single-parent households. According to the report, education enrolment has increased significantly through the UPE program and the Special Needs Education Program. At last, the article discusses the Girl Child Education Strategy.

Evaluation ILO statistical data is well-known for its accuracy.

7. International Rescue Committee. (2010, March). *IRC Increases efforts to reduce Child Labour in Northern Uganda*.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/irc-increases-efforts-reduce-child-labour-northern-uganda>

Key words Conflict, poverty, IRC

Source Report

Description The IRC is launching a program to combat extreme poverty which fuels child labour. In the report, the program manager cited to protracted civil war as another source of desperation that drove families to resort to child labour. The most common industries for child labour in Northern Uganda are brewing, quarrying and prostitution.

Evaluation The report provides an insight into the intervention efforts by the IRC.

8. Kibukamusoke M. (2010). *A Critical Analysis of Child Labour and Human Resource Development in Uganda* [Ph.D. dissertation, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University].

<https://1library.net/document/zg063wvq-critical-analysis-child-labour-human-resource-development-uganda.html>

Key words Educational system, human rights, human rights activism, HIV/AIDS, poverty, socio-cultural factors

Source Ph.D. dissertation

Description An exploration on the impact of poverty on child labour, the effect of socio-cultural factors on child labour, the impact of legislation and its enforcement, the influence of HIV/AIDS on child labour, the effect of educational systems and technological advances on child labour, the level of awareness of human rights in local communication and the impact of human rights activists in the prevention of child labour. Following a detailed political economy analysis of the Ugandan context, the author found that socio-economic factors encourage families towards child labour even in the midst of the present legislation against it.

9. Meyer, S. R., Yu, G., Rieders, E. & Stark, L. (2020). Child labour, sex and mental health outcomes amongst adolescent refugees. *Journal of Adolescence*, 81, 52-60.

Key words Mental health, refugee settlement

Source Academic journal article

Description The impacts of child labour on mental health are poorly understood and often overlooked and this article seeks to further understand the relationship between child labour and mental health amongst refugees in refugee settlements in Uganda. The article strongly suggests that the high prevalence of child labour recorded in the data is a threat to adolescent health and development. Child labour and deteriorating mental health were identified as poor access to quality education, exposure to child labour, age of the child, intensity of work, type of labour, and increased poverty.

10. Ochom-Abimanyi, J., Inder, B., Hollingsworth, B. & Lorgelly, P. (2017). Invisible work: Child work in households with a person living with HIV/AIDS in Central Uganda. *Journal of Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS*, 14(1), 93-109.

Key words Domestic work, family farm work, HIV/AIDS, survey

Source Academic journal article

Description This article evaluated how child and household level factors affect children's involvement in both domestic and family farm work for households with a person living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) compared to non-households (non-PLWHA) using the 2010/11 Centre for Health Economics Uganda questionnaire survey. There is a greater demand for boys to work on family farms if they live in a PLWHA household. Children from PLWHA are more vulnerable. Socio-cultural norms, poverty, and the negative impacts of HIV/AIDS mean that most children are expected to participate in work from an early age.

11. Uganda Bureau of Statistics. (2013, July). *The National Labour Force Child Activities Survey 2011/12*.

<http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do?type=document&id=26415>

Key words            Child labour rates, national survey, nature of child labour

Source                Report

Description         The Government of Uganda’s National Labour Force and Child Activities Survey 2011/12 was the first fully-fledged survey of its kind in Uganda, providing detailed information to gauge the nature and level of child labour in the country. The report was collated and the information gathered with the support of the World Bank and the International Labour Organisation.

12. United States Department of Labour. (2002, January). *Advancing the Campaign Against Child Labour Efforts at the Country Level*.

[https://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1138&context=key\\_workplace](https://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1138&context=key_workplace)

Key words            Elimination of child labour, interventions, rural-urban divide

Source                Report

Description         The dominant factor contributing to the huge number of children working in Uganda is poverty. It also makes a distinction between the different forms of child labour in the rural and urban parts of the country. In urban areas, children mostly work in car garages and metal workshops where they are exposed to hazardous products such as battery acid, asbestos, petroleum and paint. Children working in the rural areas, on the other hand, are required to carry heavy loads over long distances and are exposed to pesticides and herbicides as a result. Furthermore, the article discusses the various initiatives in the elimination of child labour.

13. Walakira, E.J., D. Muhangi, S., Munyuwiny, F., Matovu, E., Awich, I., Ddumba Nyanzi, J., Kayiwa, J., Akellot, P., Mubiri, J., Majugo, A., Mutebi, M. & Ruiz-Rodriguez. (2016). *The State of the Ugandan Child - An Analytical Overview*. USAID.

<https://swsa.mak.ac.ug/sites/default/files/docs/Analysis-of-the-State-of-Ugandan-Child-Final-Final-%20Final.pdf>

Key words            Data analysis, girl child

Source                Report

Description         This report presents the results of an extensive secondary and primary data analysis in the domains of health and nutrition, education, child protection, child participation, and a cross-cutting focus on the girl child, on the national and regional level across the variables of gender and age.

## History of child labour

14. Walakira, E. J. (2009). Child labour in Uganda. In Hindman, H (Eds.), *The World of Child Labour: An Historical and Regional Survey* (pp. 284-287). M.E. Sharpe Publisher Inc.

Key words	Child labour determinants, employment act, poverty
Source	Chapter in edited book
Description	The article provides a statistical overview of children's involvement in child labour over the years. It discovers a number of loopholes in the employment act, such as the fact that it only prohibits children under the age of 12. It also cites various contributing factors as the spread of HIV/AIDS, the war in northern Uganda, structural inequalities and it states that while poverty is another of such factor, child labour has not been a sufficient mean of escaping poverty.

## Social and cultural causes of child labour

15. Frempong, R. B. & Stadelmann, D. (2018, March). The Effect of Food Price Changes on Child Labour: Evidence from Uganda. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 55(7), 1492-1507.

Key words	Food price change, land ownership, national survey
Source	Academic journal article
Description	Through a literature review, the paper attempts to explore the extent to which food prices have an adverse effect on child labour through the use of the Ugandan National Panel survey from 2009-2012 and monthly regional food prices. The results from the literature review and empirical data collected indicate that a rise in food prices leads to higher incidences and intensities of child labour. Suggesting that land ownership may lessen the magnitude of child labour with respect to an increase in food prices. Child labour is then demonstrated to have a long-lasting effect on human capital and undermines poverty reduction programmes. As such, effective interventions should target landowning and non-landowning households to act as a disincentive against child labour.

16. International Labour Organisation & UNICEF. (2020, June). *COVID-19 may push millions more children into child labour*.

[https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_747583/lang-en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_747583/lang-en/index.htm)

Key words	COVID-19, lockdown, child labour
Source	Report
Description	According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), 45% of children from low-income households were forced to drop out of school to

work and supplement their parents' income because of COVID-19. Children aged 5 to 17 years are the most vulnerable and while children make up 56% percent of the Ugandan population, they are underserved. Some of the main sources of child labour were stone quarrying, gold mining, working on rice and sugar plantations, smuggling of goods and prostitution.

17. International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour. (2013, October). *Child labour and Education in Pastoralist Communities in South Sudan*.

<https://www.ilo.org/pecinfo/product/download.do>

Key words	Cattle communities, education, pastoralists
Source	Report
Description	Report provides an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon of child labour in selected pastoralist communities in order to formulate and/or revise public policies and programs on education and child labour elimination. These communities do not hire children under the age of 13 because they are deemed too young for a task but a majority of workers are between 14-17 years, most being male. The cattle, wild animals and cattle rustlers pose numerous dangers to the children. Though educational reforms are taking hold in the pastoral regions, work continues to take precedence over formal education in these communities, with most parents insisting that the lessons learned at work are far more valuable than those learned in school. Politics and political representation, on the other hand, have begun to change this perspective, as many people now see the value of education as a major requirement for office aspirants.

18. Joseph, T. (2000, September). *Armed Conflict, HIV/AIDS and Child Labour in Uganda: UNICEF Field Assessment Report*.

[https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/files/UGD\\_2000\\_004\\_Part1.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/files/UGD_2000_004_Part1.pdf)

Key words	Armed conflict, HIV/AIDS, northern Uganda
Source	Report
Description	The report examines the relationship(s) between child labour in domestic/family work settings, HIV/AIDS, and armed conflict in the Ugandan districts of Kabarole and Lira. According to the findings of the study, armed conflict and HIV/AIDS increased the number of orphans and single-parent households, forcing many children to work in order to support their families. Furthermore, it demonstrated that the situation for girls is worse than that of boys. In order to reduce child labour rates in Uganda, poverty issues must be addressed.

19. Katz, B., Chaffin, J., Alon, I. & Ager, A. (2014). Livelihoods, economic strengthening, child protection and well-being in Western Uganda. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 47, 149-156.

Key words           Livelihoods and well-being, Western Uganda, survey

Source               Academic journal article

Description        The article is a summary of nearly 250 households' survey results, assessing the relationship between household livelihoods and children's well-being and protection in Western Uganda. The article concludes by demonstrating a link between assets and child protection, with more assets resulting in lower child protection risks. As a result, the article advocates for work to support the development of economic opportunities as a means of reducing child labour, with a focus on psychosocial well-being and livelihoods as key drivers of child labour.

20. Lubaale, E. C. (2015). The Recognition of the Right of Children to Freedom from Child Labour in Africa: is it enough? *Afrika Focus*, 28(1), 23-43.

Key words           Childrens' rights, cultural position, inter-agency approach

Source               Academic journal article

Description        The author establishes the protection of children against child labour as a right before exploring the reasons why this right is rarely realised in the African context. Generally, the cultural position of the child and perceptions of the role of children are shown to play a large role in countries' failures to identify the inherent vulnerabilities of children. The obligation to protect children is shown to be multi-dimensional, with particular attention being placed on enhancing the capabilities of vulnerable households to provide economic opportunities and deter families from viewing child labour as a viable option. Multi-sectoral or inter-agency approaches to child labour are advocated for, with a specific mention of the importance of local community approaches to child labour, noting the importance of stakeholders on the ground in creating a culture of enforcement around child labour laws.

21. Mwebaze, T. (2007, June). Extent and Determinants of Child Labour in Uganda. *African Economic Research Consortium*, (167), 1-43.

Key words           labour supply, shadow wage, wage rate

Source               Academic journal article

Description        An exploration of the extent and determinants of child labour in Uganda. At the individual level, it is shown that the wage rate should be the major determinant of child labour supply. Holding other things constant, the higher the wage rate, the greater the probability that a child is willing to find work. However, the Uganda national household survey (UNHS) data does not capture the wage rates received by most child workers. This is probably because these children do not collect them, reflecting that most child labour is unpaid work on the family farm or non-farm family enterprise. Where children do not participate in wage work but are engaged as unpaid family labour, their shadow wage (marginal productivity in household production and other time use) could potentially play the same role.

Other individual characteristics that are likely to be important in the decision to participate in child labour are age, gender, and level of education.

22. Understanding Children's Work. (2008, August). *Report on child labour*.  
[http://www.ucw-project.org/attachment/child\\_labour\\_Uganda20110628\\_105759.pdf](http://www.ucw-project.org/attachment/child_labour_Uganda20110628_105759.pdf)

Key words	Agricultural sector, rural-urban divide, school dropout rates
Source	Report
Description	The 2008 findings of the countrywide assessment of Uganda's child labour situation describes the continuation of high dropout rates in secondary schools. The paper also attempts to differentiate between different forms of child labour where 96% of all child labour activities fall under the agricultural sector. The economic needs and incentives that prey on vulnerability and poverty with the offer of riches, combined with a lack of cultural value placed on education, are the primary drivers of this work. Rural areas are shown to be more vulnerable than urban areas

23. UNICEF. (2015). *Situation Analysis of Children in Uganda 2015*.  
<https://www.unicef.org/uganda/media/1791/file/Situation%20analysis%20of%20children%20in%20Uganda%20.pdf>

Key words	Cross-sectoral engagement, human rights, Karamoja, national strategy for elimination
Source	Report
Description	This situation analysis is organised around the various human rights guaranteed to children where each chapter is dedicated to a specific human right recognized by international law. The national strategy is said to be ineffective because of a lack of cross-sectoral participation in child protection law and enforcement. Almost half of children aged 5 to 17 work in some capacity, with 2.4 million engaged in exploitative child labour. The Karamoja region has been identified as a hotbed of child labour in the hazardous mining environment, reflecting a nationwide pattern of an increase in hazardous child labour from 2005 to 2010. The paper concludes by recommending that a national strategy to combat child labour be strengthened, as well as more resources dedicated to improving law enforcement officers' ability to implement legal provisions and sanction those who violate national requirements.

24. UNICEF. (2019, July). *Situation Analysis of Children in Uganda 2019*.  
<https://www.unicef.org/uganda/reports/situation-analysis-children-uganda-2019>

Key words	Climate change, poverty line, rural-urban divide, urbanisation
Source	Report
Description	The UNICEF report cites the progress by the Ugandan government in

reducing the percentage of the population living below the poverty line from 56% in 1992 to 21% in 2017. It presents that families and children are still widely affected by multidimensional poverty (predominantly in rural areas of Karamoja, Bukedi, West Nile, Bugishu, Acholi and Busoga). Climate change and urbanisation are concluded as the two primary causes of an increase in poverty.

## WNCB focus themes

### Education and child labour

25. Kyomukyeya, E. (2011). *Child Labour and Its effect on the child's right to education: A case study of primary schools in Entebbe Fishing Communities* [Graduate thesis, Makerere University].

Key words	Education, fishing community
Source	Graduate thesis
Description	An analysis of the rise in child labour despite the large number of interventions in place. The researcher seeks to establish the causes of the rise in child labour and its effect on the right to education and, thereafter, seeks to find solutions to it. The researcher focused on a fishing village in the Entebbe municipality where children are fully involved in the work or participate in the work at a certain level and later go to school. The study discovered that child labour is caused, first and foremost, by a failure to define what child labour is, particularly among many of the adults involved. It also presents the finding of the involvement of children in child labour had a negative effect on the children's right to education. The children's performance was also evaluated, and it was discovered that the majority of the children who participated in the fishing were poor academic performers, owing to high levels of absenteeism and escapism from school.

26. Nakiwu, C. (2008). *Time in Child labour, self esteem and depression* [Graduate thesis, Makerere University].

Key words	Mental health, self-esteem
Source	Graduate thesis
Description	An investigation on the amount of time children spent working and their self-esteem and depression levels in order to create an understanding on the difficulties child labourers face. Law enforcement officials, then, can use the data to better these children's (working) conditions.

### Gender and child labour



27. Muheki, S. & Geenen, S. (2017, November). *Women in (and out of) artisanal mining: a call for revising Uganda's draft Mining and Minerals Policy*. Institute of Development Policy, University of Antwerp.

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=D&q=https://econpapers.repec.org/RePEc:iob:apbrfs:2017004&ust=1646827380000000&usg=AOvVaw1TiWU3vIMXGz1xJJr0fCiN&hl=en-GB&source=gmail>

Key words	Gender, Mubende district, policy brief
Source	Report
Description	The report highlights the danger of blueprint policies that fail to recognize women's variegated (productive and reproductive) roles in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM); structural and gendered inequalities in access to productive resources, leading to adverse incorporation; and the risk of excluding female workers from the formal mining sector using insights from a document review and a field study in Lujjiinji B Mine in Kitumbi sub-county, Mubende District.

## Child protection and child labour

28. International Labour Organisation & UBOS (2013, July). *The National Labour Force and Child Activities Survey 2011/12 Child Labour Report*. [https://www.ubos.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/03\\_2018NCLS\\_Report\\_2011\\_12.pdf](https://www.ubos.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/03_2018NCLS_Report_2011_12.pdf)

Key words	Hazardous work, legislative framework
Source	Report
Description	The report presents statistical data on Uganda's population, as well as children's education and labour-force participation. Its chapter on child labour describes the national legislative framework and provides empirical data on child labour by gender, age, and occupation. The next chapter emphasises, in particular, the alarming number of children involved in "hazardous" work, citing the need to make work environments safer for children. The chapter that follows provides a statistical breakdown of children's workplace injuries and the most common underlying causes.

29. Bureau of International Labour Affairs. (2002). *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour - Uganda*. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/48c8c9fb2d.html>

Key words	Child soldiers, education framework,
Source	Report
Description	This brief report presents the conclusions of the US Department of labour's investigation into the worst forms of child labour in Uganda in 2002. The report briefly discusses Uganda government efforts to

reduce child labour before describing the country's education framework as it relates to children and their educational opportunities. According to the report, nearly half of all Ugandan children aged 10 to 14 were involved in work. These children are shown participating in a variety of different working environments, the majority of which entail hazardous physical labour. Child soldiering and sex work are the most extreme forms of this dangerous work.

30. Bureau of International Affairs. (2011). *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour - Uganda*.

[https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/child\\_labour\\_reports/tda2011/uganda.pdf](https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/child_labour_reports/tda2011/uganda.pdf)

Key words	Counter Trafficking in Persons Office, sexual exploitation
Source	Report
Description	A USDOL report that highlights Uganda's shortcomings in combating child labour. despite the establishment of a number of offices and teams such as the Counter Trafficking in Persons Office (CTIP) and an anti-ministerial taskforce to combat trafficking with a specific child labour unit (CLU).The report concludes by advocating for legislative changes, particularly to protect boys in prostitution, raise the compulsory education age, and criminalize the production and distribution of child pornography, increase inspections and investigation capacity, and prioritize agricultural and domestic service child labour.

31. Bureau of International Affairs (2014, October). *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour*. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5448a88e0.html>

Key words	Child soldiers, rebel militias, sexual exploitation, sex trafficking
Source	Report
Description	This report demonstrates that Uganda participated in two child labour projects. However, it was noted that many Ugandan children are recruited and forcibly abducted to join rebel militias that operate in Central, East and North Africa. Furthermore, the worst forms of child labour are seen in the agriculture industry and commercial sexual exploitation. Additionally, this report examines whether Uganda is a destination country for trafficking. It demonstrates that children are often trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced labour within the fishing industry, or for domestic work.

32. Bureau of International Affairs. (2017). *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour - Uganda*. <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5bd05afa16.pdf>

Key words	Agricultural sector, local legislation, treaties
Source	Report

Description Despite Uganda ratifying the necessary treaties, aligning local legislation, and complying with international legal obligations, 95.4 percent of child labourers are shown to work in the agricultural sector. The most serious lack is the enforcement of child labour laws, with criminal law enforcement mechanisms failing to adequately constrain illicit activity. Furthermore, the lack of coordination among government agencies regarding child labour undermines the effectiveness of any on-going initiatives. The report concludes with a set of recommendations aimed at the government, primarily in the areas of law enforcement and social programs.

33. Bureau of International Affairs. (2018). *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour - Uganda*.

[https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/child\\_labour\\_reports/tda2018/Uganda.pdf](https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/child_labour_reports/tda2018/Uganda.pdf)

Key words National Action Plan on Child labour, sexual exploitation

Source Report

Description According to this report, Uganda made a moderate progress in its efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in 2018. In collaboration with the Kampala Capital City Authority, the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development removed 283 children from Kampala's streets and provided them with social services. To align with international standards, the government initiated proceedings to harmonise legal provisions on the minimum age. It also developed a National Action Plan on Child labour. Nevertheless, children in Uganda, are subjected to the most heinous forms of child labour, including commercial sexual exploitation.

34. Bureau of International Affairs (2019). *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour - Uganda*.

[https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/child\\_labour\\_reports/tda2019/Uganda.pdf](https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/child_labour_reports/tda2019/Uganda.pdf)

Key words Child labour, legal framework

Source Report

Description One of the latest reports by USDOL on the worst forms of child labour in Uganda show little progress from previous years. Despite a new National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child labour, the government has failed to prosecute, convict, and sentence public officials who facilitate the worst forms of child labour, including police and immigration officers. The sectoral distribution of child labourers shows little variation, as demonstrated in previous iterations of the report, with 95 percent of these children working in the agricultural sector. The number of children in child labour in the country has gradually risen above the 2 million mark, despite the fact that the solid national legal framework is still being poorly enforced by relevant actors.

## Responsible Business and child labour

35. Akoyi, K. T., Mitiku, F. & Maertens, M. (2018, July 28-August 2). *Is prohibiting child labour enough? Coffee certification and child schooling in Ethiopia and Uganda* [Conference session]. International Association of Agricultural Economists. <https://ideas.repec.org/p/ags/iaae18/275958.html>

Key words	Coffee certification, Eastern Uganda, Fair trade, Rainforest Alliance certification
Source	Conference session
Description	In an attempt to demonstrate the impact of coffee certification on child education, this paper investigates the influence of Fair Trade (FT) and Rainforest Alliance (RA) certification on child participation in education in Ethiopia and Eastern Uganda. Empirical data gathered and presented in the report shows that higher levels of FT certification toward local coffee trade increase the likelihood of children's participation in education. This correlation is shown to be primarily driven by the increased awareness of children's rights that comes with certification and thus exposure to international standards, as well as the positive effects certification has on social development.

36. Eldring, L., Nakanyane, S. & Tshoedi, M. (2000). *Child Labour in the Tobacco Growing Sector in Africa*. <http://www.eclt.org/filestore/faforeport>

Key words	Tobacco sector
Source	Report
Description	This article highlights that more research needs to be done on the tobacco sector in Uganda because very little is known about child labour within that sector even though it is known that it is prevalent. The guidelines emphasise the need to involve local government and NGOs in raising community's awareness of the issues involved in child survival, development and protection.

37. Muhumuza, T. (2012). *Market Access and Child Labour: Survey Evidence from Rural Uganda*. *Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung*. [https://www.diw.de/documents/publikationen/73/diw\\_01.c.411071.de/dp1251.pdf](https://www.diw.de/documents/publikationen/73/diw_01.c.411071.de/dp1251.pdf)

Key words	Market access, physical distance, rural villages
Source	Report
Description	An analysis of the relationship between market access and child labour, paying particular attention to the extent to which proximity to product markets influences the participation of children in domestic and economic activity. Utilising empirical data collected (from children age 5-14) in the rural villages in Uganda, the paper uses economic modelling to prove that the likelihood of child labour in domestic activity is increased the further a consumer market is

from the village centre. For every extra hour of travel from the village to the market, children are more likely to be involved in domestic child labour and not economic activity. Further, the intensity of this child labour is increased with distance from the market, leading to rural families and communities becoming trapped in a child-labour-dependent cycle due to isolation from the market.

38. UCW & UBOS (2014, June). *Understanding Children's Work and Youth Employment Outcomes in Uganda*. [tp://www.ucw-project.org/attachment/Uganda\\_report\\_child\\_labour\\_youth\\_employment20141016\\_154929.pdf](http://www.ucw-project.org/attachment/Uganda_report_child_labour_youth_employment20141016_154929.pdf)

Key words	Education, youth unemployment, policy recommendation(s)
Source	Report
Description	This Uganda Bureau of Statistics' 2014 report on children's work and youth employment in Uganda charts and presents comprehensive statistical information on the extent of children's participation in employment, the nature of this work, including its dangers. It also presents recommendations, targetting several key areas of weakness based on the findings of the report: The promotion of early childhood development; the promotion of greater participation in education and the enhancement of the quality of education, as well as the establishment of second-hand learning opportunities through transitional education; greater social protection measures and child labour inspections; enhancement of public awareness of child labour; greater social mobilisation against child labour; and enhanced urgency around youth employment measures and programmes.

## WNCB focus sectors

### Agriculture

39. International Labour Organisation. (2012). *Hazardous Child Labour in Agricultural Sector in Uganda*. <http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do?type=document&id=20617>

Key words	Agricultural sector, global context, poverty, social protection programs
Source	Report
Description	The ILO report describes the dangerous child labour situation in Uganda in the global context through statistical data. It presents a dominance of the agricultural sector in global child labour statistics. In the case of Uganda, agriculture contributed more than 40% of the national GDP, leading to an increase in child labour in the sector. It is believed that there are 1.76 million child labourers of which 96% are active in the agricultural sector. The report also emphasised the

lack of social protection programs in the country.

40. Tarinyeba-Kiryabwire Winifred M., (2007). Poverty, Trade and Child Labour in the Developing World: An Analysis of Efforts to Combat Child Labour in Uganda. *East African Journal of Peace & Human Rights*, 13(2),294, 2007.

**Key words** HIV/AIDS, global trade, PAM, PEAP, poverty

**Source** Academic journal article

**Description** This paper raises the question as to why, despite legal and other interventions, child labour is still prevalent in poor countries such as Uganda. The child labour situation in Uganda is examined through the following three perspectives: poverty, HIV/AIDS, and global trade. It also discusses the legal measures to combat child labour of Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) and Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PAM) and how these have been ineffective.

### Artisanal mining

41. Houdet J., Muloopa H., Ochieng C., Kutegeka S. & Nakangu B. (2014). *Cost Benefit Analysis of the Mining Sector in Karamoja, Uganda*. Kampala, Uganda: IUCN Uganda Country Office.

**Key words** ASM, cost-benefit analysis, Karamoja, LSM

**Source** Report

**Description** The full range of economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of large-scale mining (LSM) and artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) remains unclear in Karamoja. This study aims to conduct an economic, social, and environmental cost-benefit analysis of LSM and ASM in the region, with the aim of helping inform policymakers, civil society, mining companies, and development agencies on the best available policies, legal, regulatory, investment, and environmental frameworks for responsible and equitable mining. Due to the limited data disclosure by mining companies and the lack of data from ASM community sites, only a limited number of CBA modelling activities could be undertaken.

42. International Labour Organisation & IPEC. (2006, June). *Child labour in gold mining: The Problem*.

**Key words** Africa, ASM, hazards, IPEC

**Source** Report

**Description** Provides information on characteristics of children, from a variety of countries, involved in ASM as IPEC seeks to eliminate child labour in gold mining regions in the world. While the hazards appear to be similar from country to country, other factors are more context

specific: family situations, working conditions, local traditions, poverty levels and the regulatory environment and schooling.

Evaluation While the report does not focus on Uganda specifically, the report does present the situation in other African countries who might be similar to the Ugandan context.

43. O’Driscoll, D. (2017, October). *Overview of child labour in the artisanal and small-scale mining sector in Asia and Africa*. University of Manchester.  
<https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/20.500.12413/13355/209%20%2b%20213%20Child%20labour%20in%20mining.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Key words Africa, artisanal mining, Asia

Source Report

Description A summary of academic, policy and NGO sources on child labour in the craft and small-scale mining (ASM) sector in countries in both Asia and Africa, including Uganda. It stated that it is difficult to obtain data on child labour in that sector due to limited access and because of an unclear definition of child labour on those sites.

44. Schipper, I., De Haan, E. & Turyahikayo, S. (2016). *No Golden Future: Use of child labour in gold mining in Uganda*. SOMO.

Key words Mercury, Stop Child Labour

Source Report

Description A SOMO report, commissioned by Stop Child Labour, found 15,000 children working in the gold mines of Uganda. These children are exposed to toxic mercury that is dangerous for their health as well as for the environment. Child labour in the Ugandan gold mines is increased by 19% since 2010. A lack of viable alternatives to work and income is considered as the main driver, along with the poor educational infrastructure. At last, the report provides recommendations for private companies, civil society and governments.

45. Schwartz, F. W., Lee, S. & Darrah, T. H. (2021). A review of health issues related to child labour and violence within artisanal and small-scale mining. *Geo Health*, 5(2).  
<https://doi.org/10.1029/2020GH000326>

Key words Congo, violence

Source Academic journal article

Description This review examines health issues around human and social determinants within artisanal and small-scale mining. The focus is on child labourers and violence. The collection of health risks recorded

is broad, ranging from self-directed impacts such as suicide or neglect, to interpersonal impacts such as child or intimate partner abuse and to collective violence such as trafficking, fighting for resources and ultimately war.

Evaluation Although the report presents the case of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, mining in Uganda is similar as the Karamoja region is also conflict ridden.

46. Segawa, N. (2016, October). *Mines and Parents Profit From Child labour In Uganda as Laws, Raids Have Little Effect*. Global Press Journal.

<https://globalpressjournal.com/africa/uganda/mines-parents-profit-child-labour-uganda-laws-raids-little-effect/>

Key words Corruption, Gold mines, Mubende, Ugandan legislation

Source Report

Description This report uses a combination of case studies (from the rural district of Mubende) and statistical analysis of Uganda as a whole in order to demonstrate the scale of the problem of child labour in the Ugandan gold mines. It also describes the relevant Ugandan legislation before demonstrating that corruption within law enforcement positions inhibits progress in this area.

47. Wanyama, M.W., Agaba, F.E., Sekimpi, D.K., Muakasa, V.N., Kamese, G.N., Douglas, N. & Ssempebwa, J.C. (2020) Mercury Exposure Among Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Miners in Four Regions in Uganda; *Journal of Health and Pollution*, 10(26), 200613.

<https://doi.org/10.5696/2156-9614-10.26.200613>

Key words Hg exposure, Hg levels, symptoms

Source Academic journal article

Description A study that determines the Hg exposure among artisanal and small-scale gold miners in Uganda using biologic monitoring parameters and Hg related clinical manifestations. Working directly with Hg resulted in symptoms such as chest pain, numbness, back pain, fatigue, stress, headache, dizziness, joint pain, and respiratory issues. The varying duration of exposure across geographical sites was attributed to the variation in Hg levels.

### Commercial sex exploitation

48. Kinobe, J. (2012). *Combating Commercial Sex Exploitation of Children in Uganda: A Case Study of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and International Labour Organisation (ILO)* [Graduate thesis, Makerere University].

Key words Low income, poverty, socio-economic characteristics



Source	Graduate thesis
Description	An elaboration of the socio-economic characteristics of children involved in child labour and those of their care givers. It concludes that the biggest reasons for child labour is a low income of caregivers and the author, therefore, recommends interventions to be directed towards the economic state of these caregivers.
Evaluation	The thesis can assist in looking at the socioeconomic characteristics of the children involved in CSES, understanding the interventions used by ILO/UNICEF and local NGOs to compare them and to establish an appropriate intervention plan.

### Informal sector

49. Nyakato, A. M. (2011). Hidden and Forgotten: The Plight of Children Trafficked for Domestic Work in Uganda [Graduate thesis, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg]. <http://wiredspace.wits.ac.za/bitstream/handle/10539/11069/ANNE%20NYAKATO-Final%20Submission-24.10.11.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Key words	Child protection, exploitation, unclear definitions
Source	Graduate thesis
Description	The commonly used term “exploitation” is shown to be undefined and inadequately explained, failing to distinguish between acceptable work and harmful work for children. This, combined with the failure of international anti-trafficking legislation to define what purposes are “exploitative”, results in exploitation. The author argues for this perspective by focusing on the international legislation from the UN and ILO, and their failure, as the author states it, to clearly define certain terms in child protection.

### Cross-border trade

50. Adong, J. A., Tumushabe, J., Ayiga, N., Kibuuka, E. P. & Nasaba, A. (2004, June). *Child Labour and Cross Border Trade in Uganda*. International Labour Organisation. <https://www.ilo.org/ipecinfor/product/searchProduct.do?userType=3&selectedMediaTypes=31&selectedSortById=4&selectedThemes=752&selectedPublicOrIntranet=1&selectedCountries=162>

Key words	Arua, gender differential, Kabbalah, Tororo
Source	Report
Description	The report analysis the child labour situation in Uganda in cross border trade in Arua, Kabala and Tororo districts. The reports assesses: (1) the nature, pattern, causes and magnitude of child labour in cross border trade; (2) the socio-economic background of children and their families involved in cross border trade; (3) the effects of cross border trade on children in relation to health,

education and safety; (4) any existing policies and legislation that provides protection to and addresses the issue of child labour in cross border trade. Additionally, it explores the effectiveness of any existing strategies and the impact they have had on children as well as the gender differentials.

## Child trafficking

51. International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour. (2007). *Rapid assessment report in trafficking of children into worst forms of child labour, including child soldiers in Uganda: A study conducted in the districts of Busia, Pader, Kalangala Masaka and Kampala as part of IPEC TBP preparatory activities.*

<http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do;jsessionid=bc780e9eddcdae68f7835281c6f7ccc03c83fe035084e723423857ea788e486a.e3aTbhulbNmSe34MchaRaheSb3n0?type=document&id=12152>

Key words	ABA, DPP, legislative framework, rural-urban trafficking
Source	Report
Description	Evidence presented in this report indicated that domestic child trafficking is a big issue in Uganda, with many traffickers moving children from rural parts of the country to urban areas. The article further reviews and identifies gaps in policy, legislative framework and capacities of efforts to combat child trafficking in Uganda.

There have been efforts by different actors seeking to address the legal issues pertaining to child trafficking in Uganda, such as the American Bar Association (ABA), Africa Law initiative, and the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).