

# terre des hommes

## Hilfe für Kinder in Not

### **Instructions**

This factsheet shall give a brief overview of terre des hommes concepts, strategies and successes in its main fields of work. The addressees are all participants of terre des hommes co-decisions process, including volunteers, partner organizations, the International Youth Network and staff. It is part of the Exploration Phase of the Pathway 23, the co-decision process leading up to the Delegates Conference 2023. It is one element of a mapping of our fields of work and topics and shall provide a common basis of information for all participants.

The factsheet shall be short, understandable, and give summary on terre des hommes' approach to the respective topic in max. 20 min reading time. Therefore, available text space is limited in the format of the factsheet. For those that want to enter into more details you may attach annexes and/ or provide links or literature recommendations.

These factsheets will be elaborated on all fields of works/ topics on which terre des hommes itself has been working thematically and conceptually; however, not on all of the topics that are addressed by the work of our partners. All the other fields of work and topics can be mapped online, in a format accessible to the participants of the webinars of the Exploration Phase.

**Factsheet on** Children's Work, Labour and Due Diligence

**1. Please shortly define the field of work and its central terms or concepts**

(limit 600 signs each)

<p>Topic:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; min-height: 100px;"> <p>overview</p> </div>	<p>terre des hommes has learned from experience that it is helpful to take a holistic approach to understanding child labour and its causes and respond accordingly. It is vital to listen to working children to identify the most appropriate ways of improving their lives. terre des hommes recognises that some work can be beneficial to children, teaching them skills that they will find useful in life. Other types of work can be harmful because they inflict on the child's development or do not allow for school attendance. The topic has different links to businesses, consumers and current policy debates (like on Due Diligence legislation).</p>
<p>Central term 1</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; min-height: 100px;"> <p>Child Work</p> </div>	<p>Child work refers to the participation of children in any paid or unpaid economic activity, or activities to support families and family caregivers, which is not detrimental to their health and mental and physical development. It is light work for a limited amount of hours, according to their age and abilities, that doesn't interfere with a child's education or leisure activities. This work can even be seen as beneficial for the child's development (TDHIF Position Paper on Child Labour).</p>
<p>Central term 2</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; min-height: 100px;"> <p>Child Labour</p> </div>	<p>Child labour refers to the worst forms of child labour in line with ILO Convention 182 and thus all kinds of labour which jeopardize a child's rights and its physical, mental, educational or social development. Child labour in dangerous jobs, such as with toxics and dangerous substances, illegal activities and slavery and bonded labour or sexual exploitation should be directly eliminated (TDHIF Position Paper on Child Labour).</p>
<p>Central term 3</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; min-height: 100px;"> <p>Due Diligence</p> </div>	<p>Following ILO convention 182 all work of children in supply chains is considered a worst form of child labour. The responsibility of businesses - be they small local enterprises or Multinationals - to respect human rights is the focus of the second pillar of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), one of the key international frameworks illustrating the steps that states and companies should take to prevent, address and remedy human rights violations that result from companies' conduct. Due Diligence legislation currently is discussed in many countries.</p>

**2. Please name groups of children and youth especially focused by terre des hommes´ in this field of work (if any)**

Besides projects explicitly focusing on the situation of working children, many children involved under other project themes are working as well.

(150 signs)

**3. Please name the three biggest challenges, that terre des hommes is addressing in this field of work and the concerned child rights according to the UN Child Rights Convention**

	Challenges (limit 400 signs each)	Concerned Child Rights (limit 50 signs each)
1	Sustainably ending child labour through decent work, living wages, education, empowerment. Economic interests and the lack of basic social security to about 60 percent of the worlds population exposes 4 billion people to poverty, unsafety and vulnerability, including exploitation of children. Often access to children involved in worst forms of child labour or vulnerable children exposed to exploitation (e.g. street children, migrant children, children on the move) is difficult as they often work in hard-to-reach areas or sectors or mafia-like structures, including child trafficking.	Art. 22, 32, Optional Protocols I + II
2	Regulation and humanisation of working conditions for children involved in light forms of work combined with access to education to ensure the transition to decent work opportunities in the future.	Art. 28, 29, 32
3	Ensuring working children's meaningful participation in local to global policy debates.	Art. 12

**4. Please shortly describe terre des hommes' strategies to address these challenges**

**4.1. Introduction (general description of the strategy)**

terre des hommes recommends that child labour programmes and advocacy should be evidence-based, follow a holistic approach, include empowerment. Their impact should be monitored to secure that it is in the best interest of the child. Education should be made compulsory up to a specified age. Influencing policies on child labour can be used as a powerful tool to support working children. Also, they should be given information about risks of workplace abuse and given alternative work opportunities if they are subject to hazardous work. We also call for action by businesses to stop worst forms of child labour in their supply chains, support Due Diligence legislation and contribute to Multi-Stakeholder-Initiatives.

(limit 1000 signs)

**4.2. Specific strategies to tackle each challenge (consider participation of youth, project work, and advocacy - if applicable)**

(please insert number of challenge from 3.)	Specific strategies to tackle each challenge (limit 600 signs each)
1	Terre des Hommes fights the worst forms of child labour with an integrated approach consisting of policy influencing activities, awareness-raising, prevention, rehabilitation - like education, health care and socio economic development - targeting all stakeholders involved including businesses and offering direct assistance to victims of child labour and exploitation. If no other alternatives are available, or if children are not willing or able to stop all their working activities immediately, terre des hommes ensures that working children
2	Terre des Hommes strives to an immediate improvement of labour standards and the regulation of working hours for youth beyond minimum ages to decrease the direct danger for a child's health and development. Work in decent conditions (safe working environment, maximum working time), the payment of living wages in combination with education is the first step towards our goal of eliminating child labour. We encourage companies not to immediately leave areas and production sites where the WFCL have been identified in their supply

3

We have started to open spaces for meaningful participation of working children in local to global policy debates in the Time to Talk! and Dialogue Works project (see more information below).

**5. What were the biggest successes in this area of terre des hommes and partners so far?** (limit 1500 signs)

terre des hommes managed to end child labour in the textile site of Tamil Nadu within ten years time trough vocational training for former child labourers, access of families to basic services, campaigning and advocacy on local and international level and the involvement of different big retailers. 40.000 children were by this removed from work in tailoring units from 1999 until 2009. The project was sustained though the introduction of school compulsory education in 2010. In addition, terre des hommes has successfully realised the global campaign and research project "It's Time to Talk! - Children's Views on Children's Work" (2016-2019) jointly with Kindernothilfe. In this project, more than 1.800 working children have been consulted and about 200 working children have collaborated as members of Children Advisory Committees to make working children's views heard in local to global debates. The findings have been presented at the IV Global Conference on Child Labour in Argentina (2017). The currently ongoing Dialogue Works project aims to anchor working children's participation sustainably in societal and political processes (2020-2024).

**6. Is there anything else, everybody should know about this field of work?** (limit 600 signs)

The phenomenon of children's work or labour is far more complex than many people would anticipate. Root causes, forms, conditions and consequences of work are multifaceted and sometimes difficult to grasp. Multidimensional and context-specific action is required to holistically tackle the problem and ensure working children's well-being. This happens ideally jointly with working children and their movements.

**7. Recommended Annexes (please name here and attach as a separate document)**

1) TDHIF Position on Child Labour, 2) TDHIF Draft Position on Due Diligence, 3) TDHIF Child Labour Report 2012-2019, 3) Time to Talk! Main Report (2017), 4) Sumangali Evaluation

**8. Recommended literature and links**

Website Dialogue Works: [www.dialogue-works.com](http://www.dialogue-works.com) [www.tdh.de/kinderarbeit](http://www.tdh.de/kinderarbeit)  
[www.tdh.de/verbraucher](http://www.tdh.de/verbraucher) [www.lieferkettengesetz.de](http://www.lieferkettengesetz.de)