



BRS COPs SIDE EVENT

Children and their exposure to pesticides and other hazardous chemicals:

Strategies to reduce risks, as well as to protect and to promote their rights

Thursday, 16 June | 1:15 – 2:45 pm | Room B

Co-organized by: OHCHR & BRS (UNEP and FAO)



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#GlobalAgreements for a #HealthyPlanet

Children and their Exposure to Pesticides and Other Hazardous Chemicals



16 June 2022 | 13:15 - 14:45 CEST

SPEAKERS



Christine FUELL



Senior Technical Officer and Coordinator, Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, FAO



Rima CHEHNY



DNA, Rotterdam Convention of Lebanon | Ministry of Agriculture, Plant Pharmacy Department involved in Pesticide Registration



Desiree NARVAEZ



Environmental Health Specialist and Technical Lead, UNICEF's Healthy Environments for Healthy Children: Global Framework



Kirill BUKETOV



International Policy Officer for Campaigns Against Forced Labour, Child Labour and Discrimination, International Union of Food and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF)



Maria LEE



Child Labour in Agriculture Specialist, FAO



Mikiko OTANI



Chair, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child



Isabelle KOLEBINOV



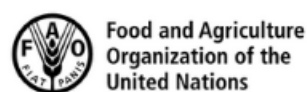
Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, Child Rights International Network (CRIN)



Diana RIZZOLIO



Coordinator, Geneva Environment Network | Moderator



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Q&A

Closing Remarks



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Promoting an integrated approach to address hazardous child labour and reduce pesticides exposure

Maria Lee

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Side event “Children and their exposure to pesticides and other hazardous chemicals: strategies to reduce risks, as well as to protect and to promote their rights” - 16 June, 1:15-2:45



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

HAZARDOUS WORK IN AGRICULTURE



**HANDLING & USING
PESTICIDES**

**PROHIBITED FOR ALL
GIRLS AND BOYS UNDER 18**

**SHOULD BE ELIMINATED AS
A MATTER OF URGENCY**

- ❑ Agricultural work is one of the top three most hazardous occupations
- ❑ **48.1 million children** (43% of all child labourers) are involved in hazardous work in agriculture
- ❑ Children may be exposed to pesticides directly or indirectly (on and off-farm) ; they are more vulnerable than adults
- ❑ Alternatives to pesticides >> address child labour

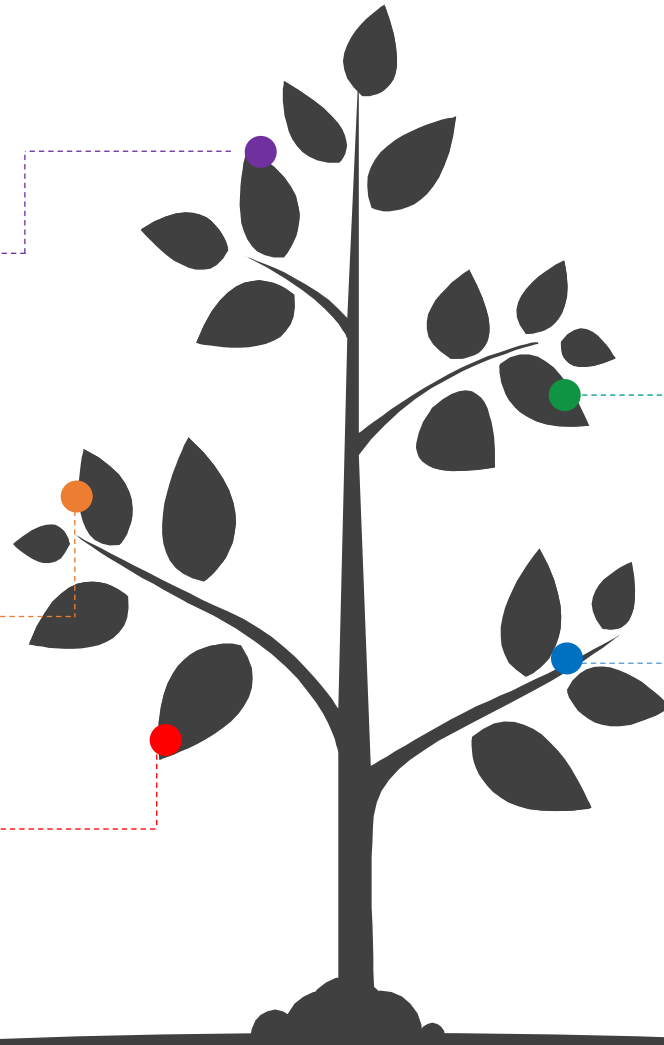


INTEGRATED APPROACH TO END HAZARDOUS WORK IN AGRICULTURE

Raise awareness & change behaviour at community level vis-à-vis child labour and hazardous work

Enhance capacity of diverse agricultural stakeholders

Integrate child labour and hazardous work in agricultural policies and legal frameworks



Educate young generations on Occupational Hazards in Agriculture

Generate relevant knowledge on hazardous work in agrifood systems among children



RAISING AWARENESS AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

Reaching out to rural communities using user-friendly materials >> **FAO & ILO Pesticides Visual tools in collaboration with the Rotterdam Convention**

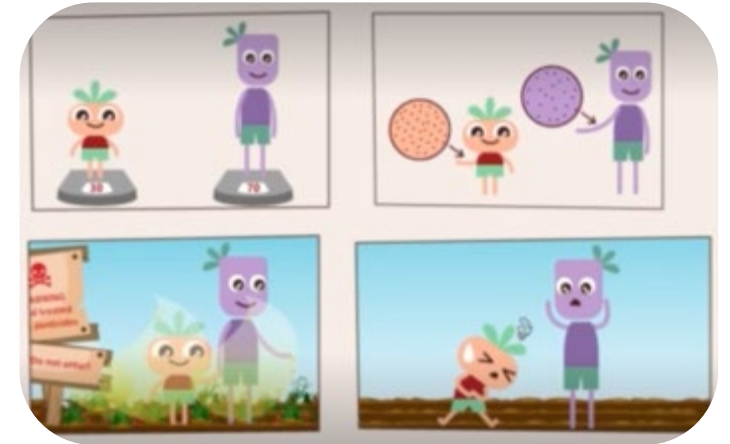
And through rural radios and listeners' clubs led by:

- *District agricultural officers*
- *Agricultural extension departments*
- *Smallholder farmers' organizations*
- *Dimitra Listeners Clubs (Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger)*



EDUCATING YOUNG GENERATIONS ON OSH

- ❑ **REEFI Mobile IOS App** - free mobile application developed by FAO with support from Plan International Lebanon
- ❑ Objective: Promotion of occupational safety and health in agriculture for rural children and youth in Lebanon
- ❑ Messages of good and safe agricultural practices, including a component on pesticides
- ❑ Developed in consultation with children and youth



ENHANCING CAPACITIES OF AGRICULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS

- Capacity building programmes at national, sub-regional and regional level – producer organizations, plant protection officers, extension agents, DNAs, etc.
- **Farmers' field schools (FFS)** :integrating hazardous child labour in Integrated Pest Management module of FFS (ex. Mali, Pakistan) and Junior Farmer Field and Life School
- University of Cape Town's Postgraduate programme on Pesticide Risk Management (Pesticide Discussion Forum)

PROTECT CHILDREN FROM EXPOSURE TO OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH RISKS IN AGRICULTURE
A Visual Facilitator's Guide

لنحم أطفالنا من خطر المبيدات اليوم
لمجتمع أقوى وأصح غداً

أين وكيف يتعرض الأطفال للمبيدات؟
تتواجد المبيدات خطراً كبيراً على الأطفال وبالطبع نتيجة قصور المزارعين أو غير الممارسين لها، وذلك من خلال تواجدهم في أماكن بيعها، وتخزينها أو استخدامها.

علم صحة الإنسان ونموه
يحتوي الأطفال على حساسية من المبيدات أكثر من البالغين. لذلك قد تظهر آثار سلبية فورية كصداع والقيء، وتظهر الحساسية، وحساسية الجلد، وتقرح في أذن، غلغلة الحنجرة، الطفح الجلدي، والاضطرابات العصبية، والسرطان ومشاكل تناسلية وغيرها...

كيفية التخفيف من تعرض الأطفال للمبيدات
- لا تسمح للأطفال بالتواجد في أماكن تخزين واستخدام المبيدات
- ابق المبيدات بعيدة عن متناول الأطفال
- شجع علم تربية الأوعية من خطتها علم الإنسان ونموه

GUIDE SUR LE TRAVAIL DES ENFANTS DANS L'AGRICULTURE

RESEAU NATIONAL DES CHAMBRES D'AGRICULTURE (RECA) République du Niger

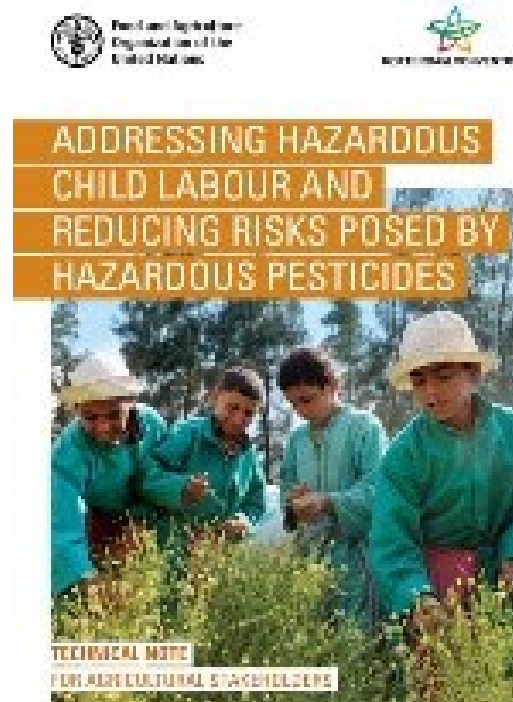
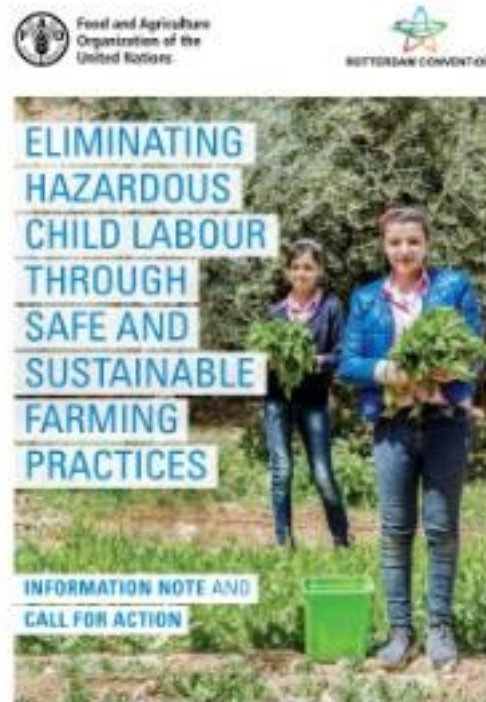
منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة

FAO
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



COLLABORATION

- ❑ Cross-sectoral : agriculture, labour, health, environment, education
- ❑ We all have a role to play in eliminating hazards related to pesticides, protecting children and families and improving sustainability in agriculture



Thank you



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For more information:

www.fao.org/childlabouragriculture



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Q&A

Closing Remarks



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OVERVIEW ON THE EFFORTS OF LEBANON TO REDUCE THE EXPOSURE OF CHILDREN TO HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES

Rima Chehny

RC DNA Lebanon

Geneva, Switzerland, BRS COP 10

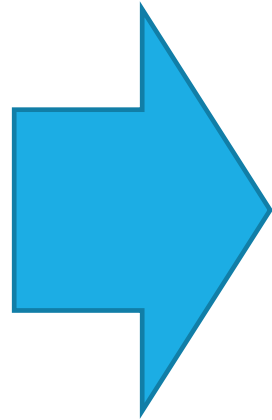
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AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN WHICH CHILDREN ARE COMMONLY EXPOSED TO VARIOUS TYPES OF HAZARDS

Agriculture is in the top most hazardous sectors of child labour, especially through exposure to chemical hazards via:



- **direct involvement in spraying;**
- **working in a recently pesticide-treated field;**
- **breathing pesticide from a nearby field;**
- **working in a pesticide-treated field without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE);**
- **eating with hands contaminated with pesticides**

LEBANON: CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE

- **In Lebanon, Agriculture comprises the largest share of child labour estimated around 60 % of child labourers work, especially in rural areas.**
- **Child labour in agriculture has often occurred within the context of family farming**
- **Since 2010 the complex Syrian refugee crisis has led to an increase in child labour, especially in its most abusive forms and conditions, notably in the Beqaa valley and the North of Lebanon.**



LEBANESE LEGISLATION ADDRESSING CHILD WORK

- Lebanon ratified the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), in 2003
- Later, the Government issued Decree 8987 (2012), which prohibits the employment of children under 18 years of age where such work could harm their health, safety or morals, or limit their education.
- In 2013, a National Action Plan (NAP) was developed to eliminate the worst forms of child labour .

HOW RC IMPLEMENTATION CONTRIBUTES TO THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF PESTICIDES

➤ Lebanon ratified the Rotterdam convention on Nov 13, 2006

Being a Party to the Rotterdam Convention, contributes to keeping us aware of pesticides risks to human health and the environment

Through

facilitating the exchange of information about the characteristics of hazardous chemicals

Providing technical assistance for the sound management of pesticides

RC WORK FOR REINFORCING CAPACITIES ON ADDRESSING CHILD LABOUR

On 2 and 6 Sept 2021, a joint activity of Rotterdam Convention and FAO's Regional Office in the Near East and North Africa was organized a mini course in order to raise awareness of the dangers of pesticides to child labour

a **mini-course entitled** "Addressing hazardous child labour and reducing risks posed by hazardous pesticides"

The output and recommendations of the training were addressed at high level on addressing hazardous child labour.

DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL MATERIALS IN LEBANON

- In 2017, A guidebook "Child labour in agriculture in Lebanon" was produced
- used as a guide for practitioners,
- edited in English and Arabic developed by the ILO with FAO support .

Practitioners includes :

- agricultural extension workers
- labour inspectors,
- occupational safety and health inspectors,
- municipal police,
- social workers, and NGOs working with child labourers in rural areas

the main outputs are:

1- capacity-building programs and activities in the agricultural sector in the Beqaa and North Lebanon,

2- an assessment of the situation of children working in this sector in Beqaa,

OSH LESSONS IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Occupational safety and health (OSH) lessons have been developed and integrated into the official curriculum of Agricultural high school as a textbook for students in Arabic.

This curriculum was implemented within the framework of FAO project: “Upgrading the technical Agriculture education system in Lebanon”

It identifies the main challenges and risks related to the use of pesticides in agriculture to be considered as a priority for reducing risks on younger generations

WORK UNDERTAKEN TO CONTEXTUALIZE AVAILABLE GLOBAL TOOLS

FAO-ILO-UNICEF_ has published a storybook in Arabic for refugee children living in informal settlements. This Storybook was widely disseminated in UNICEF educational centers.

THE OBJECTIVE IS TO EDUCATE
CHILD ABOUT :

- Risk and Negative effects of pesticides
- Protective measures to be taken



OVERVIEW OF MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AT FIELD LEVEL

FAO developed a video addressing child labour through agricultural education system in Lebanon (2021)



- This video presents the visual guide of FAO-ILO-UNICEF on protecting youth aged 14-17 from harmful and not age-appropriate agriculture tasks.

In 2022 an assessment of child labour in greenhouses in Akkar and Mount Lebanon is conducted by FAO



- It provides valuable data on the incidence and modalities of children's exposure to pesticides in the targeted greenhouses.

POSSIBLE ACTIONS TO PREVENT CHILDREN EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES RISKS

Protecting children from pesticides requires coordinated efforts by all stakeholders , from the level of policy-makers (Ministries of Labour, Health, Agriculture; farmers' associations) right down to the level of employers and workers.

This is can be done through

Enforcing Legislation:

- implementing national policy on safety and health of children.
- enforcing the hazardous work list (Decree 8987); clarifying that the application of pesticides should be clearly prohibited for children.
- Increasing capacity of labour inspection systems in the rural and agricultural areas

Raise awareness:

- Strengthening the role of agricultural extension officials in order to provide appropriate training on the impact of pesticides on children.
- Intensifying advertising and media campaigns to educate society about the danger of pesticides



THANK YOU

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Pesticides and Children's Health

An Urgent Call to Reduce Exposures

BRS COP 2022 Side Event

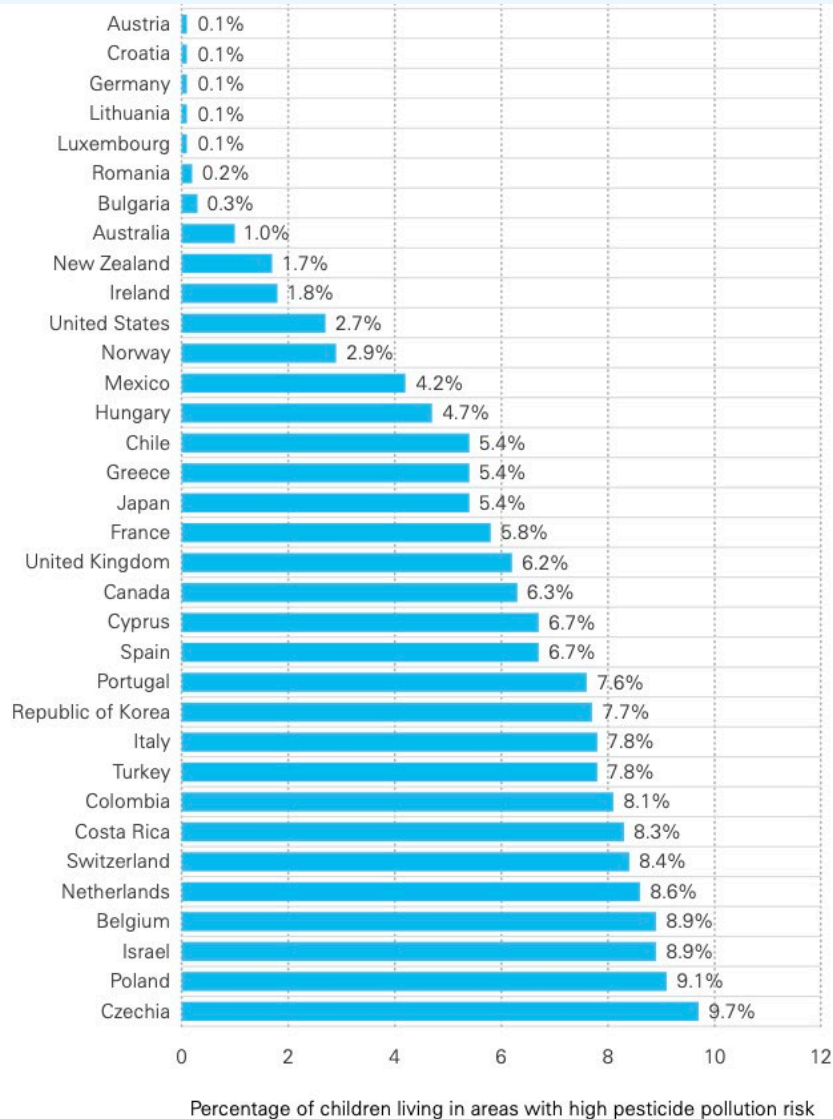
Desiree M. Narvaez, MD, MPH
Environmental Health Specialist
UNICEF NYHQ

Overview

- Children have the right to a healthy environment in which they live, learn and play
- The increasing use and unsound management of pesticides contaminate the environment that can be a source of hazardous exposure among children
- Children, especially those who live in agricultural settings, are particularly vulnerable to pesticides, which can cause lifelong and irreversible negative health effects
- Urgent action is needed by all stakeholders to reduce environmental contamination from pesticides to protect children's health



Use of Pesticides Increases Risk of Exposure in Children



In most OECD/EU countries, more than **1 in 20 child** lives in an area of high pesticide risk.

- Pesticides are one of the few toxic substances intentionally applied to the places children live, work and play
- Children globally are exposed to pesticide use, pollution, and contamination of food and drinking water
- Children in both agricultural and urban settings are exposed but children living in agricultural settings may have higher risk of exposures; children of farmworkers are especially vulnerable due to take-home exposures
- 85% of pesticides are used in agricultural setting yet world hunger persists and 22% of world's children are stunted
- Pesticides are also used for cosmetic purposes in homes and gardens, with \$450 million in US in 2012 spent on herbicides

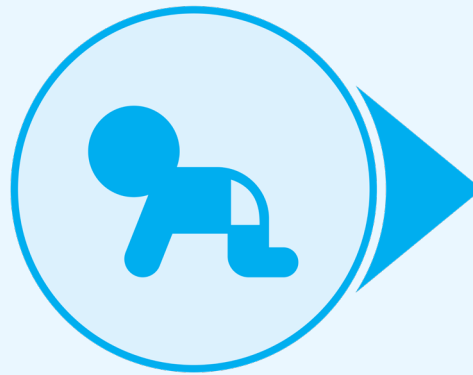
Exposure Risks Occur at Every Stage of Development



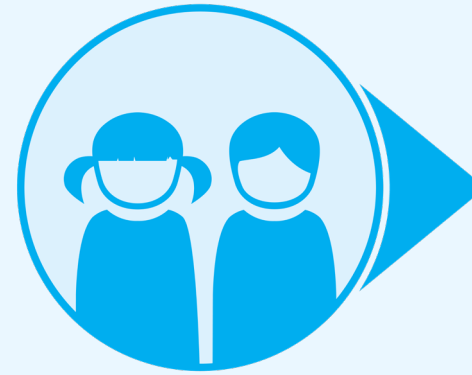
Pregnancy



Newborn



Infancy



Childhood



Adolescence

Children are Particularly Vulnerable to Pesticides

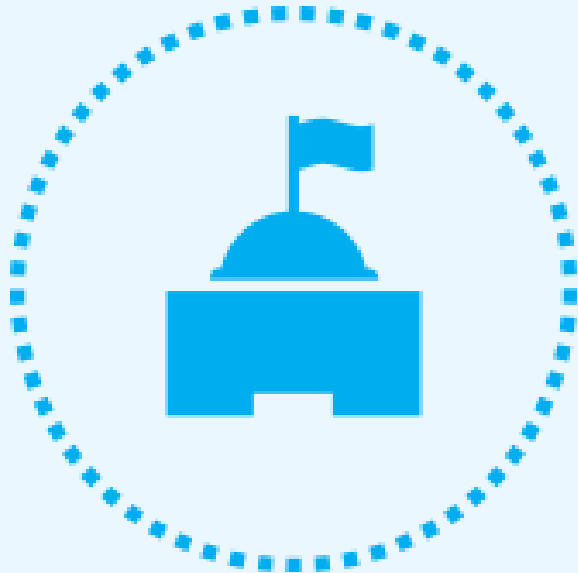
Unique and Different Pesticides Exposures	Examples of Effects on Children and Adolescents
<p>Preconception and prenatal exposures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pose significant health risks for children including paediatric cancers and impaired neurodevelopment
<p>Exposures related to child behaviors and development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-to-mouth behaviors • Physically lower to ground and less mobile • Take-home exposures from parents • Depend on adults for protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for increased pesticide levels in children • In review of studies of take-home exposures in an agricultural setting, the greatest frequency of pesticide metabolite levels was shown to occur in toddlers, with levels slightly lower in infants and lowest among older children.
<p>Child labour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF reports 112 million children in developing and developed countries who work in agriculture with possible exposures to pesticides from direct spraying and drift • Agriculture accounts for 70% of child labour • Children and adolescents who applied pesticides have been shown to have lower neurobehavioral performance, and more neurological symptoms • May not have availability of PPE

Children are Particularly Vulnerable to Pesticides

Unique Vulnerabilities	Examples of Effects on Children and Adolescents
<p>Growing bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require more air, water, and food per kg than adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May ingest more pesticide per body weight than adults • Pesticide contaminated drinking water shown to have highest hazard indices for infants • US biomonitoring study found higher urinary pesticide metabolite levels in children ages 6-11 years compared to adults 20-59 years.
<p>Cognitively Immature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rely on adults for protection • Children cannot read or fully understand warning labels • May not understand when pesticide containers are improperly reused to store water and food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unintentional pesticide poisonings put children at risk; even smallest amount of some pesticides can be potentially fatal
<p>Developing organ systems and critical windows of vulnerability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-occupational early life exposure shown to be associated with decreased lung function measured at age 7 years • Ongoing pesticide exposures in childhood shown to be associated with childhood cancers • DDT exposure in adolescent girls in the 1950s increases their risk of breast cancer today

Actions Needed to Protect Children from Pesticides

Child-Centred Policies



- Create international standards for toxicity testing that consider vulnerability of developing fetuses and children to hazardous substances
- Develop official list of highly hazardous pesticides to streamline regulation and make them less accessible across international boundaries
- Design, implement and enforce public health, environmental, and labour laws to protect children's right to a healthy environment, which they are entitled to by the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Actions Needed to Protect Children from Pesticides

Effective Cross-Sectoral Education



- Increase knowledge across all stakeholders including private, healthcare, businesses and governments about the unique vulnerability of children to pesticide hazards
- Ensure farmer education on pesticide risks, economic feasibility of reduced use, and use reduction strategies such as integrated pesticide management

UNICEF Response to Protect Children from Pesticides

- Launched [Healthy Children for Healthy Environments Global Programme Framework](#) in 2021
- Developing massive open online course on Children's Environmental Health to increase the ability of health care providers to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases associated with environmental factors such as pesticides and build tools for successful advocacy
- Developing advocacy materials that illustrate the negative impacts of pesticides on children





Healthy Environments for Healthy Children

unicef  | for every child

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