

## The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action

# Participation at the Sixth Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour

Marrakech, February 2026

## 1. ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

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The Sixth Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in Marrakech convened a multitude of stakeholders including governments, civil society, employers' and workers' organisations, and international organisations to accelerate global action to end child labour.

The conference featured high-level panels, interactive sessions, a boot camp for children and young people, and an innovation fair, providing a platform for sharing tools, research, and promising practices. It culminated in the launch of the [Marrakech Global Framework for Action](#) against Child Labour, renewing global commitments to achieving SDG Target 8.7 and building on the Durban Call to Action.

## 2. WHY THE ALLIANCE PARTICIPATED

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The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action joined the conference to:

- **Shine a spotlight on children in humanitarian crises**, where the latest global data estimates [child labour rises to 21%](#) – more than four times the rate seen in stable contexts.
- **Advocate for integrated, multi-sectoral, as well as specialised approaches** that prevent and respond to child labour in crisis settings and urge leaders to prioritise these programmes despite deep humanitarian funding cuts.
- **Share practical technical resources**, particularly the [Inter-agency Toolkit: Preventing and Responding to Child Labour in Humanitarian Action](#), to strengthen evidence-based, coordinated programming in humanitarian settings.

## 3. OUR ENGAGEMENT

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### Panel Participation:

The Alliance contributed to the [Child Labour and Mental Health panel](#), emphasising that in humanitarian contexts, child labour is both a harmful coping strategy and a driver of serious psychosocial distress.

We highlighted how crisis conditions, including displacement, loss of livelihoods, and weakened protective systems, push children into hazardous work, exposing them to family separation, sexual violence, and long-term physical and psychological harm.

Drawing on Alliance survey findings, we shared evidence that humanitarian funding cuts are already contributing to rising child labour risks, as child protection actors are forced to scale back prevention and response capacity.

The Alliance underscored the importance of sustaining interventions that help identify, prevent, and respond to child labour, including community-based child protection, family support, and safe referral pathways for children at risk.

### Innovation Fair:

The Alliance hosted a stand showcasing key technical tools, including the *Child Labour in Humanitarian Action Toolkit*, and engaged participants in discussions on practical application in crisis-affected settings.

### Interactive Workshop:

The Alliance facilitated a workshop on applying the Child Labour Toolkit, attended by representatives from civil society, trade unions, and ministries of labour from **Nigeria, Senegal, Namibia, Türkiye, Zimbabwe, Morocco, Liberia, and the Netherlands**.

By applying several of the toolkit's practical tools, the session illustrated how it can support the design and implementation of multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder, and well-coordinated strategies to prevent and respond to child labour in humanitarian settings

## 4. KEY TAKEAWAYS

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### 1. A humanitarian lens must be central to implementing the Marrakech Global Framework for Action

The Marrakech Global Framework for Action recognises that conflict, displacement, and humanitarian emergencies are major drivers of child labour and its worst forms, requiring targeted prevention and response measures.

In crisis settings, protective environments collapse, national systems are strained, and families are pushed toward harmful coping strategies, including child labour.

Implementation of the Marrakech Framework must therefore ensure that children affected by armed conflict, climate shocks, and displacement are not left behind, and that humanitarian actors are fully integrated into global child labour elimination efforts.

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## 2. Child labour is a child protection violation requiring specialised prevention and response systems

Child labour in emergencies is not only an economic challenge but it is a serious child protection violation, closely linked to exploitation, abuse, interrupted education, and long-term physical and psychological harm.

Addressing it requires a full package of specialised child protection prevention and response interventions, including:

- Early identification of children at risk.
- Individualised services tailored to age and gender-related specific risks.
- Safe referral to child protection services for children engaged in labour.
- Family strengthening and parenting support to reduce harmful coping strategies.
- Community-based prevention and cross-sectoral action across education, livelihoods, and social protection.

A child labour response must therefore combine **specialised child protection measures** with **multi-sectoral solutions** that address root causes.

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## 3. Expanding partnerships is essential — new alliances can strengthen collective action

The conference highlighted the critical role of actors beyond the traditional humanitarian and child protection community in preventing and responding to child labour in crisis settings.

The Alliance gained valuable insights into how trade unions are working to protect children in contexts such as **Gaza** and conflict-affected areas of **Ethiopia**, and how global networks representing nearly **700,000 domestic workers** are on the frontlines of identifying and preventing hidden forms of domestic child labour, among many other emerging partners.

These partnerships can strengthen collective efforts by:

- Linking humanitarian responses with labour systems, workers' protections, and national enforcement mechanisms, and
- Expanding advocacy and accountability for child labour prevention even during crises.

This is a key moment to broaden collaboration and ensure child labour elimination efforts are inclusive of humanitarian realities, actors, and solutions.

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