

Governments, employees should provide better life conditions for children

Since 2002, International Labour Organization (ILO) has marked 12 June as World Day Against Child Labor. The day reminds all the people in the world, governments and employers to make efforts to end the condition of children and to end child labor. What's child labor?

Based on the UN definition, all types of labor that compromise the under-aged children and violate international laws are defined as child labor. With child labor, children can be deprived from education or otherwise obliged to work and besides getting education, the worst forms of child labor appear which efforts are being made across the world to end the exploitation of children for illegal activities or other harassment.

Millions of children are obliged to work and earn to support the needs of their families. They are not able to go to school, attend activities and get education. Currently, nearly 250 million children are engaged in child labor. They don't go to school and have time to do sport or play to ground. Most of them are facing with hard money. It is said that half of them are facing with the worst types of child labor across the world.

In June the World Day, the ILO and UNICEF will release new global estimates and trends on child labor (2016-2020), under the aegis of Alliance 8.7. The report will include an assessment of how the pace of progress to work ending child labor is like-

ly to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent economic crises that has accompanied it.

For this year's World Day, a "Week of Action" will be launched around 12 June, starting with the launch of the new global estimates on child labor. The events and activities carried out during this week will be an opportunity for partners to showcase progress in eradicating their "2021 Action Pledges". All pledges must be reported, monitored and organized stakeholders and individuals will be encouraged to participate in April.

In Afghanistan, continued war and violence have deteriorated the life of Afghan children as they are facing with mental and psychological trauma, which is affecting their learning and development. The government of Afghanistan is asked to pay attention to the victims of impunity in this regard.

Child trafficking for different purposes, displacing children to work in hazardous conditions, child labor are a range of cases that have attracted to the victims of impunity in this regard.

Currently, Afghan children are facing with lots of problems in the country. Lack of access to education, health, early marriage, missing the school, and violence are some of the main problems that are facing Afghan children in the country.

The World Day Against Child Labor is an annual event held by ILO and UNICEF to raise awareness and to call for the end of child labor in Afghanistan. The report will include an assessment of how the pace of progress to work ending child labor is like-



HKIA to remain operational with int'l standards, NSC

Following concerns over security of Hamid Karzai International Airport after the US and NATO troops withdrawal from Afghanistan, National Security Council said the airport will remain operational with international standards.

Hamid Karzai International Airport is the main gateway to the country. The airport is currently being managed by the Hamid Karzai International Airport Authority (HKIAA). The airport is currently being managed by the Hamid Karzai International Airport Authority (HKIAA). The airport is currently being managed by the Hamid Karzai International Airport Authority (HKIAA).

US and NATO troops withdrawal process from Afghanistan. Recently, foreign and international media have reported that the airport will remain operational with international standards. The airport is currently being managed by the Hamid Karzai International Airport Authority (HKIAA). The airport is currently being managed by the Hamid Karzai International Airport Authority (HKIAA).



Narayan Bahadur

Afghanistan: Oxygen and vaccines urgently needed as Covid-19 infections surge

More than a year into the pandemic, the government's emergency preparedness remains inadequate. According to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Afghanistan currently has only around 2,000 oxygen concentrators and 1,163 hospital beds dedicated to Covid-19 treatment to serve a population of 39 million. According to MoPH, the country only a total of 1,500 ICU beds.



The Afghan Government must intensify efforts to address the challenges of the pandemic.

This situation is more challenging at the provincial level. According to Zaman Mawardi, a human rights activist from Balkh province, the province only has one Covid-19 treatment center and no Covid-19 testing facility. Mawardi said that it takes about a day to get to Balkh province and the other half covered by roads and highways.

On 7 June, the Afghan authorities reported that out of a total of 4,071 Covid-19 cases, 1,282 (more than 30 percent) had remained positive results.

"Afghanistan's Covid-19 case numbers have been steadily increasing and there is a high risk of a second wave of the virus," said Zaman Mawardi, a human rights activist from Balkh province. "The lack of emergency preparedness and the state of Afghanistan's public health infrastructure means the country is not equipped to deal with the type of surge we have seen elsewhere in the region. Afghanistan must make diagnostic and treatment capacity available to all areas of the country. We have seen similar situations in Nepal and India and the lack of the main business and health services in the country is a major concern."

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On 7 June, the MoPH reported that the country was facing an ongoing shortage of oxygen and health facilities. In March 2021, MoPH International published a briefing stating that the Afghan government and the international community is urgently with support from the international community and the COVID-19 program, most work to process the required vaccine order through existing funding and support mechanisms or through the government budget, said Zaman Mawardi.

knows them extremely vulnerable to a highly infectious virus like Covid-19, said Zaman Mawardi. According to a World Bank announcement, sufficient budget should already exist to vaccinate 40 percent of the population, with 10 percent of that covered by the COVID-19 facility, a global initiative to help low- and middle-income countries access vaccines and the other half covered by funds from the World Bank and the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. The Asian Development Bank has also committed around \$300 million to support vaccination and other Covid-19 relief programs.

MoPH said that the country has received 100,000 vaccines from the Indian Government and the COVID-19 facility, which can fully inoculate only 1,248 of Afghanistan's 19 million people, representing only 0.006 percent of the population.

Local media reported on 10 June that Afghanistan had received 700,000 doses of vaccines from China. However, MoPH International spoke to an official at the MoPH, who could not provide an exact date for the next delivery of vaccines shipment from China.

The next shipment is tentatively scheduled for July, MoPH said. On 3 June, President Ghani had announced that the Afghan government would purchase further supplies but provided no details on where these would be sourced and delivered. Given the current state of shortage of vaccines and OCHA's inability to deliver to other countries according to schedule, there are major concerns around if and how quickly any more doses will arrive in Afghanistan.

According to the WHO as of 29 May 2021, 600,440 people had been vaccinated in Afghanistan. Of this figure, 460,400 persons had received their first shot. 12,711 people had received both doses.

"The Afghan authorities, with support from the international community and the COVID-19 program, must work to process the required vaccine order through existing funding and support mechanisms or through the government budget," said Zaman Mawardi.