

# Impact of Trade Liberalization on Child Labour in Uganda's Commercial Agricultural Sector

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## **Abstract**

The international Labour Organization (ILO) still stresses that children labour is a hazardous act that is still persisting in many countries especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. A number of international organizations and ratifications are in place to try and mitigate this bad vice but little success has been achieved. This study analyses the nature and extent of child labour in Uganda's commercial agricultural sector, attributing its persistence to trade liberalization as a form of globalization. Most research previously done on child labour in Uganda has argued that it is mainly caused by increased prevalence of HIV/AIDS epidemic but this study argues otherwise. The main argument is that trade liberalization has resulted into low prices of agricultural produce from Uganda due to increased competition at the global market. This has then forced employers to lower employees wages leading to an increase in household poverty, which makes children prone to engaging into hazardous work.

Using data from Uganda Bureau of statistics, International labour organization, country profiles and primary data from a survey conducted on 5 different commercial forms, this study finds that indeed trade liberalization has reinforced child labour in Uganda's commercial agriculture sector. The study highlights the need to revise the trade tariffs and to set a minimum labour wage when drawing policies to mitigate child labour from this sector.