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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

# ► Hazardous child labour in agriculture and forestry

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Guide for municipal  
advisors for agriculture and  
rural development



# ▶ **HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY**

GUIDE FOR MUNICIPAL ADVISORS FOR AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



## ► ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## ▶ Introduction

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Although there are no complete statistical data, the involvement of children in hazardous work in agriculture and forestry is a widespread phenomenon in rural areas. These children, starting from the age of 11, are endangered by agricultural machinery, sharp tools, extreme temperatures, humidity, dust and organic gases, electricity, cold water, heavy weights, long working hours, inappropriate positions and unsuitable working terrain. Moreover, the schooling process for these children is difficult or impossible, and the opportunities for leisure are very limited.

Following an ongoing work of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD) in identifying hazardous activities for children in the agriculture and forestry sector and in sensitizing farmers on the hazards of child labour in agriculture and forestry, MAFRD during 2021 with the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO) intensified efforts to identify measures that can be taken by MAFRD and its executive agencies to prevent hazardous work in agriculture and forestry, but also to protect children who are currently involved in hazardous work. In line with the obligations arising from the Law no. 06/L-084 on Child Protection and in the spirit of contribution to topics of national interest, MAFRD is committed to ensuring that:

- ▶ Information and awareness raising of farmers about the hazards and consequences of engaging children in certain agricultural activities is included in all consultations and campaigns organized with farmers<sup>1</sup>;
- ▶ All contracts of MAFRD and its executive agencies with economic operators and farmers contain a paragraph prohibiting the engagement of persons under 18 years of age in hazardous work; the list of prohibited activities for children in the respective sector is also annexed to the contracts;
- ▶ The legal framework of MAFRD explicitly contributes to the prevention and prohibition of child labour in hazardous activities in the agriculture and forestry sector;
- ▶ Investment programs in agriculture and rural development contribute to eliminate family dependence on child labour, and to promote decent employment of youth in agriculture;
- ▶ Children identified in hazardous forms of work in the agriculture and forestry sector are referred to the Centres for Social Work.

In line with these priorities, the Department of Advisory Services for Agriculture and Rural Development in MAFRD has undertaken, with the support of the ILO MAP 16 Project, to:

- ▶ draft this Guide for municipal advisors for agriculture and rural development on hazardous forms of child labour in agriculture and forestry;
- ▶ organize workshops to increase the capacity of municipal advisors to advise farmers on hazardous forms of work in the framework of regular consultations with them (as provided by the annual plan for advisory services to farmers);
- ▶ advise farmers on hazardous activities for children in certain agricultural activities, in the framework of regular consultations with farmers;
- ▶ include basic information on hazardous activities for children (including hazards and their effect on the health and development of the child) in certain agricultural activities, in the framework of farmer brochures prepared by DAS;

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<sup>1</sup> Especially in the framework of information sessions for the promotion of measures for rural development, in the framework of forest protection campaigns, as well as in the framework of advisory sessions with farmers carried out by Municipal Advisors for Agriculture and Rural Development.

- prepare an awareness video on hazardous forms of child labour in agriculture and forestry, for posting on social networks and the official website of MAFRD.

This Guide is designed as an aid to the municipal advisors for agriculture and rural development to understand the nature of hazardous child labour and take action to raise farmers' awareness of the risk of engaging children in certain agricultural activities. With the idea that these issues are addressed with farmers in the framework of training and direct consultations that will take place with them on various agricultural activities, the main part of the Guide is structured by the topics selected from MAFRD, for training and advising farmers.

After clarifying the main concepts, situation, causes and consequences of child labour in general and especially in agriculture and forestry, the third chapter lists, for each agricultural activity, the hazardous activities that should not be performed by children, related risks and their potential impact on the health and development of the child. But, given the importance of the gradual involvement of children in work activities to develop a sense of love for work, for plants, animals and nature in general, the Guide also provides guidance on appropriate forms of work in agriculture, as well as on assessment of risks in various agricultural activities.

Therefore, the advisors are expected that in addition to the technical advices for certain agricultural activities, to inform the farmers about the prohibited activities for children in the respective fields of activity they exercise, the hazards they pose for the child, as well as the way of assessing the appropriateness of the activities that can also be performed by children, in accordance with the restrictions of their age.





# Understanding child labour



## 1.1 Definition of child labour

Not all work performed by children and adolescents should be classified as child labour and should be eliminated. The involvement of children or adolescents in work that does not affect their health and personal development, or that does not interfere with their schooling, is generally considered positive. This includes activities such as helping parents around the house, helping with a family business, or making money out of school hours and during school holidays.

The term "**child labour**" is defined as work that deprives the child of his/her childhood, potential and dignity, is detrimental to the physical, mental, social and moral development of the child and interferes with his/her education. Interference with schooling is considered when the child (a) is deprived of the opportunity to attend school, (b) is forced to drop out of school early, or (c) is forced to attend school in very difficult conditions.

While child labour takes many different forms, the priority is to eliminate without a delay the worst **forms of child labour**, as defined in Article 3 of the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour no. 182 (1999). Worst forms of child labour include:

- a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment for use in armed conflict;
- b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- c) using, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in relevant international treaties;
- d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, may endanger health, safety or morals of children.

States should determine that the first three categories (a, b and c) of the worst forms of child labour are criminal offenses.

The fourth category (d) is classified as hazardous child labour and refers to work that is likely to result in the death of the child, injury (often for the whole life) or illness (often for the whole life) due to the nature of the work or as consequence of unsafe workplace, low safety and health standards and working conditions and arrangements.

Table 1. Key concepts of child labour

Age group	Forms of labour		
	Non-hazardous work	Worst forms of child labour	
		Hazardous work	Other worst forms
5-11	1 hour per week economic activity and/or ≤ 21 hours per week in unpaid household chores	> 1 hour per week economic activity in specific industries and/or > 21 hours per week in unpaid household chores	Trafficked children, forced labour, use of children in armed conflicts, prostitution, pornography, and for illicit activities.
12-14	≤ 14 hours per week in specific industries	> 14 hours per week and in specific industries	
15-17	≤ 30 hours per week in specific industries	> 30 hours per week and in specific industries	

► **Attention!**

Category (c) also includes the involvement of children in illegal logging, smuggling of animals or prohibited forms of fishing, and therefore constitutes a criminal offense.

In accordance with the ILO Convention 182, forced labour, the recruitment of children for use in armed conflict, child trafficking, the use of children for prostitution and pornography, and illegal activities in Kosovo are prohibited by the Criminal Code.

Regarding hazardous child labour, the first version of the Hazardous Child Labour List in Kosovo was prepared with the support of the ILO during 2005-2007, and has entered into force legally as a Government Administrative Instruction on Prevention and Elimination of the Hazardous Forms of Children Labour in Kosovo (AI 17/2008).

The Administrative Instruction includes (a) hazardous sectors and (b) generic hazardous activities that should be prohibited as a matter of priority. In 2013, the AI 17/2008 was replaced by Administrative Instruction GRK no. 05/2013 on Prevention and Prohibition of Hazardous Child Labour in Kosovo, updating the list of hazardous activities.

General hazardous activities (applicable to each sector) include:

- ▶ night shift (between 20:00 and 6:00);
- ▶ occasional lifting and carrying of heavy weights over 15 kg (M) and 10 kg (F);
- ▶ continuous lifting and carrying of heavy weights over 10 kg (M) and 5 kg (F);
- ▶ work in depth, under the surface of the earth, under water and closed places;
- ▶ work at heights over 2 m;
- ▶ work that may cause harm to the child's health due to exposure to extreme high or low temperatures, or to noise and vibration;
- ▶ exposure to biological, chemical and toxic substances<sup>2</sup> and exposure to radioactivity.

Sectors for immediate prohibition include:

- ▶ Agriculture and forestry
- ▶ Construction
- ▶ Exploitation of natural resources
- ▶ Street work
- ▶ Work in the landfill

As child engagement in household chores is not regulated in Kosovo, the definitions of Indicator 2 for measuring child labour for the purpose of reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>3</sup>, can be applied (in addition to AI 05/2013) for the identification of children involved in child labour, risk assessment, as well as for reporting on SDGs. This indicator refers to the percentage and number of children aged 5-17 engaged in economic activities and household chores at or above the age-specific time thresholds (above the total production limit):

- ▶ Child labour for the age group of 5 to 11 years: children who work at least 1 hour per week in economic activity and/or are involved in unpaid household chores for more than 21 hours per week;
- ▶ Child labour for the age group of 12 to 14 years: children who work for at least 14 hours a week in economic activity and/or are involved in unpaid household chores for more than 21 hours per week;
- ▶ Child labour for the age group of 15- to 17 years: children working more than 43 hours a week in economic activity<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> The detailed list of biological, chemical and toxic substances is also defined.

<sup>3</sup> 20th International Conference on Labour Statistics. Resolution to amend the 18th ICLS Resolution concerning statistics of child labour. ILO. Geneva, October 2019

<sup>4</sup> For ages 15-17 there is no set limit for household chores.

## 1.2 Consequences of child labour

Child labour affects the development of children in terms of health, education, morals and psychological well-being. It also affects the family and the society.

### Impact on the child

Find below the main effects of different forms of work, from a health and safety perspective<sup>5</sup>:

- ▶ Physical injuries and mutilations are caused by poorly maintained machinery in farms and factories, accidents with choppers in plantations and a number of hazards encountered in industries, such as mining, wood processing and manufacturing.
- ▶ Pesticide poisoning is one of the biggest killers of child laborers in the agricultural sector worldwide.
- ▶ Growth deficiency is prevalent in working children, who tend to be shorter and lower in weight than other children; these deficiencies also affect their lives as adults.
- ▶ Long-term health problems, such as respiratory diseases, asbestosis and a range of cancers, are common in places where children are forced to work with hazardous chemicals.
- ▶ Exhaustion and malnutrition are the result of underdeveloped children doing hard physical work, working long hours in unbearable conditions and not earning enough to feed themselves adequately.

Child labour can also have a negative impact on the mental, spiritual, moral and social development of the child due to:

- ▶ the inability of children at work to attend school normally; either because they do not attend classes or because they are too tired to concentrate on lessons, children at work do not attend a normal education;
- ▶ breaking social networks (working children do not have time to see their friends) as their absence from school also prevents them from socializing with their peers;
- ▶ non-stimulating, monotonous activities that have a negative impact on children's future creativity/flexibility; the trade and activities that working children will learn from "experience" will be specific and low-skilled. This will not allow the child to gain the flexibility and skills needed to take advantage of opportunities in his/her adult life.
- ▶ all types of ill-treatment, including negligence, inconsistent and harsh treatment, emotional abuse and coercion.

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<sup>5</sup> ECLT Foundation, 2005 accessible at: <http://www.eclt.org/about/overview.htm>

**► Attention!**

A detailed description of the specific hazards in the context of prohibited activities in agriculture and forestry and their potential impact on children is provided in Chapter 3.

**Impact on the family**

In the short run, child labour increases family income and chances of survival, but in the long run, child labour perpetuates family poverty through lower human capital, as child labour does not lead to skills development.

**Impact on society**

Child labour can slow down social growth and development by reducing the accumulation of human capital. Whether children actually replace adult workers by creating adult unemployment and/or by reducing adult wages remains an open question; but to the extent that children compete with unskilled adults for the same jobs, working children affect adult employment or adult wages depending on the structure of the labour market.

# ▶ 2

## The context of child labour in agriculture and forestry

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## 2.1 Agriculture sector

Agriculture is one of the most important pillars of Kosovo's economy; it contributes to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with about 10%, while employing approximately 25-35% of the total number of employees. Taking into account the contribution of the sector to GDP and employment, agriculture is considered to be also an important source of income in rural areas that make up about 60% of the population. Based on the results of the 2014 Agriculture Census, the number of agricultural units was 130,775 while the number of employees with regular work in agriculture was 86,620 (MAFRD, 2016).

Although in recent years there is a tendency to improve, agriculture in Kosovo is still characterized by small farms, low productivity, low level of application of new technologies, outdated mechanization, poor marketing, competition from neighbouring countries and other problems related to the adaptation of this productivity to the ever-increasing market demands. Most farms are subsistence farming activities, producing mainly for self-consumption.

This low level of agricultural development usually requires increased labour force, which means higher risk of children being involved in hazardous agricultural work. Consequently, the development and modernization of this sector, among other things, would reduce the need for engaging children in hazardous agricultural work.

Based on natural conditions, tradition and opportunities for building competition, the priority sectors, such as the vegetable and fruit sector, need to be specifically supported. These sectors are very important, in the first place for the substitution of imports, since a large amount of these products are imported from different countries (mainly from neighbouring countries). The development of the horticulture sector would be a very important driver for the development of the processing industry (since most of the products processed in these sectors are also imported).

Although hazardous child labour is increasingly addressed in the MAFRD strategic documents, it is of crucial importance to ensure that the active measures to promote agriculture and forestry do not (indirectly) foster child labour in these sectors.

## 2.2 Situation and causes of child labour in the agriculture and forestry sector

Agriculture remains the sector in which child labour, even globally, accounts for by far the largest share; over 70% of children involved in child labour or 112 million children worldwide<sup>6</sup>. The unfavourable socio-economic situation and the low level of income are factors that can promote the involvement of children in various jobs. Employers may prefer to hire children because they are cheaper than their adult counterparts<sup>7</sup>. Child labour is also affected by cultural practices, social and gender inequalities, and communities lack of awareness of its negative consequences.

Similar to other sectors, poverty and inequality are the main drivers of child labour in the agricultural sector. Inadequate implementation of the existing legal framework further exacerbates the situation, while other factors affecting children's engagement in hazardous agricultural activities include: limited

<sup>6</sup> Child labour, Global estimates 2020, Trends and the road forward, International Labour Organization and United Nations Children's Fund, 2021 available at: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms\\_797515.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_797515.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Handbook for monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome 2015 available at: : [https://www.fao.org/3/i4630e/i4630e.pdf?utm\\_source=visiting+cards&utm\\_medium=qr-code&utm\\_campaign=occ-book-cards](https://www.fao.org/3/i4630e/i4630e.pdf?utm_source=visiting+cards&utm_medium=qr-code&utm_campaign=occ-book-cards))



access to quality education, poor infrastructure in rural areas, lack of social protection, income and low yields, inadequate agricultural technology or practices, lack of resources to hire paid workers, low empowerment of women, and traditional attitudes toward full participation of children in agricultural activities. Demands for cheap labour on the one hand, and the lack of free labour force for seasonal work in agriculture on the other, also create a conducive environment for the employment of children in various agricultural activities.

According to the Report of Kosovo Multiple Indicator Survey, 6.3% of children are involved in child labour<sup>8</sup>, while living in rural areas is among the factors that increase the likelihood of children being involved at work<sup>9</sup>. The most common risks to which children are exposed are: exposure to extreme temperatures, humidity, dust and gases. Also, according to anecdotal data from a series of direct meetings with farmers (beneficiaries of MAFRD subsidies and grants), realized in 2012 by the Unit for Human Rights and Protection against Discrimination in MAFRD<sup>10</sup>, involvement of children in agricultural activities, including hazardous ones, starts mainly from the age of 11 or 12<sup>11</sup>. These activities involve mainly boys, with the exception of planting and harvesting fruits and vegetables, collecting and spinning grass, and partly spraying pesticides where girls are also involved.

The following table provides an overview of hazardous activities in the agriculture and forestry sector in which children are involved, by region.

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8 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019-2020 for the Republic of Kosovo and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019-2020 for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in the Republic of Kosovo, Survey Finding Report, Kosovo Agency of Statistics and UNICEF, 2020 accessible at: [https://ask.rks-gov.net/media/5765/republic-of-kosovo-national-and-roma-ashkali-and-egyptian-communities-2019-20-mics-sfr\\_albanian.pdf](https://ask.rks-gov.net/media/5765/republic-of-kosovo-national-and-roma-ashkali-and-egyptian-communities-2019-20-mics-sfr_albanian.pdf)

9 Factors associated with increasing the probability of child labour involvement:

- Age (nonlinearly)
- Gender (male)
- Living in a rural area
- Absence of biological parent

10 The meetings were organized in cooperation with the Department of Advisory Services and the Regional Offices of MAFRD, while with technical and financial support from the ILO.

11 The total number of participants in these consultations was 159, of which: 103 farmers (21 in the region of Peja, 17 in the region of Gjilan, 19 in the region of Prizren, 28 in the region of Mitrovica, 9 in the region of Ferizaj and 9 in the region of Prishtina), 39 representatives of the Municipal Departments of Agriculture (4 in the region of Peja, 8 in the region of Gjilan, 4 in the region of Prizren, 10 in the region of Ferizaj and 13 in the region of Prishtina), 17 representatives of the Regional Offices of MAFRD (3 in the region of Peja, 4 in the region of Gjilan, 3 in the region of Prizren, 2 in the region of Mitrovica, 3 in the region of Ferizaj and 2 in the region of Prishtina).

Table 2. Hazardous agricultural activities carried out by children by regions

Hazardous agricultural activities carried out by children by regions					
Prishtina	Peja	Gjilan	Ferizaj	Mitrovica	Prizren
● Harvesting work	● Work with pesticides	● Work with pesticides	● Grazing the livestock;	● Work with pesticides	● Work with pesticides
● Work with pesticides	● Work with agricultural machinery	● Work with agricultural machinery	● Operation with agricultural machinery;	● Work with agricultural machinery	● Work with agricultural machinery
● Work with agricultural machinery (rotary mower, moto cultivator, tractor and mowers)	● Harvesting work  ● Cutting and processing wood	● Harvesting work  ● Cleaning herbs and picking vegetables in greenhouses	● Work with pesticides  ● Harvesting – threshing work	● Harvesting-threshing work  ● Cutting down trees	● Harvesting work  ● Cutting down trees
● Harvesting forest fruits	● Harvesting forest fruits	● Harvesting and packaging of fruits and vegetables for extended periods of time	● Cutting and processing wood	● Grazing the livestock in unsuitable terrains	● Grazing the livestock in unsuitable terrains
● Seed unloading (lifting heavy weights)	● Harvesting and packaging of fruits and vegetables for extended periods of time	● Grazing the livestock in unsuitable terrains		● Cleaning the stables	● Cleaning the stables
● Filling and transporting water reservoirs (mechanically along the rivers and lakes) over long distances		● Cleaning the stables		● Cleaning the weeds and picking vegetables in greenhouses	● Harvesting and packaging of fruits and vegetables for extended periods of time
● Cleaning the stables				● Harvesting forest fruits without adult care	● Rotation and collection of grass

Some regional specifics regarding the involvement of children in hazardous agricultural activities include the following:

- ▶ in the region of Peja, children are mostly engaged in forestry (cutting, transportation) as well as in the use of agricultural machinery;
- ▶ the region of Prizren is characterized with the engagement of children in vineyards and greenhouses, in the use of chemicals (pesticides and herbicides), carrying heavy weights (especially in the period of harvesting-threshing), as well as the use of agricultural machinery;
- ▶ in the region of Prishtina, due to the lack of drinking water, children are endangered when filling water tanks for both family and animal use;
- ▶ in municipalities bordering with neighbour countries, children are also used to smuggle animals.

According to farmers, the reasons for engaging children in hazardous work are as follows:

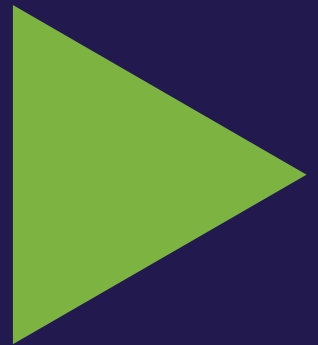
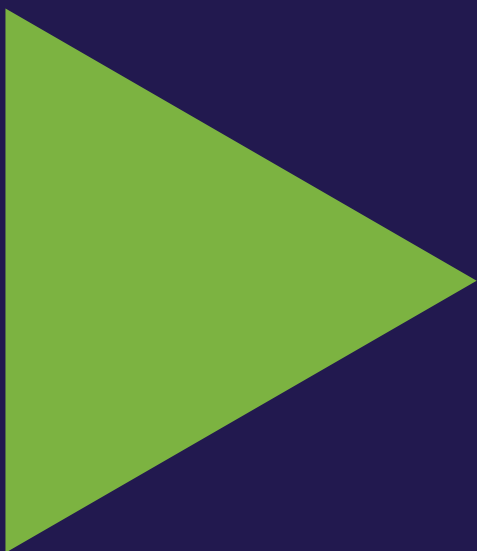
- ▶ Lack of awareness of the hazards and consequences of engaging children in certain agricultural activities;
- ▶ Difficult economic conditions of families that make it impossible to hire paid workers;
- ▶ Lack of agricultural machinery that could replace the engagement of children in some hazardous activities;
- ▶ The family nature of agricultural activities, which means the commitment of all adult members of the family and consequently the necessity for the children to be near them (not to be left at home without care);
- ▶ Lack of non-formal education programs (e.g., courses and other educational activities), sports and recreational activities or other forms of activities organized for children as an opportunity to engage children out of school;
- ▶ Land parcellization and lack of organization of farmers at the village level or beyond;
- ▶ Lack of full supervision of activities carried out by farmers, including working conditions and the profile of workers involved in carrying out the work.



# ▶ 3

What farmers need to know?

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Agriculture and forestry fall into the category of hazardous working sectors; out of the ten most dangerous occupations, four of them relate to agriculture and forestry<sup>12</sup>. Farmers are constantly exposed to various risks during their daily work. The consequences of these risks can be direct and indirect, immediate and long-term.

The Administrative Instruction GRK no. 05/2013 to Prevent and Prohibit Hazardous Child Labour in Kosovo lists hazardous child labour that requires immediate prohibition. Hazardous and prohibited labour activities for children in the agriculture and forestry sector are listed in the following table<sup>13</sup>.

*Table 3: Hazardous activities for children in the agriculture and forestry sector*

Activities	Hazards
Work in irrigation with pumping system, when water sources are wells and other sources.	Electricity, cold water, infection, heavy weights.
Operation of agricultural machinery and agricultural attachments and tracking mechanism.	Falling from a moving vehicle, colliding with other objects, crashing others.
Working with pesticides and spraying.	Pesticide poisoning, chemical burns.
Work in harvesting, pruning and mowing.	Contact / absorption of organic dust, contact with allergen, cuttings.
Working with agricultural tools and digging holes for planting trees.	Excessive physical and mental load, exposure to extreme atmospheric conditions, long working hours, cuttings.
Greenhouse work.	High temperatures, pesticide residues, toxic gases.
Silvicultural works in forests, afforestation and protection from fire and diseases	Use of sharp tools, holding and carrying heavy weights, repetitive movements, standing in inappropriate positions during operation, catching of forest fire.
Utilization of timber in forests and primary wood processing	Use of sharp and dangerous tools for wood cutting (chainsaws, axes, wedges, etc.). Falling of trunks, dry branches. Extended working hours. Exposure to inappropriate atmospheric conditions. Unsuitable terrain. Manipulation with agricultural machinery (tractor, truck).
Work in the slaughterhouse and in the meat processing industry.	Risk from slaughtered animals Tools used for slaughter. Contact with biological and chemical agents. Carrying heavy weights. Psychological trauma.

<sup>12</sup> The US Bureau of Labour Statistics has calculated the fatality rate within an occupation based on the number of deaths per 100,000 full-time workers.

<sup>13</sup> The AI is currently being reviewed and the following table contains the updated list of activities for immediate ban in the agricultural sector

Activities	Hazards
Engage in hunting and fishing activities.	Risk of injuries, killings, etc. Use of electricity and dynamite for fishing.
Collection of non-timber products in forests.	Unsuitable terrain, snake bites.
Activities in hunting and wildlife farming.	Weapons, traps, wildlife attacks, transmission of diseases from wildlife.

For many children working in farms, the risk of accidents and disease is evident, including exposure to pesticides and other chemicals often used in agriculture. They are at risk from a wide variety of working hazards.

Although technological change led to a reduction in manual labour in agriculture, this change is accompanied by new hazards associated with more sophisticated use of machinery and intensive use of chemicals, especially pesticides. Safety and health measures, inadequate information and training, difficult terrain and exposure to hazardous substances, combined with fatigue and, often, malnutrition, increase the risk of accidents. The levels of fatal and serious accidents and illnesses are high<sup>14</sup>.

### ▶ Attention!

Consequences of engaging children in hazardous agricultural work can have long-term effects on children's health. Any injury at this stage has long-term consequences for their health.

Other factors that increase the children's levels of risk include<sup>15</sup>:

- ▶ lack of work experience – children are unable to make informed judgements;
- ▶ a desire to perform well
- ▶ learning unsafe health and safety behaviours from adults;
- ▶ lack of safety or health training;
- ▶ inadequate, even harsh, supervision;
- ▶ lack of power in terms of organization and rights.

<sup>14</sup> Child labour prevention in agriculture. Junior Farmer Field and Life School - Facilitator's guide, FAO, Rome 2010 available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/i1897e/i1897e.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Child labour prevention in agriculture. Junior Farmer Field and Life School - Facilitator's guide, FAO, Rome 2010 available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/i1897e/i1897e.pdf>

Another problem that indirectly harms the health of children is the long working hours, which is very common in farm work. If we add to this the time spent from and to the workplace, then we see that children who are involved in work find it difficult to attend school.

► **Attention!**

In addition to engaging in work, the child's stay in certain areas can also pose a risk, so it is important to put up signs of attention that alert children to the hazards that may threaten them.

These signs should be placed especially in areas where pesticides are used, places where pesticides are prepared or stored, areas where various agricultural machines are in use, at the entrance of animal slaughterhouses or in areas where meat and meat products are processed.

### 3.1 Which agricultural activities are prohibited for children and why?

Every agricultural activity includes certain activities that should not be performed by children; therefore, all farmers should be aware of them and their impact on the health and development of the child. Having the idea that these issues will be addressed with farmers in the framework of training and direct consultations that will be held with them on various agricultural activities, the following material is structured by topics foreseen by MAFRD, for training and advising farmers. The hazardous activities that should not be performed by children, the associated risks and their potential impact on the health and development of the child are listed for each agricultural activity.

#### 3.1.1 Prohibited activities for children in livestock sector

Child labour in livestock sector varies from simple tasks to situations of worst forms of child labour.



▶ **Attention!**

Children should not be allowed in stables alone without the accompaniment of parents or workers who are engaged in stables.

Some of the main jobs that children do on livestock farms are:

- ▶ preparation of bulky feed (hay and silage) and concentrated feed (grain milling and mechanized ration preparation) for livestock,
- ▶ care for other ancillary work: manure removal, loading/unloading of bulky feed, release and return of animals to stables from pasture, transport and loading/unloading of livestock during transportation, assistance during veterinary care and treatment, and
- ▶ cleaning and disinfection of work tools, stable building, accompanying farm infrastructure and farm environment.

In these cases, children are exposed to the risk of infection from infectious diseases transmitted by animals (zoonoses), chemicals and injuries from animals. In addition to this risk, children are also at risk from various machinery used on farms or from various equipment used to serve domestic animals.

During the construction of stables, in order to prevent accidents or injuries, care must be taken that they adhere to zootechnical and zoohygienic standards, according to the type of animal and their physiological requirements, including:

- ▶ sufficient lighting,
- ▶ non-slipping floor and
- ▶ slight slope of the floor that quickly removes animal urine.

▶ **Attention!**

There are many sources of air pollution in stables (ammonia, carbon dioxide and other gases), which can adversely affect human health causing nausea and headaches through their penetration into clothes, hair and skin. It is therefore very necessary that children do not enter these stables if they are not ventilated.

The following table lists the hazardous and prohibited activities for children in the field of livestock.

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Caring for animals in the stable (milking, feeding, manure removal)	Slipping into the stable when it is not well cleaned. Carrying heavy weights. Exposure to gases released during the decomposition of organic fertilizers.	Injuries from slipping. Fatigue, pain and injury to muscles, joints and other organs. Body deformities. Infection or poisoning by organic fertilizers. Damage to the respiratory system.
Manipulation with various concentrated feedd	Various concentrates for animal feed. Heavy weights.	Allergy. Body deformities. Joint and muscle pain.
Cleaning of work tools used in stables	Sharp or heavy tools.	Physical injuries.
Activities of animal care in pastures	Prolonged exposure to unsuitable climatic conditions. Lack or insufficient access to drinking water. Exposure to wild animals, snakes, insects. Unsuitable terrain.	Dehydration. Damage from consuming unsuitable drinking water. Injuries, up to fatality, from possible accidents due to unsuitable terrain. Trauma from permanent fear of wild animals. Attacks by wild animals, bites by snakes, bites by various insects. Various wounds from thorns, from slipping, from roads that are hard to cross.
Any activity in the slaughterhouse	Use of sharp tools. Exposure to slaughtered animals	Trauma from the process of slaughtering animals. Various injuries with sharp tools.

In addition to these hazards, care should be taken with physical injuries that can be caused to children by young animals, which are much more dynamic (e.g., in no way should they be allowed to approach bulls aged 12 to 14 months)<sup>16</sup>.

Children should also not be allowed to stay close to new-born animals, and should not be present when animals are being released from stables (after a period of shelter) or when animals are being loaded onto trailers.

### 3.1.2 Prohibited activities for children in orchards and vineyards

Hazardous activities for children in the field of orchards and vineyards are summarized in the following table. In addition, the potential hazards and their effect on the health and development of the child are listed.

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Preparing the soil for setting up orchards	Use of heavy work tools. Long working hours. Prolonged exposure to noise.	Various injuries. Excessive fatigue and muscle and joint pain. Hearing impairment.
Spraying trees (when using pesticides)	Exposure to pesticides and other toxic substances.	Acute pesticide poisoning and their long-term effects on children's health (respiratory, neurological to carcinogenic problems).
Application of mineral fertilizers	Exposure to toxic substances contained in various fertilizers. Carrying heavy weights. Long working hours. Unsuitable atmospheric conditions.	Poisonings. Fatigue and pain of muscles and joints. Body deformities. Skin irritation, diarrheal disorders, vomiting, dehydration, and even sunstroke.

<sup>16</sup> Smjernica dobre prakse: Rizici u poljoprivredi, Hrvatski zavod za zaštitu zdravlja i sigurnost na radu, Zagreb, 2015 available at: <http://www.hzzsr.hr/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Smjernica-za-siguran-rad-u-poljoprivredi.pdf>

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Use of vehicles for soil maintenance in orchards during vegetation	Potential hazard of accidents (especially in unsuitable terrain)	Fatigue, injuries (since these vehicles are usually hard for children to operate with). Various damages as a result of vibrations, and noise created by vehicles.
Use of pumps or wells for irrigation	Electricity. Wells and canals.	Physical injuries from electricity-powered pumps. Injuries up to drowning in wells or canals used for irrigation.
Pruning and harvesting work	Ladders. Work at height. Pruning tools. Long working hours. Keeping the body in an inappropriate position. Exposure to adverse weather conditions.	Various physical injuries up to the breaking of limbs, from falling from ladders or a tree. Body deformities as a result of continuous stretching for harvesting. Skin irritation, diarrheal disorders, vomiting, dehydration, and even sunstroke.
Transportation of harvested fruits	Heavy weights. Long working hours. Vehicles or equipment for transporting trees.	Fatigue and pain of muscles and joints. Body deformities. Various injuries from the various machinery or equipment used to transport the harvested fruit.

### 3.1.3 Prohibited activities for children in cultivation of vegetables and arable land

Children are involved in every stage of crop production: from land preparation, planting and weeding to harvesting and processing. Nevertheless, crop production implies various typical, and serious hazards for children<sup>17</sup>.

<sup>17</sup> Handbook for monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome 2015 available at: [https://www.fao.org/3/i4630e/i4630e.pdf?utm\\_source=visiting+cards&utm\\_medium=qr-code&utm\\_campaign=occ-book-cards](https://www.fao.org/3/i4630e/i4630e.pdf?utm_source=visiting+cards&utm_medium=qr-code&utm_campaign=occ-book-cards)

Working in the fields is also hard physical work, e.g., mowing (when done with a hand mower) and digging plants between rows. This can cause heavy physical load, prolonged exposure to unsuitable atmospheric conditions, as a result of long working hours.

The activities that require extra care of farmers within the cultivation with arable land are listed in the following table.

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Preparing the soil for planting	Use of heavy machinery. Long hours. Exposure to noise.	Injuries from vehicles, up to fatalities, from potential accidents. Excessive fatigue and bodily deformities. Hearing impairment.
Measures of care during vegetation.	Long hours on the field. Use of various work tools for these precautionary measures.	Various damages as a result of prolonged exposure to unfavourable climatic conditions (high temperatures, cold). Various injuries from work tools and vehicle operation (e.g., motor cultivator).
Work with pesticides (including seed treatment)	Exposure to pesticides and other toxic agents.	Acute poisoning with pesticides (and with substances containing mineral fertilizers). Long-term effects on children's health (respiratory, neurological to carcinogenic problems).
Fertilization	Carrying heavy weights. Long hours. Exposure to toxic substances contained in various fertilizers.	Fatigue and pain in the joints and muscles. Body deformities. Acute poisoning by toxic fertilizers. Long-term effects of toxic substances on children's health (respiratory, neurological to carcinogenic problems).

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Seed transport	Agricultural machinery. Heavy weights. Treated seeds.	Injuries from vehicles, up to fatalities, from potential accidents. Fatigue and muscles and joints pain. Body deformities. Acute poisoning from treated seeds. Long-term effects of toxic substances on children's health (respiratory, neurological to carcinogenic problems).
Mowing, digging, harvesting and threshing	Use of sharp tools, scissors, digging shovels, etc. Long working hours. Carrying heavy weights when transporting harvested products. Exposure to adverse climatic conditions.	Injuries from sharp tools. Long-term deformations due to inadequate working position. Excessive fatigue from physical load. Skin irritation, diarrheal disorders, vomiting, dehydration, and even sunstroke.
Work in greenhouses	High temperatures Pesticide residues Poisonous gases	Dehydration and extreme fatigue, fainting. Respiratory organs damage. Poisoning by pesticide residues and other greenhouse gases (especially when not well ventilated).
Replacement of vegetable seedlings	Long working hours. Posture of the body for a long time in an unfavourable position for children.	Leg muscles injuries. Great fatigue. Respiratory damage due to unfavourable conditions in greenhouses.

### 3.1.4 Prohibited activities for children in plant protection

Various plant protection preparations are currently used to a great extent and with a tendency to increase. Most of these preparations (when handling or using them) pose a potential hazard to human health. The damage they can cause to human health is much greater in children than in adults. For this reason, care should be taken to keep children as far away from pesticides as possible, at all stages of their use.

The following table contains some of the hazardous activities in the field of plant protection, prohibited for children.

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Prepare the solution for spraying	Various active substances of pesticides.	Acute poisoning with pesticides (and with substances containing mineral fertilizers).
Opening or handling pesticide containers (packaging)		
Plant treatment (spraying)		Long-term effects on children's health (respiratory, neurological to carcinogenic problems).
Cleaning equipment used for spraying the plants		

▶ **Attention!**

Farmers should take measures to ensure that children are not present and involved in any stage of pesticide preparation, application or storage.

### 3.1.5 Prohibited activities for children in irrigation

Irrigation is a regular measure in crop production in our conditions. Although it does not seem to be very hazardous, work in irrigation with pumping system is still associated with many hazards.

The following table presents the specific activities within this agricultural activity that must not be performed by children.

Aktiviteti	Rreziku	Efektet në shëndetin e fëmijëve
Transportation of irrigation equipment (pumps, pipes, etc.)	Heavy weights. Various transport vehicles.	Possible injuries from using different transport vehicles. Fatigue and muscles and joints pain. Body deformities.
Manipulation with electric or diesel irrigation pump	Electrical hazard. Hazard from handling the fuel.	Various injuries from electricity or fuel used in irrigation pumps
Puna me pesticide (përfshirë trajtimin e farës).	Ekspozimi ndaj pesticideve dhe mjeteve tjera toksike.	Lëndimet e ndryshme nga rryma apo lëndët djegëse që përdoren te pompat për ujitje.
Staying close to water canals or deep wells that serve as the source of water	Water canal. Well.	Various injuries from slipping, up to fatality. Various traumas.

### 3.1.6 Prohibited activities for children in application of mineral and organic fertilizers

The use of mineral fertilizers in crop production is very widespread. Mineral fertilizers, similar to pesticides, in addition to the benefits they have in increasing crop yields, in case of their unprofessional useage, can pose a potential hazard to human health, especially the health of children.

The table below lists prohibited activities for children in this area.



Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Distribution of fertilizer	Wind carrying the fertilizers. Carrying heavy weights. Long working hour.	Possible poisoning from substances containing mineral fertilizers. Body deformities. Great fatigue.
Driving and handling machines for distribution of fertilizer	Machines for distribution of fertilizer.	Injuries, up to fatality, from potential accidents.
Transportation of fertilizer (mineral or organic)	Transportation means. Heavy weights.	Injuries, up to fatality, from potential accidents. Fatigue and muscles and joints pain. Body deformities.
Attaching and servicing the machines for fertilizer distribution	Heavy weights Tools for fixing or repairing the machines	Physical injuries of limbs. Fatigue and muscles and joints pain. Body deformities.

► **Attention!**

Farmers should take measures that children are not present and not involved in any stage of preparation, application or storage of mineral fertilizers.

### 3.1.7 Prohibited activities for children in forestry

In many families, especially in the hilly-mountainous regions, the use of forest products is almost the main economic activity. Because more physical strength is needed here, children over the age of 14 or 15 are usually engaged. Engaging children in various forestry jobs poses a high risk to them. The table below lists activities to be immediately prohibited in this area.

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Works on the use of timber in forests	<p>Operation with machinery (tractor, truck) in unsuitable terrains.</p> <p>Use of sharp and dangerous tools for cutting wood (chainsaws, axes, wedges, etc.).</p> <p>Long working hours.</p> <p>Wild animals, insects, snakes.</p> <p>Exposure to inappropriate atmospheric conditions.</p> <p>Heavy weights</p>	<p>Injuries up to fatality from poor steering and control of machinery used for timber towing and transport in forestry.</p> <p>Various injuries from tools used for cutting.</p> <p>Injuries, up to fatality, from the fall of dry logs and branches.</p> <p>Various injuries from slipping, from roads that are difficult to cross to pull and carry cut logs.</p> <p>Various wounds from tree thorns.</p> <p>Injuries from attacks by wild animals, snake bite poisoning or infections from various insect bites.</p> <p>Trauma from permanent fear of wild animals and snakes.</p> <p>Skin irritation, diarrheal disorders, vomiting, dehydration, and even sunstroke.</p>
Towing and transporting wood materials		<p>Injuries up to fatality from poor steering and control of machinery used for timber towing and forestry transport.</p> <p>Various muscle and/or bone injuries from carrying heavy woods.</p>

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Primary and secondary wood processing	Equipment and machinery for primary and secondary wood processing Dust Noise	Various injuries from tools used for processing. Respiratory system problems. Sight and/or hearing impairment, etc.
Silviculture works in forests, afforestation and protection from fire and disease	Use of sharp tools. Carrying heavy weights. Repeated movements. Staying in inappropriate postures during operation. Involvement by forest fire.	Muscular disorders, Various limb injuries from work tools. Burning from fire. Asphyxiation from smoke.
Collection of non-timber products in forests (medicinal, aromatic plants and mountain fruits)	Staying alone in the woods for long periods of time. Movement in unsuitable terrains when collecting non-timber products. Attacks by wild animals. Bites from various insects, snakes. Atmospheric conditions.	Various injuries from slipping. Injuries from attacks by wild animals, snake bite poisoning or infections from various insect bites. Trauma from permanent fear of wild animals or snakes. Great fatigue. Muscle and bone damage.
Activities in hunting and wild animals farming	Guns Traps Attacks by wild animals Heavy weights Diseases of wild animals.	Injuries from hunting weapons, up to fatality. Injuries from traps. Injuries from wild animals. Injuries to muscles or other organs as a result of carrying heavy weights. Body deformities. Psychological traumas. Epidemics and diseases from wild animals.

### 3.1.8 Prohibited activities for children in organic agriculture

Organic agriculture in our country is in its infancy. So far, only a few non-timber forest products, known as aromatic medicinal plants, are mainly certified as organic products. Some of these plants are also cultivated in a significant area in Kosovo. Most of these products are export oriented. The growth of this sector has created favourable conditions for the engagement of many children of hilly-mountainous areas, especially in the collection of various medicinal plants in the forests.

► **Attention!**

Companies dealing with the cultivation and collection of organic products must comply with the prohibitions set out in the following table.

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children’s health
Collection of aromatic medicinal plants in forests	Staying alone for a long time in the forest. Unsuitable terrain. Attacks by wild animals, bites by various insects and snakes.	Various injuries from slipping and from roads that are difficult to cross. Injuries from attacks by wild animals, snake bite poisoning or infections from various insect bites. Trauma from permanent fear of wild animals and snakes. Great fatigue. Muscles and bones damage.
Preparing the soil for planting	Use of agricultural machinery. Big noise. Long stay in the field/exposure to adverse weather conditions.	Injuries up to fatality from poor driving and control of agricultural machinery. Hearing impairment. Skin irritation, diarrheal disorders, vomiting, dehydration, and even sunstroke.

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Transportation of products	Use of machinery Heavy weights	Injuries to fatality from poor driving and control of agricultural machinery  Injuries to muscles or other organs as a result of carrying heavy weights.
Processing of organic products	Organic product dryers. Sharp processing equipment.	Injuries from dryers and other equipment used for drying and processing.

### 3.1.9 Prohibitions in operation with agriculture machinery

Agricultural machinery is used in (almost) daily basis in agricultural work.

▶ **Attention!**

Apart from the use of agricultural machinery (which is prohibited), children are very often at risk from staying/sitting in different parts of the tractor or agricultural machinery during work.

Most vehicles used in agriculture are categorized as high risk vehicles. Therefore, when working with agricultural equipment, attachment vehicles and especially tractors, injuries can be frequent and, in some cases, even fatal.

▶ **Attention!**

The most common cases of fatality in agriculture are those with tractor and other agricultural machinery.

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Driving a tractor, combine harvester or moto cultivator	Falling out of the vehicle. Crash with other objects. Accidenting the others.	Serious injuries with long-term consequences in children, up to fatality. Hearing impairment.
The children sitting along with the drivers of these vehicles	Falling out of the vehicle. Improper body position.	Accidents up to fatality for children. Risk of deformation of the body due to prolonged stay in an inappropriate position.
Attaching different machines	Heavy weight. Vehicle sharp parts.	Limb injuries. Injuries to muscles, joints and other organs. Deformation of the body.
Servicing of various agricultural vehicles or equipment	Sharp parts of the vehicles. Various oils used for servicing.	Physical injuries. Damage to the skin of the hands as a result of the use of various oils during servicing.
Vehicle parking	Accidents of unproper driving by children	Various accidents, endangering (not only children but also other persons in the vicinity) in some cases even fatal.

When working with agricultural machinery, children should stay away so as not to be injured by noise, dust, various gases emitted by these vehicles during their work. When parking vehicles, care must be taken that they are parked safely and not put to work by children.

### 3.1.10 Prohibited activities for children in agro-processing

The hazards of children engaging in the processing industry are evident in all food processing sectors. In the meat processing industry children are not allowed any activity, while in other industries the involvement of children in the activities listed in the following table is prohibited.

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children’s health
Transportation of raw material for processing	Use of vehicles	Accidents with vehicles.
Carrying various processed products	Heavy weights	Various injuries (as a result of handling heavy weights), with long-term consequences for the child.
Work with processing equipment	Grinding mills, various cutters.	Various injuries up to fatality
Work with the energy that supplies the equipment	Electrical hazard	Various electrical injuries.
Servicing of the equipment	Risk of various physical injuries	Injuries from equipment that can be quite delicate in processing units.
Work in slaughterhouse and meat processing	Tools used for slaughter. Exposure to the slaughter process. Heavy weights	Amputations and injuries of limbs. Psychological trauma. Various injuries (as a result of heavy weight manipulation), with long-term consequences for the child.

### 3.1.11 Prohibited activities for children in non-agricultural activities

Given the limited land area per household and the population density in Kosovo, it is clear that agriculture alone cannot ensure successful rural development. The development of the non-agricultural sector in rural areas can significantly increase the level of income and reduce unemployment as the effect of the agricultural sector is small in this regard. Non-agricultural activities can be of various kinds (small processing units, various handicrafts, as well as many different service and production activities).

**► Attention!**

Regardless of the type of non-agricultural activity, it is important that during the exercise of this activity to respect the relevant prohibitions listed in the Administrative Instruction on Prevention and Immediate Prohibition of Hazardous Child Labour in Kosovo.

## 3.2 Which work is suitable for children?

To qualify as child-friendly work, all the nature and working conditions should not pose a risk and be appropriate for the age and psychophysical abilities of a child, should not interfere with schooling and should not interfere with the child's use of leisure time. These types of activities contribute to the development of children and the well-being of their families, provide them with skills and work experience, preparing them to be productive and responsible members of society.

In addition to these general situations of child engagement at work, **permissible work** refers to situations where the child has reached the minimum age for employment (age of 15) and (with the consent of the parent or legal guardian) engaged in non-harmful economic activities for his/her development and health, and especially that does not prevent him/her from attending school and playing (see Table 1).

Therefore, given that agriculture continues to play a central role in providing employment and income generation opportunities for young and adult workers (especially those living in rural areas), children should slowly and under the care of adults become familiar with farm work, engaging in easy and permissible forms of work but always taking into account the potential hazards while working in the farm.

### ▶ Attention!

To determine if a working activity can be allowed for children you need to consider the following questions:

- ▶ Would this work take up too much time and prevent the child from going to school?
- ▶ Would this work tire the child by making it difficult or impossible to do the homework?
- ▶ Would it take the time to play and have fun?
- ▶ How will the child feel emotionally while doing the work?
- ▶ Is there any action (within work) that can make the child feel unsafe, excluded or endangered/threatened?
- ▶ How does the child feel physically while doing the work? After doing the work?
- ▶ Does this work involve using or being around chemicals, heavy machinery or sharp tools?
- ▶ Is any work activity prohibited by law or illegal<sup>18</sup>?

<sup>18</sup> Child Work, Child Labour, ECLT Foundation, available at: <https://www.eclt.org/en/news/what-is-child-labour>



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