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CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION FOUNDATION



Laying a good foundation...

CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION FOUNDATION

CYPF COMMEMORATES WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR 2026 WITH ADVOCACY HIKE, SCHOOL SENSITIZATION, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Abuja, Nigeria – June 2026

The Child and Youth Protection Foundation (CYPF), in partnership with Global March Against Child Labour and Hikers Without Borders, joins stakeholders across the globe to commemorate the World Day Against Child Labour 2026 under the theme

"Red Card to Child Labour: Fair Play for Children, Decent Work for Adults."

The theme calls for urgent action to end child labour by promoting children's rights to education, protection, recreation, and healthy development while ensuring decent work opportunities for adults.

This year's commemoration comes against the backdrop of alarming statistics from the Nigeria Child Labour Survey 2022 conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, with the support of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The survey revealed that approximately 24.7 million children aged 5–17 years in Nigeria are engaged in child labour, representing 39.2 per cent of children within that age group. Additionally, over 14.3 million children are involved in hazardous work that poses significant risks to their health, safety, and development.

These figures highlight the urgent need for coordinated action by government institutions, civil society organisations, communities, schools, parents, and development partners to address the root causes of child labour and protect children's rights.

To mark this year's World Day Against Child Labour, CYPF has developed a series of advocacy and awareness activities designed to engage different segments of society and strengthen community action against child labour.

ADVOCACY HIKE AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

As part of the commemoration, CYPF, in partnership with Hikers Without Borders, will host the second edition of its Advocacy Hike Against Child Labour. Building on the success of the inaugural edition held in 2025, the hike will bring together young people, advocates, civil

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society organisations, development partners, outdoor enthusiasts, and members of the public to raise awareness and demonstrate solidarity with children affected by labour exploitation.

The hike serves as a reminder that ending child labour requires collective effort and that every individual has a role to play in protecting children and advancing their rights.

SCHOOL SENSITIZATION SESSION

Recognising the critical role of education in preventing child labour, CYPF will also conduct a sensitisation session in a school to engage students, teachers, and school administrators on children's rights, the dangers of child labour, and the importance of creating safe and supportive learning environments for all children.

The session will provide an opportunity for young people to learn about their rights and become advocates for the protection of vulnerable children within their communities.

THEATRE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OUTREACH

In addition, CYPF will implement a theatre for community development outreach in the Kuchingoro community, Abuja. The outreach will use drama, poetry, dance, and visual arts as tools for education, dialogue, and community mobilisation.

Led by young girls from the community, the performances will highlight the realities and consequences of child labour while encouraging parents, guardians, traditional leaders, and community members to take a visible stand against child exploitation.

The outreach reflects CYPF's commitment to ensuring that children are not only protected but also empowered to use their voices as agents of change within their communities.

CALL TO ACTION

Speaking ahead of the commemoration, Kolawole Olatosimi, the National Coordinator of the Child and Youth Protection Foundation, emphasised the importance of collective action in addressing child labour in Nigeria while recognising the Federal government for the steps taken in the past year in addressing child labour

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As we commemorate the World Day Against Child Labour, we call on all stakeholders to work together to address the underlying causes of child labour and ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn, play, and thrive in a safe and protective environment."

CYPF further calls on government agencies, civil society organisations, development partners, educational institutions, traditional leaders, parents, and community members to join efforts towards creating a Nigeria where no child is subjected to labour exploitation and also support the full implementation of the newly validated National Action Plan (2026-2030) and the National Policy on the Elimination of Child Labour (2026-2030).

As the world marks the World Day Against Child Labour 2026, CYPF reaffirms its commitment to promoting child rights and advancing a future where children enjoy protection, dignity, education, and opportunity.



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