



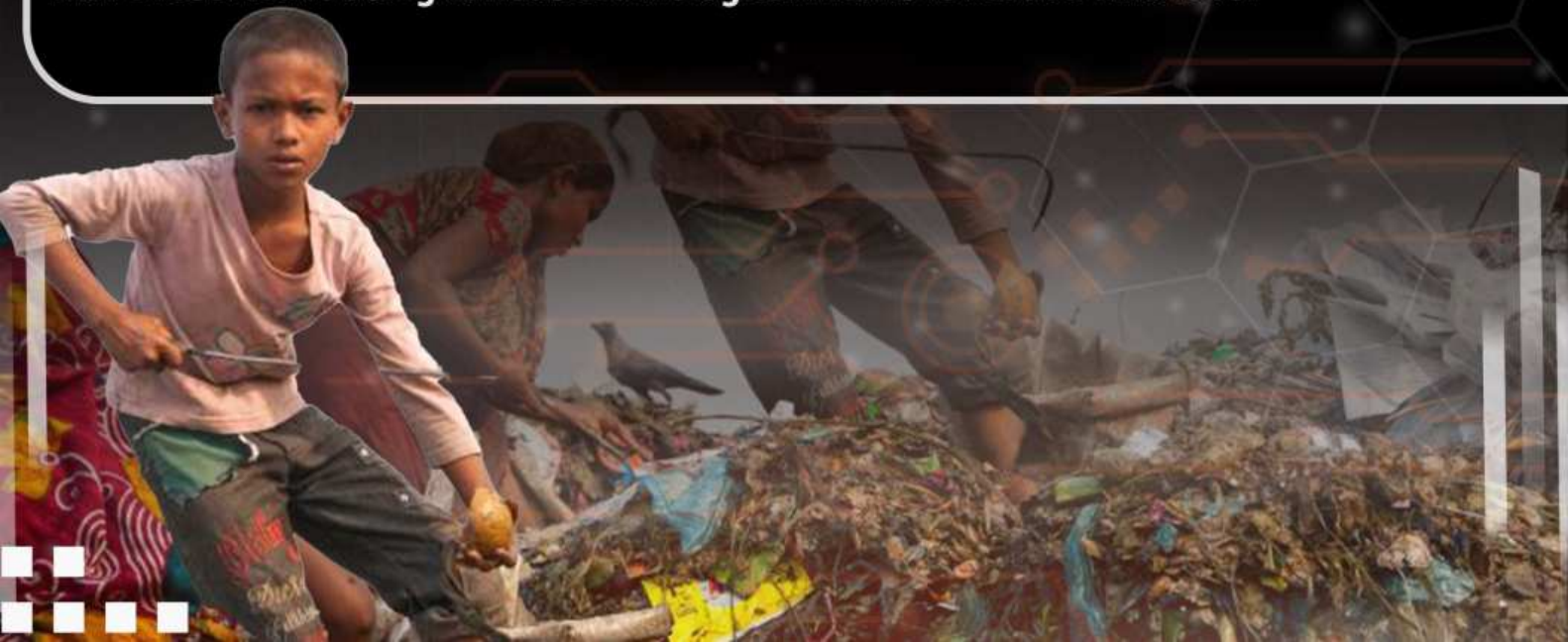
# Effective Tools

Using Technological Techniques  
to Combat Child Labor

# Overview of the Phenomenon of Child Labor

The physical and psychological safety of children worldwide, especially in developing and poor regions, has become a far-reaching dream, because of the ongoing daily threats these children are exposed to due to prolonged working hours in precarious conditions so that they could financially support their improvised families. Given these circumstances, many children are forced to leave school to help their parents in earning their livelihoods. According to estimates, there are over 160 million children aged 5 and over are involved in child labour worldwide. These children suffer from the worst forms of exploitation given their young ages and vulnerability and are forced to work in hazardous conditions. In this context, Africa ranks first in the absolute number of child labour, with 72 million children engaged in child labour. Asia and the Pacific rank second-highest, with 62 million are in child labour. Together, Africa and the Asia and the Pacific regions together account for almost nine out of every ten children in child labour worldwide. The remaining child labour population is divided among the Americas (11 million), Europe and Central Asia (6 million), and the Arab States (1 million).

As such, many national and international efforts are concerted to defeat and combat child labor by facing the conditions and challenges conducive to it, especially poverty, drop-out of education and the spread of negative stereotypes. Hence, many countries have resorted to using various technological means to reduce child labor.



# The role of technology in combating child labor

Technological applications may contribute to combating child labor, whether by monitoring the supply chain of products to ensure that children do not engage in any dangerous work during the product cycle from initial manufacturing to the final stages, or by training families of working children to use a set of technology skills to improve their financial condition and stop their children from working and returning them to school, or by combating the causes that lead to child labor, topped by poverty and the spread of negative social norms, as well as the increase in school dropout rates



# The role of technology in combating child labor

## First

as to monitoring the supply chain of products, blockChain technology is used, as well as artificial intelligence applications to monitor products and ensure that children are not involved in their manufacture. For example, the Dutch company Tony's Chocolonely, which depends on chocolate products coming from West Africa, has developed an experimental model using blockChain technology aimed at monitoring the supply chain for the manufacture of chocolate in its various stages to ensure that children are not involved in the .work



# The role of technology in combating child labor

## **Second: combating poverty and promoting development**

Poverty is the main reason for the spread of child labor in many countries, especially African countries. Poor-income families force their children to engage in hazardous and unsafe working conditions so that they could support their families and improve their vulnerable economic conditions. To address social inequality and economic fragility, many technological applications are used. For example satellite images and drones can provide growers with up-to-date information on crop growth allowing them to observe the yield health, increase income and reduce high poverty rates



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## **Third:** supporting basic education initiatives and combating dropouts from education

Dropping out of education is one of the main reasons for the spread of child labor. To reduce this phenomenon, there are many AI-based applications that allow following up on behavioral problems related to students' exposure to academic failure by educational institutions and the family and working out a solution. The ClassDojo application is a good example of these technologies



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## **Fourth:** pressure on stakeholders and beneficiaries of child labor

According to Maat estimates, some of the world's largest tech and food companies such as Nestlé, Apple and Tesla have been involved in child labor operations in African countries such as Congo and Ivory Coast. Therefore, civil society groups are working to launch many pressure campaigns on these companies through the use of various technological tools such as social media, in order to stop their .violations of children's rights



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## **Fifth:** raising awareness and changing stereotypes about the issue of child labor

Changing the overall awareness, stereotypes, and entrenched cultural biases as a result of perceptions based on customs and traditions, in addition to raising awareness of child labor issues and their impact on human rights and repercussions on society is a challenging process, as it requires changing patterns of behavior that have been deeply rooted in the culture of the society and nourished over long periods. In this context, many parties have used social media as a technology tool with the aim of changing the culture of society and raising awareness of the dangers of child labor





The role of technology in combating child labor

## **Sixth: Monitoring behaviors that undermine the safety of children**

With the spread of the Internet and social media, children become easy targets for sex traffickers and exploiters, thus leading to grave consequences. Therefore, some AI-based applications can be used in order to bring to light trends and risk factors that threaten children's safety on the Internet. The Zero Abuse project's use of artificial intelligence applications to protect children from sexual risks is a good example of this

The logo features the text 'ZERO TOLERANCE' in large, bold, white capital letters on a blue background. The word 'ZERO' is followed by a red circle with a white diagonal slash through it, a universal prohibition symbol. Below this, the words 'TOLERANCE' and 'NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE' are written in smaller, white capital letters. The entire logo is enclosed in a white border with a dark blue shadow.

**ZERO**   
**TOLERANCE**  
**NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE**

# Recommendations

**In light of the above, and to promote the use of technology in combating child labor, Maat recommends the following:-**

- **The need to study all the experiences that used technology to reduce child labor and try to benefit from it**
- **The need to use technology to reduce scrutinized poverty, which is the main factor to the spread of child labor**
- **The need to make use of social media to raise awareness of child labor issues and change the stereotypes associated with them, in addition to putting pressure on all stakeholders who benefit from child labor to assume part of their responsibility towards this issue**

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