



International
Labour
Organization



Terre des
Hommes
Netherlands

CALL TO ACTION

A 'Call to Action' from Children and Young People from Southeast Asia to ASEAN Representatives on the development of the Post-2025 ASEAN Roadmap on the Prevention of Child Labour and the Elimination of its Worst Forms.

Dear **ASEAN Representatives**,

We, the children and young people from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines, and Thailand had in-depth discussions about child labour and its worst forms in the ASEAN region¹, which have led us draft this 'Call to Action'. This contains key recommendations that reflect our main priorities to ensure that our communities, countries, and our region are all free from child labour.

We strongly believe that by including our views and perspectives into the

Post-2025 ASEAN Roadmap, you will be able to develop a new regional policy framework which will ensure that we and our peers from all ASEAN Member States access and are empowered by the highest level of protection against child labour and its worst forms.

We are pleased to share the following key recommendations with you. We strongly encourage and call on you to prioritise them in the development of the upcoming Post-2025 ASEAN Roadmap on the Prevention of Child Labour and the Elimination of its Worst Forms.

¹ Children and young people from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines and Thailand have contributed to a regional conversation about child labour and its worst forms through an online survey, in country pre - sessions as well as through a two-day regional consultation which was held in Bangkok on 21st and 22nd of May 2025.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1

ASEAN Member States should enhance **universal access to inclusive and affordable education** — particularly for children in rural or marginalised communities — by offering flexible learning options for those at risk of dropping out, including technical and vocational education and training for everyone, even in hard-to-reach areas.



2

ASEAN Member States' schools should develop and implement **child-sensitive monitoring systems** which are effective and establish safe spaces for students to share their concerns and receive guidance, particularly to address and prevent the worst forms of child labour.



3

ASEAN Member States should ensure **comprehensive sex education in schools**, equipping teachers and health workers with essential training to deliver stigma-free reproductive health services.



4

ASEAN Member States must mandate that schools provide **psychological and mental health support**, particularly for vulnerable students, including those at risk of dropping out.



5

ASEAN Member States must empower law enforcement agencies to thoroughly investigate cases of **child trafficking and begging** and actively prosecute organised crime networks, including online criminal networks.



6

ASEAN Member States should establish a **referral system** linking all child protection public and private institutions, along with various organisations, to streamline service provision and intake for vulnerable children.



7

ASEAN Member States should address the **root causes of child labour** by supporting children's families through broader social and economic efforts. This includes promoting fair and supportive working conditions for parents, and encouraging dialogue and collaboration among businesses, workers, policy makers, and communities.



8

ASEAN Member States should provide **support services and training in child protection**, including online safety for children, families, communities and other stakeholders.



9

ASEAN Member States should create **child participation platforms/ mechanisms for children** to share their experiences and engage with decision-makers, ensuring their voices are included in addressing child labour, especially in monitoring and evaluating programmes and policies made to eliminate the worst forms of child labour.



10

ASEAN Member States should enhance **collaboration with Non-Governmental Organisations/ Civil Society Organisations** towards tailoring services based on community needs, including positive parenting programmes, cash assistance for single parents and working with local businesses to provide targeted livelihood training.





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CHILDREN'S AVATARS

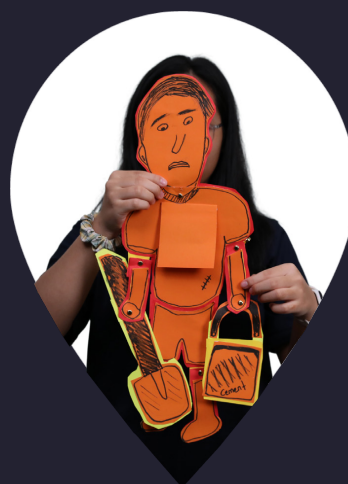
The following are four avatars drawn by us. They represent our collective understanding of the lived realities of child labour in Southeast Asia.

Conceptualised and illustrated by us, the avatars highlight why our voices are crucial in shaping solutions to end child labour.

Listen to our stories.



The Story of
TANGOL



The Story of
THY



The Story of
JANE



The Story of
MONEY

