



Combatting child labor in Rwanda

IMPAQ International is working with Winrock International to evaluate a large-scale child labor reduction program in Rwanda. This ILAB-funded evaluation will assess to what extent the intervention is able to reduce hazardous work practices with a particular focus on agriculture.

Widespread poverty and children's limited access to education and vocational training, as well as lack of awareness and enforcement of labor laws, contribute to high rates of child labor in Rwanda. According to the Rwanda National Child Labor Survey Report, 11.2 percent of children aged 5 to 17 years old are engaged in an economic activity, and almost half of these children work full time.¹ Most of the employed children (84 percent) work in agriculture.²



Data collection in Rwanda. Photo credit: IMPAQ International

The US Department of Labor Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) selected IMPAQ to evaluate the Rwanda Education Alternatives for Children in Tea-growing areas (REACH-T) program. Specifically, IMPAQ is evaluating the Modern Farm Schools component of the program, which was launched in 2014 and is implemented by Winrock International in collaboration with child labor and tea production organizations across Rwanda. This evaluation is part of a cross-country series of ILAB evaluations that IMPAQ is conducting in Malawi, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and India.

The Evaluation Method: At a Glance

- ▶ To detect the impact of the child labor reduction program, IMPAQ is using a randomized control trial (RCT), the gold standard of program evaluation.
- ▶ This method provides rigorous evidence as to whether the program reduces hazardous child labor practices, as measured by the work status of children and number of hours worked.
- ▶ To detect the program effect, IMPAQ randomly assigned 588 youth into a treatment group (which receives the Modern Farm School vocational training program) and 374 youth into a control group (without any intervention).
- ▶ The randomization ensures that the youth have the same average child labor, schooling, and socio-economic characteristics at the beginning of the program.
- ▶ After the end of the study period, any detected differences in hazardous child labor incidents between the treatment and the control group can then be solely attributed to the program.

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¹ National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda. (2008). *National child labour survey report*. Retrieved from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/clsurvey/lfsurvey.list?p_lang=en&p_country=RW.

² Understanding Children's Work. (2011). *Understanding children's work and youth employment outcomes in Rwanda: Report on child labour and youth employment*. Retrieved from http://www.ucw-project.org/attachment/child_labour_Rwanda20110630_120902.pdf.

³ RDI-Rwanda Rwanda. (2014). *Rwandan children still forced into work, illegal activities instead of school*. Retrieved from <http://www.rdirwandarwiza.com/rwandan-children-still-forced-into-work-illegal-activities-instead-of-school/>.