

TOOL



THE ALLIANCE
FOR CHILD PROTECTION
IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Age Verification for Working Children

Where children may be engaged in vocational training, livelihoods or decent work programmes, humanitarian actors will need to verify the age of the child, to ensure that children are old enough to participate. Always follow existing legislation and guidelines on age verification and certification, as outlined in the national legislative framework.

Age verification can take place by checking documentation such as:

- passport or national ID cards
- registration cards
- birth certificates
- other certificates.

When children have no birth certificates or other documentation, or have lost these during the crisis, other verification methods must be considered.

- Where possible, harmonise age verification methods between humanitarian actors.
- Obtain other documentation such as school certificates or family testimonies.
- Conduct interviews with children in a way that is sensitive to gender and culture, and in line with safeguarding procedures regarding respect of children's rights to protection and privacy.
- Consider a child's physical and emotional maturity as well as their motivation for participation in the training or livelihoods programme.
- Verification of a child's maturity level can be achieved by asking questions about:
 - memories of important events, dates, people in their life or events in their community or society;
 - memories of past school experiences, such as when and where they went to school or completed school, or what school grade they completed;
 - memory of past work experiences and their understanding about safe working conditions.
- Employers should never conduct a medical check or test as a primary age verification method as these violate a child's right to privacy.

KEY RESOURCE

- [ILO \(2016\). Age verification – Protection for unregistered children from child labour](#)