



National child labour survey in Thailand

Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FUNDAMENTALS)

Research and Evaluation Unit

Federico Blanco Allais

blanco@ilo.org

SDGs 8 = Decent work and economic growth

SDG Target 8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, **and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms**

Contents

- 1. Child labour definition:** ILO Fundamental Child Labour Conventions
- 2. Statistical measurement of child labour:** Resolution concerning statistics on child labour
- 3. Global situation:** Global estimates of child labour, 2017
- 4. Child labour reporting:** National child labour survey reports
- 5. Interviewing techniques:** Standardized interviewing principles

1. Child labour definition: ILO Fundamental Child Labour Conventions

What is child labour?

- The term **child labour** reflects the engagement of children in **prohibited work** and, more generally, in types of work to be eliminated as socially and morally undesirable as guided by:
 - The ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
 - The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)
 - National legislation

ILO Convention No. 138

ILO Convention Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)

Applies:

- to all economic sectors, and
- to all working children
whether -
 - ⇒ they are employed for wages, or
 - ⇒ working on their own account.

It is the most comprehensive and authoritative international definition of **minimum age** for admission to employment (that is, being at work),

Flexible & progressive

MINIMUM AGE FOR ADMISSION TO EMPLOYMENT OR WORK

Requires a specification of minimum age (Art. 2)

	GENERAL	EXCEPTIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Basic Minimum Age (Art. 2) <i>MANDATORY</i>	15 years (NOT less than end of compulsory schooling)	14 years
Hazardous work (Art. 3) <i>MANDATORY</i>	18 years (16 years conditionally)	No exception
Light work (Art. 7) <i>OPTIONAL</i>	13-14 years	12-13 years

ILO Convention No.182

ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 182)

- No exceptions:
 - All sectors of economic activity
 - Girls and boys under 18 years
 - All countries
- Special attention for most vulnerable e.g. minority groups, very young, and girls
- 'Worst forms of child labour' as priority target for action

Worst Forms of Child Labour

Defined in Article 3 (No.182) as:

(a) all forms of slavery, and practices similar to slavery, include debt bondage & forced labor, and use of children in armed conflict

(b) use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, pornography, etc.

(c) use, procurement or offering of a child for illicit activities, particularly trafficking in drugs

Hazardous work

(d) work that is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of children (hazardous work)

2. Statistical measurement of child labour: Resolution concerning statistics on child labour

Resolution of child labour statistics by 18th ICLS

Highlights of CL statistics resolution:

- CL is now a **core labour force statistic**.
- **Mandate to national statistical offices (NSOs)** to collect CL statistics as integral part of their official statistics system.
- **ILO mandated** to develop global and regional CL estimates and, for the purpose, inform governments and NSOs on CL data needs.
- **Statistical measurement of CL standardized**, and endorsed by governments, employers and workers groups, and UN agencies.

Resolution on child labour statistics by the 18th ICLS

- Preamble
- Objectives and scope (1-4)
- Concepts and definitions (5-7)
 - Age of the child (8-10)
 - Children in productive activities (11-13)
- Child labour (14-16)
 - Worst forms of child labour (17-18)
 - Worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work (19)
 - Hazardous work by children (20-24)
 - Designated hazardous occupations and industries for children (25-27)
 - Long hours of work and night work (28-30)
 - Exceptions for children aged 16 to 17 (31)
 - Employment below the minimum age (32-35)
 - Hazardous unpaid household services (36-37)

Resolution on child labour statistics by the 18th ICLS

- Data collection methods (38)
 - Household and establishment surveys (39-42)
 - Baseline survey (43)
 - Rapid assessment (44-45)
- Supplementary data sources (46-48)
- Ethical considerations (49-50)
- Items of data collection (51-58)
- Global estimation (59-60)
- Further action
 - ILO manuals and questionnaires (61)
 - Conceptual and methodological developments (62-63)
- ILO technical assistance (64)

Resolution on child labour statistics by the 18th ICLS

Concepts and definitions

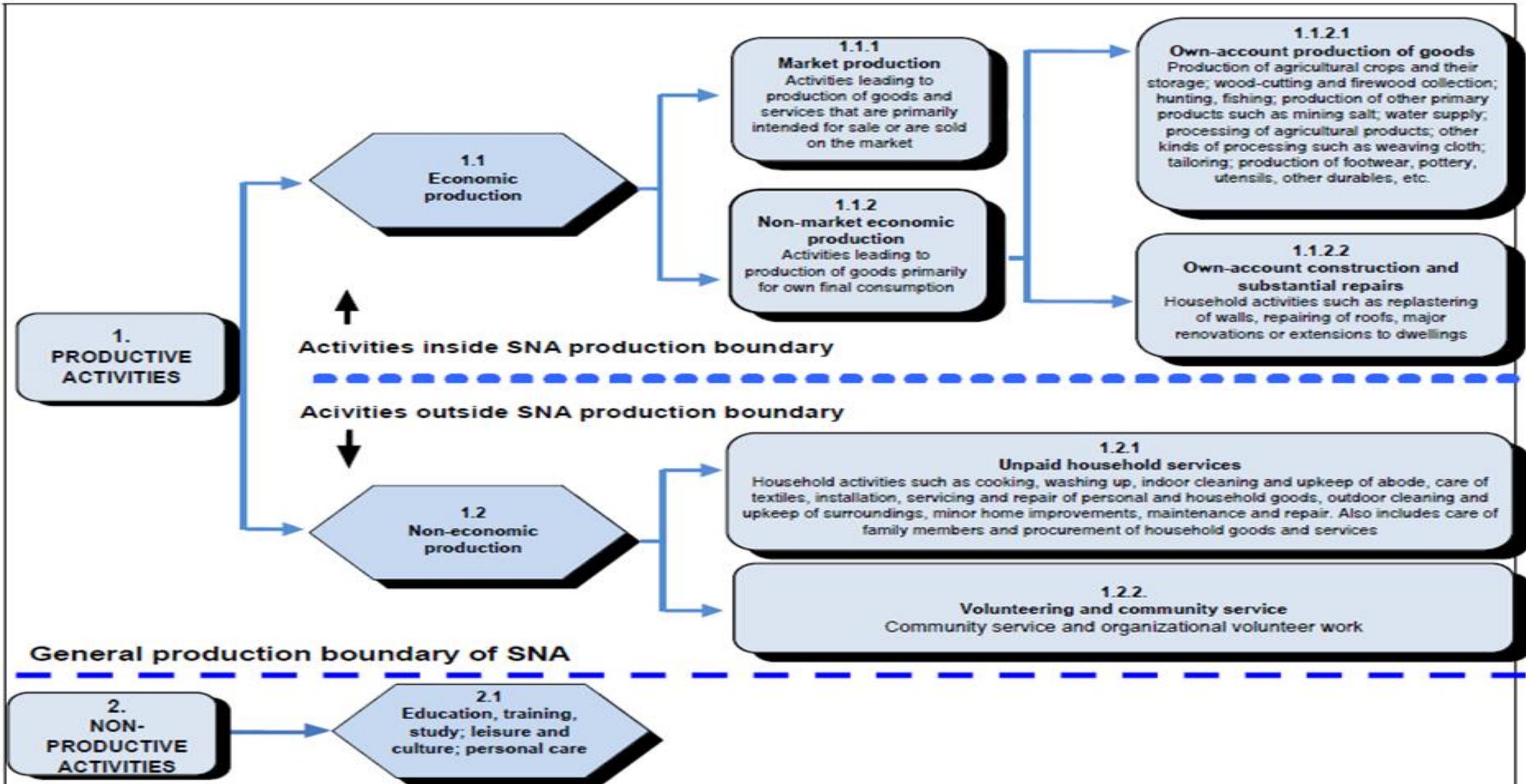
7. The statistical measurement framework for child labour is structured around two main elements, namely:
 - (i) *the age of the child*; and
 - (ii) *the productive activities* by the child including their *nature* and the *conditions* under which these are performed, and the *duration* of engagement by the child in such activities.

Resolution on child labour statistics by the 18th ICLS

Concepts and definitions

11. The broadest concept relating to the measurement of child labour is *children in productive activities*, that is, children engaged in any activity falling within the general production boundary as defined in the System of National Accounts (SNA) (henceforth, referred to in this resolution as the “general production boundary”). This comprises *children in employment* and *children in other productive activities*.

Classification of activities in relation to the System of National Accounts (SNA)



Children in employment

12. Children in employment are those engaged in any activity falling within the production boundary in the SNA for at least one hour during the reference period. They consist of:

- (a) those in child labour within the SNA production boundary (described in paragraphs 15(a) and 15(b) below);
- (b) children aged 12 to 14 years in permissible light work (described in paragraphs 33 to 35 below); and
- (c) adolescents in the age group 15 to 17 years engaged in work not designated as one of the worst forms of child labour.

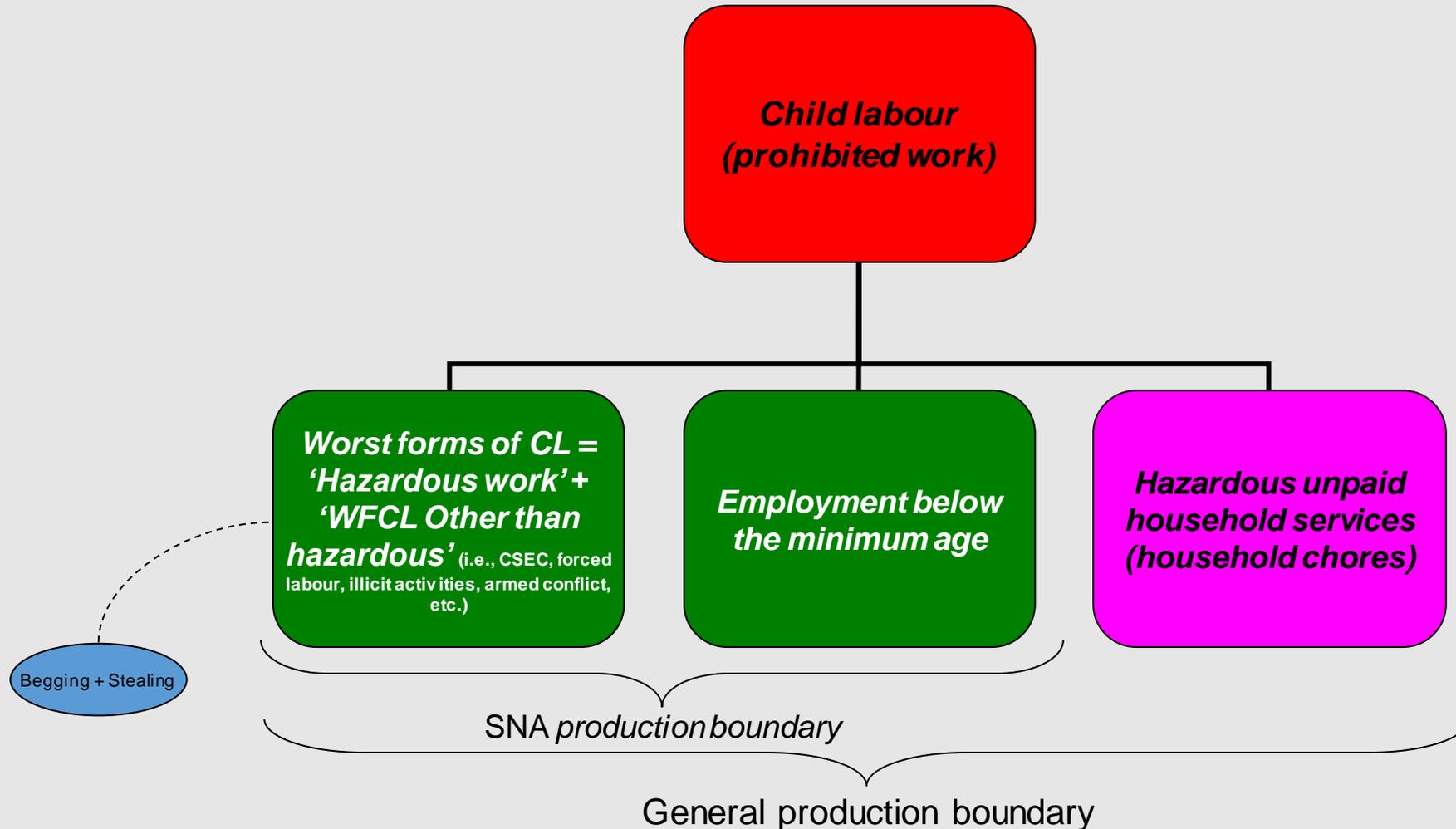
Children in employment

- It is also important to note that by SNA 1993 economic activity includes:
 - (i) unpaid work by a family member in a family business of any kind;
 - (ii) domestic work within a household by a non-household member, whether paid or unpaid; and
 - (iii) activities outside or around own household by any individual [such as helping on a food plot or gardening, or herding cattle, fetching water or collecting firewood, wild crops, berries, or drying/pounding food grains etc.] that has an economic value.

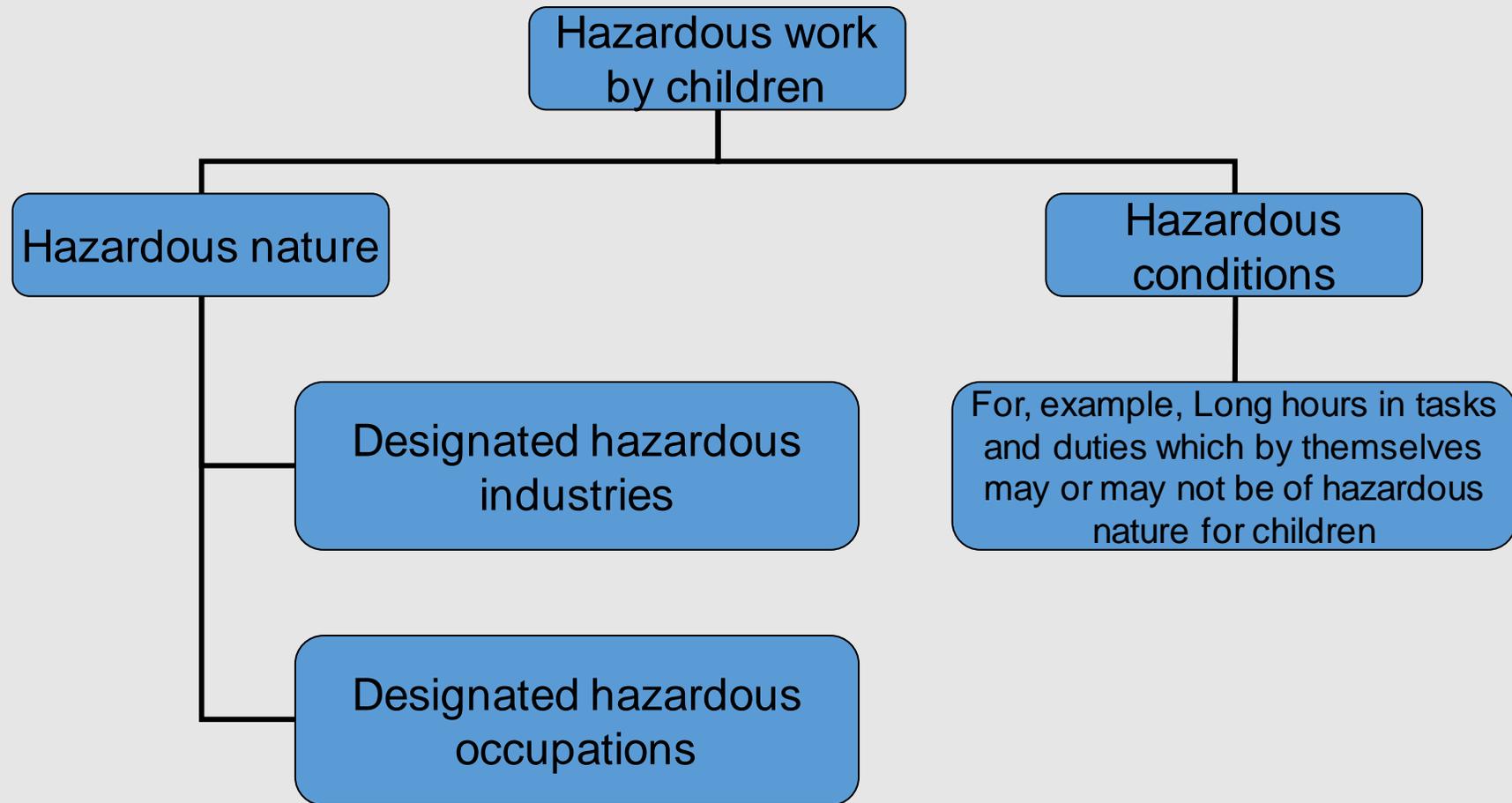
Children in other productive activities

13. **Children in other productive activities** includes children who perform **unpaid household services**, that is, the production of domestic and personal services by a household member for consumption within their own household, commonly called “**household chores**”. In contrast, the performance of household services in a third-party household, paid or unpaid, is included within the production boundary of the SNA.

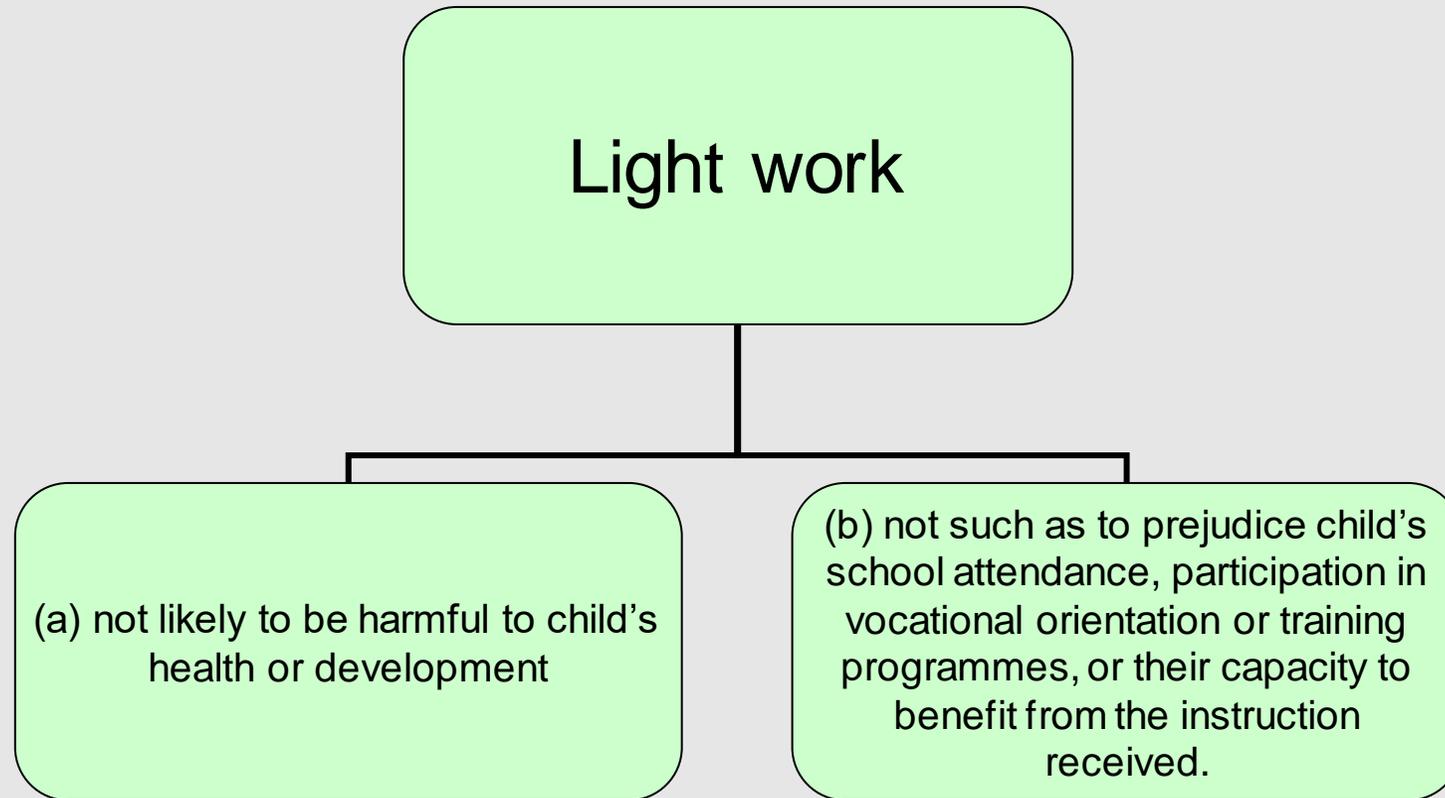
Child labour (14-37)



Hazardous work by children

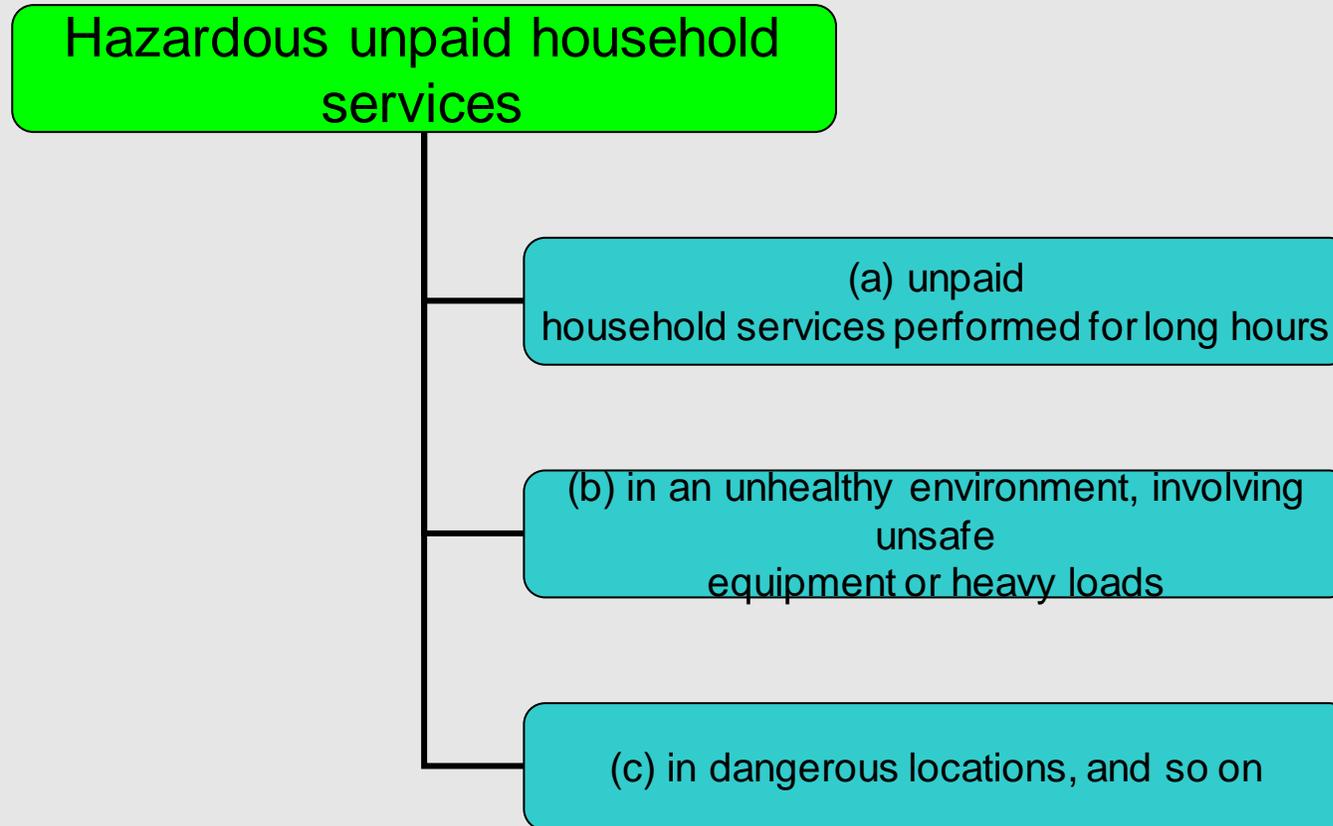


Light work



[**Note:** A restriction on weekly hours of work is required for this age group, but the determination of the maximum number of hours is left to the competent national authorities. In its absence 14 hours per week limit may be applied.]

Hazardous unpaid household services



The definition of long hours in unpaid household services of children, relative to their age, may differ from the one applied in respect to children in employment. The effect on a child's education should also be considered when determining what constitutes long hours.

Framework for statistical identification of child labour

Age group	General production boundary					
	SNA production				Non-SNA production	
	(1a) Light work ³	(1b) Regular work ⁴	Worst forms of child labour		(3a) Hazardous unpaid household services ¹	(3b) Other non-SNA production
(2a) Hazardous work			(2b) Worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work			
Children below the minimum age specified for light work (for example, 5–11 years) ²	Employment below the minimum age for light work	Employment below the general minimum working age	Employment in industries and occupations designated as hazardous, or work for long hours and/or at night in industries and occupations not designated as hazardous	Children trafficked for work; forced and bonded child labour; commercial sexual exploitation of children; use of children for illicit activities and armed conflict	Unpaid household services for long hours; involving unsafe equipment or heavy loads; in dangerous locations; etc.	
Children within the age range specified for light work (for example, 12–14 years) ²						
Children at or above the general minimum working age (for example, 15–17 years) ²						

¹ (3a) is applicable where the general production boundary is used as the measurement framework for child labour.

² Age-group limits may differ across countries depending upon the national circumstances.

³ Where applicable at the national level.

⁴ Children in employment other than those covered under columns (1a), (2a) and (2b).



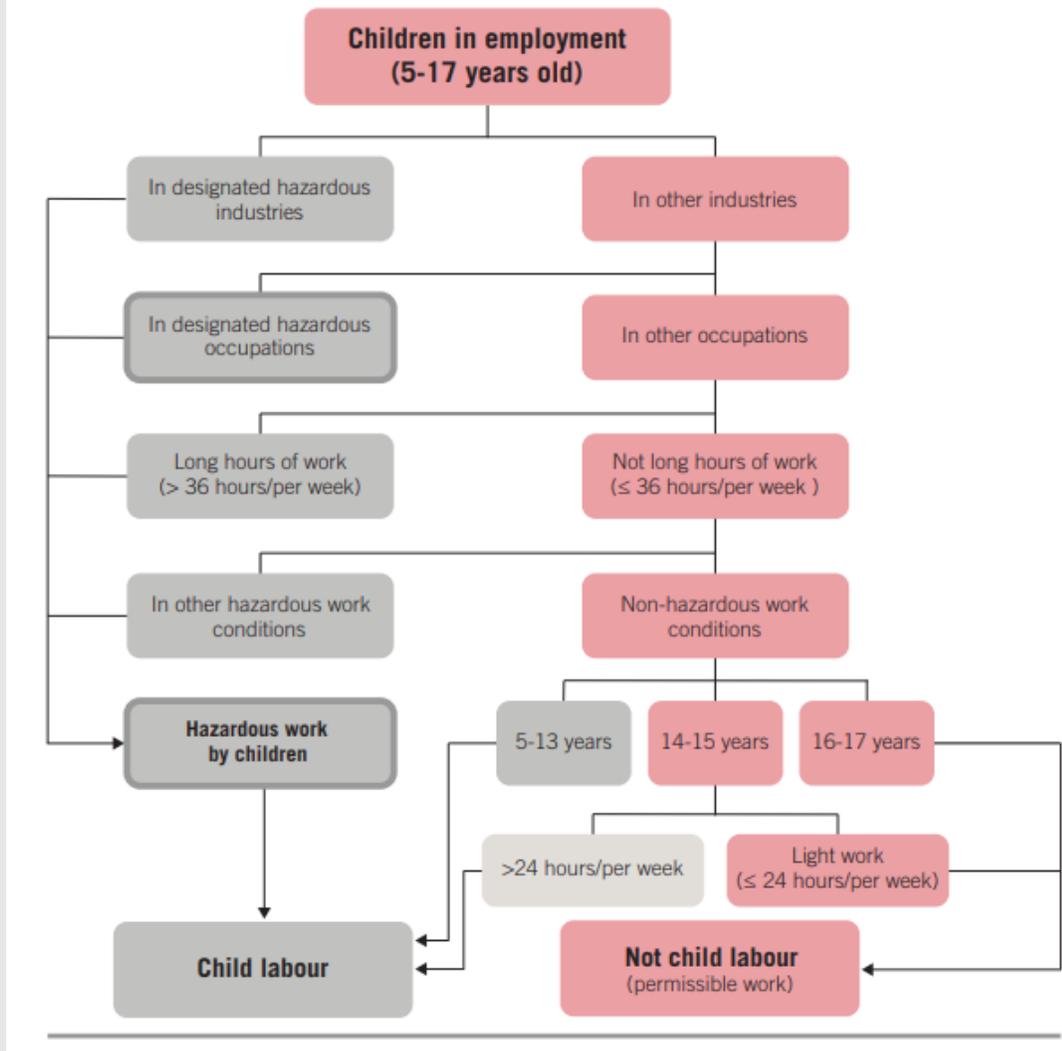
Denotes child labour as defined by the resolution.



Denotes activities not considered child labour.

Example: Georgia stand-alone NCLS 2015

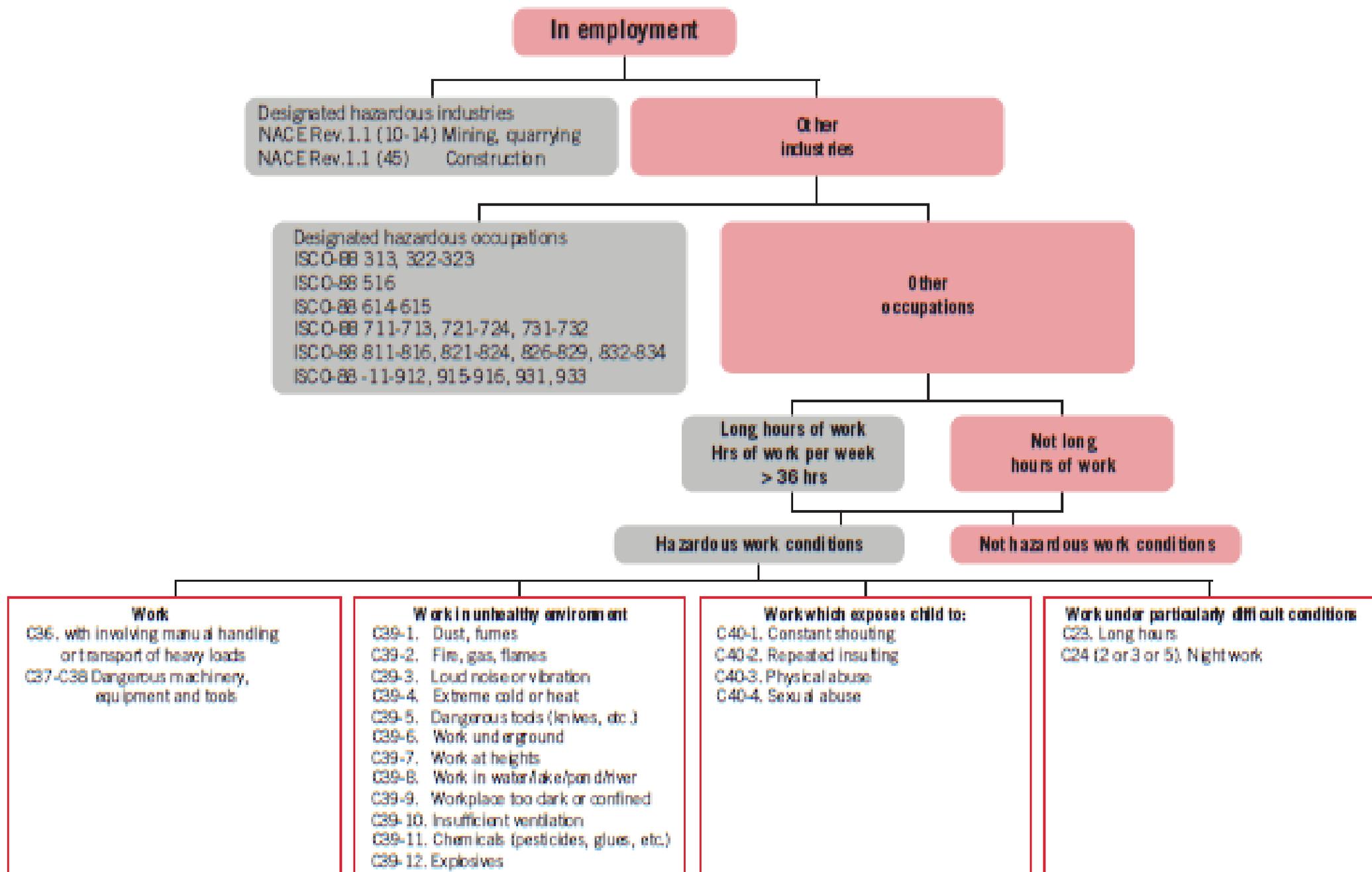
► **Figure 4.1.** The structure of child labour, Georgia, 2015



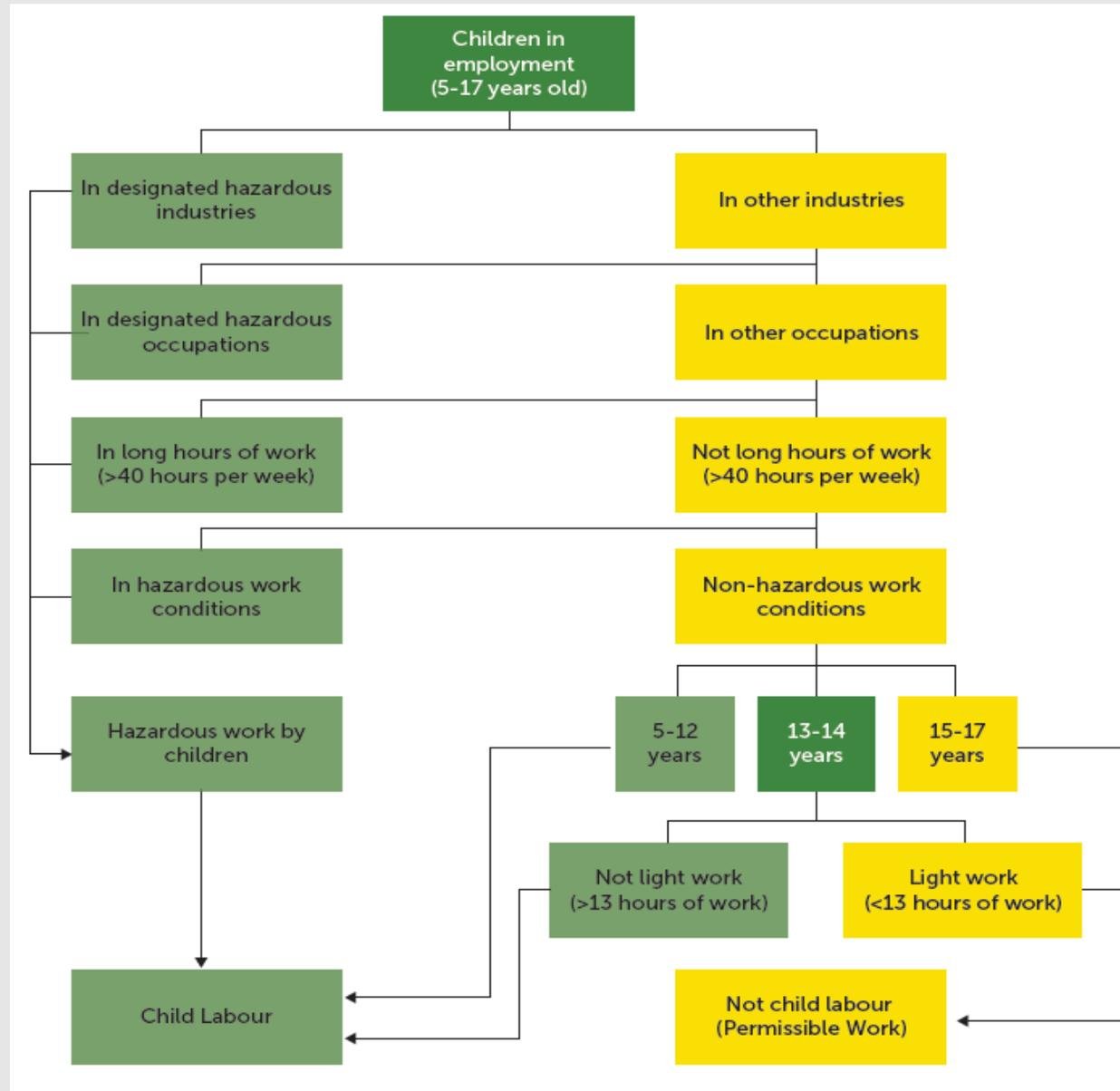
Details of the child labour definition in Georgia

- Minimum age set at 16 years
- Light work age set between 14-15 years old: non-hazardous work done for 24 hours per week or less.
- Hazardous industries are identified in line with the National Classification of Economic Activities NACE rev 1.1 and cover activities that are included in C (Mining and quarrying) and F (construction) sections
- Hazardous occupations are identified in line with the **ISCO-88** (see Annex 2). The list of hazardous industries and occupations for children used in the survey was based on international standards.
- **OTHER HAZARDOUS WORKING CONDITIONS**
 - In unhealthy environment, which exposes children to physical and psychological abuse (constant shouting, causing physical harm or abuse, etc.);
 - In harmful environment (dust, fume, high temperature, cold, etc);
 - with hazardous substances (chemicals or explosives) or processes that are harmful to the child's health;
 - In unsafe conditions (underground, dangerous heights or confined spaces, water, etc.);
 - Using dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads
 - Under long hours (more than 36 hours per week) or at night work (from 10 pm to 6 am) at the workplace, which by its nature may or may not be hazardous for children.

Annex 1. Hazardous work definition for children aged 5-17 years old



Jamaica stand-alone NCLS 2015



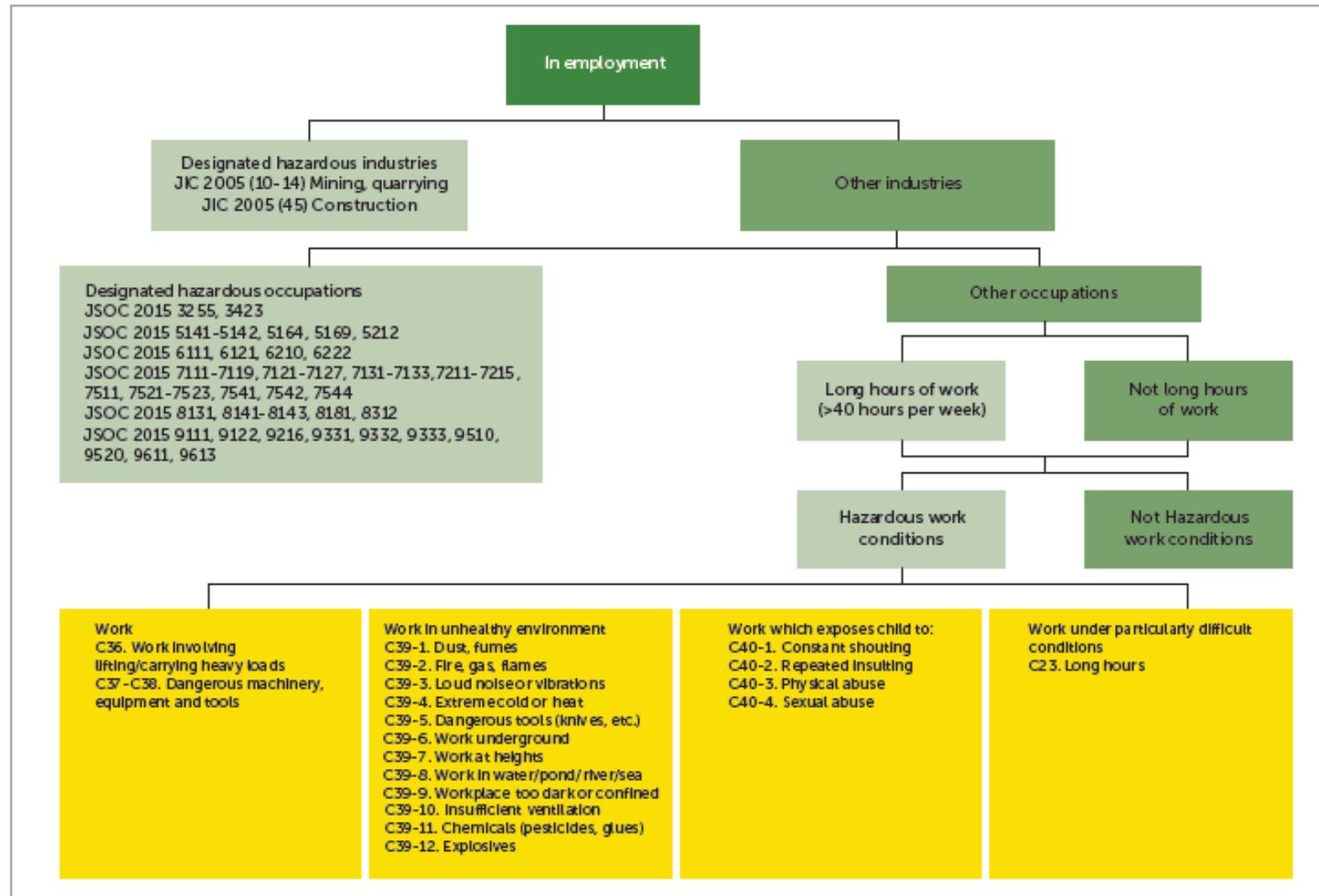
Details of the child labour definition in Jamaica

- *Hazardous industries of child labour:* They are identified in accordance with the Jamaica Industrial Classification 2005 (JIC 2005) and cover activities that are listed under mining and quarrying (section C, division 10-14) and construction (section F, division 45) (Annex 2).
- *Hazardous occupations/jobs of child labour:* They are identified in conjunction the Jamaica Standard Occupational Classification 2015 (Annex 2).
- *Long hours of work:* This refers to children engaged in employment for more than 40 hours per week.
- *Hazardous work conditions:* This covers child work which involves -
 - Lifting of heavy loads
 - Operating machinery/heavy equipment;
 - Working in an unhealthy environment¹²;
 - *Employed below the minimum age specified for light work:* This refers to any type of economic activity
 - done by children aged 5-12 years.
 - *Permissible light work:* a) not likely to be harmful to their health or development; b) not so much as to
 - affect their attendance, interactions nor performance at school.
 - *Light work:* Children aged 13-14 years who are engaged in employment for 13 hours or less.
 - *Night work:* Work between the hours of ten o'clock in the evening and five o'clock in the morning;

Details of the child labour definition in Jamaica

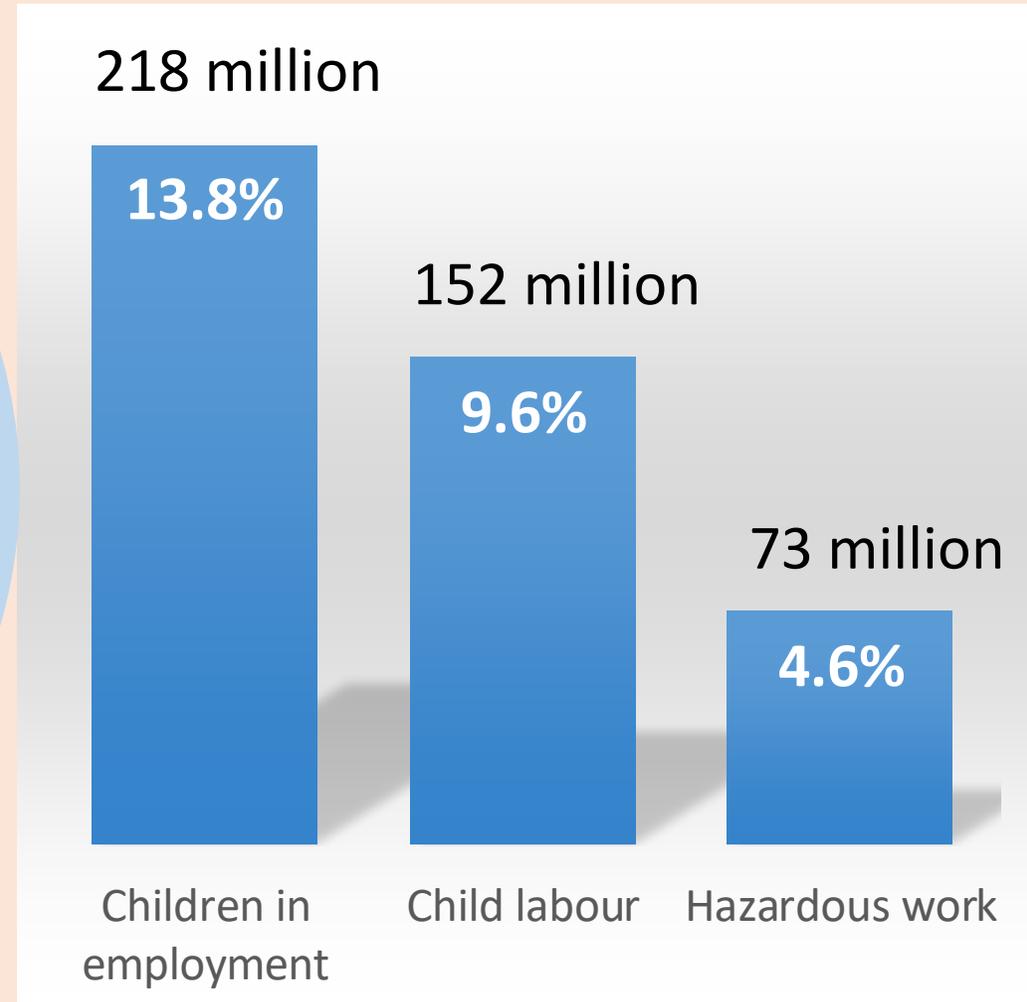
Annex 1

Hazardous work definition for children aged 5-17 years old

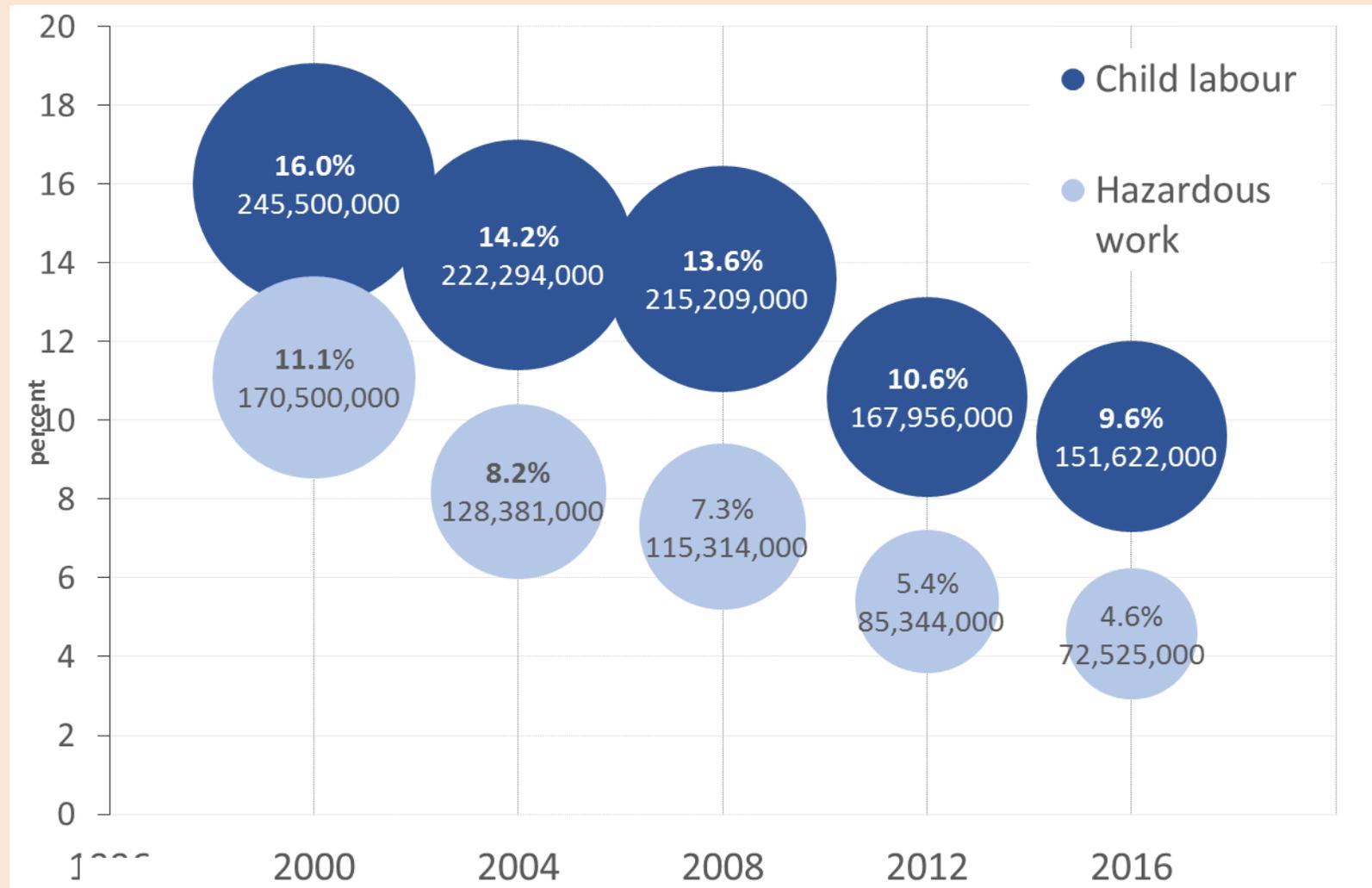


3. Global situation: Global estimates of child labour, 2017

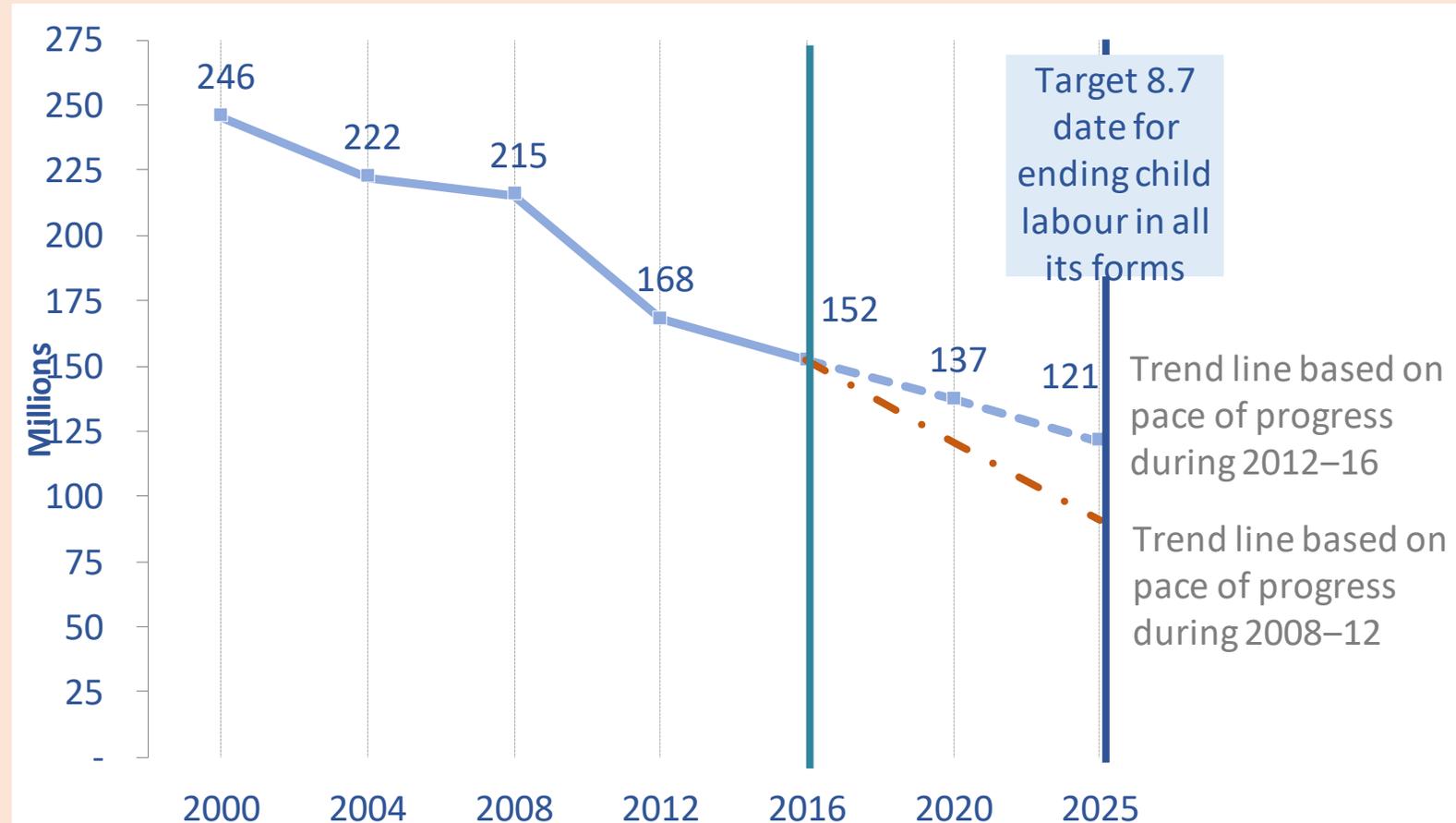
152 million children are involved in child labour



100 million fewer children in child labour from 2000-2016

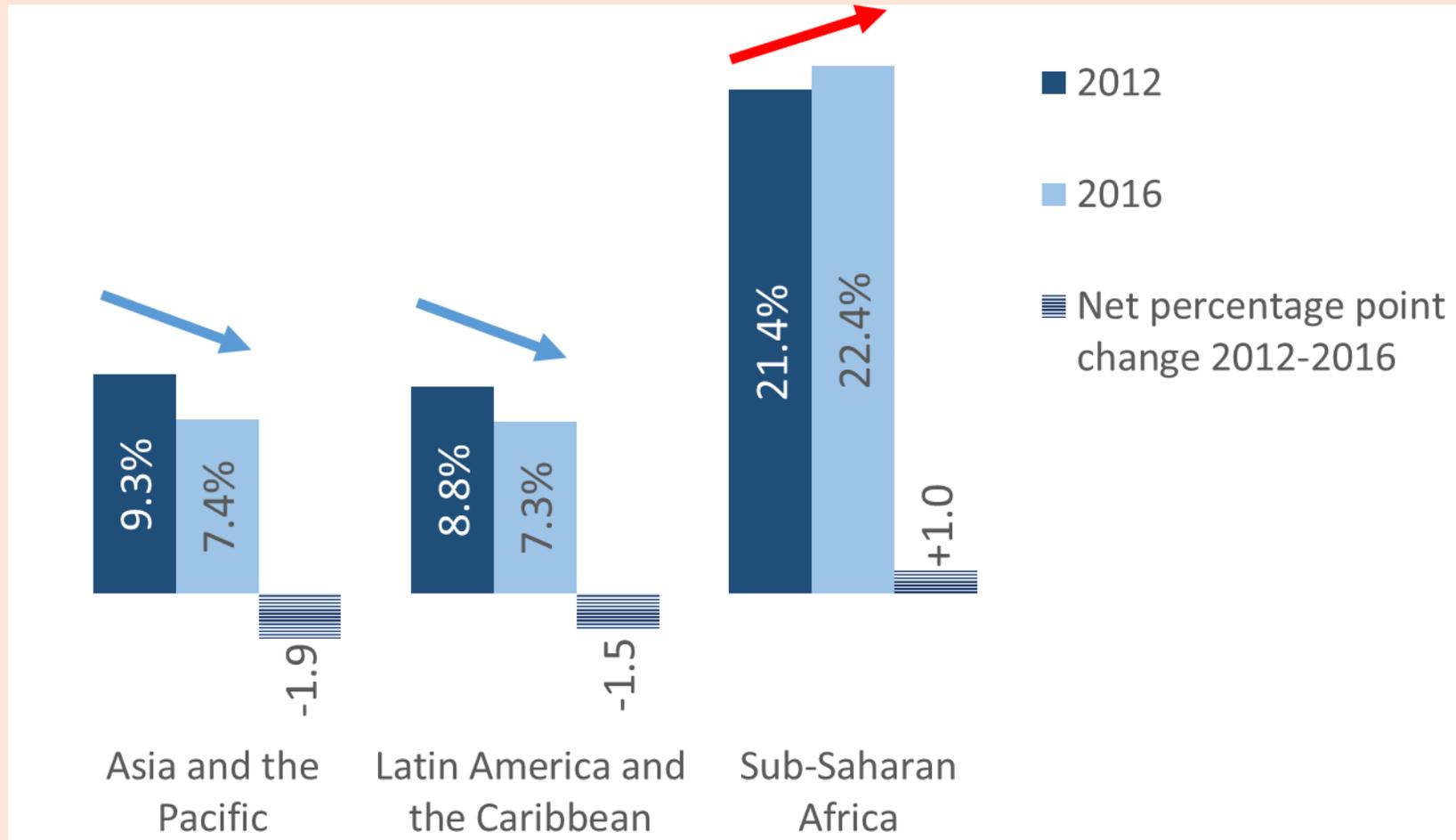


The pace of child labour decline has reduced considerably

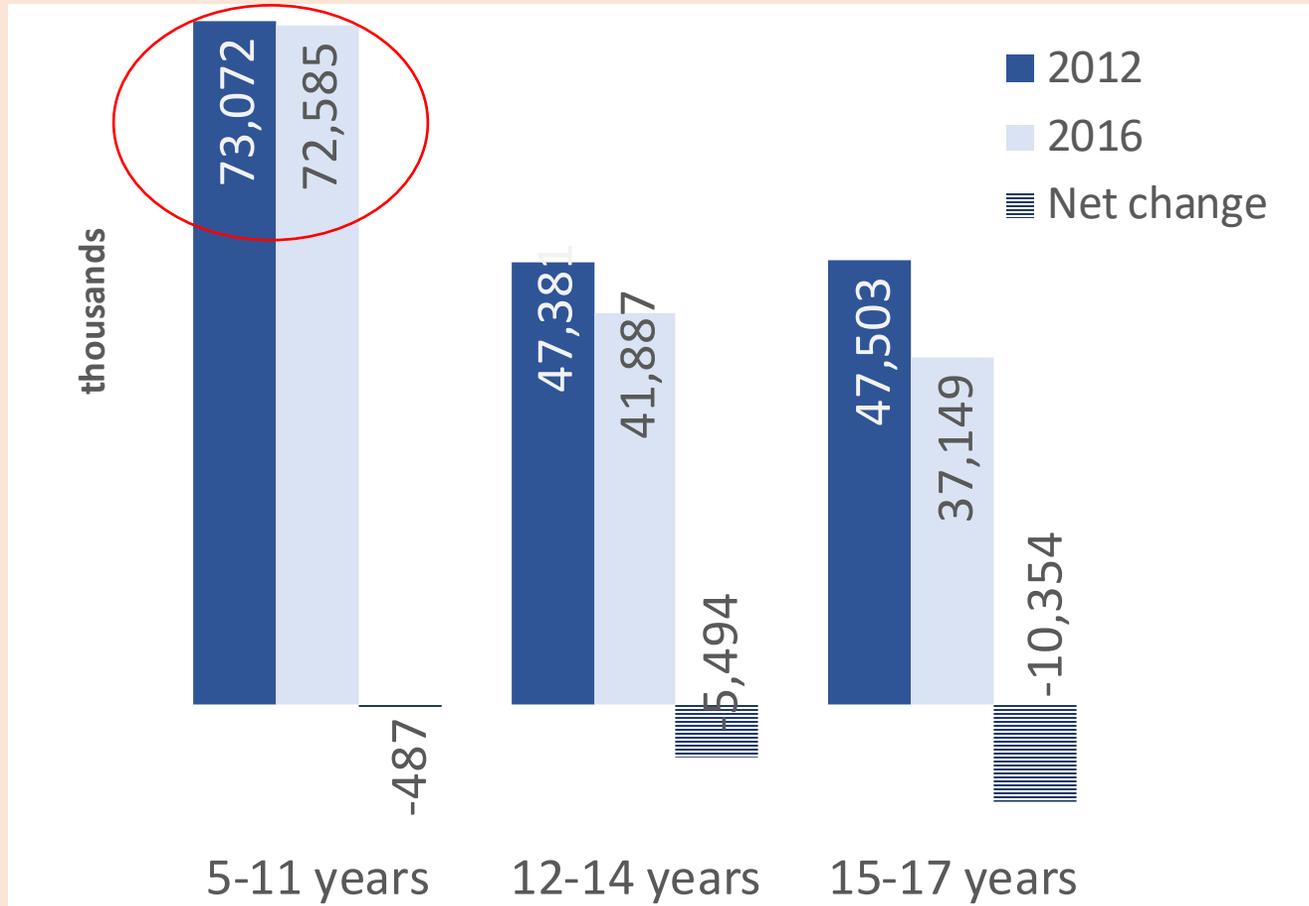


Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region where child labour has increased

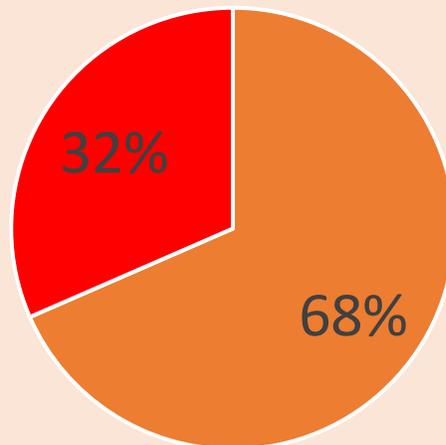
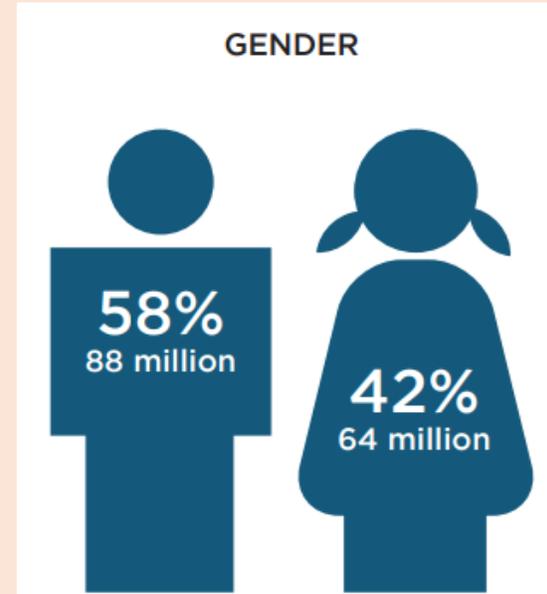
- Percentage of children in child labour, 5-17 years age group, 2012-2016, by region



Stagnation in child labour reduction for the youngest children



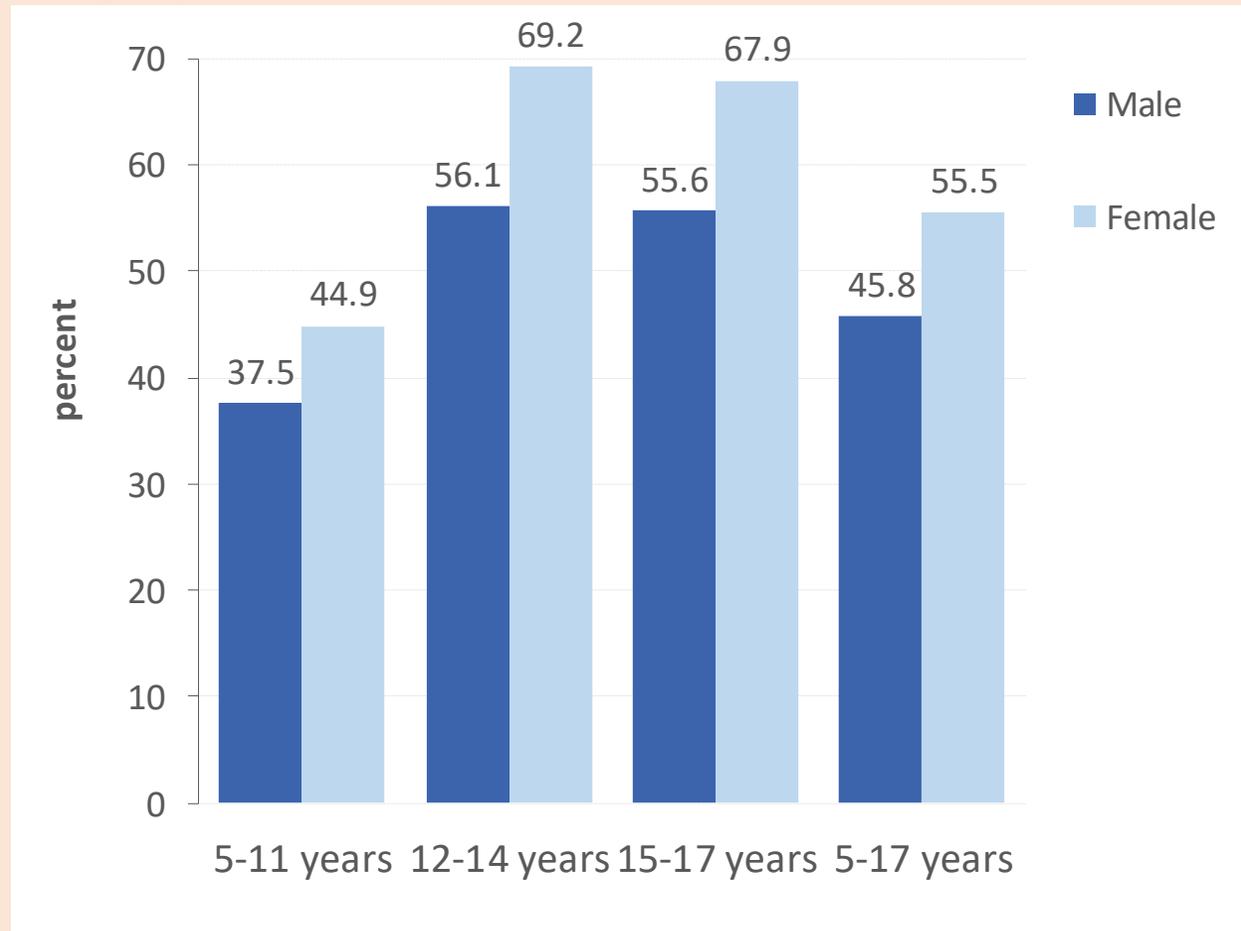
Key characteristics of child labour



- Child labour and attending school
- Child labour not attending school

Household chores performed by children in their own households is the most common form of child work

Percentage of children performing household chores by age group and sex, 2016



4. Child labour reporting: National child labour survey reports

Examples of NCLS reports

- NCLS report of Peru finalized (<http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do?type=document&id=28857>)
- NCLS report of Jamaica finalized (<http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do?type=document&id=30058>)
- NCLS report of Georgia finalized (<http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do?type=document&id=28635>)
- NCLS report of El Salvador finalized (<http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do?type=document&id=28595>)
- NCLS report of Paraguay finalized (<http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do?type=document&id=28676>)
- NCLS report of Armenia finalized (http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_IPEC_PUB_28755/lang-en/index.htm).
- NCLS report of Tanzania finalized (<http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do?type=document&id=28475>)
- NCLS report of Malawi finalized (<http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do?type=document&id=29055>)
- NCLS report of Ethiopia finalized (<http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do?type=document&id=30035>)

5. Interviewing techniques: Standardized interviewing principles

Standardized interviewing

- In survey research, “The goal of standardization is that each respondent be exposed to the same question experience, and that the recording of the answer be the same, too, so that any differences in the answers can be correctly interpreted as reflecting differences between respondents rather than differences in the process that produced the answer.”

Fowler, F.J., and Magione, T.W., (1990), *Standardized Survey Interviewing: Minimizing Interviewer-Related Error*, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

What is Standardized Interviewing?

- It is the prevailing philosophy and practice in data collection
 - Goal is to remove the interviewer as a source of variance
 - “Interviewer variance”
 - Interviewers expected to read questions exactly as worded
 - Must use neutral probes
 - Should promote comparable data
 - Different responses should reflect differences between respondents, not differences in question stimulus
 - Similar approach for administering tests and psychology experiments

Rationale for standardized interviewing

- Rationale for standardized wording is that the meaning resides in words
- If respondents get the same words, get the same meaning
- Pretesting is extremely important as I can remove most comprehension errors

Guidelines for standardized interviewing

- Questions should be read exactly as worded
 - Even small changes in wording can affect answers
- Probing should only be done in non-directive ways...don't influence the respondent
- Recorded answers should reflect what respondents says
- Interviewers should not provide any personal information that may imply any particular values or preferences with respect to topics to be covered in the survey
- No feedback to the respondent

Guidelines for probes

- Provide neutral and non-directive probes if response not among options offered
 - “Let me repeat the question”
 - “We need a number”
 - “Is that a ‘yes’ or ‘no’?”
 - “Whatever it means to you”
 - “Can you be more specific?”

Interviewing children

- Interviewing boys and girls is usually more challenging and requires more time and patience than does interviewing adults. Some guidelines:

Do	Don't
• Introduce yourself and be humble.	• Lecture to the child.
• Create trust and always be patient.	• Rush the interview.
• Use simple language.	• Criticize the child.
• Make sure there is adequate privacy.	• Interrupt when the child speaks.
• Be sensitive to the child's emotions.	• Dominate the child.
• Ask the child for permission.	• Have too many adults present for the child's comfort.
• Keep the child's views and answers confidential.	• Embarrass the child or laugh at any perceived shortcomings
• Stay at the same level as the child; do not stand or sit at higher levels than the child.	• Reinterpret what the child says.
• Be flexible and creative	• Make negative comments about children.
• Listen to and respect the child's views	• Praise or otherwise favour some children and not others.
• Record exactly what the child says	• Compare the child unfavourably with others.
• Be self-critical, and reflect on your approach and behaviour with the child	• Treat boys and girls differently, or treat children with more schooling or from particular ethnic groups differently.
• Show interest in the child's knowledge and skills.	

Ethical issues

- Ethical considerations arise in any survey, both prior to and during fieldwork.
- With child labour surveys – given the private or sensitive nature of many survey questions – these issues can be especially important.
- Among the matters that require careful attention:
 - the need for informed consent;
 - individual rights to privacy;
 - and the potential discovery of serious health problems during the interview process.

Supervisors and interviewers must keep the issues outlined below in mind when conducting interviews:

- **Informed consent**

- No survey should be conducted without prior consent. Survey respondents should therefore be informed of all interview procedures, and asked for their consent prior to survey execution

- **Voluntary consent**

- The participation of respondents in a survey should be voluntary, and no one should be intimidated into giving consent.

- **Protection to respondents from harm**

- Care should be taken to avoid putting respondents in any position where they could suffer emotional or physical harm. Specific instances include questions that lead the respondent to revisit a distressing experience, or where participation is likely to create a problem for the respondent within the household or community

- **Respect for privacy**

- Respondents' privacy should not be violated by compelling them to reply to insensitive questions that they would prefer not to answer

Supervisors and interviewers must keep the issues outlined below in mind when conducting interviews(cont):

- **Confidentiality**

- Survey procedures must respect the confidential nature of all information collected. Care should be taken never to breach the confidentiality promised to survey respondents. Unless absolutely necessary, therefore, staff should avoid keeping information that permits identification of individual survey participants. When interviewing children, confidentiality is often impossible, since the child is rarely alone during the interview, an elder generally being present. The possibility of bias is thus inherent, since such children, if left to respond in privacy, might have wanted to say something different that the presence of an elder has constrained them from expressing.

- **Avoid raising unrealistic expectations**

- Fieldworkers should explain clearly to the respondents what is to be done with the information collected. Promises made to respondents – community leaders, employers, parents/ guardians, and children – must be upheld. Do not make promises regarding improvement in their situation as a consequence of the survey.

- **Compensation for responding**

- This is a vexing issue. As a rule, no respondent should be compensated for participating in a survey. No rule is set in stone, however, and, depending upon the scale and other features of the survey (including its budget), survey management has to make the decision it deems best. In some cases, participating in a survey entails costs to the respondent, and some compensation in kind, e.g. light refreshment, might be justified. Care should be taken that the compensation, if any, is the same for all respondents, whatever their respective situations.

Supervisors and interviewers must keep the issues outlined below in mind when conducting interviews(cont):

- **Ethical dilemmas**

- An ethical dilemma emerges where the interviewer, in the context of a confidential interview, becomes aware of some threat to a respondent. One possible approach is to provide the interviewer with a list of centres that can provide assistance to respondents who need it, and the interviewer follows his judgment in informing such a centre of the situation. Again, one faces a dilemma. The situation may put pressure on interviewers to make judgements for which they have no training; on the other hand, the interviewers' conscience may see failure to make these judgements as neglect of a child in need.

An analysis plan will:

- Decrease the likelihood that critical items are left out of the final questionnaire
- Decrease the likelihood that the questionnaire includes unnecessary items and creates excessive response burden
- Help identify which topics are most important and need space in the instrument