International Labour Organization

Rapid Assessment on Child Labour in Agriculture in Kosovo

2023

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1 All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244. (1999).

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The report was prepared by Ms Dina Vllasaliu and Ms Nora Jusufi, IDRA Research and Consulting in Kosovo, under the coordination of Ms Lindita Boshtrakaj from ILO DWT/CO Budapest and Mr. Lorenzo Guarcello from ILO FUNDAMENTALS Geneva Office.

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▶ Acronyms and abbreviations

KOMF	Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection in Kosovo
CRC	UN Convention of the Rights of the Child
FGD	focus group discussion
HCL	hazardous child labour
HH	households
ILO	International Labour Office/Organization
ISIC	International Industrial Standard Classification of All Economic Activities
KAS	Kosovo Agency of Statistics
KII	key informant interview
LCP	Law of Child Protection
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
MAP 16	The Measurement, Awareness Raising, and Policy Engagement Project to Accelerate Action against Child Labour and Forced Labour
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SOP	standard operating procedure
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

Executive summary

The aim of this study was to assess the presence and characteristics of child labour in the agricultural sector in Kosovo and understand the factors contributing to its existence. The study also sought to identify children's working conditions and their impact on children's health and safety. Furthermore, the research aimed to explore the barriers to education and opportunities for children engaged in agricultural work and propose preventive and protective measures through policy and legislation.

The research used a combination of primary and secondary data. The primary data involved qualitative and quantitative components. For the qualitative component, 12 focus group discussions (FGD) were conducted in three regions of Kosovo, as well as 11 key informant interviews (KII) with key stakeholders. A quantitative survey was administered to 1,000 rural households, employing a multi-stage stratified sampling methodology. The secondary data consisted of a literature review focusing on current policies and laws regulating child labour in agriculture in Kosovo.

The findings indicate that child labour is present in the agricultural sector, with approximately 40 per cent of households engaging adolescents between the ages of 13 and 17 in agricultural work. Child labour involving children aged 5 to 12 years old is present in 10 per cent of households. Adolescent boys are more likely to work longer hours than girls, and older children are more involved in hazardous tasks.

The prevalence of child labour varies across different regions, with Ferizaj having the highest engagement of adolescents in agricultural work (88 per cent). Gjilan, Ferizaj and Prishtinë are the top three regions with the highest percentage of households engaging children aged 5 to 12 years old in agricultural work.

Common patterns of work performed by children in the agricultural sector include cultivating plant crops (94 per cent), raising and caring for livestock (47 per cent), and handling or applying pesticides (16 per cent). The primary causes of child labour in the agricultural sector are related to family dynamics and the willingness of children to contribute. Families in economic deprivation are more likely to engage their children in potentially dangerous agricultural tasks.

Gender disparities exist, with boys being more likely to work longer hours than girls. Older children are also more likely to be engaged in hazardous tasks than younger children. The working conditions and environment impact the health and safety of children engaged in agricultural work, with a significant number of children exposed to potentially hazardous tasks without proper safety training and equipment.

Barriers to education and other opportunities for children engaged in agricultural work include working on family farms, lack of interest in attending school, and health issues. Protecting the rights of children engaged in agricultural work requires collaboration between government institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector. Policies and legislation need to be implemented to address child labour effectively and ensure access to education.

Based on the key findings resulting from collected primary data, the following recommendations are proposed:

- Strengthen legislation:
  - Develop and enforce comprehensive legislation on child labour in agriculture.
  - Regulate light work.
- Raise awareness:
  - Launch public awareness campaigns about the negative impact of hazardous child labour.
  - Educate parents, communities, and agricultural stakeholders.
  - Highlight legal consequences and promote the importance of education.
- Improve opportunities for education, training, and apprenticeships:
  - Introduce demand-driven skills training that provides young people with both technical skills – including entrepreneurial and digital skills – and non-technical soft skills and on-the-job learning. Address barriers to education and training.
  - Develop alternative and non-traditional forms of training for basic knowledge and competencies to upgrade their skillsets.
  - Provide financial assistance, access to credit, and income-generating activities.
- Improve agricultural productivity:
  - Enhance agricultural productivity and income opportunities for farmers.
  - Reduce reliance on child labour.
  - Provide training in modern farming techniques and better market linkages.
- Expand young people's access to employment services and active labour market programmes in rural settings:
  - Tailor job-search and counselling services to young jobseekers' readiness for work and their personal aspirations.
  - Link the provision of core employment services to other labour market interventions and programmes (such as training and poverty reduction strategies), to improve income opportunities for young people.
- Strengthen child protection mechanisms:
  - Strengthen child protection mechanisms in rural areas.
  - Train teachers, health workers, and community leaders to recognize and report child labour.
- Monitoring and evaluation:
  - Develop a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track progress.
  - Identify gaps and areas for improvement in policies and programmes.
- Strengthen the collaborative approach:
  - Foster collaboration between government institutions, civil society, private sector, and international partners.
  - Collaborate and combine resources and expertise to form a unified strategy in safeguarding children's rights.

Introduction

This rapid assessment on child labour in agriculture in Kosovo is part of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) global project "The Measurement, Awareness Raising, and Policy Engagement to Accelerate Action against Child Labour and Forced Labour (MAP 16)". It aims at helping to build and apply the critical knowledge needed to inform the policy choices to combat child labour and forced labour and to support measures to address these challenges in key countries, regions and sectors.

One of the project components focuses on improving the legal framework, strengthening enforcement of laws, coordinating government efforts, developing, and strengthening national action plans, and developing and strengthening programmes in a selected number of countries, including Kosovo. Under this framework, the MAP'16 Project in Kosovo has since 2019 been supporting the implementation of the Strategy on Child Rights 2019–2023 and priority interventions to address child labour identified in consultation with key stakeholders, with a focus on: (i) improving the institutional framework for monitoring the prevalence of child labour at central and municipal levels; (ii) strengthening the role of social protection in the prevention and protection of children against child labour; (iii) strengthening the role of the education system in the prevention and protection of children against child labour; and (iv) improvement of the enforcement of laws and policies relating to the protection of children against child labour.

The **objective** of the rapid assessment was to strengthen the knowledge base about children engaged in agricultural work in Kosovo by determining the nature, pattern, distribution, dynamics and causes of child labour in agriculture. This rapid assessment will also enable better understanding of the socio-economic characteristics of the working children and their families, including their health, safety, education and rights, and it will suggest possible policy options, legislation, and other preventive and protective measures to address the issue of child labour in Kosovo's agricultural sector.

The **research questions** answered are as follows:

1. What is the prevalence of child labour in the agricultural sector in Kosovo, and how does it vary across different regions?
2. What are the common patterns of work performed by children in the agricultural sector, including the types of crops grown, hours worked and types of tasks performed?
3. What are the primary causes of child labour in the agricultural sector in Kosovo, including factors related to poverty, lack of education, and family dynamics?
4. What are the socio-economic characteristics of the children engaged in agricultural work, including age, gender, education level and household income?
5. How do the working conditions and environment impact the health and safety of children engaged in agricultural work in Kosovo?
6. What are the barriers to education and other opportunities for children engaged in agricultural work, and how can these be addressed to prevent child labour?
7. What are the rights of children engaged in agricultural work, and how can these be protected and promoted through policy and legislation?
8. How can preventive and protective measures be implemented to address the issue of child labour in Kosovo's agricultural sector, including policy options, legislation, and other interventions?

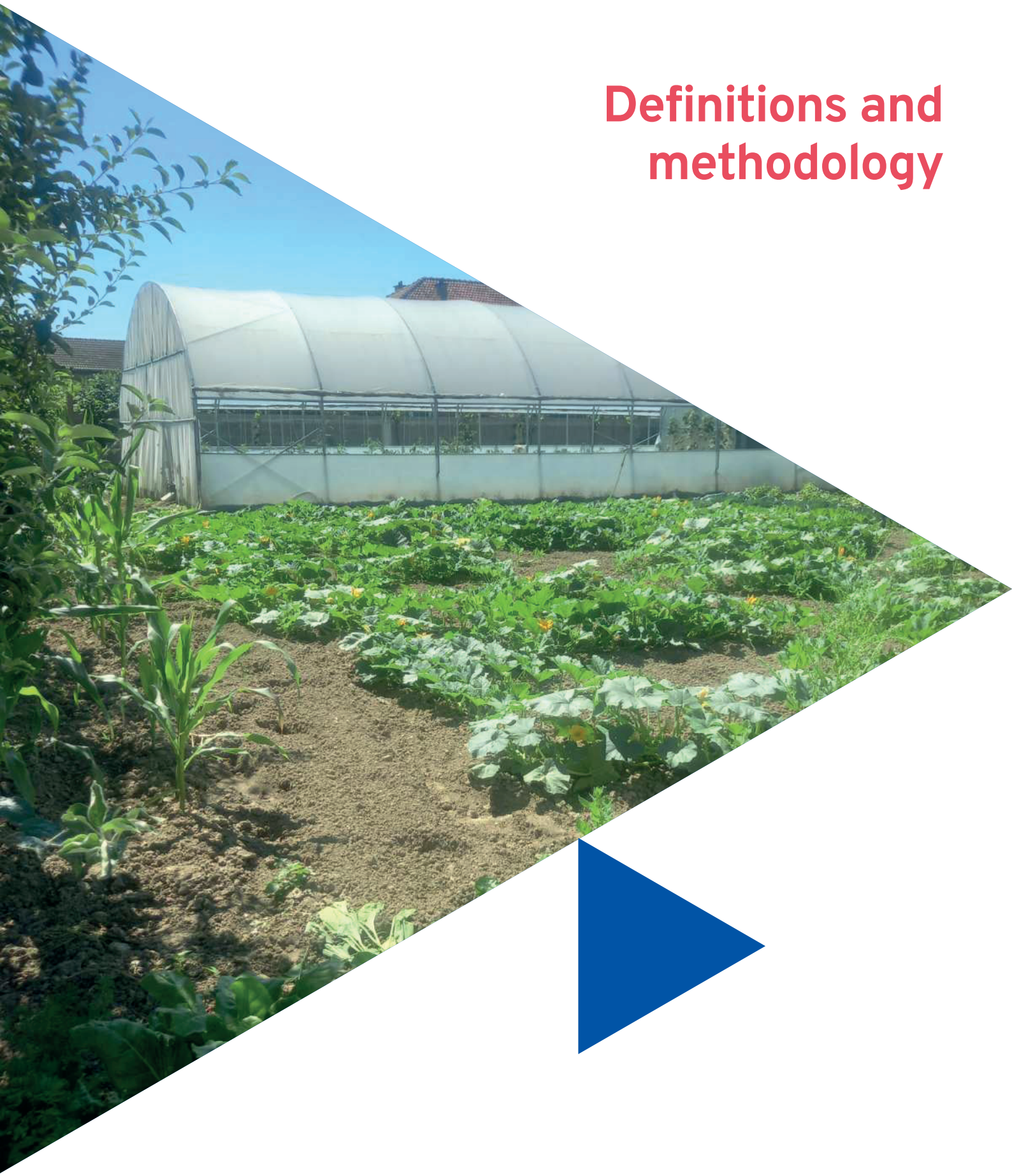
The assessment comprises multiple interconnected components that are designed to address the objective:

- A desk review of existing international and national legislation pertaining to child labour.
- A desk review of existing research on child labour in Kosovo, with specific focus on child labour in agriculture.
- A quantitative survey with 1,000 rural households to understand distribution of child labour in agriculture.
- A qualitative data collection through 12 focus group discussions (FGD) with children (6), parents (3), and other relevant stakeholders (3).
- A qualitative data collection through 11 key informant interviews (KII).
- Three in-depth case studies that analyse specific factors and various manifestations of child labour within the agricultural sector.

This report consists of several chapters that are structured based on the methodology components presented above. The first chapter introduces the definitions and the assessment methodology used. Chapter 2 sets forth the applicable norms and policy framework aligned with international and national standards. Chapter 3 elaborates on existing research in Kosovo pertaining to child labour in agriculture, while Chapter 4 presents the key findings resulting from qualitative and quantitative data including those derived from the survey, the FGD and KII. Chapter 5 focuses on the promotion and safeguarding of children's rights through policy and legislation, and aims to identify preventive and protective measures that can be effectively implemented to address the issue of child labour within Kosovo's agricultural sector. Chapter 6 dwells on the three case studies of children who are active in agricultural work. The final chapter (Chapter 7) derives conclusions and recommendations.

1

Definitions and methodology



1.1 Definitions

The report uses the following concepts in analysing children's involvement in agriculture (see ILO 2018):

Children in economic activity are those working in any form of market production and certain types of non-market production (principally, the production of goods such as agricultural produce for own use). This group includes children in forms of work in both the formal and informal economy; inside and outside family settings; for pay or profit (in cash or in kind, part-time or full-time); and domestic work outside the child's own household for an employer (paid or unpaid).

Economic activity in the agriculture sector includes, in accordance with the International Industrial Standard Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Revision 4, crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities,[1] forestry and logging,[2] and fishing and aquaculture.

Children in child labour is a narrower category than children engaged in an economic activity and is defined in accordance with three principal international conventions: the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1990; the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); and national legislation (more discussion to follow below). Child labour includes children in an economic activity who are below the minimum working age and children above the minimum working age whose work is classified as a worst form of child labour, or as "hazardous work".

Children in hazardous work are those involved in any activity or occupation that, which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children. In accordance with the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation, 1999 (No. 190) which supplements ILO Convention No. 182, this includes work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse; work underground, under water, at dangerous heights, and in confined spaces; work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads; work in an unhealthy environment which may, for example, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels or vibrations damaging to their health; and work under particularly difficult conditions including long hours, night work or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer.

Children performing household chores refers to those performing domestic and personal services for consumption within their own households. Household chores include the cleaning, decoration and maintenance of the dwelling occupied by the household, including small repairs of a kind usually carried out by tenants as well as owners; the cleaning, servicing and repair of household durables, including vehicles used for household purposes; the preparation and serving of meals; the care, training and instruction of children; the care of sick, infirm or old people; and the transportation of members of the household or their goods.

Hazardous unpaid household services performed by children are those carried out within the child's own home under circumstances that align with tasks without payment that are done for extended periods, in an unhealthy setting, with risky equipment or heavy loads, or in hazardous locations.

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1 Including growing of non-perennial crops; growing of perennial crops; plant propagation; animal production; mixed farming; support activities to agriculture and post-harvest crop activities; and hunting, trapping and related service activities.

2 Including silviculture and other forestry activities; logging; gathering of non-wood forest products; and support services to forestry.

1.2. Methodology

The research used a combination of primary and secondary research for the report. Firstly, through secondary research, the report conducted a literature review focusing on current policies and laws that dictate/regulate child labour in agriculture in Kosovo.

Secondly, the primary research consisted of both qualitative and quantitative components. The qualitative aspect gathered the perspectives and emotions of the participants, while the quantitative aspect provided numerical data on the number of children involved in various agricultural activities and will allow for a more accurate disaggregation of data based on demographic data.

1.2.1. Qualitative component of methodology

For the qualitative component, the report employed a targeted and snowball sampling technique, using households that are engaged in agricultural production for financial or household purposes to recruit participants for focus group discussions (FGD). As part of the identification process, field researchers contacted farmers, informal workers, key informants, and members of the local community in specific areas to locate households that engage children in agricultural activities. Additionally, data were collected through the conduction of key informant interviews (KII) by employing a targeted sampling method, whereby key stakeholders in the field of agriculture were recruited for interviews. As such, the qualitative portion of the study consisted of the elements shown in table 1.1.

▶Table 1.1. Qualitative methodology

Qualitative component	Details
12 focus group discussions in three regions of Kosovo with 8-12 participants: **1. Gjakovë: Rogovë, Cermjan, Novosellë** **2. Mitrovicë: Kushtovë and Rashan** **3. Prishtinë: Podujevë-Shtedim, Llapashticë, Llugë, Surkish, Llaushë e Poshtme**	• Two focus groups were conducted per region with children aged 10-14 years old and 15-18 years old, for a total of six focus groups. • One focus group was conducted per region with parents of that region, for a total of three focus groups. • One focus group was conducted per region with other stakeholders for that region, for a total of three focus groups.
11 Key informant interviews with representatives	• Four interviews with representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development. • One interview with a representative of the Forestry Agency. • One interview with a representative of Save the Children in Kosovo. • One interview with a representative of the Labour Inspectorate. • One interview with a representative of the Ministry of Finance, Labor, and Transfers. • One interview with a representative of the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation. • One interview with a lawyer working as a free-lance consultant on issues pertaining to child protection. • One interview with a representative of the Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection in Kosovo (KOMF).
Three case studies of children engaged in agricultural work	• Case Study from Gjakovë • Case Study from Mitrovicë • Case Study from Prishtinë/Podujevë

1.2.2 Quantitative component of methodology

In this study, a survey of 1,000 rural households in Kosovo was conducted, with a focus on the rural population, which comprised 60% of the total population according to the 2011 Census data, which total to approximately 1,025,123 people out of 1,708,538 people. The methodology purposefully focused on rural areas since agricultural activities occur in those areas. A rural area is defined as a "non-urbanised geographical area-defined at settlement level-characterised by a lower population density and typically where much of the land is allocated to agriculture in comparison to surrounding areas" (MAFRD 2022a).

The aim of the survey was to gather information on child agricultural labour, with a primary target of adult citizens (18+) living in these areas. To execute the survey, a multistage cluster sampling methodology with stratification was employed. The process was unfolded in three key stages.

- In stage one, Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) were selected based on Enumeration Areas (EAs) defined by polling/voting centres. These EAs served as geographical clusters for our sample distribution. The number of EAs chosen within each region was proportional to the number of households within that region and considered the total sample size of 100 EAs. EAs were randomly selected from the national list until the sufficient number was reached in each region. Maps of the selected EAs were obtained by IDRA before the implementation of the survey. In total there were 100 EAs with each area including 10 household surveys. Specifically, there were 23 EAs in Prishtinë, 17 EAs in Gjakovë, 14 EAs in Prizren, 14 EAs in Mitrovicë, 11 EAs in Pejë, 11 EAs in Ferizaj, and 10 EAs in Gjilan. In stage two, the focus was on the selection of households within the chosen EAs. A starting point in each EA was determined, a random distance and direction were added, and trained enumerators were instructed accordingly. The starting point was located, the instructed path was followed, and households were selected through a systematic process involving knocking on doors.
- In the third stage, respondents were selected within households, with the person celebrating the most recent birthday being chosen for interviews.

The methodology blended probability sampling with random-route strategies, ensuring both representativeness and cost-effectiveness. This design adhered to international research standards and aimed to yield insights into child labour in Kosovo's agriculture sector. A detailed sampling procedure may be found under Annex 9.

Subsequently, households were assessed based on their ownership or rental of land for agricultural purposes, as well as their involvement in agricultural activities. As such, if a household indicated a lack of ownership or rental of agricultural land and declared no prior engagement in agricultural activities, the survey was discontinued for that household. This rigorous screening ensured that the study focused on relevant and pertinent data related to agricultural practices. Specifically, the screener questions were phrased as shown in table 1.2.

▶Table 1.2. Screener questionnaire

S1: Does your household currently own or rent any land for agricultural/farming purposes? Yes No
S2. Have you or anyone in your household been involved in any agricultural activities such as planting, harvesting, or caring for livestock in the past year? Yes No

The surveys consisted of the following modules:

- Screener questionnaire to determine continuation/termination of survey.
- Module D pertaining to demographic information of respondent.
- Module A pertaining to household agricultural activity.
- Module B pertaining to specific questions related to one randomly selected child's involvement in agricultural activity in the household and/or farm.

This methodological approach ensured the possibility of data triangulation obtained from the literature review, surveys, interviews and FGD to provide a comprehensive and well-rounded understanding of the situation.

1.2.3 Study limitations

The study has certain limitations that need to be acknowledged. Firstly, the qualitative analysis was only conducted in three out of the seven regions of Kosovo, leaving the rest of the regions uncaptured for reporting.

Secondly, regarding the quantitative portion, the "last birthday" method used to select respondents for the survey introduced randomization but also had its limitations. For instance, the chosen respondents might not have been fully aware of all the questions asked, and it is possible that the household head could have possessed more information but might not have coincided with the respondent of the survey.

Thirdly, an external factor beyond the control of the researchers was the accuracy of survey responses, which relied on the honesty and ability of the respondents to remember information correctly. Some respondents might have provided inaccurate or biased answers, potentially leading to an underreporting of child labour in agriculture.

2

Child labour in Kosovo: Legislative framework

2.1 International Conventions

Three main international conventions – the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182 – together set the legal boundaries for child labour and provide the legal grounds for actions against it. The ILO's **Minimum Age Convention (No. 138)**, which was first introduced in 1973, applies to all children involved in labour, regardless of whether they work for wages or on their own or their family's behalf. It places an obligation on States that ratify it to establish a minimum age and prohibit work below that age. The minimum age is generally set at 15 years, although developing countries have some flexibility and may set the minimum age for work or employment at 14 years. However, children aged 12 or 13 are exempted from these provisions if they are engaged in "light work", which is defined as work that does not harm their health and development and does not interfere with their attendance at school, participation in vocational training, or their ability to benefit from education (Article 7). Children between the ages of 15 and 17 are generally allowed to work, but they are not permitted to engage in "hazardous work" due to the nature of the work, working conditions, or long hours. The **Minimum Age Recommendation, 1973 (No. 146)** accompanies Convention No. 138 and emphasizes that these national policies should provide for "poverty alleviation and the promotion of decent jobs for adults so that parents do not need to resort to child labour; free and compulsory education and provision of vocational training; extension of social security and systems for birth registration; and appropriate facilities for the protection of children, and adolescents who work" (ILO, n.d.).

The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** which entered into force on 2 September 1990 is a legally binding international agreement which obliges signatory States to acknowledge and safeguard the right of every child to be shielded from economic exploitation and from engaging in any work that may pose risks to their education, health, or overall development, whether physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social (Article 32). Additionally, it mandates that signatory parties must establish legal, administrative, social and educational measures to ensure the enforcement of this regulation. These measures include setting a minimum age for employment, regulating the working hours and conditions, and implementing appropriate penalties or sanctions (Article 32). In a broader sense, Article 36 urges state parties to protect children from all forms of exploitation that could harm any aspect of their well-being.

Furthermore, the ILO's **Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work**, adopted in 1998 and later revised in 2022, is a commitment made by governments and employers' and workers' organizations to uphold fundamental human values. It foresees "the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, the effective abolition of child labour, the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, and a safe and healthy working environment".

Lastly, the ILO's **Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)** mandates that states that have ratified it must promptly and effectively implement measures to prohibit and eradicate the most severe forms of child labour. It does not include any provisions for flexibility and does not differentiate between developed and developing nations. The Convention applies to all children, both girls and boys, who are under the age of 18. The most extreme forms of child labour are defined in Article 3:

a. all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;

b. the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;

c. the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;

d. work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

2.2 National legislation and policies

Kosovo has established several laws to protect children's rights and to address child labour, including the Labour Law, the Criminal Code, the Law on Child Protection, and a series of strategies and action plans focusing explicitly on child protection or ensuring protection from child labour in its strategies and programmes for agriculture and rural development.

Firstly, the **Criminal Code** under Article 243 foresees a fine and imprisonment from one up to five years for every parent, adoptive parent, guardian or another person who compels a child to work excessively or perform work that endangers the child's development (Republic of Kosovo 2019a). The same prohibits child trafficking (Articles 165 and 166), the commercial sexual exploitation of children (Articles 232 and 234), and the use of children in illicit activities (Articles 267–273).

The **Law on Labour** under Article 7 specifies that children under the age of 15 cannot enter an employment relationship. However, those between the ages of 15 and 18 may be employed for light work that does not pose a risk to their health or development (Republic of Kosovo 2014). The law also sets the minimum age for hazardous work at 18 years of age.

The **Law on Child Protection (LCP)** intends to protect children from all forms of abuse, exploitation or other forms that endanger the life, safety, health, education, training and development of the child. Chapter 6 of the Law specifically addresses the protection of children from economic exploitation, which prohibits the employment of children in activities that harm the safety, health, morals and psychophysical development of the child, and mandates the Labour Inspectorate as responsible for monitoring the employment of the child to guarantee courtesy, safety and working conditions (Republic of Kosovo 2019b).

Pursuant to the Law on Child Protection, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for children in HCL and the Guide for implementation of SOPs were developed with the support of the ILO's MAP 16 Project, aiming at protection, including timely and appropriate identification of children, Kosovar or foreigners or stateless persons, from all types of child labour and exploitation, whether or not related to organized crime (Republic of Kosovo, Ministry of Finance, Labor, and Transfers, n.d.). In accordance with Article 5 of the ILO Convention No. 182, the SOP defines and clarifies the roles and operating procedures of institutions for the prevention, identification, data collection, referral and treatment of children involved in hazardous child labour (HCL).

The Law on Child Protection also stipulates issuance of a sub-legal act that regulates prevention and prohibition of hazardous child labour. In this regard, the **Administrative Instruction GRK no. 05/2013 on Prevention and Prohibition of Hazardous Child Labour (HCL)** in Kosovo is being updated, also with the support of the MAP 16 Project. The first version of the HCL List in Kosovo was prepared with the support of the ILO during 2005–07 (deriving from the Labour Law) and entered into force legally as a Government Administrative Instruction on Prevention and Elimination of the Hazardous Forms of Children Labour in Kosovo (AI 17/2008). It included: (a) hazardous sectors; and (b) generic hazardous activities that should be prohibited as a matter of priority. In 2013, the AI 17/2008 was replaced by Administrative Instruction GRK no. 05/2013, updating the list of hazardous activities.

General hazardous activities (applicable to each sector) include:

- night shift (between 20:00 and 6:00).
- occasional lifting and carrying of heavy weights over 15 kg (male) and 10 kg (female).
- continuous lifting and carrying of heavy weights over 10 kg (male) and 5 kg (female).
- work in depth, under the surface of the earth, under water and closed places.
- work at heights over 2 metres.
- work that may cause harm to the child's health due to exposure to extreme high or low temperatures, or to noise and vibration.
- exposure to biological, chemical and toxic substances and exposure to radioactivity.

Sectors for immediate prohibition, including specific hazardous activities for each sector, are described below:

- Agriculture, encompassing tasks such as irrigation, operation of agricultural machinery, or handling pesticides, engaging in harvesting and threshing activities, as well as physically demanding work in fields such as digging holes for afforestation and wood cutting. Additionally, activities in slaughterhouses, meat processing facilities, hunting, collection of forest fruits, tree harvesting, greenhouse tasks, and beekeeping are also prohibited.
- Street work, involving goods loading, vehicle fender cleaning, hand barrow transportation, begging, and selling items like tobacco, is another hazardous area for young individuals.
- Construction, including soil excavation, heavy load transportation, sifting sand and cement, scaffolding, and metal processing.
- Exploitation of natural assets through surface excavation activities such as coal, sand, and stone digging and exploitation.
- Work in the landfills**,** including digging and collection from dumpsites or containers, as well as transportation over long distances.

Building on the HCL List, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD), with the support of the ILO's MAP 16 Project, has published "Hazardous Child Labour in Agriculture and Forestry: Guide for Municipal Advisors on Agriculture and Rural Development" (MAFRD 2022). Amongst other things, the Guide outlines the hazardous activities that should not be performed by children, the associated risks and their potential impact on the health and development of the child for each agricultural activity. Moreover, the Forest Law includes a specific clause on prohibition of hazardous work for children under 18 years of age in the forestry sector (Article 52, point 5) (Republic of Kosovo 2013).

Considering the above, the only element related to child labour that is not regulated by the legal framework in Kosovo is the general conditions for performing light work for children below minimum employment age, limiting the opportunity to tap into the potential of young individuals and ensure that if they do engage in work, it is safe and light, posing no risk to their development.

Regarding policies for child protection, the **Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2019–2023)** focuses at safeguarding the rights of children, which includes measures to prevent, protect, and reintegrate children who are engaged in dangerous forms of child labour such as street work and underground ore extraction (Republic of Kosovo 2019c). Under its Strategic Objective 5: "Improving a child's health, protection and well-being in order to achieve their full potential", the specific objective 5.1 explicitly focuses on prevention, protection and reintegration of children involved in hazardous child labour. Activities foreseen to be implemented in the action plan 2019–2022 for implementation of this strategy were to a large extent implemented, mainly with the support of the ILO's MAP 16 Project.

Concerning agriculture policies, Kosovo has recently adopted the **Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2022–2028**, which outlines a comprehensive plan to address various challenges in the agricultural and rural sectors. Of particular importance is Strategic Objective 3, which aims to promote employment, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including sustainable forestry development. The strategy combines support schemes, infrastructure projects and institutional reforms, aligning with environmental and climatic commitments. The annual programmes of the MAFRD for direct payments to farmers, and for subsidies, derive from this strategy and, as of 2022, these programmes explicitly state that direct payments are to be made in conjunction with directives resulting from the Labour Law, Child Protection Law, and Administrative Instruction on Hazardous Child Labour. This indicates that the direct payments should be aligned with the specified prohibitions for protection of children from hazardous work in agriculture. However, the strategy does not particularly promote employment of young persons (under 18 years of age) in rural areas.

The **Strategic Plan for the Agriculture and Rural Development Advisory System 2023–2027** was also recently adopted, recognizing the necessity to incorporate a specific module on HCL in agricultural and forestry within the training curriculum for farmers. This module will ensure that comprehensive training on HCL in agriculture and forestry is extended to farmers as a standard component of their overall training programme.

There is, however, an absence of non-formal education programmes and promotion of employment. The legal framework lacks provisions concerning collaborative initiatives among schools, farmers and labour inspection authorities to provide educational and training programmes. Such programmes would target both farmers and children, aiming to enhance awareness within families regarding hazardous work, and promoting light work. Simultaneously, these initiatives would also function as a monitoring mechanism and promote cooperation among various institutions.

3

Prevalence and characteristics of child labour in Kosovo: Available data

Child labour remains a concerning, widespread phenomenon in Kosovo as well as around the world. Even globally, agriculture remains the sector in which child labour is most pronounced, with over 70 per cent of child labourers or 112 million children worldwide (ILO and UNICEF 2021).

Although there are currently no publicly accessible data regarding child labour among those aged 15 years and younger, findings from the 2022 Labour Force Survey in Kosovo indicate that 5 per cent of youth aged 15 to 19 are actively employed. Further analysis disaggregated by sex reveals that 7 per cent of young men within this age group are engaged in employment, while a lower proportion (2.8 per cent) of young women in the same age group are employed (Republic of Kosovo, KAS 2022).

According to the latest data on child labour in Kosovo, 5 per cent of children aged 5 to 17 years were involved in child labour.(Republic of Kosovo, KAS, and UNICEF 2020 – MICS 2020).[3]

If the data also consider exposure to hazardous working conditions of children's economic and household activities (another indicator used by the MICS survey – MICS6), child labour prevalence is at 9.3 per cent of children aged 5 to 17 (34,467). The most common risks to which children are exposed are extreme temperatures, humidity, dust, and gases. A recent ILO analysis of MICS data on child labour in Kosovo (ILO 2022) revealed that a typical scenario of a child engaged in child labour in Kosovo depicts a 12- to 14-year-old boy from among the poorest households residing in the rural areas of Ferizaj or Gjilan. Conversely, within the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, a common profile of child labour involves a boy aged 5 to 11 from the second poorest rural households. Notably, around 96 per cent of children aged 5 to 14 and 92 per cent of those aged 15 to 17 attend school in Kosovo. Only 1 per cent of children aged 5 to 14 and 2 per cent of those aged 15 to 17 are exclusively occupied in economic activities.

However, the situation drastically worsens for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children, where approximately 23 per cent of those aged 5 to 14 and 57 per cent of those aged 15 to 17 are not enrolled in school. Most of the latter group are also not engaged in work. Children in households falling within the lowest wealth index quintile exhibit a higher tendency for child labour compared to their counterparts, although the link between material deprivation and child labour is less straightforward. Conversely, in the case of children from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, the relationship between household wealth, material deprivation and child labour is more complex. In terms of work intensity, children involved in child labour dedicate an average of 10.3 hours per week to work in Kosovo. In contrast, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children surpass the national average by nearly double, spending 18.6 hours per week on work. As children grow older, the intensity and duration of child labour, as well as participation in household chores, tend to increase. Notably, girls are significantly more involved in household chores than boys, and their involvement spans longer hours**.**

The findings also attest to the harmful effect of child labour on children's educational progress, as well as to the association of child labour with a decrease in the probability of having foundational reading and numeracy skills (at 6.7 per cent for each).

Findings from the MICS data on child labour confirm the anecdotal data from a series of direct meetings with farmers (beneficiaries of MAFRD subsidies and grants), realized in 2012 by the Division for Human Rights and Protection against Discrimination in MAFRD.[4] The involvement of children in agricultural activities, including hazardous ones, starts mainly from the age of 11 or 12.[5] These activities involve mainly boys, with the exception of planting and harvesting fruits and vegetables, collecting and spinning grass, and partly spraying pesticides, where girls are also involved.

Table 2.1 provides an overview of hazardous activities in the agriculture and forestry sector in which children are involved, by region.

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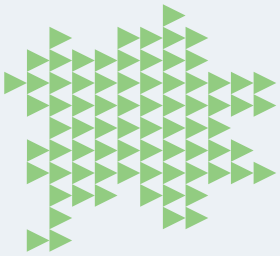
3 In line with the 20th ICLS resolution and the SDG 8.7.1 indicator, child labour is defined as children involved in economic activities or in household chores above the age-specific thresholds, i.e., age 5-11 working for 1 hours or more per week, age 12-14 working for 14 or more hours per week, age 15-17 working for 43 or more hours per week, age 5-14 carrying out household chore for 21 or more hours per week . While the concept of child labour includes exposure to hazardous working conditions, the present definition, which is also used for SDG reporting, does not include children who are working under hazardous conditions.

4 The meetings were organized in cooperation with the Department of Advisory Services and the Regional Offices of MAFRD, with technical and financial support from the ILO.

5 The total number of participants in these consultations was 159, of which: 103 farmers (21 in the region of Pejë, 17 in the region of Gjilan, 19 in the region of Prizren, 28 in the region of Mitrovicë, 9 in the region of Ferizaj and 9 in the region of Prishtinë), 39 representatives of the Municipal Departments of Agriculture (4 in the region of Pejë, 8 in the region of Gjilan, 4 in the region of Prizren, 10 in the region of Ferizaj and 13 in the region of Prishtinë), 17 representatives of the Regional Offices of MAFRD (3 in the region of Pejë, 4 in the region of Gjilan, 3 in the region of Prizren, 2 in the region of Mitrovicë, 3 in the region of Ferizaj and 2 in the region of Prishtinë).

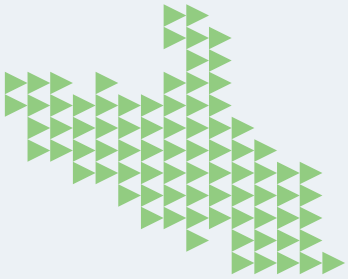
▶Table 2.1. Hazardous agricultural activities carried out by children, by region

Prishtinë



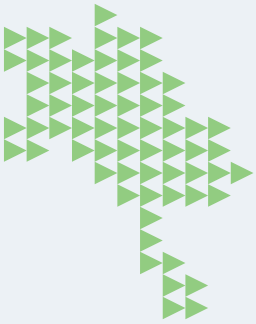
- Harvesting work
- Work with pesticides
- Work with agricultural machinery (rotary mower, moto cultivator, tractor and mowers)
- Harvesting forest fruits
- Seed unloading (lifting heavy weights)
- Filling and transporting water reservoirs (mechanically along the rivers and lakes) over long distances
- Cleaning the stables

Pejë



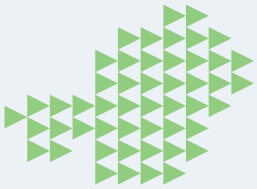
- Work with pesticides
- Work with agricultural machinery
- Harvesting work
- Cutting and processing wood
- Harvesting forest fruits
- Harvesting and packaging of fruits and vegetables for extended periods of time

Gjilan



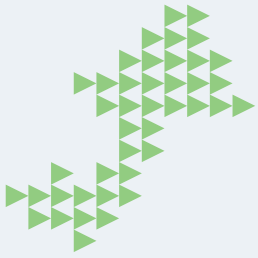
- Work with pesticides
- Work with agricultural machinery
- Harvesting work
- Cleaning herbs and picking vegetables in greenhouses
- Harvesting and packaging of fruits and vegetables for extended periods of time
- Grazing the livestock in unsuitable terrains
- Cleaning the stables

Ferizaj



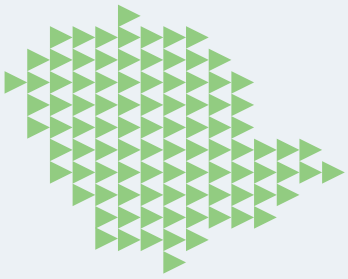
- Grazing the livestock;
- Operation with agricultural machinery;
- Work with pesticides
- Harvesting – threshing work
- Cutting and processing wood

Mitrovicë



- Work with pesticides
- Work with agricultural machinery
- Harvesting-threshing work
- Cutting down trees
- Grazing the livestock in unsuitable terrains
- Cleaning the stables
- Cleaning the weeds and picking vegetables in greenhouses
- Harvesting forest fruits without adult care

Prizren



- Work with pesticides
- Work with agricultural machinery
- Harvesting work
- Cutting down trees
- Grazing the livestock in unsuitable terrains
- Cleaning the stables
- Harvesting and packaging of fruits and vegetables for extended periods of time
- Rotation and collection of grass

Source: Republic of Kosovo, MAFRD 2022.

The same report of the MAFRD (2022a) indicates some regional specifics regarding the involvement of children in hazardous agricultural activities, which include the following:

- In the region of Pejë, children are mostly engaged in forestry (cutting, transportation) as well as in the use of agricultural machinery.
- The region of Prizren is characterized by the engagement of children in vineyards and greenhouses, in the use of chemicals (pesticides and herbicides), and carrying heavy weights (especially in the period of harvesting-threshing), as well as the use of agricultural machinery.
- In the region of Prishtinë, due to the lack of drinking water, children are endangered when filling water tanks for both family and animal use.
- In municipalities bordering on neighbour countries, children are also used to smuggle animals.

Farmers state several reasons for engaging children in hazardous work, including lack of awareness of the hazards and consequences of such activities, difficult economic conditions of families, lack of agricultural machinery to replace child labour, the family nature of agricultural activities, and the lack of non-formal education programmes, sports and recreational activities to engage children out of school. The parcellation of land and the lack of organization of farmers at the village level or beyond, as well as the lack of supervision of working conditions and workers' profiles, are other factors contributing to children's involvement in hazardous agricultural work (Republic of Kosovo, MAFRD 2022).

Despite the prevalence of child labour in the agricultural sector in Kosovo, there is no established mechanism for collecting and analysing data on work-related accidents and occupational diseases, for adults and children alike (ILO 2021). The General Measure of Implementation (GMI) of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, under measure 4, strongly advocates for the utilization of diverse methodologies of both qualitative and quantitative data. These methodologies may entail direct engagement with children through structured interviews to elicit their perspectives and insights. Nevertheless, it is imperative to underscore that the process should not conclude with mere data collection; rather, there should be a rigorous evaluation of the collected information and the data should be made public, with the resultant findings serving as a significant driver in shaping policy initiatives (CRIN, n.d.). Having systematic data collection in place that is made available to the public would contribute toward the well-being of children and capture exposure to hazardous work in agricultural environments.

Kosovo already has a system in place to collect data on the number of employees for every registered farmer. However, this does not include collecting data on the ages of employed individuals, and hence employed children/teenagers are never captured. Asking for ages of employees can be a starting point of quantifying the presence of child labour in agriculture in a systematic manner.

4

Rapid assessment on child labour in agriculture: Key findings from quantitative and qualitative research

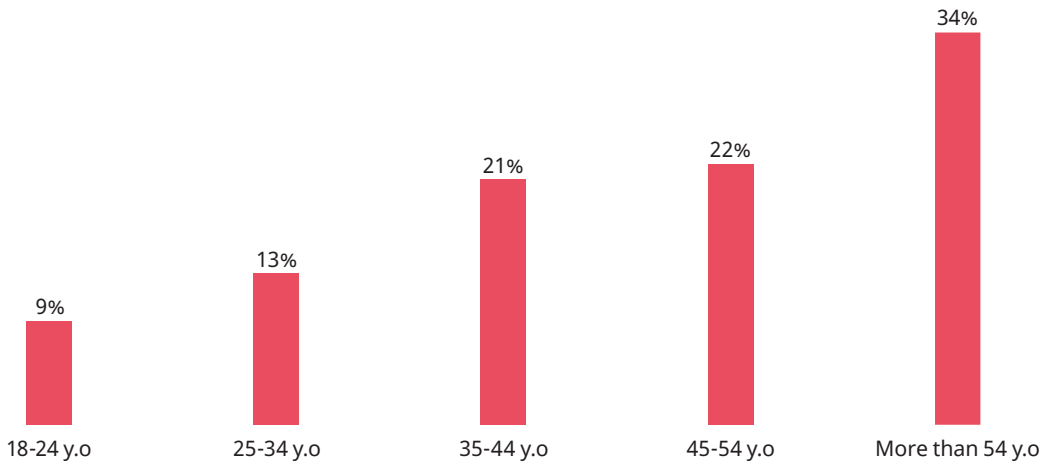
The following sections provide details based on data gathered from the survey, key informant interviews (KII), and focus group discussions (FGD). Initially, it outlines the characteristics of the participants involved in the survey, and then explores household agricultural activities in greater detail. Lastly, it specifically highlights randomly chosen children's agricultural engagement, drawing insights from both quantitative and qualitative data.

4.1 Demographic profile of respondents

Regarding the gender distribution of respondents, the survey showed that 43 per cent of the participants identified as women, while 57 per cent identified as men. Notably, it's important to mention that the respondents might not have necessarily been the head of their households since the selection of participants was based on the "last birthday" method.

When considering the age distribution of respondents, the survey revealed that 34 per cent of participants were aged 54 years and older. The next largest age group was 35–44 years, accounting for 22 per cent of the respondents. Those aged 45–54 years represented 21 per cent of the participants, while the age group 25–34 years constituted 13 per cent of respondents. Lastly, individuals aged 18–24 years made up 9 per cent of the survey participants (see figure 4.1).

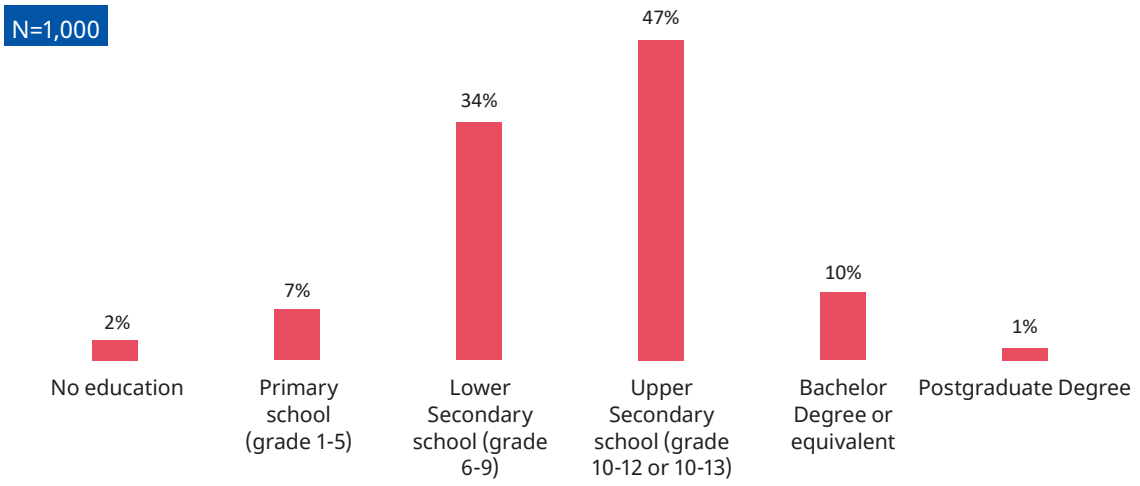
▶ **Figure 4.1. Age of respondents**



In terms of ethnicity, 98 per cent of respondents were Albanians, followed by 2 per cent Bosnians. Other communities including Serbs, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians were not captured in this report, perhaps attributable to the methodology of data collection.

When considering educational background, postgraduate degree holders represent a minority at 1 per cent, indicating a small but highly educated segment of the population; at the other extreme, 2 per cent of respondents reported having no formal education. Primary school education (grades 1–5) accounted for 7 per cent of the participants. Those holding a bachelor's degree or equivalent made up 10 per cent of respondents, suggesting a significant number of graduates. Lower secondary school education (grades 6–9) comprised a substantial portion at 34 per cent, demonstrating a sizable base of individuals with intermediate-level education. Lastly, 47 per cent of respondents, had completed their upper secondary education (grades 10–12 or 10–13), as shown in figure 4.2.

▶ **Figure 4.2. Education level of respondents**

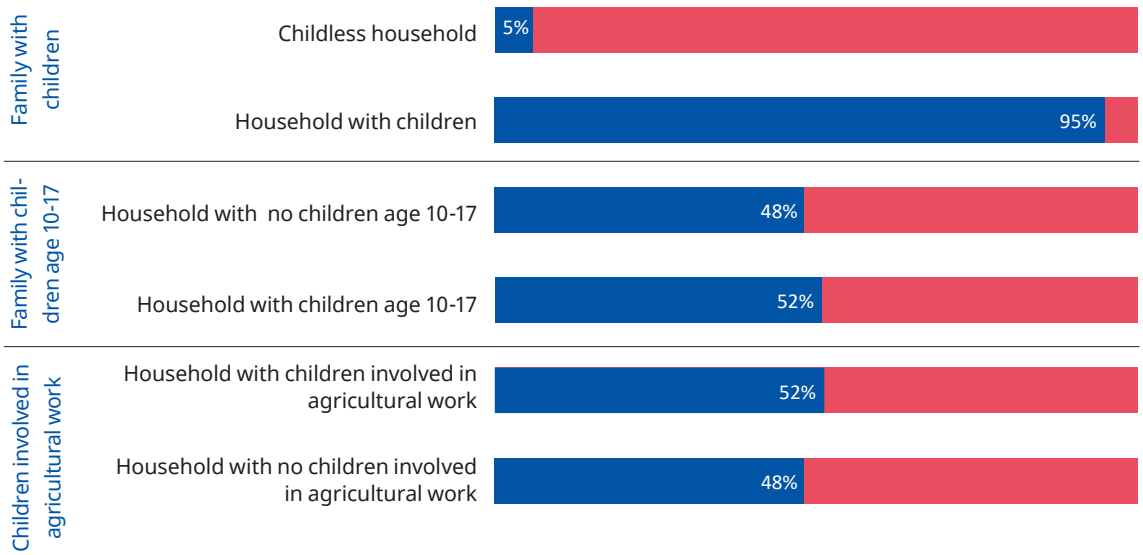


Regionally, 23 per cent of the sample were from Prishtinë, followed by Gjakovë (17 per cent), Prizren (14 per cent), Mitrovicë (14 per cent), Pejë (11 per cent), Ferizaj (11 per cent), and Gjilan (10 per cent).

In terms of marital status, 82 per cent of the sample were married, 14 per cent were single, and 4 per cent were widowed. There were no divorced individuals among the sample. Additionally, 86 per cent of respondents reported that they had children of their own.

However, when considering the household as a unit rather than the respondent alone, 95 per cent of households reported to have children, out of which 516 (52 per cent) reported having children between the ages 10 and 17. This last information is especially crucial for the third module of the study which focuses on randomly selected children's agricultural involvement within the household or farm (figure 4.3).

▶ **Figure 4.3. Household composition: Number of children**



4.2 Information on household agricultural activity

The objective of the module was to gain insights into the various agricultural activities taking place within households. This involved examining the type of farm they operated, the crops they cultivated, whether they received government grants, the amount of time spent working, and other relevant factors.

In general, findings from this portion reveal that a substantial 68 per cent of respondents are involved in agricultural activities, which, intriguingly, primarily serve the purpose of providing sustenance for their families. An overwhelming 85 per cent of individuals practising subsistence farming rely primarily on salaries or wages, generated outside of agricultural work, as their main source of income. This aligns with the essence of subsistence farming, where farming is primarily intended for family consumption rather than generating income through sales, and those who practise it have to rely on other full-time or part-time employment for income generation.

The role of financial support in agricultural development is apparent, as families receiving aid, whether from the Ministry of Agriculture, their municipality, or both, are more inclined to invest in livestock. Furthermore, if households received financial support, they were substantially more likely to generate income from agricultural activities (79 per cent) compared to those without such support (45 per cent).

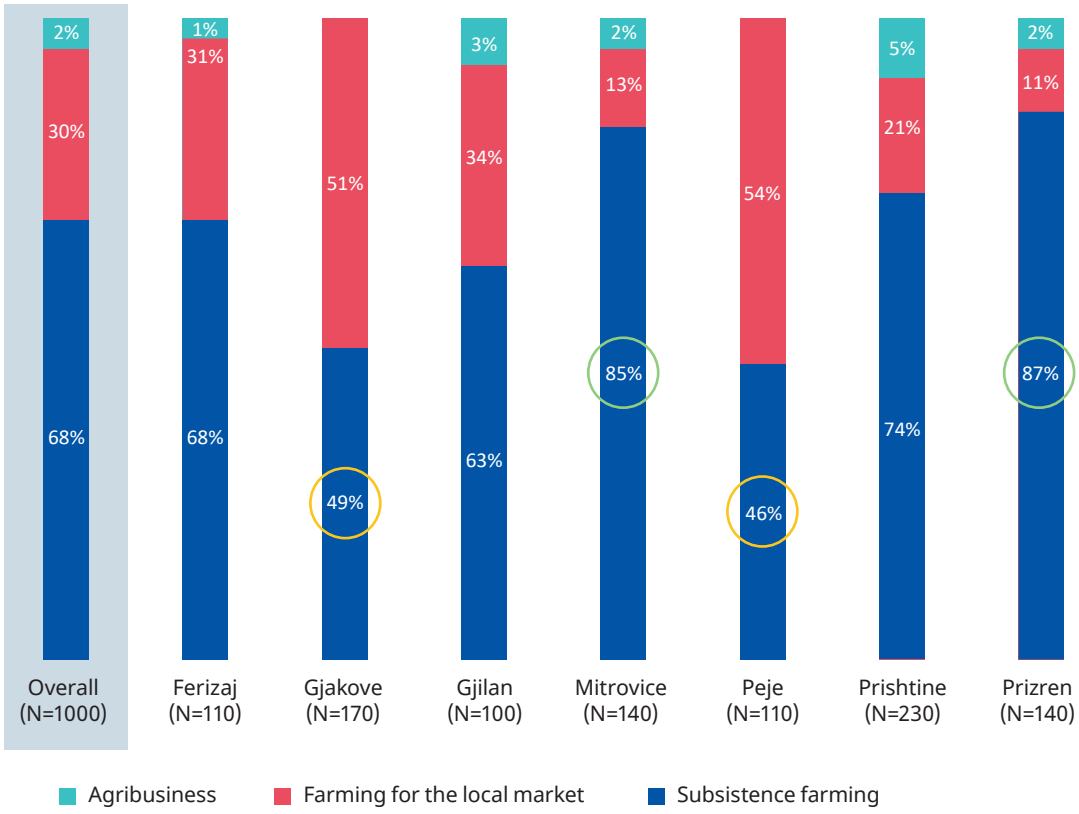
However, a striking revelation is that a significant portion of the sample, approximately 70 per cent, did not receive any financial assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture or their municipality. Families engaged in subsistence farming were particularly less likely to benefit from such support, potentially attributable to a lack of awareness about existing grants.

Moreover, when respondents were prompted to detail the specific tasks involved in cultivating plant crops and the involvement of children and adolescents in these tasks, a concerning pattern emerged. A substantial 78 per cent of the overall sample reported that children and adolescents primarily engage in planting and tending to crops, with 73 per cent involved in harvesting, and 72 per cent in irrigating crops. Alarmingly, 10 per cent reported that children and adolescents operate farm machinery, and 14 per cent stated that they also apply pesticides or fertilizers. This practice is more prevalent in the regions of Gjilan and Ferizaj, where 44 and 36 per cent of minors, respectively, engage in such tasks, raising significant concerns about child labour and safety in agricultural activities.

4.2.1 Types of agricultural activity and main sources of income

Figure 4.4 shows the type of household agricultural activities, in an overall level as well as disaggregated by region. As observed, overall, 68 per cent of respondents engage in agricultural activities which provides enough food for the farmer and their family, but not enough for them to sell; this is defined as subsistence farming (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.). In the survey, subsistence farming was defined as: "farming that is primarily focused on producing enough food for the family's own consumption, with little or no surplus for sale". Only 30 per cent engage in farming activities for the local market, selling only to community farmer markets or locally, whereas only 2 per cent have agribusinesses (as defined in the Cambridge Dictionary), engaged in producing, preparing, and selling farm products, both locally and regionally. When observing the same variable regionally, Gjakovë (49 per cent) and Pejë (46 per cent) are less likely to engage in subsistence farming than Mitrovicë (85 per cent) and Prizren (87 per cent). So, while households in Gjakovë and Pejë are more likely to produce for the local markets, those in Prizren and Mitrovicë engage in agricultural activities mostly to support the well-being of their own family.

▶ Figure 4.4. Household agricultural activity, overall and by region



Findings from qualitative data also concurs with those presented by survey data. Stakeholders in Mitrovicë, for example, pointed out that in Kosovo in general and Mitrovicë specifically, agriculture is mostly for subsistence needs:

Mostly, agriculture in this region is for personal needs, a small part was for selling, but now, due to poverty, they hardly have anything ready, and there is no one left. People have started to go into agriculture branches with more profit. – (Focus group participant with other stakeholders in Mitrovicë)

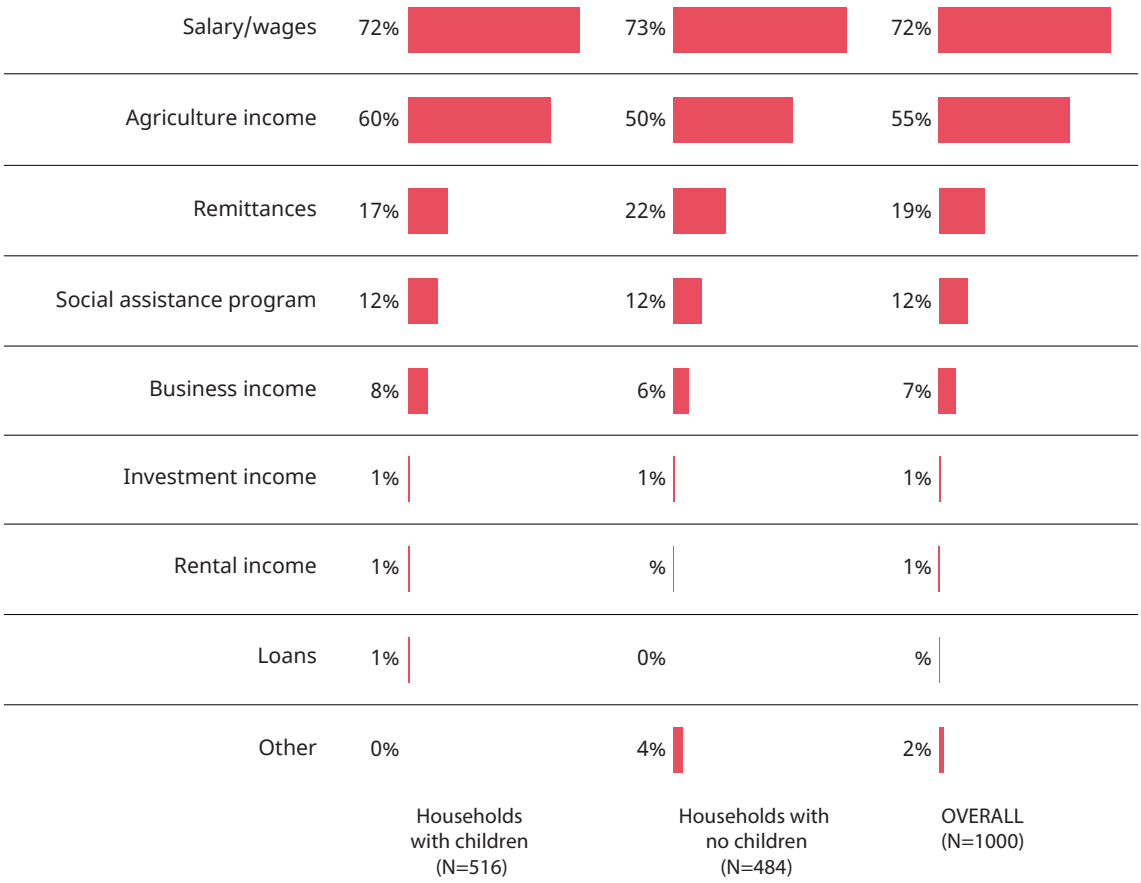
In terms of primary sources of income, 72 per cent of the entire sample depends on salary/wages, with agricultural income following closely at 55 per cent. Remittances account for 19 per cent of the income, while social assistance programmes contribute 12 per cent with other sources making up the remainder. Interestingly, the regions of Pejë, Gjilan, and Prizren stand out as the top three areas with the highest reported agricultural income, suggesting that these regions rely more on generating income through agricultural production compared to others (figure 4.5).

▶ Figure 4.5. Main sources of income, overall and by region

*overall N exceeds 1,000 due to multiple selection type of question

Furthermore, as illustrated in figure 4.6, 72 per cent of the individuals surveyed mention receiving financial assistance in the form of salary or wages. Among those with children aged between 10 and 17 years old who are engaged in agricultural work, 72 per cent rely on salary and wages for support, while among those without children in that age group, 73 per cent primarily depend on salary and wages for their financial sustenance. Moreover, households with children aged 10–17 are more likely (60 per cent) to receive agricultural income than those without children of those ages (50 per cent). This can be due to the contribution of the work provided by children, leading to families engaging in more production, selling beyond the subsistence level, and generating solid levels of income from agriculture alone.

▶ Figure 4.6. Main sources of income, and households with/ without children aged 10–17 years old

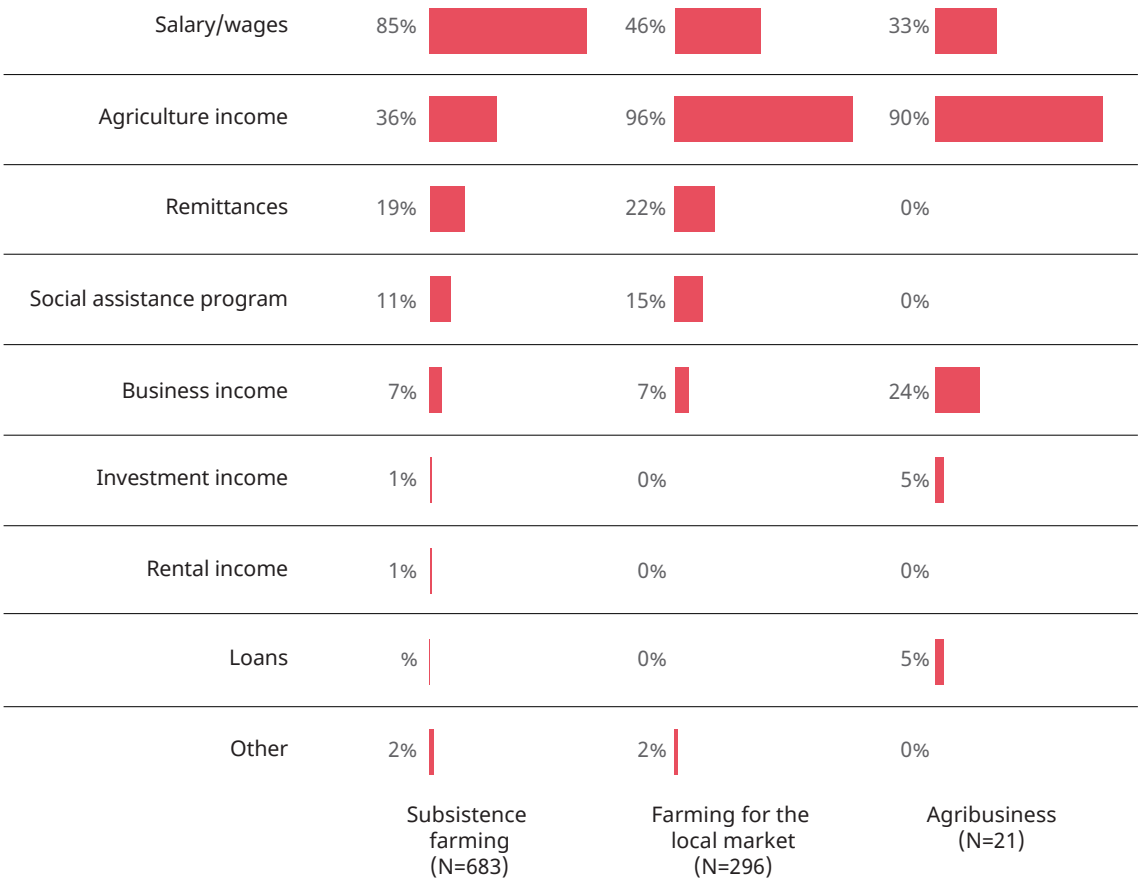


Additionally, if households received financial support, they were more likely to generate income from agricultural activities (79 per cent) as compared to those who did not receive such support (45 per cent). This leads to the understanding that financial support is crucial in propelling agricultural income, possibly driven by the presence of livestock as elaborated in the findings below.

Figure 4.7 presents the types of farming and main sources of income relied on by these farmers. A total of 85 percent of individuals belonging to families in subsistence agriculture rely on external paid work as main source of income. It is worth recalling that agriculture in Kosovo is dominated by subsistence farming due to small plot sizes (less than 3 hectares) and a lack of mechanisation skills and technical expertise (USAID 2016), resulting in low productivity. Against this background, the survey results might point to the need to integrate the family income with a paid work outside agriculture. However, information is not sufficient to confirm this interpretation as the opposite could be true, i.e., salaries/wages are not sufficient to meet the family need pushing families to involve in subsistence farming.

Conversely, among those who both farm and sell their produce in the local market, 96 per cent of their income comes from agricultural activities as their primary source of earnings, as highlighted by the graph below whereby "agricultural income" rather than "salaries/wages" accounts for most of the income generated.

▶ Figure 4.7. Types of agricultural activity and main sources of income

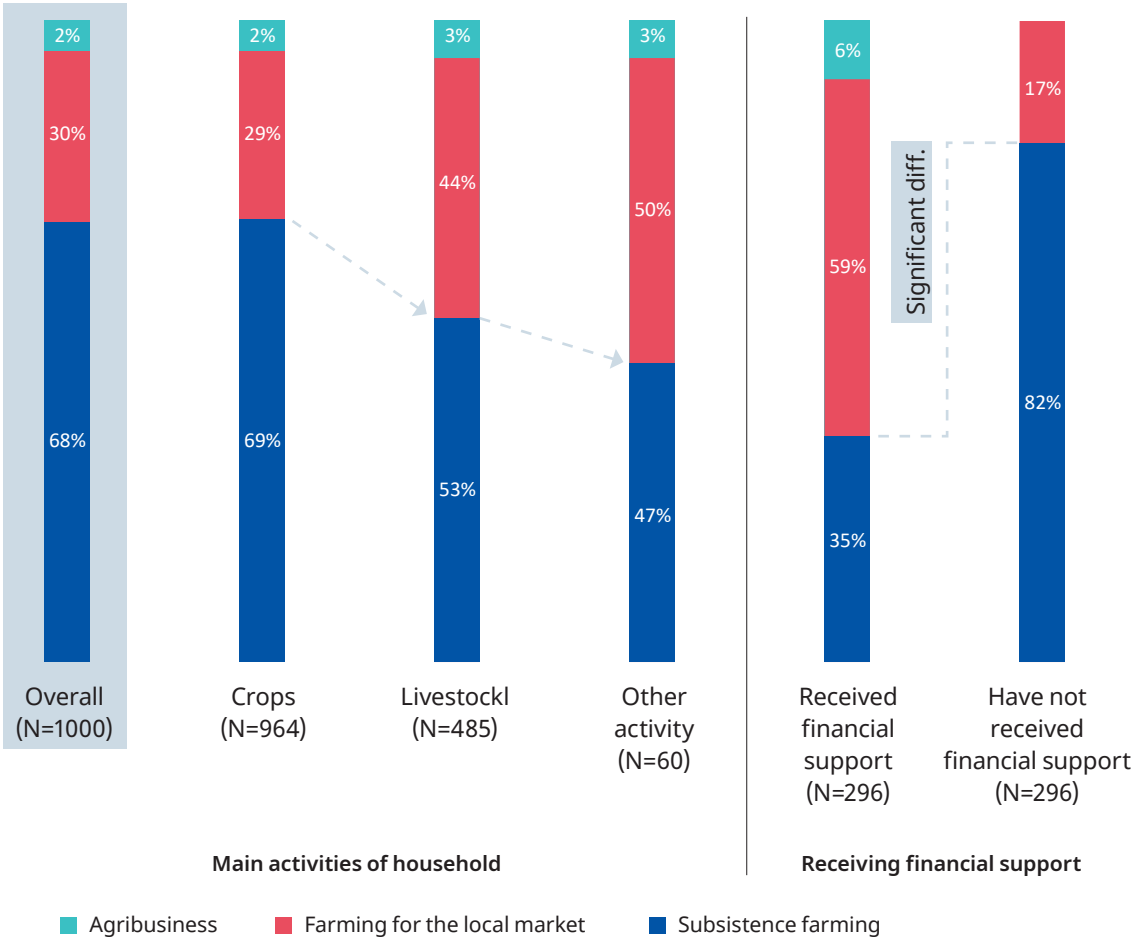


Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

When analysing the types of goods families cultivate, it can be observed that among those that cultivate crops, most families are engaged in subsistence farming (69 per cent) whereas 29 per cent of families that sell to the local market are engaged in crop production. Out of all families that have livestock, 53 per cent are from subsistence farms, 44 per cent from farming for the local market, and 3 per cent from agribusinesses (figure 4.8). In other words, families practising subsistence farming, which involves farming solely for their own consumption without selling in the market, are less inclined to diversify their cultivation and are more likely to focus solely on crop production.

Moreover, it is interesting to note that families engaged in subsistence farming are less likely to have received financial support in forms of subsidies through grants and/or direct payments either from the Ministry of Agriculture, their respective municipality, or both, with only 35 per cent of them reporting receiving such assistance. This significant difference suggests a correlation between the type of farming and the likelihood of receiving support, indicating that families engaged in farming for the local market are more likely to have received financial assistance.

▶ Figure 4.8. Type of agricultural activity, main types of cultivation, and financial support



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

In terms of types of agricultural activity, 97 per cent of those that engage in subsistence farming cultivate plants crops, followed by 38 per cent that raise/take care of livestock (figure 4.9). These results are similar for farming for the local markets and agribusinesses.

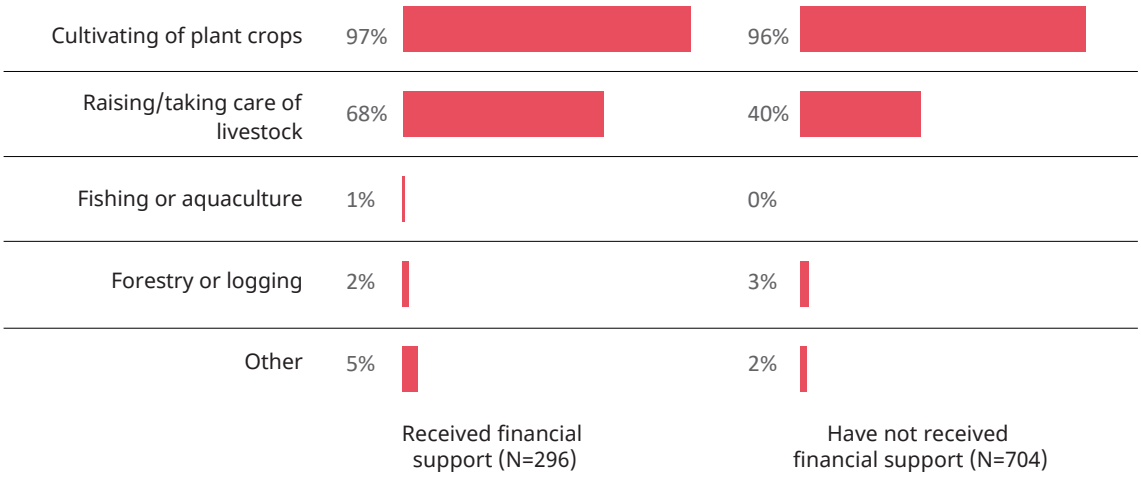
▶ Figure 4.9. Types of cultivation, by agricultural activity

Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

Analysing the types of cultivation by region reveals that the majority of the regions rely on cultivation of plant crops, followed by raising/taking care of livestock (figure 4.10). Fishing and aquaculture, and forestry/logging, are less frequent agricultural activities (apart from Gjilan where 13 per cent of the sample engages in forestry or logging). Pejë (88 per cent), Gjakovë (62 per cent) and Gjilan (54 per cent) are more likely to raise and/or take care of livestock than the other regions.

It is also worth noting that families that had received financial support (either from the MAFRD or at the municipality level) are more likely to also invest in raising/taking care of livestock than those who have not. For example, 68 per cent of the sample that have received financial support reported having engaged in raising/taking care of livestock as compared to 40 per cent of those who had not received any financial support. This could be attributed to the higher financial means available to those that receive financial support enabling them to invest these resources in buying livestock.

▶ Figure 4.10. Types of cultivation, by financial support



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

Findings from FGD also reveal that households are mainly engaged in planting of vegetables/cultivation of crops and raising/taking care of livestock (mainly poultry). In Gjakovë, the FGD with children aged 10–14 years old revealed that families are mostly preoccupied with these activities and often engage children in helping with these tasks.

I help my parents feed the animals, and we have a variety of fruits and vegetables in our garden. It depends on the season how much I help, but I enjoy being part of it. – (Focus group participant in the 10–14-year-old group in Gjakovë)

Findings from a FGD in Mitrovicë reveal similar results. The region is mostly engaged in farm work that involves planting of crops and/or taking care of livestock including poultry and cattle. The quotations below showcase the discussion during focus groups with children in Mitrovicë:

We have chickens, and I love to watch over them. It's like having my little farm. – (Focus group participant in the 10–14-year-old group in Mitrovicë)

I've helped with planting crops and taking care of the animals, even though it is tough sometimes. – (Focus group participant in the 15–18-year-old group in Mitrovicë)

Overall, as the findings from this section show, subsistence farming appears to be a prevalent practice, with a majority of families engaging in farming primarily for their own sustenance. On the other hand, farming for the local market and agribusiness are less common, but seems to correlate with a higher likelihood of receiving financial support, indicating potential to generate income.

The types of crops cultivated vary among the different types of farming, with subsistence farming predominantly focused on crop production. Families involved in farming for the local market show more diversity in their cultivation practices. Poultry and cattle are commonly held by households that engage in livestock farming. Moreover, the data reveals regional variations, with certain regions showing a higher reliance on specific agricultural activities. Pejë, Gjilan, and Prizren appear to have a higher emphasis on agricultural income generation, particularly through crop and livestock production.

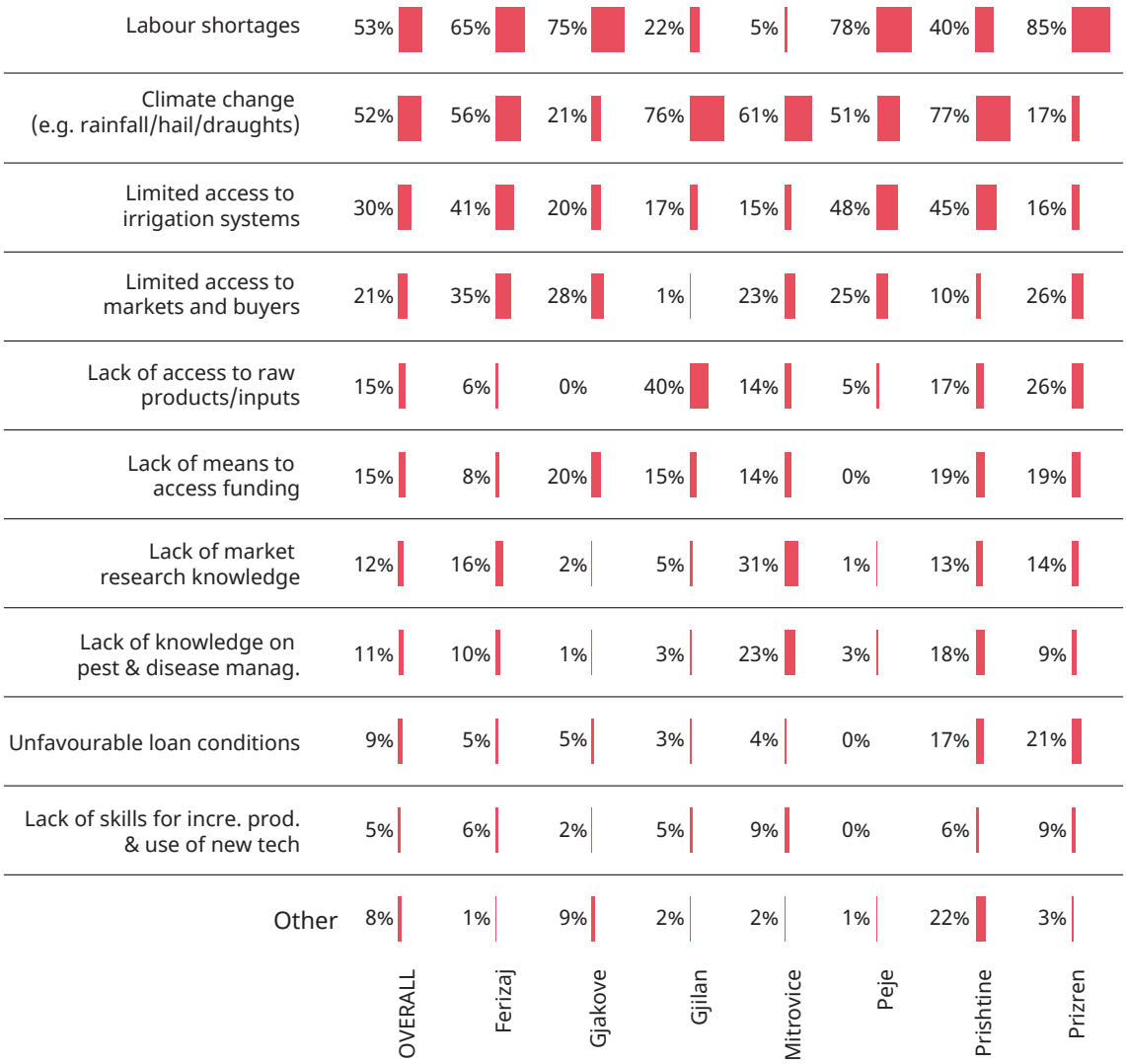
Notably, families that have received financial support tend to have a greater diversity of agricultural activities and are more likely to generate income from such activities. This underscores the importance of financial assistance in fostering sustainable agricultural income.

4.2.2 Main challenges in agricultural work

The module also considered key challenges faced by individuals engaged in agricultural work. Figure 4.11 shows the key challenges faced on an overall level as well as disaggregated by region.

For example, in an overall scale, the top three challenges include labour shortages (53 per cent), climate change (rainfall/hail/droughts) (52 per cent), and limited access to irrigation systems (30 per cent). In terms of regional analysis, labour shortages are more common in the region of Prizren (85 per cent), Pejë (78 per cent), and Gjakovë (75 per cent). Prishtinë (77 per cent) and Gjilan (76 per cent) are more likely to report climate change as a key challenge, whereas Pejë (48 per cent) and Prishtinë (45 per cent) also had a higher tendency to report limited access to irrigation systems as a main challenge.

▶Figure 4.11. Main challenges faced in agricultural activities, overall and by region

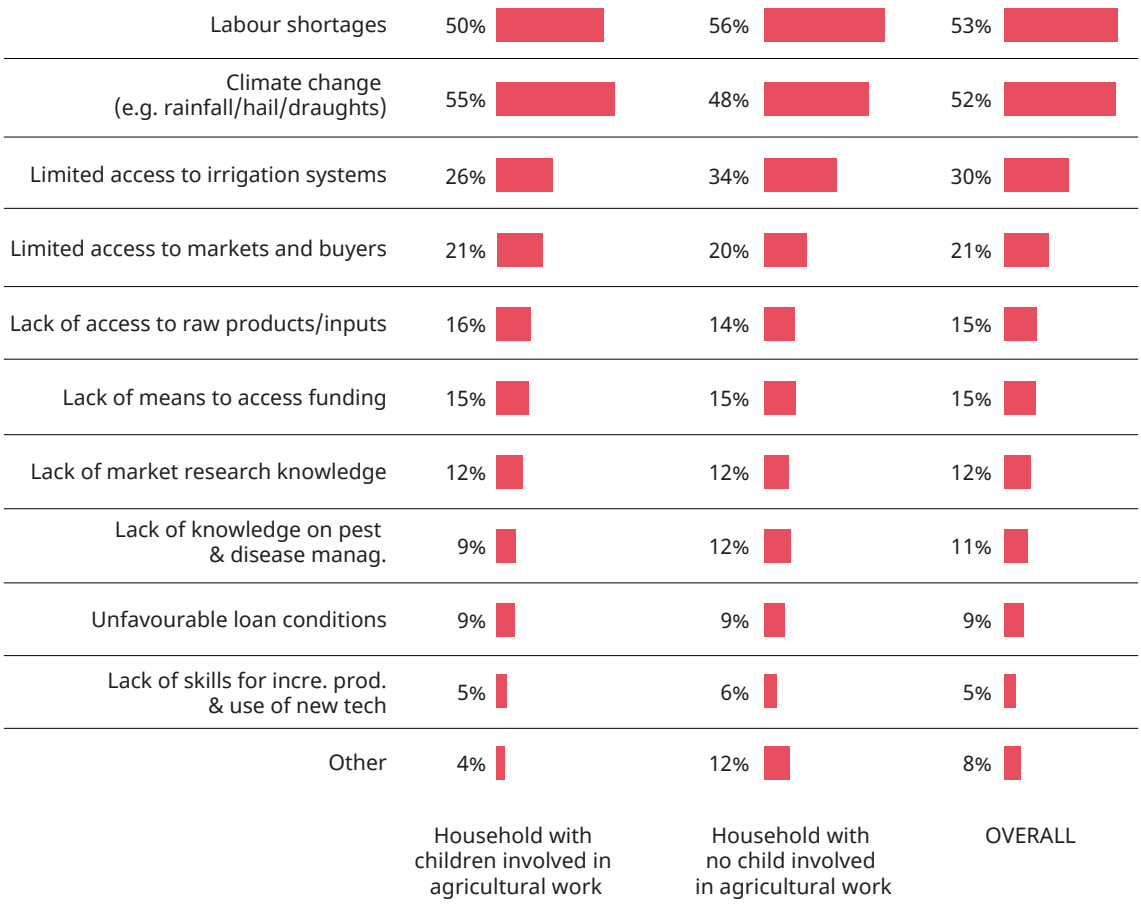


Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

When considering challenges faced by different types of farming, it is clear that results are similar. Labour shortages are reported as the biggest challenge for all three types of agricultural activities. Families engaged in agriculture/farming for the local market were also more likely to respond that they had limited access to irrigation systems (32 per cent) than those engaged in subsistence farming (28 per cent). They were also more likely to report limited access to markets and buyers as a challenge (30 per cent) than subsistence farmers (16 per cent). Due to the small sample size of agribusinesses, the data should be interpreted with caution.

Examining the data based on whether households have children between the ages of 10-17 or not, reveals that the primary challenges faced remain consistent (figure 4.12). However, there is a slight difference in labour shortages, with 56 per cent of households without children reporting this challenge compared to 50 per cent of those with children. Though the percentage gap is not significant, it suggests the possibility that families with children might be relying on children's assistance for agricultural work, potentially contributing to the observed difference.

▶Figure 4.12. Main challenges faced by households with/without children aged 10–17 years old



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

These findings align with the conclusions drawn from various FGDs. For instance, in Gjakovë, stakeholders highlighted that youth in general are becoming less interested in agricultural work. Even within families, younger members are not enthusiastic about learning agricultural tasks, as their interests lie elsewhere. This phenomenon contributes to the labour shortages in the agricultural sector. Even those who are regularly exposed to agricultural tasks lack the curiosity to pursue a career in the field:

My colleague once expressed that his 22-year-old son has no interest in land irrigation. The younger generation prefers simpler tasks that are not necessarily agriculture-related. The interest is simply not there anymore. — (Focus group participant with other stakeholders in Gjakovë)

Participants in the FGDs in Gjakovë further pointed out that they want their children to prioritize education over agriculture and attend college instead of staying home to work. Many emphasized the benefits of education in enabling a better life and opening pathways to potential international labour markets. For instance:

In the future, I hope my children have a good education that opens doors for them beyond just staying in Kosovo. – (Participant 6, focus group participant with parents in Gjakovë)

As interview findings reveal as well, labour shortages identified by farmers and in the FGDs above are well-known among relevant stakeholders and attempts are being made to raise awareness of the benefits

of working in agriculture as well as establishing programmes to reintegrate the youth in agricultural activities. To quote an interviewee from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development:

Youth employment in agriculture is supported through the Rural Development Programme, aiming to integrate young people into the workforce. — (Key informant interview with the MAFRD).

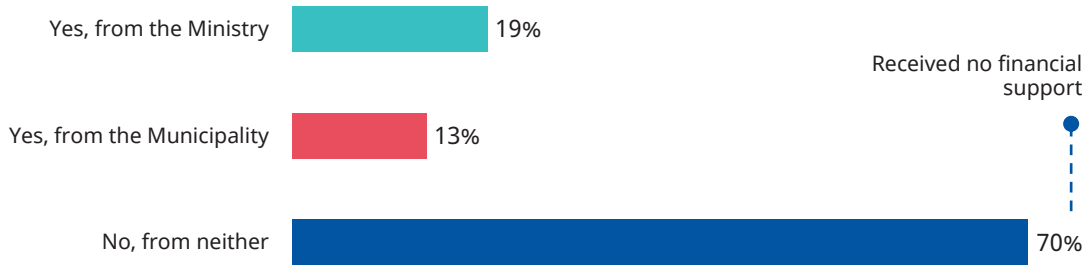
As findings from this section reveal**,** labour shortages, climate change (rainfall/hail/droughts) and limited access to irrigation systems emerge as the top three challenges on an overall scale. Regional analysis reveals variations in challenges across different areas, with labour shortages being particularly common in Prizren, Pejë and Gjakovë. Climate change is more frequently reported as a challenge in Prishtinë and Gjilan, while limited access to irrigation systems is more prevalent in Pejë and Prishtinë. When considering challenges by type of farming, labour shortages remain the primary concern for all three categories. Families engaged in agriculture/farming for the local market are more likely to encounter challenges related to limited access to irrigation systems and markets/buyers than subsistence farmers.

Notably, the presence of children between the ages of 10 and 17 in households does not significantly alter the key challenges faced. However, a slightly lower percentage of households with children report labour shortages, suggesting the possibility of children's involvement in agricultural work, potentially affecting the observed difference.

4.2.3 Types of grant/financial assistance received

The module elaborates on types of grants received by households in the sample, and the source of where these grants came from, as well as the amount of these grants. On an overall scale, 70 per cent of the sample reported that they had never received financial assistance in the form of grants or direct payments from the MAFRD or their respective municipality (figure 4.13).

▶Figure 4.13. Sources of financial assistance

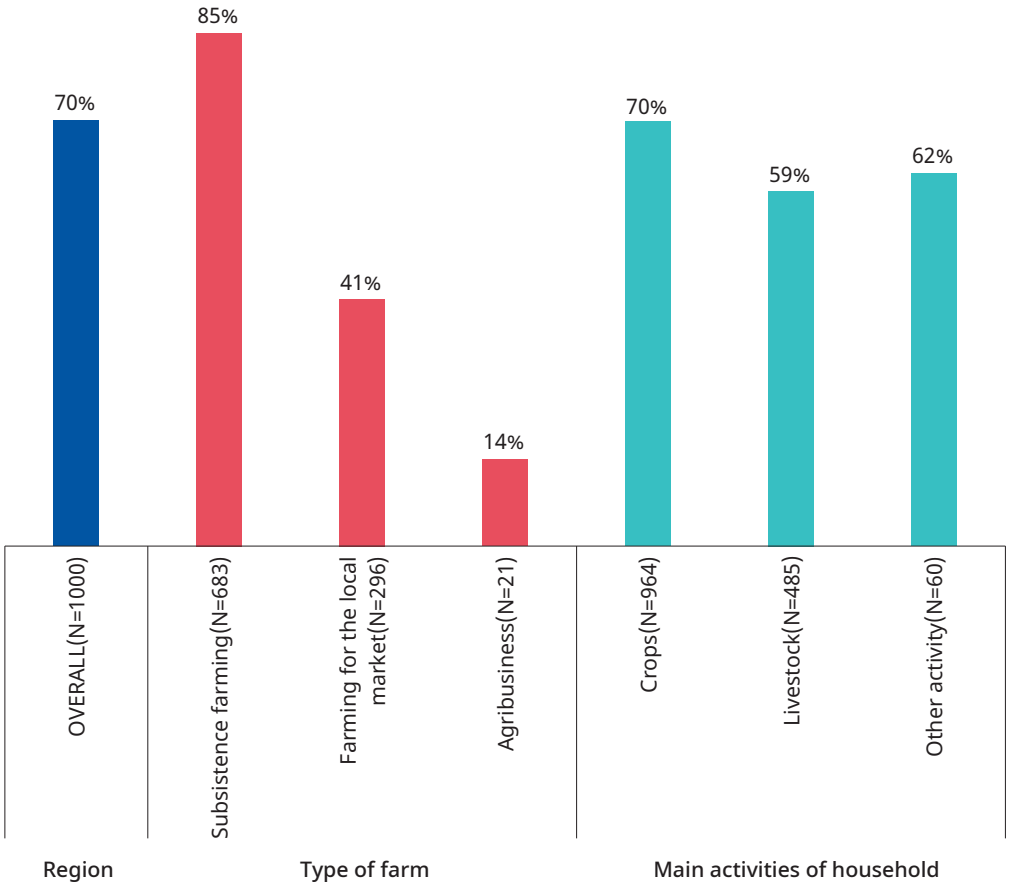


Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

In a regional scale, households from Prizren (88 per cent), Gjilan (82 per cent), Mitrovicë (75 per cent) and Ferizaj (75 per cent) were more likely to report not having received any financial support, whether from the Ministry or the municipality. Gjakovë (60 per cent) and Pejë (50 per cent) were more likely to have received such financial support than their other regional counterparts.

Additionally, when considering the same data in the light of types of farm and main types of cultivation, it appears that 85 per cent of families engaging in subsistence farming did not receive any type of financial assistance, whether from MAFRD or at the municipal level, as compared to 41 per cent of households that farm for the local market (figure 4.14). Furthermore, families cultivating crops were more likely to state that they did not receive financial assistance (70 per cent) than those involved in livestock farming (59 per cent). This finding raises concern, as the majority of families are engaged in crop production, yet the data suggest that financial assistance specifically targeting crops might be lacking.

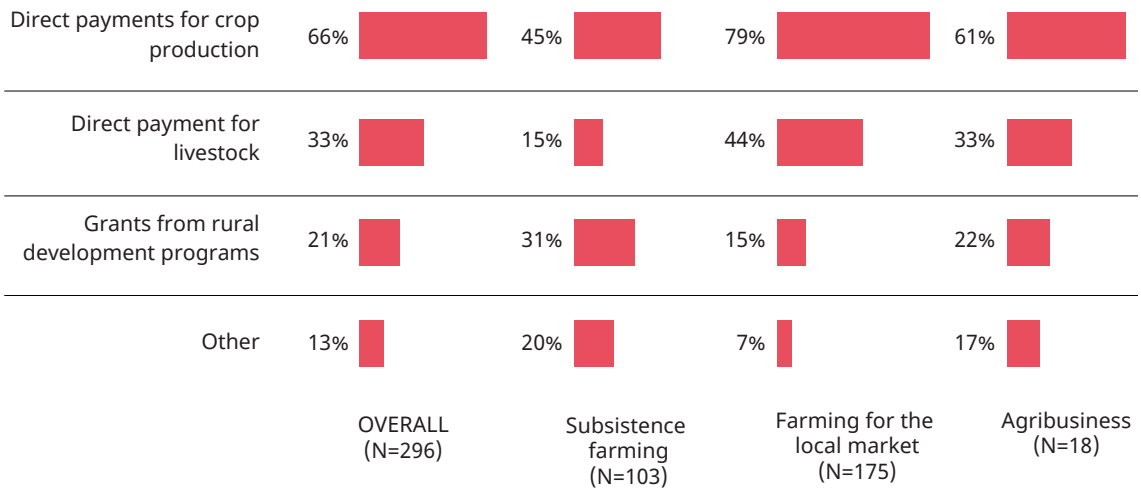
▶Figure 4.14. Financial assistance by type of farming and main types of cultivation



Note: Only answers with "No, from neither" are shown.

For families that did receive financial assistance either from MAFRD or their respective municipality (30 per cent of the sample), 66 per cent responded that they had received direct payments for crop production, followed by 33 per cent who claimed they had received direct payment for livestock, with 21 per cent reporting that they had received grants from rural development programmes (figure 4.15).

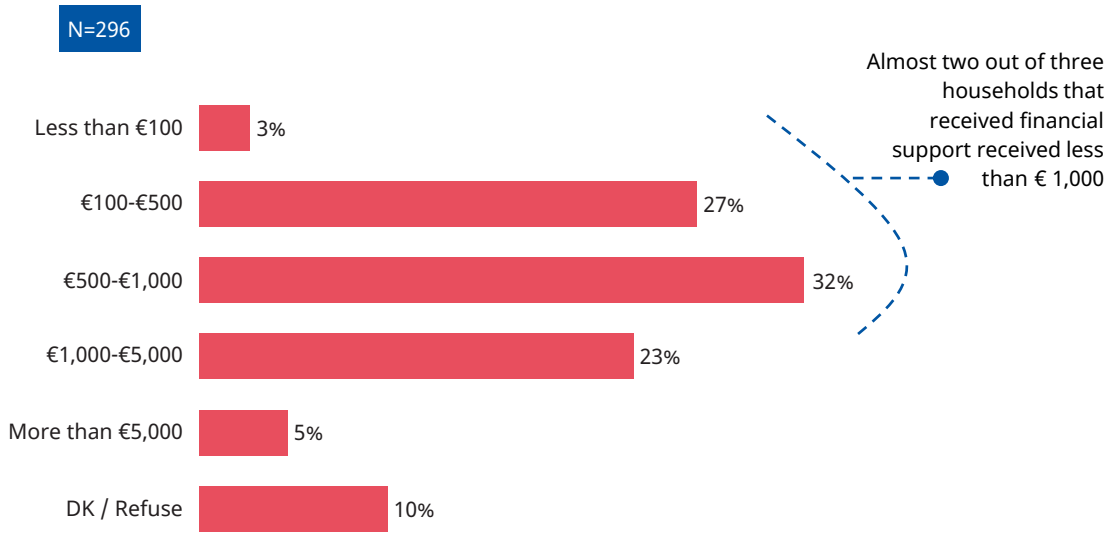
▶Figure 4.15. Types of financial assistance received



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

In terms of financial amounts received, almost two out of three households received less than €1,000 in the past year in total (figure 4.16) This small amount indicates that even among families that do receive financial support, this support is so miniscule that it does not aid their long-term agricultural sustainability.

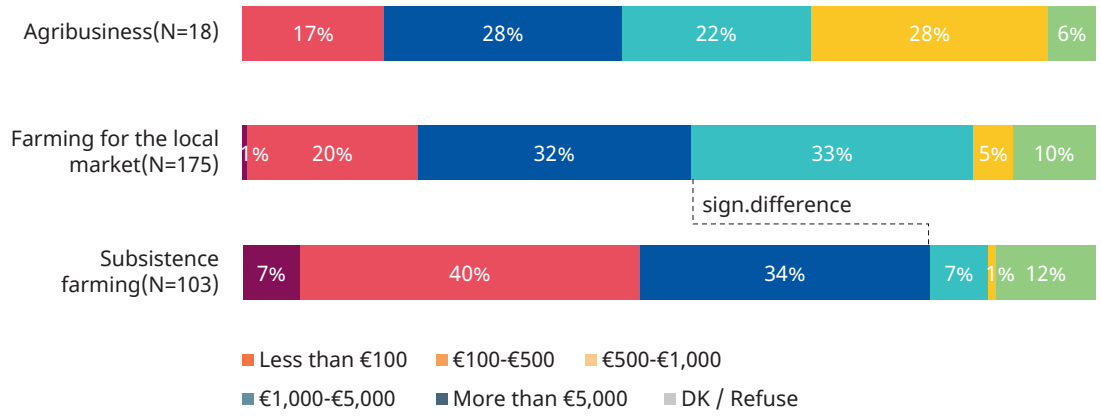
▶Figure 4.16. Financial amount received, overall sample



When analysing the data by type of farming, there is a significant difference between amounts received by families engaged in subsistence farming vs. those that farm for the local market (figure 4.17). For example, 33 per cent of households farming for the local market reported that they had received financial assistance in the amount of €1,000-5,000 over the past year, compared to only 7 per cent of the subsistence farmers. In fact, 81 per cent of subsistence farmers received less than €1,000 in a year as agricultural subsidy whereas 53 per cent of local-market farmers reported the same. This finding is concerning,

especially given that the majority of families engage in subsistence farming, and it is usually this type of farming that is more vulnerable to economic cycles and external factors such as climate conditions (Thorlakson and Neufeldt 2012).

▶Figure 4.17. Financial amount received, by type of farming



Qualitative findings complement those of the survey data. Focus group participants with stakeholders in Mitrovicë, for example, highlighted that institutional help is often misguided or misplaced, which creates inefficiencies and hinders the improvement of the agricultural sector in Kosovo. They pointed out that the lack of targeted grants/other forms of help for families most in need is what keeps these families in poverty, unable to make use of funds that would enable their economic development:

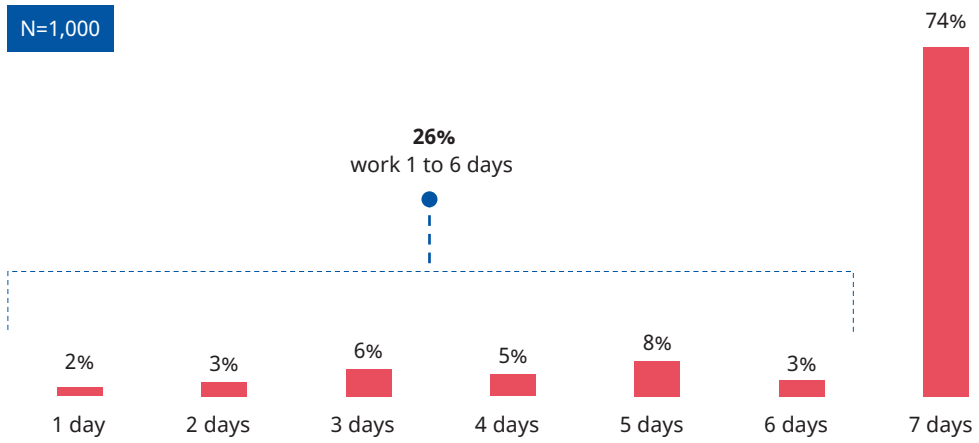
The help provided by institutions sometimes is irrelevant, as they don't go to the right places or help the right people. – (Focus group participant with other stakeholders in Mitrovicë)

Overall, data from this section highlight that a significant portion of the sample (70 per cent) received no financial assistance from MAFRD or their municipality. Families engaged in subsistence farming were less likely to receive support than local-market farmers. A reason for this could be lack of awareness among subsistence farmers about existing grants. Even among those receiving assistance, the amounts were relatively low, with two-thirds of households receiving less than €1,000 in total over the past year. This raises concerns about the adequacy of support, especially for vulnerable subsistence farmers.

4.2.4 Time spent on agricultural activities

Regarding the time allocated to agricultural activities, 26 per cent of the entire sample indicated working 1-6 days per week in farming. Strikingly, a significant 74 per cent of the total sample reported engaging in agricultural work every day, highlighting the demanding and labour-intensive nature of agricultural tasks (figure 4.18).

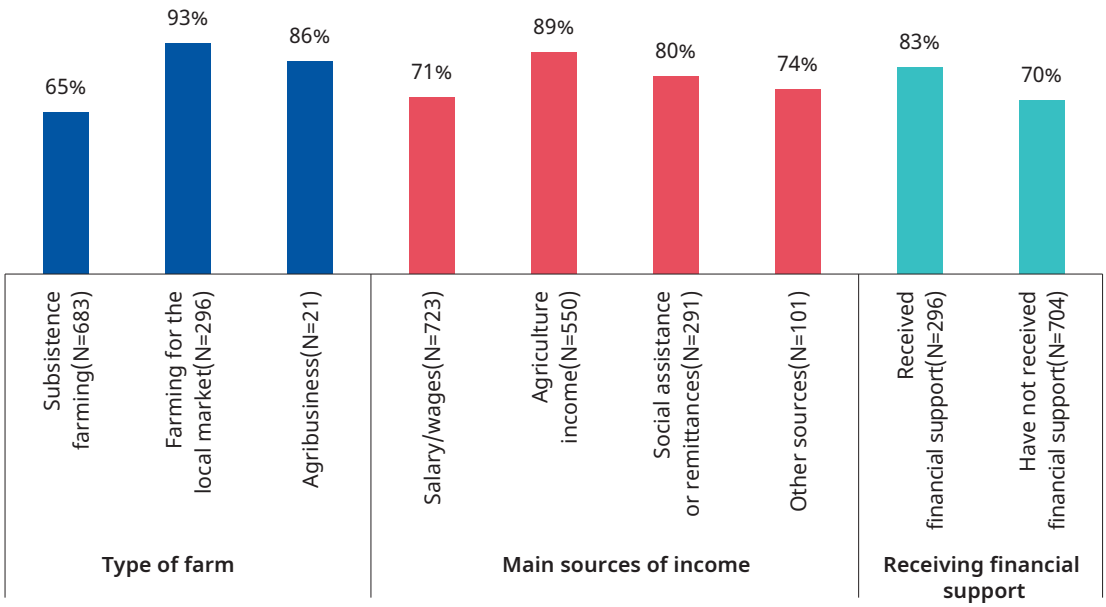
▶ Figure 4.18. Number of days spent in agricultural work



In terms of regional analysis, those in the regions of Pejë (99 per cent), Gjilan (87 per cent) and Prizren (84 per cent) were more likely to engage in agricultural work seven days per week than in the other regions.

In terms of type of farm, individuals who farm for the local market are more likely (93 per cent) to work seven days per week as compared to the other types of farms. People for whom agricultural income is the primary source of income were also more likely (89 per cent) to report working seven days per week than other categories. Additionally, households that have received financial support were more likely (83 per cent) to report working seven days per week than those who have not (figure 4.19).

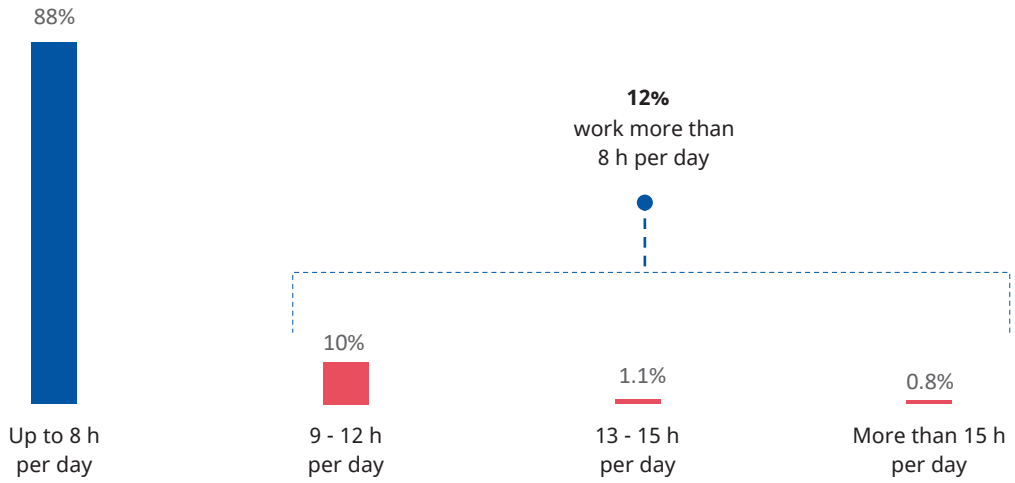
▶Figure 4.19. Number of days spent in agricultural work, by type of farm, sources of income, and receiving of financial support



Note: Only answers with "7 days" are shown.

When considering the number of hours worked, 88 per cent of the total sample worked up to eight hours per day whereas 12 per cent worked more than eight hours per day (figure 4.20).

▶Figure 4.20. Number of hours worked



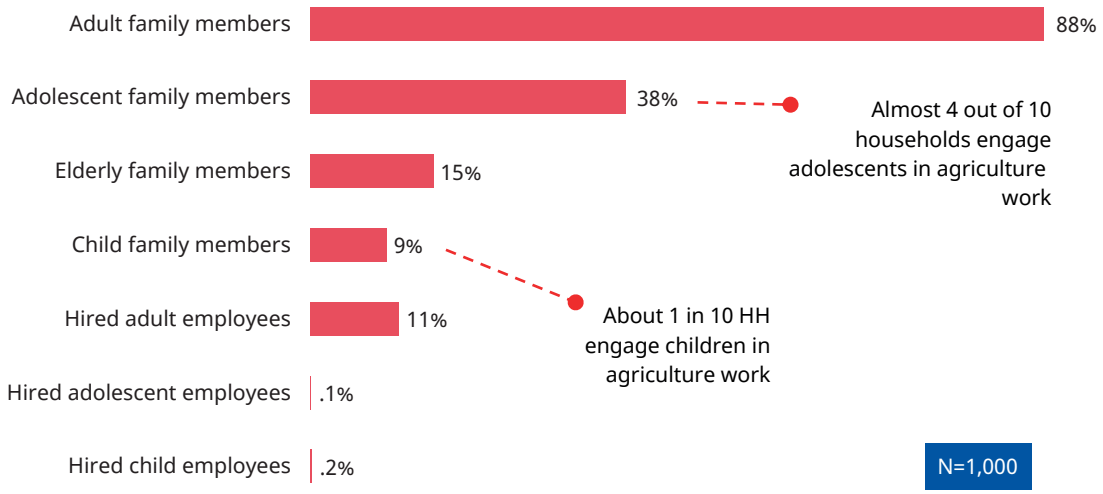
The data indicate that a significant majority (74 per cent) of the sample work in agriculture every day, highlighting the demanding nature of agricultural tasks. In certain regions, such as Pejë, Gjilan and Prizren, they are more likely to work seven days per week. Individuals farming for the local market and relying on agricultural income tend to work more frequently. Additionally, most of the sample (88 per cent) worked up to eight hours per day. These findings emphasize the labour-intensive nature of farming in Kosovo and the need to address this challenge for the well-being and sustainability of farming communities.

4.2.5 Composition of individuals working in agricultural/ forestry activities, and types of work performed by minors

Respondents were also asked to provide information about the age distribution of individuals involved in agricultural work within their households. As shown in figure 4.21, 88 per cent responded that adult family members (18–64 years of age) engaged in this work, followed by 38 per cent who reported engaging adolescent family members (13–17 years of age), 15 per cent who engaged the elderly (65+ years of age), and 9 per cent who engaged child family members (5–12 years of age).

Concerning hired workers, 11 per cent hire adult employees whereas 0.1 and 0.2 per cent respectively hire adolescents and children.

▶ Figure 4.21. Composition of individuals engaged in agricultural work

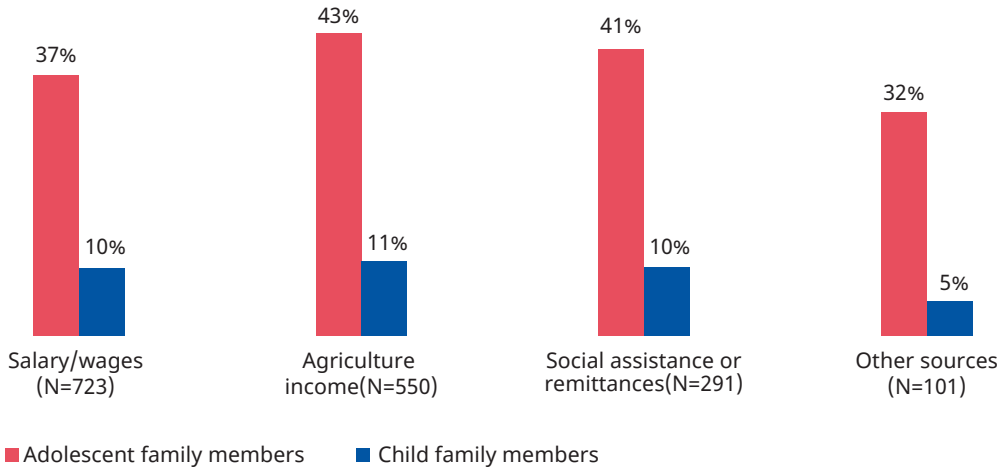


Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

Considering only child and adolescent workers, households from Ferizaj engage adolescents the most in agricultural work (88 per cent) followed by Pejë (47 per cent) and Prizren (42 per cent). Gjilan (15 per cent), Ferizaj (13 per cent) and Prishtinë (11 per cent) were among the three regions which had the highest number of children engaged in agricultural work.

When analysing the data by primary source of income for the family, it is observed that 47 per cent of families that rely on salary/wages engage adolescents/children in agricultural work, 54 per cent of those who rely on agricultural income do the same, followed by 51 per cent of those who receive social assistance or remittances (figure 4.22). Overall, it appears that families that rely on social assistance and agricultural income have a higher tendency to engage adolescents and children in agricultural-related activities, though this discrepancy between sources of income is not vast.

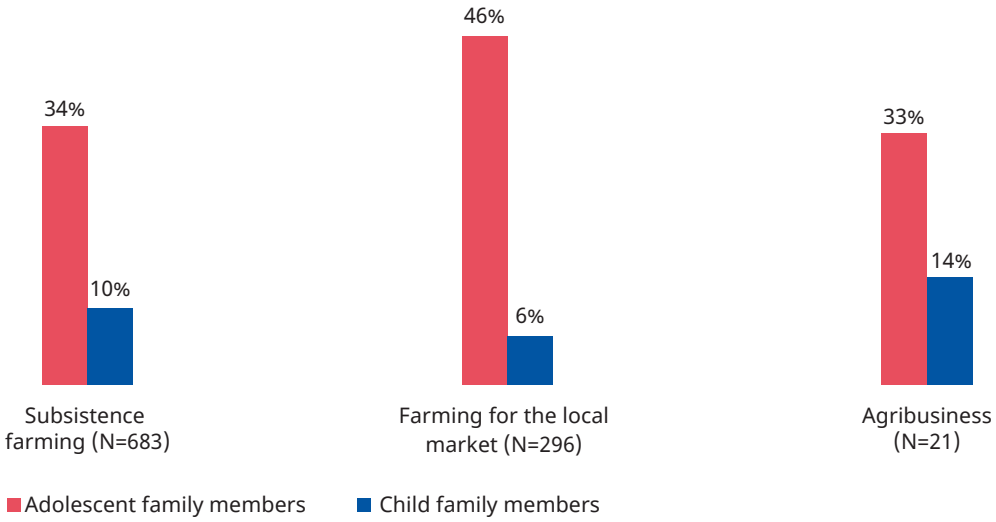
▶Figure 4.22. Adolescent and child family members engaged in agricultural work, by primary source of income



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

Among households practising subsistence farming, approximately 34 per cent engaged adolescents, and 10 per cent involved children in agricultural activities. In comparison, households farming for the local market had a higher tendency to engage adolescents, with 46 per cent of them participating in agricultural work, while only 6 per cent of child family members were involved. Lastly, agribusiness-oriented households showed a similar involvement of adolescents (33 per cent) to subsistence farming, but they had a relatively higher participation of child family members at 14 per cent (figure 4.23).

▶Figure 4.23. Adolescent and child family members engaged in agricultural work, by type of farming activity



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

This finding is concurrent with focus group discussions. In the FGD with parents in the region of Mitrovicë, they pointed out that oftentimes adolescents help with tasks pertaining to agriculture:

My 15-year-old son drives the tractor. He has been driving since he was young, but my daughter doesn't. – (Focus group participant with parents, Mitrovicë)

In fact, operation of vehicles was present among all FGDs with both parents and children, across all regions. Despite not possessing a valid licence to operate a tractor, many children in focus groups proudly admitted that they had indeed been driving tractors since a young age. Different children in different focus groups attested to this:

Sometimes I ride the tractor with my uncle. It's exciting, but I have to be careful. — (Focus group participant in the 10–14-year-old group in Mitrovicë)

We have a small farm, and I help my dad with the tractor sometimes. I've been driving the tractor since I was 11 years old. – (Focus group participant in the 10–14-year-old group in Gjakovë)

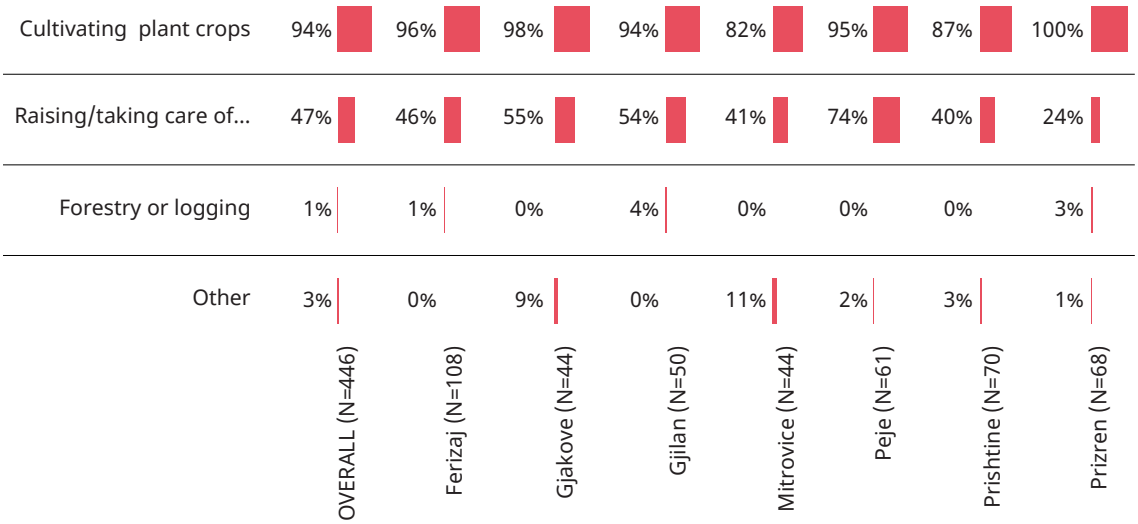
I take the tractor out in the fields but not on the road. Recently I have also obtained my driving license but I used to drive the tractor even before. I am used to it, it's not scary at all. — (Focus group participant in the 15–18-year-old group in Gjakovë)

4.2.6 Tasks performed by children/adolescents, and exposure to risk

Those respondents who reported involving family members and/or employing adolescents/children in agricultural tasks were asked to provide information about the specific type of work that minors were involved in (figure 4.24).

Overall as well as regionally, the cultivation of plant crops is the most frequent activity children/adolescents perform (94 per cent overall), followed by raising/taking care of livestock (47 per cent), and less in forestry. Among those who responded to whether they engaged children in "other" work, answers included taking daily care of chickens (31 per cent), irrigation (15 per cent), planting and milling (15 per cent), vineyard work (8 per cent), carrying out wood and other transportation duties (15 per cent), and working with beehives (8 per cent).

▶Figure 4.24. Tasks performed by adolescents/children, overall and by region



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

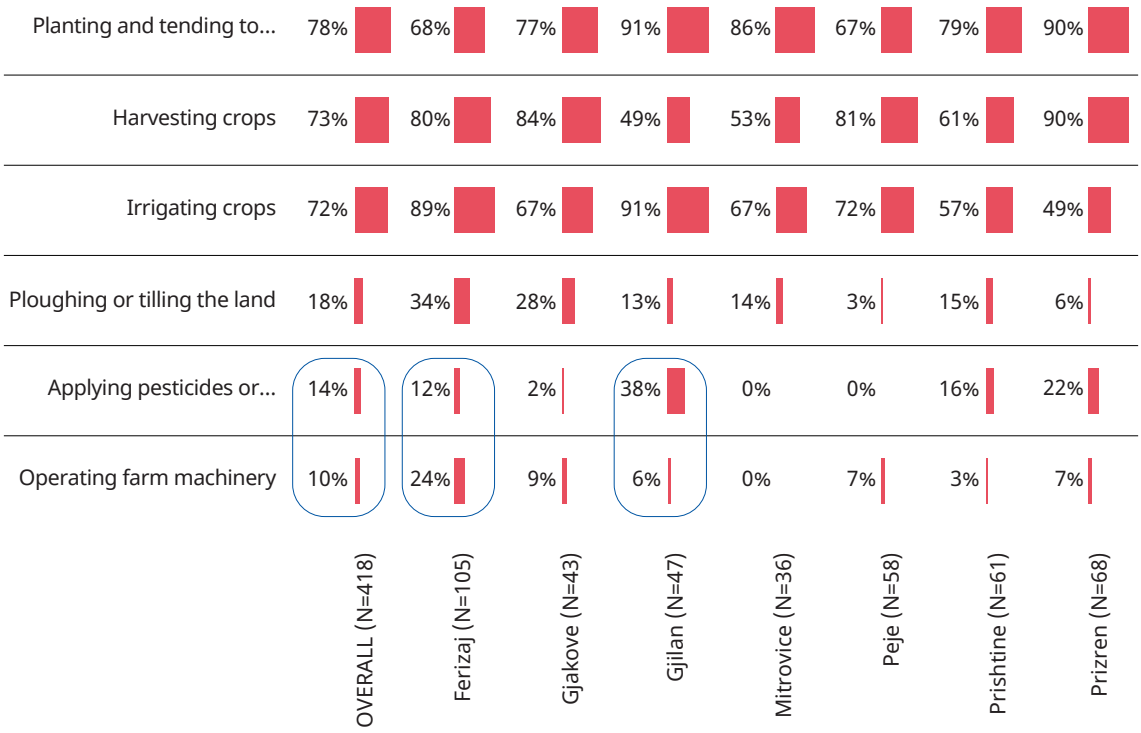
There was not much difference between types of agricultural farm in terms of what tasks children/adolescents perform. Those in farms working for local markets were more likely to engage in raising/taking care of livestock (70 per cent) as compared to those who work in subsistence farming (34 per cent).

However, as qualitative findings also confirm, the most widespread activity in terms of agricultural work performed by adolescents/children and the family in general pertains to cultivating/planting crops. As pointed out in the FGDs with children in Podujevë, this is partly due to the fact that livestock requires higher attention to detail/a different level of care. Plant cultivation was generally considered to be easier and safer:

We used to have chickens and cows, but we sold them because we couldn't take care of them. We focus on growing vegetables now. – (Focus group participant in the 10–14-year-old group in Prishtinë/Podujevë)

If "cultivating plant crops" was an activity listed by respondents, they were further prompted to explain the specific work entailed in such activity, and tasks that children and adolescents perform. As figure 4.25 shows, 78 per cent of the overall sample responded that children/adolescents mostly engage in planting and tending to crops, followed by harvesting crops (73 per cent), irrigating crops (72 per cent), ploughing or tilling the land (18 per cent), and so on. A concerning 10 per cent reported that children/adolescents operate farm machinery and 14 per cent reported that they also apply pesticides or fertilizers. This is more prevalent in the regions of Gjilan and Ferizaj where respectively 44 and 36 per cent of minors engage in such tasks.

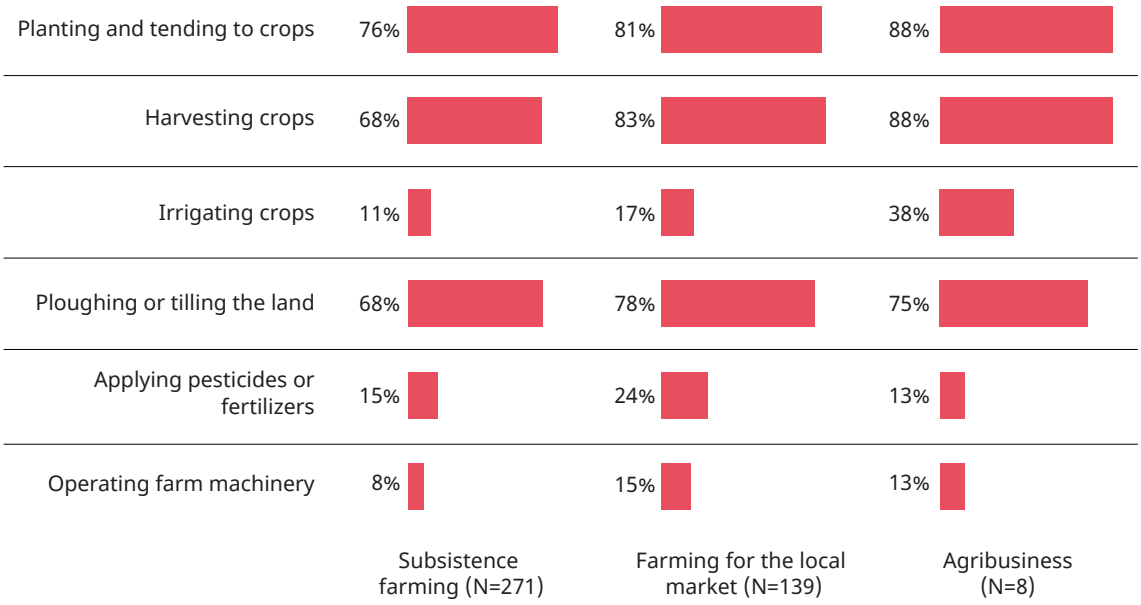
▶Figure 4.25. Types of "cultivation of plant crops" activities engaged in by children/adolescents, overall and by region



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

When considering the type of farm, one can observe that if minors are working for a farm that engages in farming for the local market, they are more likely to engage in more dangerous activities such as ploughing/tilling, applying pesticides, and operating farm machinery than are their subsistence farming counterparts (figure 4.26).

▶Figure 4.26. Types of "cultivation of plant crops" activities engaged in by children/adolescents, by type of agricultural activity

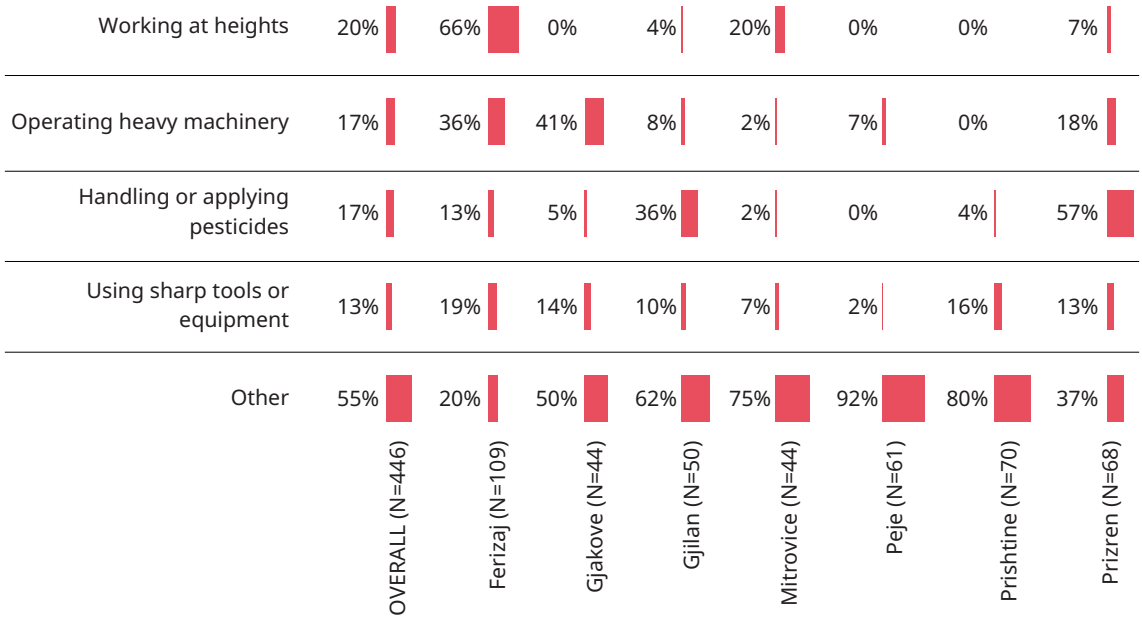


Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

If "raising/taking care of livestock" was listed by respondents, they were also asked to list specific activities that children/adolescents engage in. As observed, the majority engage in herding animals (74 per cent), followed by cleaning animal stalls (71 per cent), milking goats or cows (35 per cent), operating farm machinery (18 per cent) and assisting with animal births (9 per cent).

Next, since one of the main research inquiries revolved around children's participation in agricultural activities, the report also aimed to assess the extent of their exposure to hazardous tasks that could potentially jeopardize their well-being. Figure 4.27 illustrates the involvement of children and adolescents in such activities. It can be observed that 20 per cent of children were engaged in working at heights, 17 per cent in operating heavy machinery, 17 per cent in handling and/or applying pesticides, 13 per cent in using sharp tools or equipment, and 55 per cent in other activities, such as irrigation, feeding livestock, removing trash, planting and/or harvesting, or other lighter tasks. Once again, it is worth noting that the regions of Ferizaj, Gjakovë and Prizren have higher levels of children working at heights, operating heavy machinery and handling/applying pesticides compared to their counterparts in other regions.

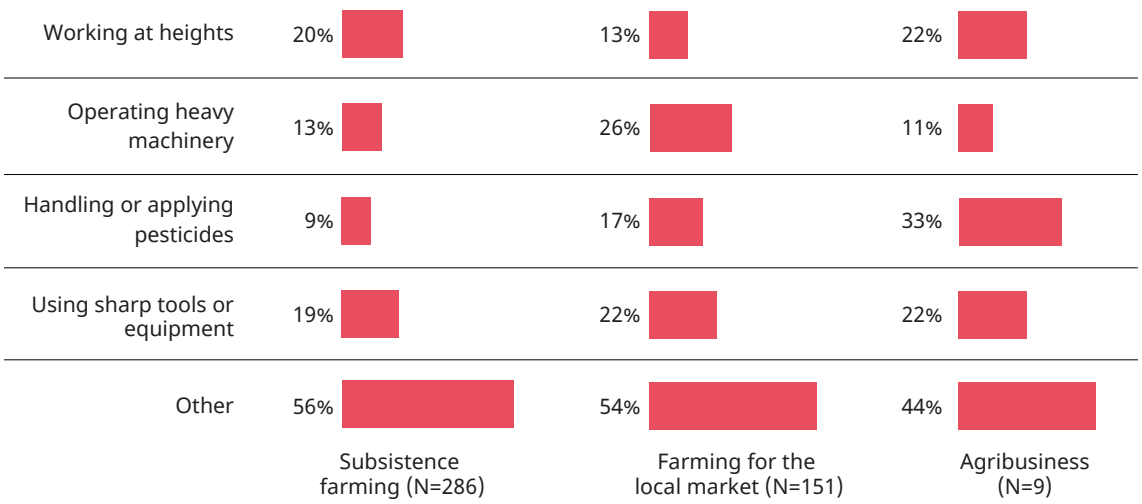
▶Figure 4.27. Involvement of children/adolescents in dangerous activities, overall and by region



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

In terms of type of agricultural activity, children working for farms that sell to the local markets are more likely to be operating heavy machinery (26 per cent) than those who only work in subsistence farming (13 per cent). On the other hand, 20 per cent of children who work in subsistence farming settings work at heights, compared to 13 per cent of those who work for farms that produce for local markets (figure 4.28). Overall, however, there is no significant difference between type of farming and dangerous activities children are involved in.

▶Figure 4.28. Involvement of children/adolescents in dangerous activities, by type of agricultural activity



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

The data obtained from the FGDs indicate that stakeholders are fully aware of the risks associated with involving children in handling or using pesticides. However, the discussions in various focus groups highlighted that children are frequently involved in such activities, especially in marginalized and economically disadvantaged areas. Below are some quotations from different FGDs that attest to the presence of children engagement in pesticide treatment as well as operating heavy machinery:

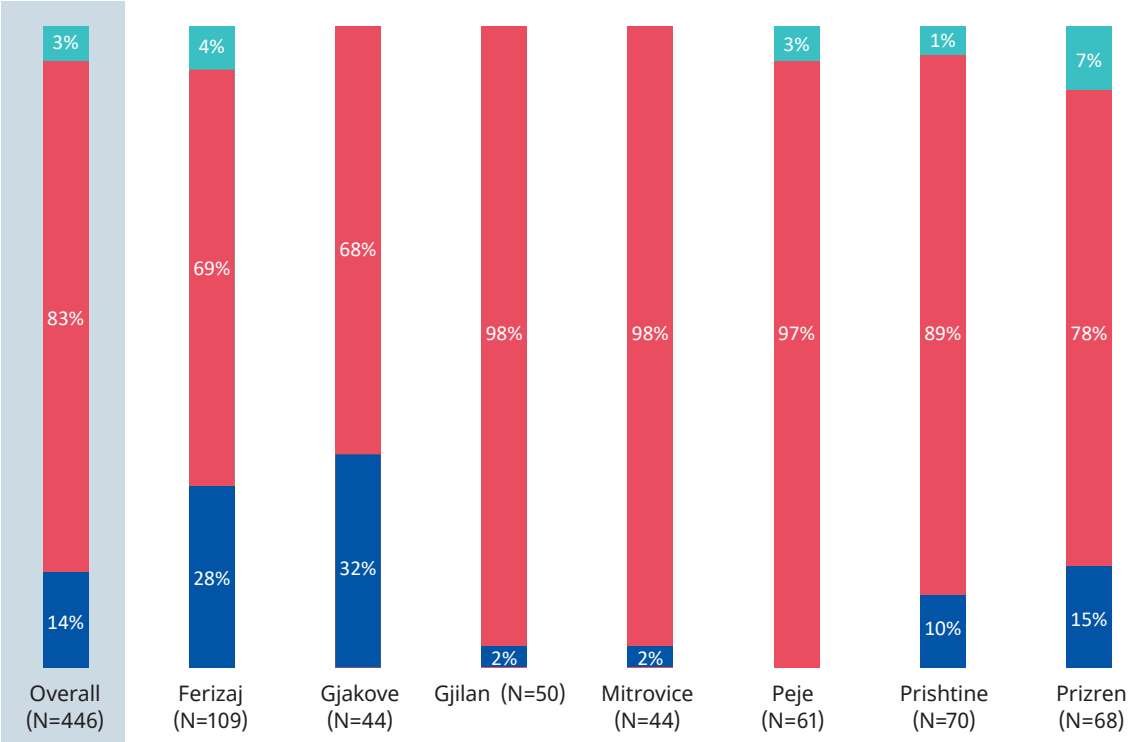
Children cannot engage in heavy or pesticide-related work ... However, the most marginalized groups in rural communities have children engaged in heavy work, especially in Fushë Kosovë, for instance. – (Focus group participant with other stakeholders in Prishtinë/Podujevë)

Safety should be a top priority, as young children who are engaged in dangerous tasks are vulnerable to accidents, especially when working with machinery or handling pesticides. – (Focus group participant with other stakeholders in Gjakovë)

I personally have not encountered children engaged in operating heavy machinery or handling of pesticides but I know that these instances exist. Especially when it comes to tractor driving – a lot of children do it. — (Focus group participant with other stakeholders in Mitrovicë)

Respondents were further asked about their views regarding the potential safety risks associated with tasks carried out by children/adolescents. In general, only 14 per cent of the participants expressed belief in such risks. However, when considering different regions, respondents from Ferizaj (28 per cent) and Gjakovë (32 per cent) were notably more inclined to acknowledge the presence of such hazards than respondents from other regions (figure 4.29).

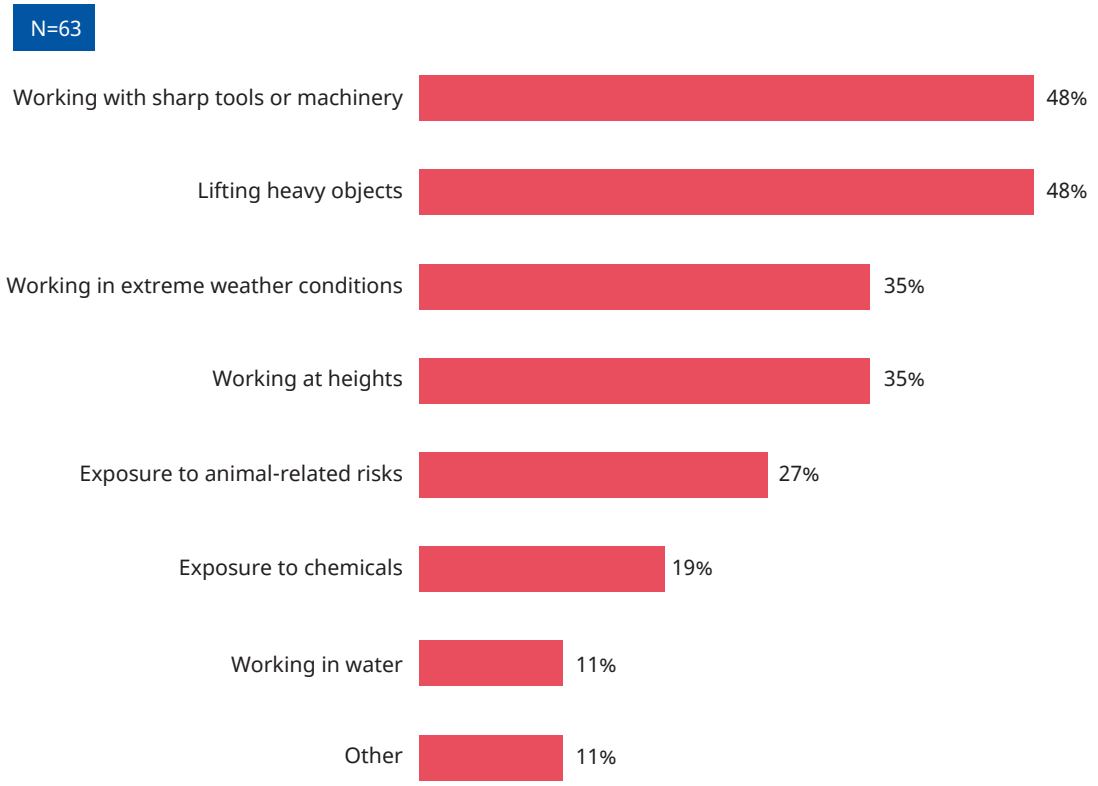
▶Figure 4.29. Safety risks associated with agricultural work engaged in by children/adolescents, overall and by region



Additionally, respondents working in agricultural farms catering to the local market were more prone to state that children are exposed to safety hazards in agricultural work (21 per cent) than their counterparts working in subsistence farming (11 per cent).

The safety risks encompassed various activities, such as handling sharp tools or machinery (48 per cent), lifting heavy objects (48 per cent), working under extreme weather conditions (35 per cent), working at elevated heights (35 per cent), and other similar situations (figure 4.30). The "other" category included risks such as poisonings, stings, spinal cord injuries, and hazards related to different types of terrain.

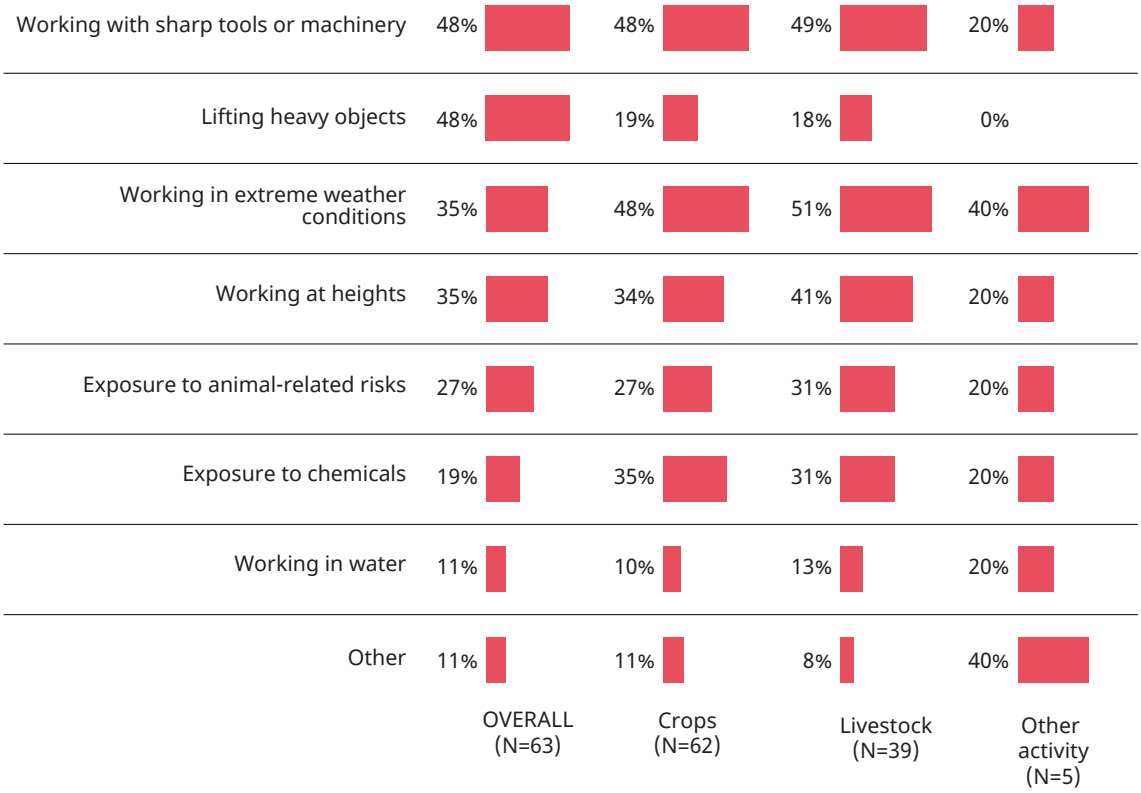
▶Figure 4.30. Types of safety risk, overall



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

When examining the data based on the primary types of agricultural activities, there is no noticeable distinction between those engaged in crop cultivation and those involved in livestock farming concerning their perception of potential danger or safety risks that children might encounter. However, in general, those working with livestock tended to be more inclined to report safety risks than those involved in crop-related activities (figure 4.31).

▶Figure 4.31. Types of safety risk, by main activity



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

The data obtained from the qualitative analysis yields comparable results. For instance, parents are generally conscious of the potential risks associated with involving children and adolescents in agricultural work. As indicated in the FGDs, parents and stakeholders also recognized the importance of ensuring that their children comprehend the safety hazards they may encounter in such tasks:

As parents, we need to be proactive in providing our children with insights into the benefits and risks of working in agriculture. – (Focus group participant with parents in Gjakovë)

Early intervention and awareness about the risks of child labour are necessary to protect children from exploitation and dangerous work practices. — (Focus group participant with other stakeholders in Prishtinë/Podujevë)

Efforts should be made to ensure that businesses and families provide proper training and safety measures for children involved in agricultural work to prevent accidents and injuries. — (Focus group participant with other stakeholders in Prishtinë/Podujevë)

Children engaged in forestry are especially prone to danger. I often say that it is easy to establish a list of safe jobs in forestry – in other words jobs that children can perform as well. What is hard is identifying dangerous forms of labour in forestry because the list is inexhaustible. — (Key informant interview with Forestry Agency of Kosovo)

Similarly, focus groups with children also revealed other dangers children are exposed to during work in agriculture and the fact that they have had to go through trial and error to teach themselves about potential dangers and what to do in such cases. Below are some quotations from the FGDs which highlight these findings:

There are certain dangers when working in the fields. For example, there are many wild animals we encounter such as snakes and wolves. I remember one time I was out in the field with my cows when I saw a snake. I had to attack it, I hit it with a stick.— (Focus group participant in the 10–14-year-old group in Mitrovicë)

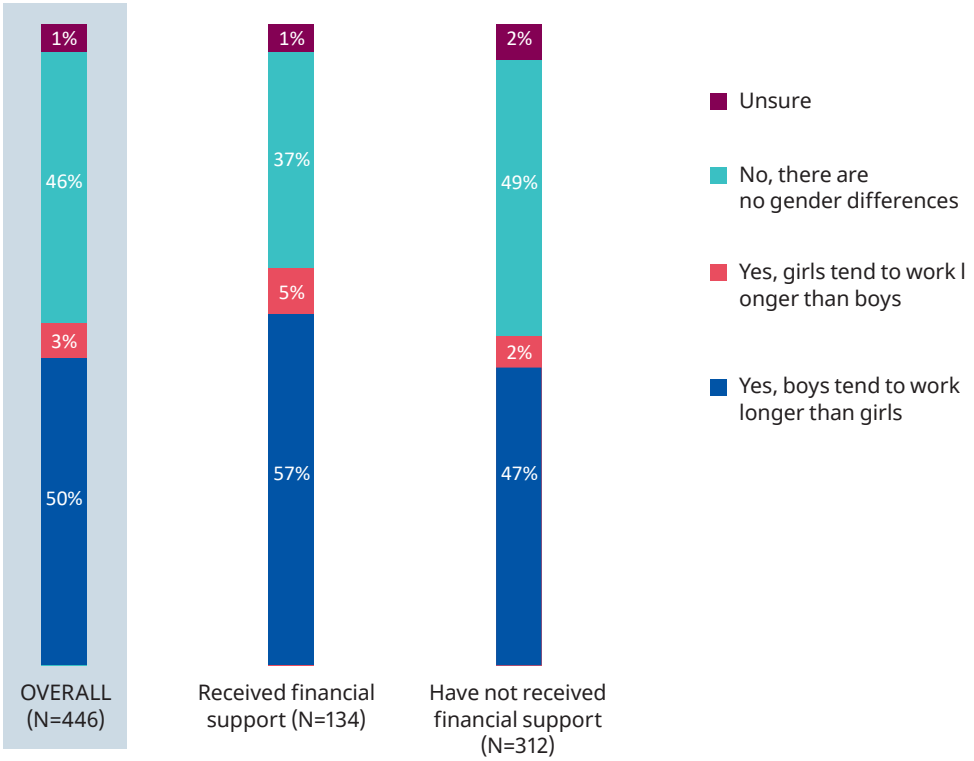
Sometimes, dogs are also dangerous. We have had to learn how to protect ourselves. For pesticides too ... We have learnt how to put on masks and gloves, and other protective gear. Yes, all by ourselves. — (Focus group participant in the 15-18-year-old group in Mitrovicë)

4.2.7 Gender differences in agricultural work

The study also aimed to investigate gender disparities in agricultural work. Overall, half the respondents (50 per cent) acknowledged the existence of such differences, stating that boys tend to work longer hours than girls. Regionally, a significant percentage of respondents from Mitrovicë (80 per cent), Gjakovë (70 per cent), Gjilan (68 per cent) and Ferizaj (62 per cent) were more inclined to perceive that boys are exposed to longer working hours than girls. Conversely, no region reported a belief that girls are more likely to work longer hours than their male counterparts.

Furthermore, in cases where respondents indicated receiving financial support for agricultural activities, they were notably more inclined (57 per cent) to assert that boys work longer hours than girls, compared to those who did not receive such assistance (47 per cent), as shown in figure 4.32. This pattern might be attributed to the potential pressure on families to perform well when financial support is involved, leading them to involve their boys more in labour-intensive tasks to enhance productivity.

▶Figure 4.32. Gender differences in agricultural work, by financial support received



Additionally, in cases where families primarily relied on social assistance or remittances as their main source of income, respondents were more inclined (58 per cent) to acknowledge the existence of gender differences between boys and girls, with boys being more exposed to longer working hours than girls. This finding suggests that within lower economic status households there tends to be a greater disparity in gender roles, with boys being more actively involved in agricultural work than girls.

The qualitative data findings demonstrate similar outcomes. During the FGDs across various regions, participants commonly expressed the belief that boys face a higher likelihood of being exposed to hazardous work compared to girls. This view was also supported by the key informant interviews. The participants attributed this gender difference to the notion of boys having greater physical strength, leading them to engage in fieldwork, while girls tend to take on indoor tasks such as household chores. Consequently, boys are perceived as having a higher risk of encountering dangerous situations. Below are just some of the quotations that attest to these findings:

More boys are engaged on dangerous work for sure. – (Focus group participant with other stakeholders in Prishtinë/Podujevë)

Boys are more involved in agricultural work, likely due to their physical strength, but both genders have specific tasks allowed by regulations. – (Key informant interview with Ministry of Finance, Labor, and Transfers).

There is a clear division based on physical strength, with boys being engaged in tasks that require more physical labour. – (Key informant interview with MAFRD).

Girls tend to be more involved in household chores, while boys take on more physically demanding tasks. Girls are more likely to be engaged in lighter agricultural activities such as fruit picking. – (Key informant interview with MAFRD).

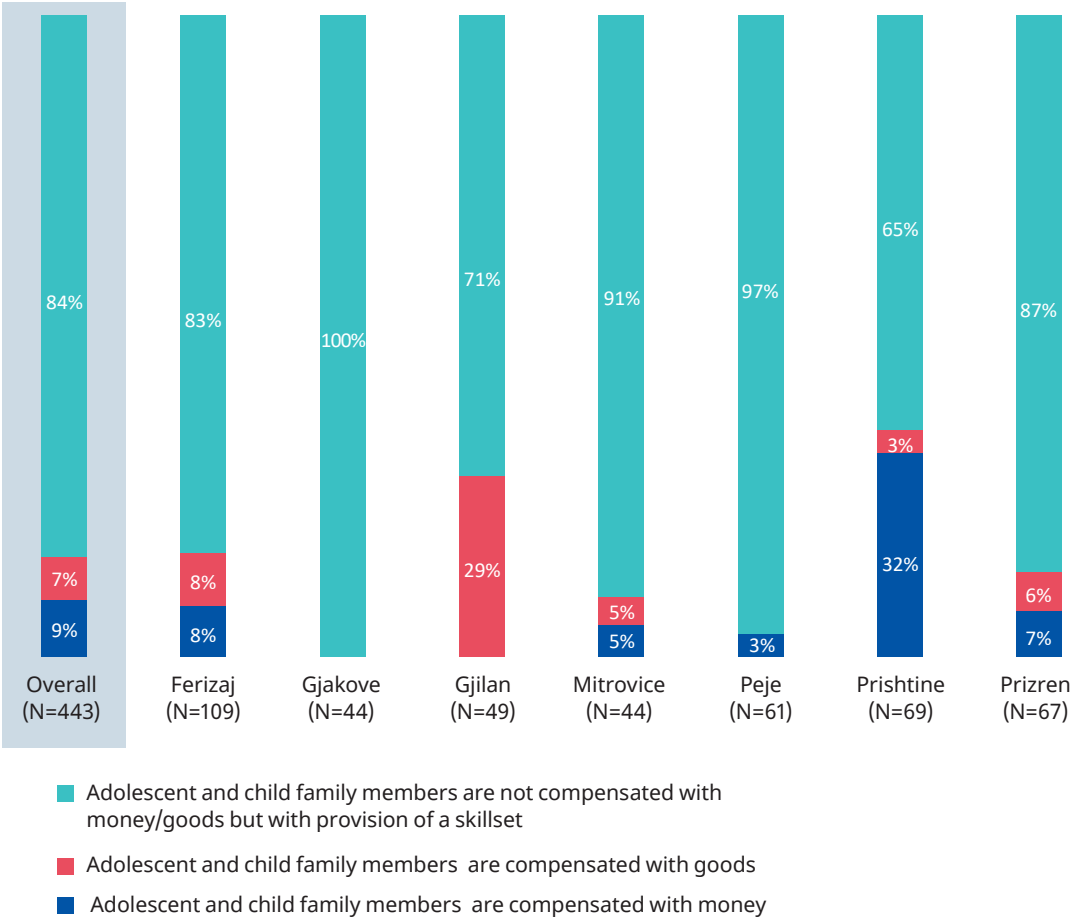
Boys are more exposed to hazardous work in agriculture, such as working in fields or operating dangerous machinery, compared to girls. – (Key informant interview with freelance consultant on child protection).

4.2.8 Compensation for agricultural work

In the final section of this module, the focus was on examining whether adolescents/children engaged in agricultural work receive compensation for their efforts, and if so, whether this compensation takes the form of monetary payment or other in-kind benefits. Figure 4.33 illustrates the findings regarding this aspect, with the omission of three responses depicting children's involvement as hired workers (not family members), which will be further analysed in the text.

In most instances (84 per cent overall), family members who are adolescents and children participating in agricultural activities are not remunerated with monetary payment but instead offered the chance to acquire new skillsets. In 9 per cent of cases overall, adolescent and child family members engaged in agricultural work receive monetary compensation, while in 7 per cent of cases, they are compensated with goods. Regionally, Prishtinë demonstrates a higher propensity to provide monetary compensation (32 per cent), whereas Gjilan is more inclined to offer compensation in the form of goods (29 per cent).

▶Figure 4.33. Compensation of adolescents/children for agricultural work, overall and by region



Out of the three instances of hired children/adolescents, two respondents reported that they did not pay the workers but rather provided them with the opportunity to acquire a new skillset. In the other instance, the adolescent/worker was compensated with goods.

Lastly, respondents who answered that they did not compensate adolescents/children in the form of money were also prompted on the reasons why. The most often stated reason in an overall scale was that they are family members (90 per cent) followed by the views that they are too young (28 per cent) and not permanent employees (28 per cent). Regionally, similar patterns were also observed.

4.3 Children's agricultural activities in the household/farm

The second module of this report is the core of this analysis, as it delves more deeply into the experience of child labour for one randomly chosen child between the ages of 10 and 17 of each household interviewed. The sections below focus on thematic key findings from the survey and additionally present reinforcing qualitative data resulting from FGDs. The module also focuses on insights given by key informant interviews on ensuring safe agricultural practices for children.

Findings from this section reveal that a majority of children (96 per cent) maintain regular school attendance. Out of those who occasionally miss school, 23 per cent do so for more than two days per week. Another finding reveals that 89 per cent of children engage in cultivating plant crops, followed by raising/taking care of livestock (35 per cent) and other activities.

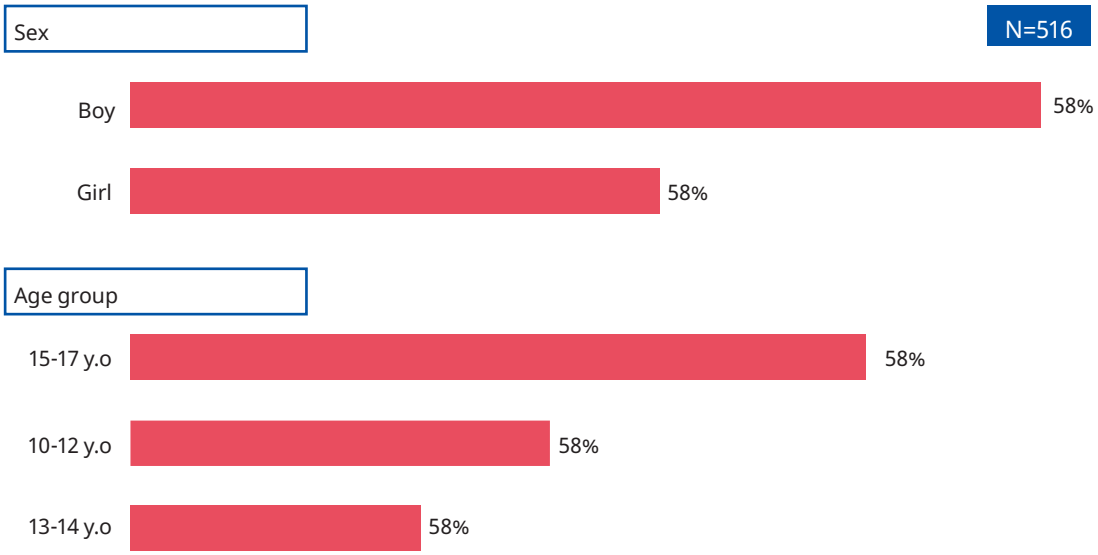
Children are more likely to participate in hazardous work if their family's agricultural business caters to the local market, particularly evident in agribusinesses where children are significantly involved in all listed hazardous tasks. Furthermore, the findings reveal that boys are more likely to engage in operating heavy machinery (22 per cent) than girls (5 per cent). Older children also exhibit a higher propensity for hazardous tasks, such as applying pesticides, operating heavy machinery, and using sharp tools or equipment.

Despite the awareness of risks associated with child labour in agriculture, the majority of respondents (57 per cent) do not take any action to mitigate these risks. Only 27 per cent actively seek to reduce or eliminate hazards, 16 per cent seek medical treatment for resulting health issues, and 6 per cent remain uncertain about the steps to take. Protective equipment, particularly eye protection and face masks, is underutilized, despite children being involved in pesticide administration. Alarmingly, 26 per cent of children lack access to any protective equipment.

4.3.1 Demographic information on randomly chosen children and school attendance

From the collected data, 63 per cent of the sample were boys and 37 per cent girls; 51 per cent belonged to the 15–17-year-old age group, 29 per cent to the 10–12-year-old age group and 20 per cent were between the ages of 13 and 14 (figure 4.34)

▶Figure 4.34. Age and sex of randomly chosen children



In terms of school attendance, 95 per cent of the randomly chosen children attended school. Out of these, 11 per cent were in primary school, 47 per cent in lower secondary, 40 per cent in regular upper secondary, and 2 per cent in professional schools.

Also, 96 per cent of children attended school every week whereas 4 per cent (22) missed school every week. Out of those who missed school (N=22), 55 per cent did so less than one day per week, 23 per cent between one and two days, and 23 per cent more than two days.

The reasoning behind missed school days vary (see table 4.1): 67 per cent of boys missed school because they worked on the family farm or in the fields, whereas a much smaller percentage of girls (14 per cent)

did the same. Conversely, girls seemed to have a higher inclination (86 per cent) towards not attending school due to illness or health issues, compared to boys (20 per cent). In addition, a small percentage of boys (5 per cent) lacked interest in school, while none of the girls exhibited such disinterest, as observed by the survey respondent who answered the questions. Nonetheless, due to the small sample size, the data should be interpreted with caution.

▶Table 4.1. Reasons for missing school

			Sex of child			
	Overall		Boy		Girl	
To work on the family farm or in the fields	50%	11	67%	10	14%	1
Lack of interest in attending school	5%	1	7%	1	0%	0
Illness or health issues	41%	9	20%	3	86%	6
Other	9%	2	13%	2	0%	0
OVERALL	100.0%	22	100.0%	15	100.0%	7

Although the quantitative section of the report did not show a significant number of children who skip school for agricultural work, the qualitative section with the key informant interviews revealed more information about the occurrence of children missing school. In fact, across different institutions, key informants were aware and concerned about children being hindered from school attendance for children due to being engaged in agricultural work. Some pointed out that the type of work also determines whether a child will attend school or not. For instance, children working in remote forestry areas may face challenges in attending school regularly because of limited transportation options. Below are some quotations that attest to the main reasons why regular attendance is hindered:

Children working in agriculture face challenges in balancing their education and agricultural responsibilities, which can affect their school attendance and academic performance. — (Key informant interview with Ministry of Education, Science and Technology)

The Ministry recognizes the importance of collaborating with the Ministry of Education to ensure that children engaged in agricultural and forestry work receive an education and attend school regularly. — (Key informant interview with Ministry of Finance, Labor, and Transfers)

The Ministry of Education is responsible for keeping records of children engaged in work, ensuring their education, and regular school attendance. We cannot just leave it up to the parents and hope for the best. Education among parents is also crucial." (Key informant interview with MAFRD)

There needs to be stricter enforcement of laws and collaboration between the Ministry of Education and other relevant institutions to ensure that children working in agriculture and forestry receive an education and have regular school attendance. (Key informant interview with the Labour Inspectorate).

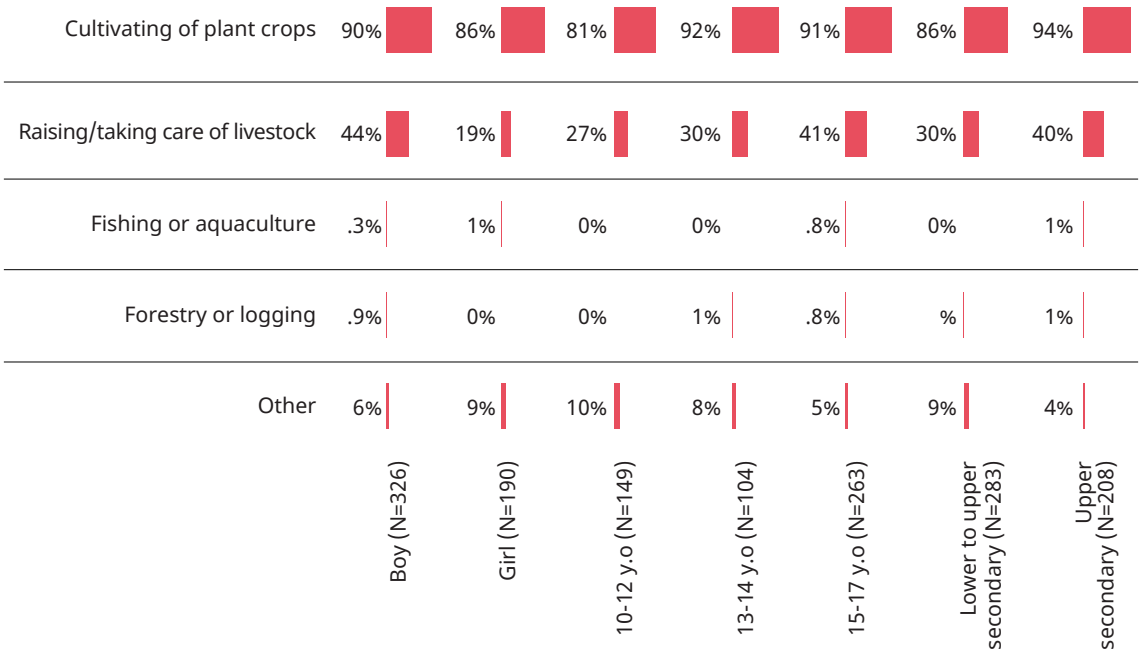
When it comes to the forestry sector, it is very difficult to ensure that children attend school regularly. The primary challenges include the remoteness of forestry activities, which can hinder access to education. It is crucial to ensure that children are engaged in forestry work after school hours or on weekends. They cannot miss out on education but they often do. (Key informant interview with the Agency of Forestry).

4.3.2 Agricultural tasks and number of hours worked

Respondents were further asked about agricultural tasks that the randomly chosen child performs daily. Overall, 89 per cent of children engage in cultivating plant crops, followed by raising/taking care of livestock (35 per cent) and other activities. Regionally, results are similar, with the regions of Pejë (72 per cent) and Gjakovë (45 per cent) engaging children in raising/taking care of livestock more than other regions.

Results are similar when comparing data by age, sex and school level (figure 4.35). Boys are more engaged in raising/taking care of livestock (44 per cent) than girls (19 per cent). Additionally, those in the group aged between 15 and 17 are more likely to engage in raising/taking care of livestock (41 per cent) than their younger peers. Similar patterns are observed with school levels: those at lower school levels are less likely to get involved in raising/taking care of livestock (30 per cent) than those in upper school levels (40 per cent).

▶Figure 4.35. Chosen child involvement in agricultural tasks, by age, sex and school level

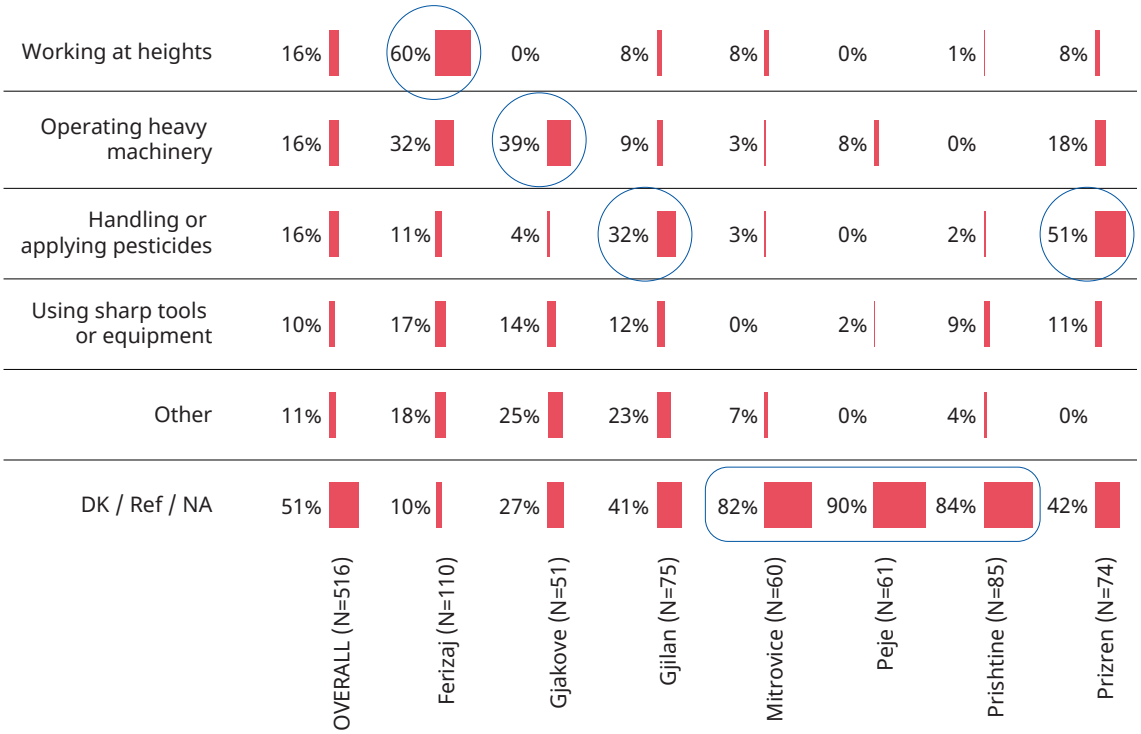


Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

As for the main tasks performed by the randomly chosen children, the highest percentage of child labour is associated with handling or applying pesticides, constituting 16 per cent of the reported cases. Regionally, children in Prizren (51 per cent) and Gjilan (32 per cent) are more likely to engage in applying pesticides than other regional counterparts. Similarly, operating heavy machinery and working at heights each accounted for 16 per cent of the hazardous tasks performed by children. Regionally, children from Ferizaj (60 per cent) had a higher likelihood of working at heights, and those from Gjakovë (39 per cent) of operating heavy machinery (figure 4.36).

Handling sharp tools or equipment accounted for 10 per cent of the cases, while 11% per cent reported other forms of work including irrigation, feeding/taking care of livestock, operating machinery, and other easy/light work. However, it is important to point out here that despite respondents claiming that children are engaged in crop cultivation (90 per cent) and taking care of/raising livestock (44 per cent), 51 per cent refused to reveal more information on what specific tasks the children are involved in. Regionally, this was especially evident in Mitrovicë, Pejë and Prishtinë.

▶Figure 4.36. Hazardous activities engaged in by randomly chosen children, overall and by region

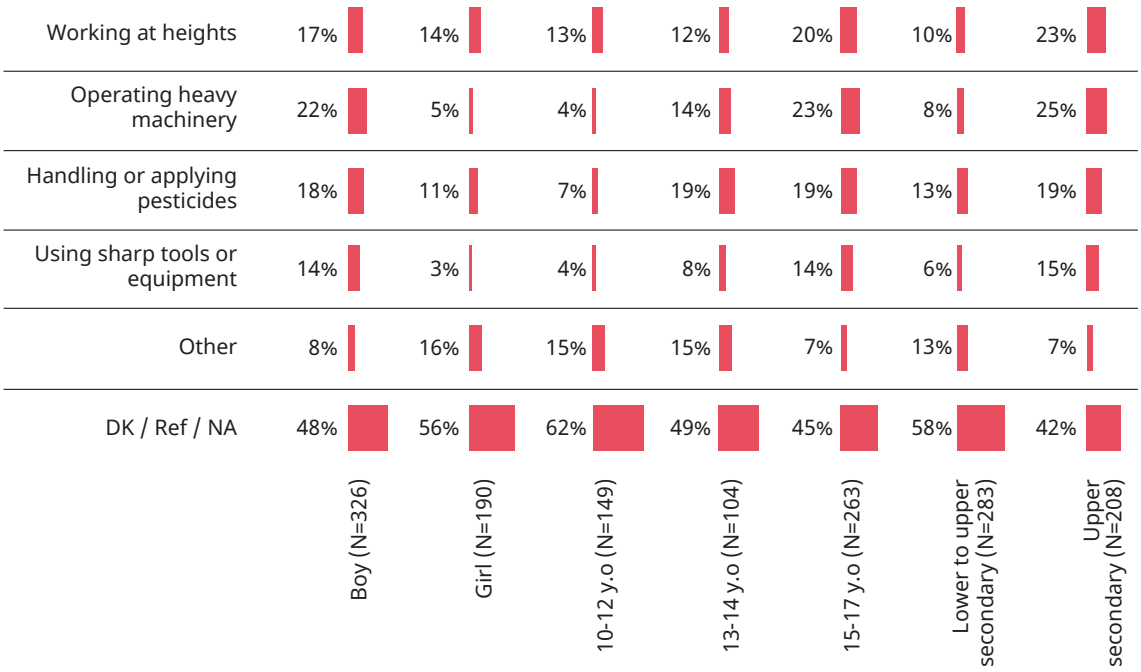


Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

Boys were more likely to engage in operating heavy machinery (22 per cent) than girls (5 per cent), as shown in figure 4.37. Older children were also more likely to engage in applying pesticides, operating heavy machinery, and using sharp tools or equipment. Similar results were observed by school level: older children had a higher probability of being burdened with hazardous tasks than their younger counterparts.

Although it is plausible to speculate that younger children may also participate in agricultural activities, teenager boys are more likely to be involved in such tasks. This could be because parents entrust older children with these responsibilities, considering them to be more mature and capable of handling such tasks.

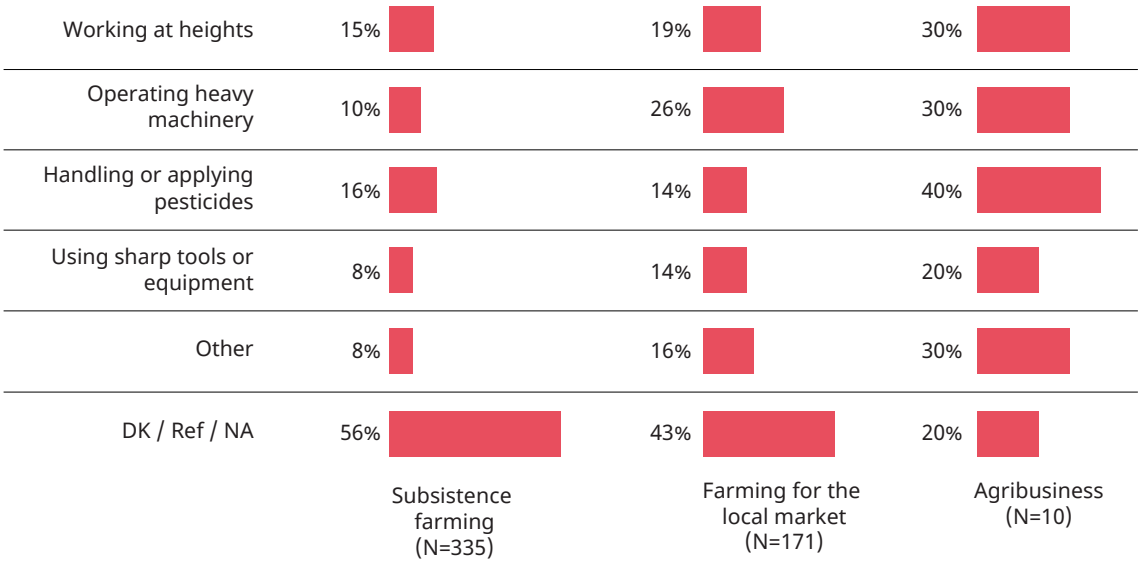
▶Figure 4.37. Hazardous activities engaged in by randomly chosen children, by age, sex and school level



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

When analysing hazardous activities based on the type of agricultural activities families are involved in, it becomes evident that children are more likely to engage in risky work if the family's agricultural business caters to the local market, compared to those practising subsistence farming (figure 4.38). Despite the limited sample size for agribusinesses, it is noticeable that children are highly involved in all listed hazardous tasks if the family operates as an agribusiness.

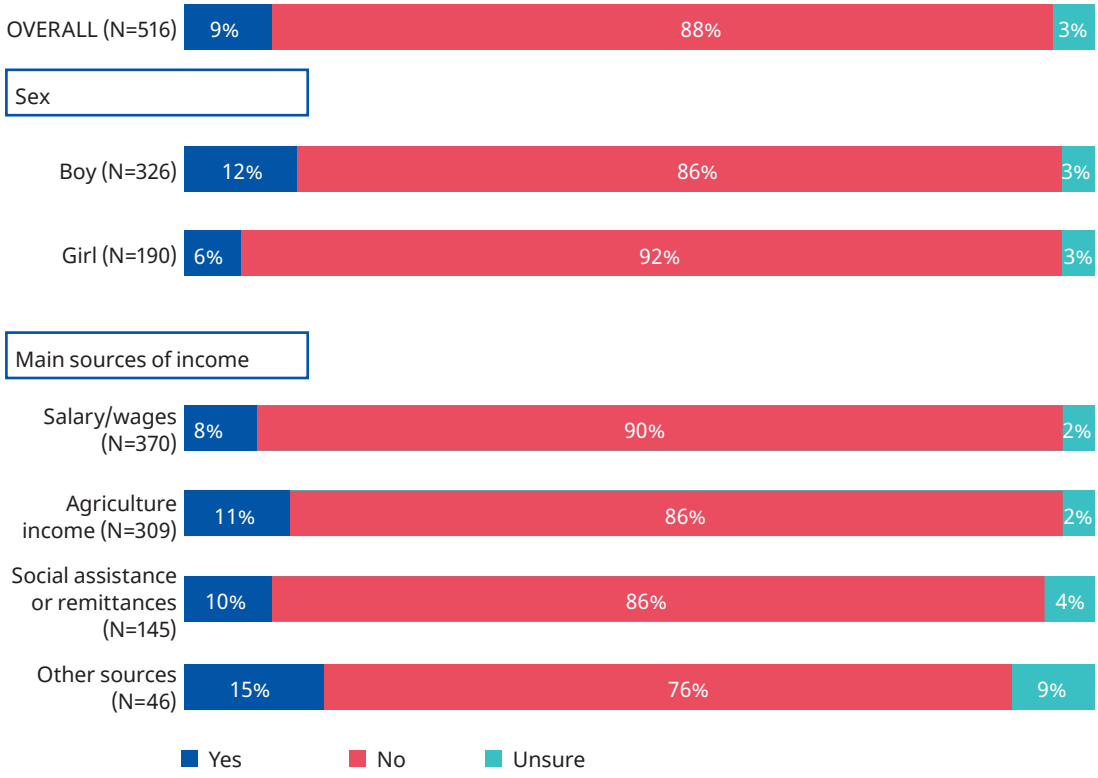
▶Figure 4.38. Hazardous activities engaged in by randomly chosen children, by type of agricultural activity



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

The respondents acknowledged that children engaged in agricultural work are exposed to risks (figure 4.39): 9 per cent of the overall sample responded that there are risks involved in performing agricultural work, with respondents believing that there are more risks for boys (12 per cent) than girls (6 per cent). Additionally, if a family relies on agricultural income (11 per cent) there is a higher likelihood of believing that there are risks implicit in agricultural activities than if the family relies on salary/wages (8 per cent).

▶Figure 4.39. Safety risks for children engaged in agriculture, overall, by sex and primary sources of income



Of the 9 per cent (N=49) of the sample that believed there to be safety risks entailed in engaging children in agricultural activities, 57 per cent had not taken any action to address the issue, 27 per cent had taken steps to reduce/eliminate those hazards, 16 per cent had sought medical treatment for health issues, and the rest were simply unsure (6 per cent). So even if families are aware/believe there are risks associated with engaging children in agriculture, in the majority of cases they take no active measures to prevent/minimize such risks.

Discussions within the focus groups provided intriguing insights into the types of tasks children undertook and the demographic attributes of families involving children in arduous or unsafe labour. Moreover, it was evident across all focus groups that both stakeholders and parents acknowledged the potential hazards of agricultural work. Consequently, they emphasized the importance of making children conscious of these risks and taking responsibility for their well-being. Interestingly, this finding clashes with the quantitative data, where 88 per cent of respondents held the belief that agricultural work posed no safety risks at all. Below are some quotations from key stakeholders as well as parents highlighting this discussion:

Work builds character, but they should not be doing heavy/hazardous work. These types of jobs are mainly done by children that live in families with severe economic conditions. – (Focus group participant with other stakeholders in Podujevë)

I involve my children in agricultural work, but I make sure it's safe and not too burdensome for them. Education is still a priority for their future.' – (Focus group participant with parents in Prishtinë/Podujevë)

We discuss the risks and benefits of agricultural work with our children, and we involve them in decision-making to ensure they understand and feel valued. – (Focus group participant with parents in Prishtinë/Podujevë)

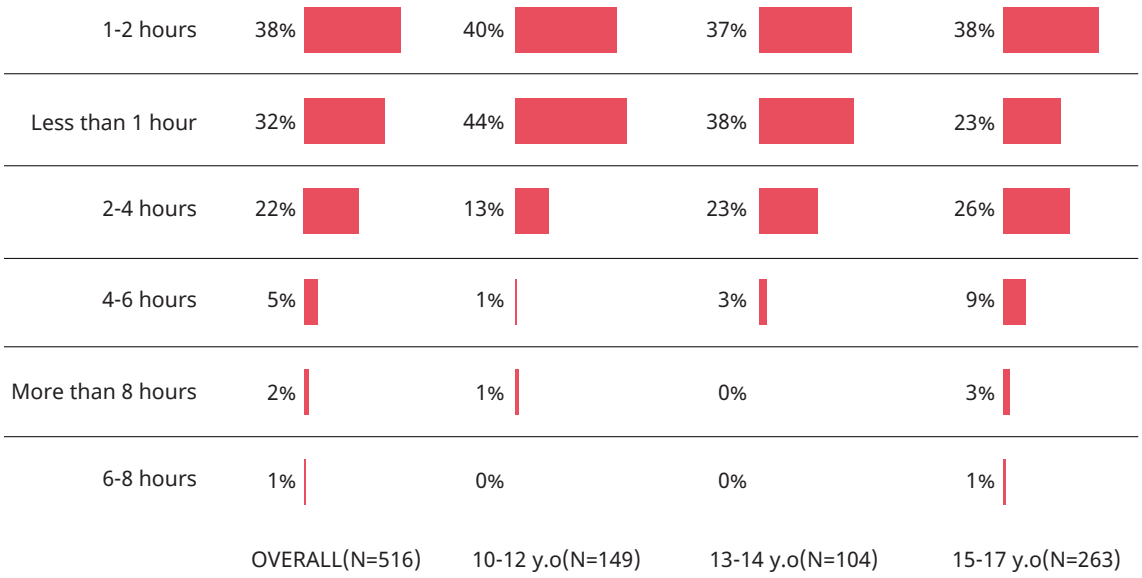
Regarding the number of hours worked per day, overall, 38 per cent of children engage in agricultural tasks for 1 to 2 hours per day, followed by 32 per cent who do so for less than an hour, 22 per cent for 2 to 4 hours, 5 per cent between 4 and 6 hours, 2 per cent more than 8 hours, and 1 per cent between 6 and 8 hours. Regionally, children from Pejë are more likely to work longer hours than other regional counterparts.

Over the span of a week, 44 per cent of children engage in agricultural tasks every single day, followed by 14 per cent who do so four days per week, and so on (figure 4.40). Regionally, it is again children from the region of Pejë (79 per cent) and Prizren (73 per cent) who are more likely to be engaged seven days per week in agricultural work, compared to other regional counterparts.

▶Figure 4.40. Number of days worked per week, overall and by region

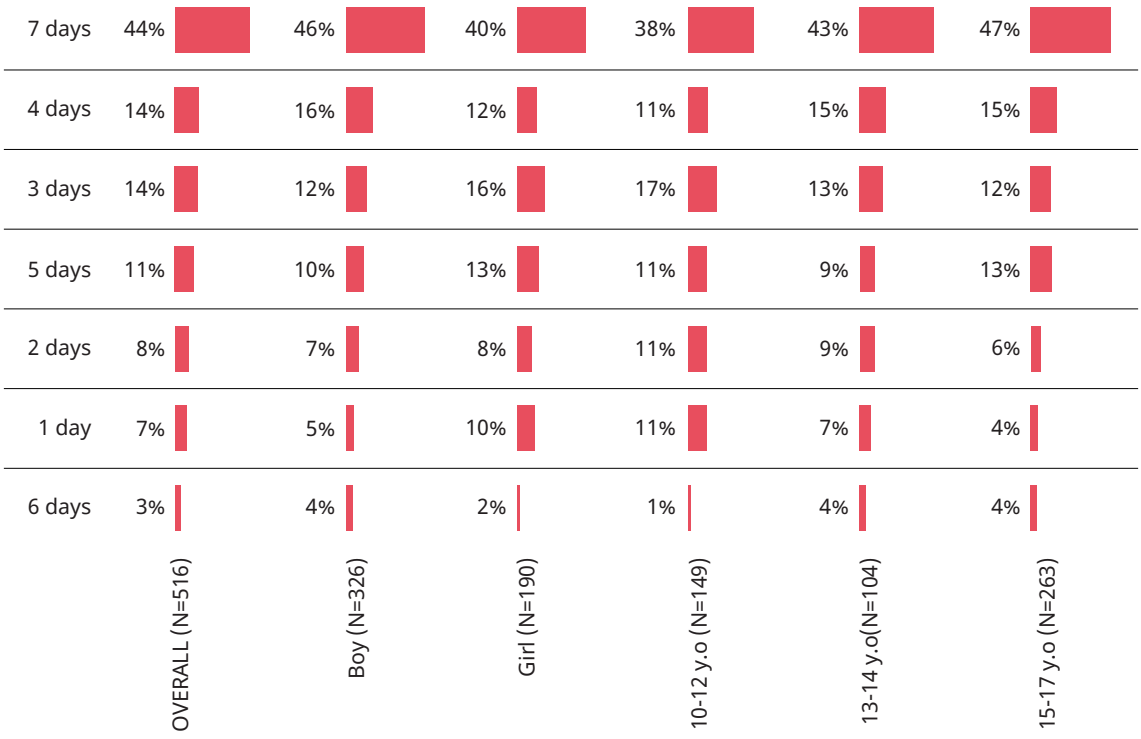
Boys are more likely to work between 2 and 4 hours (26 per cent) than girls (14 per cent). Similarly, older children are more likely to work longer hours as compared to their younger counterparts (figure 4.41).

▶ **Figure 4.41. Number of hours worked per day, by age group**



In terms of days worked per week, figure 4.42 shows that boys are more likely to work seven days per week (46 per cent) than girls (40 per cent). Additionally, older teenagers again have a higher likelihood of being engaged in agricultural work seven days per week as compared to their younger counterparts. Once again, there is evidence to hypothesize that teenage boys (as compared to younger generations and girls) are more likely to get overworked both in terms of number of hours worked within the day as well as days within the week.

▶ **Figure 4.42. Number of days worked, by sex and age group**



The qualitative data reveal that the length of time spent on agricultural tasks is burdensome to many children. As the quotations below show, child participants in FGDs were very eager to help their families with agricultural tasks but at the same time acknowledged the fact that the work is hard and long.

Sometimes, I feel tired from working on the farm, especially when it's hot. — (Focus group participant in the 15–18-year-old group in Mitrovicë)

I gather eggs from the chickens, but I don't really enjoy it. I'd rather play on my phone. — (Focus group participant in the 10–14-year-old group in Mitrovicë)

I've helped with planting crops and taking care of the animals, even though it's tough sometimes. — (Focus group participant in the 15–18-year-old group in Mitrovicë)

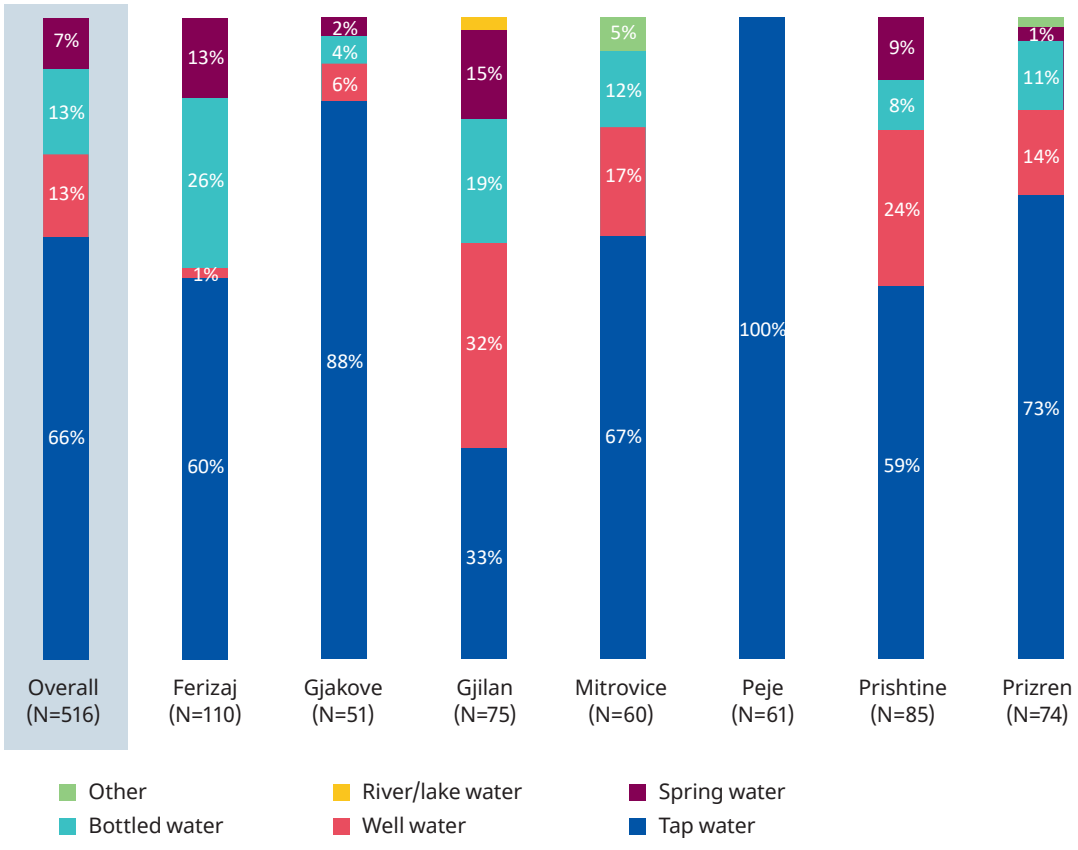
Helping my family with farming is hard work, but it feels good to contribute and see results. — (Focus group participant in the 15–18-year-old group in Gjakovë)

4.3.3 Access to key nutrients

This module also asked about children's access to key nutrients, including clean water as well as a variety of vegetables, dairy, fruit and meats that children engaged in agricultural work consume, so as to get a general understanding of their well-being.

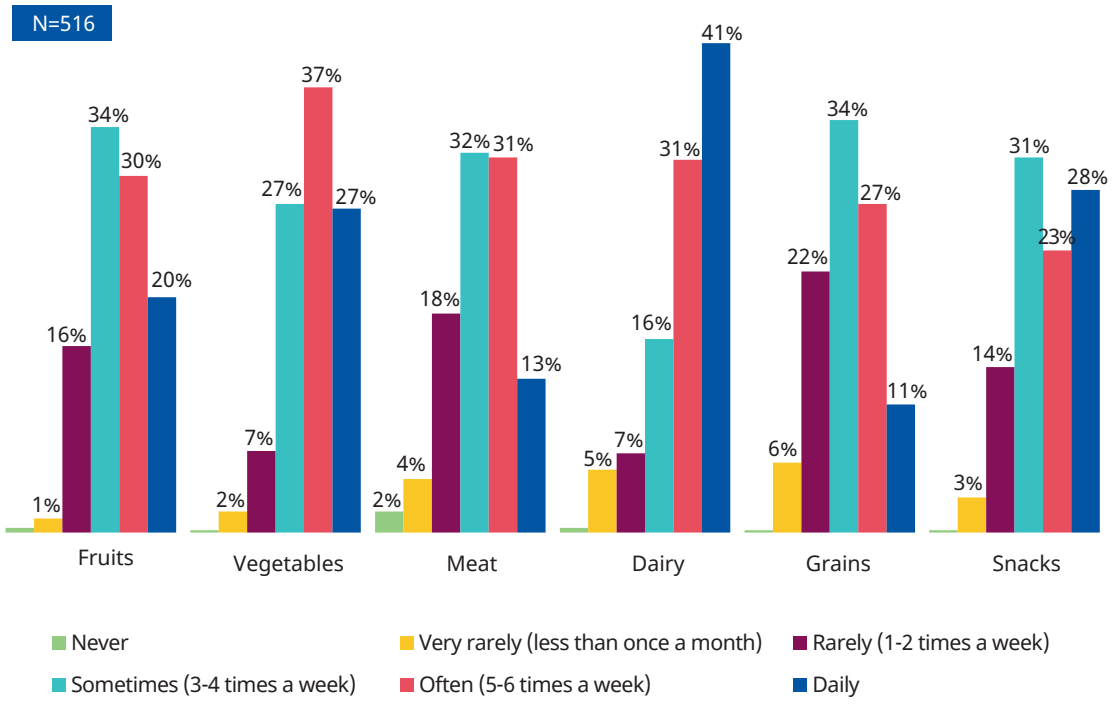
Concerning access to safe drinking water, overall, 66 per cent of the sample responded that children have access/drink from tap water, with a concerning 13 per cent from unfiltered well water, 13 per cent from bottled water, and 7 per cent from spring water. Regionally, children from Gjilan (32 per cent) and Prishtinë (24 per cent) were more likely to drink unfiltered well water than in other regions (figure 4.43).

▶ Figure 4.43. Types of water children drink, overall and by region



With regard to patterns of food consumption (see figure 4.44), fruits are frequently eaten by children, with 34 per cent consuming them often (five to six times a week) and 30 per cent eating fruits daily. Vegetables are also widely incorporated into their diets, with 37 per cent consuming them daily and only 1 per cent never eating them. Meat consumption is prevalent, with 32 per cent consuming it often and 31 per cent daily. Dairy products play a significant role in their diet, as 41 per cent consume dairy daily. For grains, 34 per cent consume them often and 27 per cent daily. Snacks are also consumed by the majority (28 per cent).

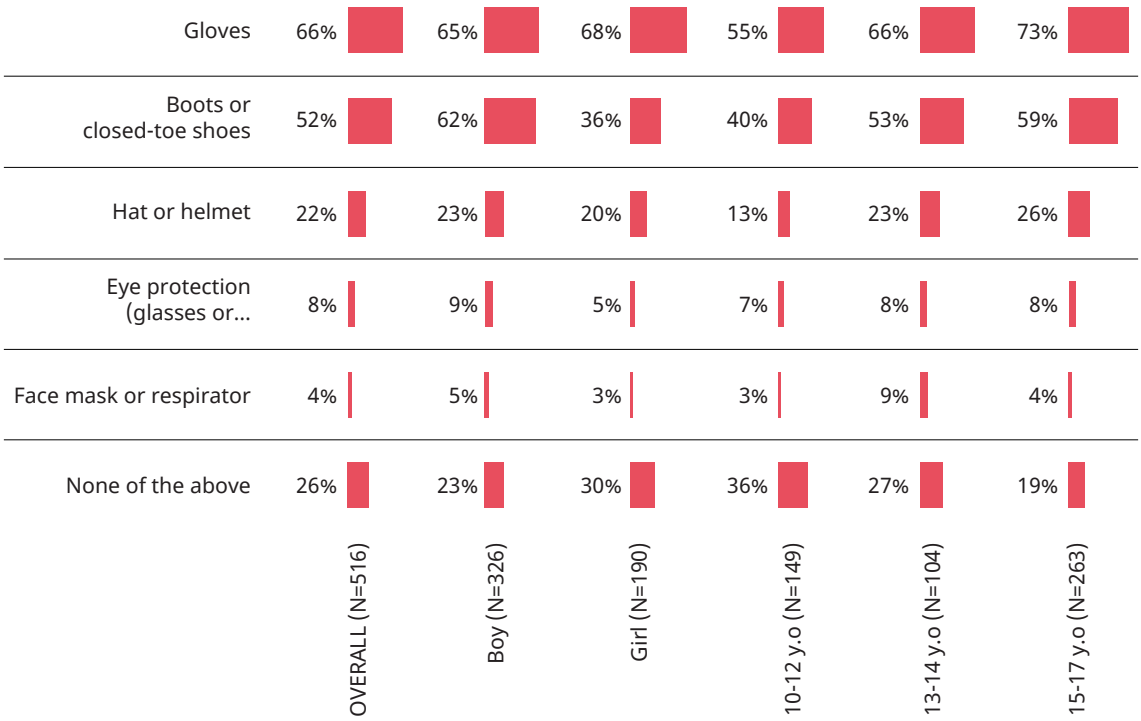
▶ Figure 4.44. Types of food consumed



4.3.4 Access to protective equipment

The sample respondents were also asked whether the randomly chosen child that engages in agriculture has access to protective equipment. Overall, gloves are the most frequently used protective equipment (66 per cent) followed by boots (52 per cent) and hats (22 per cent). Eye protection and face masks are however rarely used, which is indeed concerning given the fact that respondents said that children administer pesticides. Furthermore, overall a concerning 26 per cent of children do not have any access to any protective equipment. There does not appear to be a significant difference when disaggregating by sex and age group (figure 4.45).

▶ Figure 4.45. Access to protective equipment, overall, by sex and age group

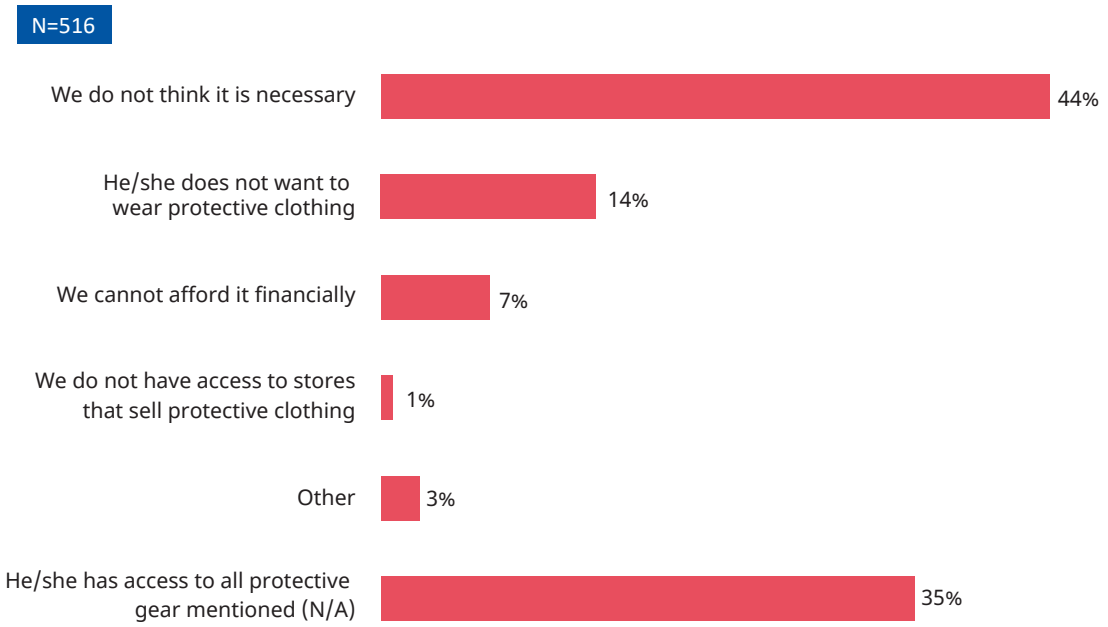


Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

Disaggregating by type of agricultural activity reveals that children who work in subsistence farming are less likely to have no access to any protective gear (33 per cent) as compared to those who work in families that farm for the local market (12 per cent).

Reasons why children do not have access to protective equipment include: not thinking it is necessary (44 per cent), children not wanting to wear such protective clothing (14 per cent), or families cannot afford it financially (7 per cent) as the main reasons. There are parents who leave it up to the discretion of the child to decide on whether they want to wear protective equipment or not, as well as those who would use protective equipment but cannot do so due to either financial constrains or not having access to protective clothing (figure 4.46).

▶ **Figure 4.46. Reasons for non-access to protective equipment**



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

Data obtaied from focus groups involving children, however, indicated that the protective equipment available to them was limited mainly to gloves. Regarding safeguarding against pesticide use, children participating in the FGDs disclosed the unavailability of protective equipment:

I feel safe in my work because we have proper protective gear like gloves, but the biggest concern is sun exposure. I try to take precautions against that but still ... — (Focus group participant in the 15–18-year-old group in Podujevë)

Masks? No, we do not wear masks when we work with pesticides. We make sure to have enough air for circulation of we are working in greenhouses but no masks. — (Focus group participant in the 10–14-year-old group in Mitrovicë)

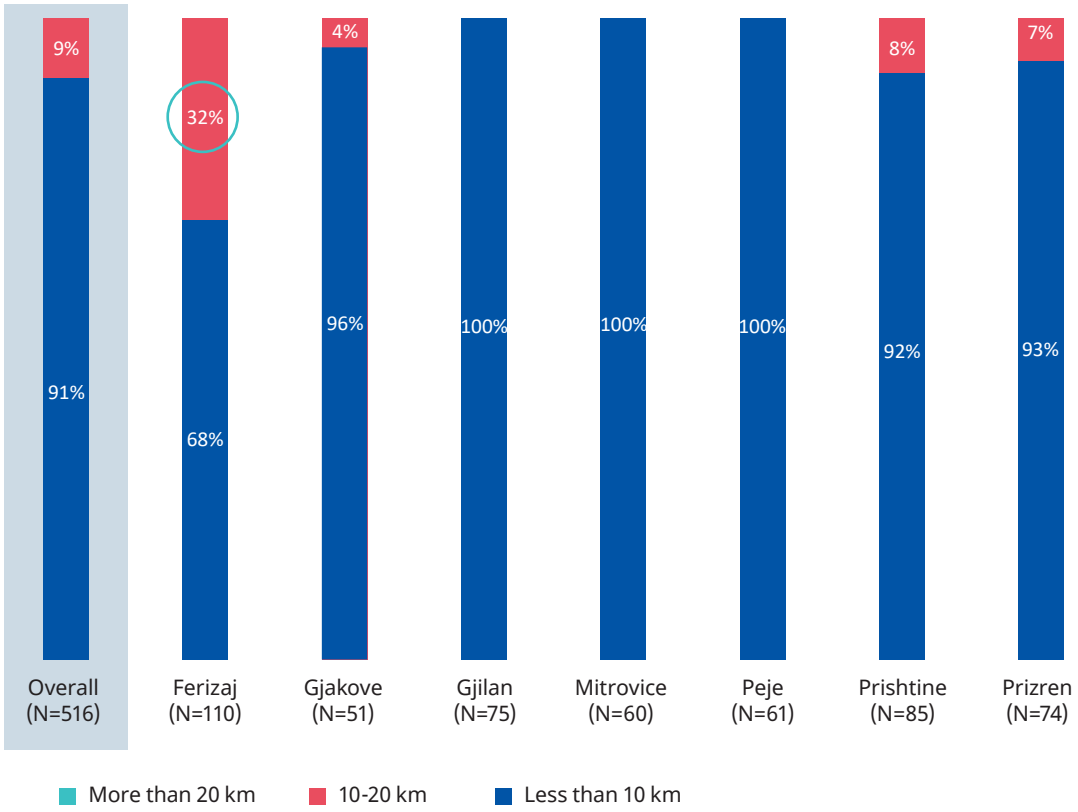
4.3.5 Injury incidents, health concerns, and access to healthcare facilities

This section of the report focuses on the availability of healthcare facilities for families, as well as on instances of children being injured during agricultural tasks, whether they received adequate safety training before the injury occurred, and if they received proper medical attention after the injury.

Firstly, 90 per cent of the overall sample had access to a nearby health facility, with the regions of Prishtinë (68 per cent) and Prizren (86 per cent) being less likely to have such access than other regions.

With regard to distance from the nearest healthcare facility, 91 per cent of the overall sample reported having a facility less than 10 kilometres (km) from home (figure 4.47). In Ferizaj, 32 per cent reported that the nearest healthcare facility was between 10 and 20 km away, which is concerning especially in emergencies where medical attention is immediately required.

▶ **Figure 4.47. Distance to the nearest healthcare facility, overall and by region**



Data from the qualitative findings reveal a somewhat similar reality. In some areas, especially villages close to the major cities, participants reported that they had easy access to health facilities overall. However, in more remote areas, especially in the region of Mitrovicë, many children and parents claimed that using a car is essential to access a health facility fast. So, if families do not have a car, their access to emergency healthcare is very limited. Additionally, participants from this region pointed out that even if ambulances are nearby/accessible within walking distance, many times doctors do not show up at all, so either way families must drive to the nearest centres:

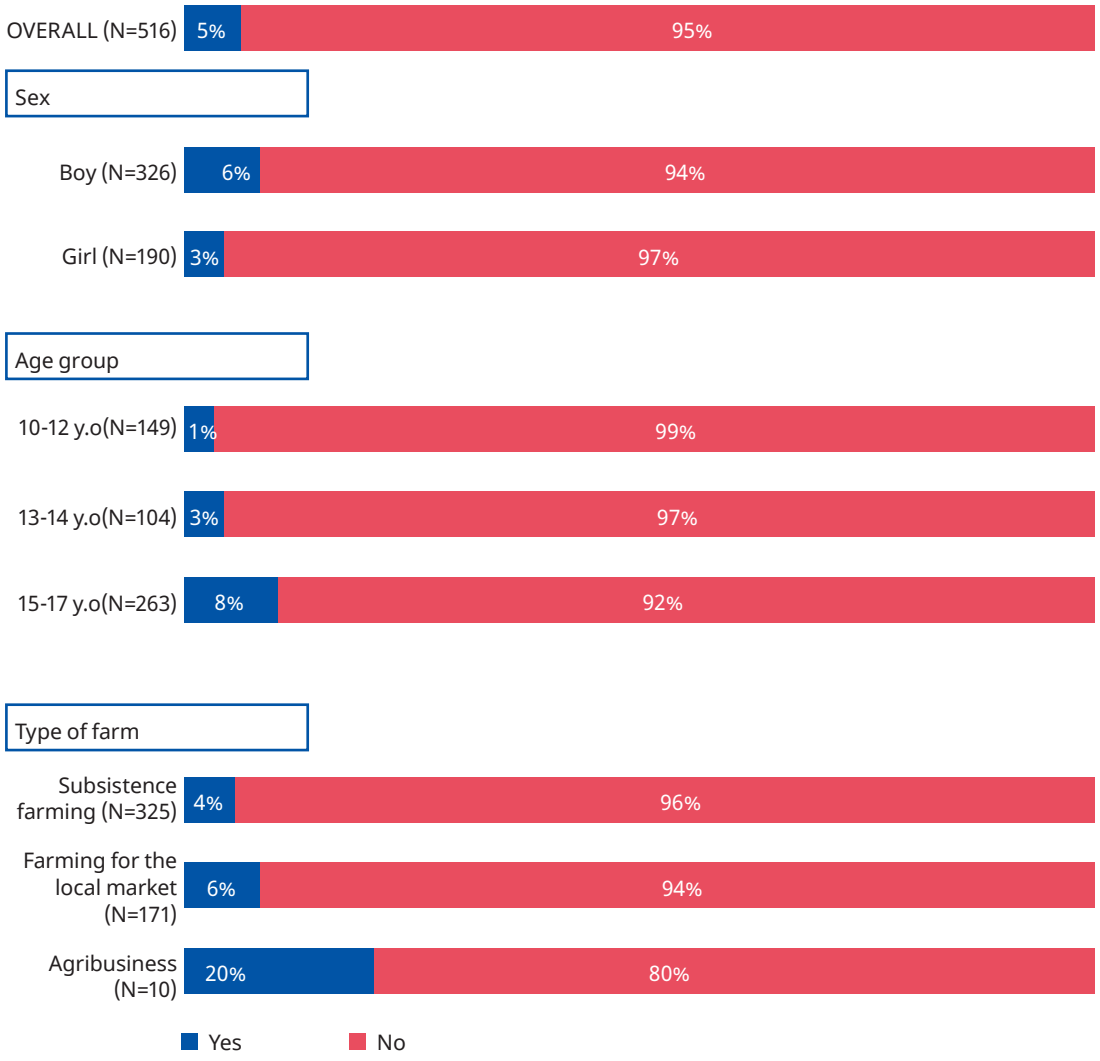
We have access to nearby health facilities. The emergency room is nearby. — (Focus group participant in the 10–14-year-old group in Prishtinë/Podujevë)

The doctor is supposed to come to the ambulance of the village every Friday. However, they aren't usually punctual with this. Sometimes they show up, other times they don't. So, when they don't and someone needs medical attention, we have to borrow a car so we can go to Mitrovicë in the centre. — (Focus group participant in the 10–14-year-old group in Mitrovicë)

We live a little farther away from the nearest medical facility here in Kushtovë. Many times, we have to wait for a car to borrow so we can drive. So, imagine if it's an emergency case … Hopefully we have not had these instances in our families but what if? What would we do then? — (Focus group participant with parents in Mitrovicë)

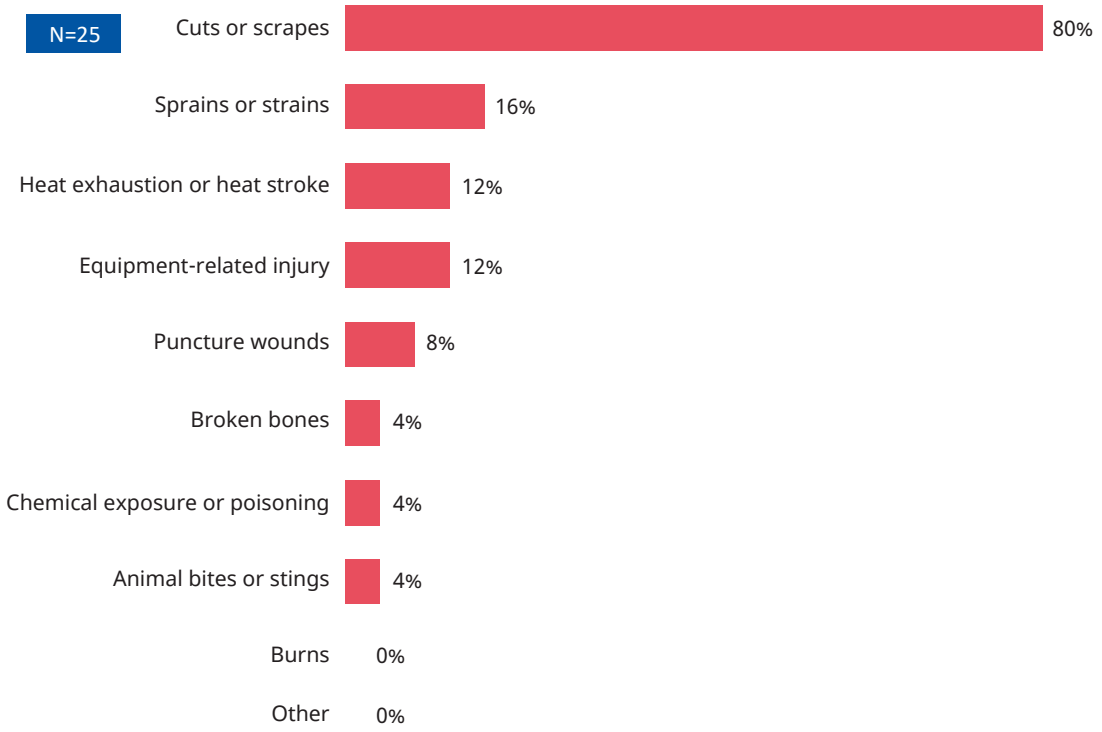
Subsequently, on a general level the survey participants indicated that 5 per cent of randomly selected children (totalling N=25) have experienced injuries while engaged in agricultural activities. When examining the data by sex, age group, and type of farm, it becomes evident that older teenage boys working in families involved in local market sales are at a higher risk of being injured compared to other groups (figure 4.48).

▶Figure 4.48. Children's injuries while working in agriculture, overall, by sex, age group, and type of farm



With regard to the types of injuries sustained, 80 per cent have experienced cuts or scrapes, followed by sprains or stains (16 per cent), heat stroke (12 per cent), and equipment-related injuries (12 per cent) as the most frequently encountered injuries (figure 4.49).

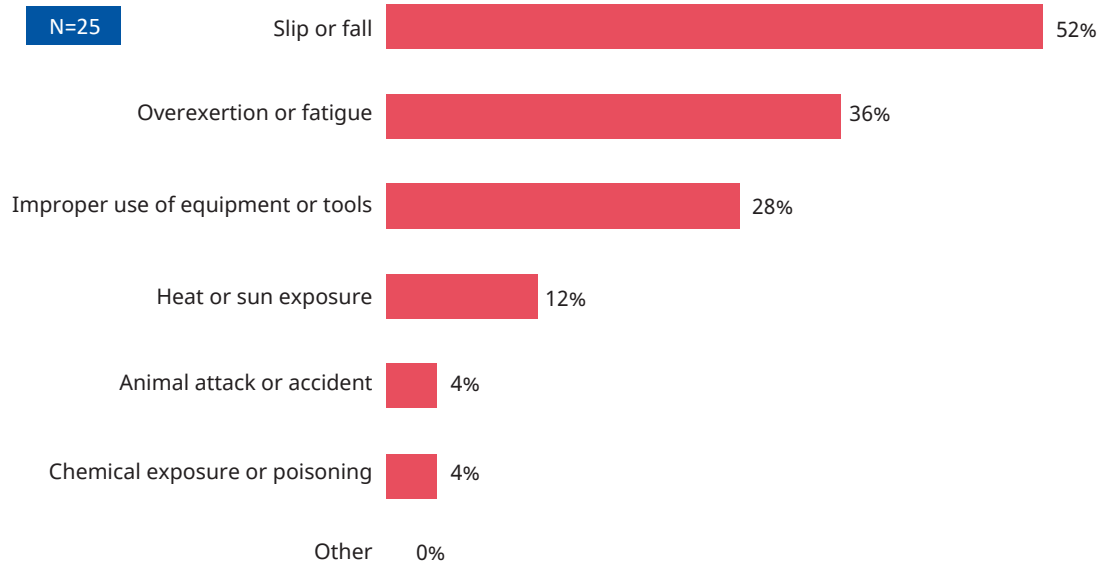
▶ Figure 4.49. Types of injuries sustained



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

Of the respondents who reported that children had been injured while performing agricultural tasks, 52 per cent claimed that the cause of the injury was a slip or a fall (figure 4.50). The second most-frequently mentioned cause was overexertion or fatigue (36 per cent) followed by improper use of equipment/tools (28 per cent), and heat or sun exposure (12 per cent).

▶Figure 4.50. Causes of injuries sustained



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

In 76 per cent of the cases, respondents claimed that the children had received medical treatment after an injury, but 24 per cent (N=6) claimed that the children did not receive such treatment. When asked why, all respondents claimed that in their opinion the injury was not so bad to require medical treatment.

The qualitative data indicates that children commonly sustain injuries while playing outdoors, whereas the occurrence of injuries during agricultural tasks is comparatively less. During FGDs, children often mentioned that the injuries sustained while working in agriculture were not severe enough to warrant medical attention. Additionally, they revealed that they often concealed these injuries from their parents. Moreover, some children explained that seeking medical help would result in lost work hours and reduced agricultural productivity, which would negatively impact the family's profits. Below are a few quotations from these discussions held in various regions:

Sometimes, I get injured while working on the farm, but it doesn't stop me from enjoying my favourite sports. — (Focus group participant in the 15-18-year-old group in Mitrovicë)

I have been hurt often while working, but they have been minor injuries. So minor in fact that I didn't even feel the need to tell an adult because it didn't require any medical attention. — (Focus group participant in the 10-14-year-old group in Mitrovicë)

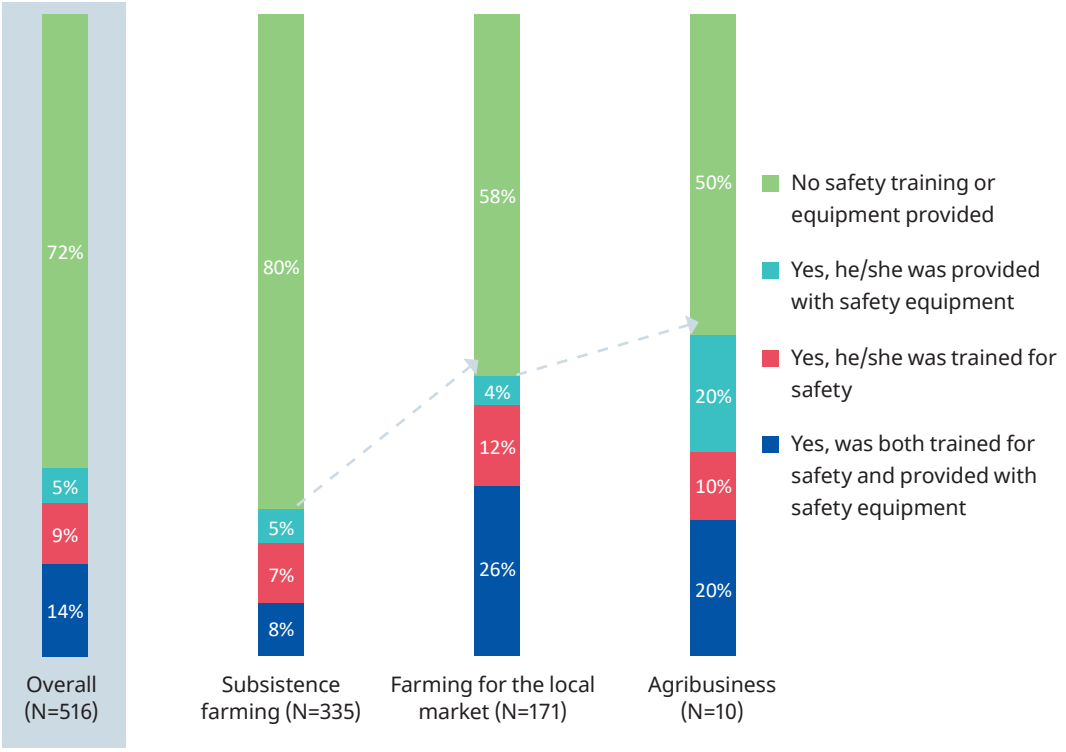
When we do inside work, it's not like there is much danger honestly. Operating with saws is more difficult; in the beginning for example I was really scared to cut wood. Now it's better, I have got used to it. — (Focus group participant in the 15-18-year-old group in Gjakovë)

I remember one time I was operating the tractor and my foot got stuck. I hurt my finger badly but I had to continue working. Not working meant lost profit so I had to make sure to continue work and since the injury was not fatal, I didn't go to the doctor either. — (Focus group participant in the 15-18-year-old group in Prishtinë/Podujevë)

Lastly, overall a concerning 72 per cent of the sample responded that when children are engaged in agricultural tasks, they are not provided with safety training or equipment. Only 14 per cent reported that children were offered safety training as well as provided with safety equipment.

Upon further examination based on the specific agricultural activities undertaken by households, a notable correlation emerges between the type of activity and the provision of safety training and equipment. The findings indicate that 80 per cent of subsistence farming families do not offer any safety training or equipment. However, this percentage decreases to 58 per cent for families engaged in local market farming, and further drops to 50 per cent for families involved in agribusiness (figure 4.51).

▶ **Figure 4.51. Provision of safety equipment/training, overall and by type of agricultural activity**

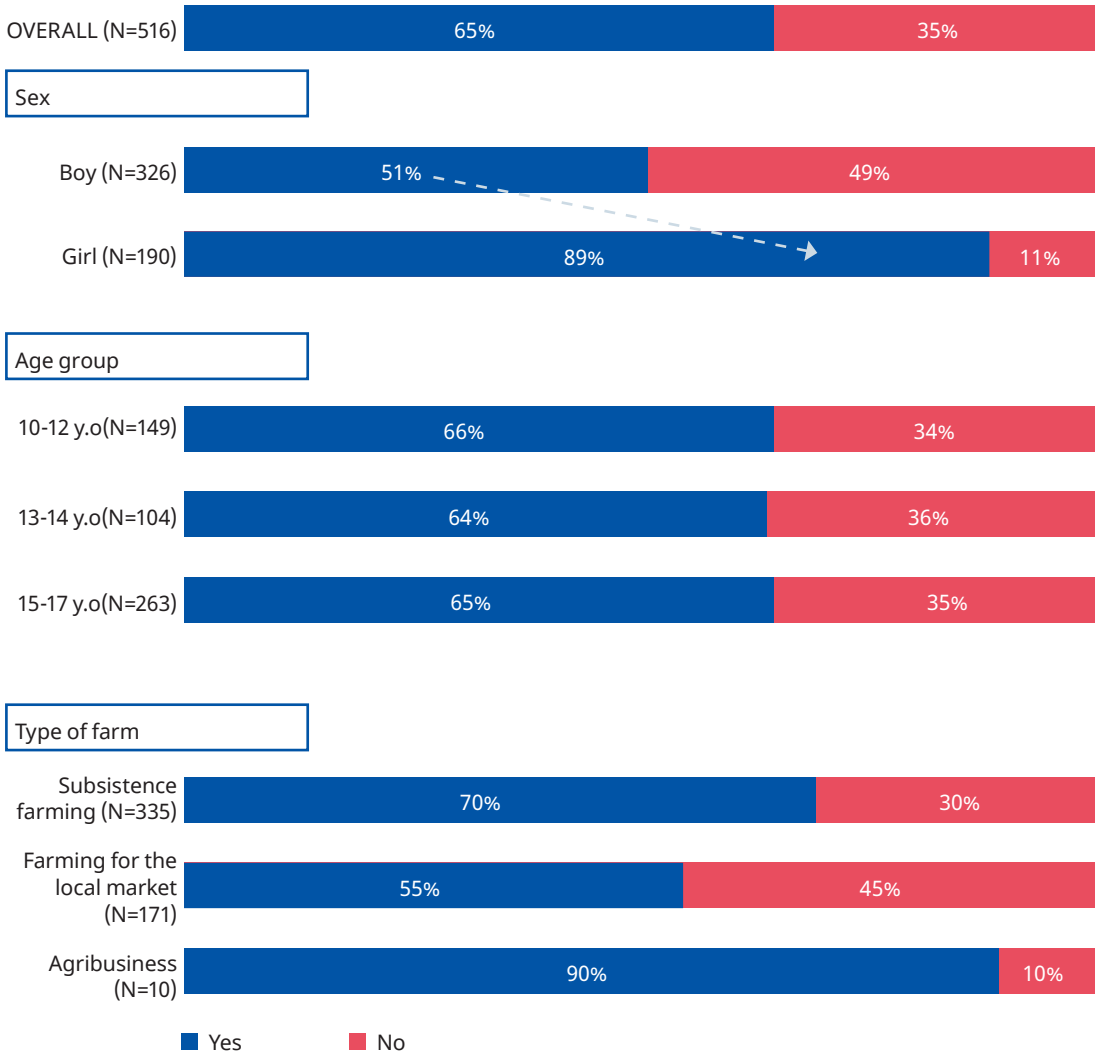


4.3.6 Household chores

Apart from work that entails working outside in different agricultural tasks, the module also asked respondents on whether the randomly chosen child engages in household chores within the household and if yes, how much time they spend doing these chores.

Overall, 65 per cent of children from the sample were involved in carrying out household chores, with a notable gender difference as 51 per cent of boys partake in these tasks compared to 89 per cent of girls (figure 4.52). Age groups do not show significant variations in their engagement with household chores. Regarding the type of agricultural activity or farm, 70 per cent of children from families primarily engaged in subsistence farming were involved in household chores, whereas this figure is 55 per cent for those farms that also sell to the local market.

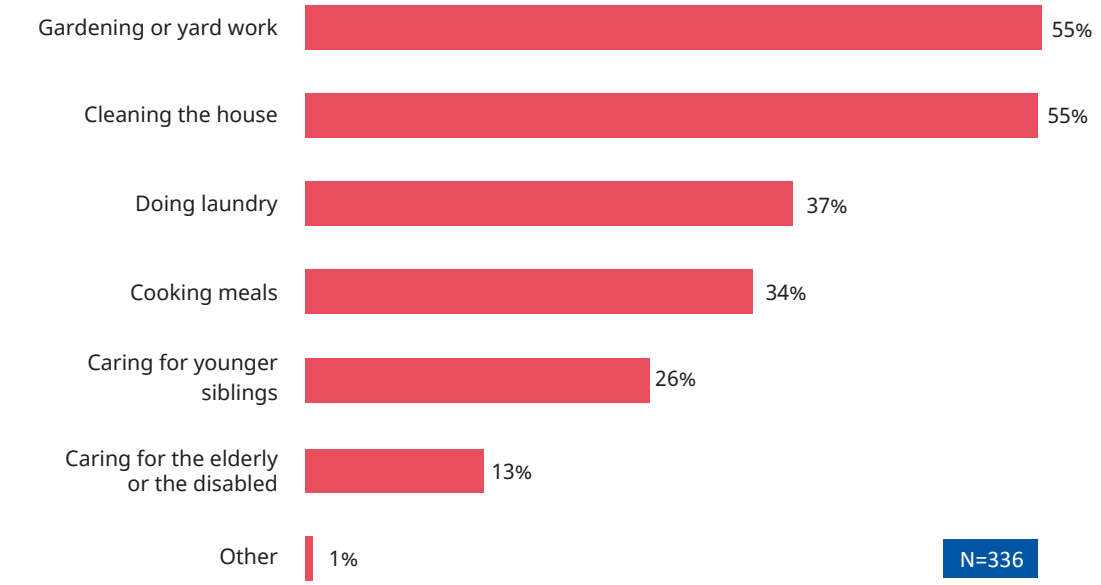
▶ Figure 4.52. Children's engagement in household chores, overall, by age group and type of farm



Regionally, Prizren (95 per cent), Prishtinë (74 per cent), and Gjakovë (71 per cent) are the top three regions that engage children in household chores.

For 65 per cent (N=336) of the sample that reported engaging children in household chores, 55 per cent engage them in gardening/yard work, 55 per cent on cleaning the house, 37 per cent on doing laundry, and so on (figure 4.53).

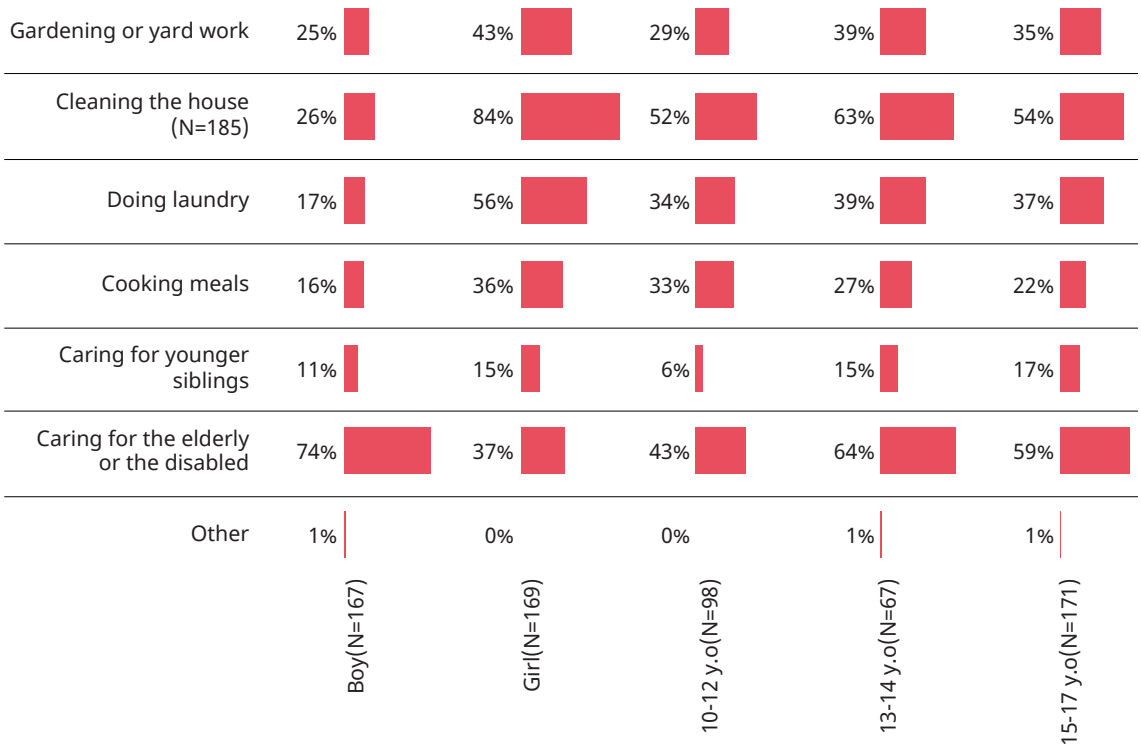
▶ Figure 4.53. Type of work done as household chores



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

Disaggregating the data by sex and age group reveals interesting findings (figure 4.54). Girls are mostly involved in cleaning the house (84 per cent) and doing laundry (56 per cent) whereas boys are more likely to care for the elderly or any disabled members of the household (74 per cent) and engage in garden or yard work (25 per cent). Additionally, teenagers between 15 and 17 years old are more likely to care for the elderly (59 per cent) as compared to 10–12-year-olds who are more engaged in cleaning the house (52 per cent).

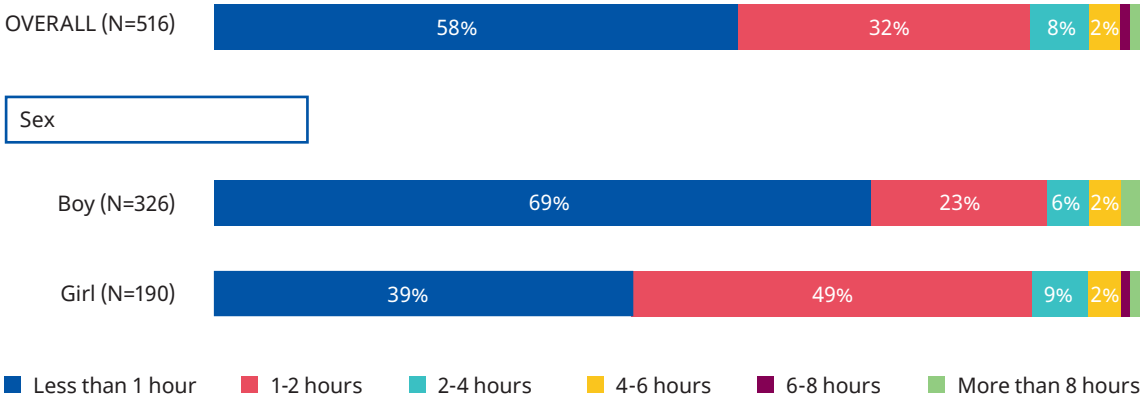
▶Figure 4.54. Type of work done as household chores, by sex and age group



Note: Multiple selection question, results add up to more than 100%.

Lastly, with regard to the number of hours spent on household chores, 58 per cent responded that children mostly spent less than 1 hour, while 32 per cent that claimed they spent between 1 and 2 hours (figure 4.55). Girls are more likely to spend more than 1 hour on household chores as compared to boys.

▶Figure 4.55. Number of hours worked on household chores, overall and by sex



The findings from the qualitative data demonstrate resemblances in both parent and stakeholder groups. They extensively discuss the evident gender disparities concerning the tasks performed by boys and girls. The consensus is that boys, owing to their physical strength, tend to undertake tasks outside the house, while girls primarily concentrate on chores inside:

Promoting gender equality and eliminating discrimination in agricultural work is vital. Girls and boys should have equal access to opportunities and be encouraged to participate in various tasks, inside or outside the house. — (Focus group participant with other stakeholders in Gjakovë)

Boys are more likely to engage in physically demanding tasks, while girls are often involved in activities related to taking care of animals or household agricultural chores. — (Focus group participant with other stakeholders in Mitrovicë)

5

Promotion of children's rights and non-hazardous work: Insights from key informant interviews

This section of the report centres on analysing significant findings derived from key informant interviews concerning the rights of children involved in agricultural labour. It emphasizes the promotion and safeguarding of these rights through policy and legislation. Moreover, the chapter aims to identify preventive and protective measures that can be effectively implemented to address the issue of child labour in Kosovo's agricultural sector.

5.1 Laws and policies on child labour

The respondents from the Ministry of Finance, Labor, and Transfers, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development (MAFRD) acknowledge the presence of regulations related to child labour in Kosovo. According to them, the Labour Law sets the minimum age for regular employment at 18 years, while permitting children aged 15 and above to engage in specific types of work, known as non-hazardous work. However, according to respondents, there is a need for regulation of light work, that can be performed below the minimum working age, namely age 13–15. This gap in the legal framework can lead to parents and/or other family members overworking their children, not necessarily because they want to but perhaps because they lack awareness of what constitutes light and non-hazardous work altogether. Interviewees from the MAFRD pointed out that regulation of light work for children aged 13-15 would be beneficial to ensure rights of children are protected, to raise awareness among agricultural communities, and at the same time serve as a legal basis for whenever such law/regulation is broken:

There are currently no specific laws or policies in place to regulate light work in Kosovo. It's a grey area. – (Key informant interview with MAFRD)

Permissible work for children aged 15–18 is regulated, but no employment relationship can be established under the minimum employment age, hence light work needs to be regulated. – (Key informant interview with the Labour Inspectorate)

Firstly, I believe that the permissible and prohibited tasks for children should be clearly defined in writing, as it is easier to enforce when properly regulated. – (Key informant interview with representative from KOMF)

5.2 Policies and programmes supporting youth employment in agriculture

Respondents pointed out limitations in the implementation of policies and programmes supporting youth employment in agriculture. While there are grants and forms of support provided to promote young people's engagement, specific details on these programmes are lacking, according to key informant interviewees. Vocational training in professional schools was suggested as a potential way of increasing youth employment in agriculture, and as an indirect way of increasing families' overall economic well-being:

Collaborative initiatives between vocational schools and farms are some of the best practices to ensure safe and responsible child engagement in agriculture and forestry. – (Key informant interview with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology)

The Ministry acknowledges the need for comprehensive policies but currently focuses on addressing specific hazards and light work in agriculture. Vocational training in professional schools is the only mentioned support for youth employment, especially in agriculture. – (Key informant interview with MAFRD)

Lack of actual vocational employment opportunities for teenagers in agriculture is a significant challenge. Because of these inexistent regulations/opportunities, risks faced by children include heavy weights, pesticide exposure, and the loss of schooling. – (Key informant interview with MAFRD)

Respondents further noted that children engaged in agricultural work may not be monetarily compensated. Instead, they often contribute to their family's economic situation, which indirectly also provides them with a safer long-term future. The experience gained through this engagement may also prepare them for a future in agricultural activities.

They also emphasized the importance of child labour in agriculture, stating that while many forms of it may be hazardous and detrimental to a child's health and educational future, agricultural work can also instil the value of work in children:

When children work in agriculture, they contribute to their family's economic situation, whether through unpaid labour within the family or paid work outside. Older children can financially support the family. Additionally, there is a non-financial benefit of personal fulfilment through work. – (Key informant interview with MAFRD)

Children's involvement in agriculture primarily benefits their families economically, as they contribute to the family's income. The benefits are shared among family members. – (Key informant interview with MAFRD)

Children involved in forestry work gain a sense of work commitment and develop teamwork skills. – (Key informant interview with the Agency of Forestry)

5.3 Programmes and initiatives addressing child labour and ensuring access to education

According to key informant interviewees, there is a lack of specific programmes or initiatives addressing child labour in agriculture and forestry. According to them, efforts are being made to sensitize farmers and agribusinesses about legal requirements, but regulation and the determination of light work is needed to implement targeted programmes effectively.

Interviewees recognized that collaborative efforts are crucial to ensure that children who are exposed to agricultural work are not deprived of basic rights, including their right to education and leisure. They highlight that parents may often be oblivious to dangers entailed in engaging children in agricultural work, both directly through potential injuries they can sustain as well as indirectly through work's impact on children's ability to attend school and enjoy leisure time.

To address child labour effectively, respondents stress the need for collaboration between different ministries (especially the Ministry of Education and the MAFRD) to ensure that children are not hindered in attending school due to work obligations. Informative campaigns targeting parents, students and the agribusiness sector are also suggested to raise awareness about the risks and negative consequences of child labour in agriculture and forestry:

Raising awareness through media and public campaigns is crucial to inform families about the risks associated with child labour in agriculture. – (Key informant interview with representative from Save the Children)

Increased awareness is necessary to promote the consequences of hazardous child labour, emphasizing the long-term impacts on children's health, education and general livelihoods. Children have the right to live free of such risks at such a young age. – (Key informant interview with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology)

The main problem, I think, is the awareness of parents and teachers, and then of the children, as they are not aware of the risks and how work in agriculture can deprive them of their basic human rights. – (Key informant interview with representative from KOMF)

5.4 Roles of government, civil society and the private sector in protecting children's rights

The collaborative effort involving the Government, civil society organizations and the private sector is necessary to address child labour effectively. According to interviewees, government institutions and civil society organizations play a significant role in developing and enforcing measures, while the private sector should adhere to regulations and provide employment opportunities in accordance with the law.

Respondents proposed a closed loop of collaboration that would follow the steps below:

- Ensure the legislative basis is in place to distinguish between light work, child labour and hazardous work for children aged 13 and up.
- Promote safe practices in agriculture through educational campaigns to inform parents about hazardous and non-hazardous work, as well as to introduce them to potential risks of children's engagement in agriculture.
- Ensure that children who are engaged in light agricultural work are not deprived of their basic human rights such as the right to education, access to healthcare, and the right to play and grow.
- Ensure that monitoring mechanisms are in place to punish perpetrators and monitor children's school attendance.

The close collaboration between these three institutional bodies was constantly emphasized as the only way to make sure that children are protected:

Close cooperation between the Government, civil society organizations and the private sector is necessary to regulate child labour and raise awareness. – (Key informant interview with freelance consultant on child protection)

Collaboration and cooperation among the Government, civil society organizations and the private sector are crucial in addressing child labour in agriculture and forestry, including implementing laws and raising awareness. – (Key informant interview with the Labour Inspectorate)

Government programmes supported by the Ministry's budget can play a significant role. Civil society organizations can contribute through informative and sensitization activities. – (Key informant interview with the Agency of Forestry)

Government institutions and relevant stakeholders need to work together to address child labour issues and prioritize the well-being of children over personal gain. – (Key informant interview with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology)

Civil society organizations can play a pivotal role in advocating for children's rights and supporting the Government's efforts to protect them. The private sector should adhere to ethical business principles and contribute to safeguarding the well-being of children in agriculture. The Government's role through Parliament is critical in enacting and implementing protective legislation for children. – (Key informant interview with representative from Save the Children)

The reduction of risks can be achieved through inspections, regulations, and the enforcement of existing laws. Permanent monitoring by institutions is crucial. – (Key informant interview with MAFRD)

6

Case studies

To have a better in-depth understanding of child involvement in agriculture, three case studies were conducted with children from the regions of Gjakovë, Mitrovicë and Pejë. These studies help in understanding the spread of agricultural work among rural areas in Kosovo, focusing specifically on three cases, describing the characteristics of the child, their favourite hobbies/activities, and agricultural tasks they are involved in as well as whether they enjoy such tasks. The following have been considered for each case study:

- The characteristics of the child: age, household characteristics, and whether they attend school.
- School attendance and regular daily activities.
- Reasons for child labour and access to healthcare.

6.1 Case study in the region of Gjakovë

6.1.1 Characteristics of the child and the household

The case study from Gjakovë is a young girl in the age group 15–18, living in a household consisting of four members: two siblings, mother and father. She is currently on summer break (as at the date of the study in July 2023), wakes up at 6 a.m. and begins her day by tending to personal tasks. Her favourite subjects in school are sports and mathematics, and she has a natural inclination towards chemistry as well. She is very eager to attend school, is diligent in her studies and has only missed school once or twice this year due to health reasons, promptly resuming her studies afterwards, as she says:

At school, I have only missed once or twice this year due to health reasons, but I resumed immediately because I like going to school.

The girl describes herself as having a personality oriented toward helping others and feels joy when she can help others around her. She cites her favourite character from the movie Mulan, describing how she looks up to Mulan as a role model:

I like the movie Mulan because it's an action movie. She is a girl who dresses like a boy, cuts her hair like a boy, and takes on the appearance of a boy. She helps her people a lot, and the ending is very happy because at first, no one likes her, but then she convinces the king and everyone that she has done a lot for her country and is crowned with a medal in the end. I like the movie's message.

6.1.2 School attendance and regular daily activities

The girl's commitment to her education is evident in her punctuality and dedication to learning. Despite her involvement in agricultural work, she claims to prioritize school attendance regularly. Experiencing only occasional absences due to health concerns, she promptly returns to her studies without hindrance.

Her parents seem supportive of her education and encourage her to balance her responsibilities at both school and the family farm. She likes to be of assistance and often engages in the planting of watermelon and vegetables:

When I do the planting of vegetables and watermelon, I do it willingly and have no problem with it; I am happy to help my family.

She adds that she really enjoys hanging out with her friends and doing outdoor activities. She mentions hiking and hanging out by different rivers as her two favourite pastime activities to do with her friends in addition to watching movies.

6.1.3 Reasons for child labour, and access to healthcare

The primary reasons for this girl's involvement in agricultural labour lie in her willingness to contribute to her family's livelihood and the strong sense of responsibility he feels towards her family. She actively participates in farming activities, helping to plant vegetables and watermelons, and assisting in the harvest of crops as well as helping on the land. Even when such activities entail heavy work which might be cumbersome for someone her age, she explains that she does not mind doing it as long as it helps her family:

When it's time to mow the meadows, I also help by climbing and loading the baskets or crates, I know it's a bit heavy, but I do it willingly for my family.

She possesses a strong sense of responsibility and willingly helps her family in various agricultural tasks, showing particular interest in cultivating shallots and peppers. She is also capable of driving the tractor in the fields, assisting her parents in their farming activities, a thing that she takes pride in, oblivious to the risks or the fact that it is illegal for her to do so.

I don't know the tractor well, but it doesn't seem risky to me. I am happy to help my family whenever I can, so I also drive the tractor in the fields when I need to help my mom and dad. I make sure to drive slowly and carefully.

She also expresses genuine satisfaction in assisting her family and taking care of her uncle's sheep when she has free time. She explains that out of all the tasks she has to carry out, she dislikes harvesting beans the most because the plant's thorns usually prick her during the harvesting process.

In addition, she explains that her family often uses pesticides in their daily agricultural activities but they all make sure to wear protective equipment before handling them. She explains that this is a family activity that they do together:

We usually use chemicals a little before spraying to give more warmth to the plants. We don't have a greenhouse, but we work in the fields, and when we use chemicals we wear masks and gloves too.

As she explains, her parents have been the only people who have trained her to practise safe agricultural work, and she has not received training from anyone else. Generally, this has proven enough; there have been times when she has been hurt while carrying out agricultural tasks, but these injuries have been minor and she did not need to seek medical care for them.

6.2 Case study in the region of Mitrovicë

6.2.1 Characteristics of the child and the household

The case study from Mitrovicë is a young girl belonging to the age group 10–14 who currently resides with her siblings and father; her mother died when the child was still very young. She leads a structured daily routine, starting the day early, with school attendance being a regular part of her schedule.

She has a positive attitude and is willing to help her family with various farm tasks, including planting nuts, feeding animals, and assisting with household chores. She also shows a strong interest in her favourite subject, the Albanian language, and finds joy in spending time with the family's dogs:

I really like dogs. I love taking care of them, watching documentaries on dogs, everything that has to do with dogs, I love.

She mentions enjoying reading because she likes activities that can be done alone; she finds comfort in being by herself. Her favourite book is *Princesha Argjiro* and favourite movie is *Dy Shokë*, which she claims to have recently watched in school as well.

6.2.2 School attendance and regular daily activities

The child's school attendance is consistent; there is no mention of her missing school, and she has a clear affinity for learning, particularly in her favourite subject, the Albanian language. She explains that she rarely misses school and if she does it is only due to health reasons or perhaps a doctor's visit. Otherwise, she says that she loves school:

I never miss school. Or at least I try not to. Unless I am sick or vising a doctor then yes. Because if we go to the doctor, we have to travel to Mitrovicë so it will consume some part of my day. Naturally, on those occasions I do miss school.

She says that her regular daily activities consist of going to school, playing with friends, and then dedicating her time to agricultural activities:

A typical day for me involves waking up in the morning, going to school, returning home for lunch, and then heading out to the orchards to plant walnuts. Also, from time to time, I also hang out with my friends, we like to go out in the fields and play some sport. I prefer football.

6.2.3 Reasons for child labour, and access to healthcare

This child's involvement in farm work is driven by a strong sense of familial duty and willingness to support the family's agricultural activities. She actively participates in various tasks such as planting nuts and assisting with household chores. She explains that because her mother is not there to help she usually picks up the cooking duties, especially for celebrations such as Eid, where an influx of people is expected to visit:

When my family comes for iftar, I prepare the food myself and make sweets. I enjoy this work. I also sell the extra produce to our neighbours. This type of work is really enjoyable.

She also explains that there are certain types of agricultural work which she finds risky or simply is not keen on performing, but she must in order to help her family:

Sometimes I do not really feel like doing chores or working outside but I do not have any other option. I have to help out my family.

Moreover, she claims that snakes and other wild animals are always a risk factor when doing agricultural work such as tending to livestock. She explains that she often has to attend to cows all alone, taking them out in the field for grazing, and it is there that she has to be very careful of wild animals:

Sometimes I go to work alone, but it's risky. I once saw a snake, and it bit me. I quickly moved away. I did not feel like telling anyone about it because it was not a major injury so I did not want people to worry. Some of the risks when working in the fields are snakes, wolves, wild boars; I encountered one and hit it with a stick.

She also claims to often work with pesticides but did not mention using gloves or other protective equipment while doing so:

I use a spray to protect crops from pests, but I don't use masks. Also, I do not do it very often.

She explains that her father and brother have played a key role in training her to practise agricultural work safely, or at least to take care of herself when carrying out various agricultural jobs. Other than her father and brother, she states, she has not received any other training from other family members and/or in school or another institution.

The girl also says that while there have been times when she has been injured while working in the fields, the instances have been minor and have not required medical attention. However, if need arises in an emergency, she explains that the nearest hospital is far away (at least 25 minutes by road) and since the family does not own a car they must wait for a neighbour or someone else with a car to drive them. She clarifies that though there is a village emergency room, there are sometimes no doctors:

I have been injured performing agricultural tasks but it has never been very serious. If it were, then we would need to drive to Mitrovicë but if no one with a car is home, we would have to wait for the car. So that is a little risky of course, especially if the injury is a serious one. We do have the village emergency room but the doctors there do not always show up regularly or show up every second Friday.

6.3 Case study in the region of Prishtinë/Podujevë

6.3.1 Characteristics of the child and the household

The case study from Podujevë is a boy in the age group 15–18, living in a household consisting of eight members: four siblings, mother and father, and grandparents. He says that because one of his siblings is in higher education and the other two are younger, they are often unable to participate in agricultural chores so usually he must balance chores with school, making sure he maintains regular attendance in both. He is mainly responsible for dividing the agricultural tasks between himself and his siblings, but often gets help from his grandfather:

My grandfather has been my guide for everything. He has taught me how to drive the tractor, for example, and how to use the equipment that we use. There have been cases where I have taken videos of my grandfather working just so that I could watch them later on and learn. You know, for when I am out on my own.

He says he started working in agricultural tasks from a very young age. He explains that his family owns twenty hectares of land and that ever since he was seven years old he has learned to manage the land together with his family.

We have twenty hectares of land and by now I think I have mastered the skills I need. I have started working from a very young age, when I was seven years old or so.

6.3.2 School attendance and regular daily activities

The boy emphasizes that he regularly attends school and that he has probably missed school at most five times during a school year. He points out that even when he does miss school, it is due to some illness and for no other reasons. He adds that his parents have stressed the importance of education from an early age:

I rarely, if ever, miss school. Last year, for example, maybe I didn't attend five times in total. I was sick, that's why. Other than that, I try to be very vigilant. My mom and dad have told me that I should think of agricultural work as a hobby more than as a full-time career. They have emphasized to me the importance of getting a good education because they have suffered a lot as they did not have the education they needed to move forward in life. So, I try to be very vigilant about that.

He explains that he enjoys spending time with friends during his free moments and makes an effort to manage his schedule effectively, balancing school and work commitments but leaving little room for leisure. He mentions that he gets very little sleep, approximately two to three hours per night- far below the recommended hours of sleep for a teenager- as he needs to wake up early at 2 a.m. to participate in the farmer's market and help his family sell their produce. During school days, he reduces his involvement in agricultural activities and selling produce, but he still finds himself working late, often not returning home until around 11 p.m.:

I wake up very early – 2 or 3 a.m. I have to go out and sell our produce in the farmer's market early morning. Then if I have school, I will go to school but then come back and again work until very late. Sometimes I don't go back home until 11 p.m. or so. For me it's enough though to only study 1–1.5 hours per day. If I can do that, I end up maintaining great grades.

6.3.3 Reasons for child labour, and access to healthcare

The boy explains that his primary motivation for engaging in agricultural work is to support his family in increasing their income since the entire family relies heavily on earnings from agriculture. Due to his age, he bears the major share of agricultural responsibilities compared to his siblings. He describes performing various agricultural duties, ranging from harvesting crops to dealing with pesticides:

During pickling season, I help out to make pickles. Other than that, I also help with harvesting different fruit and vegetables of the season. Using pesticides is necessary, but I make sure to measure and apply them correctly to ensure safety and effectiveness. As I mentioned before, I often even look up videos that I made of my grandfather/older sibling so that I also know how to apply them correctly. But still, whenever my dad can, he usually takes care of this chore because he does not want me around pesticides.

He mentions that due to his father's high blood pressure, he feels a strong sense of responsibility to assist with agricultural tasks whenever possible. This desire to contribute has led him to become independent from a young age, even taking on responsibilities such as driving the tractor:

I have driven the tractor from a very early age. Maybe when I was 10 or so. Ever since, I take on most of agricultural responsibilities our family has. I can say I do around 60 per cent of the work or so.

He mentions having had several accidents, especially in the beginning when lack of experience led to numerous mishaps, some of which were quite serious. They affected not only him but also other family members and mostly involved machinery, particularly during tractor operations and equipment installations. He recalls a particular accident when working with the tractor, and although he managed to escape with minor injuries, it could have been fatal. Similarly, while using other transportation, an accident resulted in a crushed finger which should have required immediate medical attention.

He adds that such incidents also had economic implications, as unsold products spoil during the off-season. Despite facing these challenges, as well as infections, his determination to handle injuries himself has contributed to the whole family's economic well-being. He acknowledges that the profession entails significant risks, particularly when using technological equipment, where even experienced sellers may not adequately explain operation methods to potential buyers who lack familiarity with the equipment. He emphasizes the importance of understanding the craft thoroughly to mitigate the potential risks associated with these tools;

These incidents not only affected me but also occurred within my family, involving machinery and particularly during tractor operations and equipment installations. One time, I remember I had an accident with one of our agricultural vehicles. My finger was badly hurt but I had no time to go to the doctor because we would miss out on selling produce.

The boy emphasizes that they have access to healthcare but because injuries have usually been minor and could be handled without medical attention, he has rarely visited a medical centre for treatment.

7

Conclusions and recommendations

7.1 Conclusions

This rapid assessment sheds light on the issue of child labour in the agricultural sector in Kosovo, revealing significant findings and challenges that require immediate attention. The study found that child labour is prevalent, with a considerable portion of households engaging children and adolescents in agricultural work. Subsistence farming is a common practice, while farming for the local market and agribusiness offer potential income-generation opportunities.

The study highlighted labour shortages, climate change (rain/hail), and limited access to irrigation systems as the primary challenges faced by agricultural communities. Limited access to markets and buyers, lack of market research knowledge, and lack of knowledge and/or skills for increasing production and use of new technology were also highlighted as secondary challenges. These challenges vary across different regions, demanding targeted interventions to address their specific needs.

One of the aspects identified as of concern is the exposure of children and adolescents to hazardous tasks in agriculture. Handling pesticides, operating heavy machinery and working at heights are some of the risky activities children are involved in, raising concerns about their health and safety. Moreover, the provision of safety training and equipment remains inadequate, especially among subsistence farmers, emphasizing the need for awareness and preventive measures.

The study also emphasized the importance of protecting children's rights and ensuring their access to education. Through key informant interviews, it revealed the need for comprehensive laws and policies that regulate child labour in the agricultural sector, as well as collaboration between different ministries, civil society organizations and the private sector to effectively address this issue.

Moreover, efforts to combat child labour should not only focus on preventing children's involvement in hazardous tasks but also on promoting sustainable and safe agricultural practices. Financial assistance and vocational training can help improve youth employment opportunities in agriculture, leading to better economic well-being for farming families.

In conclusion, this rapid assessment underscores the urgency of addressing child labour in agriculture in Kosovo. It calls for collective efforts from the Government, civil society organizations and the private sector to develop and enforce protective legislation and to promote safe and responsible agricultural practices. By safeguarding children's rights, providing adequate safety measures and ensuring access to education, Kosovo can create a better future for its young generation while fostering sustainable agricultural development. The findings of this study serve as a crucial foundation for designing targeted interventions and policy reforms to eliminate hazardous child labour in the agricultural sector and contribute to the overall well-being of children in Kosovo.

Table 7.1 provides a summary of findings from the sections above, focusing on the eight research objective questions outlined at the beginning of this report.

▶Table 7.1. Research objectives answered

RQ1: What is the scope of child labour in the agricultural sector in Kosovo, and how does it vary across different regions?

Adolescent involvement: From sample data, approximately four out of ten households (40 per cent) in Kosovo engage adolescents between the ages of 13 and 17 in agricultural work. This indicates that a significant portion of households rely on the labour of teenagers to support agricultural activities.

Child involvement: The study found that child labour involving children aged 5 to 12 is present in one out of ten households (10 per cent). Although less common than adolescent labour, it still highlights the participation of younger children in agricultural tasks.

Regional variations: Among child and adolescent workers, households in Ferizaj have the highest engagement of adolescents in agricultural work, with 88 per cent of such households involving teenagers. Following closely are households in Pejë, where 47 per cent of them engage adolescents in agricultural activities, and Prizren with 42 per cent. These regions demonstrate a higher reliance on teenage labour in their agricultural practices.

Child labour in different regions: When focusing on child labour specifically, Gjilan, Ferizaj and Prishtinë are the top three regions with the highest percentage of households engaging children aged 5 to 12 in agricultural work. The percentages of households involving children in these regions are 15, 13, and 11 per cent respectively.

RQ2: What are the common patterns of work performed by children in the agricultural sector, including the types of crops grown, hours worked and types of tasks performed?

Main agricultural activities: The study found that 89 per cent of children in the agricultural sector are engaged in cultivating plant crops, making it the most prevalent activity, followed by raising and taking care of livestock came next at 35 per cent. Raising and taking care of livestock came next at 35 per cent, while other activities accounted for 62 per cent. Regionally, children from Pejë (72 per cent) and Gjakovë (45 per cent) were more involved in raising livestock compared to other regions. Boys (44 per cent) were more engaged in raising livestock than girls (19 per cent), and older children (aged 15–17) (41 per cent) were more likely to be involved in this task than younger children. Similar patterns were observed with school levels, with upper school levels (40 per cent) more involved in raising livestock than lower school levels (30 per cent).

Types of crop cultivation: Within the category of cultivating plant crops, most children and adolescents (78 per cent) are primarily engaged in planting and tending to crops, while 73 per cent are involved in harvesting and 72 per cent are responsible for irrigation. Additionally, a concerning 10 per cent of children and adolescents operate farm machinery, and 14 per cent handle the application of pesticides or fertilizers. The involvement in potentially hazardous tasks, such as operating heavy machinery and handling pesticides, is more prevalent in the regions of Gjilan and Ferizaj, where respectively 44 and 36 per cent of minors engage in such activities.

Common patterns of work: Handling or applying pesticides had the highest percentage of hazardous tasks performed by children, accounting for 16 per cent of reported cases. Regionally, children from Prizren (51 per cent) and Gjilan (32 per cent) were more likely to be involved in pesticide application. Operating heavy machinery and working at heights each accounted for 16 per cent of hazardous tasks. Regionally, children from Ferizaj (60 per cent) were more likely to work at heights, and those from Gjakovë (39 per cent) were more involved in operating heavy machinery. Handling sharp tools or equipment accounted for 10 per cent of the cases, while other forms of work made up 11 per cent of the reported tasks.

RQ3: What are the primary causes of child labour in the agricultural sector in Kosovo, including factors related to poverty, lack of education, and family dynamics?

Discussions from focus groups revealed that primary causes of child labour in the agricultural sector in Kosovo revolve back to family dynamics and factors relating to poverty. Stakeholders pinpointed the fact that families in economic deprivation that are marginalized are more likely to engage their children in potentially dangerous agricultural tasks than the rest.

RQ4: What are the socio-economic characteristics of the children engaged in agricultural work, including age, gender, education level and household income?

Age distribution: Children engaged in agricultural work are more likely to be teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17 years old, rather than younger children aged 5 to 12 years old. This suggests that adolescents play a more significant role in agricultural activities than their younger counterparts.

Source of family income: The study highlights the relationship between the source of family income and the involvement of adolescents and children in agricultural work. Among families that rely on salary/wages as their primary income source, 47 per cent engage adolescents and children in agricultural activities. For families whose main source of income is agriculture-related, this increases to 54 per cent. Furthermore, 51 per cent of families dependent on social assistance or remittances also involve their adolescents and children in agricultural work. These findings suggest that families relying on agriculture-related income and social assistance are more likely to engage their children in farming activities.

Type of farming: The type of farming practice also influences the participation of children and adolescents in agricultural work. Among families engaged in subsistence farming, 44 per cent involve children and adolescents in agricultural activities. In contrast, families practising farming for the local market have a higher involvement rate of 52 per cent.

Gender disparities: Such disparities exist within the realm of agricultural work, with boys being more likely to work longer hours than girls. Approximately 50 per cent of respondents acknowledged the presence of such differences. Moreover, respondents from various regions including Mitrovicë, Gjakovë, Gjilan and Ferizaj were more inclined to perceive that boys are exposed to longer working hours than girls. No region reported a belief that girls work longer hours than boys. Interviews with key informants revealed similar findings. They attributed gender differences to physical strength, pointing to the fact that women and girls are less prone to dangers in agricultural work than men and boys.

Socio-economic characteristics: The study revealed that boys were more likely to engage in operating heavy machinery (22 per cent) than girls (5 per cent). Older children were also more likely to be involved in applying pesticides, operating heavy machinery and using sharp tools or equipment. Similarly, older children had a higher probability of being burdened with hazardous tasks than their younger counterparts. In terms of family characteristics, it was found that families involved in agribusiness were more likely to have children engaged in hazardous tasks than those practising subsistence farming.

RQ5: How do the working conditions and environment impact the health and safety of children engaged in agricultural work in Kosovo?

Exposure to dangerous activities: The study indicates that a significant percentage of children engaged in agricultural work are exposed to potentially hazardous tasks that could jeopardize their well-being. Approximately 20 per cent of children are engaged in working at heights, 17 per cent in operating heavy machinery, and 17 per cent in handling and/or applying pesticides. Additionally, 13 per cent of children are involved in using sharp tools or equipment. The regions of Ferizaj, Gjakovë and Prizren display higher levels of children involved in such dangerous activities than other regions.

Safety risks: While only 14 per cent of respondents overall expressed belief in the existence of safety risks, respondents from Ferizaj (28 per cent) and Gjakovë (32 per cent) were notably more inclined to acknowledge the presence of such hazards than respondents from other regions. The types of safety risks reported include handling sharp tools or machinery (48 per cent), lifting heavy objects (48 per cent), working under extreme weather conditions (35 per cent) and working at elevated heights (35 per cent), among others.

Need for safety measures: Stakeholders, including parents and other participants, emphasized the importance of early intervention, awareness about the risks of child labour, and the need for proper training and safety measures to protect children engaged in agricultural work. Efforts should be made to ensure that businesses and families provide adequate safety training and protective equipment to prevent accidents and injuries.

Impact on health and safety: Nine per cent of respondents believed that children engaged in agricultural work were exposed to risks. Boys were perceived to be at higher risk (12 per cent) than girls (6 per cent). Families relying on agricultural income (11 per cent) were more likely to believe in the risks than those depending on salary/wages (8 per cent). Despite this awareness, the majority of respondents (57 per cent) did not take any action to address the issue of hazards in agricultural activities involving children; 27 per cent took steps to reduce or eliminate risks, 16 per cent sought medical treatment for health issues, and 6 per cent were unsure.

RQ6: What are the barriers to education and other opportunities for children engaged in agricultural work, and how can these be addressed to prevent child labour?

Reasons for missing school: Key reasons why children miss school include working on the family farm/fields, having a lack of interest in attending school, or illnesses/health issues. Children working in forestry often also miss school due to the remoteness of their workplace and lack of means of transportation to school.

Overall, from the quantitative data, not many children miss school to attend to agricultural tasks. In fact, respondents reported that in 96 per cent of cases, children attend school regularly, whereas out of the ones that do miss school, 23 per cent miss more than two days per week.

The qualitative data reveal that children do in fact miss school and that their attendance cannot be left solely to the discretion of the parents. Educational institutions such as the Ministry of Education must ensure that every child engaged in agricultural work must also attend school. Collaboration between ministries is even better.

RQ7: What are the rights of children engaged in agricultural work, and how can these be protected and promoted through policy and legislation?

The rights of children engaged in agricultural work include **the right to education, the right to protection from hazardous work, the right to leisure and play, and the right to be free from exploitation.**

Existing laws and policies in Kosovo provide some level of protection for child labourers in agriculture, but there are gaps that need to be addressed. The Labour Law permits children aged 15 and above to engage in specific types of non-hazardous work, but there is a need to regulate light work for children aged 13–15.

Regulation of light work could be beneficial in protecting children's rights and raising awareness among agricultural communities. Additionally, clear definitions of permissible and prohibited tasks for children should be established through written regulations to facilitate enforcement.

RQ8: How can preventive and protective measures be implemented to address the issue of child labour in Kosovo's agricultural sector, including policy options, legislation and other interventions?

Collaboration between government institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector is crucial to regulate child labour and raise awareness.

Specific policies and legislation should be developed to distinguish between hazardous and non-hazardous work for children aged 13 and above.

Educational campaigns should be conducted to inform parents and agricultural communities about the risks associated with child labour and to promote safe practices.

Monitoring mechanisms should be established to ensure that children engaged in light agricultural work are not deprived of their basic human rights, such as access to education and healthcare.

Inspections, regulations and enforcement of existing laws are essential in reducing risks and protecting children's well-being.

7.2 Recommendations

Based on findings from the primary data, the following recommendations are derived:

Strengthen legislation: Develop and enforce comprehensive legislation that specifically addresses child labour in agriculture, especially pertaining to non-hazardous work for teenagers aged 13–15. Strengthening of the legislation would ensure appropriate measures against perpetrators and would provide a legal basis of protection.

Raise awareness, especially in the family unit: Launch public awareness campaigns to educate parents, communities and agricultural stakeholders about the negative impact of child labour on children's health, education and overall well-being. These campaigns should highlight the legal consequences of child labour and promote the importance of education for children's prospects.

Vocational training: Introduce vocational training programmes in schools and communities to equip adolescents with practical skills that are relevant to agriculture. The primary data revealed that labour shortages in agriculture are vast; one way to address such shortages is through making agricultural work appealing either through training programmes or remunerative work. Moreover, this can provide alternative opportunities for youth employment in the sector while discouraging child labour.

Social support programmes: Implement social support programmes for families engaged in agriculture to alleviate poverty and reduce the need for child labour. These programmes can include financial assistance, access to credit, and support for income-generating agricultural activities to improve the economic situation of vulnerable households. As the primary data revealed, families engaged in subsistence farming have a decreased likelihood of receiving funding assistance from institutional bodies.

Improve agricultural productivity: Enhance agricultural productivity and income opportunities for farmers to reduce the reliance on child labour. This can be achieved through training in modern farming techniques, improved access to technology through subsidies, and better market linkages for agricultural products.

Support Climate-Resilient Agriculture: Develop and promote agricultural practices that are more resilient to climate change, such as drought-resistant crop varieties, improved irrigation system, and sustainable farming techniques. The report showed that families which face climate change challenges have a higher tendency of engaging children in agriculture. Helping them combat agricultural challenges pertaining to climate change can indirectly alleviate child labour in agriculture.

Strengthen child protection mechanisms: Establish and strengthen child protection mechanisms in rural areas to identify and report cases of child labour. This can involve training teachers, health workers and community leaders to recognize signs of child labour and report it to centres for social work. Addressing child labour through child protection policies is essential, because child labour can harm a child's development and well-being. A significant portion of child labour is prevalent in rural families where labour inspection authorities lack jurisdiction. Social work centres primarily focus on reported instances of neglect or violence, leaving child labour unattended. To effectively combat child labour, it is necessary to recognize it as a broader issue and involve various stakeholders in prevention efforts.

Monitoring and evaluation: Develop a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track progress in reducing child labour in agriculture. Again, this involves collaboration between different ministries and public institutions. Regular assessments will help identify gaps and areas for improvement in interventions and policies.

Collaborative approach: Foster collaboration between government institutions, civil society organizations, private sector entities and international partners to address child labour in agriculture comprehensively. This collaborative effort can pool resources, share expertise, and promote a unified approach to protect children's rights.

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Annexes

Annex 1. ISCO-88 and ISCO-08 categorizations

Table A1.1. ISCO-88 and ISCO-08 minor groups (three-digit categories)

ISCO-88 code	ISCO-88 minor group title	ISCO-08 code	ISCO-08 minor group title
313	Optical and electrical equipment operators	223	Traditional and complementary medicine professionals
322	Health associate professionals	224	Paramedical practitioners
323	Nursing midwife	226	Other health professionals
516	Protective services	312	Mining, manufacturing and construction supervisors
614	Forestry and related workers	312	Process control technicians
615	Fishery, hunters and trappers	321	Medical and pharmaceutical technicians
711	Miners, shot fires, stone cutters and carvers	322	Nursing and midwifery associate professionals
712	Building frame and related workers	324	Veterinary technicians and assistants
713	Building finishers	325	Other health associate professionals
721	Metal moulders, welders and related workers	352	Telecommunications and broadcasting technicians
722	Blacksmith, toolmakers and related workers	541	Protective services workers
723	Machinery mechanics and fitters	621	Forestry and related workers
724	Electrical, electronic equipment mechanics and fitters	622	Fishery workers, hunters and trappers
731	Precision workers in metal	711	Building frame and related trades workers
732	Potters, glass makers and related workers	712	Building finishers and related trades workers
811	Mining, mineral processing plant operators	721	Sheet and structural metal workers, moulders and welders, and related workers
812	Metal processing plant operators	722	Blacksmiths, toolmakers and related trades workers

813	Glass, ceramics and related plant operators	723	Machinery mechanics and repairers
814	Wood processing and papermaking plant operators	731	Handicraft workers
815	Chemical processing plant operators	741	Electrical equipment installers and repairers
816	Power production, related plant operators	742	Electronics and telecommunications installers and repairers
821	Metal and mineral machine operators	754	Other craft and related workers
822	Chemical machine operators	811	Mining and mineral processing plant operators
823	Rubber machine operators	812	Metal processing and finishing plant operators
825	Wood products machine operators	813	Chemical and photographic products plant and machine operators
826	Textile, fur, leather machine operators	814	Rubber, plastic and paper products machine operators
827	Food machine operators	815	Textile, fur and leather products machine operators
828	Assemblers	816	Food and related products machine operators
829	Other machine operators	817	Wood processing and papermaking plant operators
832	Motor vehicle drivers	818	Other stationary plant and machine operators
833	Agriculture, other mobile plant operators	821	Assemblers
834	Ships' deck crew, related workers	832	Car, van and motorcycle drivers
911	Street vendors and related workers	833	Heavy truck and bus drivers
912	Shoe cleaning, other street services	834	Mobile plant operators
915	Messengers, porters, doorkeepers	835	Ships' deck crews and related workers
916	Garbage collectors, related workers	921	Agricultural, forestry and fishery labourers
921	Agriculture fishery, related workers	931	Mining and construction labourers
931	Mining and construction labourers	933	Transport and storage labourers
933	Transport and freight handlers	951	Street and related services workers
		961	Refuse workers
		962	Other elementary workers

▶Table A1.2. ISCO-08 (four-digit categories)

ISCO-88 code	ISCO-08 unit group title
2240	Paramedical practitioners
2230	Traditional and complementary medicine professionals
2264	Physiotherapists
2265	Dieticians and nutritionists
2266	Audiologists and speech therapists
2267	Optometrists and ophthalmic opticians
2269	Health professionals not elsewhere classified
3121	Mining supervisors
3122	Manufacturing supervisors
3123	Construction supervisors
3131	Power production plant operators
3132	Incinerator and water treatment plant operators
3133	Chemical processing plant controllers
3134	Petroleum and natural gas refining plant operators
3135	Metal production process controllers
3211	Medical imaging and therapeutic equipment technicians
3213	Pharmaceutical technicians and assistants
3214	Medical and dental prosthetic technicians
3221	Nursing associate professionals
3222	Midwifery associate professionals
3240	Veterinary technicians and assistants
3251	Dental assistants and therapists

3253	Community health workers
3254	Dispensing opticians
3255	Physiotherapy technicians and assistants
3256	Medical assistants
3257	Environmental and occupational health inspectors and associates
3259	Health associate professionals not elsewhere classified
3431	Photographers
3521	Broadcasting and audio-visual technicians
5212	Street food salespersons
5243	Door-to-door salespersons
5244	Contact centre salespersons
5411	Fire fighters
5412	Police officers
5413	Prison guards
5414	Security guards
5419	Protective services workers not elsewhere classified
6210	Forestry and related workers
6221	Aquaculture workers
6222	Inland and coastal waters fishery workers
6223	Deep-sea fishery workers
6224	Hunters and trappers
7111	House builders
7112	Bricklayers and related workers
7113	Stonemasons, stone cutters, splitters and carvers

7114	Concrete placers, concrete finishers and related workers
7115	Carpenters and joiners
7119	Building frame and related trades workers not elsewhere classified
7121	Roofers
7122	Floor layers and tile setters
7123	Plasterers
7124	Insulation workers
7125	Glaziers
7126	Plumbers and pipe fitters
7127	Air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics
7211	Metal moulders and coremakers
7212	Welders and flamecutters
7213	Sheet-metal workers
7214	Structural-metal preparers and erectors
7215	Riggers and cable splicers
7221	Blacksmiths, hammer smiths and forging press workers
7222	Toolmakers and related workers
7223	Metal working machine tool setters and operators
7224	Metal polishers, wheel grinders and tool sharpeners
7231	Motor vehicle mechanics and repairers
7232	Aircraft engine mechanics and repairers
7233	Agricultural and industrial machinery mechanics and repairers
7234	Bicycle and related repairers
7311	Precision-instrument makers and repairers
7312	Musical instrument makers and tuners

7313	Jewellery and precious-metal workers
7314	Potters and related workers
7315	Glass makers, cutters, grinders and finishers
7316	Sign writers, decorative painters, engravers and etchers
7411	Building and related electricians
7412	Electrical mechanics and fitters
7413	Electrical line installers and repairers
7421	Electronics mechanics and servicers
7422	Information and communications technology installers and servicers
7541	Underwater divers
7542	Shot firers and blasters
7549	Craft and related workers not elsewhere classified
8111	Miners and quarries
8112	Mineral and stone processing plant operators
8113	Well drillers and borers and related workers
8114	Cement, stone and other mineral products machine operators
8121	Metal processing plant operators
8122	Metal finishing, plating and coating machine operators
8131	Chemical products plant and machine operators
8141	Rubber products machine operators
8142	Plastic products machine operators
8143	Paper products machine operators
8151	Fibre preparing, spinning and winding machine operators
8153	Sewing machine operators

8154	Bleaching, dyeing and fabric cleaning machine operators
8155	Fur and leather preparing machine operators
8156	Shoemaking and related machine operators
8157	Laundry machine operators
8159	Textile, fur and leather products machine operators not elsewhere classified
8160	Food and related products machine operators
8171	Pulp and papermaking plant operators
8172	Wood processing plant operators
8181	Glass and ceramics plant operators
8182	Steam engine and boiler operators
8183	Packing, bottling and labelling machine operators
8189	Stationary plant and machine operators not elsewhere classified
8211	Mechanical machinery assemblers
8212	Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers
8219	Assemblers not elsewhere classified
8321	Motorcycle drivers
8322	Car, taxi and van drivers
8331	Bus and tram drivers
8332	Heavy truck and lorry drivers
8341	Mobile farm and forestry plant operators
8342	Earthmoving and related plant operators
8343	Crane, hoist and related plant operators
8344	Lifting truck operators
8350	Ships' deck crews and related workers

9211	Crop farm labourers
9212	Livestock farm labourers
9213	Mixed crop and livestock farm labourers
9214	Garden and horticultural labourers
9215	Forestry labourers
9216	Fishery and aquaculture labourers
9311	Mining and quarrying labourers
9312	Civil engineering labourers
9313	Building construction labourers
9331	Hand and pedal vehicle drivers
9332	Drivers of animal-drawn vehicles and machinery
9333	Freight handlers
9334	Shelf fillers
9510	Street and related service workers
9520	Street vendors (excluding food)
9611	Garbage and recycling collectors
9612	Refuse sorters
9613	Sweepers and related labourers
9621	Messengers, package deliverers and luggage porters
9622	Odd job persons
9623	Meter readers and vending-machine collectors
9624	Water and firewood collectors
9629	Elementary workers not elsewhere classified
9312	Civil engineering labourers

Annex 2. Hazardous forms of child labour in Kosovo

▶Table A2.1. Hazardous activities for children in the agriculture and forestry sector

Activities	Hazards
Work in irrigation with pumping systems, when water sources are wells and other sources.	Electricity, cold water, infection, heavy weights.
Operation of agricultural machinery and agricultural attachments and tracking mechanisms.	Falling from a moving vehicle, colliding with other objects, crashing.
Working with pesticides and spraying.	Pesticide poisoning, chemical burns.
Work in harvesting, pruning and mowing.	Contact/absorption of organic dust, contact with allergens, cuts.
Working with agricultural tools and digging holes for planting trees.	Excessive physical and mental load, exposure to extreme atmospheric conditions, long working hours, cuts.
Greenhouse work.	High temperatures, pesticide residues, toxic gases.
Silvicultural works in forests, afforestation and protection from fire and diseases.	Use of sharp tools, holding and carrying heavy weights, repetitive movements, standing in inappropriate positions during operation, forest fires.
Utilization of timber in forests and primary wood processing	Use of sharp and dangerous tools for wood cutting (chainsaws, axes, wedges, etc.). Falling trunks, dry branches. Extended working hours. Exposure to inappropriate atmospheric conditions. Unsuitable terrain. Manipulation of agricultural machinery (tractor, truck).
Work in the slaughterhouse and in the meat processing industry.	Risk from slaughtered animals; tools used for slaughter. Contact with biological and chemical agents. Carrying heavy weights. Psychological trauma.
Hunting and fishing activities.	Risk of injuries, fatal accidents , etc. Use of electricity and dynamite for fishing.
Collection of non-timber products in forests.	Unsuitable terrain, snake bites.
Activities in hunting and wildlife farming.	Weapons, traps, wildlife attacks, transmission of diseases from wildlife.

▶ Table A2.2. Hazardous and prohibited activities for children working with livestock

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Caring for animals in the stable (milking, feeding, manure removal).	Slipping in the stable when it is not well cleaned. Carrying heavy weights. Exposure to gases released during the decomposition of organic fertilizers.	Injuries from slipping. Fatigue, pain and injury to muscles, joints and other organs. Body deformities. Infection or poisoning by organic fertilizers. Damage to the respiratory system.
Manipulation of various concentrated feeds.	Various concentrates for animal feed. Heavy weights.	Allergies. Body deformities. Joint and muscle pain.
Cleaning of work tools used in stables.	Sharp or heavy tools.	Physical injuries.
Animal care in pastures.	Prolonged exposure to unsuitable climatic conditions. Lack or insufficient access to drinking water. Exposure to wild animals, snakes, insects. Unsuitable terrain.	Dehydration. Damage from consuming unsuitable drinking water. Injuries, up to fatality, from possible accidents due to unsuitable terrain. Trauma from permanent fear of wild animals. Attacks by wild animals, bites by snakes, bites by various insects. Various wounds from thorns, from slipping, from roads that are hard to cross.
Any activity in the slaughterhouse.	Use of sharp tools. Exposure to slaughtered animals	Trauma from the process of slaughtering animals. Various injuries with sharp tools.

▶ Table A2.3. Hazardous and prohibited activities for children working in orchards and vineyards

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Preparing the soil for setting up orchards.	Use of heavy work tools. Long working hours. Prolonged exposure to noise.	Various injuries. Excessive fatigue and muscle and joint pain. Hearing impairment.
Spraying trees (when using pesticides).	Exposure to pesticides and other toxic substances.	Acute pesticide poisoning and their long-term effects on children's health (respiratory, neurological to carcinogenic problems).
Application of mineral fertilizers.	Exposure to toxic substances contained in various fertilizers. Carrying heavy weights. Long working hours. Unsuitable atmospheric conditions.	Poisonings. Fatigue and pain of muscles and joints. Body deformities. Skin irritation, diarrheal disorders, vomiting, dehydration and sunstroke.
Use of vehicles for soil maintenance in orchards	Potential hazard of accidents (especially in unsuitable terrain).	Fatigue, injuries (since these vehicles are usually hard for children to operate with). Various types of damage as a result of vibrations, and noise created by vehicles.
Use of pumps or wells for irrigation.	Electricity. Wells and canals.	Physical injuries from electricity-powered pumps. Injuries up to drowning in wells or canals used for irrigation.
Pruning and harvesting work.	Ladders. Work at height. Pruning tools. Long working hours. Keeping the body in an inappropriate position. Exposure to adverse weather conditions.	Various physical injuries up to the breaking of limbs, from falling from ladders or a tree. Body deformities as a result of continuous stretching for harvesting. Skin irritation, diarrheal disorders, vomiting, dehydration and sunstroke.
Transportation of harvested fruits	Heavy weights. Long working hours. Vehicles or equipment for transporting trees.	Fatigue and pain in muscles and joints. Body deformities. Various injuries from the various machinery or equipment used to transport the harvested fruit.

▶ Table A2.4. Activities that require extra care by farmers in the cultivation of arable land

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Preparing the soil for planting.	Use of heavy machinery. Long hours. Exposure to noise.	Injuries from vehicles, up to fatalities, from potential accidents. Excessive fatigue and bodily deformities. Hearing impairment.
Measures of care during vegetation.	Long hours in the field. Use of various work tools for these precautionary measures.	Various types of damage as a result of prolonged exposure to unfavourable climatic conditions (high temperatures, cold). Various injuries from work tools and vehicle operation (e.g., motor cultivator).
Work with pesticides (including seed treatment).	Exposure to pesticides and other toxic agents.	Acute poisoning by pesticides (and with substances containing mineral fertilizers). Long-term effects on children's health (respiratory, neurological to carcinogenic problems).
Fertilization.	Carrying heavy weights. Long hours. Exposure to toxic substances contained in various fertilizers.	Fatigue and pain in the joints and muscles. Body deformities. Acute poisoning by toxic fertilizers. Long-term effects of toxic substances on children's health (respiratory, neurological to carcinogenic problems).
Seed transport.	Agricultural machinery. Heavy weights. Treated seeds.	Injuries from vehicles, up to fatalities, from potential accidents. Fatigue and muscle and joint pain. Body deformities. Acute poisoning from treated seeds. Long-term effects of toxic substances on children's health (respiratory, neurological to carcinogenic problems).
Mowing, digging, harvesting and threshing.	Use of sharp tools, scissors, digging shovels, etc. Long working hours. Carrying heavy weights when transporting harvested products. Exposure to adverse climatic conditions.	Injuries from sharp tools. Long-term deformations due to inadequate working position. Excessive fatigue from physical load. Skin irritation, diarrheal disorders, vomiting, dehydration and sunstroke.
Work in greenhouses.	High temperatures. Pesticide residues. Poisonous gases.	Dehydration and extreme fatigue, fainting. Damage to respiratory organs. Poisoning by pesticide residues and other greenhouse gases (especially when not well ventilated).
Replacement of vegetable seedlings.	Long working hours. Prolonged posture of the body in an unfavourable position for children.	Leg muscle injuries. Great fatigue. Respiratory damage due to unfavourable conditions in greenhouses.

▶ Table A2.5. Hazardous activities in the work of plant protection

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Preparing the solution for spraying.	Various active substances of pesticides.	Acute poisoning by pesticides (and with substances containing mineral fertilizers). Long-term effects on children's health (respiratory, neurological to carcinogenic problems).
Opening or handling pesticide containers (packaging).		
Plant treatment (spraying).		
Cleaning equipment used for spraying the plants.		

▶ Table A2.6. Agricultural activities that must not be performed by children

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Transportation of irrigation equipment (pumps, pipes, etc.).	Heavy weights. Various transport vehicles.	Possible injuries from using different transport vehicles. Fatigue and muscle and joint pain. Body deformities.
Manipulation of electric or diesel irrigation pumps.	Electrical hazard. Hazard from handling the fuel.	Various injuries from electricity or fuel used in irrigation pumps.
Working with pesticides.	Exposure risks.	Various injuries.
Staying close to water canals or deep wells that serve as the source of water.	Water canals. Wells.	Various injuries from slipping, up to fatality. Various traumas.

▶Table A2.7. Prohibited fertilizer activities

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Distribution of fertilizer.	Wind carrying of fertilizers. Carrying heavy weights. Long working hours.	Possible poisoning from substances containing mineral fertilizers. Body deformities. Great fatigue.
Driving and handling machines for distribution of fertilizer.	Machines for distribution of fertilizer.	Injuries, up to fatality, from potential accidents.
Transportation of fertilizer (mineral or organic).	Transportation means. Heavy weights.	Injuries, up to fatality, from potential accidents. Fatigue and muscle and joint pain. Body deformities.
Attaching and servicing the machines for fertilizer distribution.	Heavy weights. Tools for fixing or repairing the machines.	Physical injuries to limbs. Fatigue and muscle and joint pain. Body deformities.

▶ Table A2.8. Risks in forestry activities

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Works on the use of timber in forests.	Operation with machinery (tractor, truck) in unsuitable terrains. Use of sharp and dangerous tools for cutting wood (chainsaws, axes, wedges, etc.). Long working hours. Wild animals, insects, snakes. Exposure to inappropriate atmospheric conditions. Heavy weights.	Injuries up to fatality from poor steering and control of machinery used for timber towing and transport. Various injuries from tools used for cutting. Injuries, up to fatality, from the fall of dry logs and branches. Various injuries from slipping, from roads that are difficult to cross to pull and carry cut logs. Various wounds from tree thorns. Injuries from attacks by wild animals, snake bite poisoning or infections from various insect bites. Trauma from permanent fear of wild animals and snakes. Skin irritation, diarrheal disorders, vomiting, dehydration and sunstroke.
Towing and transporting wood materials.		Injuries up to fatality from poor steering and control of machinery used for timber towing and transport. Various muscle and/or bone injuries from carrying heavy wood.
Primary and secondary wood processing.	Equipment and machinery for primary and secondary wood processing. Dust. Noise.	Various injuries from tools used for processing. Respiratory system problems. Sight and/or hearing impairment, etc.
Silviculture work in forests, afforestation and protection from fire and disease.	Use of sharp tools. Carrying heavy weights. Repeated movements. Staying in inappropriate postures during operation. Forest fires.	Muscular disorders Various limb injuries from work tools. Burning from fire. Asphyxiation from smoke.
Collection of non-timber products in forests (medicinal, aromatic plants and mountain fruits).	Staying alone in the woods for long periods of time. Movement in unsuitable terrain when collecting non- timber products. Attacks by wild animals. Bites from various insects, snakes. Atmospheric conditions.	Various injuries from slipping. Injuries from attacks by wild animals, snake bite poisoning or infections from various insect bites. Trauma from permanent fear of wild animals or snakes. Great fatigue. Muscle and bone damage.
Activities in hunting and farming wild animals.	Guns. Traps. Attacks by wild animals. Heavy weights Diseases of wild animals.	Injuries from hunting weapons, up to fatality. Injuries from traps. Injuries from wild animals. Injuries to muscles or other organs as a result of carrying heavy weights. Body deformities. Psychological trauma. Epidemics and diseases from wild animals.

▶ Table A2.9. Prohibited activities in organic infrastructure

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Collection of aromatic medicinal plants in forests.	Staying alone for a long time in the forest. Unsuitable terrain. Attacks by wild animals, bites by various insects and snakes.	Various injuries from slipping and from roads that are difficult to cross. Injuries from attacks by wild animals, snake bite poisoning or infections from various insect bites. Trauma from permanent fear of wild animals and snakes. Great fatigue. Muscle and bone damage.
Preparing the soil for planting.	Use of agricultural machinery. Loud noise. Long stay in the field/exposure to adverse weather conditions.	Injuries up to fatality from poor driving and control of agricultural machinery. Hearing impairment. Skin irritation, diarrheal disorders, vomiting, dehydration and sunstroke.
Transporting of products.	Use of machinery Heavy weights	Injuries up to fatality from poor driving and control of agricultural machinery. Injuries to muscles or other organs as a result of carrying heavy weights.
Processing of organic products.	Organic product dryers. Sharp processing equipment.	Injuries from dryers and other equipment used for drying and processing.

▶ Table A2.10. Prohibited activities in agroprocessing

Activity	Hazard	Effects on children's health
Transportation of raw material for processing.	Use of vehicles. Heavy weights.	Accidents with vehicles. Various injuries (as a result of handling heavy weights), with long-term consequences for the child.
Carrying various processed products.		
Work with processing equipment.	Grinding mills, various cutters.	Various injuries up to fatality.
Work with the energy that supplies the equipment.	Electrical hazards.	Various electrical injuries.
Servicing of the equipment.	Risk of various physical injuries.	Injuries from equipment that can be quite delicate in processing units.
Work in slaughterhouse and meat processing.	Tools used for slaughter. Exposure to the slaughter process. Heavy weights.	Amputations and injuries to limbs. Psychological trauma. Various injuries (as a result of heavy weight manipulation), with long-term consequences for the child.

Annex 3. Focus group discussion guide for children

Discussion guide for focus groups with children regarding agricultural work and children's involvement, risks and opportunities

Objective: To understand children's involvement in agricultural work and how it impacts heir life choices and opportunities, as well as their physical and mental well-being

Length: approx. 1.5–2 hours

Location: To be decided

No. of participants: 6–8 participants per focus group

Introduction

Good [morning/afternoon/evening]. My name is [Moderator's name], and I'm here with IDRA Research and Consulting – Kosova, a private market and social research company.

Today we're conducting a focus group for the International Labour Organization in Kosovo, and we're interested in hearing about your daily routines, work, school, and access to health and social activities.

We want to emphasize that there are no right or wrong answers, and we're interested in your personal opinions and experiences. Your answers will be kept confidential, so please feel free to be as open and honest as possible.

To start, let's introduce ourselves and create a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere. We'll begin with some warm-up questions about your hobbies and age, to get to know each other better.

Games

For FGs with children aged 10–14 years old: Drawing game: Provide children with paper and crayons and ask them to draw a picture of their typical day. Encourage them to include everything they do, including activities at school, at home and in the fields. After they have finished, ask them to explain their drawings and identify any parts of their day that they enjoy or find challenging. This can help reveal any concerns they may have about their involvement in agricultural work.

For FGs with children aged 15-18 years old: Storytelling: Ask the teenagers to tell a story about something that happened to them recently. This can give insight into their daily life and activities, as well as their interests and concerns.

Discussion:

1. What are some of the games or activities you like to play or do during your free time? Do you like to play games that involve running around, like tag or soccer? Or do you prefer quieter games, like reading books or doing puzzles?
2. Can you walk me through your typical day, from the time you wake up until you go to bed? What do you usually do during the day? Do you have any set routines or schedules that you follow?
3. Do you go to school, and if so, what is your favourite subject? Is there a particular topic that you find really interesting or exciting to learn about?
4. Have you ever helped your family with any work on the farm or in the fields? Maybe you helped with planting or harvesting crops, or feeding the animals on the farm? How do you feel about doing this work?
5. Do you like to spend time outside or indoors? If you like being outside, what kind of things do you like to do? Maybe you like to ride bikes, play with your friends, or explore nature?

6. What kind of books do you like to read, or what TV shows do you like to watch? Do you have any favourite characters or storylines that you enjoy following?

7. Have you ever been hurt while playing or working? What happened, and how did you handle it? Did you tell an adult about the injury or try to fix it yourself?

8. Do you have any responsibilities or chores at home, like helping with cooking or cleaning? How do you feel about these tasks? Do you think it's important to help out at home?

9. If you ever get sick or injured, do you have access to healthcare? Have you ever had to go to the doctor or hospital for medical treatment? How did you feel about the experience?

10. Do you ever worry about being safe while working in the fields or on the farm? How do you make sure that you are being careful and staying safe while you work or play outside?

Annex 4. Focus group discussion guide with parents

Discussion guide for focus groups with parents regarding agricultural work and children's involvement, risks and opportunities

Objective: To understand children's involvement in agricultural work and how it impacts their life choices and opportunities, as well as their physical and mental well-being

Length: approx. 1.5–2 hours

Location: To be decided

No. of participants: 6–8 participants per focus group

Introduction

Good [morning/afternoon/evening]. My name is [Moderator's name], and I'm here with IDRA Research and Consulting – Kosova, a private market and social research company.

Today we're conducting a focus group for the International Labour Organization in Kosovo, and we're interested in hearing about your and your children's daily routines, work, school, and access to health and social activities.

We want to emphasize that there are no right or wrong answers, and we're interested in your personal opinions and experiences. Your answers will be kept confidential, so please feel free to be as open and honest as possible.

To start, let's introduce ourselves and create a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere.

Discussion

1. Can you tell us more about the types of agricultural work that your children are involved in? Are they involved in cultivating crops, livestock farming, fishing, forestry, or other types of work?
2. How do you ensure the well-being of your children when they participate in agricultural activities? Are there specific measures you implement to safeguard them from any potential risks or harm?
3. Do your children ever use any equipment in their work? If so, what type of equipment do they use?
4. Are there any particular challenges or concerns related to the specific types of agricultural work in which your children participate? How do you ensure that appropriate measures are in place to protect your children from potential risks or difficulties they may encounter?
5. Do you think education is important for your children's future? Is it something you prioritize in their lives?
6. How often do your children go to school? Are there any specific reasons or difficulties that sometimes prevent them from attending school regularly?
7. In your opinion, what could be the potential consequences of limited access to education for children engaged in agricultural work? How do you think it might affect their future opportunities?
8. How do you ensure that your children attend school regularly while also being involved in agricultural work? Are there any challenges that you face in balancing their work and school attendance?

9. Looking ahead, how do you think education will impact your children's lives in the long run? What hopes or aspirations do you have for their future considering both their involvement in agricultural work and their educational opportunities?

10. Have you ever faced any challenges in accessing healthcare services for your children while they were engaged in agricultural work? How did you overcome these challenges?

11. Do you discuss the potential risks and benefits of agricultural work with your children before they begin working in this field? How do you involve them in decision-making related to their involvement in agricultural work?

12. Have your children ever experienced any injuries or accidents while working in agriculture? What measures did you take to address these incidents?

13. Are you aware of child labour laws and regulations related to agricultural work? How do you ensure that you are in compliance with these laws?

14. How do you balance the benefits of involving your children in agricultural work with their safety and well-being? Are there any specific concerns or challenges that you face in this balancing act?

15. How do you ensure that your children are receiving adequate rest, nutrition, and other basic needs while working in agriculture? Are there any specific challenges that you face in meeting these needs?

16. For households involved in crop cultivation, what specific tasks do your children engage in? Do they participate in planting, watering, weeding or harvesting?

17. For households involved in livestock farming, what specific tasks do your children engage in with the animals? Do they help with feeding, cleaning or milking?

18. For households involved in fishing or aquaculture, what specific tasks do your children engage in on boats or in fishing areas? Do they help with setting or retrieving nets, sorting fish or cleaning boats?

19. For households involved in forestry or logging, what specific tasks do your children engage in in the woods or forested areas? Do they help with collecting firewood, clearing brush or harvesting timber?

20. Have you ever received any training or guidance on how to involve your children safely and appropriately in agricultural work? If so, what resources or support did you find most helpful?

Annex 5. Focus group discussion guide with stakeholders

Discussion guide for focus groups with other stakeholders regarding agricultural work and children's involvement, risks and opportunities

Objective: To understand children's involvement in agricultural work and how it impacts their life choices and opportunities, as well as their physical and mental well-being

Length of FGD: approx. 1.5–2 hours

Location of FGD: To be decided

No. of participants per FGD: 6–8 participants per focus group

Introduction

Good [morning/afternoon/evening]. My name is [Moderator's name], and I'm here with IDRA Research and Consulting – Kosova, a private market and social research company.

Today we're conducting a focus group (or interview) for the International Labour Organization in Kosovo, and we're interested in hearing your opinion and knowledge, as a teacher/healthcare provider/social worker/representative of a municipality, about children who are involved in agricultural activities

We want to emphasize that there are no right or wrong answers, and we're interested in your personal opinions and experiences. Your answers will be kept confidential, so please feel free to be as open and honest as possible.

To start, let's introduce ourselves and create a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere to get to know each other better.

Discussion

1. Can you describe the typical agricultural practices in Kosovo?
2. Are children commonly involved in agricultural work in Kosovo?
3. What are the common tasks that children are involved in when it comes to agricultural work?
4. What are the age ranges of children who typically work in agriculture?
5. Are there any laws or policies in place to regulate child labour in agriculture in Kosovo? If so, can you describe them?
6. What are the main challenges faced by children who work in agriculture in Kosovo?
7. Are there any benefits to children who work in agriculture? If so, can you describe them?
8. Are there any differences in the types of work that boys and girls are involved in when it comes to agricultural work?
9. Are there any differences in the risks faced by boys and girls who work in agriculture?
10. What are some of the health risks associated with children's involvement in agricultural work?
11. Are there any specific hazards faced by children who work in forestry activities?
12. How can we reduce the risks faced by children who work in agriculture and forestry?
13. Are there any programmes or initiatives in place to address child labour in agriculture and forestry in Kosovo? If so, can you describe them?

14. How can we increase awareness about the risks and negative consequences of child labour in agriculture and forestry?

15. What are some of the best practices for engaging children in agriculture and forestry in a safe and responsible way?

16. How can we ensure that children who work in agriculture and forestry are receiving an education and are able to attend school regularly?

17. What role can government, civil society organizations and the private sector play in addressing child labour in agriculture and forestry?

18. Is there anything else you would like to add about this topic?

Annex 6. Case study questionnaire

Case study questionnaire with children regarding agricultural work and children's involvement, risks and opportunities

Objective: To understand children's involvement in agricultural work and how it impacts their life choices and opportunities, as well as their physical and mental well-being

Length: approx. 30–40 minutes

Location: To be decided

Introduction:

Good [morning/afternoon/evening]. My name is [Moderator's name], and I'm here with IDRA Research and Consulting – Kosova, a private market and social research company.

Today we are conducting this one-on-one discussion as part of a project we have with the International Labour Organization in Kosovo, and we're interested in hearing about your daily routines, work, school, and access to health and social activities.

We want to emphasize that there are no right or wrong answers, and we're interested in your personal opinions and experiences. Your answers will be kept confidential, so please feel free to be as open and honest as possible.

To start, maybe you can tell me more about who you are, what grade you are in, what are your hobbies, what you like to do for fun, and anything else you might want to share.

Discussion

1. Can you walk me through your typical day, from the time you wake up until you go to bed? What do you usually do during the day? Do you have any set routines or schedules that you follow?
2. Do you go to school, and if so, what is your favourite subject? Is there a particular topic that you find really interesting or exciting to learn about?
3. Do you ever miss school? If yes, what are the reasons behind missing school?
4. Have you ever helped your family with any work on the farm or in the fields? Maybe you helped with planting or harvesting crops, or feeding the animals on the farm? How do you feel about doing this work?
5. Are there any chemicals or pesticides used in the agricultural activities you participate in? If yes, how do you handle them, and do you have any protective measures in place?
6. Do you work alone or with other children or adults? How do you coordinate tasks and responsibilities?
7. What do you enjoy or find rewarding about working in agriculture? Is there anything you dislike or find challenging about it?
8. Do you like to spend time outside or indoors? If you like being outside, what kind of things do you like to do? Maybe you like to ride bikes, play with your friends, or explore nature?
9. What kind of books do you like to read, or what TV shows do you like to watch? Do you have any favourite characters or storylines that you enjoy following?
10. Have you ever been hurt while playing or working? What happened, and how did you handle it? Did you tell an adult about the injury or try to fix it yourself?

11. Do you have any responsibilities or chores at home, like helping with cooking or cleaning? How do you feel about these tasks? Do you think it's important to help out at home?

12. If you ever get sick or injured, do you have access to healthcare? Have you ever had to go to the doctor or hospital for medical treatment? How did you feel about the experience?

13. Do you ever worry about being safe while working in the fields or on the farm? How do you make sure that you are being careful and staying safe while you work or play outside?

14. Are you aware of any health risks associated with the agricultural tasks you perform? If yes, what are they, and how do you protect yourself from these risks?

15. Have you ever received training about how to practise safe work in agriculture? If yes, who provided you with the training?

Annex 7. Interview questions for FGDs and KIIs

Discussion guide for semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders regarding agricultural work and children's involvement, risks and opportunities

Objective: To understand children's involvement in agricultural work and how it impacts their life choices and opportunities, as well as their physical and mental well-being

Length of interview: approx. 45–60 minutes

Location: To be decided

Introduction:

Good [morning/afternoon/evening]. My name is [Moderator's name], and I'm here with IDRA Research and Consulting - Kosova, a private market and social research company.

Today we're conducting a focus group (or interview) for the International Labour Organization in Kosovo, and we're interested in hearing your opinion and knowledge, as a teacher/healthcare provider/social worker/representative of a municipality, about children who are involved in agricultural activities

We want to emphasize that there are no right or wrong answers, and we're interested in your personal opinions and experiences. Your answers will be kept confidential, so please feel free to be as open and honest as possible.

To start, let's introduce ourselves and create a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere.

Discussion:

1. Are there any laws or policies in place to regulate child labour in agriculture in Kosovo? If so, can you describe them?
2. Are there policies or programmes that support the employment of young people in decent work in agriculture? If so, can you describe them?
3. What are the main challenges faced by children who work in agriculture in Kosovo?
4. Are there any benefits to children who work in agriculture? If so, can you describe them?
5. Are there any differences in the types of work that boys and girls are involved in when it comes to agricultural work?
6. Are there any differences in the risks faced by boys and girls who work in agriculture?
7. In your opinion, what are some of the health risks associated with children's involvement in agricultural work?
8. In your opinion, are there any specific hazards faced by children who work in forestry activities?
9. How can we reduce the risks faced by children who work in agriculture and forestry?
10. Are there any programmes or initiatives in place to address child labour in agriculture and forestry in Kosovo? If so, can you describe them?
11. How can we increase awareness about the risks and negative consequences of child labour in agriculture and forestry?
12. What are some of the best practices for engaging children in agriculture and forestry in a safe and responsible way?

13. How can we ensure that children who work in agriculture and forestry are receiving an education and are able to attend school regularly?

14. What role can government, civil society organizations and the private sector play in addressing child labour in agriculture and forestry?

15. Is there anything else you would like to add about this topic?

Annex 8. Survey questionnaire for rural households

SCREENER MODULE

The following two questions aim to identify households involved in a variety of agricultural activities to determine whether to continue with the survey or not. If a household declares they do not own land or rent for agricultural purposes and have not been involved in agricultural activities, the survey will not continue.

S1	Does your household currently own or rent any land for agricultural/farming purposes?	1. Yes 2. No
S2	Have you or anyone in your household been involved in any agricultural activities such as planting, harvesting, or caring for livestock in the past year?	1. Yes 2. No If S1=2 or S2=2, DO NOT CONTINUE the survey!

MODULE D: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON RESPONDENT AND HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION		
D1	Gender	1. Man 2. Woman
D2	How old are you?	Open response _____
D3	What is your ethnicity?	1. Albanian 2. Serb 3. Bosnian 4. Goran 5. Turk 6. Roma 7. Ashkali 8. Egyptian 9. Other (please specify): _____ 10. Don't know/Refuse to answer
D4	Education *(Completed level/highest degree)*	1. No education 2. Primary school (grade 1-5) 3. Lower Secondary school (grade 6-9) 4. Upper Secondary school (grade 10-12 or 10-13) 5. Bachelor degree or equivalent 6. Postgraduate degree
D5	What is your marital status?	1. Single 2. Married 3. Divorced 4. Widowed
D6	Do you have children?	1. Yes 2. No
D6.1	If D6=1 How many children do you have?	Open response _____
D7	How many people live in this household?	Open response _____
D7.1	Based on the number of people you told me that live in this household, can you tell me the household composition based on the number of children aged 0–17, number of adults aged 18–64, and number of elderly aged 65 or more? 65? Household composition	1. I live alone 2. Number of children (aged 0–17 *including other children who may not be children of the respondent, e.g., nephews/nieces/brother/sister*) living in the household: ____ 3. Number of adults (aged 18–64 *including the respondent, if applicable*) _____ 4. Number of elderly (aged 65+ *including the respondent, if applicable*) ___
D7.2	**As a part of this survey, we have a special module including questions about children involved in agricultural work which will be asked about one particular child in the household aged 10–17 years old.* Can you please tell me the names of the children living in the household aged **10–17 years old?**	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ **Add as many rows as needed based on the number of children declared under D7.1.2* **Choose one child randomly for whom to administer MODULE B*

MODULE A: INFORMATION ON HOUSEHOLD AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY

This module is designed to gather information about the agricultural activity of households, including whether they engage in farming for subsistence or commercial reasons. Additionally, we will ask general questions about the children of the household and any hired labour involved in agricultural activities in order to assess the scope of child labour in the households surveyed and on any farms associated with the households.

A1	In general, when it comes to your household's activities in agriculture and forestry, which of the following purposes do you believe they align with the most?	**1. Subsistence farming:** farming that is primarily focused on producing enough food for the family's own consumption, with little or no surplus for sale **2. Farming for the local market:** farming that produces both for household consumption and for sale or trade within the local community **3. Agribusiness:** farming that is primarily focused on commercial production, with the aim of selling products for profit on a larger scale, beyond the local community
A1.1	What are the main sources of income for your household? Please select all that apply:	1. Salary/wages 2. Business income 3. Agriculture income 4. Investment income 5. Rental income 6. Social assistance programme 7. Remittances (*money sent by family members living abroad*) 8. Loans 9. Other (please specify): _____
A1.2	On average, how much income does your household generate each month from its primary source(s) of income? **all income by all family members* *Hint: the money you have left after paying taxes and/or pension contributions*	1. €0 - €249 2. €250 - €399 3. €400 - €799 4. €800 - €1199 5. €1,200 - €2,000 6. €2,000 or more 7. Don't know/Refuse to answer
A1.3	In which of the following activities is this household engaged? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Cultivating of plant crops 2. Raising/taking care of livestock 3. Fishing or aquaculture 4. Forestry or logging 5. Other (please specify): _____
A2	If you cultivate crops (A**1.3=1)**, which types of crops does your household cultivate? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Cereals (e.g., wheat, rice, maize) 2. Pulses (e.g., beans, lentils, chickpeas) 3. Vegetables 4. Fruits 5. Oilseeds (e.g., soybeans, sunflowers) 6. Other (please specify): _____
A3	If you raise livestock (**A1.3=2)**, which types of livestock does your household raise? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Cattle 2. Goats 3. Sheep 4. Pigs 5. Poultry (e.g., chickens, ducks, geese) 6. Other (please specify): _____

A4	If you engage in fishing or aquaculture (**A1.3=3**), which of the following types of fish or aquatic animals does your household catch or cultivate? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Lake fish 2. River fish 3. Artificial reservoir 4. Other (please specify): _____
A5	If you engage in forestry or logging (**A1=4**), which types of trees does your household manage or harvest? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Wood for wood production/processing industry 2. Non-timber forest products (e.g., mushrooms, berries) 3. Other (please specify): _____
A6	What are the biggest challenges your household faces in engaging in agricultural or forestry activities? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Unfavourable loan conditions 2. Lack of means to access funding 3. Lack of access to raw products/inputs (e.g., seeds, fertilizers, pesticides) 4. Limited access to markets and buyers 5. Lack of market research knowledge 6. Climate change (e.g., rainfall/hail/droughts) 7. Lack of knowledge regarding pest and disease management 8. Lack of knowledge or skills for increasing production and use of new technology 9. Limited access to irrigating systems 10. Labour shortages 11. Other (please specify): _____
A7	Have you ever received any subsidies in the form of grants or direct payments from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD) or your respective municipality?	1. Yes, from the Ministry 2. Yes, from the Municipality 3. No, from neither
A8	If yes (**A7=1 or 2**), what type of grants or direct payments have you received? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Grants from rural development programmes (e.g., infrastructure development, business support) 2. Direct payments (e.g., for cereals, fertilizers, oil, organic farming, viticulture) 3. Direct payment for livestock e.g., animals and animal products – milk and poultry) 4. Other (please specify): _____
A9	How much grant or direct payments have you received in the past year in total?	1. Less than €100 2. €100 - €500 3. €500 - €1,000 4. €1,000 - €5,000 5. More than €5,000 6. Don't know/Refuse to answer
A10	Does your household sell any of the agricultural or forestry products it produces?	1. Yes 2. No
A11	If yes (**A10=1**), which of the following markets does your household sell its products to? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Local market (*village/municipality/ farmers' market*) 2. Collection points (*markets, supermarkets*) 3. Regional market (*exports to countries in the region*) 4. Export market (*exports to countries beyond the region*) 5. Other (please specify): _____
A12	How many days do you work per week?	1. 1 day 2. 2 days 3. 3 days 4. 4 days 5. 5 days 6. 6 days 7. 7 days

A13	How many working hours per day does your family usually spend on these agricultural and forestry activities?	1. Up to 8 hours per day 2. 10-12 hours per day 3. 13-15 hours per day 4. More than 15 hours per day
A14	What is the age of individuals engaged in agricultural/forestry activities? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Adult family members (18-64 years old) 2. Adolescent family members (13-17 years old) 3. Child family members (5-12 years old) 4. Hired adult employees (18-64 years old) 5. Hired adolescent employees (13-17 years old) 6. Hired child employees (5-12 years old) 7. Elderly family members (65 or more years old)
A15	**If A14=2, or 3, or 5, or 6,** What tasks do adolescent and child family members and/or employees perform in the agricultural or forestry activities of the household? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Cultivating plant crops (fruit, vegetables, gardening, cereals) 2. Raising/taking care of livestock 3. Fishing or aquaculture 4. Forestry or logging 5. Other (please specify): _____
A15.1	**If A15=1** How are adolescent and child family members and/or employees involved in the process of culti-vating crops? What specific tasks do they perform? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Planting and tending to crops (e.g., corn, wheat, gardening, cereals) 2. Harvesting crops (e.g., picking fruits or vegetables, cutting grains) 3. Applying pesticides or fertilizers 4. Irrigating crops 5. Ploughing or tilling the land 6. Operating machinery such as tractors, combines, or other farm equipment
A15.2	**If A15=2** How are adolescent and child family members and/or employees involved in raising livestock on the farm? What specific tasks do they perform? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Cleaning animal stalls or pens 2. Milking cows or goats 3. Herding animals 4. Assisting with animal births 5. Operating machinery such as milking machines or tractors
A15.3	**If A15=3** How are adolescent and child family members and/or employees involved in fishing and aquaculture activities? What specific tasks do they perform? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Setting up and monitoring fishing equipment (e.g., nets, traps, lines) 2. Sorting and processing fish or other aquatic creatures 3. Cleaning and maintaining fishing equipment 4. Assisting with boat maintenance 5. Operating boats or other fishing vessels
A15.4	**If A15=4** How are adolescent and child family members and/or employees involved in forestry and logging activities? What specific tasks do they perform? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Harvesting timber 2. Maintaining and repairing equipment (e.g., chainsaws, logging trucks) 3. Clearing brush or debris 4. Planting new trees 5. Assisting with controlled burns 6. Operating machinery such as skidders or bulldozers
A16	**If A14=2, or 3, or 5, or 6,** Overall, are children and/or adolescents working in the household (or farm) involved in the following activities? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Handling or applying pesticides 2. Operating heavy machinery 3. Using sharp tools or equipment 4. Working at heights 5. Other (please specify): _____
A17	**If A14=2, or 3, or 5, or 6,** Do you think there are any safety risks associated with the tasks performed by adolescent and child family members and/or employees in these activities?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Unsure

A18	**If A17=1** What are some of those risks? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Working with sharp tools or machinery 2. Exposure to chemicals or pesticides 3. Lifting heavy objects 4. Working in extreme weather conditions 5. Exposure to animal-related risks (e.g., bites, kicks, etc.) 6. Working at heights 7. Working in water (e.g., risk of drowning) 8. Other (please specify): _____
A19	**If A14=2, or 3, or 5, or 6,** Are there any gender differences in the type of work performed or the number of hours worked by adolescent and child family members and/or employees in these activities?	1. Yes, boys tend to perform different tasks and/or work more hours than girls 2. Yes, girls tend to perform different tasks and/or work more hours than boys 3. No, there are no gender differences in the type of work performed or number of hours worked 4. Unsure
A20	If A14=2, or 3, or 5, or 6, Are adolescent and child family members and/or employees compensated for their work in the agricultural or forestry activities of the household, and if so, how?	1. Adolescent and child family members are compensated with money 2. Adolescent and child family members are compensated with goods 3. Adolescent and child family members are not compensated directly for their work with money or with goods but with provision of a skillset 4. Adolescent and child employees are compensated with money 5. Adolescent and child employees are compensated with goods 6. Adolescent and child employees are no**t** compensated directly for their work with money or with goods but with provision of a skillset
A21	If no (**if A20=2 or 3 or 5 or 6**) why are they not paid a salary or wage? **Please select all that apply:**	1. They are too young 2. They are family members 3. They are not permanent employees 4. They are learning the skills 5. Other (please specify): _____

MODULE B: CHILD AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY IN THE HOUSEHOLD AND/OR FARM

This module aims to gather information on a child's involvement in household activities related to agriculture work. It also includes information on protective equipment, nutrition, access to healthcare and education. The data collected will enable comparisons to be made based on various factors such as gender, age, region, and type of work the child is engaged in.

B1	Gender of [name of selected child]:	1. Boy 2. Girl
B2	How old is the [name of selected child]?	Open response _____
B3	Is [name of selected child] currently going to school?	1. Yes 2. No
B4	If B3=1, in which level is [name of selected child] currently in?	1. Primary school (grade 1-5) 2. Lower Secondary school (grade 6-9) 3. Regular Upper Secondary school (grade 10-12 or 10-13) 4. Professional Upper Secondary school (grade 10-12)
B5	In B3=1, in which grade exactly is [name of selected child] currently in?	Open response _____
B5.1	Does [name of selected child] miss school each week?	1. 2. Yes 3. No
B5.2	**If B5.1=1** How often does [name of selected child] miss school?	1. Less than 1 day per week 2. 1-2 days per week 3. More than 2 days per week
B5.3	**If B5.1=1** Why does [name of selected child] miss school? **Please select all that apply:**	1. To work on the family farm or in the fields 2. Lack of interest in attending school 3. Inability to pay for school fees or supplies 4. Distance or transportation issues 5. Illness or health issues 6. Family responsibilities, such as caring for younger siblings or elderly family members 7. Other (please specify): _____
B6	What specific tasks does [name of selected child] perform in the agricultural or forestry activities of the household? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Cultivating of plant crops 2. Raising/taking care of livestock 3. Fishing or aquaculture 4. Forestry or logging 5. Other (please specify): _____
B6.1	**If B6=1** How is [name of selected child] involved **in the process of cultivating crops**? What specific tasks do they perform? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Planting and tending to crops (e.g., corn, wheat, rice, gardening) 2. Harvesting crops (e.g., picking fruits or vegetables, cutting grains) 3. Applying pesticides or fertilizers 4. Irrigating crops 5. Ploughing or tilling the land 6. Operating machinery such as tractors, combines, or other farm equipment
B6.2	**If B6=2** How is [name of selected child] involved in raising livestock on the farm? What specific tasks do they perform? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Cleaning animal stalls or pens 2. Milking cows or goats 3. Herding animals 4. Assisting with animal births 5. Operating machinery such as milking machines or tractors
B6.3	**If B6=3** How is [name of selected child] involved in fishing and aquaculture activities? What specific tasks do they perform? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Setting up and monitoring fishing equipment (e.g., nets, traps, lines) 2. Sorting and processing fish or other aquatic creatures 3. Cleaning and maintaining fishing equipment 4. Assisting with boat maintenance 5. Operating boats or other fishing vessels

B6.4	**If B6=4** How is [name of selected child] involved in forestry and logging activities? What specific tasks do they perform? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Harvesting timber 2. Maintaining and repairing equipment (e.g., chainsaws, logging trucks) 3. Clearing brush or debris 4. Planting new trees 5. Assisting with controlled burns 6. Operating machinery such as skidders or bulldozers
B7	Overall, is [name of selected child] involved in the following activities? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Handling or applying pesticides 2. Operating heavy machinery 3. Using sharp tools or equipment 4. Working at heights 5. Other (please specify): _____
B8	Do you think there are any safety risks associated with the tasks performed by [name of selected child] in these activities?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Unsure
B8.1	**If B8=1** If there are perceived health or safety concerns, what steps are being taken to address them?	1. We have sought medical treatment for any health issues 2. We have taken steps to reduce or eliminate safety hazards 3. No action has been taken 4. Unsure
B9	How many hours per day does [name of selected child] typically work in these activities?	1. Less than 1 hour 2. 1-2 hours 3. 2-4 hours 4. 4-6 hours 5. 6-8 hours 6. More than 8 hours
B9.1	How many days per week does [name of selected child] typically work in these activities? **open-ended pre-coded*	1. 1 day 2. 2 days 3. 3 days 4. 4 days 5. 5 days 6. 6 days 7. 7 days (every day)
B10	What type of water does [name of selected child] typically drink while working in agriculture?	1. Tap water 2. Bottled water 3. Well water 4. River/lake water 5. Spring water 6. Other (please specify): _____
B11	How often does [name of selected child] consume the following types of food per week? Fruits Vegetables Meat Dairy Grains Snacks (chocolate, sweets, cakes, chips, candy, etc.) ***ask separately for each type of food*	1. Never 2. Very rarely (less than once a month) 3. Rarely (1-2 times a week) 4. Sometimes (3-4 times a week) 5. Often (5-6 times a week) 6. Daily
B12	Does [name of selected child] have access to any of the following protective equipment while working in agriculture? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Gloves 2. Boots or closed-toe shoes 3. Hat or helmet 4. Eye protection (glasses or similar) 5. Face mask or respirator 6. None of the above
B13	If [name of selected child] does not have access to some or any protective gear, what is the reason? **Select all that apply:**	1. We cannot afford it financially 2. We do not have access to stores that sell protective clothing 3. We do not think it is necessary 4. He/she does not want to wear it 5. Other (please specify): _____ 6. He/she has access to all protective gear mentioned (N/A)

B14	Does the household have access to a nearby clinic or health centre?	1. Yes 2. No
B15	How far away is the nearest clinic or health centre?	1. Less than 10 km 2. 10-20 km 3. More than 20 km
B16	Has [name of selected child] ever been injured or become ill (regardless if a little or a lot) while working in agriculture?	1. Yes 2. No
B17	**If B16=1** What was the injury or illness [name of selected child] got? **Please select all that apply if he/she has been injured or become ill more than once:**	1. Cuts or scrapes 2. Burns 3. Broken bones 4. Sprains or strains 5. Puncture wounds 6. Heat exhaustion or heat stroke 7. Chemical exposure or poisoning 8. Animal bites or stings 9. Equipment-related injury 10. Other (please specify): _____
B18	**If B16=1** What was the cause of the injury/illness?	1. Improper use of equipment or tools 2. Slip or fall 3. Animal attack or accident 4. Chemical exposure or poisoning 5. Heat or sun exposure 6. Overexertion or fatigue 7. Other (please specify): _____
B19	Did the child receive any medical treatment for the injury?	1. Yes, received medical treatment 2. No, did not receive medical treatment
B19.1	**If B19=2** Why not?	1. No nearby medical facilities 2. Lack of transportation to medical facilities 3. Cost of medical treatment too high 4. The injury was not serious enough to require medical treatment 5. Other (please specify): _____
B20	Was [name of selected child] trained on safety or provided with safety equipment prior to the injury?	1. Yes, he/she was both trained for safety and provided with safety equipment 2. Yes, he/she was trained for safety 3. Yes, he/she was provided with safety equipment 4. No safety training or equipment provided
B21	Does [name of selected child] help with other household chores besides agriculture and forestry work?	1. Yes 2. No
B22	**If B21=1** Which of the following household chores does [name of selected child] help with? **Please select all that apply:**	1. Cooking meals (including meal preparation, cutting vegetables, etc.) 2. Cleaning the house (including sweeping, mopping, washing dishes, etc.) 3. Doing laundry (including washing, drying, folding, etc.) 4. Caring for younger siblings (including feeding, bathing, playing with them, etc.) 5. Caring for elderly or disabled family members (including providing assistance with daily activities, running errands, etc.) 6. Gardening or yard work (including watering plants, weeding, trimming, etc.) 7. Other (please specify): _____
B23	How many hours per day does [name of selected child] spend on household chores, besides agriculture and forestry work?	1. Less than 1 hour 2. 1-2 hours 3. 2-4 hours 4. 4-6 hours 5. 6-8 hours 6. More than 8 hours

Annex 9. Detailed sampling procedure

A study was conducted with a random sample of 1000 rural households in Kosovo, where the target population consisted of citizens living in rural areas. According to the Census 2011 published by the Kosovo Agency of Statistics, 60% of Kosovo's population was found to reside in rural areas, totalling approximately 1,025,123 people out of 1,708,538 people.

The survey's aim was to gather information on child agricultural labour, and a household-level survey was deemed a useful tool for this purpose. The survey was carried out by trained enumerators, who visited individual households with set Primary Sampling Units (more on this under survey methodology) and collected information through face-to-face interviews with adult members of the household, as well as the observation of household activities. To capture information on child labour in agriculture, the survey included questions about the number and ages of children in the household, their work activities, the type of work they were engaged in, the hours they worked, and the conditions under which they worked. Additionally, questions about the household's involvement in agricultural production, such as the type of crops grown, the size of the farm, and the labour force, were used to provide valuable context for understanding the extent of child labour in agriculture in the area. The survey was conducted in a sensitive and respectful manner, ensuring the privacy and safety of all respondents were protected.

General notes on the survey:

- To obtain information on child labour in agriculture, questions about the number and ages of children in the household, their work activities, the type of work they did, the hours they worked, and the conditions they worked under were included in the survey. Additionally, questions about the household's involvement in agricultural production were used to contextualize the extent of child labour in agriculture in the area.
- The survey also included a specific module regarding the types of job activities that a particular child in a household was engaged in, which was answered by the selected adult. To answer the module for a specific child, the listing of the names of the children aged 10-17 in a household was used, and one of the children was selected randomly. The children for whom the adult answered were considered part of the target population for focus group discussions.

The sample distribution was divided as below:

Region	Percentage	Interviews n=1000
Prishtinë	23%	230
Gjakovë	17%	170
Prizren	14%	140
Mitrovicë	14%	140
Pejë	11%	110
Ferizaj	11%	110
Gjilan	10%	110
Total	**100%**	**1000**

Gender	Percentage (official data)	Interviews n=1000
Women	43.4%	434
Men	56.6%	566
Total	**100%**	**1000**

Survey methodology

The methodology used is multistage cluster sampling with stratification. Certain stages were followed:

Stage 1
- Selection of Primary Sampling Units (PSUs)
- Stratification by region and urbanity

Stage 2
- Selection of Household Units/HUs (SSUs)
- Adjusted Random Route Method

Stage 3
- Selection of Respondent (Ultimate Sampling Unit)
- Last Birthday Method

Below, each stage is explained in detail:

Stage one: Selection of the Primary Sampling Units

The primary sampling unit (PSU) were Enumeration Areas (EAs)[6] as defined by the Census. The unit of analysis (screening) were households in selected EAs. For the purposes of sampling, Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) were used as the geographic areas defined by polling/voting centres. These areas specifically defined in the map served as geographical cluster of the sampling. Since a Voting Centre (VC) identifies a polling area, for ease of expression, throughout this methodology, "VCs" or "EA" were used to denote polling areas.

IDRA possesses the database of the VCs from the Central Election in Kosovo. The geographical areas represented by VCs are exhaustive and mutually exclusive. The database contains about 3500 VCs and for each case has the following information:

- County where the VC is located,
- District where the VC is located,
- Municipality or Commune where the VC is located,
- Address of the voting centre,

6 An Enumeration Area (EA) is the smallest geographical statistical unit created for a housing and population census. For example, an EA can be a city block, a village or part of a village, or a group of small villages. The EA has well-defined boundaries identified on a map.

- The number of registered voters,

The Central Election Commission of Kosovo has also made public the maps of the area covered by each VC. Each VC cannot have less than 150 registered voters and no more than 1000 registered voters.The number of EAs chosen within each region was proportional to the number of households within that region, and considered the total sample size of 100 EAs. EAs were randomly selected from the national list until the sufficient number was reached in each region. Maps of the selected EAs were obtained by IDRA before the implementation of the survey.

The study employed a two-stage stratified probability proportional to size (PPS) cluster randomized sampling methodology to arrive at a representative sample. In the first stage, a stratification by regions and urban and rural areas within each region was carried out. In the second stage, a PPS methodology was applied based on the number of households in the strata to select EAs that covered anywhere from 70 to 150 households in municipal districts. Within these EAs, clusters of a specific number of households were chosen through simple random sampling.

The selection units were proposed to be stratified by the following order:

a. *Stratification by region* – each region was considered as a separate stratum. The designed number of EAs were randomly selected for each stratum.

b. *Stratification by urban-rural division* – selected EAs for each region were divided proportionally to the number of households located in urban and rural enumeration areas for that specific region. Percentages on urbanity were cross-checked with available data on population for each region[7]. In the end, the urban areas were excluded for selection since the rural areas were the target of this study.

Probability Proportional to Size

For selection of the EAs the Complex Sample Module of IBM SPSS 25 is used. This module of SPSS allows cross-sectional stratification such as by region and by urbanity. First stage inclusion probabilities and first stage sampling weights will be calculated.

The algorithm used for selecting the enumeration areas is PPS-Systematic (WOR[8]). The population number is used as MOS (Measure of Size). This algorithm gives a higher chance of selection to those EAs that have more population. Said differently, higher populated areas have a bigger probability of being selected. EAs with a small number of inhabitants have a chance of selection too, but smaller than the 'denser' EAs.

PPS procedure is preferred to other techniques of selection such as "from the pot" or as known in statistical community, Simple Random Sampling. SRS gives each PSU an equal probability of selection, which means that small clusters have also a 'considerate' chance of being selected.

Stage two: Selection of the Households

After the selection of the EAs was completed, the selection of the housing units was initiated. For each of the selected EAs, maps (both electronic and hard copy) were obtained, and a starting point was determined – a building that was easily distinguishable and accessible. To each of these selected starting points, a randomly chosen distance and direction were added. This was achieved by incorporating two variables into the database of selected EAs, namely, Direction and Distance.

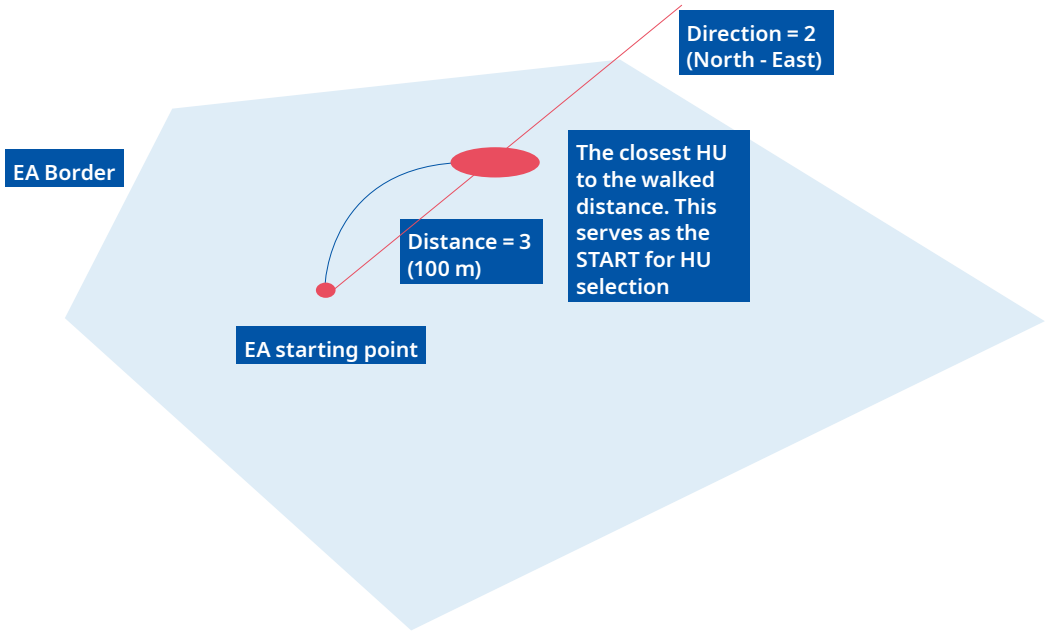
7 Census data are considered, but other sources are consulted as well.

8 Without Replacement. This means an EA cannot be selected twice.

The variable Direction was created using the RV. UNIFORM random function in SPSS SYNTAX, with the SEED set as random and utilizing the Mersenne Twister number generator. This variable took on values ranging from 1 to 8, which were labelled as follows: 1 = North, 2 = North-East, 3 = East, 4 = South-East, 5 = South, 6 = South-West, 7 = West, and 8 = North-West.

The variable Distance was also generated using the RV. UNIFORM random function in SPSS SYNTAX, with the SEED set as random and employing the Mersenne Twister number generator. This variable assumed values ranging from 1 to 6, which were labelled as 1 = 0 meters, 2 = 50 meters, 3 = 100 meters, 4 = 150 meters, 5 = 200 meters, and 6 = 250 meters. The distance was calculated while considering the boundaries of the Enumeration Area.

The enumerator/interviewer[9] was given map of the EA, the starting point, the direction and the distance. Once the enumerator located the starting, s/he found the given direction and walked the instructed distance. After walking the instructed distance in the given direction, the enumerator located the nearest HU to that point. This was considered as the START for the selection of the HUs. (Please see picture below).



Once the START was reached the enumerator started counting the household units. The enumerator knocked on every K-th[10] door s/he encountered till s/he computed the assigned number of screener interviews in the voting centre. The enumerator tried to approach the respondent only in the selected HU, i.e., in every nth door.

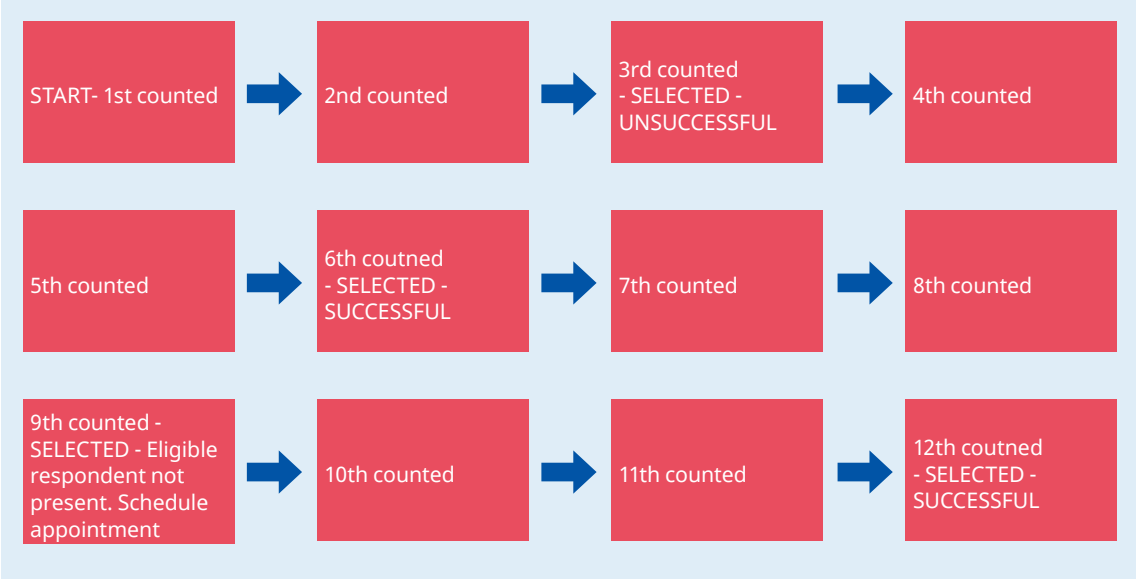
a. When the enumerator contacted the eligible member of the HU, they presented themselves and explained the purpose of the study. Then, the enumerator asked the respondent to participate.

9 These terms were used interchangeably and they both refer to the employee conducting the screening

10 The interval of selection was in correlation with the number of households located in the geographical area of the EAs

b. In cases where the enumerator contacted a member of the HU who was not eligible for the interview, the enumerator conducted a listing of household members to be interviewed and arranged an appointment. The enumerator attempted to contact the eligible respondent two more times. If no contact was made after the third attempt, the household was considered unsuccessful. This method is referred to as the Random Route Method (with an interval of selection K=3). For a visual example, please refer to the flowchart below

c. In cases where there was no response from the HU during the first attempt, the enumerator recorded the address of the HU and made two additional attempts to contact a member of the HU.



Stage three: Selection of the respondent

When the HU is selected, the enumerator compiles a list of all household members aged 18 years or older, including their birthdates and gender. This comprehensive listing of adult family members provides the basis for applying the respondent selection method. The enumerator selects the household member who most recently celebrated their birthday from the day of the interview. It's important to note that the enumerator cannot interview more than one respondent per household.

This approach ensured that the sample had appropriate measures for inclusion probabilities while also being cost-effective, as the random-route method avoided the listing of households in the second stage of selection. The list of EAs met all the criteria of an updated and usable sampling frame. Furthermore, our suggested improvements in the Random Route method provided every household within the area of a voting centre with a probability of being selected, and this probability could be approximated.

Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch (FUNDAMENTALS)

Governance and Tripartism Department (GOVERNANCE)

International Labour Office

4 route des Morillons

CH-1211 Geneva 22 Ð Switzerland
T: +41 (0) 22 799 61 11
E: childlabour@ilo.org

ilo.org/childlabour