



GHANA LIVING STANDARDS SURVEY ROUND 6 (GLSS 6)



CHILD LABOUR REPORT



GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE
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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) has been conducting the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS) since 1987 to generate data for monitoring the impact of policies and programmes on the welfare of the Ghanaian population. The GSS has completed five rounds of the GLSS; these were undertaken in 1987, 1988, 1991/92, 1998/1999 and 2005/2006. The sixth round of the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS6) had a Labour Force Module designed to collect data on labour indicators. This report focuses on Child Labour in Ghana and is based on the results obtained from the implementation of the Labour Force Module of GLSS6. The first standalone Ghana Child Labour Survey was conducted in 2000.

The methodology of the GLSS6 is such that it required substantial human and material resources as well as financial support to implement. The provision of these logistical needs was made possible through the support and cooperation of various stakeholders. Consequently, the GSS would like to acknowledge the many contributions of donors and stakeholders which complemented the efforts of the Ghana Statistical Service to successfully implement the survey. In particular, the GSS acknowledges, with gratitude, the financial contribution and support of the Government of Ghana, the U.K. Department for International Development (UK-DFID), UNICEF, UNDP, the International Labour Organization (ILO) as well as the technical assistance provided by these development partners and the World Bank. Special thanks go to Mr. Yacouba Diallo, Mrs. Marie Ndiaye, Mr. Stephen McClelland and Mr. Daniel Chachu of the ILO for their invaluable contributions and support during the implementation of the project and the preparation of this report.

This survey will not have been possible without the support received from local personnel during the fieldwork. We are very grateful to the regional and district administrators as well as traditional rulers and community leaders for the diverse ways in which they assisted the Ghana Statistical Service to ensure the successful completion of the fieldwork. The GSS would also like to thank the selected households for their patience and cooperation and for devoting time to the field personnel during the numerous visits and questioning. Furthermore, our appreciation goes to the field personnel and data entry officers for the meticulous manner in which they discharged their duties. Finally, the devoted services of the project personnel, the report writers and others who have contributed in diverse ways towards the success of the survey and subsequent production of this report are duly acknowledged.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iii
LIST OF TABLES	v
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....	vii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	viii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND.....	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Overview of Child Labour in Ghana.....	1
1.3 Background to the Present Survey	2
1.4 Survey Objectives	2
1.5 Structure of the Report	4
CHAPTER TWO: SAMPLE DESIGN AND SURVEY METHODOLOGY.....	5
2.1 Sample Design and Coverage	5
2.2 Survey Instruments.....	5
2.3 Survey Period	6
2.4 Concepts and Definitions	7
CHAPTER THREE: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS	9
3.1 Introduction	9
3.2 Demographic Characteristics	9
3.3 Living Arrangements of Children	11
3.4 Relationship to Head of Household	12
CHAPTER FOUR: EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS	14
4.1 Introduction	14
4.2 School Attendance.....	14
4.3 Highest Level of Schooling.....	15
4.4 Current Grade of Children.....	16
4.5 Reasons for Not Attending School.....	18
CHAPTER FIVE: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY	20
5.1 Introduction	20
5.2 Participation of Children in Economic Activity in the Last 7 Days.....	20
5.3 Participation of Children in Economic Activity in the Last 12 Months.....	22
5.4 Participation of Children in Economic Activity in the last 7 Days and School Attendance	23
5.5 Number of Hours Worked.....	24
5.6 Occupation of Working Children.....	25
5.7 Industry of working children.....	27
5.8 Sector of Employment of Children 5-17 years.....	29
5.9 Period of Activity of Working Children 5-17 Years.....	30
5.10 Status in Employment of Working Children	31
5.11 Average number of hours spent per week on household chores	33
5.12 Average age at which working children started to work	33

CHAPTER SIX: CHILD LABOUR AND HAZARDOUS ACTIVITY.....	36
6.1 Introduction	36
6.2 Child Labour	36
6.3 Hazardous Activity.....	39
6.4 Child Labour and Economic Activity	39
6.5 Child Labour and School Attendance	41
6.6 Child Labour and Non-Economic Activity	42
6.7 Work-Related Health and Safety of Children	43
6.8 Abuse of Children in Child Labour Activities (5 – 17 years)	45
6.9 Risks and Dangers at Work.....	46
6.10 Injuries and Illnesses of Children in Economic Activities	46
6.11 Nature of Health Effect on Children in Economic Activity	50
6.12 Abuse of Child at Work (5-17years)	51
CHAPTER SEVEN: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ..	53
7.1 Summary	53
7.2 Conclusions	60
7.3 Recommendations	61
REFERENCES.....	63
APPENDIX.....	64

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1: Percentage distribution of the estimated population of Ghana by age group, sex, locality and region	9
Table 3.2: Percentage distribution of children 5 – 17 years by age group, sex, locality and region.....	10
Table 3.3: Percentage distribution of children 5 – 17 years by living arrangement, sex, locality, age group and region.....	11
Table 3.4: Percentage distribution of children 5 - 17 years by relationship to household head, sex, locality age group and region.....	12
Table 4.1: Current school attendance status of children 5 – 17 years by sex, locality, age group and region.....	15
Table 4.2: Percentage distribution of children 5 – 17 years by highest level of educational attainment, sex, locality, age group and region	16
Table 4.3: Distribution of children 5 – 17 years who currently attend school by current grade, sex, locality, age group and region	17
Table 4.4: Percentage distribution of children 5 – 17 years by reason why they never attended school by sex, locality, age group and region	19
Table 5.1: Distribution of children 5 – 17 years who participated in economic activity in the last 7 days.....	21
Table 5.2: Percent of children 5 – 17 years who participated in economic activity in the last 12 months	22
Table 5.3: Percent distribution of children 5-17 years attending school by working status ...	23
Table 5.4: Percentage distribution of children 5-17 years by hours worked per week and school attendance, sex, locality, age group and region.....	25
Table 5.5: Percentage distribution of working children 5-17 years by occupation, sex, locality, age group and region.....	26
Table 5.6: Percentage distribution of working children 5-17 years by industry, sex, locality, age group and region.....	28
Table 5.7: Percentage distribution of working children 5-17 years by sector of employment, sex, locality, age group and region	29
Table 5.8: Percentage distribution of working children by period of activity, sex, locality, age group and region.....	30
Table 5.9: Distribution of working children aged 5-17 years by status of work	32
Table 5.10: Average number of working hours spent per week on household chores by age group and region.....	34
Table 5.11: Average age at which working children started to work	35
Table 6.1: Population distribution of working children 5-17 year by children in economic activity, child labour and hazardous forms of child labour.....	38
Table 6.3: Percentage distribution of children (5 - 17years) who are engaged in child labour by current school attendance, sex, locality age group and region	41
Table 6.4: Percentage distribution of children 5 – 17 years by participation in household chores by sex, locality, age group and region	43
Table 6.5: Percentage distribution of working children (5-17 years) in child labour by sex, locality, age group, region and whether suffered any injury or health effects as a result of work	44
Table 6.6: Percentage distribution of working children (5 - 17years) involved in child labour who suffered abuse by sex, locality, age and region	45

Table 6.7: Percentage distribution sex of working children (5–17 years) exposed to, locality, age group and region.....	48
Table 6.8: Percentage distribution of working children 5–17 years by health effect or injury, sex, locality, age group and region.....	49
Table 6.9: Percentage distribution of working children 5-17years who were injured at work by sex, locality, age group, region and the seriousness of health effects or injury	50
Table 6.10:Percentage distribution of working children 5-17years abused at work by sex, locality, age group and region.....	51

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
DFID	Department for International Development
FCUBE	Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education
GAMA	Greater Accra Metropolitan Area
GCLMS	Ghana Child Labour Monitoring System
GCLS	Ghana Child Labour Survey
GDHS	Ghana Demographic and Health Survey
GLSS	Ghana Living Standards Survey
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
HAF	Hazardous Activity Framework for
HAF	Hazardous Child Labour Activity Framework
HIV	Human Immune Virus
ILO	International Labour Office
IOM	International Organization on Migration
IPEC	International Programme in the Elimination of Child Labour
JHS	Junior High School
JSS	Junior Secondary School
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MMDE	Ministry of Manpower Development and Employment
MOWAC	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
NGO	Non- Governmental Organization
NPA	National Plan of Action
OAU	Organization of African Unity
SADA	Savannah Accelerated Development Authority
SIMPOC	Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme of Child Labour
SNA	System of National Accounts
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines
SSS	Senior Secondary School
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Education Fund
WFCL	Worst Forms of Child Labour

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Ghana Living Standards Survey Round Six (GLSS6) was a nation-wide household survey conducted between 18th October, 2012 and 17th October, 2013. It collected information on the demographic characteristics of the population, their education, health, employment and time use, migration, housing conditions and household agriculture, among others. Like the previous rounds of GLSS, the sixth round of the GLSS had a specific focus on Labour Force, with the Labour Force module expanded to include a section on Child Labour.

Survey Objectives

Among other objectives, the survey sought to estimate the number of child workers (or children in employment) aged 5-17 years, and their distribution by sex, major age-groups, educational status, geographical, ecological and rural/urban spread, and also to provide current child labour indicators, estimate the prevalence of child labour and assess the nature and extent of child labour in the country.

Sample Design and Coverage

The survey was designed to cover 18,000 households in 1,200 EAs, consisting of 655 rural EAs (54.6%) and 545 urban EAs (45.4%). Basic information on all persons living in private households was solicited. In addition, all persons 15 years and older were eligible for the labour force survey. However, for the child labour module, the survey solicited information from persons within the age group 5-17 years.

Demographic Characteristics

Of the children aged 5-17 years, 24.3 percent were aged 5-7 years, while 31.6 percent, constituting the largest proportion, were within the age group 8-11 years. One-fifth (20.0%) of the children were aged 15-17 years. A comparatively higher proportion of children (20.5%) aged 11-14 years and 15-17 years lived with people who were not their parents relative to children of younger ages. Only 2.3 percent of children were adopted.

Educational Characteristics

Almost nine in ten children (88.9%) were currently attending school while 5.9 percent had never attended school. Among the different age groups, 87.8 percent of children 5-7 years were currently attending school, 91.0 percent of children aged 12-14 years and 76.1 percent of those aged 15-17 years were also currently attending school. This shows that school attendance decreases with increasing age. As expected, children in pre-school were concentrated in the age group 5-7 years; also 14.0 percent of children aged 8-11 years were reported to have attained pre-school level of education. About 16 percent of the children were currently in pre-school.

Economic Activity

The proportion of children who engaged in economic activity in the rural areas was 38.3 percent. A higher proportion of children (43.8%) in rural savannah participated in economic activities compared to 38.3 percent in rural forest and 21.9 percent in rural coastal. The

proportion of children who participated in economic activities among the 15-17 years age group was 42.9 percent while that of the 5-7 years age group was 9.9 percent.

Children who participated in economic activities while attending school constituted 26.3 percent while their non-schooling counterparts constituted 41.6 percent. For children currently in school, only 5.4 percent worked for 43 hours or more compared to 36.4 percent of those not attending school. Among school children who were not in school, the proportion who worked for 15-42 hours was almost the same for males (44.6%) and females (44.1%).

The Upper West region had the highest proportion (92.4%) of children engaged in agricultural activities. In all the ecological zones, the private informal sector engaged the largest proportion of children, with rural savannah recording the highest (88.5%). The rural forest had the highest proportion of working children engaged in agri-business (30.5%).

Majority of working children (61.9%) usually worked during the day time between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. while 1.1 percent worked in the night. About 4 percent (3.8%) of the working children worked both during the daytime and at night, while 31.1 percent worked on weekends.

The Upper East (12.5%) region reported the highest proportion of working children who were repeatedly beaten at work while the Central (53.3%) region recorded the least proportion of abused children.

Child Labour and Hazardous Activity

The survey results show that 21.8 percent of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour. The proportion of male children in child labour was slightly higher (22.7%) than females (20.8%). The proportion of urban children in child labour was 12.4 percent compared to 30.2 percent of children in rural areas. Rural savannah (34.6%) had the highest proportion of children in child labour. Among the age groups, children 12-14 years were more likely to be engaged in child labour (26.9%).

About fourteen percent (14.2%) of the children covered in the survey were engaged in hazardous forms of child labour. The proportion of males engaged in hazardous forms of child labour (15.4%) was slightly higher than females (12.9%). There was a remarkable difference in the proportion of children engaged in hazardous forms of child labour in the urban (7.7%) and rural areas (20.0%).

Of the children 5-17 years who participated in economic activity, 76.4 percent were involved in child labour, out of which 49.7 percent participated in hazardous work. More than seven in ten of both male and female children who participated in economic activity were into child labour while more than 40 percent engaged in hazardous forms of child labour

A little over one-quarter of the children (25.3%) who were engaged in household chores were engaged in child labour while 16.6 percent were in hazardous forms of child labour. The proportions of males participating in household chores and involved in child labour and hazardous forms of child labour (26.7% and 18.5% respectively) were higher than females (23.9% in child labour and 14.8% in hazardous forms of child labour).

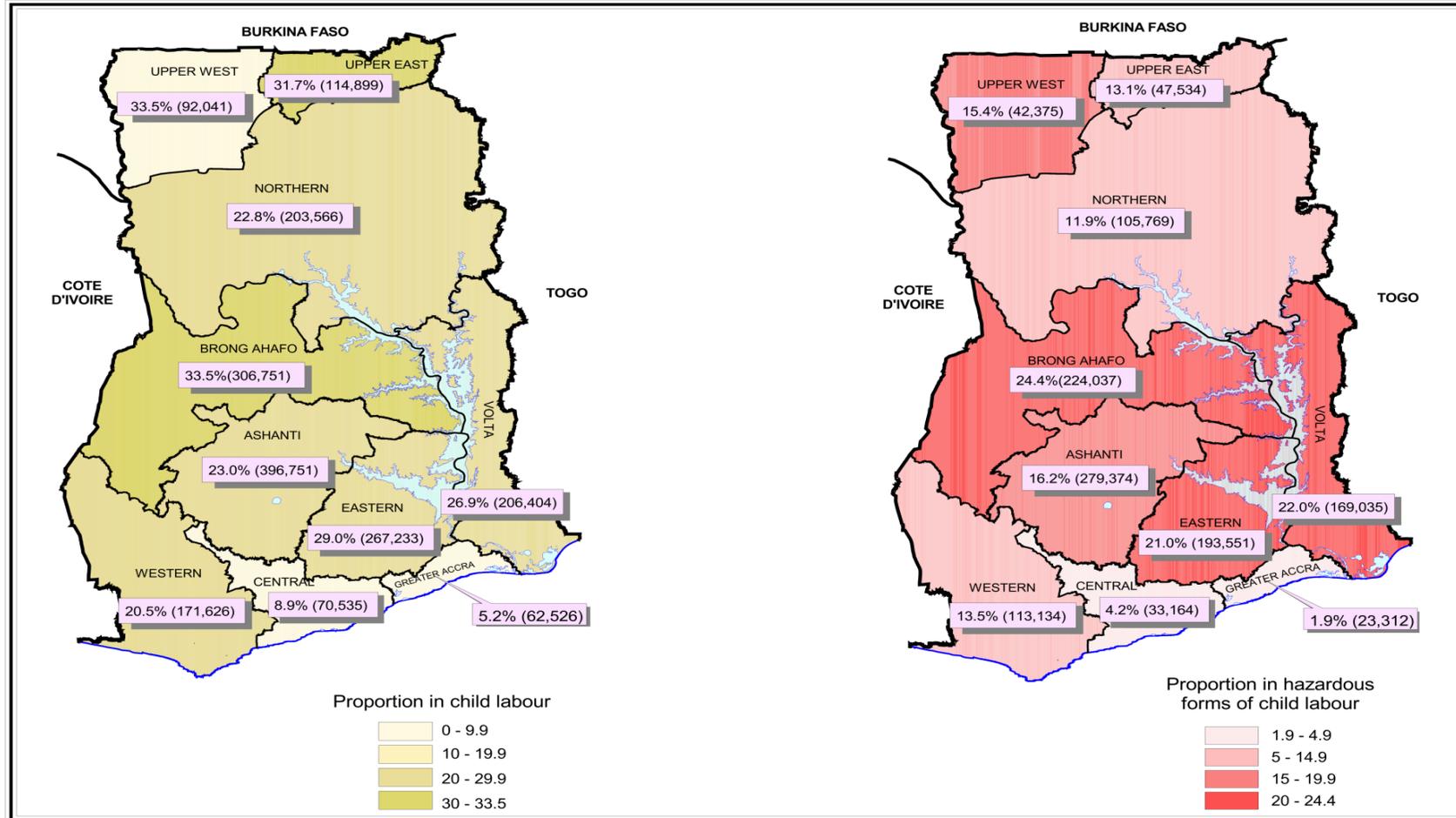
The proportion of children in child labour who did not suffer from any injury or health effect was highest in rural savannah (17.7%), followed by rural forest with 17.0 percent. Rural coastal had the lowest proportion of 10.7 percent.

Working children engaged in child labour and other forms of hazardous work are often exposed to various forms of abuses at the workplace. About nine in ten (91%) children who suffered abuses were involved in child labour while 87.4 percent of them were engaged in hazardous work. A slightly higher proportion of male (88.1%) than female (86.7%) children who suffered some form of abuse were involved in hazardous forms of child labour. The proportions of children in rural areas who were abused and were involved in child labour (92.2%) and hazardous work (89.6%) were higher than in urban areas (87.2% and 80.2% respectively). The proportions of younger children 5-7 years (93.4%) and 8-11 years (93.6%) who suffered injury and were involved in child labour were higher compared to the older children. Among children who were in child labour, more than four out of every five of them suffered abuses with the exception of the Central region where the proportion was somewhat lower.

Conclusion

It must be noted that “working children” is not the same as child labour. Even though some children were engaged in both economic and non-economic activities, not all of them can be considered to be in child labour. Poverty and low incomes are some of the underlying reasons for child labour and until parents are able to support themselves financially, children would continue to be used to help top up household incomes. Policies should, therefore, take this into consideration, guided by the fact that of the estimated 8,697,602 children aged 5-17 years covered in the survey, an estimated 2.5 million (28.5%) worked during the 7 days before the interview; 1.9 million (21.8%) involved in child labour while 1.2 million (14.2%) were engaged hazardous forms of child labour.

PROPORTION AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN 5-17 YEARS IN CHILD LABOUR



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

According to the Children's Act of 1998 (Act 560), children under the age of 15 years are expected to be in school and hence are debarred from engaging in any form of employment. However, children aged 13 to 14 years are permitted to engage in 'light' family work. Despite this legal provision, children in these age brackets can be found in various forms of work, some of which are difficult, hazardous and exploitative.

Child labour is generally a complex phenomenon caused by many factors most of which are equally very complex. Examples are poverty, ignorance, illiteracy, broken homes, high fertility rates, high unemployment rates, gender inequalities, outmoded cultural practices that border on human rights abuses, and porous national borders, among others. According to the 2003 Ghana Child Labour Survey (GCLS, 2003), child labour is found in many sectors of the Ghanaian economy, particularly agriculture which had the largest proportion of the observed level of child labour (62.5%) in the country at the time.

Since the programme on the elimination of child labour was instituted in Ghana in 2000, several steps have been taken to withdraw or prevent children from engaging in child labour. In line with these efforts, a legal framework and a National Plan of Action (NPA) were developed to guide the prevention or fight against child labour. The action plan involved the establishment of systems and the development of various instruments and guidelines meant to help combat the phenomenon. These include:

- The Ghana Child Labour Monitoring System (GCLMS), which is an active process to regularly check workplaces in order to ensure that children are not working there, and that young workers are adequately protected;
- The Hazardous Activity Framework for the Cocoa Sectors of Ghana (HAF) which provides guidelines for identifying hazards associated with the occupation and specifies economic activities that are hazardous and must not be done by children. It also provides the list of work that is permissible and those that are not permissible for children in each sector where child labour is found; and
- The Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines (SOPs) for Child Labour Elimination in Ghana, which provides procedures for dealing with the worst forms of child labour and specific guidelines for dealing with children engaged in child labour in each sector.

1.2 Overview of Child Labour in Ghana

All children have the right to be safe and to receive loving care and support. Children also have a right to receive the services they need to enable them to succeed in life. Parents have the primary responsibility for raising their children, and ensuring that these rights are upheld. The best way to protect children is to prevent child abuse and neglect from occurring.

Child Protection or Safeguarding Children is a multi-stranded concept that reaches beyond basic child protection and incorporates the additional aims of preventing the impairment of children's health and development, and ensures that children grow up in an environment consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and protection from maltreatment. The UK Government has defined the term 'safeguarding children' as: *'The process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring that they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care that enables children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully'* (UK Government, 2013).

The Ghana Child Labour Monitoring System (GCLMS) established by the Government of Ghana spells out interventions at the district and community levels to protect children against the worst forms of child labour. The objectives of this monitoring system are further complemented by the Hazardous Activity Framework and the Standard Operational Procedures and Guidelines prepared by the government to protect children in child labour. The International Organization on Migration (IOM), with support from UNICEF, has also developed the Child Protection Toolkit, which outlines specific interventions for children, families and communities as a whole.

1.3 Background to the Present Survey

The Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS) has emerged as one of the most important tools in the welfare monitoring system and has, in combination with other surveys such as the Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) and the Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS), provided a wealth of information for understanding living conditions in Ghana, particularly, as the country is undergoing rapid transition into an oil-producing middle income country.

The GLSS6 is a nation-wide household survey which was conducted between 18th October 2012 and 17th October 2013. It collected detailed information on topics including the demographic characteristics of the population, education, health, employment and time use, migration, housing conditions and household agriculture. Each of the previous rounds of GLSS had a specific focus. In the fifth round the focus was on Non-Farm Household Enterprises. In addition, new sections covering Tourism and Migrants & Remittances were introduced.

In line with this practice, the GLSS6 had two unique features; First, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) module was expanded to include a section on Child Labour. Secondly, the sample was increased to address the inclusion of additional indicators pertaining to the northern savannah ecological zone, where a major Government of Ghana initiative, the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) programme, was being implemented.

1.4 Survey Objectives

The specific objectives of the labour force survey were to:

- Estimate the number of persons in the labour force (Employed, Under-employed and Unemployed) and their distribution by sex, age-group, educational level, geographical and rural/urban spread, as well as the ecological manifestations of these, particularly in the northern savannah ecological zone which is a known source of migrant and child labour.

- Estimate the number of child workers (or children in employment) aged 5-17 years, and their distribution by sex, age-group, educational status, geographical, ecological and rural/urban spread.
- For both adult workers and children in employment, their distribution by status in employment, occupation and industry, as well as weekly hours worked, location of place of work, earnings, occupational injury and hazards at the work place, contractual status, and informal / formal sector employment status.
- Provide benchmark data needed for monitoring progress of labour policies, programmes and law-making.
- Provide up-to-date information for assessing the Child Labour and Labour Force situation in Ghana.
- Provide current Child Labour and Labour Force indicators for Ghana.
- Provide the data needed for monitoring progress towards the elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) in Ghana.
- Estimate the prevalence of child labour (as distinct from ‘children in employment’ of which child labour is a sub-set).
- Identify the social and economic causes and consequences of child labour.
- Establish a national database on decent work indicators, including LF and CL statistics.
- Strengthen technical capacity of GSS in the design and implementation of such surveys.
- Help set targets and priorities in the fight against child labour.
- Assess the nature and extent of child labour.

In order to achieve these objectives, detailed data were collected on the following key elements:

- Demographic Characteristics
- Housing and Housing Conditions
- Education and Skills Training
- Health and Fertility Behaviour
- Employment and Time Use
- Child Labour
- Household Income, Consumption and Expenditure
- Prices of Consumer Items, and
- Household Assets – both domestic and economic assets

1.5 Structure of the Report

This report is organized into six chapters. The first chapter provides a background to the survey, its objectives and the instruments used for data collection. Chapter two looks at the sample design, the survey methodology, geographic coverage, and concepts and definitions used in the data collection. Chapter three examines the demographic characteristics of the households interviewed and the living arrangements of children.

The fourth chapter deals with education, school attendance, levels attained as well as reasons for not attending school. Chapter five examines the economic activities of children, occupation and industry of work, working hours and dangers and risks at work. The sixth chapter looks at children's involvement in child labour and hazardous work and makes recommendations for their elimination.

CHAPTER TWO

SAMPLE DESIGN AND SURVEY METHODOLOGY

2.1 Sample Design and Coverage

The sixth round of the Ghana Living Standards Survey, like the previous rounds, was designed to provide national and regional level estimates of indicators. It was also designed to allow for the release of quarterly labour force statistics. To achieve this and the survey objectives, it was proposed to study 18,000 households in 1,200 EAs, consisting of 655 rural EAs (54.6%) and 545 urban EAs (45.4%). The regional distribution of the Enumeration Areas and households covered is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Regional distribution of EAs covered in GLSS6

Region	EA			Households			Percentage of EAs	Proportion Urban	Proportion Rural
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total			
Western	51	69	120	765	1,035	1,800	10.0	42.4	57.58
Central	55	61	116	825	915	1,740	9.7	47.1	52.86
Greater Accra	130	14	144	1,950	210	2,160	12.0	90.6	9.45
Volta	39	77	116	585	1,155	1,740	9.7	33.7	66.31
Eastern	56	72	128	840	1,080	1,920	10.7	43.4	56.56
Ashanti	90	58	148	1,350	870	2,220	12.3	60.6	39.39
Brong Ahafo	52	64	116	780	960	1,740	9.7	44.5	55.50
Northern	35	81	116	525	1,215	1,740	9.7	30.3	69.72
Upper East	21	79	100	315	1,185	1,500	8.3	21.0	79.01
Upper West	16	80	96	240	1,200	1,440	8.0	16.3	83.67
Ghana	545	655	1,200	8,175	9,825	18,000	100.0	50.9	49.10

Basic information on all persons living in private households was solicited. In addition, all persons aged 15 years and older were eligible for the labour force survey while for the child labour module, information was solicited from persons between the ages of 5-17 years.

2.2 Survey Instruments

Four separate survey instruments were developed for the GLSS6. The instruments were the:

- Household Questionnaire
- Non-farm Household Questionnaire
- Community Questionnaire
- Governance, Peace and Security Questionnaire

The household questionnaire was used to collect information at the household and individual levels, including household agriculture and non-farm household businesses. The questionnaire was divided into two parts: Part A and Part B. The Part A had five sections. These are:

- Section 1: Household Roster and background information of the household.
- Section 2A: General Education
- Section 2B: Educational Career
- Section 2C: Literacy and Apprenticeship
- Section 3A: Health Condition
- Section 3B: Health Insurance
- Section 3C: Preventive Health
- Section 3D: Fertility and Prenatal Care
- Section 3E: Contraceptive Use and HIV
- Section 4A - G: Employment and Time Use
- Section 4H: Housekeeping
- Section 4HS: Health and Safety Issues at Work
- Section 5: Migration and Tourism.
- Section 6: Identification of Respondent for Household Expenditures
- Section 7: Housing

Part B, which was to collect information on household agriculture, household income and expenditure, had the following sections:

- Section 8A- H: Agriculture
- Section 9A- B: Household Expenditure
- Section 11A- E: Income Transfers and Miscellaneous Income and Expenditures
- Section 11E1- E2: Migration and Remittances
- Section 12: Credit, Assets and Savings

2.3 Survey Period

The survey was spread over a 12-month period in order to ensure a continuous recording of household consumption and expenditures and changes occurring thereof and to measure seasonal changes in labour and employment. The survey started from 18th October, 2012 and ended on 17th October, 2013.

2.4 Concepts and Definitions

2.4.1 Child Labour

The term “child labour” does not encompass all economic activity undertaken by children. It refers to employment or work carried out by children that neither conforms to the provisions of national legislation, such as the Children’s Act, 1998 (Act 560), nor the provisions of international instruments such as ILO Convention Nos. 138 and 182, which define the boundaries of work undertaken by children that must be targeted for abolition.

The Children’s Act defines exploitative labour as “work that deprives the child of his/her health, education or development”. It sets the minimum age for admission into employment at 15 years for general employment, 13 years for light work and 18 years for hazardous work. The Act defines hazardous work as “work posing a danger to the health, safety or morals of a person”, and provides an inexhaustible list, including fishing, mining and quarrying, portage or carrying of heavy loads, work involving the production or use of chemicals, and work in places where there is a risk of exposure to immoral behaviour.

2.4.2 Worst Forms of Child Labour

ILO Convention 182 classifies the worst forms of Child Labour as follows:

- 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; and
- 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.

2.4.3 Light Work

ILO Convention 138 defines light work as work which is:

- a) not likely to be harmful to their health or development; and
- b) not such as to prejudice their attendance at school, their participation in vocational orientation or training programmes approved by a competent authority or their capacity to benefit from the instruction received.

National laws and regulations may permit the engagement of persons 13 to 15 years to do light work.

2.4.4 Economic Activity

Economic activity is any work or activity performed during a specified reference period for pay (in cash or in kind), for profit or for family gain. In the GLSS6, two reference periods were used: last 7 days and last 12 months preceding the interview.

2.4.5 Household

In this survey, a household is defined as a person or group of related or unrelated persons who live together in the same housing unit, sharing the same housekeeping and cooking arrangements and are catered for as one unit, who acknowledge an adult male or female as the head. Members of a household are not necessarily related (by blood or marriage). There can be several households within the same compound.

2.4.6 Recruitment and Training of Interviewers

Experienced interviewers were recruited across the country for the survey. The criteria for selection were a minimum educational qualification of a Higher National Diploma. In addition, the candidate must have had an experience in data collection in at least three research studies in communities to qualify as an interviewer. This was to ensure that quality data are collected during the fieldwork. Thirty teams were deployed for the fieldwork, each team comprising of a supervisor, senior interviewer/editor and four interviewers.

CHAPTER THREE

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

3.1 Introduction

This chapter examines some socio-demographic characteristics of children aged 5-17 years. Issues discussed include the age-sex distribution of children, the distribution of children by region and locality of residence and children's relationship to the head of household. Also discussed are the living arrangements of the eligible children and their educational characteristics. These variables are examined with a view to throwing light on the factors that contribute to child labour in the country.

3.2 Demographic Characteristics

Understanding the distribution of the population by locality is very important as it shows the spatial distribution and, by extension, the spatial concentration of the population, which is vital for effective planning, targeting and focusing of interventions to achieve the desired results. Table 3.1 shows the distribution of the population by age and locality of residence. A derived estimate of the population puts the total population of Ghana for the mid-survey period (i.e. March 2013) at 26,347,424.

Table 3.1: Percentage distribution of the estimated population of Ghana by age group, sex, locality and region

Characteristic	Age group			Total	
	0 – 4	5 - 17	18+	Percent	Number
Total	13.0	33.0	54.0	100.0	26,347,424
Male	13.8	34.6	51.6	100.0	12,689,648
Female	12.2	31.5	56.3	100.0	13,657,776
Urban	11.7	31.3	57.0	100.0	13,204,237
Accra (GAMA)	11.5	27.7	60.8	100.0	3,961,556
Other Urban	11.7	32.9	55.4	100.0	9,242,682
Rural	14.3	34.7	51.0	100.0	13,143,186
Rural Coastal	13.1	33.1	53.9	100.0	1,502,174
Rural Forest	13.6	34.4	51.9	100.0	6,896,855
Rural Savannah	15.6	35.7	48.7	100.0	4,744,158
Western	13.5	34.5	52.0	100.0	2,430,492
Central	12.3	34.0	53.7	100.0	2,332,229
Greater Accra	11.6	28.0	60.4	100.0	4,297,464
Volta	14.3	33.6	52.1	100.0	2,284,116
Eastern	11.5	33.7	54.8	100.0	2,735,136
Ashanti	12.5	33.3	54.2	100.0	5,194,243
Brong Ahafo	13.4	35.1	51.5	100.0	2,611,620
Northern	16.9	33.8	49.2	100.0	2,633,550
Upper East	12.0	33.9	54.1	100.0	1,068,873
Upper West	12.0	36.2	51.8	100.0	759,700

Out of a total national population of 26,347,424, 13.0 percent are aged 0-4 years while 33.0 percent are within the age group 5-17 years. The distribution of the population by sex for the various age groups follows a similar pattern. From Table 3.1, majority of the population (54.0%) are aged 18 years and older. This trend is observed for all the regions with few variations. For example, the proportion aged 18 years and older for the Northern region is relatively lower (49.2%) compared to the other regions. The proportion of children aged 5-17 years is highest in the Upper West region (36.2%), followed by the Brong Ahafo region (35.1%).

The distribution of the population by locality shows that for both urban and rural areas, majority (57.0% and 51.0% respectively) are aged 18 years and older. A close look at the distribution of this population group by ecological zone shows a similar pattern.

Table 3.2 presents the age-sex distribution of children aged 5-17 years. The table shows that of the total number of children aged 5-17 years, 24.4 percent are aged 5-7 years, while 31.6 percent, constituting the majority, are within the age group 8-11 years. Nearly one-fifth (19.8%) of the children are aged 15-17 years, indicating that about four-fifth (80.2%) is within the dependency age group (5-14 years). Similar patterns are observed within the regions and ecological zones.

Table 3.2: Percentage distribution of children 5 – 17 years by age group, sex, locality and region

Characteristic	Age group				Total
	5 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	
Total	24.4	31.6	24.2	19.8	100.0
Male	24.8	31.6	24.3	19.2	100.0
Female	24.0	31.6	24.0	20.4	100.0
Locality					
Urban	23.2	31.3	24.8	20.8	100.0
Accra (GAMA)	22.0	31.4	26.5	20.1	100.0
Other Urban	23.6	31.2	24.1	21.1	100.0
Rural	25.5	31.9	23.6	18.9	100.0
Rural Coastal	25.5	31.6	24.2	18.6	100.0
Rural Forest	23.9	32.0	24.7	19.4	100.0
Rural Savannah	27.8	31.9	21.9	18.4	100.0
Western	26.6	31.0	21.8	20.6	100.0
Central	23.4	32.5	23.9	20.2	100.0
Greater Accra	22.9	30.7	26.7	19.7	100.0
Volta	26.3	30.9	22.9	19.8	100.0
Eastern	23.0	31.1	25.4	20.5	100.0
Ashanti	22.7	32.4	25.2	19.8	100.0
Brong Ahafo	24.3	30.4	24.8	20.5	100.0
Northern	28.7	33.0	20.7	17.7	100.0
Upper East	24.1	33.3	23.0	19.6	100.0
Upper West	24.5	31.1	24.7	19.7	100.0

3.3 Living Arrangements of Children

The household is the surest and most important unit that ensures the welfare of children. The perception that children who are not staying with their parents are likely to be subjected to conditions that may have adverse consequences on their livelihood, especially education and health, is very strong among sections of the Ghanaian society. Therefore, examining the living arrangements of children is of great interest in unravelling issues of child labour.

Table 3.3 shows that 57.5 percent of children lives with both father and mother. In addition, 20.4 percent live with their mother only, while 4.4 percent live with their father only. It is worth noting that 17.7 percent of children neither live with their father nor mother. The distribution by sex indicates that the proportion of females (19.9%) who live with neither their father nor mother is higher than males (15.5%).

Among the age groups, the proportion of children who live with both parents decreases with increasing age of the child. On the other hand, the older the child, the more likely he/she is to live with only the father or mother. Also, higher proportions of older children aged 12-14 years and 15-17 years (20.3% and 20.6% respectively) live with neither parents compared to children of younger ages.

Table 3.3: Percentage distribution of children 5 – 17 years by living arrangement, sex, locality, age group and region

Characteristic	Person child lives with				Total
	Living with Father only	Living with Mother Only	Living with both Father and Mother	Not Living with Father or Mother	
Total	4.4	20.4	57.5	17.7	100.0
Male	4.9	19.8	59.8	15.5	100.0
Female	3.9	21.0	55.1	19.9	100.0
Urban	4.5	24.1	51.6	19.8	100.0
Accra (GAMA)	4.7	22.1	54.8	18.5	100.0
Other Urban	4.5	24.9	50.4	20.3	100.0
Rural	4.3	17.0	62.8	15.8	100.0
Rural Coastal	3.8	25.4	48.6	22.2	100.0
Rural Forest	5.0	19.7	57.8	17.6	100.0
Rural Savannah	3.5	10.8	74.1	11.5	100.0
5-7	2.7	18.7	65.5	13.2	100.0
8-11	4.0	20.0	58.5	17.4	100.0
12-14	5.4	20.8	53.4	20.3	100.0
15-17	6.0	22.5	50.9	20.6	100.0
Western	5.0	22.9	54.0	18.1	100.0
Central	2.8	27.1	55.8	14.3	100.0
Greater Accra	4.5	22.1	55.0	18.5	100.0
Volta	5.8	16.3	55.5	22.4	100.0
Eastern	5.6	22.6	50.9	21.0	100.0
Ashanti	4.4	24.1	53.2	18.3	100.0
Brong Ahafo	4.7	20.2	55.8	19.3	100.0
Northern	3.4	6.7	77.7	12.2	100.0
Upper East	3.4	19.4	65.2	12.0	100.0
Upper West	2.9	13.4	67.9	15.8	100.0

The general pattern of higher proportions of children living with both parents is also visible across regions. It is significant to note that, among the three northern regions, higher

proportions of children live with both parents compared to those in the south. While the proportion of children living with both parents ranges between 50.9 percent and 55.8 percent in the south regions, the proportions for the north regions range between 65.2 percent and 77.7 percent.

3.4 Relationship to Head of Household

Table 3.4 shows the distribution of the children by their relationship to the head of the household in which they live. The household is the basic social and economic unit of society and it is the main source of socialization for children. The head of household plays a key role in the welfare and development of the members of his/her household. It is observed from Table 3.4 that 77.2 percent of children are either sons or daughters of the head of household. An additional 11.8 percent of the children live in households where their grandparents are the heads of the household while 7.3 percent of them live in households where the heads are other relatives. However, a small proportion of children (0.3%) are found to be house-helps, with the proportion being higher for females (0.6%) than males (0.1%).

Table 3.4: Percentage distribution of children 5 - 17 years by relationship to household head, sex, locality age group and region

Characteristic	Head	Spouse	Child (Son/daughter)	Grand child	Other relative	Adopted child	House help	Non relative	Other	
Total	0.1	0.1	77.2	11.8	7.3	2.3	0.3	0.9	0.0	100.0
Male	0.2	0.0	79.7	11.2	6.1	2.1	0.1	0.6	0.0	100.0
Female	0.0	0.2	74.7	12.4	8.5	2.5	0.6	1.2	0.0	100.0
Urban	0.1	0.1	75.6	11.4	8.6	2.6	0.5	1.1	0.1	100.0
Accra (GAMA)	0.1	0.2	76.4	8.9	7.4	5.1	0.7	1.0	0.2	100.0
Other Urban	0.1	0.0	75.3	12.3	9.0	1.7	0.5	1.1	0.0	100.0
Rural	0.1	0.1	78.6	12.1	6.1	2.0	0.1	0.8	0.0	100.0
Rural Coastal	0.0	0.0	70.9	19.0	6.6	2.6	0.1	0.7	0.0	100.0
Rural Forest	0.1	0.1	76.2	14.3	5.4	2.6	0.2	1.1	0.0	100.0
Rural Savannah	0.1	0.1	84.3	7.1	7.0	1.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	100.0
5-7	0.0	0.0	80.4	13.9	4.2	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	100.0
8-11	0.0	0.0	77.4	12.8	6.4	2.4	0.2	0.8	0.0	100.0
12-14	0.0	0.0	75.4	10.5	8.9	3.3	0.5	1.4	0.0	100.0
15-17	0.5	0.4	75.2	9.0	10.5	2.4	0.6	1.2	0.2	100.0
Western	0.0	0.1	75.3	12.3	7.0	3.9	0.4	0.9	0.0	100.0
Central	0.2	0.1	79.5	13.4	4.3	1.8	0.2	0.5	0.0	100.0
Greater Accra	0.1	0.2	76.4	9.1	7.4	5.0	0.7	1.1	0.2	100.0
Volta	0.2	0.0	71.0	14.3	10.9	1.9	0.3	1.2	0.0	100.0
Eastern	0.1	0.1	72.9	15.0	7.3	2.7	0.1	1.8	0.0	100.0
Ashanti	0.1	0.0	77.6	12.9	6.5	1.6	0.3	0.9	0.0	100.0
Brong Ahafo	0.2	0.0	75.4	14.1	7.5	1.5	0.4	0.9	0.0	100.0
Northern	0.1	0.2	85.2	5.5	7.5	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.0	100.0
Upper East	0.0	0.0	85.4	8.1	5.4	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	100.0
Upper West	0.0	0.0	78.0	8.9	11.7	0.9	0.0	0.2	0.1	100.0

In the rural areas, 78.6 percent of the children live in households where their parents are household heads compared to 75.6 percent of their urban counterparts. Higher proportions of children in the Northern (85.2%) and Upper East (85.4%) regions are the sons or daughters of the head of household. The proportion of children who are house-helps is higher for older ages than younger ages. Similar patterns are observed among the regions.

CHAPTER FOUR

EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

4.1 Introduction

Education and child labour are interlinked, and understanding how both of them interplay is critical to achieving universal education as stipulated in Ghana's 1992 constitution under the Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE) programme. Decisions about the education of children are taken at the household level on the basis of relative cost and benefits, resource availability and other cultural and social characteristics.

When children are into full education, the use of their time is geared towards studying and therefore, they are less likely to be available for other activities including child labour. It is against this background that this chapter discusses the education of children within the child labour age bracket (5-17 years). The discussion centres on school attendance, level of education and literacy, among others.

4.2 School Attendance

Table 4.1 shows school attendance of children by sex, locality of residence, age group and region. Nearly nine out of every ten children (88.9%) are currently attending school, while 5.9 percent have never attended school. The remaining 5.2 percent had attended school in the past. School attendance by sex of children indicates that majority of them were currently attending school, with the proportion of boys (89.4%) being slightly higher than girls (88.3%). The proportion of females (5.6%) who have never attended school is higher than males (5.7%). On the other hand, the proportion of females (5.6%) who had ever attended school is higher than males (4.9%). This is an indication that more effort is needed not only in sending female children to school but, more importantly, also ensuring that they stay in school.

Among the different age groups, 93.9 percent of children 8-11 years were currently attending school compared to 91.9 percent of those 12-14 years and 76.1 percent of the 15-17 year olds. This clearly shows a reduction in current school attendance with increasing age. The highest proportion of children who had ever attended school in the past (17.8%) was found among the 15 – 17 year olds.

With the exception of the Volta region, the proportion of children who were currently in school was higher for the southern regions (ranging between 90.9 % and 93.1 %) than the northern regions. The Northern (25.7%), Upper West (10.4%) and Volta (9.6%) regions, however, had high proportions of children who had never attended school. About one-tenth (9.2%) of children in the rural areas had never attended school; the situation was worse in rural savannah (19.1%) compared to the other ecological zones.

Table 4.1: Current school attendance status of children 5 – 17 years by sex, locality, age group and region

Characteristic	School attendance status			Total
	Never Attended	Currently Attending	Attended in the past	
Total	5.9	88.9	5.2	100.0
Male	5.7	89.4	4.9	100.0
Female	6.1	88.3	5.6	100.0
Urban	2.2	92.7	5.1	100.0
Accra (GAMA)	1.2	93.0	5.8	100.0
Other Urban	2.5	92.5	4.9	100.0
Rural	9.2	85.4	5.3	100.0
Rural Coastal	4.4	89.3	6.3	100.0
Rural Forest	3.2	91.3	5.5	100.0
Rural Savannah	19.1	76.1	4.8	100.0
5-7	10.4	88.5	1.0	100.0
8-11	4.7	93.9	1.4	100.0
12-14	3.8	91.9	4.3	100.0
15-17	4.7	77.5	17.8	100.0
Western	2.5	93.1	4.4	100.0
Central	3.3	91.4	5.4	100.0
Greater Accra	1.7	92.6	5.7	100.0
Volta	9.6	85.3	5.1	100.0
Eastern	2.7	92.1	5.3	100.0
Ashanti	1.5	92.2	6.3	100.0
Brong Ahafo	4.0	90.9	5.1	100.0
Northern	25.7	70.5	3.8	100.0
Upper East	7.3	87.3	5.4	100.0
Upper West	10.4	85.8	3.8	100.0

4.3 Highest Level of Schooling

More than half of the children captured in the survey (57.4%) had attained primary school level education while about one-quarter had attained pre-school (Table 4.2). About 14 percent had attained Junior Secondary School or Junior High School (JSS/JHS) education while a small proportion (2.2%) had attained the Senior High School (SHS) level of education. Majority of both boys and girls had attained primary education (57.4%), while at the JSS/JHS levels the proportion of girls (15.1%) is slightly higher than boys (13.2%). More than one-quarter of the boys (27.6%) had attained the pre-school level of education compared to the girls (24.9%).

As expected, children in pre-school were concentrated in the age group 5-7 years, even though the highest level of education for 14.0 percent of the children aged 8-11 years was pre-school. Also, majority of children aged 8-11 years and 12-14 years were at the primary level, while those with JSS/JHS were mostly aged 15-17 years. One in ten (10.7 percent) children 15-17 years had attained SSS/SHS education.

Within the regions and ecological zones, the proportion of children with primary education was relatively similar. However, the proportion of children with JHS and SHS education was

higher in urban localities compared with rural localities. It was also higher in the southern regions of the country compared with the northern regions. The Northern and the Upper West regions, children who had attained primary education were more than 60 percent (60.8% and 61.4% respectively).

Table 4.2: Percentage distribution of children 5 – 17 years by highest level of educational attainment, sex, locality, age group and region

Characteristic	Highest level of education attained					Total
	Pre-School	Primary	JSS/ JHS	SSS/ SHS	Secondary	
Total	26.3	57.4	14.1	2.2	0.0	100.0
Male	27.6	57.4	13.2	1.8	0.0	100.0
Female	24.9	57.4	15.1	2.5	0.0	100.0
Urban	23.0	56.2	17.3	3.4	0.0	100.0
Accra (GAMA)	20.1	54.9	20.2	4.8	0.0	100.0
Other Urban	24.1	56.7	16.3	2.9	0.0	100.0
Rural	29.4	58.6	11.0	0.9	0.0	100.0
Rural Coastal	30.5	56.0	13.1	0.4	0.0	100.0
Rural Forest	27.7	58.9	12.3	1.1	0.0	100.0
Rural Savannah	32.1	59.2	8.0	0.8	0.0	100.0
5-7	83.2	16.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
8-11	19.7	80.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	100.0
12-14	2.0	82.3	15.6	0.1	0.0	100.0
15-17	0.7	37.8	50.8	10.6	0.1	100.0
Western	28.8	54.0	14.8	2.4	0.0	100.0
Central	26.9	58.6	13.1	1.4	0.0	100.0
Greater Accra	21.5	54.8	19.1	4.6	0.0	100.0
Volta	29.7	57.2	11.9	1.2	0.0	100.0
Eastern	26.1	58.0	14.1	1.9	0.0	100.0
Ashanti	23.4	57.7	16.3	2.6	0.0	100.0
Brong Ahafo	27.9	58.1	13.0	1.0	0.0	100.0
Northern	29.7	60.8	8.0	1.5	0.0	100.0
Upper East	29.6	59.4	9.7	1.2	0.0	100.0
Upper West	29.7	61.4	8.4	0.5	0.0	100.0

4.4 Current Grade of Children

Table 4.3 shows the current grade of children in school by sex, age group, locality of residence and region. About 16 percent of children were currently in pre-school, with more than one-third (34.2%) of them in lower primary (primary 1-3). For all the different grade at the primary level, the proportion of males was higher than females, except for those in Primary Four. However, the proportion of females currently attending Junior High School is higher compared to their male counterparts. Of the children aged 5-7 years, majority (55.8%) were in pre-school, while the rest (44.2%) were in primary school. Also, 57.9 percent of the children aged 15-17 years were at the JHS level compared to 32.8 percent of those aged 12-14 years.

Table 4.3: Distribution of children 5 – 17 years who currently attend school by current grade, sex, locality, age group and region

	Current grade														Total
	Pre school	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	JSS1	JSS2	JSS3	SSS1	SSS2	SSS3	SSS4	
Total	15.8	11.7	11.5	11.0	10.1	8.9	8.6	8.0	6.7	4.1	1.6	1.3	0.7	0.1	100.0
Male	16.3	12.4	11.6	11.0	9.8	9.1	8.8	7.9	5.7	4.0	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.1	100.0
Female	15.3	11.1	11.5	10.9	10.5	8.7	8.4	8.0	7.7	4.1	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.2	100.0
Urban	13.3	10.9	10.4	10.6	9.4	8.7	9.0	9.1	7.9	5.3	2.2	2.0	1.0	0.2	100.0
Accra (GAMA)	9.6	11.4	9.3	12.2	6.7	8.9	7.8	11.9	8.9	5.6	2.9	3.0	1.7	0.3	100.0
Other Urban	14.7	10.7	10.8	9.9	10.4	8.6	9.5	8.0	7.6	5.2	2.0	1.6	0.8	0.1	100.0
Rural	18.3	12.6	12.7	11.4	10.9	9.1	8.2	6.9	5.4	2.9	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.1	100.0
Rural Coastal	20.8	11.3	11.5	12.0	10.9	8.1	8.4	5.5	6.2	4.1	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.0	100.0
Rural Forest	17.7	11.3	11.9	11.1	10.9	9.5	8.7	7.5	6.0	3.2	1.1	0.7	0.3	0.1	100.0
Rural Savannah	18.3	15.2	14.3	11.6	10.7	8.8	7.2	6.2	4.1	1.9	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.0	100.0
5-7	55.8	28.7	12.6	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
8-11	6.3	13.4	22.3	23.8	18.0	10.1	4.7	1.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
12-14	0.4	1.1	3.7	8.4	14.3	18.0	20.8	18.0	11.3	3.5	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
15-17	0.1	0.2	0.7	1.2	3.2	6.0	10.7	17.8	22.0	18.1	8.5	7.1	3.8	0.7	100.0
Western	19.7	10.6	12.3	10.1	9.6	8.0	7.7	6.6	5.9	5.4	1.8	1.3	0.5	0.3	100.0
Central	16.3	11.8	11.1	12.0	9.8	9.9	9.1	7.6	5.7	3.9	1.4	0.8	0.4	0.1	100.0
Greater Accra	10.9	11.4	9.5	12.3	7.0	8.7	7.8	11.4	8.5	5.3	2.7	2.7	1.6	0.2	100.0
Volta	20.1	11.8	11.8	11.4	10.2	9.2	8.6	5.5	5.5	3.4	1.4	0.5	0.5	0.0	100.0
Eastern	17.5	9.6	11.2	9.3	10.9	9.9	8.8	8.9	6.9	4.0	1.6	1.0	0.4	0.0	100.0
Ashanti	13.6	11.2	10.2	10.0	11.7	9.0	10.0	8.1	8.2	4.2	1.6	1.6	0.7	0.1	100.0
Brong Ahafo	17.5	11.7	11.5	11.1	10.5	9.2	8.5	7.3	6.5	4.0	1.2	0.6	0.5	0.0	100.0
Northern	14.7	16.0	16.6	12.2	9.6	7.4	7.9	7.0	4.3	2.4	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.0	100.0
Upper East	16.6	14.5	14.3	11.1	12.4	8.5	7.3	5.8	5.3	2.4	0.8	0.7	0.2	0.0	100.0
Upper West	17.4	13.2	12.5	11.2	11.6	8.8	8.6	7.8	4.7	2.5	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	100.0

At the regional level, the Northern region had the highest proportion of children attending primary one (16.0%) while the Eastern region had the lowest (9.6%).

4.5 Reasons for Not Attending School

The education of children, as has been alluded to earlier, is a household decision which is taken after the consideration of several factors. As such, in discussing child labour, it is important to find out the reasons why children were not attending school.

From Table 4.4, the main reasons cited for children not attending school were that there were either no schools or the school was too far (19.2%); the child was too young to be in school (16.0%), or because the household could not afford the cost of education (14.8%). In addition, 11.7 percent of children were not attending school because they were not interested in schooling.

About one-quarter of the male children (20.4%) were not in school because there was no school in the community or the school was too far (20.4%) compared to 18.1 percent of females. On the other hand, the proportions of females who were not in school either because they were too young (16.7%) or their parents could not afford the cost of schooling (16.4%) were higher than males (15.4% for being too young and 13.1% for parents' inability to afford the cost of schooling). More than one-tenth of the females (11.9%) were also not in school because the family did not allow schooling while 15.1 percent of the boys were not in school because they were engaged as unpaid work in a family business. These are worrying situations that need to be addressed as the children's education cannot be compromised with work or the fact that the parents did not allow schooling.

For children 5-7 years, the main reason for non-school attendance was that they were too young to be in school (31.8%) followed by non-availability of school (23.8%). However, for children 8-11 years, a little more than one-quarter cited the non-availability of a school (22.0%) while 15.7% cited the inability to afford education.. In the case of older children (12-17 years), the reasons for non-school attendance were that the children were not interested in schooling (35.2%) or that their care givers could not afford the cost of their education (27.7%).

At the locality level, the main reasons cited for children in urban areas not being in school were that they were either too young to attend school (19.9%) or the parents were unable to afford the cost of schooling (19.8%) while in the rural areas, the reasons were unavailability of schools (23.1%) and children being too young to be in school (15.1%). In addition, 13.2 percent of the children in the urban areas, were not in school because they had to help at home with household chores while for 16.4 percent, the family did not allow schooling.

At the regional level, about 30 percent of children in the Ashanti region were not in school because they were too young, while about 27 percent in Eastern and Brong Ahafo regions were not in school for the same reason. In the Volta and Eastern regions, more than one-quarter of the children were not in school because there was no school or the available schools were too far (28.1% and 26.7% respectively). The Greater Accra and Northern regions had 13 percent of the children not being in school because they had to help at home with household chores.

Table 4.4: Percentage distribution of children 5 – 17 years by reason why they never attended school by sex, locality, age group and region

Characteristic	Reasons why child never attended school												Total	
	Too young	Disabled/ Illness	No school/ school too far	Cannot afford schooling	Family did not allow schooling	Not interested in school	Education not considered valuable	School not safe	To learn a job	To work for pay	To work as unpaid worker in family business	Help at home with household chores		Other
Total	16.0	4.0	19.2	14.8	10.6	11.7	1.3	0.6	0.8	0.6	9.5	8.2	2.7	100.0
Male	15.4	3.3	20.4	13.1	9.3	14.6	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.9	15.1	3.2	3.0	100.0
Female	16.7	4.7	18.1	16.4	11.9	8.9	1.5	0.6	1.4	0.2	4.1	13.1	2.4	100.0
Urban	19.9	5.5	1.3	19.8	16.4	12.0	1.3	0.7	2.0	0.0	3.6	13.2	4.2	100.0
Accra (GAMA)	27.4	5.9	0.0	21.8	25.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.2	0.0	100.0
Other Urban	18.7	5.5	1.5	19.5	14.8	14.0	1.5	0.8	2.3	0.0	4.2	12.2	4.9	100.0
Rural	15.2	3.7	23.1	13.7	9.4	11.6	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.7	10.8	7.1	2.4	100.0
Rural Coastal	17.7	8.5	13.8	29.9	4.2	12.7	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.9	0.3	2.4	100.0
Rural Forest	27.5	10.8	25.1	6.4	9.7	7.8	1.1	0.4	0.9	3.5	2.7	0.6	3.6	100.0
Rural Savannah	12.2	1.7	23.2	14.3	9.6	12.5	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.1	12.9	9.1	2.1	100.0
5-7	31.8	2.6	23.8	15.0	4.0	6.8	1.0	0.4	0.1	0.3	5.7	5.2	3.4	100.0
8-11	7.7	4.8	22.0	15.7	10.5	12.7	1.0	1.5	0.4	1.7	9.5	10.4	2.1	100.0
12-14	1.1	3.9	14.8	16.9	14.3	18.3	2.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	14.1	9.6	3.8	100.0
15-17	0.9	7.0	6.8	10.8	25.1	16.9	1.7	0.2	3.1	0.0	15.4	11.6	0.5	100.0
Western	21.0	3.8	13.6	45.1	6.1	6.9	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	100.0
Central	16.3	6.5	7.3	14.2	12.4	29.8	3.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	7.1	100.0
Greater Accra	25.2	6.0	2.1	21.7	17.0	9.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	13.0	0.0	100.0
Volta	14.3	6.2	28.1	21.7	6.6	3.9	0.4	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.5	4.9	10.6	100.0
Eastern	27.4	9.9	26.7	11.6	4.5	6.4	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	5.5	100.0
Ashanti	30.2	15.1	20.8	0.0	12.1	9.6	2.2	0.0	2.5	1.8	0.0	4.2	1.5	100.0
Brong Ahafo	27.2	6.6	15.8	15.6	10.6	9.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.4	4.6	0.8	100.0
Northern	9.2	1.1	21.4	12.8	11.3	12.9	1.4	0.8	0.8	0.1	13.8	13.7	0.7	100.0
Upper East	23.2	2.0	6.5	12.3	18.4	13.0	4.1	0.6	5.5	0.0	11.6	2.0	0.9	100.0
Upper West	22.4	1.9	14.9	3.1	9.5	19.1	0.9	0.0	0.5	0.0	23.3	3.2	1.1	100.0

CHAPTER FIVE

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

5.1 Introduction

The International Conference of Labour Statistics (ICLS) is responsible for setting international standards in the world of labour statistics. The 18th conference held in Geneva in November-December 2008 was a crucial event in that it examined and established directions for the statistical measurement of child labour. The resulting resolution concerning statistics on child labour adopted at the meeting set forth the definitions that would guide all subsequent statistical work.

These international standards include provisions for a broad statistical definition of child labour encompassing children between 5 and 17 years who in the reference period had been engaged in any activity within the general production boundary as defined by the System of National Accounts (SNA). These are referred to as children in productive activities.

Section 90 of the Children’s Act, 1998 (Act 560), sets the minimum age for light work at 13 years. However, the Hazardous Child Labour Activity Framework for Ghana (HAF) and the National Plan of Action (NPA) for the elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, while acknowledging this Act, recommends a minimum age of 12 years. The HAF’s recommendation is based on the findings from work done by Hinson-Ekong (2006), which states that most Ghanaians traditionally consider a child as someone who is under 12 years and, therefore, start child socialization at 12 years. Also, the Early Child Development Policy of Ghana puts the age of compulsory education at 6 years and a child, by this policy, would have completed primary school by age 11 and thus could start socialization by engagement in light work while attending Junior High School (JHS).

Again, paragraph 12 of the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians Resolution II describes *Children in employment* as “those engaged in any activity falling within the production boundary of the SNA for at least one hour during the reference period”.

This consists of:

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

Thus, in order to be consistent with the age grouping proposed by the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians and considering the fact that the NPA specifies that the minimum age for permissible work could be 12 or 13 years, this report uses 12 years as the minimum age for permissible work and makes provision in the age classification for the analysis to be consistent with the HAF.

5.2 Participation of Children in Economic Activity in the Last 7 Days

Table 5.1 presents information on persons aged 5-17 years who participated in an economic activity in the seven days preceding the interview. The table shows that 28.5 percent of children participated in economic activity within the reference period. The proportion of

males (29.2%) who participated in economic activities is slightly higher than females (27.9%).

At the locality level, 16.8 percent of the urban children and 39 percent in rural areas participated in economic activities during the seven days preceding the interview. About one-quarter of the children in other urban areas (20.7%) participated in economic activities compared to 6.1 percent in Accra (GAMA). In the rural areas, there are variations across ecological zones, with a higher proportion of children in rural savannah (44.3%) participating in economic activities compared to 38.8 percent in rural forest and 22.1 percent in rural coastal.

By age categorization, the table shows that participation in economic activity increases with age, thus the older the child the more likely he/she is to participate in an economic activity. The proportion of children who participated in economic activities among the 15-17 year age group is 43.7 percent while that of the 5-7 year age group is 10.0 percent.

Table 5.1: Distribution of children 5 – 17 years who participated in economic activity in the last 7 days

Sex/Locality/Age group/ Region	Total children 5-17 years		Children in economic activity	
	Estimated Population	Percent	Estimated Population	Percent of population
Total	8,697,602	100.0	2,476,177	28.5
Male	4,393,748	100.0	1,284,619	29.2
Female	4,303,855	100.0	1,191,558	27.7
Urban	4,134,743	100.0	695,863	16.8
Accra (GAMA)	1,098,157	100.0	66,875	6.1
Other Urban	3,036,586	100.0	628,988	20.7
Rural	4,562,859	100.0	1,780,314	39.0
Rural Coastal	496,659	100.0	110,006	22.1
Rural Forest	2,373,921	100.0	920,182	38.8
Rural Savannah	1,692,279	100.0	750,126	44.3
5 - 7	2,122,390	100.0	212,278	10.0
8 - 11	2,749,046	100.0	704,212	25.6
12 - 14	2,101,282	100.0	805,423	38.3
15-17	1,724,884	100.0	754,263	43.7
Western	838,313	100.0	225,702	26.9
Central	793,125	100.0	101,481	12.8
Greater Accra	1,204,870	100.0	83,328	6.9
Volta	766,836	100.0	245,094	32.0
Eastern	920,812	100.0	336,935	36.6
Ashanti	1,727,891	100.0	537,057	31.1
Brong Ahafo	916,757	100.0	382,738	41.7
Northern	891,273	100.0	278,445	31.2
Upper East	362,761	100.0	161,388	44.5
Upper West	274,964	100.0	124,010	45.1

The Upper West (45.1%), Upper East (44.5%) and Brong Ahafo (41.7%) regions had more than two-fifths of the children 5-17 years engaged in economic activities (Table 5.1).

5.3 Participation of Children in Economic Activity in the Last 12 Months

Table 5.2 presents information on persons 5-17 years who participated in an economic activity in the last 12 months preceding the interview. The table shows that 31.0 percent of children participated in economic activities within the reference period. The proportion of males (31.9%) who participated in economic activities is higher than females (30.0%).

At the locality level, 18.3 percent of the urban children participated in some economic activities within the 12 months preceding the survey compared to 42.4 percent in the rural areas. The table further shows that the proportion of children who participated in economic activities in GAMA is far lower (6.4%) than those in the other urban areas (22.6%). Similarly, a higher proportion of children in rural savannah (50.9%) participated in economic activities compared to those in rural forest (40.6%) and rural coastal (22.6%).

By age categorization, the table shows that participation in economic activity increases with age; thus, the older the child the more likely he/she is to participate in an economic activity. The proportion of children aged 15-17 years who participated in economic activities was 48.1 percent while 11.0 percent of those aged 5-7 years also participated in these activities.

Table 5.2: Percent of children 5 – 17 years who participated in economic activity in the last 12 months

Sex/Locality/Age group/ Region	Total		Children in economic activity in last 12 months	
	Estimated Population	Percent	Estimated Population	Percent of population
Total	8,697,602	100.0	2,692,435	31.0
Male	4,393,748	100.0	1,403,252	31.9
Female	4,303,855	100.0	1,289,183	30.0
Urban	4,134,743	100.0	755,715	18.3
Accra (GAMA)	1,098,157	100.0	70,705	6.4
Other Urban	3,036,586	100.0	685,010	22.6
Rural	4,562,859	100.0	1 936720	42.4
Rural Coastal	496,659	100.0	112,340	22.6
Rural Forest	2,373,921	100.0	962,977	40.6
Rural Savannah	1,692,279	100.0	861,403	50.9
5-7	2,122,390	100.0	233,694	11.0
8-11	2,749,046	100.0	755,200	27.5
12-14	2,101,282	100.0	874,166	41.6
15-17	1,724,884	100.0	829,375	48.1
Western	838,313	100.0	238,942	28.5
Central	793,125	100.0	104,605	13.2
Greater Accra	1,204,870	100.0	87,158	7.2
Volta	766,836	100.0	255,791	33.4
Eastern	920,812	100.0	352,903	38.3
Ashanti	1,727,891	100.0	566,261	32.8
Brong Ahafo	916,757	100.0	408,234	44.5
Northern	891,273	100.0	332,184	37.3
Upper East	362,761	100.0	198,374	54.7
Upper West	274,964	100.0	147,985	53.8

More than half of children in the Upper East (54.7 %) and Upper West (53.8%) were engaged in economic activities compared to less than one in ten (7.2%) children in the Greater Accra.

Other regions have figures ranging from 13.2 in Central to 44.5 percent in Brong Ahafo (Table 5.2).

It must be noted that, for the rest of this report, all analyses refer to economic activity in the last seven days preceding the interview.

5.4 Participation of Children in Economic Activity in the last 7 Days and School Attendance

Table 5.3 shows the percent distribution of children 5-17 years in economic activity and non-economic activity in the last 7 days who are attending school. The table shows that more than four out of every five children (82.1%) engaged in an economic activity attended school, while for those not engaged in any economic activity, 91.6 percent attended school.

Table 5.3: Percent distribution of children 5-17 years attending school by working status

Characteristics	Children in economic activity		Children not in economic activity	
	School attendance		School attendance	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	2,033,082	82.1	5,696,491	91.6
Male	1,054,680	82.1	2,874,351	92.4
Female	978,402	82.1	2,822,140	90.7
Urban	578,771	83.1	3,252,317	94.6
Accra (GAMA)	50,654	75.7	970,927	94.1
Other Urban	528,117	84.0	2,281,390	94.8
Rural	1,454,312	81.7	2,444,174	87.8
Rural Coastal	94,322	85.7	349,249	90.3
Rural Forest	816,751	88.8	1,350,524	92.9
Rural Savannah	543,238	72.4	744,401	79.0
5-7	173,824	81.9	1,705,376	89.3
8-11	637,117	90.5	1,944,437	95.1
12-14	696,712	86.5	1,234,555	95.3
15-17	525,430	69.7	812,122	83.7
Western	200,907	89.0	579,936	94.7
Central	88,138	86.9	636,465	92.0
Greater Accra	64,937	77.9	1,050,474	93.7
Volta	192,789	78.7	460,940	88.3
Eastern	299,011	88.7	548,866	94.0
Ashanti	457,849	85.3	1,135,255	95.3
Brong Ahafo	338,176	88.4	495,299	92.7
Northern	158,067	56.8	469,862	76.7
Upper East	130,862	81.1	185,835	92.3
Upper West	102,347	82.5	133,558	88.5

Even though there is no difference in the proportions of males (82.1%) and females (82.1%) who worked and attended school, there exist some slight differences among males (92.4%) and females (90.7%) who were not in economic activity but attending school.

In terms of locality of residence, the table reveals a slightly higher proportion of economically active children (83.1%) in urban areas attending school compared to those in

rural areas (81.7%). Those not engaged in any economic activities and attending school, constituted 94.6 percent in urban areas and 87.8 percent in rural areas.

Children engaged in economic activity and attending school varies among the regions (Table 5.3). Generally, more than three-quarters of the children in all the regions who participated in some form of economic activity also attended school except for the Northern region which recorded 56.8 percent. The Ashanti region (95.3%) had the highest proportion of children who were not engaged in any economic activity but attended school while the Northern region (76.7%) had the lowest.

5.5 Number of Hours Worked

The hours of work criterion is embodied in the child labour concept both at the lower and higher risk (worst form) levels. It is exploitative when children work for long hours, as this not only endangers their health but also affects the school performance of full time students/pupils.

Table 5.4 shows that more than half (55.1%) of the children worked for an average of 1-14 hours a week while 34.8 percent worked for 15-42 hours. One in every ten children (10.1%) worked for 43 hours or more in a week. For children currently in school, only 4.5 percent worked for 43 hours or more compared to 34.7 percent of those not attending school.

More than half of both male (55.7%) and female (54.5%) children worked for 1-14 hours in a week while a little over a third worked for 15-42 hours. The pattern is similar for both male and female children who were currently in school. Close to half of male (45.1%) and female (45.0%) children who were not attending school worked for 15-42 hours a week.

At the locality level, a slightly higher proportion of children in urban areas (57.8%) worked for 1-14 hours a week compared to those in the rural areas (54.0%). About three-quarters (74.7%) of children in Accra (GAMA) who were not currently attending school worked for 43 hours or more a week compared to 38.9 percent in other urban areas.

With regards to ecological zones, a higher proportion of children in rural savannah (17.0%) worked 43 hours or more in a week compared to the other zones. It also had the highest proportion of children not attending school who worked 43 or more hours (37.3%) and those attending school who worked 15-42 hours (46.2%).

Table 5.4: Percentage distribution of children 5-17 years by hours worked per week and school attendance, sex, locality, age group and region

Characteristic	Total number of hours worked			Currently Attending School and number of hours worked			Not Attending School and number of hours worked		
	1 - 14	15 - 42	43+	1 - 14	15 - 42	43+	1 - 14	15 - 42	43+
Total	55.1	34.8	10.1	62.9	32.5	4.5	20.3	45.0	34.7
Sex									
Male	55.7	34.3	10.0	63.5	31.9	4.7	21.5	45.1	33.4
Female	54.5	35.4	10.1	62.4	33.3	4.4	19.0	45.0	36.0
Locality									
Urban	57.8	32.4	9.9	64.9	32.4	2.7	23.8	32.2	44.1
Accra (GAMA)	28.4	48.9	22.8	36.3	58.3	5.4	4.7	20.6	74.7
Other Urban	61.0	30.6	8.5	67.7	29.9	2.5	26.9	34.1	38.9
Rural	54.0	35.8	10.1	62.1	32.6	5.2	19.0	49.8	31.2
Rural Coastal	65.9	28.4	5.7	73.0	24.5	2.6	20.4	53.6	26.0
Rural Forest	67.6	27.5	4.9	72.8	24.2	2.9	28.5	52.0	19.5
Rural Savannah	36.1	46.9	17.0	44.7	46.2	9.1	14.3	48.4	37.3
Age group									
5-7	63.5	26.5	10.0	71.1	24.6	4.2	29.5	34.7	35.9
8-11	62.7	29.4	7.9	66.9	28.2	4.9	24.2	40.8	35.0
12-14	56.8	35.8	7.4	62.2	34.1	3.7	23.4	46.1	30.5
15-17	43.6	41.3	15.1	56.2	38.5	5.3	16.1	47.6	36.4
Region									
Western	61.9	32.7	5.4	68.1	30.3	1.5	16.8	49.7	33.4
Central	74.7	18.7	6.6	83.7	15.3	1.0	19.2	39.8	41.0
Greater Accra	35.0	45.2	19.8	42.6	52.4	5.0	9.0	20.6	70.4
Volta	41.0	34.7	24.2	48.8	34.0	17.2	11.7	37.6	50.7
Eastern	71.2	25.1	3.7	75.9	22.5	1.6	34.5	45.4	20.1
Ashanti	67.8	25.8	6.4	73.6	22.9	3.6	36.6	41.5	21.9
Brong Ahafo	59.2	33.6	7.1	64.7	32.8	2.5	17.9	40.0	42.1
Northern	33.0	50.1	16.9	47.8	49.0	3.2	13.8	51.6	34.6
Upper East	39.1	51.0	9.9	43.6	51.2	5.2	20.5	50.0	29.5
Upper West	28.2	59.9	11.9	32.0	59.0	9.0	11.3	64.0	24.7

At the regional level, the proportion of children who worked for 15-42 hours is higher in the Upper West region (59.9%) than the other regions. The proportion of children who were currently attending school and working for 43 hours or more is higher in the Volta region (17.2%) compared to the other regions, while for those not attending school, the proportion is higher for the Greater Accra region (70.4%).

5.6 Occupation of Working Children

Table 5.5 presents information on the occupation of the children who were engaged in an economic activity during the period. As indicated in the table, majority of the children (76.8%) worked as skilled agriculture and fishery workers while 14.9 percent worked as service and sales workers. Less than five percent worked in elementary occupations (3.9%) or as craft and related workers (4.2%).

A higher proportion of males (83.2%) were engaged as skilled agriculture/fishery workers compared to females (69.8%). On the other hand, the proportion of females engaged as service and sales workers (21.4 %) is higher than males (8.9%).

With regard to urban localities, the table shows that 50.7 percent of the children in these areas were engaged as skilled agriculture and fishery workers while 35.4 percent were into service and sales. In Accra (GAMA), however, almost three-quarters (73.2%) of the children were engaged in service and sales activities, with an additional 16.1 percent engaged in elementary occupations. The proportion of children engaged in agricultural activities in other urban areas was 55.9 percent while service and sales workers constituted 31.5 percent.

In the rural localities, more than four out of five children (86.9%) were engaged as skilled agriculture/fishery workers while those who were engaged in service and sales accounted for 6.9 percent. In terms of the ecological zones, the proportion of children who were engaged in agricultural activities was higher in rural forest (83.2%) and rural savannah (93.9%) zones than in the rural coastal zone (65.8%).

Table 5.5: Percentage distribution of working children 5-17 years by occupation, sex, locality, age group and region

Characteristics	Occupation							Total
	Technicians and associated professionals	Service/sales workers	Skilled agric/fishery workers	Craft and related trades workers	Plant machine operators and assemblers	Elementary occupations	Other	
Total	0.0	14.9	76.8	4.2	0.2	3.9	0.1	100.0
Male	0.0	8.9	83.2	3.6	0.4	3.9	0.1	100.0
Female	0.0	21.4	69.8	4.8	0.1	3.9	0.1	100.0
Urban	0.0	35.4	50.7	8.3	0.6	4.9	0.1	100.0
Accra (GAMA)	0.0	73.2	0.0	10.1	0.0	16.1	0.5	100.0
Other Urban	0.0	31.5	55.9	8.1	0.7	3.7	0.0	100.0
Rural	0.0	6.9	86.9	2.5	0.1	3.5	0.1	100.0
Rural Coastal	0.5	15.9	65.8	7.9	0.3	9.5	0.0	100.0
Rural Forest	0.0	9.1	83.2	2.8	0.1	4.8	0.1	100.0
Rural Savannah	0.0	3.2	93.9	1.6		1.3	0.0	100.0
5 - 7	0.0	9.9	84.2	2.1	0.0	3.7	0.1	100.0
8 - 11	0.0	13.7	81.1	2.0	0.1	3.1	0.0	100.0
12 - 14	0.0	16.2	76.4	3.2	0.2	3.9	0.1	100.0
15 - 17	0.0	15.9	71.1	7.7	0.5	4.6	0.1	100.0
Western	0.0	24.6	53.1	4.6	0.1	17.5	0.2	100.0
Central	0.0	10.2	83.2	5.2	0.0	1.4	0.0	100.0
Greater Accra	0.0	68.8	7.2	8.4	0.0	15.3	0.4	100.0
Volta	0.0	9.0	82.8	5.4	0.4	2.3	0.2	100.0
Eastern	0.1	14.7	75.3	5.7	0.4	3.5	0.2	100.0
Ashanti	0.0	18.7	73.5	4.7	0.2	2.8	0.0	100.0
Brong Ahafo	0.0	11.3	84.1	3.5	0.4	0.7	0.0	100.0
Northern	0.0	10.8	85.3	2.3	0.2	1.3	0.1	100.0
Upper East	0.0	3.1	91.4	2.9	0.1	2.7	0.0	100.0
Upper West	0.0	1.1	98.1	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.0	100.0

In terms of age group, the data shows that a greater proportion of children (84.2%) within the age group 5-7 years worked as skilled/fishery workers compared to their counterparts in the other age groups. Less than one-fifth of children in all the age groups worked as service and sales workers.

At the regional level, more than half of the working children were engaged as skilled agriculture and fishery workers except in the Greater Accra region where only 7.2 percent were engaged in this occupation. On the other hand, a higher proportion of children (68.8%) in the Greater Accra region were engaged as sales and service workers. These are likely to be children who work or sell along the streets.

5.7 Industry of working children

Table 5.6 which presents the distribution of working children 5-17 years by industrial classification of economic activities shows that more than three-quarters (77.2%) of the working children were engaged in agricultural, forestry and fishery industries, with an additional 12.4 percent engaged in wholesale and retail trade. Only 3.8 percent were engaged in manufacturing.

The proportion of males (83.7%) who worked in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry was higher than females (70.0%). On the other hand, the proportion of females who were engaged in wholesale and retail trade (17.3%) was higher than males (7.9%). A slightly higher proportion of females (4.4%) than males (3.2%) were engaged in manufacturing. The proportion of females in the accommodation and food service industry was 5.2 percent compared to 1.5 percent of males in the same industry.

At the locality level, the proportion of children who were engaged in agriculture was higher in rural (87.5 %) than in urban (50.8%) areas. Higher proportions of children in rural savannah (92.7%) and rural forest (84.3%) were engaged in the agriculture sector compared to the rural coastal (74.2%). The proportion of working children engaged in the wholesale and retail trade industry in Accra (GAMA) was more than twice the proportion in other urban areas (52.3% in GAMA and 25.8% in other urban areas).

Even though more than 70 percent of all the children within the various age groups were engaged in agricultural activities, it is worth noting that the highest proportion of children in the age group 5-7 (85.7%) engaged in this activity. On the other hand, 71.5 percent of those aged 15-17 were engaged in agriculture, with 5.7 percent and 12.8 percent working in the manufacturing and wholesale and retail trade sectors respectively. The disparity observed among the 5-7 year olds and children in the other age groups working in agriculture and related activities could be attributed to the fact that most of the children aged 5-7 years live with their parents or guardians who are farmers, and are therefore, obliged to accompany them to the farm.

Table 5.6: Percentage distribution of working children 5-17 years by industry, sex, locality, age group and region

Characteristics	Industry of main occupation								Others	Total
	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing	Construction	Wholesale and retail trade	Transportation and storage	Accommodation & food service activities	Information and communication		
Total	77.2	0.3	3.8	0.7	12.4	0.4	3.2	0.0	1.9	100.0
Male	83.7	0.4	3.2	0.9	7.9	0.7	1.5	0.0	1.7	100.0
Female	70.0	0.1	4.4	0.3	17.3	0.0	5.2	0.1	2.5	100.0
Urban	50.8	0.1	7.1	1.8	28.3	0.8	7.5	0.2	3.3	100.0
Accra (GAMA)	0.0	0.0	21.6	4.4	52.3	1.4	11.7	0.0	8.5	100.0
Other Urban	56.1	0.1	5.6	1.5	25.8	0.8	7.1	0.2	2.8	100.0
Rural	87.5	0.3	2.5	0.2	6.2	0.2	1.6	0.0	1.6	100.0
Rural Coastal	74.2	1.1	5.4	0.3	16.5	0.9	1.2	0.0	0.4	100.0
Rural Forest	84.3	0.3	3.3	0.3	7.8	0.2	2.3	0.0	1.5	100.0
Rural Savannah	92.7	0.2	1.1	0.1	3.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	2.0	100.0
5 - 7	85.7	0.0	2.8	0.1	7.3	0.0	2.0	0.0	1.9	100.0
8 - 11	81.4	0.2	2.0	0.0	11.8	0.1	2.6	0.1	1.8	100.0
12 - 14	76.7	0.2	3.7	0.3	13.8	0.3	3.5	0.1	1.5	100.0
15 - 17	71.5	0.5	5.7	1.8	12.8	0.8	3.9	0.0	3.0	100.0
Western	67.8	0.4	3.4	1.2	19.2	1.1	5.7	0.0	1.2	100.0
Central	83.2	0.0	3.0	0.3	9.9	0.3	1.7	0.0	1.6	100.0
Greater Accra	7.9	0.0	17.7	3.6	50.1	1.6	11.6	0.0	7.5	100.0
Volta	82.4	0.5	2.8	0.1	10.4	0.1	0.3	0.0	3.3	100.0
Eastern	75.6	0.3	7.9	0.4	12.6	0.3	2.0	0.0	0.9	100.0
Ashanti	72.4	0.4	3.7	1.1	14.5	0.4	6.1	0.2	1.2	100.0
Brong Ahafo	81.7	0.1	2.2	0.6	9.5	0.3	2.7	0.0	3.0	100.0
Northern	85.7	0.0	1.7	0.0	9.8	0.1	1.7	0.0	1.0	100.0
Upper East	86.2	0.7	1.7	0.6	3.6	0.1	1.1	0.1	6.0	100.0
Upper West	98.4	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	100.0

At the regional level, more than half of the children in all the regions engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing activities except in the Greater Accra region (7.9%). The Upper West region had the highest proportion (98.4%) of children engaged in agricultural activities.

5.8 Sector of Employment of Children 5-17 years

Table 5.7 shows that majority (76.3%) of the economically active children were employed in the private informal sector, followed by the agri-business (14.6%) and the private formal (8.0%) sectors. Thus, the private sector (both informal and formal) provided employment to about 84 percent of the children 5-17 years who were engaged in economic activities.

The predominance of the informal sector is observed in both urban and rural areas. A higher proportion of the female (81.8%) working children were employed in the private informal sector compared to males (72.5%). Also significant is the fact that in all the regions, the private informal sector engaged most of the working children; this is also true across the age groups.

Table 5.7: Percentage distribution of working children 5-17 years by sector of employment, sex, locality, age group and region

Characteristics	Sector of employment				Total
	Private sector formal	Private sector informal	Agriculture Business	Other	
Total	8.0	76.3	14.6	1.1	100.0
Male	9.1	72.5	17.3	1.2	100.0
Female	6.5	81.8	10.7	1.0	100.0
Urban	8.7	86.1	3.9	1.4	100.0
Accra (GAMA)	29.8	70.2	0.0	0.0	100.0
Other Urban	3.4	90.0	4.8	1.8	100.0
Rural	7.4	66.6	25.2	0.8	100.0
Rural Coastal		72.6	27.4	0.0	100.0
Rural Forest	9.6	58.7	30.5	1.2	100.0
Rural Savannah	3.3	88.8	7.9	0.0	100.0
5 – 7		53.7	46.3	0.0	100.0
8 – 11	2.5	64.0	33.5	0.0	100.0
12 – 14	1.0	80.3	18.7	0.0	100.0
15 – 17	10.9	77.3	10.2	1.6	100.0
Western	6.4	88.3	5.3	0.0	100.0
Central	33.4	66.6	0.0	0.0	100.0
Greater Accra	25.5	67.6	6.9	0.0	100.0
Volta	0.0	88.4	11.6	0.0	100.0
Eastern	0.0	56.6	40.9	2.6	100.0
Ashanti	6.9	76.4	13.8	2.9	100.0
Brong Ahafo	7.4	77.2	15.4	0.0	100.0
Northern	3.3	93.0	3.8	0.0	100.0
Upper East	3.3	96.7	0.0	0.0	100.0
Upper West	8.6	81.5	9.9	0.0	100.0

It is also observed from the table that the private informal sector engaged children in all the ecological zones, with rural savannah recording the highest proportion of children in this

sector (88.8%). The rural forest had the highest proportion of working children in agri-business (30.5%).

At the regional level, the Upper East region (96.7%) had the highest proportion of children working in the private informal sector followed by the Northern region (93.0%). The Eastern region (40.9%) also had the highest proportion of children engaged in the Agri-business sector. About one-third (33.4%) of children in the Central region were working in the formal sector while one-quarter (25.5%) in the Greater Accra region were working in this sector.

5.9 Period of Activity of Working Children 5-17 Years

From Table 5.8, it is observed that the majority of working children (61.7%) usually worked during the daytime between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Contrary to the existing Children's Act which does not encourage children to be engaged in night work, 1.2 percent of working children were reported to be working in the night. About 4 percent (4.1%) of the working children worked both in the daytime and at night, while 31.0 percent worked on weekends. The table further reveals that for all the periods of activity, the proportion of females is slightly higher than males except for those who worked on weekends. The proportion of females working at night is slightly higher than males (1.4% and 0.9% respectively).

Table 5.8: Percentage distribution of working children by period of activity, sex, locality, age group and region

Characteristics	Period of activity					Total
	During the day (between 6am to 6 pm)	In the evening or at night (after 6pm)	During both the day and the evening	On the week end	Sometimes during the day, some times in the evening	
Total	61.7	1.2	2.1	31.0	4.1	100.0
Male	61.6	0.9	2.0	32.1	3.4	100.0
Female	61.8	1.4	2.2	29.7	4.9	100.0
Urban	56.3	2.5	3.1	29.5	8.6	100.0
Accra (GAMA)	48.0	2.6	6.7	5.9	36.7	100.0
Other Urban	57.3	2.5	2.7	32.3	5.2	100.0
Rural	63.8	0.7	1.7	31.6	2.3	100.0
Rural Coastal	56.5	0.7	1.8	37.8	3.1	100.0
Rural Forest	55.9	0.5	1.2	41.1	1.4	100.0
Rural Savannah	74.6	0.8	2.3	19.0	3.4	100.0
5 - 7	59.0	0.8	2.9	34.7	2.5	100.0
8 - 11	59.0	1.0	1.2	34.1	4.7	100.0
12 - 14	57.9	1.3	2.1	33.9	4.8	100.0
15 - 17	69.0	1.3	2.6	23.9	3.3	100.0
Western	73.5	2.1	1.6	20.5	2.3	100.0
Central	59.4	0.9	2.2	36.8	0.7	100.0
Greater Accra	45.7	2.4	6.7	13.1	32.1	100.0
Volta	69.5	0.6	1.5	23.3	5.1	100.0
Eastern	56.4	0.7	0.5	41.2	1.2	100.0
Ashanti	50.2	1.5	1.8	42.3	4.2	100.0
Brong Ahafo	56.8	0.3	1.0	40.5	1.3	100.0
Northern	77.5	0.6	0.8	19.4	1.7	100.0
Upper East	66.1	3.8	11.0	11.9	7.2	100.0
Upper West	76.2	0.4	0.3	18.5	4.6	100.0

Majority of children in the age group 15-17 (69.0%) worked during the day (between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.). A greater proportion of working children in the rural areas (63.8%) were engaged

during the day (between 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.) compared to those in the urban areas (56.3%). Within the ecological zones, the rural savannah (74.6%) had the highest proportion of children working during the day time. Over a third (36.7%) of children in Accra (GAMA) sometimes worked during the day and sometimes during the night while less than 10 percent (5.9%) worked on weekends.

5.10 Status in Employment of Working Children

Table 5.9 shows the distribution of working children aged 5-17 years by status of work. Majority of children (77.4%) worked as contributing family workers in agriculture while 16.3 percent were non-agriculture contributing family workers. For urban and rural distribution, a higher proportion of children (86.3%) worked as contributing family workers in agriculture compared to 54.9 percent in urban areas. In the case of non-agricultural contributing family workers, only 8.5 percent of children in rural areas were involved compared to 36.5 percent in urban areas. This pattern is similar for all the other background variables, with the proportions engaged as contributing family workers in agriculture being higher than those in non-agriculture except for Greater Accra region where the proportion of children in non-agricultural activities is higher (60.7% for non-agriculture and 25.1% for agriculture).

Table 5.9: Distribution of working children aged 5-17 years by status of work

Characteristics	A paid employee	Non-agric self employed with employees	Non-agric self employed without employees	Non-agric contributing family worker	Agric self employed with employees	Agric self employed without employees	Agric contributing family worker	Domestic employee	Casual workers	Apprentice	Other	Total
Total	1.1	0.0	0.9	16.3	0.0	1.8	77.4	0.1	0.7	1.5	0.1	100.0
Male	1.3	0.0	0.6	11.2	0.1	2.0	82.1	0.1	1.0	1.6	0.0	100.0
Female	0.9	0.0	1.2	21.9	0.0	1.5	72.4	0.1	0.5	1.3	0.2	100.0
Urban	2.8	0.1	1.2	36.5	0.0	0.8	54.9	0.1	0.9	2.7	0.2	100.0
Accra (GAMA)	13.0	0.8	0.0	68.8	0.0	0.0	16.4	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	100.0
Other Urban	1.7	0.0	1.3	33.2	0.0	0.9	58.8	0.1	1.0	2.9	0.2	100.0
Rural	0.4	0.0	0.8	8.5	0.1	2.2	86.3	0.1	0.7	1.0	0.1	100.0
Rural Coastal	0.5	0.0	3.0	15.5	0.7	4.4	73.1	0.4	1.4	1.1	0.0	100.0
Rural Forest	0.5	0.0	0.4	10.6	0.0	1.1	84.9	0.0	0.8	1.3	0.2	100.0
Rural Savannah	0.3	0.0	0.8	4.8	0.0	3.1	89.8	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.0	100.0
5-7	0.2	0.0	0.3	10.8	0.0	1.3	87.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	100.0
8-11	0.1	0.0	0.2	15.4	0.1	0.9	82.3	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.3	100.0
12-14	0.7	0.0	0.5	18.1	0.1	1.1	78.0	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.2	100.0
15-17	2.7	0.1	2.0	16.9	0.0	3.5	69.6	.	1.2	3.9	0.0	100.0
Western	1.9	0.0	1.0	27.0	0.0	0.2	68.1	0.0	0.3	1.4	0.0	100.0
Central	0.7	0.0	3.1	5.8	0.8	7.2	79.5	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0	100.0
Greater Accra	11.0	0.6	0.0	60.7	0.0	0.0	25.1	0.6	1.1	1.0	0.0	100.0
Volta	0.4	0.0	1.8	9.9	0.0	2.4	83.0	0.0	1.0	1.5	0.0	100.0
Eastern	1.0	0.0	0.7	19.8	0.1	0.9	75.3	0.0	1.0	1.1	0.0	100.0
Ashanti	1.0	0.0	0.4	20.4	0.0	0.4	75.0	0.1	0.8	1.6	0.4	100.0
Brong Ahafo	0.2	0.0	0.3	10.8	0.0	1.9	83.6	0.3	0.9	1.8	0.3	100.0
Northern	0.6	0.0	1.3	9.8	0.0	3.1	83.3	0.0	0.1	1.8	0.0	100.0
Upper East	0.4	0.0	1.1	8.5	0.0	1.0	87.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	100.0
Upper West	0.1	0.0	0.7	3.9	0.0	6.5	88.0	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.0	100.0

5.11 Average number of hours spent per week on household chores

From Table 5.10, it is observed that children spent longer hours per week on household chores such as fetching water, running errands, cooking and washing dishes in all the regions. However, there were slight variations to specific duties and the hours spent per region. For instance, whereas in the Upper East, Western and Upper West regions children spent more than ten hours on average running errands, children in the Upper East, Brong Ahafo, Upper West, Northern and Eastern regions equally spent the same number of hours on fetching water.

For the age groups, the data show that older children spent more hours performing household chores than younger children. Children 5-7 years spent, on average, between 0.1 and 5.7 hours on various household chores while those aged 15-17 years spent between 0.4 and 14.3 hours performing household chores. Specifically, older children (15-17 years) spend an average of 14.3 hours cooking, 13.6 hours fetching water and 11.4 hours washing clothes while those aged 12-14 years spend an average of 12.8 hours fetching water, 9 hours cooking and 10 hours running errands.

5.12 Average age at which working children started to work

Table 5.11 shows the distribution of the average age at which children started working. From the table, the average age of working children was 9 years. The average starting working age for both male and female is 9 years, which is the same for children in both urban and rural areas. However, within the rural areas, there are differences, with the starting age for children in rural savannah (8 years) being lower than in the rural forest (9 years) and rural coastal (10 years).

At the regional level, the starting working age ranges from 8 years in the Upper East region to 10 years in the Western, Greater Accra, Eastern and Ashanti regions.

Table 5.10: Average number of working hours spent per week on household chores by age group and region

Region and Age group	Household chores												School work	
	Collecting fire wood	Fetching water	Washing clothes	Ironing	Cleaning	Cooking	Shopping	Running errands	Washing dishes	Care of children	Care of Elderly	Care of Sick		Food
5-7	1.0	2.7	0.7	0.1	1.3	0.6	0.3	5.7	2.8	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1
8-11	2.6	8.7	3.7	0.7	4.3	2.9	0.7	9.0	7.5	2.7	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.3
12-14	5.1	12.8	8.4	2.1	7.9	9.0	1.6	10.0	9.3	3.3	0.6	0.4	1.9	0.7
15-17	5.4	13.6	11.4	3.3	9.3	14.3	2.7	9.2	8.5	3.9	0.8	0.4	2.0	0.9
Western	1.6	9.9	4.2	1.1	4.9	5.3	0.8	14.6	8.0	3.8	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.2
Central	3.2	7.5	5.5	1.0	4.2	4.3	1.2	6.4	6.4	1.3	0.1	0.1	1.1	0.5
Greater Accra	0.3	5.9	5.9	2.6	5.9	5.3	1.5	5.5	6.5	2.4	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.7
Volta	3.4	9.2	5.8	1.1	5.2	6.8	0.9	5.7	5.6	2.4	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.8
Eastern	3.6	10.4	5.9	1.6	5.6	9.5	0.8	6.6	7.2	1.8	0.5	0.4	2.4	0.5
Ashanti	4.5	8.2	5.6	1.6	5.4	5.4	1.6	8.2	6.3	1.9	0.8	0.6	1.9	0.4
Brong Ahafo	4.6	11.1	5.7	1.2	5.1	7.6	0.7	9.6	7.3	2.2	0.1	0.1	1.8	0.1
Northern	3.9	10.5	5.9	1.0	5.9	4.1	1.1	7.9	8.0	5.3	0.6	0.1	1.0	0.3
Upper East	7.6	14.4	7.4	0.6	7.5	8.4	2.6	17.6	10.9	6.3	0.2	0.1	0.9	0.5
Upper West	4.5	10.8	5.3	0.7	5.8	6.1	1.1	11.0	6.9	3.4	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.3

Table 5.11: Average age at which working children started to work

Characteristics	Average age children started work
Total	9
Male	9
Female	9
Urban	9
Accra (GAMA)	10
Other Urban	10
Rural	9
Rural Coastal	10
Rural Forest	9
Rural Savannah	8
5-7	6
8-11	8
12-14	10
15-17	11
Western	10
Central	9
Greater Accra	10
Volta	9
Eastern	10
Ashanti	10
Brong Ahafo	9
Northern	9
Upper East	8
Upper West	9

CHAPTER SIX

CHILD LABOUR AND HAZARDOUS ACTIVITY

6.1 Introduction

The term “child labour” refers to *children in employment* or those engaged in any activity falling within the SNA production boundary for at least one hour during the reference period. It is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their education, potential and dignity, and is harmful to their physical and mental development.

It also refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and interferes with their schooling by:

- i. Depriving them of the opportunity to attend school or learn at home;
- ii. Obliging them to leave school prematurely; or
- iii. Requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long hours of work.

However, not all work done by children can be classified as child labour and targeted for elimination. Children’s or adolescents’ participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling is generally regarded as being something positive. This includes activities such as helping their parents within the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays. These kinds of activities contribute to children’s development and to the welfare of their families; they provide them with skills and experience, and help to prepare them to be productive members of society during their adult life.

In its most extreme forms, child labour involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets in large cities – often at a very early age. Whether or not particular forms of “work” can be called “child labour” depends on the child’s age, the type and hours of work performed, and the conditions under which the activity is undertaken.

6.2 Child Labour

In Ghana, children are considered to be in child labour if:

- a) They are doing hazardous work or
- b) They are less than 12 years and are involved in economic activity or
- c) They are aged 12 to 14 years and involved in economic activities that are not defined as light work.

Working children are considered to be in hazardous work if they are found to be in any one of the following categories:

- children working in designated hazardous industries (mining, quarrying and construction);

- children working in designated hazardous occupations (they refer to the list of hazardous work established by the national legislation);
- children working long hours (42 hours or more per week);
- children working under other hazardous conditions such as night work, using hazardous tools and being in an unhealthy work environment.

Table 6.1 presents information on the participation of children 5-17 years in economic activity, child labour and hazardous forms of child labour. The table shows that 28.5 percent of the children participated in economic activity, of which males constituted 29.2 percent and females, 27.7 percent. The proportion of children in economic activity was higher (39.0%) in rural areas than urban (16.8%). Rural Savannah (44.3%) had the highest proportion of children engaged in economic activity while the GAMA recorded the lowest (6.1%).

In terms of age, it is observed from the table that the proportion of children engaged in economic activity was higher (43.7%) for the older age group (15-17 years) than for children 5-7 years (10.0%).

At the regional level, more than two-fifth of children is the Brong Ahafo (41.7%), Upper East (44.5%) and Upper West (45.1%) compared to the other regions. The Greater Accra region recorded the lowest proportion (6.9%) of children in economic activity.

With regard to child labour, the table shows that 21.8 percent of persons 5-17 years were engaged in child labour. The proportion of male children in child labour was slightly higher (22.7%) than females (20.8%). The proportion of rural children engaged in child labour (30.2%) was about two and a half times the proportion in urban areas (12.4%). The rural savannah (34.6%) had the highest proportion of children in child labour compared to the other ecological zones.

Among the age groups, the children aged 12-14 years recorded the highest level of child labour (26.9%). However, per the child labour concept, all children in the younger age group (5-7 years and 8-11years) who participated in economic activity also engaged in child labour as shown in Table 6.1.

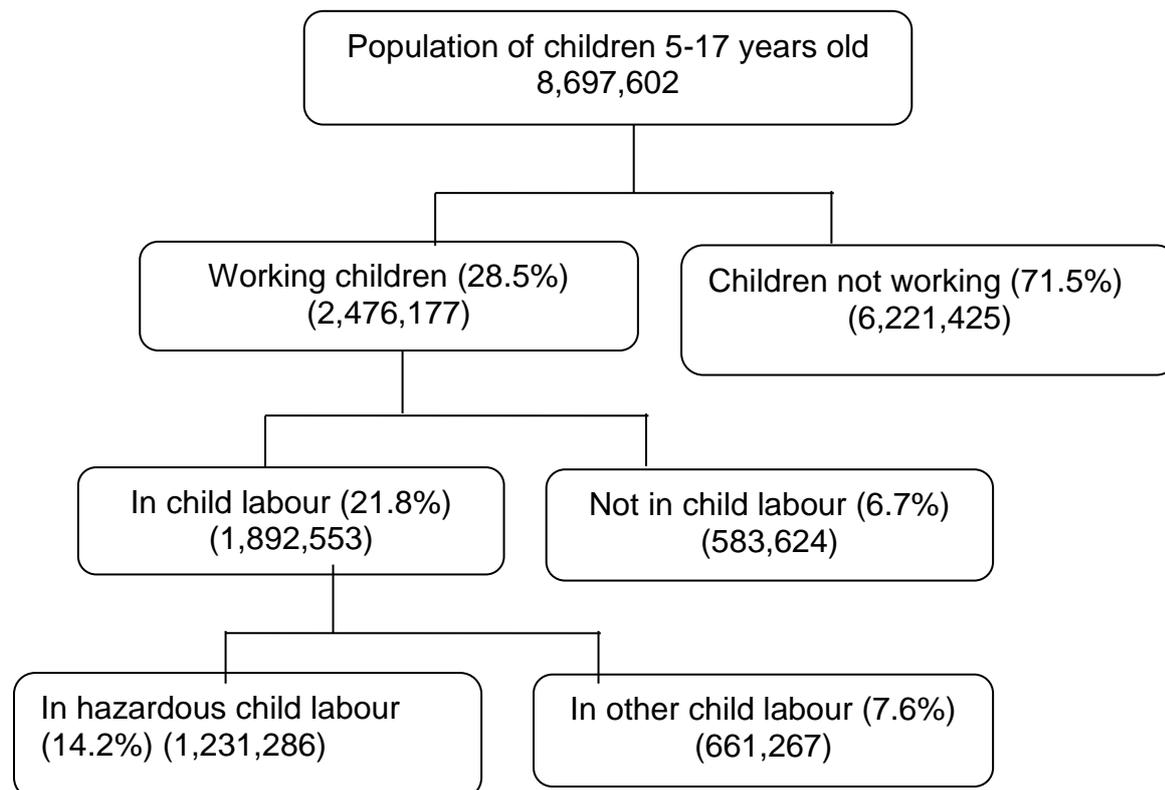
There are regional variations in the proportion of children who engaged in child labour. With the exception of Greater Accra (5.2%) and Central (8.9%) regions, the proportion of children who engaged in child labour in the other regions ranged from 20.5 percent in the Western region to 33.5 percent in the Upper West Region.

Table 6.1: Population distribution of working children 5-17 year by children in economic activity, child labour and hazardous forms of child labour

Sex/Locality/Age group/ Region	Total		Children in economic activity			Child labour			Hazardous forms of child labour		
	Estimated Population	Percent	Estimated Population	Percent of population	Total	Estimated Population	Percent of population	Total	Estimated Population	Percent of population	Total
Total	8,697,602	100.0	2,476,177	28.5	100.0	1,892,553	21.8	100.0	1,231,286	14.2	100.0
Male	4,393,748	100.0	1,284,619	29.2	51.9	996,510	22.7	52.7	677,962	15.4	55.1
Female	4,303,855	100.0	1,191,558	27.7	48.1	896,042	20.8	47.3	553,324	12.9	44.9
Urban	4,134,743	100.0	695,863	16.8	28.1	513,221	12.4	27.1	320,179	7.7	26.0
Accra (GAMA)	1,098,157	100.0	66,875	6.1	2.7	51,349	4.7	2.7	17,732	1.6	1.4
Other Urban	3,036,586	100.0	628,988	20.7	25.4	461,871	15.2	24.4	302,447	10.0	24.6
Rural	4,562,859	100.0	1,780,314	39.0	71.9	1,379,332	30.2	72.9	911,107	20.0	74.0
Rural Coastal	496,659	100.0	110,006	22.1	4.4	81,310	16.4	4.3	52,529	10.6	4.3
Rural Forest	2,373,921	100.0	920,182	38.8	37.2	712,642	30.0	37.7	504,769	21.3	41.0
Rural Savannah	1,692,279	100.0	750,126	44.3	30.3	585,380	34.6	30.9	353,808	20.9	28.7
5-7	2,122,390	100.0	212,278	10.0	8.6	212,278	10.0	11.2	94,655	4.5	7.7
8-11	2,749,046	100.0	704,212	25.6	28.4	704,212	25.6	37.2	330,161	12.0	26.8
12-14	2,101,282	100.0	805,423	38.3	32.5	564,500	26.9	29.8	394,908	18.8	32.1
15-17	1,724,884	100.0	754,263	43.7	30.5	411,562	23.9	21.7	411,562	23.9	33.4
Western	838,313	100.0	225,702	26.9	9.1	171,626	20.5	9.1	113,134	13.5	9.2
Central	793,125	100.0	101,481	12.8	4.1	70,535	8.9	3.7	33,164	4.2	2.7
Greater Accra	1,204,870	100.0	83,328	6.9	3.4	62,526	5.2	3.3	23,312	1.9	1.9
Volta	766,836	100.0	245,094	32.0	9.9	206,404	26.9	10.9	169,035	22.0	13.7
Eastern	920,812	100.0	336,935	36.6	13.6	267,233	29.0	14.1	193,551	21.0	15.7
Ashanti	1,727,891	100.0	537,057	31.1	21.7	396,751	23.0	21.0	279,374	16.2	22.7
Brong Ahafo	916,757	100.0	382,738	41.7	15.5	306,972	33.5	16.2	224,037	24.4	18.2
Northern	891,273	100.0	278,445	31.2	11.2	203,566	22.8	10.8	105,769	11.9	8.6
Upper East	362,761	100.0	161,388	44.5	6.5	114,899	31.7	6.1	47,534	13.1	3.9
Upper West	274,964	100.0	124,010	45.1	5.0	92,041	33.5	4.9	42,375	15.4	3.4

A summary of findings from the survey is presented in Figure 6.1.

Figure 6.1: Main findings from GLSS 6 on Child Labour



6.3 Hazardous Activity

Table 6.1 further shows that 14.2 percent of children 5-17 years were engaged in hazardous forms of child labour. The proportion of males engaged in hazardous forms of child labour (15.4%) is higher than females (12.9%). One-fifth (20.0%) of children in rural areas were engaged in hazardous forms of child labour compared to 7.7 percent in urban areas. The rural forest (21.3%) zone recorded the highest proportion of children engaged in hazardous forms of child labour.

The table further indicates that, among the age groups, 4.5 percent of children 5-7 years and 12 percent of those aged 8-11 years were engaged in hazardous forms of child labour. Almost one-quarter (23.9%) of the children aged 15-17 years and 18.8 percent of those aged 12-14 years were engaged in hazardous forms of child labour.

About one-quarter of children in the Brong Ahafo region (24.4%) and one-fifth of those in the Eastern region (21.0%) were engaged in hazardous forms of child labour. Greater Accra (1.9%) and Central (4.2%) regions recorded very low proportions of children engaged in hazardous forms of child labour.

6.4 Child Labour and Economic Activity

Table 6.2, which presents information on the participation of children in child labour and hazardous forms of child labour, shows that of the children aged 5-17 years who participated

in economic activity, 76.4 percent were involved in child labour, out of which 49.7 percent participated in hazardous work. More than three-quarters of both male (77.6%) and female (75.2%) children who participated in economic activity were involved in child labour while more than half of males (52.8%) and 46.4 percent of females were engaged in hazardous forms of child labour.

At the locality level, the proportion of children engaged in child labour was higher in rural (77.5%) than urban (73.8%) areas. A higher proportion of children in rural areas (51.2%) were engaged in hazardous forms of child labour compared to those in urban areas (46.0%), with the rural forest reporting the highest proportion of children in hazardous work (54.9%). With respect to urban areas, Accra (GAMA) recorded the least proportion (26.5%) of children who were engaged in hazardous forms of child labour.

Table 6.2: Percentage distribution of children 5 – 17 years by their participation in economic activity and child labour by sex, locality age group and region

Sex/Locality/Age group/ Region	Participation in Economic Activity	
	Child labour	Hazardous forms of child labour
Total	76.4	49.7
Male	77.6	52.8
Female	75.2	46.4
Urban	73.8	46.0
Accra (GAMA)	76.8	26.5
Other Urban	73.4	48.1
Rural	77.5	51.2
Rural Coastal	73.9	47.8
Rural Forest	77.4	54.9
Rural Savannah	78.0	47.2
5 - 7	100.0	44.6
8 - 11	100.0	46.9
12 - 14	70.1	49.0
15 - 17	54.6	54.6
Western	76.0	50.1
Central	69.5	32.7
Greater Accra	75.0	28.0
Volta	84.2	69.0
Eastern	79.3	57.4
Ashanti	73.9	52.0
Brong Ahafo	80.2	58.5
Northern	73.1	38.0
Upper East	71.2	29.5
Upper West	74.2	34.2

By age categorization, the data show that all the children in the younger age groups (5-7 and 8-11 years) engaged in child labour, with more than 40 percent of all children in hazardous forms of child labour. With the exception of the Central region, more than 70 percent of children who participated in economic activities in each of the regions engaged in child labour, with the Volta region (84.2%) recording the highest (Table 6.2).

6.5 Child Labour and School Attendance

The survey sought to find out whether children engaged in child labour were also attending school. Table 6.3 indicates that 20.1 percent of the children currently attending school were engaged in child labour. More than one-tenth (12.4%) of the children were also engaged in hazardous forms of child labour. Among those who were not attending school, 35.4 percent were involved in child labour, with 28.3 percent engaged in hazardous forms of child labour. Almost two-fifth of the males (39.9%) and 31.2 percent of the females who were engaged in child labour were not attending school. About 31 percent of males and one-quarter of females (25.6%) were also engaged in hazardous forms of work.

Table 6.3: Percentage distribution of children (5 - 17years) who are engaged in child labour by current school attendance, sex, locality age group and region

Sex/Locality/Age group/ Region	Currently Attending School		Not Attending School	
	Child labour	Hazardous forms of child labour	Child labour	Hazardous forms of child labour
Total	20.1	12.4	35.4	28.3
Male	20.6	13.6	39.9	31.2
Female	19.4	11.2	31.2	25.6
Urban	11.2	6.3	28.0	26.2
Accra (GAMA)	3.8	0.5	16.4	16.4
Other Urban	13.9	8.4	32.0	29.5
Rural	28.8	18.4	38.7	29.2
Rural Coastal	15.8	9.5	21.3	19.4
Rural Forest	29.4	20.4	36.3	30.6
Rural Savannah	32.2	18.1	42.3	29.8
5 - 7	9.2	3.8	15.8	9.6
8 - 11	24.7	11.2	40.1	23.9
12 - 14	24.3	16.9	55.9	40.2
15 - 17	20.1	20.1	36.7	36.7
Western	19.6	12.4	32.6	28.9
Central	8.4	3.4	13.9	12.1
Greater Accra	4.4	0.9	15.3	15.3
Volta	24.4	19.3	41.2	37.8
Eastern	28.2	19.9	38.4	33.5
Ashanti	21.6	14.5	39.4	35.8
Brong Ahafo	32.4	23.1	44.2	38.3
Northern	17.3	6.6	36.0	24.4
Upper East	29.1	10.9	49.4	28.2
Upper West	31.2	13.5	47.2	26.7

The distribution by locality shows that the proportion of children in rural areas who were attending school and engaged in child labour (28.8%) was higher compared to those in urban areas (11.2%). Also, 6.3 percent of children in urban areas and 18.4 percent in rural areas who were currently attending school were engaged in hazardous forms of child labour. In addition, about one-quarter of children in urban areas (26.2%) who were not attending school were engaged in hazardous work compared to 29.5 percent in rural areas. The rural savannah (32.2%) had the highest proportion of children attending school and at the same time engaged

in child labour while the rural forest (20.4%) had the highest proportion engaged in hazardous forms of child labour.

The table further shows that 55.9 percent of children aged 12-14 years who were not in school were engaged in child labour while two-fifth (40.1%) of children in the age-group 8-11 years who were not attending school were engaged in child labour. An additional 40.2 percent of children 12-14 years who were not attending school were engaged in hazardous forms of child labour. This is a situation that needs serious attention as these are expected to be in school and not working. More so, they are working in environments that expose them to health hazards.

At the regional level, the proportion of children who were currently attending school and were engaged in child labour was highest in the Brong Ahafo region (32.4%) and lowest in the Greater Accra region (4.4%). More than one-third of children in the Volta (37.8%), Eastern (33.5%), Ashanti (35.8%) and Brong Ahafo (38.3%) regions who were not attending school were engaged in hazardous forms of child labour (Table 6.3).

6.6 Child Labour and Non-Economic Activity

Children who had carried out household chores (such as doing the laundry, looking after younger siblings, cooking, cleaning, shopping, etc.) in their own parents' or care-givers' households during the reference period were considered to be engaged in non-economic activities or occupations. However, if these same activities or occupations are carried out by children in households other than that of their own parents or caregivers, they were considered as economic activities.

Table 6.4 presents information on children who were engaged in housekeeping activities or household chores in their own parents'/guardian's homes on a regular basis as well as those who did not participate in any household chores. The data show that one out of every four children (25.3%) participated in household chores and were also engaged in child labour while 16.6 percent engaged in both household chores and hazardous forms of child labour.

More than one-quarter of male children (26.7%) who performed household chores were engaged in child labour compared to 23.9 percent of females. A similar pattern is observed for those who were engaged in hazardous forms of child labour as well as those who did not perform household chores. This is contrary to the perception that boys do not undertake household chores.

About one-third (34.0%) of children in rural areas performed household chores and were engaged in child labour compared to 15.4 percent in urban areas. The proportion of children who performed household chores and were engaged in either child labour or hazardous work was highest in rural savannah (40.4% and 25.4% respectively).

Table 6.4 further shows that older children are more likely to perform household chores and to participate in child labour or hazardous forms of child labour. About one-quarter of children 15-17 years who performed household chores were also engaged in child labour and hazardous work compared to 17.3 percent who did not perform household chores but were engaged in child labour and hazardous work.

Table 6.4: Percentage distribution of children 5 – 17 years by participation in household chores by sex, locality, age group and region

Characteristic	Participated in household chores		Did not participate in household chores	
	Child labour	Hazardous forms of child labour	Child labour	Hazardous forms of child labour
Total	25.3	16.6	9.0	5.2
Male	26.7	18.5	10.1	5.8
Female	23.9	14.8	7.6	4.4
Urban	15.4	9.7	2.2	0.9
Accra (GAMA)	6.3	2.2		
Other Urban	18.4	12.3	3.2	1.4
Rural	34.0	22.8	15.7	9.3
Rural Coastal	18.5	12.1	3.8	1.6
Rural Forest	33.5	23.6	11.7	9.1
Rural Savannah	40.4	25.1	20.5	10.6
5-7	14.4	6.3	5.3	2.6
8-11	28.9	13.7	11.4	4.6
12-14	27.7	19.4	16.7	11.2
15 - 17	24.6	24.6	17.3	17.3
Western	22.4	14.8	11.2	7.1
Central	10.7	5.2	1.4	0.0
Greater Accra	6.9	2.6	0.4	0.1
Volta	29.8	24.5	14.9	11.9
Eastern	31.4	22.7	12.3	9.7
Ashanti	27.0	18.8	5.7	5.1
Brong Ahafo	40.7	30.3	7.4	3.4
Northern	28.1	15.4	14.0	6.0
Upper East	33.6	13.9	21.2	8.9
Upper West	37.6	17.6	24.7	10.7

About two-fifth of children in the Brong Ahafo region (40.7%) and more than one-third in Upper West region (37.6%) who performed household chores were also involved in child labour. The least proportion was observed in the Greater Accra (6.9%) region. For children who did not participate in household chores, Upper West recorded the highest proportion in child labour (24.7%), followed by the Upper East region (21.2%). The Volta Region (11.9%) had the highest proportion of those who did not participate in household chores but were exposed to hazardous forms of child labour.

6.7 Work-Related Health and Safety of Children

The data in Table 6.5 indicates that 73.1 percent of children who suffered an injury as a result of work were involved in child labour while 53.2 percent of them were into hazardous activities. The proportion of children in child labour suffering illnesses or injuries was almost the same for males and females.

Again, the table shows that the proportion of children who suffered injury or job-related illnesses increases with age. This could be a reflection of the nature and intensity of work done at the different age levels. Older children engaged in more strenuous, demanding and hazardous activities; they were also exposed to more hours of work than younger children

and, therefore, faced a greater risk of getting hurt. However, a higher proportion of children in the age group 8-11 years (92.9 %) who suffered injuries and health-related issues were child labourers; on the other hand, a relatively higher proportion of children in the age group 15-17 years who reported suffering from injury or having health-related problems (55.5%) were engaged in hazardous forms of child labour compared to the other age groups. .

In terms of ecological zones, a few important variations are observed; there is a higher incidence of child labour in the rural coastal zone (79.8%) than in the other ecological zones, with 66.5 percent of those suffering from injuries at the workplace exposed to hazardous forms of child labour. The proportion of children in child labour who did not suffer from any injury or health effect is highest in rural savannah (17.7%); those exposed to hazardous forms of child labour who did not suffer from any injury in the same zone was 7.5 percent.

Table 6.5 further shows that the proportion of children in child labour who suffered from injury or health problems as a result of their engagement in economic activity ranged from 54.6 percent in the Greater Accra region to 82.6 percent in the Brong Ahafo region, while those engaged in hazardous forms of work who suffered illness or injury ranged from 20.7 percent in the Greater Accra region to 72.6 percent in the Central region.

Table 6.5: Percentage distribution of working children (5-17 years) in child labour by sex, locality, age group, region and whether suffered any injury or health effects as a result of work

Characteristic	Suffered any injury or health effects		Did not suffer any injury or health effects	
	Child labour	Hazardous forms of child labour	Child labour	Hazardous forms of child labour
Total	73.1	53.2	11.2	6.1
Male	72.9	54.3	11.5	6.8
Female	73.4	51.8	10.8	5.4
Urban	72.6	49.3	6.3	3.5
Accra (GAMA)	73.3	54.5	16.4	8.9
Other Urban	51.7	18.3	3.6	1.2
Rural	74.1	51.5	7.4	4.5
Rural Coastal	79.8	66.5	10.7	5.6
Rural Forest	73.8	57.0	17.0	10.7
Rural Savannah	72.3	50.9	17.7	7.5
5 - 7	83.0	45.8	5.7	2.0
8 - 11	92.9	50.9	13.1	4.8
12 - 14	69.6	54.8	14.0	8.0
15 - 17	55.5	55.5	12.6	12.6
Western	74.2	62.1	13.4	7.1
Central	80.2	72.6	7.1	2.5
Greater Accra	54.6	20.7	4.0	1.5
Volta	82.5	72.1	7.6	4.6
Eastern	79.9	60.5	15.9	10.9
Ashanti	69.1	47.6	10.7	7.9
Brong Ahafo	82.6	66.9	16.0	9.3
Northern	71.2	46.9	17.0	7.7
Upper East	60.1	28.9	11.9	2.1
Upper West	58.7	29.4	17.3	6.4

The proportion of children who did not suffer from any injury or health effect but were engaged in hazardous work was found to be highest in the Eastern region (10.9%) followed by the Brong Ahafo region (9.3%).

6.8 Abuse of Children in Child Labour Activities (5 – 17 years)

Working children engaged in child labour and other forms of hazardous work are often exposed to various forms of abuses at the workplace. According to Table 6.6, about nine in every ten children (91%) who suffered some form of abuse were involved in child labour while 87.4 percent of such children were engaged in hazardous forms of child labour. Only 22.5 percent of children who did not suffer any abuse were reported to be engaged in child labour.

Table 6.6: Percentage distribution of working children (5 - 17years) involved in child labour who suffered abuse by sex, locality, age and region

Characteristics	Suffered any form of abuse		Did not suffer any abuse	
	Child labour	Hazardous forms of child labour	Child labour	Hazardous forms of child labour
Total	91.0	87.4	22.5	20.6
Male	91.0	88.1	23.5	21.8
Female	91.0	86.7	21.6	19.3
Urban	87.2	80.2	13.0	11.6
Accra (GAMA)	85.0	71.1	4.5	2.9
Other Urban	87.4	81.2	16.1	14.9
Rural	92.2	89.6	31.8	29.2
Rural Coastal	76.5	68.5	19.4	18.1
Rural Forest	93.1	91.3	31.6	29.2
Rural Savannah	92.2	89.0	36.1	32.8
5 - 7	93.4	89.2	8.2	6.4
8 - 11	93.6	85.8	21.1	18.0
12 - 14	90.4	88.2	30.3	28.0
15 - 17	87.7	87.7	34.3	34.3
Western	96.1	90.6	21.8	17.5
Central	53.8	53.8	10.3	8.6
Greater Accra	82.2	69.4	4.9	3.4
Volta	91.8	89.8	20.1	19.5
Eastern	87.3	83.5	31.9	29.9
Ashanti	96.0	93.0	24.7	23.6
Brong Ahafo	94.0	93.4	33.4	32.0
Northern	89.2	77.3	27.1	24.8
Upper East	82.3	76.0	34.2	29.5
Upper West	96.2	94.1	40.6	36.8

A slightly higher proportion of male children (88.1%) who suffered some form of abuse were involved in hazardous forms of child labour compared to females (86.7%). In terms of locality, the proportions of children in rural areas who were abused and were involved in child labour (92.2%) and hazardous work (89.6%) were higher than the proportion of children in urban areas in similar situations (87.2% and 80.2% respectively). Children in rural forest (93.1%) and rural savannah (92.2%) who were abused were more likely to be involved in child labour than children in other areas

From Table 6.6, the proportions of younger children aged 5-7 years (93.4%) and 8-11 years (93.6%) who suffered injury and were involved in child labour were slightly higher than the older children 12-14 years (90.4%) and 15-17 years (87.7%). Under similar conditions. On the other hand, younger children who were not engaged in child labour were less likely to be abused than the older ones. For instance, only 8.2 percent of children 5-7 years who were engaged in child labour were not abused compared to children 15-17 years (34.3%).

At the regional level, the Central region (53.8%) had the lowest proportion of abused children engaged in child labour or in hazardous work. The Greater Accra region (4.9%) had the lowest proportion of children who did not suffer any abuse engaged in child labour. About two-fifths of non-abused children in the Upper West region were engaged in child labour (40.6%).

6.9 Risks and Dangers at Work

There are several risks involved in the type of work children do which can have a negative impact on their health. From Table 6.7, more than half of the working children (57.3%) were exposed to dangerous tools such as knives at the place of work. About two out of every five children (42.7%) was exposed to dust and fumes while 27.8 percent were exposed to extreme cold or heat. Less than one percent of the children (0.1%), though seemingly inconsequential, was exposed to narcotic drugs.

More than one out of every ten females (11.1%) was exposed to fire, gas or fumes compared to males (6.4%). About one-fifth of males and females (21.3% and 18.3% respectively) were also exposed to chemicals at their place of work.

More than half of both male (58.9%) and female (55.5%) children engaged in economic activities were exposed to dangerous tools (knives). Similar proportions of males (43.1%) and females (42.1%) were exposed to dust and fumes while more than one-quarter in each case (27.4% males and 28.2% females) were exposed to extreme heat and cold. The proportion of children exposed to dust and fumes is higher among the 12 to 14 year olds (43.7%) compared to the other age groups. It is worrying to note that 2.6 percent of children aged 5 to 7 years and 2.1 percent of those aged 8 to 11 years were exposed to arms.

The proportion of children exposed to fire, gas and flames was higher in the urban (11.9%) than in rural (7.3%) areas. In contrast, the proportion of children exposed to dangerous tools and chemicals or pesticides was higher in rural areas than in urban areas. Higher proportions of working children in rural savannah zone were exposed to dust and fumes (50.6%) as well as extreme cold or heat (41.3%) compared to the other areas.

At the regional level, the proportion of children exposed to fire, gas or flames was higher in the Greater Accra region (20.3%) followed by the Volta region (16.3%). The Volta region (79.6%) also had the highest proportion of working children exposed to dangerous tools (including knives). More than one-third of the children in the Eastern region (35.7%) and 29.1 percent in the Brong Ahafo region were exposed to chemicals or pesticides at their place of work.

6.10 Injuries and Illnesses of Children in Economic Activities

The data presented in Table 6.8 indicate that almost two out of every five (38.1%) working children had insect bites at work while 33.6 percent experienced fatigue. Nearly equal proportions of males and females experienced fever, extreme fatigue and skin problems in the

course of their work. The proportion of children who had insect bites was higher in the rural areas (42.2%) where children were more likely to be working on farms than in urban areas (29.4%). Children in rural savannah (47.1%) were also more likely to have insect bites than those in other ecological zones.

More than one out of every ten children 12-14 years (11.1%) suffered from superficial injuries compared to those in the other age groups, and about one-third of those aged 8-11 years (32.9%), 12-14 years (34.5%) and 15-17 years (35.3%) had experienced extreme fatigue.

At the regional level, there were slight variations. In the Volta region, more than three out of five the working children (63.3%) had insect bites during work, with an additional 51.6 percent experiencing extreme fatigue. Almost half (47.7%) of working children in the Brong Ahafo region had insect bites and less than one-fifth (17.7%) of children in the Ashanti region suffered superficial injuries at their work places.

Table 6.7: Percentage distribution sex of working children (5–17 years) exposed to various hazards by sex, locality, age group and region

Characteristics	Type of hazard child is exposed to while working														Total
	Exposed to dust or fumes	Exposed to fire, gas, flames	Loud noise or vibrations	Extreme cold or heat	Dangerous tools (knives)	Work under ground	Work at heights	Work in water/lake/ponds	Work-place too dark or confined	Insufficient ventilation	Chemicals (pesticides)	Explosives	Narcotics	Arms	
Total	42.7	8.7	4.9	27.8	57.3	0.7	1.1	2.2	0.7	1.1	19.8	0.7	0.1	1.7	169.5
Male	43.1	6.4	4.6	27.4	58.9	0.4	1.5	3.2	0.5	0.9	21.3	0.8	0.1	1.5	170.6
Female	42.1	11.1	5.2	28.2	55.5	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.2	18.3	0.5	0.2	1.8	168.0
Urban	36.7	11.9	9.2	26.8	48.7	0.8	1.3	0.6	0.7	0.9	13.5	0.7	0.0	1.2	153.0
Accra (GAMA)	35.1	23.5	6.3	18.3	22.6	0.7	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	109.4
Other Urban ⁵	36.9	10.8	9.4	27.6	51.2	0.8	1.4	0.6	0.6	0.9	14.7	0.7	0.0	1.4	157.0
Rural	45.0	7.3	3.2	28.2	60.7	0.6	1.0	2.9	0.8	1.2	22.4	0.7	0.2	1.8	176.0
Rural Coastal	34.3	6.8	2.1	12.7	56.6	0.8	0.6	1.4	0.3	0.3	21.1	0.5	0.3	0.3	138.1
Rural Forest	41.4	6.0	3.1	18.4	62.0	0.8	1.5	2.0	0.3	1.0	24.3	0.5	0.2	1.6	163.1
Rural Savannah	50.6	8.9	3.3	41.3	59.8	0.3	0.5	4.1	1.3	1.5	20.5	0.9	0.1	2.2	195.3
Age group															
5 – 7	39.8	8.6	4.4	28.2	49.5	0.6	0.3	1.5	0.9	1.0	15.3	0.9	0.1	2.6	153.7
8 – 11	42.4	7.2	3.9	27.4	56.3	0.8	0.9	2.5	0.6	1.0	19.7	0.8	0.1	2.1	165.7
12 – 14	43.7	7.9	5.0	26.9	57.9	0.5	1.0	2.0	0.7	0.7	18.8	0.5	0.1	1.3	167.0
15 – 17	42.7	10.8	5.9	28.9	59.8	0.7	1.8	2.4	0.9	1.5	22.4	0.7	0.1	1.3	179.9
Western	26.4	5.2	0.8	11.8	49.2	0.0	1.7	5.0	0.1	0.0	11.3	0.0	0.0	4.7	116.2
Central	19.3	2.6	2.1	12.2	25.2	0.0	1.0	0.2	0.4	0.8	9.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	73.3
Greater Accra	37.2	20.3	6.0	19.3	25.8	0.6	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	113.8
Volta	61.6	16.3	9.1	49.1	79.6	0.3	0.9	6.4	4.2	5.1	24.6	2.5	0.2	6.8	266.7
Eastern	30.8	9.9	4.8	18.5	66.0	1.6	1.7	1.5	0.1	1.5	35.7	2.2	0.3	2.1	176.7
Ashanti	50.0	8.9	7.7	22.4	59.1	1.1	1.8	0.3	1.0	0.9	10.2	0.4	0.1	0.5	164.4
Brong Ahafo	39.0	5.9	3.1	35.5	66.9	0.4	0.9	3.5	0.0	0.4	29.1	0.0	0.0	1.2	185.9
Northern	42.3	7.5	4.5	29.2	40.7	0.5	0.4	1.6	0.1	0.6	20.9	0.3	0.1	0.3	149.0
Upper East	46.6	5.2	2.5	38.9	55.9	0.3	0.5	2.4	0.1	0.1	12.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	165.1
Upper West	59.5	9.4	3.2	37.2	56.4	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	26.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	193.7

Table 6.8: Percentage distribution of working children 5–17 years by health effect or injury, sex, locality, age group and region

Characteristics	Type of health effect											
	Had super-facial injuries	Fractures	Dislocations, sprains or stains	Burns, corrosions, scalds or frostbite	Breathing problems	Eye problems	Skin problems	Stomach problems/diarrhoea	Fever	Extreme fatigue	Snake bite	Insect bite
Total	8.7	1.2	1.4	1.1	3.0	2.1	5.5	5.9	18.4	33.6	0.6	38.1
Male	9.8	1.2	1.2	0.6	2.8	2.0	5.5	5.3	18.5	34.4	0.6	39.3
Female	7.5	1.3	1.6	1.7	3.1	2.1	5.5	6.6	18.3	32.7	0.6	36.9
Urban	6.3	0.8	1.3	2.6	1.3	0.5	1.5	5.3	13.4	28.4	0.6	28.1
Accra (GAMA)	4.7	1.1	1.4	6.2	3.1	1.2	2.2	1.1	5.8	14.9	3.6	14.7
Other Urban	6.5	0.8	1.3	2.2	1.2	0.4	1.4	5.7	14.1	29.7	0.3	29.4
Rural	9.6	1.4	1.4	0.5	3.6	2.7	7.2	6.2	20.5	35.7	0.6	42.2
Rural Coastal	2.6	0.1	0.3	0.2			1.4	0.8	8.1	18.5	0.1	24.4
Rural Forest	11.9	2.5	2.3	0.4	0.8	1.1	5.2	6.3	22.0	37.8	0.8	39.9
Rural Savannah	8.1	0.4	0.5	0.7	7.3	4.8	10.2	6.7	20.5	35.6	0.5	47.1
Age group												
5 - 7	3.6	0.5	0.6	0.4	4.9	3.9	7.3	7.1	19.6	26.9	0.4	35.4
8 - 11	7.6	1.0	1.1	1.0	3.5	2.2	6.3	6.3	17.3	32.9	0.2	40.1
12 - 14	11.1	1.2	1.3	0.9	2.3	1.5	4.8	5.7	19.9	34.5	0.9	38.8
15 - 17	8.6	1.7	1.9	1.6	2.5	1.9	4.9	5.4	17.6	35.3	0.7	36.5
Western	1.4	8.5	8.7	0.2	0.2		2.4	4.1	9.2	19.4	0.2	32.9
Central	0.6		0.6	0.4	0.9	0.9	6.0	4.0	6.7	11.7	0.0	11.3
Greater Accra	3.8	0.9	1.1	5.0	2.5	1.0	2.4	1.2	5.5	15.0	3.1	13.0
Volta	8.2	1.7	0.8	0.2	27.8	15.5	20.9	20.9	44.1	51.6	0.6	63.3
Eastern	6.4	0.9	0.4	1.7	0.6	0.5	2.8	1.9	10.3	35.3	1.5	30.4
Ashanti	17.7	0.7	1.4	1.4	0.1	0.6	0.7	5.4	25.3	41.3	0.4	36.4
Brong Ahafo	4.3	0.1	0.1	1.2		1.5	9.5	9.3	17.9	38.4	0.0	47.7
Northern	7.9	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	1.2	1.5	10.7	17.2	0.3	19.8
Upper East	10.9	0.1	0.8	2.0	0.4	0.7	7.2	4.6	27.1	34.2	0.8	52.3
Upper West	9.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	7.4	0.4	3.0	38.3	1.3	56.4

6.11 Nature of Health Effect on Children in Economic Activity

The data presented in Table 6.9 show that in terms of the gravity of work-related accidents, illness or injury, 66.2 percent of children reported that their injuries were not serious enough to warrant stopping work or school, while 33.3 percent stopped work or school for a short time. A very small proportion (0.5%) of working children, however, reported that the extent of the injuries was serious enough to cause them to stop work or school completely. Similar proportions of male and female children (32.9% and 33.7% respectively) suffered injuries that were serious and, therefore, kept them out of school for a while.

Children in the rural areas (34.5%), particularly those in rural forest (41.4%), are more likely to suffer injuries that keep them out of school for a while compared to those living in other areas. The proportion of children whose injury did not stop them from working or schooling is higher in Accra (GAMA) and the rural coastal (72.9% and 88.6% respectively).

The data further show that higher proportions of children in 12-14 years (37.3%) and 15-17 years (35.1%) suffered injuries that kept them out of school for a while as they were most likely to engage in work that was prone to injury.

Table 6.9: Percentage distribution of working children 5-17years who were injured at work by sex, locality, age group, region and the seriousness of health effects or injury

Characteristics	Effect of injury			Total	
	Not serious- did not stop work/schooling	Stopped work or school for a short time	Stopped work or school completely	Percent	Number
Total	66.2	33.3	0.5	100.0	804,474
Male	66.7	32.9	0.4	100.0	425,938
Female	65.6	33.7	0.7	100.0	378,536
Urban	69.4	29.7	0.9	100.0	202,191
Accra (GAMA)	72.9	27.1	0.0	100.0	12,887
Other Urban	69.2	29.9	1.0	100.0	189,303
Rural	65.1	34.5	0.4	100.0	602,283
Rural Coastal	88.6	11.4	0.0	100.0	20,335
Rural Forest	58.3	41.4	0.3	100.0	336,935
Rural Savannah	72.5	26.9	0.6	100.0	245,014
Age group					
5 – 7	74.1	25.4	0.4	100.0	62,462
8 – 11	70.8	28.6	0.5	100.0	227,050
12 – 14	62.3	37.3	0.4	100.0	280,000
15 – 17	64.2	35.1	0.8	100.0	234,962
Western	79.9	20.1	0.0	100.0	27,803
Central	94.1	5.9	0.0	100.0	6,511
Greater Accra	78.5	21.5	0.0	100.0	16,238
Volta	46.0	53.1	0.9	100.0	70,718
Eastern	91.4	8.6	0.0	100.0	115,305
Ashanti	46.7	52.7	0.6	100.0	217,866
Brong Ahafo	66.5	33.3	0.2	100.0	185,750
Northern	75.2	22.3	2.5	100.0	49,109
Upper East	80.7	18.4	0.9	100.0	72,524
Upper West	76.6	23.2	0.2	100.0	42,648

At the regional level, the Central (5.9%) and Eastern (8.6%) regions reported the lowest proportions of working children who suffered injuries and had to stop work or school for a short time. Smaller proportions of children in the Northern (2.5%), Upper East (0.9%) and Volta (0.9%) regions suffered injuries that made them stop work or school completely (Table 5.10). Furthermore, the Volta (53.1%) and Ashanti (52.7%) regions had higher proportions of working children who had to stop work or school for a while due to injury.

6.12 Abuse of Child at Work (5-17years)

From Table 6.10, about one-fifth (18.5%) of working children are constantly shouted at by persons who engaged them. An additional 10.5 percent reported being repeatedly insulted at the work place. The proportion of females subjected to constant shouting and repeated insults (19.0% and 11.0% respectively) were slightly higher than males (18.0% and 10.0% respectively). Even though the proportion of children who suffered sexual harassment is very low (0.3%), as expected the proportion of females (0.4%) experiencing sexual harassment is higher than males (0.1%).

Table 6.10: Percentage distribution of working children 5-17years abused at work by sex, locality, age group and region

Characteristics	Type of abuse			
	Ever been subjected to constantly shouted at	Repeatedly insulted	Beaten/ physically hurt	Sexual harassment
Total	18.5	10.5	3.7	0.3
Sex				
Male	18.0	10.0	3.7	0.1
Female	19.0	11.0	3.6	0.4
Locality				
Urban	15.8	7.3	1.7	0.1
Accra (GAMA)	18.2	4.6	2.6	0.0
Other Urban	15.5	7.6	1.6	0.1
Rural	19.5	11.7	4.5	0.3
Rural Coastal	8.1	3.8	0.5	0.2
Rural Forest	19.8	10.1	4.4	0.3
Rural Savannah	20.8	14.6	5.1	0.4
Age group				
5 - 7	17.2	10.7	4.5	0.0
8 - 11	21.5	12.9	5.9	0.1
12 - 14	19.8	10.5	3.4	0.3
15 - 17	14.6	8.1	1.5	0.5
Region				
Western	9.9	2.7	0.1	0.0
Central	7.1	6.2	2.3	0.2
Greater Accra	18.6	5.4	2.1	0.0
Volta	41.9	27.8	5.7	2.0
Eastern	13.4	8.1	4.7	0.2
Ashanti	19.5	7.7	3.9	0.0
Brong Ahafo	21.7	15.9	2.6	0.3
Northern	9.3	4.0	1.1	0.0
Upper East	27.2	17.1	11.3	0.2
Upper West	6.5	5.7	2.5	0.0

The abuse of children through shouting is more prominent in rural (19.5%) than in urban (15.8%) areas. Within the rural areas, the rural coastal has the least proportion of reported cases of abuse of children at the workplace. The rural savannah (20.8%) has the highest proportion of children who are subjected to constant shouting.

Children aged 8-11 years are the most at risk of being subjected to constant shouting (21.5%), repeated insults (12.9%) and physical beating (5.9%). On the other hand, older children 12-14 years (0.3%) and 15-17 years (0.5%) are the most sexually harassed.

The table further shows that there are large regional variations, with working children in the Volta region being the most subjected to constant shouting (41.9%), repeated insults (27.8%) and sexual harassment (2.0%). The Upper East region (11.3%) has the highest proportion of working children who are physically beaten.

CHAPTER SEVEN

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 Introduction

According to the 2003 Ghana Child Labour Survey (GCLS, 2003), child labour is found in many sectors of the Ghanaian economy including agriculture, which had the largest proportion of children engaged in child labour (62.5%) at the time of the survey.

Since the programme on the elimination of child labour was instituted in Ghana in 2000, several steps have been taken to prevent or withdraw children from child labour. Under the NPA, several instruments have been developed for preventing or combating child labour. The Ghana Child Labour Monitoring System (GCLMS), which is an active process to regularly check workplaces in order to ensure that children are not working there and that young workers are adequately protected, was also initiated to eliminate child labour in Ghana. It also provides the list of work that is permissible and those that are not permissible for children in each sector where child labour is found.

7.1.2 Demography

Out of the total number of children aged 5-17 years, 24.4 percent were aged 5-7 years, while 31.6 percent, constituting the majority, were aged 8-11 years. Nearly one-fifth (19.8%) of the children were aged 15-17 years.

Living arrangements of children

Among the age groups, the proportion of children who live with both parents decreases with increasing age of the child; the older the child, the more likely he/she is to live with only the father or mother. Also, higher proportions of older children (20.3% for those 12-14 years and 20.6% for those 15-17 years) live with people who are not their parents. The proportion of children who are house-helpers is higher for older ages than younger ages.

About one out of every ten children live in households where their grandparents are the heads (11.8%), while 7.3 percent live in households where the heads are other relatives of the child. Nearly four out of every five children in rural areas (78.6%) live in households where their parents are household heads compared to 75.6 percent of their counterparts in urban areas.

The general pattern of having higher proportions of children living with both parents is also visible among the regions where the Northern (85.2%) and Upper East (85.4%) regions have higher proportions of children living in households where their parents are household heads.

7.1.3 Education

School Attendance

Nearly ninety percent (88.9%) of children are currently attending school, while 5.9 percent have never attended school. School attendance by sex of children indicates that majority of children (with a slightly higher proportion of boys) are currently attending school. Among the different age groups, 88.5 percent of children aged 5-7 years are currently attending school, while 91.9 percent of children 12-14 years and 77.5 percent of those 15-17 years are currently

attending school, showing a reduction in current school attendance with increasing age. A high proportion (17.8%) of children aged 15–17 years had ever attended school in the past.

With the exception of the Volta region, the proportion of children who are currently in school is higher for the southern regions (ranging between 90.9% and 93.1%) than the northern regions. The Northern (25.7%), Upper West (10.4%) and the Volta (9.6%) have high proportions of children who have never attended school.

Highest level of schooling

Generally, most children have attained primary and Junior Secondary School or Junior High School (JSS/JHS) education. As expected, children in pre-school are concentrated in the age group 5-7 years. Among the regions and ecological zones, the proportion of children with primary education is relatively the same. However, the proportion of children with JHS and SHS education is higher in urban localities compared to rural localities.

Current grade of children

Of the children 5-7 years, majority (55.8%) are in pre-school, while the rest (44.2%) are in primary school. Also, 57.9 percent of children 15-17 years are attending the JHS level, with 32.8 percent of those aged 12-14 years enrolled at the same level of education. At the regional level, the Greater Accra region (10.9%) has the least proportion of children attending pre-school while the Eastern region has the lowest proportion of children attending primary one (9.6%).

Reasons for not attending school

The main reasons cited for children not attending school are that there are no schools in the community or the available school is too far (19.2%); the child is too young to be in school (16.0%), or because the household cannot afford the cost of education (14.8%). In addition, 11.7 percent of children were not attending school because they were not interested in schooling.

In the case of older children (12-17 years), the reasons for non-attendance were that the children were not interested in schooling (35.2%) and the fact that the household could not afford the cost of the education of their children (27.7%).

Considering reasons for school non-attendance by ecological zones, while households in urban localities cited the age of the child and the cost of education as the main reasons why their children were not in school, rural localities largely cited reasons such as the lack of schools and age of child for the child's non-school attendance.

7.1.4 Economic Activity

Section 90 of the Children's Act, 1998 (Act 560), sets the minimum age for light work at 13 years. However, the Hazardous Child Labour Activity Framework for Ghana (HAF) and the National Plan of Action for the elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, while acknowledging this fact, recommends a minimum age of 12 years.

Also, the Early Child Development Policy of Ghana puts the age of compulsory education at 6 years and a child by this policy would have completed primary school by age 11 and therefore could start socialization by engagement in light work while attending Junior High School (JHS).

Participation of children in economic activity and school attendance

The survey results show that 28.5 percent of children participated in economic activity within the reference period. The proportion of males who participated in economic activities (29.2%) is slightly higher than females (27.9%).

At the locality level, 16.8 percent of the urban children participated in some economic activities within the seven days preceding the survey. The proportion of children who engaged in economic activity in the rural areas was 39.0 percent. A higher proportion of children (44.3%) in rural savannah participated in economic activities compared to 38.8 percent in rural forest and 22.1 percent in rural coastal.

The proportion of children 15-17 years who participated in economic activities was 43.7 percent while that of the 5-7 year age group was 10.0 percent. It is observed that high proportions of children currently attending school within the age groups 12-14 years and 15-17 years (38.3% and 43.7% respectively) participated in economic activities during the reference period compared to the other age groups.

The proportion of children who participated in economic activities while attending school was 82.1 percent while their non-schooling counterparts constituted 45.8 percent.

In terms of locality of residence, the results show that a higher proportion of school children (81.7%) in rural areas were engaged in some economic activity compared to those in urban areas (15.1%).

With respect to ecological zones, the rural forest (88.8%) and rural coastal (85.7%) recorded the highest proportions of school children who were engaged in economic activity compared to the rural savannah (72.1%).

Working hours

The hours of work criterion is embodied in the child labour concept both at the lower and higher risk (worst form) level. For children currently in school, only 4.5 percent worked for 43 hours or more compared to 34.7 percent of those not attending school.

More than half of both male (55.7%) and female (54.5%) children worked for 1-14 hours in a week while a little over a third worked for 15-42 hours. The pattern is similar for both male and female children who were currently attending school. Among the non-schooling children, the proportion of children who worked for 15-42 hours is almost the same for males (45.1%) and females (45.0%).

At the locality level, a slightly higher proportion of children in urban areas (57.8%) worked for 1-14 hours a week compared to those in the rural areas (54.0%). About one in every ten (9.1%) children currently attending school in the rural savannah area worked for 43 hours or more a week, while for children not currently attending school, 74.7 percent in Accra (GAMA) worked for 43 hours or more a week.

Majority of the children (76.8%) worked as skilled agriculture and fishery workers while 14.9 percent worked as service and sales workers. Less than a tenth (3.9% and 4.2%) of the children worked in elementary occupations or as craft and related workers.

In Accra (GAMA), none of the children was engaged in an agricultural activity. Majority (73.2%) of the children in Accra (GAMA) were engaged in service and sales activities with

an additional 16.1 percent engaged in elementary occupations. The proportion of children engaged in agricultural activities in other urban areas was 55.9 percent while those engaged as service/sales workers constituted 31.5 percent, with 8.1 percent engaged in craft and related work.

In terms of age group, the results show that a greater proportion of children (84.2%) within the younger age group (5-7) worked as skilled/fishery workers than their counterparts in the other age groups. Less than a fifth of children in all the age groups worked as service and sales workers.

Industry of working children

More than three-quarters (77.2%) of the working children were engaged in agricultural, forestry and fishery activities, with an additional 12.4 percent engaged in the wholesale and retail trade. A slightly higher proportion of females (4.4%) than males (3.2%) were engaged in manufacturing. Higher proportions of the children in rural savannah (92.7%) and rural forest (84.3%) were engaged in the agricultural sector compared to those in rural coastal (74.2%). More working children (52.3%) were engaged in the wholesale and retail trade industry in Accra (GAMA) than in the other urban areas.

Sector of employment of children 5-17 years

Majority (76.3%) of the economically active children were employed in the private informal sector, followed by the agri-business (14.6%) and the private formal (8.0%) sectors. Overall, the private sector (both informal and formal) provided employment to about 84 percent of the working children (5-17 years).

A higher proportion of the female (81.8%) working children were, however, employed in the private informal sector compared to males (72.5%).

The rural savannah zone (88.8%) recorded the highest proportion of children engaged in the private informal sector while the rural forest (30.5%) had the highest proportion of working children engaged in agri-business.

At the regional level, the Upper East region (96.7%) had the highest proportion of children working in the private informal sector followed by the Northern region (93.0%).

Period of activity of children 5-17 years

Majority of the working children (61.7%) usually worked during the daytime between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Contrary to the existing Children's Act which does not encourage children to be engaged in night work, 1.2 percent of the working children worked in the night. About 4 percent (4.1%) of the working children worked both during the daytime and at night, while 31.0 percent worked on weekends. The proportion of females who worked at night was slightly higher than males (1.4% and 0.9% respectively).

The distribution by age groups indicate that majority of children in the age group 15-17 (69.0%) worked during the day (between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.). Within the ecological zones, the rural savannah (74.6%) had the highest proportion of children working during the daytime. Over a third (36.7%) of children in Accra (GAMA) worked sometimes during the day and sometimes during the night while less than 10 percent (5.9%) worked on weekends.

Risks and dangers at work

More than half of the working children (57.3%) were exposed to dangerous tools (knives) at the place of work. The proportion of children 12-14 years (43.7%) exposed to dust and fumes was higher than the proportion in the other age groups. Within the ecological zones, the proportion of children exposed to fire, gas and flames was higher in urban (11.9%) than in rural (7.3%) areas. At the regional level, the proportion of children exposed to fire, gas or flames was higher in the Greater Accra region (20.3%) followed by the Volta region (16.3%). The Volta region (79.6%) also had the highest proportion of working children exposed to dangerous tools (knives).

Injuries and illnesses of children in economic activities

The proportion of children who had insect bites was higher in the rural areas (42.2%) where children were likely to be working on farms than in urban areas (29.4%). In the Volta region, almost two-thirds (63.3%) of working children had insect bites with an additional 51.6 percent experiencing extreme fatigue. Nearly a fifth (17.7%) of children in the Ashanti region had suffered superficial injuries at their places of work.

Abuse of child at work (5-17years)

About one-fifth (18.5%) of working children had been subjected to constant shouting at the workplace. Even though the proportion of children who suffered sexual harassment was very low, the proportion of females (0.4%) is higher than males (0.1%) as would be expected.

The abuse of children through shouting is prominent in rural (19.5%) than in urban areas (15.8%). The rural savannah has the highest proportion of children who are constantly shouted at. Older children aged 12-14 years (0.3%) and 15-17 years (0.5%) were the most sexually harassed. The Upper East (11.3%) region had the highest proportion of working children repeatedly beaten.

7.1.5 Child Labour and Hazardous Activity

The term “child labour” refers to *children in employment* or those engaged in any activity falling within the production boundary in the SNA for at least one hour during the reference period.

Not all work done by children can be classified as child labour and targeted for elimination. Whether or not particular forms of “work” can be called “child labour” depends on the child’s age, the type of activity performed and hours of work, the conditions under which the activity is performed and the objectives pursued by individual countries.

Child labour

In the GLSS6, it was revealed that 28.5 percent of the children aged 5-17 years participated in economic activity of which males constituted 29.2 percent and females, 27.7 percent. The proportion of children in economic activity was higher in rural (39.0%) than in urban (16.8%) areas. Rural savannah (44.3%) had the highest proportion of children engaged in economic activity while the GAMA recorded the least proportion of 6.1 percent.

In terms of age, it is observed that the proportion of children engaged in economic activity is higher (43.7%) among the older age group (15-17 years) than among children aged 5-7 years (10.0%).

The proportion of children in economic activity at the regional level was higher in Brong Ahafo (41.7%), Upper East (44.5%) and Upper West (45.1%) regions compared to the other regions. The Greater Accra region recorded the least proportion (6.9%) of children who engaged in economic activity during the seven days preceding the survey.

With regard to child labour, the results show that 21.8 percent of persons 5-17 years engaged in child labour. The proportion of male children in child labour was slightly higher (22.7%) than females (20.8%). The proportion of urban children in child labour was 12.4 percent while that of rural localities was 30.2 percent. The rural savannah (34.6%) had the highest proportion of children in child labour.

Among the age groups, the older children (15-17 years) recorded the highest proportion of those engaged in child labour (23.9%). However, per the child labour concept, all children in the younger age group (5-7 years and 8-11 years) who participated in an economic activity were also engaged in child labour.

The proportion of children engaged in child labour varied from one region to another. With the exception of Greater Accra (5.2%) and Central (8.9%) regions, the proportion of children who were engaged in child labour ranged from 20.5 percent in the Western region to 33.5 percent in the Brong Ahafo and Upper West Regions.

Hazardous activity

The proportion of males engaged in hazardous forms of child labour (15.4%) was higher than females (12.9%). There is a remarkable difference in the proportion of children engaged in hazardous forms of child labour in the urban (7.70%) and rural areas (20.70%). The rural savannah (20.9%) zone recorded the highest proportion of children in hazardous forms child labour.

The results of the survey further indicate that, among the age groups, 8.2 percent and 22.3 percent of children aged 5-7 years and 8-11 years respectively engaged in hazardous forms of child labour. About one-quarter (24.4%) of children in Brong Ahafo and one-fifth (22.0%) in the Volta region were engaged in hazardous forms of child labour. The Greater Accra (1.9%) and Central (2.1%) regions have very low proportions of children engaged in hazardous forms of child labour.

Child labour and economic activity

Of the children aged 5-17 years who participated in economic activity, 76.4 percent were involved in child labour out of which 49.7 percent participated in hazardous work. More than 75 percent of both male and female children who participated in economic activity were into child labour while half (50.0%) engaged in hazardous forms of child labour.

At the locality level, the results show that high proportions of children in both urban and rural areas engaged in child labour and hazardous forms of child labour. However, there are some variations; for instance the proportion of children engaged in child labour in urban areas (73.8%) is slightly lower than that recorded for rural areas (77.4%).

In the same vein, the proportion of children engaged in hazardous forms of child labour in rural areas is slightly higher (51.2%) than the urban areas (46.0%). With respect to urban areas, the GAMA recorded the least proportion (26.5%) of children in hazardous forms of child labour. In terms of ecological zones, the table shows that seven out every ten children in

each of the zones engaged in child labour with fifty percent of the children engaged in hazardous forms of child labour.

By age categorization, the data show that all the children in the younger age groups (5-7 and 8-11 years) were engaged in child labour, with more than 40 percent of all children engaged in hazardous forms of child labour. More than 70 percent of children who participated in economic activities in each of the regions engaged in child labour, while more than 45 percent engaged in hazardous forms of child labour.

Child labour and non-economic activity

One out of every four children (25.3%) participated in household chores and also in child labour while 16.6 percent participated in both household chores and hazardous forms of child labour.

The proportions of male children who participated in household chores and were also involved in child labour and hazardous forms of child labour were higher (26.7% and 16.6% respectively) than females (23.9% and 14.8%). This is contrary to the perception that boys do not undertake household chores.

Locality of residence has a major influence on children engaged in housekeeping activities. On average, about one out of every three (34.0%) children living in rural areas who were engaged in household chores were also engaged in child labour compared to 15.4 percent of children in the urban areas. The incidence of hazardous forms of child labour is also highest in the rural areas (22.8%). Within the ecological zones, four out every ten the children who participated in household chores and were in child labour were resident in the Rural Savannah zone (40.3%); Again, 25.1 percent of the children who engaged in household chores and were exposed to hazardous activities were found in the savannah zone.

Within the age groups, younger children were more likely to engage in housekeeping activities. Higher proportions of children in the younger age-groups of 8-11 years (28.9%) and 12-14 years (27.7%) were found to engage in housekeeping activities than the older children aged 15-17 years, which accounted for 24.6 percent to be involved in housekeeping activities.

At the regional level, children in Brong Ahafo (40.7%) and in the Upper West (37.6%) regions who participated in household chores were also involved in child labour. The least proportion was observed in the Greater Accra (6.9%) region. The Volta Region (11.9%) had the highest proportion of those who did not participate in household chores and were exposed to hazardous forms of child labour.

Work-related health and safety of children

The proportion of male and female children in child labour who were reported to be suffering from illnesses or injuries were relatively the same. Again, the proportion of children who suffered injury or job-related illness increases with age. Older children engaged in more strenuous, demanding and hazardous activities; they are also exposed to more hours of work than younger children and, therefore, the risk of getting hurt is much greater.

The proportion of children labourers who suffered injuries and health related issues is higher in the age group 8-11 years (92.9%). Similarly, a higher proportion of children (55.5%) in hazardous forms of child labour who reported suffering from injury or health problems is found the same age group.

Abuse of children in child labour activities (5-17years)

Working children engaged in child labour and other forms of hazardous work are often exposed to various forms of abuses at the workplace. About nine in every ten (91%) children involved in child labour reported undergoing some form of abuse with another 87.4 percent of those exposed to hazardous forms of work reporting abuses at the workplace.

A slightly higher proportion of males (88.1%) who were involved in hazardous forms of child labour were reported to be abused at the workplace than their female counterparts (86.7%). In terms of locality, the proportions of children involved in child labour and hazardous work in rural areas (92.2% and 89.6% respectively) are higher than in urban areas (87.2% and 80.2% respectively).

The proportion of younger children aged 5-7 years (93.4%) and 8-11 years (93.6%) who were involved in child labour and suffered abuse were relatively much higher than the older children. With the exception of the Central region, more than four out of every five children involved in child labour suffered some form of abuse.

7.2 Conclusions

The study shows that 28.5 percent of children participated in economic activity within the reference period. The proportion of males (29.2%) who participated in economic activities is slightly higher than females (27.7%). The proportion of children who participated in economic activities among the age group 15-17 years is 43.7 percent while that of the 5-7 year age group is 10.0 percent.

Higher proportions of children within the age groups 12-14 and 15-17 years who were currently attending school participated in economic activity compared to the other age groups. The proportion of children who participated in economic activities while attending school is lower than their non-schooling counterparts.

About three-quarters of the working children are engaged in agricultural, forestry and fishery activities, with an additional 12.4 percent engaged in the wholesale and retail trade. A slightly higher proportion of females than males are engaged in manufacturing. Higher proportions of the children in rural savannah and rural forest are engaged in the agriculture sector compared to the rural coastal. The proportion of working children in the wholesale and retail trade industry in Accra (GAMA) is higher than the other urban areas.

Majority of the economically active child population were employed in the private informal sector, followed by the agri-business and the private formal sectors. Thus, the private sector (both informal and formal) provided employment to about 84 percent of the population.

Majority of working children usually work during the daytime between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Contrary to the existing Children's Act which does not encourage children to be engaged in night work, 1.2 percent of working children work in the night. Majority of children in the age group 15-17 years worked during the day (between 6 a.m. and 6p.m). Within the ecological zones, the rural savannah has the highest proportion of children working during the day time. Over a third of children in Accra (GAMA) work sometimes during the day and sometimes during the night while less than 10 percent work on weekends.

More than half of the working children are exposed to dangerous tools (knives) at the place of work. The proportion of children 12-14 years exposed to dust and fumes is higher than the

other age groups. Within the ecological zones, the proportion of children exposed to fire, gas and flames is higher in urban areas than rural areas.

About one-fifth of working children have been subjected to constantly being shouted at. Even though the proportion of children who suffered sexual harassment is very low, the proportion of females is higher than males.

Child labour and hazardous activity

With regards to child labour the data reveal that 26.4 percent of persons 5-17 years engage in child labour. The proportion of male children in child labour is slightly higher than the females. The proportion of urban children in child labour is 12.4 percent while that of the rural is 30.2 percent. The rural savannah (34.6%) has the highest proportion of children in child labour.

Among the age groups, about one-quarter of children 8-11 years (25.6%) and those 12-14 years (26.9%) were engaged in child labour.

With exception to the Greater Accra (5.2%) and Central (8.9%), the proportion of children engaged in child labour across the regions ranged from 20.5 percent in the Western region to 33.5 percent in the Brong Ahafo and Upper West regions.

The proportion of males (15.4%) engaged in hazardous forms of child labour is slightly higher than females (12.9%). There is a remarkable difference in the proportion of children engaged in hazardous forms of child labour in the urban (20.0%) and rural (7.7%) areas.

Of the children 5-17 years who participated in economic activity, almost one-quarter of those 15-17 years (23.9%) were involved in hazardous forms of child labour. The proportion of children engaged in hazardous forms of child labour in rural areas (20.9%) is higher than the urban areas (7.7%).

The proportion of males and females suffering illnesses or injuries is the same for those in child labour. Again, the proportion of children who suffered injury or job-related illness on their health increases with age. Older children were engaged in more strenuous, demanding and more hazardous activities; they also worked more hours than younger children and, therefore, having a higher risk of getting hurt at the work place.

7.3 Recommendations

The results of the survey indicate that some of the children who were engaged in both economic and non-economic activities were adversely affected in terms of their education and health. In order to minimize the negative effects that these activities have on working children, the following recommendations are made:

The Government should target vulnerable households, especially children from poor households engaged in agriculture, fishing and forestry industry as part of the poverty reduction strategies. Majority of the children indicated their willingness to go to school. The government should, therefore, fully implement the Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (fCUBE) programme to help improve and expand access to and use of educational opportunities. Basic education and skills development should be made more accessible to, and affordable for children in poor households. District Assemblies should identify the genuinely poor/vulnerable groups within their communities, especially households engaged

in agriculture, fishing and forestry industry, and develop social protection schemes to assist both parents and children.

The Department of Social Welfare and related children's groups should be well equipped to support children in child labour. The Child Labour Unit must be resourced in terms of staff and logistics for the effective coordination and monitoring of the national child labour elimination programme. The government must establish an integrated child labour inspection system involving Labour, Factory and Education Inspectors, District Assemblies, Agricultural Extension Officers, Department of Social Welfare and Community Development and others.

The JSS system must be restructured to make it more attractive, relevant and accessible to children. The system must provide opportunities for final year students to re-sit their examinations in order to reduce the number of school drop-outs who keep swelling the number of children on the streets. Vocational guidance and counselling units must be established as an integral part of the Ghanaian education and employment system to provide guidance to both children and parents on available opportunities.

The Children's Act has to be enforced and made fully operational. Legal and judicial practitioners must be trained on child labour issues to ensure that appropriate sanctions are taken against perpetrators in order to provide adequate protection for children. The enforcement agencies such as the Police, Customs and Immigration must be sensitized on the Child Labour Act, (Act 560) as well as their role in the child labour elimination programme.

The government must establish centres in every district for the reception, counselling, rehabilitation and re-integration of victims of child labour. District Assemblies should facilitate collaboration among stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental agencies, for the effective utilization of available resources.

These results must be widely utilized by programme planners and policy makers such as the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations (MELR), the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) and the Ministry of Education, Parliamentarians, District Chief Executives and Non-governmental Organizations to develop strategies to address the problem identified in this report

Child labour should be used as one of the indicators of poverty reduction. Child labour issues should therefore, be mainstreamed into the poverty reduction programmes of the government.

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APPENDIX

Main findings from GLSS 6 on Child Labour

Children 5-14 years

