

**Towards an internationally accepted  
statistical definition of child labour:  
children's activities and their definitions**

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## **1. Introduction**

1.1 This report serves to complement ILO/IPEC's (International Labour Organisation/International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour) ongoing work towards the preparation of the technical report and draft resolution on child labour statistics to be presented at the 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS). It lists the different activities that children engage in and suggests a definition for each. This listing of children's activities and their descriptions is done within the conceptual framework of developing an internationally agreed statistical definition of child labour. The key sources for the compilation were the national reports on child labour surveys prepared by various countries under the guidance of ILO's Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC). Rapid assessments on child labour aspects that supported SIMPOC were also consulted.

1.2 The structure of the document is as follows. Section 2 presents definitions of child labour and some related terms while Section 3 maps children's activities and summarizes various aspects of the debate on developing an internationally accepted definition of child labour. Sections 4 and 5 list the economic and non-economic activities of children respectively and suggest a definition for each of the activities. Section 6 outlines the main conclusions. It is important to note that while Section 2 develops a background for the work done under Section 3, an attempt is made to minimize the degree of overlap between definitions presented therein and definitions presented in Sections 4 and 5.

1.3 As mentioned above, Sections 4 and 5 provide a list of the economic and non-economic activities by children and together constitute essentially a compendium of children's activities. Within the respective sections, examples of activities identified in the examined reports for the concerned activity group (that is, economic and non-economic) are cited. Thereafter these illustrations are classified and listed in a framework that defines possibilities for children's status at any given point of time, the kind of activities that children may engage in when they are in such a status and which may therefore be applied to classify a child under the concerned activity group. The sources from which the activities and their suggested definitions are adapted are referenced as endnotes to the corresponding definitions.

## **2. Definitions of child labour and related terms**

2.1 Any definition or measurement of child labour (CL) assumes a definition of the child and of labour. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN-CRC), Article 1 defines a child as: "For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law

applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.” In other words, the Convention

It is notable that both children’s work and child labour, as defined in the reports on national child labour surveys by different countries vary with reference to reflecting solely children’s economic activities, or both economic and non-economic activities.

*Working children:* refer to those children aged 5-17 years who participated in economic activities and domestic chores at the time of the survey. (*Uganda 2000/2001 Child Labour Report .. child labour per se is not defined*)

*Child labour:* includes any form of economic activity for at least one hour per week, and/or and domestic chores of at least seven hours per week, and/or school labour for at least five hours per week. (*South Africa 1999 Child Labour Report*)

*Child labour:* any activity, economic or non-economic performed by a child, that is either too dangerous or hazardous and/or for which the child is too small to perform and that has the potential to negatively affect his/her health, education, moral and normal development would constitute child labour. ... In drawing conclusions on CL, the GCLS assumes a cut-off point of 4 hours per day as the maximum period children going to school or receiving skill training can work (both in economic and non-economic activities). (*Ghana 2003 Child Labour Survey*)

*Child labour:* as referred to in the NCLS consists of all children under 18 years of age who are economically active except (i) those who are under 5 years old and (ii) those between 12-14 years who spend more than 14 hours a week on their jobs, unless their activities or occupations are hazardous by nature of circumstance. Added to this are 15-17 year old children in Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) including hazardous work and/or working 43 hours and more per week. This principle has been applied to measuring child labour of the country, as based on NCLS data. (*Bangladesh 2002-03 National Child Labour Survey*)

*Child labour:* Child labour is a narrower concept than ‘economically active children’ ... and defined as comprising :

In ages 5-11: all children at work in economic activity;

In ages 12-14: all children at work in economic activity minus those in light work;

In ages 15-17: all children in hazardous work and other worst forms of child labour (*Belize 2001 Child Activity Survey*)

generally defines a child as any person under the age of 18, unless an earlier age of majority is recognized by a country's law. However, national legislation on the minimum age requirements of children to participate in different situations applicable to their contexts (for example, schooling, employment, etc.) varies widely and this reflects the diverse economic, cultural and social realities among countries.

2.2 Economic activity covers all market production (paid work) and certain types of non-market production (unpaid work), including production of goods for own use. Therefore, whether paid or unpaid, the activity or occupation could be in the formal or informal sectors and in urban or rural areas. The accepted definition of “economic activity” does not generally include those persons doing household chores in their own household even if for many it represents a full-time occupation. Only those who are

engaged as domestic workers or maids in other people's households are considered to be engaged in economic activity. Moreover, illegal activity is included as work. Those who are unemployed, that is, those who are seeking work and are available for work are also included in the category of being economically active. Activities which fall outside the SNA production boundary are considered non-economic activities. For example, activities such as personal care, studying, participation in sports, arts, childcare and caring for the disabled, sick and elderly are considered to be non-economic activities. The general production boundary which is distinct from the SNA production boundary also distinguishes between economic and non-economic production, but it understands economic production to include any human-controlled activity resulting in outputs appropriate for exchange, that is, the goods and services produced should be marketable. The latter criterion suggests that only basic human activities (e.g. eating and sleeping) are excluded, while services such as washing, preparing meals, and caring for children, the aged and the ill, fall within the general production boundary, since they can be exchanged between different units. Therefore, some household chores may fall under the scope of the general production boundary.

2.3 The experience of ILO and discussions in the research agenda on child labour (CL) has demonstrated the need to distinguish between children's work and child labour, as it cannot be assumed that all children's work is incompatible with child welfare and development. For example, not all economic activities by a child interfere with school attendance and school performance, since work performed during school vacations or work performed for a limited number of hours during school terms/semesters can be beneficial to the child's welfare as several empirical studies have attested.

2.4 As a starting point, the framework for measurement of CL is based on the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.138) which defines a range of minimum ages below which no child should be allowed to work and stipulates that:

- The minimum age for employment should normally not be less than 15 years, but exemptions can be made for developing countries who may fix it at 14.
- The minimum age for permitting light work should not be less than 13 years, but developing countries may fix it at 12.
- The minimum age for admission to hazardous work should not be less than 18 years, but under strict conditions may be permitted at 16.

2.5 Light work is defined by ILO Convention No.138 in Article 7 as work that should, (a) not be harmful to a child's health and development and, (b) not prejudice attendance at school and participation in vocational training or "the capacity to benefit from the instruction received". It does not specify the number of hours, however.

The terms children's work, working children, children at work, and economically active children are used interchangeably in this publication.<sup>a</sup> All denote a broader concept than child labour. It comprises all persons of either sex who furnish the supply of labour for the production of goods and services defined by the System of National Accounts during a specified reference period.

The notion of working children is based on the concept of economic activity, and encompasses most activities undertaken by children involving the production of goods and services, whether

- for the market or not;
- paid or unpaid;
- part-time or full-time;
- performed on a casual or a regular basis;
- in the formal or informal sector;
- the activities are legal or illegal.

It excludes

- chores undertaken in the child's own household;
- activities that are part of schooling; and
- children seeking work for which they are available if it is offered.

<sup>a</sup> extracted from IPEC, *Global Child Labour Trends 2000 to 2004* (Geneva, April 2006).

2.6 Another complementary factor in measuring CL is WFCL defined by Article 3 of ILO Convention No. 182 as:

- (a) All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage, serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- (b) The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- (c) The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;
- (d) Work, which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

It should be noted that sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) are referred to as 'unconditional WFCL' in the ILO Global CL Report 2002, and these are absolutely prohibited for all persons under the age of 18 years; hazardous work refers to sub-paragraph (d).

2.7 Although in terms of Convention 182 establishing criteria for the identification of hazardous work is left to the discretion of the countries, Recommendation No. 190 specifies that particular consideration should to be given, *inter alia*, to:

- work that exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse;

- work underground, under water, at dangerous heights and in confined spaces;
- work with dangerous machinery, equipment, and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads;
- work in an unhealthy environment which may, for example, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health;
- work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night, or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer.

2.8 In surveying working children, IPEC/ SIMPOC makes the suggestion that all children below five years of age as assumed to be *not* economically active. Children, 5-11 years of age, working in economic activities are considered to be in child labour that requires elimination. Working children aged 12 to 14 are considered in child labour unless they perform light work. For children aged 15 to 18, only those engaged in the worst forms of child labour are categorized as child labourers. In other words, the ILO-SIMPOC approach includes three types of work under the category of child labour:

- i) Work performed by a child who is under the minimum age specified for that kind of work (as defined by national legislation, in accordance with accepted international standards) which will likely impede the child's education and full development;
- ii) Hazardous work i.e. work that jeopardizes the physical, mental, or moral well-being of a child, either because of its nature or because of the conditions in which it is carried out; and
- iii) Unconditional WFCL internationally defined as slavery, trafficking, debt bondage and other forms of forced labour, forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict, prostitution, pornography and illicit activities.

2.9 The ILO CL Global Report 2006 has stated that by the major sectors of economic activity, namely, agriculture, industry, and services, children's work is primarily concentrated in the agricultural sector (comprising agriculture, hunting, forestry, and fishing) and accounts for more than two thirds (69 per cent) of all working children in the age group 5 to 14. The industry sector consisting of mining and quarrying, manufacturing, construction and public utilities (electricity, gas and water) accounts for 9 per cent of working children. The services sector that consists of wholesale and retail trade; restaurants and hotels, transport, storage, and communications, finance, insurance, real-estate and business services; and community as well as social personal services, absorbs 22 per cent of working children. Of major concern is that the informal economy of a country has the greatest concentration of child labourers since, whether urban or rural, it is usually unorganized and lacks a proper regulatory framework in which production occurs.

### 3. Mapping children’s activities and the debate on development of an internationally accepted definition of child labour

3.1 The SNA covers all market production as well as certain types of non-market production, including the production and processing of primary products for own consumption, own-account construction and other production of fixed assets for own use. In what follows, examples are provided for economic and non-economic activities. These are followed by a discussion of the measurement issues surrounding such a classification and how these relate to the broader context of the debate on development of an internationally accepted definition of child labour.

3.2 The following tables taken from the SIMPOC Manual on Child Labour Statistics (2004) illustrate, respectively, examples of (a) non-market household production considered to be economic activities by the SNA, and (b) economic and non-economic activities.

**Table 1: Examples of non-market household production considered to be economic activities**

Primary production	Processing primary products	Other production of goods	Fixed capital formation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing or gathering field crops, fruits and vegetables</li> <li>• Producing eggs, milk and food</li> <li>• Hunting animals and birds</li> <li>• Catching fish, crabs and shellfish</li> <li>• Cutting firewood and building poles</li> <li>• Collecting thatching and weaving materials</li> <li>• Burning charcoal</li> <li>• Mining salt</li> <li>• Cutting peat</li> <li>• Cutting water</li> <li>• Fetching water</li> <li>• Collecting firewood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threshing and milling grain</li> <li>• Making butter and cheese</li> <li>• Slaughtering livestock</li> <li>• Curing hides and skins</li> <li>• Preserving meat and skins</li> <li>• Making beer, wine and spirits</li> <li>• Crushing oil seeds</li> <li>• Weaving baskets and plates</li> <li>• Weaving textiles</li> <li>• Making furniture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storing crops</li> <li>• Dressing and tailoring</li> <li>• Handicrafts made from non-primary products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of dwellings</li> <li>• Construction of farm buildings</li> <li>• Building boats and canoes</li> <li>• Clearing land for cultivation</li> <li>• Major repair and maintenance of dwellings and farm buildings</li> </ul>

Source: United Nations, *Collection of Economic Characteristics in Population Censuses*, Technical Report, United Nations Statistics Division and the International Labour Organization Bureau of Statistics, ST/ESA/STAT/119, (United Nations, New York, 2002).

**Table 2: Illustrative set of economic and non-economic activities**

<b>Economically active</b>	<b>Not economically active</b>
<p><b>Employed</b> (in terms of definition of “employed persons”)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wage jobs               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– full time or part time</li> <li>– permanent or temporary</li> <li>– casual or piecework</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Including <i>paid</i> child minding and other <i>paid</i> domestic work. Can be paid in cash or kind (e.g. food or accommodation).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business activities               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– large or small, agricultural or non-agricultural</li> <li>– small shop/kiosk/street stall</li> <li>– preparation/selling juice, soft drinks</li> <li>– taxi operator</li> <li>– shoe cleaning/sewing business</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Any activities on own or family farms for the purpose of production for sale or for home consumption including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– planting crops</li> <li>– harvesting crops</li> <li>– keeping birds and other pests from crops</li> <li>– weeding</li> <li>– transportation of goods from the fields for storage or for sale</li> <li>– fetching water and firewood for domestic use</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fishing, collecting shells, or seaweed for sale or home consumption.</li> <li>• Processing of agricultural or natural products for sale <i>or</i> home consumption               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– mats, hats from natural or grown fibres</li> <li>– furniture from natural timber</li> <li>– butter/cheese/etc. from milk</li> <li>– oil from oil seeds/fruit</li> <li>– preparation of charcoal</li> </ul> </li> <li>• House or farm building/construction               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– fence/enclosure/storage construction</li> <li>– road/irrigation construction</li> <li>– house construction/additions</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>plus unemployed (persons not employed, and who are seeking work and are available for work if offered)</p>	<p><b>Neither employed nor unemployed</b> Persons doing the following activities and are neither employed nor unemployed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full-time students only</li> <li>• All types of housework including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– unpaid child minding own/other children</li> <li>– education/training of own children at home</li> <li>– housecleaning and decorating exclusively for own household</li> <li>– cooking/preparing meals for own household</li> <li>– caring for the sick and aged (unpaid)</li> <li>– repairs (minor) to own dwelling, etc.</li> <li>– repair of own domestic equipment and vehicles</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Persons in the following status who are neither employed nor unemployed in the period               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– retired</li> <li>– disabled</li> <li>– living off investment, rental or pension income (no current activity to earn it)</li> <li>– idle</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Beggars/persons seeking donations for charities; the money paid to persons in these two categories does not count as their “income”, in the sense of remuneration for an “economic activity” (work done); however, when these two categories of persons are engaged on a wage payment (in cash or kind, full time or part time) by someone to make collections, then, to the extent the work is done for wage payment, their <i>services</i> are to be deemed as economic activities, and they would be considered as employed.</li> </ul>

3.3 As can be seen from the tables, children can engage in a number of non-economic activities other than schooling. A large proportion of these are unpaid domestic or personal services provided by household members within the household, including housekeeping activities such as cleaning, decorating, preparing and serving meals; caring for children, invalids, or old people in the home and making small repairs to one's own house. As noted earlier, household chores fall outside the boundary of economic activities set by the SNA framework, but within the concept of economic production as set by the general production boundary. While data on time spent by children in domestic chores are collected in most related surveys, the classification of such activities is not as precise as it is for economic activities. Further, there is a view that upper thresholds of permissibility for time spent on household chores is required and should be developed. Where such thresholds are exceeded, even non-economic activities performed by children should be labelled as potential child labour and therefore undesirable.

3.4 Thus, different segments of society have different views on what is considered to be legitimate child labour and the range of statistical definitions of child labour adopted by researchers to measure children engaged in various non-schooling activities include:

- (a) Working children only (i.e. children engaged in only economic activities);
- (b) Children in non-economic activities (including household chores) plus working children; and
- (c) Child labour understood to represent a subset of working children (the ILO/SIMPOC approach).

3.5 Although the SIMPOC approach to the identification and definition of child labour has been often applied in empirical work by national governments and researchers, to estimate the magnitude of child labour a considerable divergence of views remains regarding what constitutes permissible work by children and what constitutes child labour to be abolished. Accordingly, much debate has also taken place in development policy in the English language over the use of the terms child work and child labour and the distinctions between the two.

3.6 Supporters of a wider definition (one that includes non-economic activities such as domestic chores) of child labour argue that adhering to the narrower definition which excludes household chores underestimates the incidence of female child workers since domestic chores constitute a large part of non-economic activities of the girl child especially in low-income developing countries. Proponents of inclusion are of the view

that in order to learn whether child labour activity interferes with schooling, it is necessary to go beyond the internationally accepted definition of labour force activity by including non-labour force activities, since housework and child care take up a great deal of children's time, particularly the girl child's.

3.7 The framework for addressing CL comes from the UN-CRC that seeks to promote certain rights of children and therefore CL that conflicts with the interests of the child (in terms of the prescribed rights, welfare and development) are discouraged and are targeted for eventual elimination. This rights-based approach has a moral dimension to it and therefore appropriateness of any work done by the child is judged by its effect on the child's best interest. But the term *best interest* has no unique interpretation as standards, values and preferences vary at the individual, household, national and international levels. In other words, this approach begs the question who is judging best interest and what is the criterion? As Basu and Van (1998) point out "much of what we consider moral or immoral depends upon what we are used to" and explain that some societies view corporal punishment of children (to a certain degree) as natural and even desirable, but other societies view it as unacceptable. In the same spirit, for some societies (to an extent) working children are tolerated, whereas other societies have an aversion to this phenomenon.

3.8 It has been suggested that in order to distinguish whether a certain type of child work can be classified as child labour will depend upon key questions such as "is the arrangement exploitative?" (Grootaert and Kanbur, 1995). But the difficulty with this approach is that judgments about exploitation depend upon acquired morality or moral relativism (Basu, 1999). In other words, exploitation is a value-laden term in that one society can deem CL as unacceptable, whereas another society can view it as natural and even desirable.

3.9 The implication of moral relativism and the rights based approach towards CL is that measurement of CL is not standardized because different segments of society have different views on the extent to which children's engagement in economic activity may be considered as legitimate and permissible. This lack of concurrence on what constitutes child labour implies that it is best, therefore, to have as objective a criterion as possible. However, reaching an agreement on an operational and statistical definition for the measurement of CL is challenging, as currently it is not standardized.

3.10 One approach to an objective measure of whether or not some types of child activity can be classified as child labour should depend upon empirical evidence such as number of hours spent on both economic and non-economic activities and whether

those number of hours are determined to be excessive such that learning and health outcomes are threatened. This, in turn, implies that in addition to child work, appropriate indicators of child schooling (as measured via school attendance, child learning, and child performance), health and well-being are also required. However, the definitional and methodological issues surrounding child work and its outcomes are not trivial and attention needs to be focused on establishing standardized concepts and methodologies for the measurement of child work, schooling, health and well-being.

3.11 As the first step, an assessment of the definitional and measurement requirements for children activities is required. Thus, in Sections 4 and 5, respectively, the list of statistical terms related to economic and non-economic activities in which children have been observed to engage in (through ILO/IPEC supported surveys) are compiled and, where relevant, definitions are provided. In the accompanying Annex the survey sources are indicated.

#### **4. Economic activities of children (gainful work) <sup>1</sup>**

##### **Examples include:**

1. Gathering uncultivated (wild) fruits and berries, gardening for own consumption, gathering firewood, fetching water, hunting, fishing, cutting peat, milking animals, churning milk, threshing, milling, grinding/pounding, poultry feeding, gathering eggs. <sup>i</sup>

2. Activities in rural and urban areas: *rural activities* include tiling and clearing land, planting and weeding of food crops, harvesting including picking cotton, tobacco and tea, tending to livestock including grazing, fishing and hunting small game (with or without dogs), bricklaying, making crafts from grass and other materials, charcoal preparation/making; *urban activities* include petty vending in suburbs or public places, selling groundnuts, sweet potatoes, buns and cigarettes, hawking, washing cars, guarding other people's cars while the owners of the cars do their shopping, carrying other people's heavy shopping from one point to another, breaking stones. <sup>ii</sup>

##### **Possible status of children and variety of statistical terms applied:**

1. *Working children*: refers to children who reported engagement in an economic activity as defined (before) for at least one hour on any day during the reference week, or during a certain number of months during the reference year, or in a non-economic

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<sup>1</sup> Superscripts under this section refers to end-notes (in the Annex) where the survey source is provided

activity (studying, looking for work, and/or housekeeping) during the reference week if it exceeds a certain number of hours.<sup>iii</sup>

2. *Non-working children*: those persons who have not performed any type of work in the last reference week.

3. *Economically active children*: includes<sup>iv</sup> those who fall under one of the following categories: (a) children at work: children who are economically active during the reference period for at least one hour as a regular or casual employee, employer, self-employed or unpaid family worker; (b) children not at work: children who have a job but who are not at work during the reference period for various reasons; (c) children who are unemployed: children who are not occupied with any activity listed under the economic activity categorization but are ready to work or actively seek work in the reference period. In other words, the child work force comprises of economically active children, that is, both employed and unemployed children.<sup>v</sup>

4. *Currently economically active children*: those who are either employed or unemployed during a short reference period (for instance, one week preceding the date of the interview).<sup>vi</sup> They are divided into two categories: (a) currently employed: children who work in an economic activity for at least one hour during a short reference period and are either paid employed or self-employed and (b) currently unemployed, or children at risk: meaning children who are without work during a short reference period and are currently available for/seeking work.

5. *Usually economically active children*: those who are either employed or unemployed for half or more of the specified reference period.<sup>vii</sup> They are divided into two categories: (a) usually employed: children who spend half or more of the economically active months (reference period of 12 months) working and (b) usually unemployed: children who spend more than half of the economically active months unemployed.

6. *Economically inactive children/children not in the labour force*: children who are not engaged in any economic activity, that is, those children who are engaged in household chores only.<sup>viii</sup> It includes<sup>ix</sup> children who are neither working nor looking for work, such as those engaged in household chores, students, the idle and those committed to institutions such as jails (see non-economic activities of children/ section 5)

7. *Currently not economically active children*: children who are neither employed nor unemployed in the short reference period (past seven days or previous week).<sup>x</sup> It includes children doing purely unpaid domestic work in their own homes, minding

younger children, cooking food for own family (household chores) or not working because they were sick or studying.

**8. Usually not economically active children:** those who did not work and were not available for work for more than half of the reference period (previous 12 months).

**9. Employed children:** refers to children who do some work, in the reference period, for payment in cash/kind, or who are in self-employment for profit/family gain.<sup>xi</sup> Unpaid family helpers in family business and children who are temporarily absent from these activities but are definitely going to return to them (e.g. on leave or sick) are counted as employed. Fetching water, collection of firewood in own homes or paid domestic work in other households are counted as economic work (or employment). Alternatively, it comprises all children above the age specified for measuring the economically active population who, during a specified period, were in one of the following categories<sup>xii</sup>:

Paid employment (a) at work: children who, during the reference period, perform some work for wages or salary, in cash or kind; (b) with a job but not at work: children who, having already worked in their present job, are temporarily not at work during the reference period but have a formal attachment to their job; and self-employment: (a) at work: persons who, during the reference period, perform some work for profit or family gain, in cash or kind; (b) with an enterprise but not at work: persons with an enterprise, which may be a business enterprise, a farm, or a service undertaking, who are temporarily not at work during the reference period for certain specified reasons.

**10. Unemployed children:** children who are not employed as defined above and who stated that they are available for work.<sup>xiii</sup>

#### **Statistical terms applied for forms of children's activities:**

**11. Paid activities of children:** activities for which children are paid a wage either in cash or in kind. The work itself may be regular or seasonal.<sup>xiv</sup>

**12. Unpaid activities of children:** activities for which children are not directly paid in any form.

**13. Household economic activities (full-time/part-time):** refers to the work performed by children either within their families or for other families the children's parents may be indebted to.

**14. Household operated activities or businesses:** for purposes of the survey, household-based activities refer to economic activities operated by any member of the household like palay farming, fishing, barber shops, sari-sari store, bagoong-making, basket-weaving, dental clinic and other household operated businesses.<sup>xv</sup>

**15. Unpaid family worker (full-time/part-time):** a child who works for family gain in his own family enterprise or farm without payment. The services rendered for the benefit of own household that lie outside the production boundary (housekeeping activities) are not included under this category.<sup>xvi</sup> Or, it refers to children who work at least one hour in the reference period (other than household work) without pay in a family operated farm or in business owned/operated by the household head or other members of the household to whom he/she is related by kinship, marriage, adoption or dependency.<sup>xvii</sup> Or, it refers to a child is defined as a family worker if he/she practices or has practiced without remuneration an occupation for 15 hours or more in the reference week in a business run by a member of his or her own family.<sup>xviii</sup>

**16. Non-domestic worker:** one who works with or without remuneration in cash or in kind in any other economically active sector besides households.<sup>xix</sup>

**17. Own account worker<sup>xx</sup>/ self-employed/ independent:** a child who works on his/ her own for profit without employing any persons. Or, it refers to a child who operates or has operated his/her own economic business or private enterprise, or independently practices or has practiced a profession or trade but has no employees who report to him or her.<sup>xxi</sup> The person may work alone or as an associate. Or, it refers to those who operate their own economic enterprise for profit or consumption without employing other people.<sup>xxii</sup> Those who are assisted in such enterprises by household/family members for no direct payment are also included.

**18. Employer<sup>xxiii</sup>:** a child is said to be engaged in an economic activity as an employer, if at least one employee works under him. Or, it refers to a child who runs his or her own economic business (alone or as an associate) or who practices a profession or trade on his or her own and having one or more employees reporting to him or her and receiving a salary in money or in kind.<sup>xxiv</sup>

**19. Employee<sup>xxv</sup>:** a child is considered to be engaged in an economic activity as an employee if he gets cash/kind payment for his work. Or, it refers to a child who works or has worked for a public or private employer and receives or has received remuneration in the form of salary, wages, commissions, pay by piecework, or pay in kind.<sup>xxvi</sup>

**20. Regular worker/employee:** a child who has regular employment and receives wages or salary from the enterprise/establishment/organization to which he/she is attached for performing the assigned work.<sup>xxvii</sup>

**21. Salaried worker:** a child who works for regular wages or salaries, often paid on a monthly or weekly basis with a longer-term (at least 3 months) contract.<sup>xxviii</sup>

**22. Full-time employees:** refers to salaried workers whose services are engaged for full working hours of the enterprise/establishment/organization for which they work.<sup>xxix</sup>

**23. Part-time employees:** refers to salaried workers whose services are for specified hours but less than full working hours within an enterprise or establishment's working hours.<sup>xxx</sup>

**24. Government employee:** a child who works or has worked for the national or municipal government, autonomous or semi-autonomous institutions and state enterprises and receives or has received in exchange for his or her work remuneration as wages or salary.<sup>xxxi</sup>

**25. Private business employee:** a child who works or has worked for a private employer and receives or has received remuneration in the form of salary, wages, commissions, pay by piece work, or pay in kind.<sup>xxxii</sup>

**26. Casual worker<sup>xxxiii</sup>/day labour:** refers to a child wage-earner whose services are solicited only periodically during the reference period.

**27. New workers:** those who have never worked and are searching for their first job.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

**28. Apprentices<sup>xxxv</sup>/technical and vocational trainees:** particular types of trainees who may have been directly engaged in producing goods and services or may have been simply learning by observation without actually performing any meaningful productive tasks. The types of training<sup>xxxvi</sup> may include fittings/mechanics, carpentry, masonry, tailoring, blacksmithing/goldsmithing, textile/weaving, draughtsmanship, driving, electricals, dressmaking, hairdressing, bakery/catering, farming and animal grazing.

**29. Paid apprentices:** are learners of trades (jobs) who are paid some nominal amount in cash or kind by their employers.<sup>xxxvii</sup>

**30. Unpaid apprentices:** are like their paid counterparts - learners of a trade. However, they receive no payments either in cash or kind for the services rendered to their employers.

**31. Member of a production cooperative:** a person who participates or has participated in a business association dedicated to producing or manufacturing a type of article or good, requiring some degree of transformation. Generally all associates share the same decision-making authority and benefits are reinvested and distributed cooperatively.<sup>xxxviii</sup>

**32. Not-for-profit employee:** a person who works for a not-for-profit organization.

**33. Child labour :** refers to work that is mentally, physically or morally dangerous and harmful to children and interferes with their schooling, by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school and by obliging them to leave school prematurely; or by requiring them to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.<sup>xxxix</sup> Alternatively, it refers to (i) all children aged 5-11 years involved in work; (ii) all children aged 12-14 years involved in work beyond their capacity, or in work which is not light work as provided for in national legislation and/or working for a total of 14 hours or more per week; (iii) all children aged 15-17 years involved in hazardous work and/or working an equivalent of 43 or more hours per week. Or, it refers to children's work which is inconsistent with the principles set under the ILO Convention No.138 (1973) on minimum age to employment, the ILO Convention No. 182 (1999) on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) which stipulates that children should be protected from economic exploitation and any work which is hazardous, interferes with their schooling or is harmful to their health and development.<sup>xi</sup> It therefore refers to work where the child is below the minimum age for a given occupation or type of work, or work in an otherwise non-hazardous occupation under conditions that render the work hazardous for adolescents. Or, child labour refers to children less than 18 years old who work in both the formal and informal sectors, in conditions that are harmful to the child. The criteria for child labour include: working children 12-14 years working for more than 14 hours per week, working children 15-17 years employed for more than 43 hours per week, working children employed at night, working children with no opportunity to go to school and working children exposed to dangerous and unsafe situations.<sup>xii</sup>

**34. Employed classifications:** employed children and those who have worked previously are categorized with respect to the economic activity they are engaged in, and the occupation and job status they hold.<sup>xlii</sup>

**35. Occupation:** refers to the kind of work done during the reference period by the person employed, or the kind of work done previously if unemployed, or the kind of work desired in the future by jobseekers, regardless of the industry or status in employment of the person. Or, it refers to the kind of work done during the reference period by the person employed, irrespective of the industry or the status of employment of the person.<sup>xliii</sup> Information on occupation provides a description of a person's job. A job is defined as a set of tasks and duties, which are carried out by, or can be assigned to, one person. Persons are classified by occupations through their relationship to a job.

**Children's occupational status classified by major areas/ISOC (International Standard Occupational Classification):<sup>xliv</sup>**

36. Legislators, senior officials and managers
37. Professionals
38. Technicians and associate professionals
39. Clerks
40. Service workers and shop and market sales workers
41. Skilled agricultural and fishery workers
42. Craft and related trades workers
43. Plant and machine operators and assemblers
44. Elementary occupations
45. Armed forces

**Children's occupational status classified at 2-digit code level/ BSOC<sup>xlv</sup> (Bangladesh Standard Occupation Classification) code:**

46. Teachers/13
47. Workers in religion/14
48. Fine and commercial artists, photographers and related creative artists/16
49. Performing and audiovisual artists/17
50. Sportsmen and related workers/18
51. Professional, technical and related workers not elsewhere classified/19
52. Transport conductors/36
53. Mail distribution clerks/37
54. Telephone and telegraph operators/38

55. Clerical and related workers not elsewhere classified/39
56. Managers (wholesale and retail trade)/40
57. Working proprietors/41
58. Sales supervisor and buyers/42
59. Technical salesman, commercial travellers and related salesman/43
60. Insurance, real estate, business and related service salesmen/44
61. Salesmen, street vendors and related workers/45
62. Working proprietors, catering and lodging services/51
63. Cooks, waiters and related workers/53
64. Maid and related housekeeping service workers not elsewhere classified/54
65. Building caretakers, cleaners and related workers/55
66. Launderers, dry-cleaners and pressers/56
67. Hairdressers, barbers, beauticians and related workers/57
68. Protective, service workers/58
69. Service workers not elsewhere classified/59
70. Farm managers and supervisors/60
71. Farmers/61
72. Farm crop workers/62
73. Forestry workers/63
74. Fishermen, hunters and related workers/64
75. Production supervisors and general foremen/70

76. Miners, quarrymen, well-drillers and related workers/71
77. Metal processors/72
78. Wood preparers and paper makers/73
79. Chemical processors and related workers/74
80. Spinners, weavers, knitters, dyers and related textile workers/75
81. Food and beverage processors/77
82. Tobacco preparers and cigarette makers/78
83. Tailors, dressmakers, sewers, upholsters and related workers/79
84. Shoemakers and leather goods makers/80
85. Cabinet-makers and related wood workers/81
86. Forging workers, toolmakers and metal-working machine operators/83
87. Machinery fitters, machinery mechanics and precision instrument makers (except electrical)/84
88. Electrical fitters and related electrical and electronic workers/85
89. Plumbers, welders and sheet metal and structural metalworkers/87
90. Jewellery and precious metal workers/88
91. Glass formers, potters and related workers/89
92. Rubber and plastic product makers/90
93. Paper and paperboard workers/91
94. Printer and related workers/92
95. Painters/93

- 96. Production and related workers not elsewhere classified/94
- 97. Bricklayers, carpenters and other construction workers/95
- 98. Material handling and related equipment operators, dockers and freight handlers/97
- 99. Transport equipment drivers and related workers/98
- 100. Labourers not elsewhere classified/99
- 101. Industry<sup>xlvi</sup>: activity, as defined in terms of types of goods produced and services provided by the establishment in which an employed person worked during the survey reference period.

**Children's industry of work classified by major areas/ ISIC <sup>xlvi</sup> (International Standard Industrial Classification):**

- 102. Agriculture
- 103. Forestry
- 104. Hunting and fishing
- 105. Mining and quarrying
- 106. Manufacturing
- 107. Electricity, gas and water
- 108. Construction
- 109. Wholesale and retail trade
- 110. Transport, communications and storage
- 111. Finance, insurance, real estate, business and service
- 112. Community, social and personal services
- 113. Activities not well-defined

**Children's industry of work classified at the two-digit level/ BSIC<sup>xlvi</sup> (Bangladesh Standard Industrial Classification) code:**

- 114. Agriculture, hunting and related service activities/01
- 115. Forestry, logging and related service activities /02
- 116. Fishing, operation of fish hatcheries and fish farms, service activities incidental to fishing/05
- 117. Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas, service activities incidental to oil and gas extraction excluding surveying/11
- 118. Other mining and quarrying/14
- 119. Manufacture of food products and beverages/15
- 120. Manufacture of tobacco products/16
- 121. Manufacture of textiles/17
- 122. Manufacture of wearing apparel, dressing and dyeing of fur/18
- 123. Tanning and dressing of leather, manufacture of luggage, handbags, saddlery, harness and foot ware/19
- 124. Manufacture of wood and products of wood and cork except furniture, manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials /20
- 125. Manufacture of paper and paper products/21
- 126. Publishing, printing and reproduction of recorded media/22
- 127. Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products/24
- 128. Manufacture of rubber and plastic products/25
- 129. Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products/26
- 130. Manufacture of basic metals/27
- 131. Manufacture of fabricated metal products except machinery and equipment/28

132. Manufacture of machinery and equipment N.E.C. /29
133. Manufacture of electrical machinery and apparatus N.E.C. /31
134. Manufacture of radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus/32
135. Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers/34
136. Manufacture of other transport equipment/35
137. Manufacture of furniture, manufacturing N.E.C. /36
138. Electricity and gas supply/40
139. Collection, purification and distribution of water/41
140. Construction /45
141. Sale, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles, motor cycles, cycle, rickshaws, retail sale of automotive fuel /50
142. Wholesale trade and commission trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles /51
143. Retail trade except of motor vehicles and motor cycles: Repair of personal and household goods/52
144. Hotels and restaurants/55
145. Land transport, transport via pipelines/60
146. Water transport/61
147. Air transport/64
148. Renting of machinery and equipment without operator and of personal and household goods/71
149. Other business activities/74
150. Education/80

151. Health and social work/85
152. Other community, social and personal service activities/90
153. Activities of membership organization N.E.C. /91
154. Recreational, cultural and sporting activities /92
155. Other service activities /93
156. Private households with employed persons /95
157. Permanent employment: work that is stable and continuing
158. Short term/casual employment: work of a fixed-term and short duration (short term) / irregular work and work of an ad hoc nature (casual)
159. Seasonal/ school vacation employment: work at a particular time(s) of the year
160. ***Worst forms of child labour*** : as defined by ILO Convention No. 182<sup>xlix</sup> include, (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, procurement or offering of a child for prostitution, production of pornography or pornographic performances, (c) the use, procurement or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular, for the production and trafficking of drugs; 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.
161. ***Hazardous work by children***: includes, among other characteristics, exposure to dangerous chemicals and or substances, carrying of heavy loads, work at night, long hours of work, use of dangerous tools and exposure to sexual abuse. Examples of such activities might include: cooking/serving food (in markets), child divers, fish mongering/vending, cleaning the house/utensils, going to the market/shop, caring for the sick, caring for the aged, child-caring, hawking, collecting water, prostitution, hair dressing saloon, domestic servant, bar/restaurant attendant, small business/trading assistant, metal workshop/black, garage attendant/mechanic, bricklaying, scavenging, luggage carrier, wheelbarrow pushing, carpentry workshop, food vending, storekeeper, others (film hall attending, maize milling, car-washing).<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that in terms of C 182 the list of hazardous child work shall be determined by the national legislation in each country.

162. *Children's work in the street*<sup>li</sup>: refers to the performance of unqualified and temporary works (in construction, agriculture, commerce). This includes children's involvement in begging, car-washing, selling merchandise, loading and unloading merchandise, collection of waste products, stealing, and prostitution. Street trading<sup>lii</sup> includes the banking of articles of food or drink, newspapers, matches, flowers and other articles, playing, singing or performing for profit, advertising, shoe-blackening and other similar occupations carried out in streets or public places. Also included are street vendor services such as shoe cleaning, unskilled cleaning staff in commercial establishments, unskilled street cleaners and garbage collectors, and child refuse collectors. **Or, it refers to street children/ street and working children/ children working on the streets**<sup>liii</sup> **and classified into two groups**. The *first group* of children works on the streets during the day, sometimes during the evening and night, but finally go home to stay with their family. They are supposed to be under the protection and supervision of their families. The *second group* of children are working and living in the streets (in front of shops, markets and other such open spaces). They have left their homes and/or their families have disintegrated. They are children of the streets. These children are involved in selling napkins, chewing gum, water, sunflower seeds, lottery tickets, other small items appropriate to the season, garbage collection and separation in the streets and at the garbage dumps. They are also likely to be involved in drug abuse, street gangs and violence. **Or, it refers to children in four sub-groups**, (1) those who work in the street; (2) those who live on the street; (3) those who are on the street but live at home; and (4) those who spend a lot of time on the street in game shops, at bus stops, food courts and generally linger on the street.<sup>liv</sup>

163. *Child rag pickers*<sup>lv</sup>/*children collecting waste products*: refers to children collecting rags or recyclable materials that can be sold for money. Rag picking entails the sorting, collecting and selling of these various waste materials that can be found at dumpsites, riverbanks, street corners, or in residential areas, and consists primarily of plastics, bottles, cardboard, tin, aluminium, iron, brass and copper.

164. *Child porters*<sup>lvi</sup>: refers to two categories of children, (1) those carrying loads over long distances and journeys requiring more than one day and (2) those working short distances in such areas as markets, business centres, bus and truck parks. Excluded from the definition are children who carry loads for their own families rather than for wages.

165. *Child domestic labour*<sup>lvii</sup>: work carried out by children in the households of third parties, with remuneration in cash or in kind. Examples of tasks included are house cleaning, laundering, cooking, baby-sitting and caring for old people. Or, it refers to a person<sup>lviii</sup> who works or has worked for a household which is different than his or her own, carrying out household activities and receives or has received a salary in exchange for his or her work, be it as money or in kind. Or, it refers to children working in an

employer's house with or without a wage, on domestic chores such as washing dishes, cooking, cleaning the house, looking after young children and other household activities.<sup>lix</sup>

166. *Bonded child labour*: refers to children's underpaid/ unpaid work and for excessively long hours for an employer, ensuing from the debt incurred by the parents and through linkage in exploitative employment practices affecting the parents. Bonded child labour relationships are those associated with family labour contracted, those involving children being pledged for credit and those involving the deceived or abandoned children.<sup>lx</sup>

167. *Child soldiers*: refers to children engaged in various activities related to armed conflict whether or not they are paid. These activities could include attending military training in the camps of rebel groups, food preparation and related activities for the benefit of the older members of the armed force where the child is a member, being part of the group's elements as members of the foot patrol, sentry group, blocking force, armed escorts of older officials etc., or participating as part of the para-medical team, propaganda unit or member of the urban hit squad of the armed group. This definition also includes the activities of children who are used as decoys, spies or couriers of older rebels.<sup>lxi</sup>

168. *Child trafficking*: defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring and receipt of a girl or a boy of less than 18 years of age for the purpose of exploitation.<sup>lxii</sup> Or, it refers to children recruited, transported, transferred, harboured or received, by means of threats or the use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.<sup>lxiii</sup> This definition entails that:

- i) Trafficking involves the removal of children from a familiar environment, but not necessarily the crossing of international borders;
- ii) The consent of children recruited is irrelevant if there is abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, fraud or deception; that is for the purposes of exploitation;
- iii) Is for the purposes of exploitation.

169. *Children involved in prostitution and related activities/child prostitution*<sup>lxiv</sup> : refers to the sexual exploitation of young children for remuneration in cash or in kind, usually but not always organized by an intermediary such as parent, family member or procurer. Or, it refers to children who engage in sexual activity in exchange for money, material goods, protection, social status, affection or access to persons perceived to have power and influence.<sup>lxv</sup> It also includes children involved in sexual relationships with adults in

exchange for money and family support within the context of their home, on the street and in private business places.

170. *Children in prostitution as forced labour*: refers to children involved in prostitution or related activities not of their own free will.<sup>lxvi</sup>

171. *Child pornography*: any representation, by whatever means, of children engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child, the dominant characteristic of which is the depiction of sexual purpose.<sup>lxvii</sup>

172. *Children exploited in commercial sexual activities*<sup>lxviii</sup>: the use, procurement or offering of a child for prostitution, production of pornography or pornographic performances. Or, it refers to the sexual exploitation of children<sup>lxix</sup> (SEC) is entirely or at least primarily for financial or other economic reasons. The economic exchanges involved may be either monetary or non-monetary (i.e. food, shelter, drugs) but in every case involves maximum benefits to the exploiter and an abrogation of the basic rights, dignity, autonomy, physical and mental well-being of the children involved. Or, it refers to the commercial sexual exploitation of children is characterized by - the use of children for prostitution, production of pornography/pornographic performances; violence and coercion; sexual abuse of the child by the exploiter; lack of free consent and free decision; powerlessness of children; slave-like conditions; treatment of the child as a sexual object; powerful offenders doing initiation; infliction of lifelong damage; the activity is hidden therefore illicit; and lastly, the activity involves the movement of children from one point to another.

173. *Child involved in the drug trade*: refers to children engaging in and performing activities related to various aspects of the drug trade, including the production, trafficking and sale of drugs to the users or customers. He or she may or may not receive compensation or remuneration in cash or in kind. The services rendered are for the benefit of a drug trader or exploiter engaged in the illegal drug business. This includes a child carrying out tasks for his/her parents in the illegal drug business and who might not receive any compensation or income for his/her work. Whether or not the child consented, he or she is seen as having been forced or compelled to undertake a certain task or activity related to the drug trade.<sup>lxx</sup>

174. *Children's performances of a dangerous nature*: all acrobatic performances and all performances as a contortionist.<sup>lxxi</sup>

## 5. Non-economic activities of children (household, schooling and recreation)<sup>2</sup>

### Examples cited include:

Household chores, running errands, preparing and serving meals, mending, washing and ironing clothes, shopping, caring for siblings or sick/ infirm persons in the household.

### Statistical terms applied for children's activities:

175. *Household*: defined as a person or group of persons who live together in the same house or compound, share the same housekeeping arrangements and are catered to as one unit.<sup>lxxii</sup> Or, it refers to a person or a group of persons related or not, who usually live, cook and eat together.<sup>lxxiii</sup> Or, it refers to a person or a group of persons with or without a family relationship who live in the same dwelling or in one part of the shared dwelling, who share their meals, earnings and expenditures and who take part in the management of and render services to the household.<sup>lxxiv</sup>

176. *Household members*: includes all persons present or temporarily absent whose usual place of residence falls in the selected household at the time of enumeration.

177. *Usual members of household*: refers to those who stayed in the household for the three (or, a certain fixed number of months, say, even six) months preceding the survey, or had the intention of staying for three months beyond the period of the survey.<sup>lxxv</sup>

178. *Head of household*: a usual member of the household who manages the day to day running of household activities and its members, and is considered as such by the household members.<sup>lxxvi</sup>

179. *Children living away from home*: these are children not considered members of the household (according to the definition of household membership) whose profiles and characteristics were based on the information gathered from their parents/guardians or any responsible household respondent.<sup>lxxvii</sup> This information includes age and sex distribution, their activities, type of business engaged in, place of work, monthly earnings and remittances to their families.

180. *Family*<sup>lxxviii</sup>: defined as the parents and siblings of the respondent or the guardian with whom the respondent lives. The family may be comprised of people other than the child's parents and siblings.

181. *Complete families*: families where a child was brought up and maintained by both parents (father and mother).<sup>lxxix</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Superscripts within the section refers to end-notes (in the Annex) where the survey source is provided.

182. *Broken families*: families where a single parent (either mother or father) brought up and maintained a child.<sup>lxxx</sup>

183. *Orphan*: a person aged below 18 years who has lost both biological parents.<sup>lxxxi</sup>

**Possibilities for children's activities:**

184. *Housekeeping activities*<sup>lxxxii</sup>/ *household chores/ domestic duties*: refers to a child's engagement in a service of domestic nature, done for the benefit of own household and which lie outside the production boundary. The child may be engaged in housekeeping activities while engaged in studies and/or an economic activity or without being engaged in any of the activities of this nature. These activities include caring for brothers/sisters, sick, infirm, disabled or old members of the same household; housecleaning, decorating, minor repairs; cooking, preparing and serving meals; washing clothes; ironing clothes; and driving/fetching family members to/from work/school.<sup>lxxxiii</sup> No payment or remuneration is received for doing any of these activities.<sup>lxxxiv</sup> Or, household chores are personal services<sup>lxxxv</sup> or duties of a domestic nature provided by unpaid household child members in their own parents, or grandparents/guardians or spouse's household, and thus, are considered non-economic.

185. *Household worker*: includes persons who, without carrying out an economic activity, for example, housewives and other family members.

186. *Educational activities*: refers to children attending school or other educational institutions that provide regular or technical/vocational education. If the child does his academic work without attending such an institution, he/she is not considered to be engaged in educational activities.<sup>lxxxvi</sup>

187. *Educational status*: all individuals above age six are classified in accordance with the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 1997).<sup>lxxxvii</sup>

188. *Students*: persons dedicated solely and exclusively to their studies.<sup>lxxxviii</sup>

189. *Child's level of education*<sup>lxxxix</sup>: refers to the completed grade in school/highest school grade or year passed by the child. The classification may be made as preschool, primary, secondary, vocational, and university levels. Correspondence courses are not considered regular education.

190. *Literacy*<sup>xc</sup>: refers to a person's ability to read and write, measured for those who have completed basic education, that is, those aged 15 years and older. Or, it refers to the aptitude of a person to read and write in any language.<sup>xci</sup>

191. *Literate*: a person who can read and write a message and understand it.<sup>xcii</sup>
192. *Illiterate*: a person who cannot read or write, or who can only read, or who can only read and/write numbers and sign his or her name.<sup>xciii</sup>
193. *Children not attending school*<sup>xciv</sup>: refers to children within the established age groups not attending school.
194. *Drop-out*: refers to a child who was registered in the current academic year (during the survey year) but for some reason left school.<sup>xcv</sup>
195. *Attended before*: refers to a child who used to attend school during any of the academic years prior to the survey year (current academic year) but has not been attending in the current academic year.<sup>xcvi</sup>
196. *Never attended*: refers to a child who neither attended school prior to the survey nor during the survey year.<sup>xcvii</sup>
197. *Absent from school last week for the time being*: refers to a child who is usually a student, but did not attend school during the week prior to the survey.

### **Recreation/use of free time**

198. Playing<sup>xcviii</sup>/games outside the house/ games inside the house/ sports
199. Music, dance, painting and theatre/ listening to music, radio/songs
200. Study outside school hours/ reading
201. Watching TV/ cinema films
202. Gossiping with friends/relatives
203. *Organized vacation*: holidays that children spend in recreational camps, health resorts, sanatoria, boarding houses. These holidays are organized and financed by local authorities, including enterprises, institutions, organizations and trade unions.<sup>xcix</sup>
204. *Idle*<sup>c</sup>: refers to a child who neither attended school (training institution), nor was engaged in economic or non-economic activities (including housekeeping or household chores in own parents, or guardians' or parent's spouse home) during the reference period (for instance, last week). Or, it refers to a child is considered idle if he/she did not engage in any economic activity, did not look for work, did not attend school, or did not do any household chore.<sup>ci</sup>

## 6. Conclusion

6.1 As discussed, the lack of universal concurrence regarding what can reasonably be defined as child labour, poses a serious challenge for the measurement of CL, as the measurement depends on how child labour is defined. Yet, reaching an agreement on an operational and statistical definition of CL is desirable and even possible if objective criteria are applied. This is a critical step in enhancing the robustness of CL estimates, and compilation of global estimates, as also comparisons of CL incidence over time and space will be greatly facilitated once the methodologies for the estimation of child labour are standardized.

6.2 The current CL estimation approach by ILO-SIMPOC is anchored in the prevailing relevant United Nations and ILO Conventions and considers the following child sub-population as child labour *assuming* that all children below five years are not economically active:

- All children aged 5-11, engaged in economic activities are considered to be in child labour that requires elimination;
- Children aged 12-14 performing economic activities are considered in child labour unless they are in light work;
- Children aged 15-18 engaged in the worst forms are to be categorized as child labourers.

6.3 Thus, the main issues in the development of a universally accepted definition of CL are:

- i) Whether to include or to exclude household chores in the definition of child labour?
- ii) Appropriate indicators of child schooling (as measured via school attendance, child learning, child performance), child health and child well-being need to be defined for measurement.
- iii) Permissible hours of work or a threshold of hours (in relation to child's age) beyond which involvement in specific economic (and perhaps, non-economic) activities can be classified as child labour need to be determined and established.
- iv) Measures more representative of intensity of effort and of exposure to hazards than time allocation in economic and non-economic activities need to be formulated. Time allocation is a one-dimensional measure of involvement that does not take into account exposure to hazards at work. [Statistical measure of hazardous work]
- v) Treatment of non-marketed economic activities by children.

## Endnotes – survey sources (with reference to Sections 4 and 5)

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- <sup>i</sup> State Institute of Statistics, Child Labour in Turkey, 1999
- <sup>ii</sup> Child Labour Survey, Country Report, Zambia, 1999
- <sup>iii</sup> International resolution adopted by the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians (1982)
- <sup>iv</sup> State Institute of Statistics, Child Labour in Turkey, 1999
- <sup>v</sup> Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Report on National Child Labour Survey, 2002-03
- <sup>vi</sup> Summary results of Child Labour Survey in Pakistan, 1996
- <sup>vii</sup> Child Labour in Tanzania, Country Report, Integrated Labour Force and Child Labour Survey, 2000-01
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