



International  
Labour  
Office

# CAMBODIA CHILD LABOUR DATA COUNTRY BRIEF

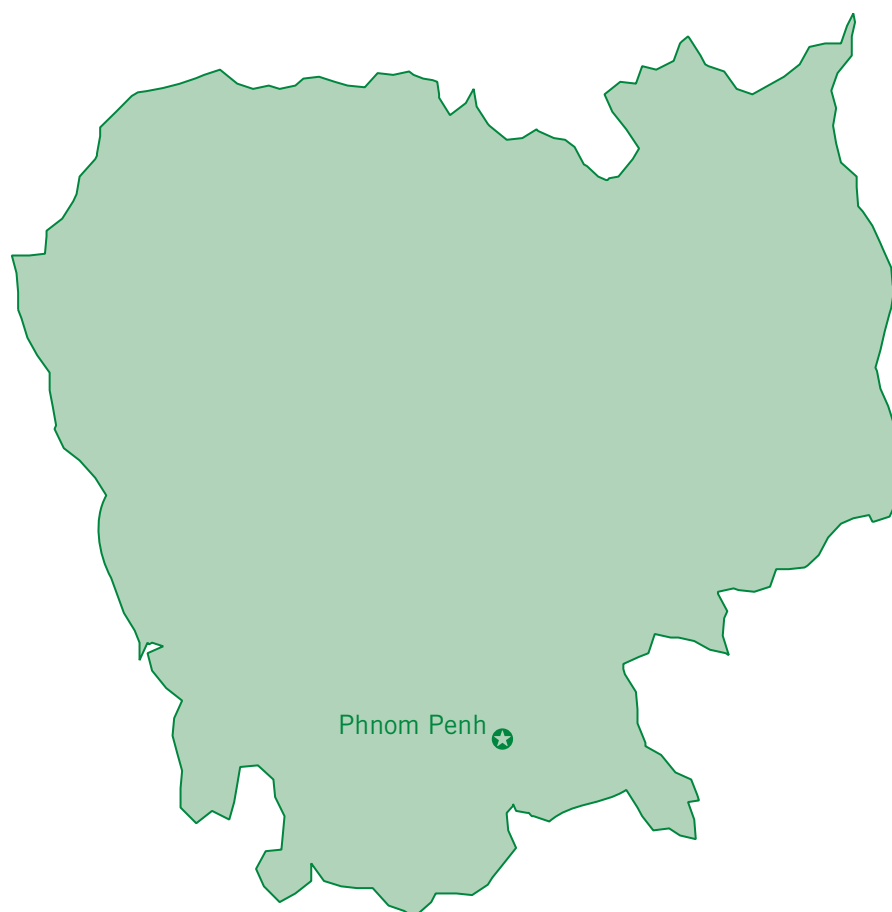


International  
Programme on  
the Elimination  
of Child Labour  
(IPEC)

## SELECTED SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS

Population (millions)	13.8
Population under 15 years (percentage of total)	37.7
Literacy rate (percentage of people ages 15 and above)	73.6
Net primary school enrolment rate	98
GDP per capita, PPP	\$1,870
Human Development Index Value	0.53
HDI ranking	137/177

Source: 2004 data from UNDP Human Development Report 2006



# I. Legislative Framework

## RATIFIED CONVENTIONS RELATING TO CHILD LABOUR

Convention	Ratification	Entry into force
The Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) (minimum age specified: 14 years)	23-08-1999	23-08-2000
The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182)	14-03-2006	14-03-2007
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	15-10-1992	14-11-1992

## RELEVANT NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- The Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia, of 21 September 1993 (as amended 1999);
- Labour Law, promulgated by Royal Order No. CS/RKM/0397/01 of 13 March 1997;
- Prakas No. 106 on the Prohibition of Hazardous Child Labour, dated 28 April 2004

## REGULATION OF WORK FOR PERSONS BELOW 18 YEARS

Regulation of work for persons below 18 years	Age	Legislation
General minimum age for admission to employment or work	15 years	Section 177 (1) of the Labour Law
Admission to light work activities	12 years	Section 177 (4) of the Labour Law
Admission to hazardous work	18 years	Section 177 (2) of the Labour Law Types of hazardous work determined Parkas No. 106 MosSALVY on the Prohibition of hazardous child Labour, dated 28 April 2004

# II. Child Labour Indicators

In 2001, the National Institute of Statistics conducted the Cambodia Child Labor Survey (CCLS) under the auspices of the Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme (SIMPOC) of the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). CCLS was an independent survey intended to collect information on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of boys and girls ages 5 to 17 years and their households.

## Children's activities

Results from the Cambodia Child Labour Survey (IPEC/SIMPOC, 2001) indicate that 45 per cent (0.78 million) of boys and 44.6 per cent (0.74 million) of girls aged 5-14 work, resulting in 44.8 per cent (1.52 million) of all children in that age group being economically active. Approximately 8.6 per cent (0.29 million) of children in that bracket participate in the labour force without attending school. The percentage is slightly higher for girls (9.0 per cent) than for boys (8.2 per cent). Children in rural areas are more likely to work without attending school than those in urban areas (9.2 per cent vs. 5.8 per cent). The gender gap among working children who do not attend school is slightly higher in urban areas (1.0 percentage points, i.e. girls: 6.3 per cent vs. boys: 5.3 per cent) than in rural areas (0.9 percentage points, i.e. girls: 9.7 per cent vs. boys: 8.8 per cent).

## CHILDREN AGED 5–14, BY SEX, TYPE OF ACTIVITY AND RESIDENCE

Sex	Activity	Urban		Rural		Total	
		%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Male	Work only <sup>a</sup>	5.3	17,014	8.8	124,558	8.2	141,572
	Study only <sup>b</sup>	48.4	15,4060	29.8	419,672	33.2	573,732
	Work and study <sup>c</sup>	28.3	90,197	38.7	545,491	36.8	635,688
	Total work*	33.7	107,211	47.5	670,049	45.0	777,260
	Total study**	76.7	244,257	68.4	965,163	70.0	1209,420
	Neither	17.9	57,008	22.7	320,867	21.9	377,875
Female	Work only <sup>a</sup>	6.3	19,208	9.7	130,690	9.0	149,898
	Study only <sup>b</sup>	46.6	142,098	30.5	412,974	33.5	555,072
	Work and study <sup>c</sup>	29.3	89,268	36.9	499,866	35.5	589,134
	Total work*	35.6	108,476	46.6	630,556	44.6	739,032
	Total study**	75.9	231,366	67.5	912,840	69.0	1,144,206
	Neither	17.8	54,124	22.9	309,650	21.9	363,774
Total	Work only <sup>a</sup>	5.8	36,222	9.2	255,248	8.6	291,470
	Study only <sup>b</sup>	47.5	296,158	30.1	832,646	33.3	1,128,804
	Work and study <sup>c</sup>	28.8	179,465	37.8	1,045,357	36.2	1,224,822
	Total work*	34.6	215,687	47.1	1,300,605	44.8	1,516,292
	Total study**	76.3	475,623	68.0	1,878,003	69.5	2,353,626
	Neither	17.8	111,132	22.8	630,517	21.9	741,649

\* "Total work" refers to children that work only and children that work and study, i.e. a+c.

\*\* "Total study" refers to children that study only and children that work and study, i.e. b+c.

Approximately 70 per cent of children aged 5-14, both male and female, are involved in household chores.

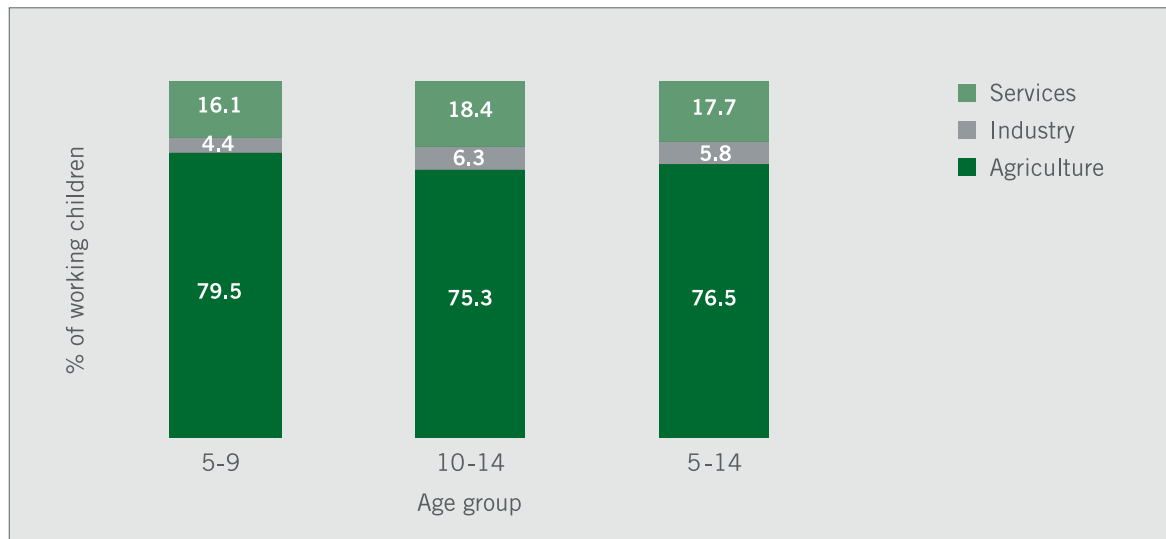
Age	Male	Female	Total
5	18.9	18	18.4
6	32.8	37.5	35.1
7	47.4	55	51
8	64.8	61.3	63.1
9	71.4	78.4	74.8
10	82.2	85.3	83.8
11	85.8	88.6	87.2
12	91.3	93.7	92.5
13	92.8	95.8	94.2
14	92.6	96.3	94.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>71.2</b>	<b>69.6</b>

\* Children performing household chores for at least one hour per day

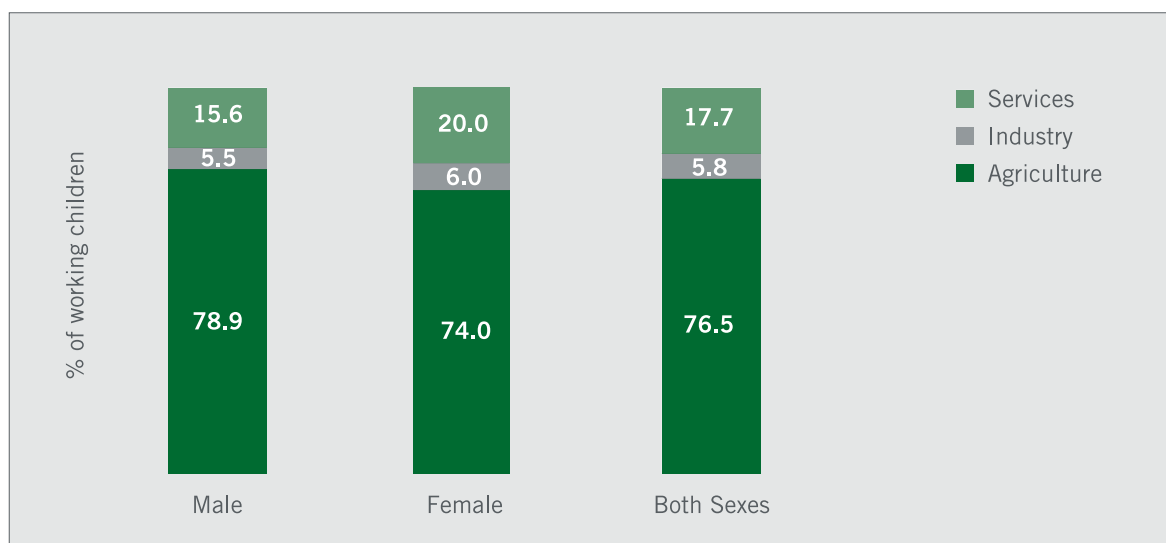
## Characteristics and conditions of child labour

Among working children 5-14 years, 76.5 per cent are employed in the agricultural sector, 5.8 per cent are employed in the industrial sector and the remaining 17.7 per cent work in services. Children in the lower age range of 5-9 years are more likely to be employed in the agricultural sector than those in the higher age bracket of 10-14 (79.5 per cent vs. 75.3 per cent). Moreover, boys are more likely than girls to be employed in the agricultural sector (78.9 per cent vs. 74.0 per cent) and less in services (15.6 per cent vs. 20.0 per cent).

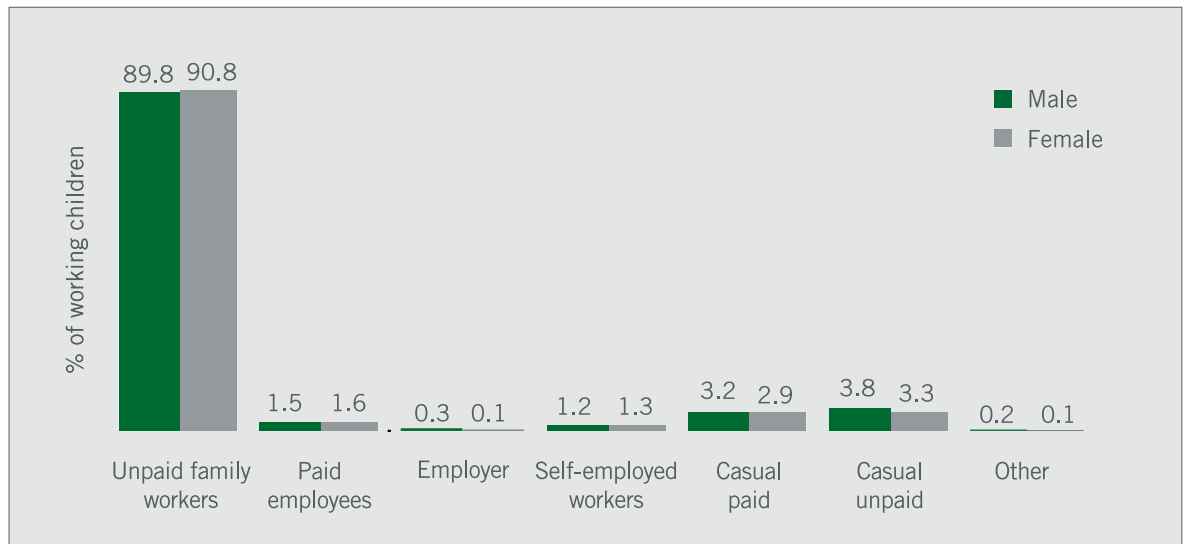
### DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN AGED 5-14 BY INDUSTRY AND AGE GROUP



### DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN AGED 5-14 BY SECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT AND SEX

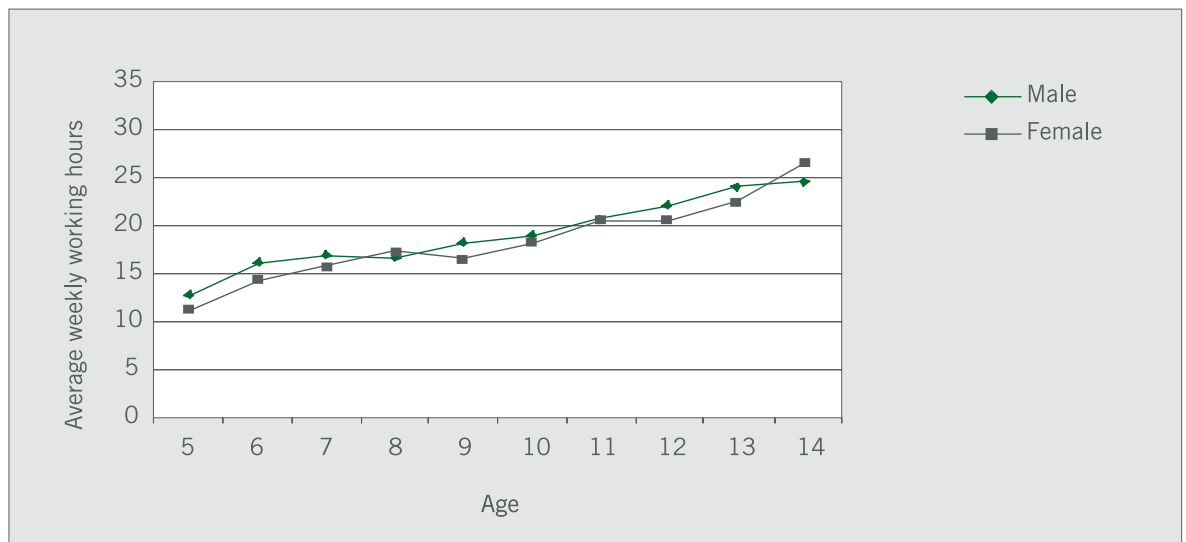


## DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN AGED 5-14 BY MODALITY OF EMPLOYMENT AND SEX



An overwhelming percentage of working children 5-14 years are employed as unpaid family workers (89.8 per cent in the case of boys and 90.8 per cent in the case of girls).

## CHILDREN WORKING: AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS BY AGE AND SEX

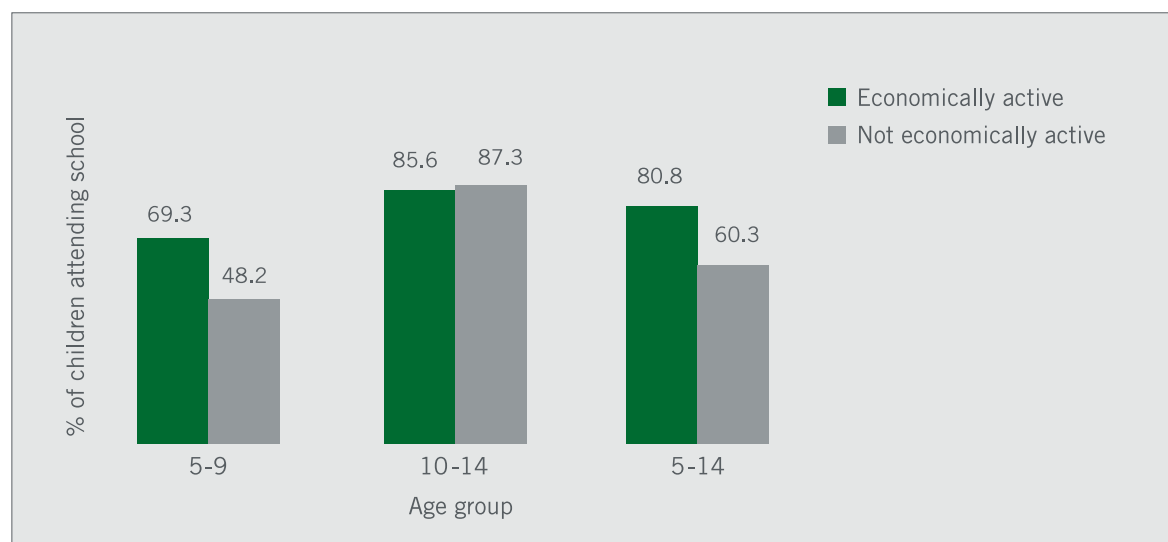


Boys ages 5-13 tend to work more, on average, than girls in the same age group. However, working boys above age 13 tend to work less than girls. On average, boys work an hour more than their female counterparts.

## Child labour and children's education

Among children 5-14 years of age, those who are economically active are more likely to attend school than those who are not (80.8 per cent vs. 60.3 per cent). This relationship also holds for children in the 5-9 age group where 69.3 per cent of economically active children attend school. Among children in the 10-14 years bracket, economically active children are slightly less likely to be attending school than children who are not economically active (85.6 per cent vs. 87.3 per cent).

### ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



## Children's activity status and household income level

Children coming from the poorest households are more likely to be engaged in the labour force without attending school than children in households with the highest levels of per capita expenditure (11.0 per cent vs. 3.8 per cent). These findings are consistent among both boys (10.9 per cent vs. 2.7 per cent) and girls (11.0 per cent vs. 4.9 per cent). Only 25.1 per cent of children from the lowest-expenditure households attend school without participating in the labour force, as compared to 51.7 per cent of in the richest households.

### PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AGED 5-14, BY PER CAPITA INCOME QUINTILES\*, SEX, AND TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Sex	Type of activity	Quintile 1	Quintile 2	Quintile 3	Quintile 4	Quintile 5	Total
Male	Work only	10.9	9.2	6.0	3.5	2.7	8.2
	Study only	24.6	31.2	38.3	46.5	52.0	33.2
	Work and study	35.2	40.3	37.4	34.9	31.6	36.8
	Neither	29.3	19.2	18.3	15.2	13.7	21.9
Female	Work only	11.0	9.3	8.0	6.2	4.9	9.0
	Study only	25.7	32.8	35.9	45.8	51.4	33.5
	Work and study	35.2	36.3	37.2	34.2	31.4	35.5
	Neither	28.0	21.5	18.8	13.8	12.3	21.9
Total	Work only	11.0	9.3	7.0	4.8	3.8	8.6
	Study only	25.1	32.0	37.1	46.2	51.7	33.3
	Work and study	35.2	38.4	37.3	34.6	31.5	36.2
	Neither	28.7	20.3	18.6	14.5	13.1	21.9

Note: Totals may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

\* "Quintile 1" represents lowest income category and "Quintile 5" the highest.

# III. Information on the worst forms of child labour

## RATIFICATION OF SPECIFIC TREATIES

Convention	Ratification	Entry into force
Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	30-05-2002	30-06-2002
Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict	16-07-2004	16-08-2004
United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC)	Not ratified	
Human Trafficking Protocol, supplementing the CTOC	Not ratified	
Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, supplementing the CTOC	Not ratified	
The ILO Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)	24-02-1969	24-02-1970

## SIMPOC STUDIES

- Report on Cambodia Child Labour Survey 2001 (National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Sept 2002).
- Child Domestic Worker Survey, Phnom Penh 2003 (National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, March 2004).
- Report of the Baseline Survey in Rubber Plantations in Kompong Cham, 2002.

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME ON THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR (IPEC)

International Labour Office  
4, route des Morillons  
CH 1211 Geneva 22  
Switzerland

E-mail: [ipec@ilo.org](mailto:ipec@ilo.org)

Tel: (+41 22) 799 81 81

Fax: (+41 22) 799 87 71



International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)