



International  
Labour  
Office

# GHANA CHILD LABOUR DATA COUNTRY BRIEF

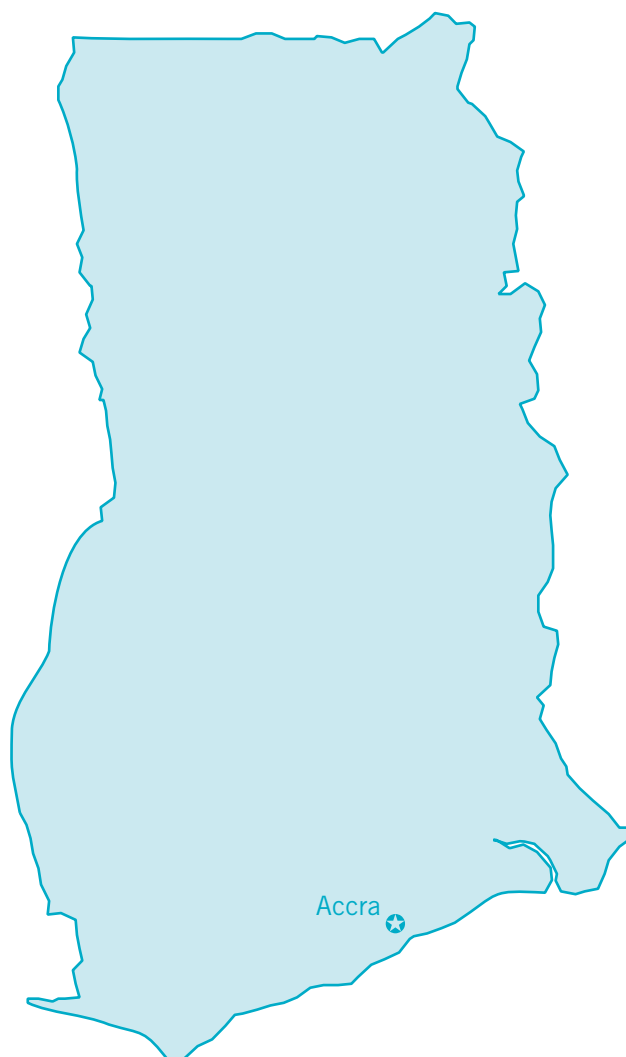


International  
Programme on  
the Elimination  
of Child Labour  
(IPEC)

## SELECTED SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS

Population (millions)	21.7
Population under 15 years (percentage of total)	39.5
Literacy rate (percentage of people ages 15 and above)	57.9
Net primary school enrolment rate	58
GDP per capita, PPP	\$2,240
Human Development Index Value	0.532
HDI ranking	136/177

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)	Not ratified	
The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182)	13-06-2000	13-06-2001
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	05-02-1990	02-09-1990

## RELEVANT NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- The Constitution of Ghana (as amended 1996);
- The Children's Act, 1998;
- The Labour Decree, 1967 (NLCD.157);
- The Labour Act, 2003;
- Article 25, The Constitution of Ghana (as amended 1996) – 9 years of compulsory education.

## 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 89 of the Children's Act
Admission to light work activities	13 years	Section 90 of the Children's Act
Admission to hazardous work	18 years	Section 28 of the Constitution; Section 89 of the Children's Act  Types of hazardous work determined: Sections 106 to 108 of the Children's Act

# II. Child Labour Indicators

Key child labour indicators can be derived from the National Child Labour Survey (NCLS), conducted by the Ghana Statistical Service in 2001. The survey was carried out within the framework of the Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme (SIMPOC) of the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). The NCLS was an independent household-based survey that collected comprehensive information on economic and non-economic activities of 5 to 17 year olds.

## Children's activities

About 10.9 per cent (0.57 million) of children ages 5-14 participate in the labour force and do not attend school. The percentage is slightly higher for boys (11.2 per cent) than for girls (10.5 per cent). Children in rural areas are more likely than those in urban areas to work without attending school (15.4 vs. 2.9 per cent). The gender gap between working children who do not attend school is slightly higher in urban areas (2.2 percentage points, i.e. boys: 1.8 vs. girls: 4.0 per cent) than in rural areas (1.4 percentage points, i.e. boys: 16.0 vs. girls: 14.6 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>	1.8	16,830	16.0	287,082	11.2	303,912
	Study only <sup>b</sup>	87.4	811,738	53.2	953,140	64.9	1,764,878
	Work and study <sup>c</sup>	6.8	62,912	21.5	384,149	16.4	447,061
	Total work*	8.6	79,742	37.5	671,231	27.6	750,973
	Total study**	94.2	874,650	74.7	1,337,289	81.4	2,211,939
	Neither	4.0	36,850	9.3	166,116	7.5	202,966
Female	Work only <sup>a</sup>	4.0	38,741	14.6	224,560	10.5	263,301
	Study only <sup>b</sup>	81.4	782,913	53.9	829,069	64.4	1,611,982
	Work and study <sup>c</sup>	9.5	91,811	19.6	302,267	15.8	394,078
	Total work*	13.6	130,552	34.2	526,827	26.3	657,379
	Total study**	90.9	874,724	73.5	1,131,336	80.2	2,006,060
	Neither	5.1	48,888	11.9	183,180	9.3	232,068
Total	Work only <sup>a</sup>	2.9	55,571	15.4	511,642	10.9	567,213
	Study only <sup>b</sup>	84.3	1,594,651	53.5	1,782,209	64.7	3,376,860
	Work and study <sup>c</sup>	8.2	154,723	20.6	686,416	16.1	841,139
	Total work*	11.1	210,294	36.0	1,198,058	27.0	1,408,352
	Total study**	92.5	1,749,374	74.1	2,468,625	80.8	4,217,999
	Neither	4.5	85,738	10.5	349,296	8.3	435,034

\* "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.

88.3 per cent of all children aged 5-14 years are involved in household chores; more than 90% of girls and 85% of boys are engaged in these non-economic activities.

## PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN HOUSEHOLD CHORES\*, BY AGE AND SEX

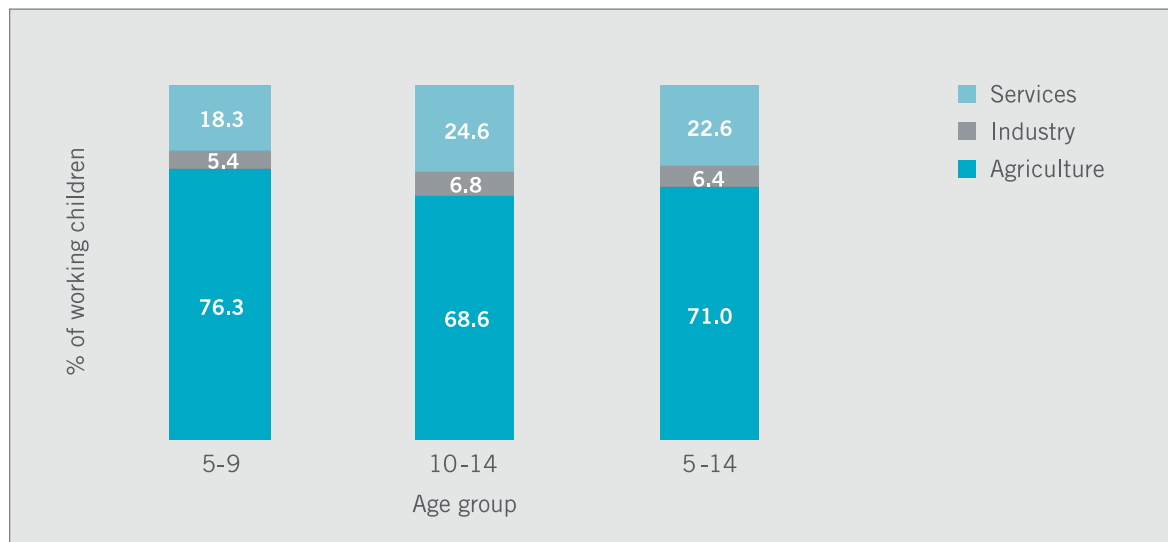
Age	Male	Female	Total
5	61.9	69.8	65.6
6	74.9	81.7	78.4
7	80.0	90.4	84.9
8	88.7	90.6	89.6
9	88.9	95.7	92.1
10	90.4	95.9	93.0
11	93.2	95.3	94.2
12	93.8	96.6	95.1
13	93.7	96.4	95.0
14	95.6	96.7	96.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>90.9</b>	<b>88.3</b>

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

## Characteristics and conditions of child labour

Seven out of ten working children aged 5-14 years are employed in the agricultural sector, 6.4 per cent are employed in the industrial sector and the remaining 22.6 per cent work in services. This breakdown by industry is also consistent among working children ages 5-9 and 10-14. It is to be noted that girls are more likely than boys to be employed in services (32.5 vs. 13.6 per cent) and less likely to work in the agricultural sector (59.5 vs. 81.5 per cent).

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

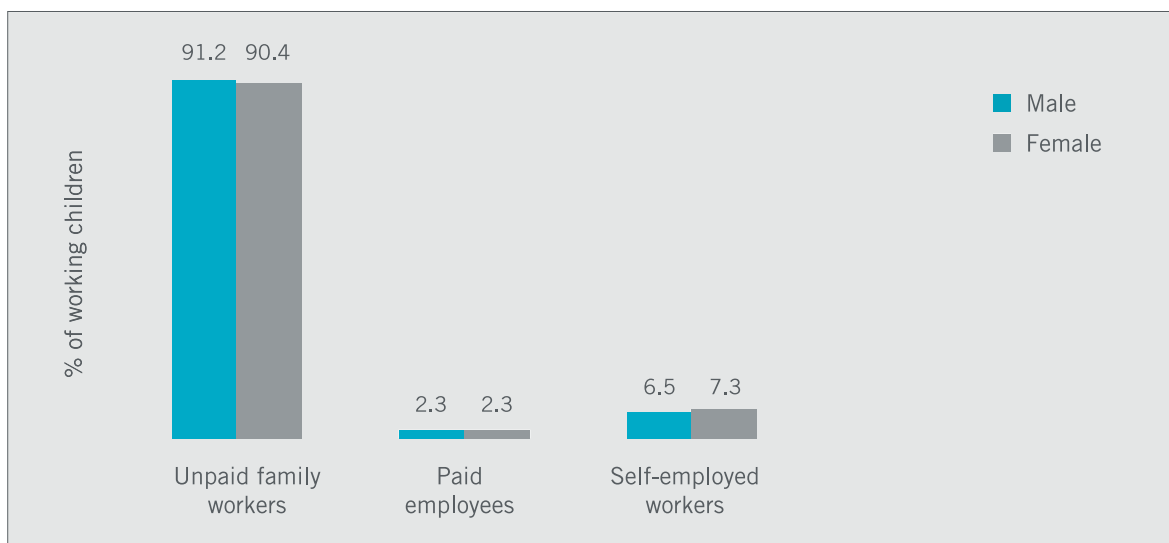


### DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN AGED 5-14 BY INDUSTRY AND SEX



A very high percentage of working children aged 5-14 are employed as unpaid family workers (91.2 per cent of boys and 90.4 per cent of girls). Boys and girls are equally likely to be engaged in paid work, while girls tend to be more involved in self-employment than their male counterparts (7.3 per cent vs. 6.5 per cent).

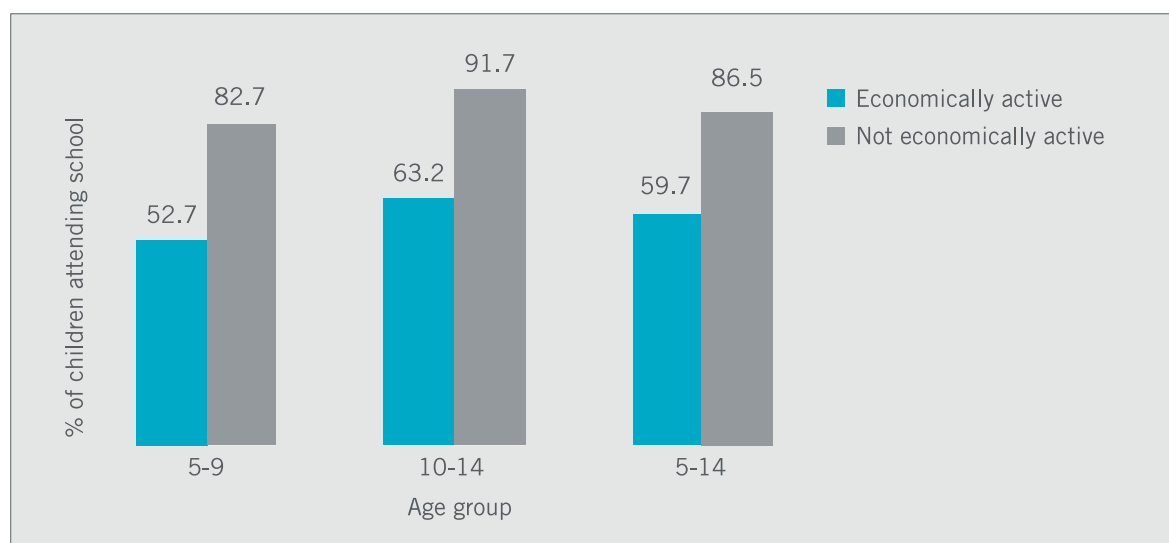
#### DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING CHILDREN AGED 5-14 BY MODALITY OF EMPLOYMENT AND SEX



#### Child labour and children's education

Economically active children are less likely to attend school than those who are not working (59.7 vs. 86.5 per cent). This relationship holds also for children in the 5-9 and 10-14 age groups. Among children ages 10-14, only 63.2 per cent of economically active children attend school as opposed to 91.7 per cent of non-working children.

#### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: CHILDREN IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY VERSUS CHILDREN NOT IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY



## 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 (19.2 vs. 3.3 per cent). These findings are consistent among boys (20.3 vs. 2.2 per cent) and girls (17.8 vs. 4.3 per cent). Only 54.9 per cent of children coming from the lowest-expenditure households attend school without participating in the labour force, as compared to 79.7 per cent 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
<b>Male</b>	Work only	20.3	15.0	9.3	7.9	2.2	11.3
	Study only	55.2	60.6	64.6	68.3	82.1	65.7
	Work and study	17.5	17.1	18.8	17.5	11.8	16.6
	Neither	11.5	7.5	7.6	6.5	3.7	7.6
<b>Female</b>	Work only	17.8	14.1	9.0	8.0	4.3	10.6
	Study only	54.5	59.5	64.2	68.4	77.3	64.9
	Work and study	16.5	13.9	18.9	17.1	12.8	15.9
	Neither	14.9	12.5	7.7	6.5	5.5	9.3
<b>Total</b>	Work only	19.2	14.6	9.2	8.0	3.3	11.0
	Study only	54.9	60.1	64.4	68.3	79.7	65.3
	Work and study	17.0	15.6	18.9	17.3	12.3	16.3
	Neither	13.1	9.8	7.6	6.5	4.6	8.4

Note: Totals may not add to 100.0 due to rounding

\* The household expenditure is used as a proxy for income.

\*\* "Quintile 1" represents lowest expenditure 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	Not ratified	
Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict	Not ratified	
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)	20-05-1957	20-05-1958

## SIMPOC STUDIES

- Ghana Child Labour Survey, Ghana Statistical Service, 2003.
- Report of the baseline survey on girl child labour in agriculture, domestic work and sexual exploitation: rapid assessments on the cases of the Philippines, Ghana and Ecuador (Girl child labour studies, vol.1), 2004.
- Report of the baseline survey on girl child labour in agriculture, domestic work and sexual exploitation: A comparative analysis, cases of Ghana, Ecuador, Philippines (Girl child labour studies, vol.2), 2004.

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