Child Labour in Mulanje
Baseline Survey Report

2011

Support to the National Action Plan to Combat Child Labour in Mala

MLW/09/50P/USA

Baseline Survey on *Child Labour for Mulanje District*

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International Labour Office - ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour; Ministry of Labour Baseline Study on Child Labour in Kasungu, Mzimba and Mulanje District / Malawi.

NOTE

This report is as a result of the on-going partnership between ILO and the Ministry of Labour. This publication received technical inputs from Khalid Hassan and Chimwenje Simwaka from IPEC Office in Malawi. Funding for this publication was provided by the United States Department of Labor (USDoL) through the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) (Project MLW/09/50/USA Project Support to the National Action Plan to Combat Child Labour in Malawi).

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FOREWORD

The effect of child labour to the individual, community and nation at large is becoming more and more apparent. It is for this reason that the Government of Malawi places the elimination of child labour high on its national development agenda in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) of halving poverty by 2016. The country has ratified a number of major regional and international conventions, covenants and instruments which relate to the welfare and rights of children. The Government has also put in place a number of policy and legal frameworks geared towards elimination of child labour. Prominent among these is the National Action Plan on Elimination of Child Labour (NAP) of 2010 which demonstrates government commitment to work towards elimination of child labour in a systematic way. The NAP is expected to provide a coherent framework and a sense of direction for various actors in the field. The policy also aims at ensuring reinforcement of the institutional and legislative frameworks for eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) in addition to stimulating collective and concerted efforts to eliminate child labour at all levels.

Ministry of Labour together with ILO-IPEC has published one report on working children since 2002. These were based on child labour analysis of the 2002 Malawi National Child Labour Survey (MNCLS). ILO-IPEC provided technical support during the analysis in the two studies.

The 2011 Baseline Survey on Child Labour in Kasungu, Mzimba and Mulanje districts was carried out by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) of Lilongwe, Malawi. This is the first standalone study on child labour carried out in Malawi. The broad objective of the survey was to collect high quality data to understand the levels and nature of child labour in the focus districts. The data collection was carried out during the months of February and May 2011.

The study comprised of both the household based and the qualitative module. The purpose of the qualitative module was to help understand further the findings from the core module and to collect additional data that would not be ably collected at the household level. The report presents the key findings on levels, impact and determinants of child labour and other related indicators. SDPI hopes that the information presented in this report will be useful for the purpose for which it was intended.

Principal Secretary
Ministry of Labour, Lilongwe Malawi

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It was a great honour to interact with community leaders, heads of departments and institutions in the district who spared their busy schedule to attend to the team during the data collection period. I am indebted to my colleagues Leonard Mbwanda from JIMAT who accepted to work with me in this study and Emmanuel Mwanaleza, Macleod Mwale and Harry Saidi of the National Statistics Office (NSO) for accepting to take part in the study and their technical advice. I wish all of them success in their future endeavors. The completion of this study signals more success and hope for our institution, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Congratulations to all backroom staff, Mr. Bandawe and the team for the support during the entire period.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all enumerators and data entry personnel for your time and hard work and perseverance and the many heads of households and children who accepted to be interviewed. Funding for this study was

made possible by US Department of Labour (USDoL) through ILO-IPEC Country Programme in Malawi.

ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BLS	Baseline Survey
BRM	Baseline Research Methodology
C	Convention
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CDSS	Community Day Secondary School
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CL	Child Labour
CLMS	Child Labour Monitoring System
CLU	Child Labour Unit
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSEC	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
CSO	Civil Society Organization (s)
CTA	Chief Technical Adviser
DA	District Assembly
DEM	District Education Advisor
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
DIPs	District Implementation Plans
DLO	District Labour Officer
DPD	Director of Planning and Development
EA	Enumeration Area
ECAM	Employers' Consultative Association of Malawi
FBOs	Faith Based Organizations
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
Go	Government of Malawi
HH	Household

HIV	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
HOH	Head of Household
IA	Implementing Agency
IABA	Integrated Area Based Approach
ILO-IPEC	International Labour Organization International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour
KII	Key Informant Interviews
LA	Local Authority
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Survey
MDHS	Malawi Demographic and Health Survey
MDG	Millennium Development Goal (s)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MGDS	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MK	Malawi Kwacha (currency)
MLW	Malawi
MNCLS	Malawi National Child Labour Survey
MoEST	Ministry of Education Science and Technology
MoL	Ministry of Labour
NAC	National AIDS Commission
NASFAM	National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPA	National Plan of Action
NSO	National Statistics Office
OVC	Orphans and other Vulnerable Children
PEA	Primary Education Advisor
PSLCE	Primary School Leaving Certificate of Education
PPS	Probability Proportion to Size
SDPI	Sustainable Development Policy Institute

RA	Rapid Assessment
RFP	Request for Proposal
SIMPOC	Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour
SNA	System for National Accounts
SNAP	Support to National Action Plan
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
T/A	Traditional Authority
TDC	Teacher Development Centre
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
USA	United States of America
USDoL	United States Department of Labour
WFCL	Worst Forms of Child Labour

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Action Plan on Elimination of Child Labour in Malawi which was launched in August 2010 as the main policy guideline for combating child labour in Malawi. According to UNICEF Report (2007), Malawi has 6.8 million children (51percent) of the total population, a situation which presents both opportunities and challenges. According to national statistics, the country's child labour prevalence rates are relatively high despite numerous efforts by various stakeholders including the Government of Malawi, ILO and NGOs to eliminate it. These challenges are well documented in national reports and policy guidelines such as the 2002 Child Labour Survey, DHS and MICS and most recently, the National Action Plan (NAP).

UNICEF (2007) estimates that 26 percent of children in Malawi are involved in child labour. This translates into 1.4 million children involved in child labour (52percent and 48percent for girls and boys respectively). Children below the age of 15 years accounted for about 22 percent of the total permanent labour force in tobacco estates. Most of children found to be working were in the agriculture sector (52 percent). Others (43.2percent) were involved in domestic child labour carried out under conditions of isolation, excessive long hours, physical and sexual abuse.

Several measures have been taken by the Government of Malawi and its cooperating partners to fight against child labour in Malawi. Some of these measures include the adoption and domestication of international conventions C182 and C138 which call for the elimination of all worst forms of hazardous child labour and the setting up of minimum age for entry into formal employment respectively. Currently, the Ministry of labour has reviewed or adopted a number of policy instruments and guidelines to eliminate child labour. One of the biggest milestones has been the adoption of the NAP in August 2010. Furthermore, the new programme of support to the NAP which is

funded by the US Government through the ILO-IPEC focuses at building from successes of previous programmes locally and internationally.

However, there have been gaps in operationalization of the policy instruments and data on child labour for programming purposes. Therefore the study was commissioned to identify children between 5 and 14 years and others below the age of 18 years who are involved in child labour (CL) in accordance conventions 182 and 138. The baseline study expected to provide key information on the provision and utilization of services and coverage. The results of this study will be presented to policy makers, trade unions and NGOs as necessary information to effectively develop programmes for eliminating child labour not only in Mulanje but the country as a whole.

The survey was conducted in February to March 2011 and involved administering two types of questionnaires (household and child questionnaires) to 1000 households and 1403 children in five Traditional Authorities (TAs) in the district. The study utilized the Malawi Population and Housing Census (2008) sampling frame to identify enumeration areas.

A number of key findings have emerged from the study on Children involvement in work and school, characteristics of children's work and involvement in hazardous work.

The study found out that 26.7 percent of children interviewed in Mulanje were involved in child labour. This figure is similar to the one reported by UNICEF (2007) which indicates that 26 percent of children in Malawi are involved in child labour. On the other hand, the 2002 national survey reported that 37 percent of children were involved in child labour showing that there has been a decrease in child labour prevalence.

The study further revealed that the higher percentage of child labour was outside the home which accounted for 24.6 percent while 1.2 percent through household chores. It showed different involvement in child labour among age groups worked differently , for example age group between 14 and 17 years (76 percent) followed by 68 percent of 10-13 age group and 41.9 percent of 5-9 years. Girls were more likely to work than boys

(63.7percent) for the 14-17 years age group against 50.9percent for boys. Estimated 85.4percent of girls are involved in HH tasks as opposed to 77.3percent for boys. A total of 52.2 percent were involved in economic activity while attending school while 37.8 attended school without being involved in economic activity.

A total of 52.2 percent children were involved in economic activity while attending school while 37.8 percent attended only school. The study further revealed that the school attendance was 90 percent which was very encouraging. Mulanje Boma being the urban area had 85.6 percent of children attending school and not involved in economic activity.

Characteristics of children's work

The study showed that most children worked in their homes as unpaid family workers (96 percent) followed by those employed (2.6 percent) and own account workers (1.2 percent). More children working were found in TA Jumba (63.4 percent) with the lowest Mulanje Boma 15 percent. Most of the children reporting to have worked in the past seven days' work to learn skills (socialization), 55 percent. Those working to supplement family food requirement accounted for 23.9percent while to supplement family income was reported by 14.5percent and those helping in HH enterprise accounted for 11.8 percent. Finally in terms of food security, only 20percent of the HH have food to last until the next harvest. Most of the HH grew maize as staple food (96percent) followed by cassava 13 percent.

Involvement in hazardous work

A total 90 percent of working children reported that they worked without protective gear, 6.5 percent reported that they carried or handled loads more than 10 kg and 3 percent worked in extreme temperatures. In terms of hazardous equipment used by working children, the highest proportion (4 percent) of children reported to have worked with

hoes, 0.9 percent worked with panga knives, 0.4 percent worked with saw, 0.4 percent worked with a sickle, 0.1percent worked with ploughs and 0.1percent worked with big needles.

Impact of children's work on Health, Safety and Education

Most children in Mulanje are attending school (88.3percent) although with some variations between traditional authorities. There are more children attending school at the Boma (98.1percent).

Working children suffer from various forms of physical, psychosocial and sexual violence at the work place. The most common form of abusive treatment reported by working children in Mulanje was constantly scolded (40.9 percent). Eighteen percent of children were repeatedly insulted while another 18percent reported that they had been beaten or physically hurt, 4.5percent had been sexually abused and 4.5percent did not receive their wages.

In conclusion, the baseline survey in Mulanje acknowledges upstream measures taken by Government and its cooperating partners to combat child labour such as the launch of the NAP in August 2010. However, the benefits of these measures are yet to trickle down to the grassroots. The trend of CL in the district shows a declining pattern since 2002. However the rates remain high for households. The commercial sector (tea plantations) may have gotten rid of child labour although indirectly children are still involved in the sector. The study also applauds the district for registering one of the highest rates of school attendance at 88.3 percent. These high rates are however putting a lot of pressure on the existing infrastructure. Finally poverty and cultural factors are some of the factors affecting negatively school attendance in the district.

Based on the above factors, the following recommendations are put forward for consideration by the new programme: (a) the project should support poverty reduction

strategies being developed by the district if underlying causes of child labour are to be eliminated, (b) the NAP together with other policy and legal instruments should be mainstreamed in the district implementation plans (DIPs); (c) serious reforms should be undertaken in the education sector if pupils are to be retained in school. For instance, coordination of stakeholders' interventions should be a priority; (d) existing capacity challenges for the district level stakeholders should be addressed namely: funding, mobility and human resources development; (e) crosscutting issues such as gender, HIV/AIDS, culture and poverty must be mainstreamed in the programme interventions; (f) monitoring and evaluation infrastructure must be strengthened; and (g) IABA should be implemented in areas where it is likely to make lasting impact.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Baseline Study on Child Labour in Mulanje district was designed as part of the new programme of support to the Government of Malawi (GoM) for the National Action Plan (NAP) on Child Labour (CL). This new programme known as *"Support to the National Action Plan on Child Labour (SNAP*)" is being funded by the United States Government Department of Labour (USDoL) through the International Labour Organization International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC) Country Programme.

The new programme has funding to the tune of **US$ 2,757, 621** to be implemented for a period of 39 months. It seeks to build from successes and experiences of the previous programmes locally and internationally. Among others, the new programme seeks to enhance the GoM by supporting the finalization and implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) in line with the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy's (MGDS) overall priority on poverty reduction and draft Decent Work Country Programme priority of *" creating more and better employment and income generation opportunities particularly for vulnerable groups including the youth, women and people with disabilities as well as ensuring the elimination of WFCL*." Meanwhile, the NAP was launched by the Government of Malawi in August 2010 as the main Policy Guideline for eliminating child labour by 2016 in Malawi.

The SNAP programme has three immediate objectives. The first seeks to contribute towards the creation of enabling legislative and policy environment on the elimination of child labour towards the global goal of elimination of WFCL by 2016. The second objective is expected to lay the foundations for "*CL free zones"* using an integrated area based approach (IABA) in the three districts where WFCL are found. Through this objective, a total of **4,350** children will be withdrawn and prevented from the WFCL in the targeted agricultural and rural sites and **632** children withdrawn and prevented from

the WFCL in the targeted urban sites of Malawi. Furthermore, **4,882** children are expected to receive educational services and **100** children will be targeted through non educational services. Of this total, **2,192** will be removed from work and **2,790** will be prevented from entering child labour. In addition, the programme also seeks to target **900** parents/ adult caregivers to improve their livelihoods and referral to existing social protection mechanisms so that they can keep their children in school. The third objective aims at building the capacity of tripartite partners (employers' and workers' organizations), key role players (parents and guardians of targeted children), and other stakeholders (district and community CL Committees) so that they can support the implementation of the IABA. The programme also intends to strengthen further development of a monitoring system for child labour in the country as well as in the targeted districts.

Therefore, the completion of the baseline study on child labour in Kasungu marks the beginning of the launch of the action programme for prevention, withdrawal and rehabilitation of the target groups of this project. This study was designed to identify children between 5 and 14 years and others below the age of 18 who are involved in child labour (CL) in accordance to ILO Conventions 182 and 138 which were endorsed by the Government of Malawi (GoM) in 1999. These two conventions form the basis for the global and local response to elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL, C182) and setting up of Minimum Age for entry into formal employment (C138). This report attempts to measure the initial conditions of working children in Kasungu in view of the above two conventions. The results will also help inform stakeholders in the design and formulation of effective interventions on eliminating child labour in the district. At the same time the success of the new programme depends on establishing indicators for monitoring the performance of the project activities. The baseline study was expected to provide key information on the following indicators: provision and utilization of services and coverage. The results of the study will be provided to policy makers, trade unions and NGOs as necessary information to effectively develop programmes for combating child labour not only in Mulanje but the country as a whole.

1.2 Situational Analysis of Child Labour

According to UNCEF (2007) Report, Malawi has 6.8 million children (51 percent) of the total population) presents a number of opportunities and challenges for its youngest citizens and their families. The prospects for a child survival have improved over the past few years due to improved maternal health care services. Prudent economic management, stable macroeconomic conditions and soaring agricultural production are helping to reduce poverty and hunger. However, effects of climate change like floods, drought has resulted into low agricultural production leading to food insecurity. The problem is exacerbated by fast growing population resulting into limited arable land for production. This has aggravated the poverty situation considering that Malawi is an agricultural country and threatening the country's development.

HIV prevalence rates seem to have stabilised at 14 percent and is currently at12 percent. However, the impact of HIV/AIDS has left the country with 12 percent of its children orphaned. Furthermore, has high incidence of malaria is leading to more under-five deaths. Children and women are becoming more vulnerable as their ability to recover from these relenting risks and shocks weakens.

.Malawi's child labour prevalence rates are relatively high despite numerous efforts by various stakeholders including Government, ILO and NGOs. More recently, the NAP on Child Labour in Malawi (2010) highlights estimated rates of child labour and existing initiatives taken to eliminate it in Malawi. UNICEF (2007) Report estimates that 26 percent of children in Malawi are involved in child labour.[1]

The ILO most recent estimates (2012) shows that there are 215 million children trapped in child labour. In 2008, it was estimated that there were 306 million children aged 5-17 years old who were economically active and out these 215 million were child labourers. Of the child labourers, 115 million were engaged in hazardous work. In addition, there were 176 million children aged 5-14 years old who were engaged in economic activities

[1] Malawi Annual Report 2007, UNICEF, Lilongwe Malawi, p7

and 153 million of these children were child labourers. These figures represent a 3.2 percent drop in child labour compared to the 2004 figures. The Global Report shows that the number of children in employment increased sharply in Sub-Saharan Africa, from 49.3 million in 2004 to 58.2 million in 2008 (with an increase in the activity rate from 26.4 to 28.4 per cent)[2].

The Survey published in the Malawi Child Labour 2002 Report [3] indicated that the country had 1.4 million children engaged in child labour of which 52percent and 48percent were girls and boys respectively. The report suggested that there were more girls than boys involved in household chores. Girls were believed to be at higher risk of becoming domestic workers than boys due to the following:

- Cultural acceptance of gender roles;
- Lack of better alternatives for girls
- Lack of efficient educational infrastructures
- Lack of sufficient enabling environment and general situation of poverty at household level.
- HIV and AIDS pandemic which has increased the vulnerability, as more parents get sick and die leaving girls to become heads of households who must work in order to take care of their siblings and other members of their families.

The report also indicated that children below 15 years of age account for about 22percent of the total permanent labour force in tobacco estates. These results from the Malawi National Child Labour (IPEC/ SIMPOC, 2002) indicated that 25.4percent (.39 million) of males and 21.3percent (0.34 million) of females aged 5-14 years representing 23.3percent (o.73 million of all children ages between 5-14 work. This is broken down as follows:

[2] *Child Labour National Action Plan on Child Labour 2010-2015, Ministry of Labour, Lilongwe, Malawi (August 2010), p1*
[3] *Training Manual on Child Labour Law Enforcement in Malawi (2008), ILO-IPEC Country Programme, Malawi, p19*

- 5-9 years it was 38percent
- 10-14 years it was 41percent
- 15-17 it was 20percent

These children (52percent) were found in the agriculture sector performing heavy workloads and exposed to various hazards like fertilizers and pesticides. The children were also found in the domestic (43.2percent) service carrying out work under conditions of isolation, excessive long hours, physical and sexual abuse. The survey found that 64.5 percent worked 11-25 hours; 8 percent worked 26-36 hours while 3 percent worked over 49 hours per week. Children were also found in the streets as vendors and child prostitutes.

To address the situation of child labour in Malawi, the Government has so far implemented a number of upstream measures to eliminate CL such as the ratification of the conventions mentioned above. Furthermore, Malawi domesticated these conventions into her Constitution, the Employment Act (2000) and the National Code of Conduct on Child Labour. All these instruments according to the NAP (2010:2) were designed to protect children from labour exploitation and work towards elimination of child labour by ensuring that children below the age of 14 are not being employed or engaged in any form of employment and those between the ages of 14 and 18 are not engaged in hazardous employment. The NAP is guided by the Global Action Plan on Child Labour which among others is aimed at mainstreaming child labour in the national economic and social development framework.

Table 1.1 Policy Instruments Reviewed by Government

- Child labour policy
- List of hazardous work
- NAP
- Labour Inspection Policy Guidelines
- Resource mobilization and allocation to CL activities especially at district level
- Formation of CL network;
- Mainstreaming of CL in DIPs under child protection strategy.
- Formation of CL committees and DAs and communities;
- Establishment of CL database and CLMS in local communities, and
- Development of the Decent Work Country Programme.

There are a number of critical challenges facing the Ministry and the country as whole in the fight against child labour. These include the outstanding bills/ legislation such as the Tenancy Bill; low awareness on evils of CL among communities; rampant poverty amongst vulnerable households; inadequate education and support infrastructure; cultural factors; lack of capacity among implementing partners; HIV/AIDS and lack of coordination amongst various stakeholders among others.

Table 1. 2 Estimated Children aged 5-14 working by type of work and background characteristics

	Currently Working	**Working for non-relatives**		**Currently working on family farm**	**Currently doing domestic work for**	
		Paid	**Unpaid**		**Less than 4 hours/ day**	**4 or more hours/ day**

Total	**27.0**	**3.1**	**5.7**	**61.9**	**3.9**	**18.6**
Age 5-9	13.8	1.3	4.2	49.2	1.7	8.1
Age 10-14	42.1	5.1	7.3	76.6	6.3	30.6
Male	27.6	3.2	4.4	53.8	2.6	21.1
Female	26.4	3.0	6.8	69.7	5.1	16.1
Urban	17.7	1.6	3.7	63.2	4.4	10.6
Rural	28.4	3.3	6.0	61.8	3.8	19.8
Northern region	31.8	2.2	12.9	70.8	4.0	20.2
Central region	25.4	3.7	5.3	61.6	3.8	16.8
Southern region	27.2	2.8	2.8	60.0	3.9	19.9

Source: Training Manual on Child Labour Law Enforcement in Malawi (2008) p22 adopted from 2002 Child Labour Survey Report

However, since the last survey in 2002, there has been no major survey that has been conducted but the trend is that the communities are aware of the evils of child labour and how it can be eliminated. This has been due to the concerted efforts of the Malawi Government, donors, UN agencies (ILO, UNICEF) as well as NGOs and other duty bearers.

1.3 Description of Mulanje District

1.3.1 Location, Size and population

Mulanje district is located in the Southern Region of Malawi, approximately 85 kilometers East of Blantyre, Malawi's Commercial Capital and 415 kilometers South of Lilongwe, the capital city of Malawi. It is bordered by Phalombe to the North-East, Thyolo and Chiradzulu to the West, Zomba to the North and Republic of Mozambique to the East and South. The total area for the district is 2056 square kilometers which is 2.2 percent of the total area for Malawi. The district has a population of 525, 429 people (Malawi Population and Housing census 2008).

1.3.2 Topography, Geology and Hydrology

The district is named after the highest mountain in Malawi and Central Africa. The mountain has Sapitwa Peak as its highest point, towering at over 3000 meters above the sea level. It stretches through the whole Eastern boarder up to Phalombe in the North, leaving a small stretch of land between itself and the Republic of Mozambique to the East. There are a few small and isolated hills, notably, Mulomba, Nalipiri, and Chingozi.

Mulanje Mountain has divided the district into two topographically distinct regions. There is the hilly zone surrounding the mountain and covering most of the South, Central, North East and Eastern parts of the district. The land in this area is undulating and has several rivers and streams that flow down the mountain. The major rivers are Ruo, Likhubula, Lichenya and Thuchila. Likhubula, Lichenya and Thuchila are tributaries to Ruo which joins Shire River down South. The other zone is relatively plain and covers parts of Southwest, West and Northwestern areas of the district these areas are generally flat and lie at 600m above the sea level and forms part of Phalombe plain.

1.3.3 Major Socioeconomic profile

In terms of socioeconomic profile, the district has seventeen development priorities (needs) were identified.[4] The following have been identified as the main development issues in the district:

- Food Insecurity
- Poor access to safe water
- Poor quality education
- High maternal and child mortality rate
- Inadequate accessibility to essential services
- High illiteracy rate
- Inadequate care and support to orphans and other vulnerable children
- Limited access to Secondary education
- Environmental Degradation
- High crime rates
- Acute land shortage
- Chieftainship conflicts
- Poor sanitation in public places
- Extinction of Mulanje Cedar
- High prevalence of HIV/AIDS
- Poor office accommodation in government departments
- Climatic changes

According to the study by Employers' Association of Malawi in 2004 for the Tea Sector in Mulanje and Thyolo districts, 50percent of households interviewed in the study in Mulanje lived on less than MK 3,000 per month, or USD$ 21 per month. This result tallied with the 1998 NSO report that found that most communities in Thyolo and Mulanje lived below the poverty line of USD$ 1 per day. From the families interviewed,

[4] *Mulanje District Socio Economic Profile (SEP), 2006*, p9

over 65percent in Mulanje District reported that the man/husband was the family main income earner against over 90percent in Thyolo District.[5]

Other major findings of the study for Mulanje district are summarized as follows:

- 80 percent of the respondents did not believe Large Tea Sector Estates used child labour.
- Awareness levels on child labour (as a concept) were quite high in both districts (over 90 percent) *with majority* 67 percent indicating the radio as their main source of information on child labour.
- 52 percent of households in Mulanje reported their children worked in the past 7 days with the majority of the currently working children reported to be between 15 and 18 with 32 percent being girls.
- 47percent of families interviewed in Mulanje reported that the working child was their biological offspring.
- 15percent of the currently working children were in the smallholder tea farms whilst others were almost evenly distributed amongst family shop/hawker, vending, domestic worker, brick making, and bus loading/call boys. None of the respondents reported that they had children who had worked the past 7 days in large-scale plantation/commercial plantations.
- Over 50percent of respondents reported that the children worked for more than 4 hours a day.
- The majority of the respondents had completed their primary school (8 years of primary education).

1.4 Survey Objectives

The specific objectives of the baseline survey were:

[5] *Rapid Assessment Survey Report- Tea Sector, Thyolo and Mulanje, ECAM, November 2004*

1) To collect data on the numbers and concentrations (mapping) of child labour in Kasungu, Mulanje and Mzimba districts.
2) To identify **4,982** potential children in and at risk of WFCL who could be potential project beneficiaries.
3) To collect information on the main characteristics of working children and their households.
4) To collect information to enable identification and analysis of the causes and consequences of children engaged in child labour (both demand and supply factor), including household earnings and debt, perceptions of parents/ guardians/children and the hazards and abuses faced by children at their work from gender perspective.
5) To collect information from the households on those children who are trafficked or at risk of being trafficked and the main reasons for the malpractice.
6) To obtain through FGDs and KIIs information the various forms of child labour prevailing in the districts, particularly on WFCL and the underlying forces leading to the persistence of child labour.
7) Assess level of social services available in the districts including those of government in order to determine alternative livelihoods and support to target children in the three districts.
8) To collect information on working conditions, legal instruments relating to Working Conditions, the on-ground efficacy of pertinent legal instruments, the state of regulatory oversight and the legal status of the said establishments.
9) To provide policy makers, researchers and other stakeholders with a comprehensive information and a set of indicators on child labour to guide the development of interventions.
10) To consolidate the basis for the creation of a long term database on child labour or feeding the information in the national database on child labour.

1.5 Key audiences

The results of the baseline study will be provided to policy makers, trade unions and NGOs as necessary information to effectively develop programmes for combating child labour in Mulanje and Malawi as a whole. The findings in part or whole will be shared with stakeholders at the workshop and may be distributed widely with outside sources at the discretion of ILO management.

1.6 Structure of the report

This Baseline Survey Report for Mulanje is the third deliverable under the contract for the Baseline Survey of Child Labour in Kasungu, Mzimba and Mulanje Districts (Ref. number: ILO/RFP/34/2010). The purpose of this report is to set out the key findings of the Baseline Survey, to document lessons learnt and recommend policy actions to improve the design and implementation of the new programme not only in Mulanje but also Kasungu and Mzimba districts.

This report is divided into chapters, 1 – 8.
Chapter one is the introduction and it covers aspects such as background of the study, country context, and situational analysis of child labour in Malawi and Mulanje district. The chapter also presents an outline of the study objectives, key audiences, and scope of the baseline survey and the structure of the report.

The second part of this report covers the survey design and methodology which covers sections on overview of the methodology (sample design, training, pretesting and data collection methodology). This chapter also discusses key evaluation questions, quantitative and qualitative methods used in the study. The last section on this chapter describes the study limitations.

The third chapter describes household and housing characteristics of the main correspondents for the study. The chapter presents among others, characteristics of

households interviewed. This chapter presents key findings from the study. The chapter specifically examines data pertaining to the demographic characteristics of population surveyed; characteristics of dwelling units, access to energy, access to safe water and sanitation and sources of income.

Chapter four is on education. The primary objective of this chapter is to present a detailed analysis on the education characteristics of the household population and in particular the children, with the broader picture on school attendance, school enrolment, absenteeism, reasons for absenteeism and never attending school.

Chapter five is the main chapter of the report. The chapter assesses the engagement of children in economic activities by describing the main characteristics of the vulnerable and working children in Mulanje, their nature, extent and causes of child labour and WFCL, the condition of work and how it generally affects development (health, education, physical, moral and mental) of working children.

Health and safety issues are covered in chapter six of the report. The chapter assesses the impact the work of children has on their health and safety at work places.

Chapters seven and eight draw conclusions and recommendations from key the findings of the study. It is in these chapters that existing social services and programmes tackling child labour including their successes and challenges which may present lessons learnt for the new programme are assessed. For instance chapter seven presents an assessment of the capacity of the regulatory and oversight institutions, effectiveness of policy and legal instruments for the elimination of WFCL in Malawi. It also gives an overview of the information needs of various stakeholders in child labour and those of Mulanje in particular. The last chapter contains the annexes. This chapter provides detailed information on the research instruments, list of places where the study was conducted (EAs), names of research team members among others.

This chapter has provided background to the study and chapter two on study methodology will describe the study design and methodology which the team used to collect and analyses data.

2.0 STUDY DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Overview of the Research Methodology

This chapter summarizes the key methods and processes used to collect child labour baseline data in Mulanje. The detailed methodology for the study was outlined in the *Inception Report* that was produced at the beginning of the study in October 2010. This baseline study commenced on 4th October 2010 as a household based sample survey which applied a structured questionnaire supplemented by focus group discussions (FGD) and key informant interviews (KII).

Overall, 29 enumeration areas were selected in Mulanje district and 35 households were interviewed in each EA. This translated to a total of ***1000*** households interviewed and ***1403*** children. Overall the study utilized participatory methodologies by involving ILO staff locally and SIMPOC team in Geneva during planning, designing and implementation of the survey. The study has so far utilized three of the four phases planned for the survey namely: Inception, Field Survey, Synthesis and Report Writing.

The first phase, *inception* involved holding of inception meetings with ILO staff in Malawi, development of draft baseline research methodology modeled on SIMPOC Questionnaire and qualitative tools (rapid assessment). A video conference was held mid October 2010 with the SIMPOC team from Geneva. After drafting the instruments, the inception report was drafted and submitted to ILO for review. The four-way consultation process between consultants, ILO Malawi, NSO and SIMPOC Team, Geneva necessitated frequent revision of the instruments by the research team as the comments flowed. In the interim, after drafting the instruments, upon agreement with ILO staff in Malawi, the team was allowed to train the enumerators and data entry staff based on the draft instruments. This training took place in Zomba from November 15 to 18 2010 at Zomba School of Health Sciences. A total of twelve enumerators, four data entry staff and two supervisors were trained. On the third day of the training, the team went for pretesting of the draft instruments to among others test the application of the

instruments and assess the reliability and validity of the questions. During the last day of the training the team reviewed the questionnaire based on the feedback from the field.

A three member team from the National Statistical Office (NSO) trained the enumerators. However, due to delays in finalizing the approval of the instruments which only came in January 2011, the team only managed to complete listing of the households in all the five Traditional Authorities (TAs) selected in Mulanje (see annex for list of enumeration areas selected in Mulanje). Due to lapse of time, some trained enumerators left and were replaced a retrained. Data collection started on February 10 to March 11, 2011.

2.1.1 Scope and Coverage

The Child Labour Baseline Survey was carried out in 29 Enumeration Areas (EA) sampled from traditional authorities of Mulanje district that included Mabuka, Laston Njema, Chikumbu, Mthiramanja, Juma and Mulanje. In each sampled EA a household questionnaire and a child questionnaire were administered to respondents from sampled households. In addition, key informant interviews were conducted with traditional leaders at EA level and representatives from key sector ministries at district level.

Two questionnaires were used in the quantitative study. The household questionnaire was the administered to the head of a household or the most knowledgeable member of a household. The second questionnaire was designed to collect data from children aged 5-17 years. A key informant interview guide was used to collect qualitative data from selected key informants.

The household questionnaire captured data on usual members of the target households, economic activities for household members, household characteristics, sources of livelihood, household income. The child questionnaire captured data on demographic characteristics of children, education, involvement of children in economic

activity, conditions under which children worked, health and safety of children and involvement of children in household chores.

2.1.2 Sample design

Sampling frame for household survey

The sampling frame for the survey was the list of all households with children aged 5-17 years in Mulanje District.

Sample size for household survey

The total number of households in Traditional Authorities of Mulanje was estimated from the sampling frame developed by NSO from the 2008 Population Census. By assuming that 37
percent of the households in Mulanje district had children participating in child labour a minimum sample size of 995 households adjusted to a minimum of 1000 was found to be adequate at 95percent confidence level and 3.0 percent precision

A combination of multi-stage and stratified random sampling approach was used to select a minimum of 1000 households from the district. In the first stage, for each district Census Enumeration Areas or EAs (obtained from the National Statistical Office) were listed in Excel. Stratified random sampling with probability proportional to size was used to select 29 EAs in the district using SPSS.

Stage two involved the selection of a representative sample of households with children aged 5-17 years in each sampled enumeration area. A mapping exercise was carried out in all sampled EAs with assistance from NSO to update the household lists in the EAs as well simultaneously identify households with children aged 5-17 years. In stage two, 35 households were randomly selected from each sampled EA in each respective TA. Using the households numbers allocated during the pre-survey listing exercise, random numbers were used to select the required number of households in each sampled EA.

EA maps from NSO were used to locate the sampled EAs and household numbers from the listing exercise were used to locate the sampled households when research assistants visited the sampled EAs.

Table 2.1: Sampled TAs

TA	No of EAs selected	No of households selected
Mabuka	11	385
Laston Njema	4	140
Chikumbu	6	210
Mthiramanja	3	105
Juma	4	140
Mulanje Boma	1	35
Total	29	1015

2.3 Data processing and analysis

Questionnaires from the field were edited for consistency, accuracy and completeness. Questionnaires that were inconsistent or incomplete were sent back to the field for correction. Edited questionnaires were coded before the commencement of data entry. Data entry was done in Excel. Data cleaning was done using SPSS and Excel to ensure that valid data and accurate had been captured. Indicators were generated in SPSS and STATA to address specific objectives of the study.

2.4 Study Limitations

There are a number of limitations to this study that affected both the interpretation of data and extent to which conclusions can be drawn. The first concerns the time differences for completing various stages of the study. Initially, this study was to be completed by Mid-January 2011. Because of the delays in approving the baseline

research methodology, certain assumptions about the study were affected. The delays meant that the team was under severe pressure to complete certain deliverables with limited timeframes and resources. There was a big gap between the time when listing of households was done in Mulanje, November 2010 and the time of the actual interviews, February 2011. Where households experienced some changes such as transfer of some household members or complete relocation of the household, the team was left with little choice but to replace such households. The three month gap also affected the team as it had to retrain the people and even replace some who could not be available for the study. This had had serious planning and budget constraints. This is a major lesson for the future.

Selection of the districts in this study was purposive as it is linked to areas where the new programme is to be implemented. Therefore, the findings of this study cannot be generalized at national level as it only covers 3 of the 28 districts in the country. At the time of the study, there were recent interventions such as awareness campaigns on child rights including child labour. As such the team used data from key informant interviews and FGDs to triangulate household data and vice versa. These may have influenced the responses from households interviewed in Mulanje. Every time studies of this nature are conducted, there are always high expectations raised in the community. As such the responses may have been negative or positive depending on these expectations. If people expect to receive some benefits from the future programme there is the tendency to hide the true picture of those households and vice versa in anticipation. Comparability of the results across districts may also be affected by the time differences the study is being conducted in the three districts. *More details about the methodology used to collect data for the study are included in the annexes*.

3.0 HOUSEHOLD AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

This chapter presents key findings from the study. The chapter specifically examines data pertaining to the demographic characteristics of population surveyed; characteristics of dwelling units, access to energy, access to safe water and sanitation and sources of income.

3.1 Distribution of households by selected characteristics

Table 3.1 provides household composition by selected characteristics. The table shows that 4 percent of the households surveyed were situated in urban areas and 96 percent were in rural areas. The table also shows that the highest proportion (40.4percent) were in TA Mabuka, 17.3 percent in Laston Njema, 17 percent in Chikumbu, 11percent in Mthiramanja, 10 percent in Juma and 4 percent in Mulanje Boma. The same table also shows that 65 percent of the surveyed households were male headed and 35 percent were female headed. This pattern is also consistent with the previous NSO surveys which revealed that the proportion of male headed households is much higher than the proportion of households that are female headed.

Table 3.1: Distribution of households by selected characteristics

Background characteristic	Percentage	Number of households
Total	100.0	940
Urban	4.0	902
Rural	96.0	38
TA		
Mabuka	40.4	380
Laston Njema	17.3	163
Chikumbu	17.0	160
Mthiramanja	11.2	105
Juma	10.0	94
Mulanje Boma	4.0	38
Sex of Head of Household		
Male	65.2	613
Female	34.8	327

3.2 Distribution of surveyed population by age and sex

The results showed that out of the 944 households who were successfully interviewed, 4,592 household members were listed. A total of 48 percent and 52 percent of these household members were males and females respectively. Table 3.2 shows the age and sex distribution of the surveyed population. The table shows that in the age groups below 18 years, males were generally higher than females except in the age group 5-9. In the 18 years and above age group females were higher than males.

Table 3. 2 Percent distribution of surveyed population by age group and sex

Age group	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-4	314	14.3	287	12.0	601	13.1
5-9	410	18.6	455	19.0	865	18.8
10-13	364	16.5	334	14.0	698	15.2
14-17	251	11.4	247	10.3	498	10.8
≥18 years	851	38.6	1,052	44.0	1,903	41.4
Not stated	12	0.5	15	0.6	27	0.6
Total	**2,202**	**100.0**	**2,390**	**100.0**	**4,592**	**100.0**

3.3 Age-sex Structure of the Interviewed Children

Table 3.3 and Figure 1 below provide the age –sex distribution of the interviewed children. The results show that 52.2 percent of the children were females while males constituted 47.8 percent. By TA, the results show that Laston Njema had the highest proportion of females (57.8 percent) while Mabuka had the lowest (47.7 percent). Figure 1 shows that out of the children who participated in the study, majority of the them were aged 5-9 (46.9 percent) followed by those in the age group 10-13 (32.3 percent) while those in the older age group of 14-17 comprised the lowest proportion (20.8 percent). The results show a similar pattern for both males and females.

Table 3.3 Percent distribution of the children aged 5-17 by sex and TA

District and TA	Sex	
	Male	Female
Mulanje	**47.8**	**52.2**
Mabuka	52.3	47.7
Laston Njewa	42.2	57.8
Chikumbu	44.2	55.8
Mthiramanja	47.2	52.8
Juma	45.1	54.9
Mulanje Boma	51.9	48.1

Figure 1 Percent distribution of children by age groups

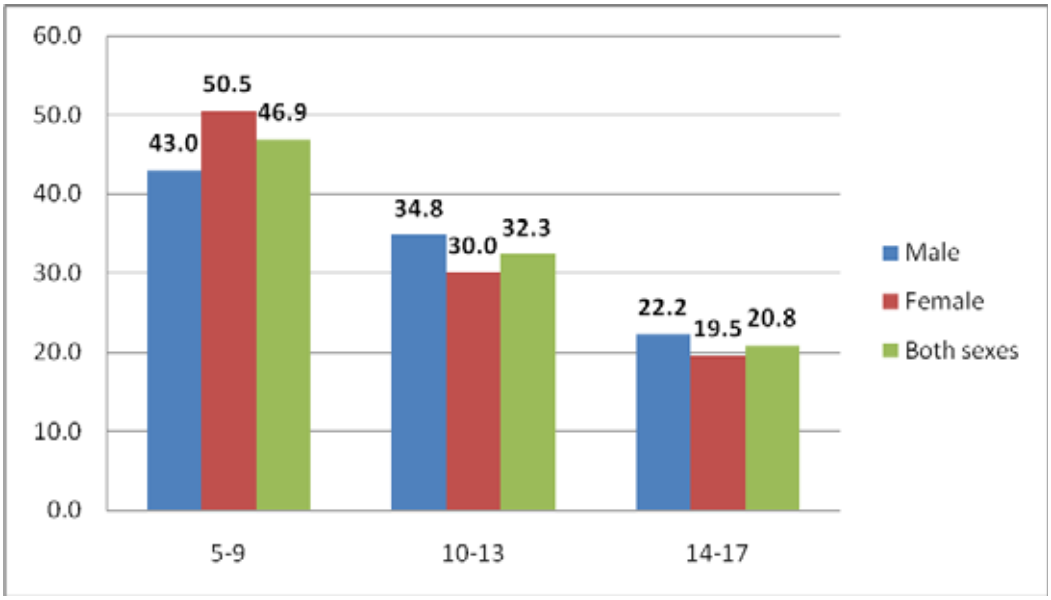


Table 3.4 shows the percent distribution of children by age group and TA. The results revealed that the majority of the children interviewed in all the TAs were aged 5-9, Laston Njema having the highest proportion (51.8 percent) and Mulanje Boma registering the lowest number (38.9 percent), while for the older age groups of 14-17, the majority of the children interviewed were from Mulanje Boma (29.6 percent).

Table 3. 4 Percent distribution of children by age group and TA

District and TA	Age group		
	5-9	10-13	14-17
Mulanje	**46.9**	**32.3**	**20.8**
Mabuka	47.5	32.3	20.3
Laston Njewa	51.8	29.4	18.8
Chikumbu	44.7	33.0	22.3
Mthiramanja	41.0	35.4	23.6
Juma	47.9	33.8	18.3
Mulanje Boma	38.9	31.5	29.6

3.4 Types of Dwelling Units and Ownership Status

The results indicate that 40 percent of the dwelling households were traditional, 37 percent were permanent and 23 percent were semi-permanent structures. Most dwellings (88 percent) were owned by members of households, 4.1 percent were co-owned, 3.1 percent were subsidized by employers, 3 percent were rented and 1.8 percent were provided free as presented in table 3.5.

3.4.1 Main materials for the Main House

Most of the main dwelling structures (68.6 percent) had burnt bricks as the main material for the wall, 24.7 percent had walls made of unburnt bricks and 4.8 percent were made of mud (Table 3.5). The floor material for 74.9 percent of main houses for surveyed households was earth or sand, 21.4 percent had cement as the main material and 2.3 percent had broken bricks as the main material. The highest proportion (42.6 percent) of the surveyed households had iron sheets as the main roofing material for the main houses, 35.9 percent had their main houses thatched and 19.5 percent had main houses with roofing material made of palm, bamboo or grass.

Table 3. 5 Type of dwelling units, ownership status and main materials for the house

Type of dwelling for household	**Percent**
Traditional	40.0
Permanent	37.3
Semi-permanent	22.8
Total	100.0
Ownership status of dwelling	
Owned by any household member	88.1
Co-owner	4.1
Provided free	1.8
Subsidized by employer(lodging)	3.1
Rented	3.0
Total	100.0
Main wall material for main house	
Cane/Palm/Trunks	0.2
Dirt/Mud	4.8
Bamboo/Tree trunks with mud	1.0
Stone with mud	0.1
Cement	0.2

Burnt bricks	68.6
Unburnt bricks	24.7
Cement blocks	0.3
Total	100.0
Main floor material for main house	
Earth/Sand	74.9
Dung	0.4
Wood planks	0.1
Broken bricks	2.3
Ceramic tiles	0.2
Cement	21.4
Other	0.8
Total	100.0
Main roofing material for main house	
No roof	0.6
Thatch/Palm leaf	35.9
Rustic mat	0.1
Palm/Bamboo/Grass	19.5
Wood planks	0.1
Iron sheets	42.6
Cement	0.3
Ceramic tiles	0.2
Cement	0.4
Plastic sheeting	0.1
Total	100.0

3.5 Main Sources of Energy for Cooking and Lighting

Most of surveyed households (97percent) reported that their main source of energy for cooking was wood (Table 3.6). Minor proportions stated charcoal, paraffin, gas and electricity as main sources of energy for cooking. Most of households (85.8percent) stated paraffin as the main source of energy for lighting, 7.5percent indicated that torches were a main source of energy for lighting and 4.1percent stated electricity.

3.6 Main Source of Drinking Water

The highest proportion of households stated the bore hole as the main source of drinking water. The findings showed that the main sources of drinking water were 22.8 percent stated public or private piped water, unprotected dug wells 7.2 percent, and 4.6 percent stated that protected dug wells (Table 3.6).

3.7 Toilet Use by Type

Table 3.6 also shows the type of facility the households use. The highest proportion (72 percent) of households reported that they had access to a pit latrine without a slab, 14.5 percent had access to a pit latrine with at least a slab, 3.6 percent had access to a ventilated improved pit latrine and 3.2 percent had access to a flash toilet.

Table 3.6 Main sources of energy and access to safe water and sanitation

Main source of energy for cooking	Percent
Wood	97.1
Charcoal	1.0
Paraffin	0.5
Gas	0.2
Electricity	1.1
Other	0.1
Total	100.0
Main source of energy for lighting	
Wood	1.0
Charcoal	0.3
Paraffin	85.8
Gas	0.2
Electricity	4.1
Solar	0.4
Candles	0.3
Torch	7.5
Maize/Tobacco stalks	0.4
Total	100.0
Main source of drinking water	
Bore hole	61.1
Protected dug well	4.6
Unprotected dug well	7.2
Spring	0.3
Dam/River/Stream	3.3
Rain water/Harvested water	0.3
Public tap/Standpipe	9.8
Piped into dwelling	4.4
Piped into yard	8.6
Other	0.3

Total	100.0
Type of toilet facilities	
Flash toilet	3.2
VIP	3.6
Pit latrine with slab	4.4
Pit latrine without slab/Open pit	71.9
Pit latrine with slab and cover	4.1
Pit latrine with slab and foot rest	5.3
Pit latrine with slab, cover and foot rest	0.7
Compositing toilet	0.1
No latrine or bush or field	6.8

3.8 Sources of Household Income

The main sources of household income were crop production representing 29.2 percent, casual labour (23.6 percent), formal employment (21 percent), income generating activities (11.6 percent) , semi-skilled contract work (4.3 percent) and livestock production (3.6 percent) as presented in Table 3.7 below.

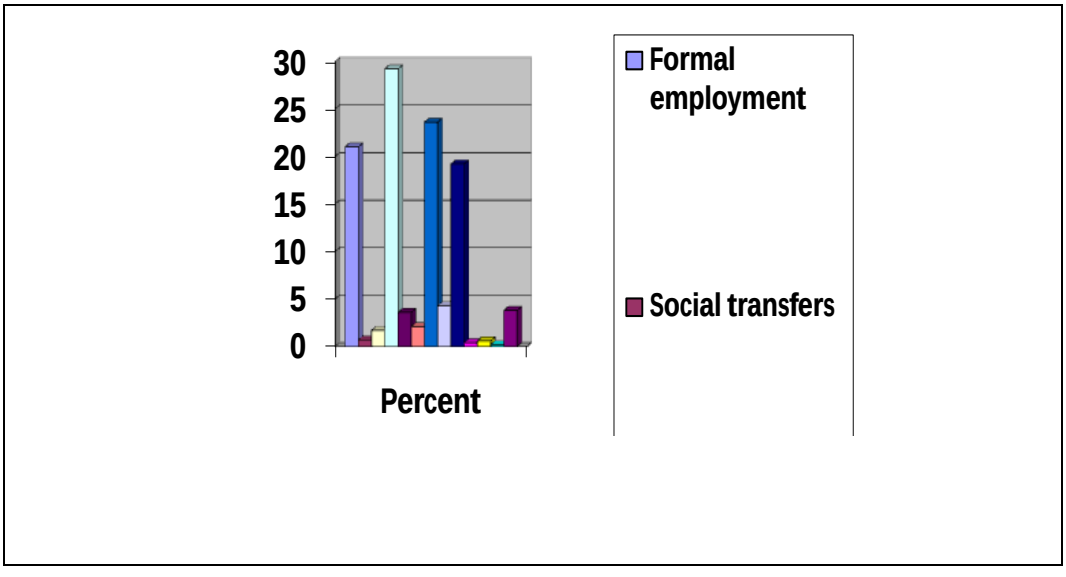


Figure 2 Main Sources of Income

3.9 Household income and expenditure

The average monthly household income per TA ranged from MK 4,552 in Mthiramanja to MK 106,737 in Mulanje Boma (Table 3.8). Average household expenditure per TA ranged from MK 3,068 in Chikumbu to MK 43,161 in Mulanje Boma. In all TAs, the average monthly household expenditure was lower than mean household income and this implies that households were generally living within their means since they were spending less than what they were earning per month.

Table 3.7 Household income and expenditure

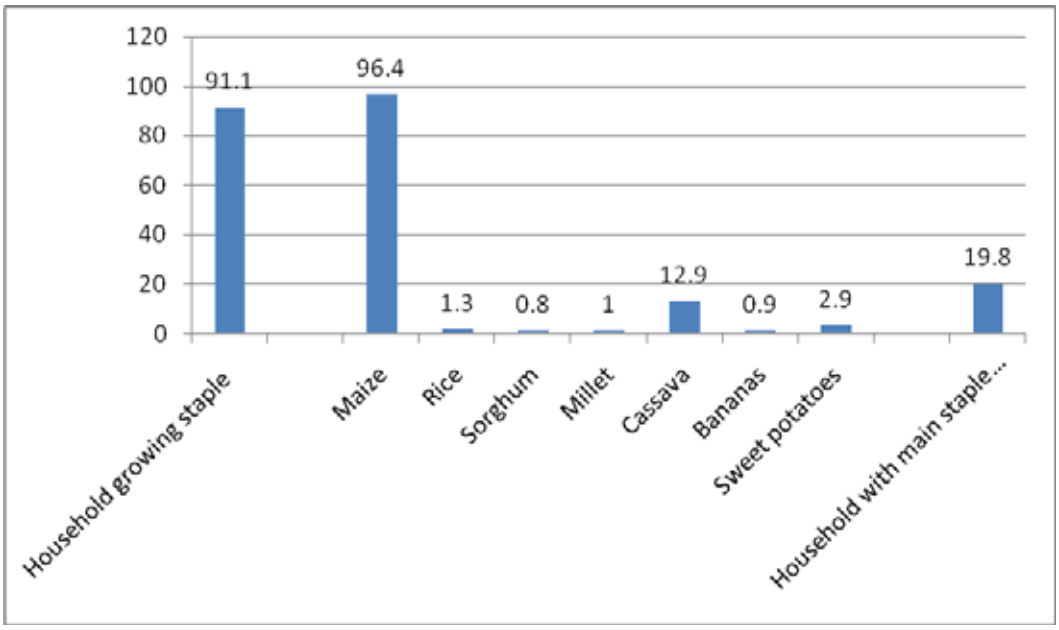
Traditional Authority	Monthly Average Household Income (MK)	Monthly Average Household Expenditure (MK)
Mabuka	5,278	3,874
Njema	5,399	3,158
Chikumbu	4,606	3,068
Mthiramanja	4,552	3,129
Juma	6,770	3,846
Mulanje Boma	106,737	43,161
Overall	**9,410**	**5,113**

3.10 Food security status of households

Households were asked to state whether they had grown any staple food crops in the 2009/2010 cropping season. The majority (92 percent) of the 944 households interviewed reported that they had planted staple food crops in the cropping season in question. The highest proportion (96 percent) of the 860 households had planted maize, 13 percent planted cassava, 3 percent planted sweet potatoes, 1 percent planted rice, and 0.9 percent planted bananas as the main staple food crop. Out of the 860

households that had planted and harvested staple food crops, 20 percent reported that they still had the main staple food crop during the time of the baseline survey was conducted.

Figure 3 Food Security



4.0 EDUCATION

The primary objective of this chapter is to present a detailed analysis on the education characteristics of the household population and in particular the children, with the broader picture on school attendance, school enrolment, absenteeism, reasons for absenteeism and never attending school.

Mulanje is one of the four education districts in Shire Highlands Education Division. The other three education districts are Chiradzulu, Thyolo, and Phalombe. In Mulanje district, both primary education and secondary education are offered. For easy management of the education system and indeed due to the decentralization process, which has been going on in Malawi since 1998, Mulanje district is sub-divided into 11 education zones. The education zone comprises a number of primary schools which converge at Teachers' Development Center (TDC). The Primary Education Advisor (PEA) heads each education zone. This present structure seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the education system. Decentralization in education helps to improve the operations of the education system by increasing the efficiency in the allocation and utilization of the available limited resources. It also allows a faster identification of critical problems and a search for appropriate responses.

Statistics from the District Education Manager (DEM, 2011) show that the district has 157 primary schools (see Table 4.1). According to reports, although the difference in enrolment between boys and girls is quite insignificant, the number of girls enrolled in school decreases towards senior classes. This difference is due to some of the cultural practices such as early marriages, poverty, child labour, lack of food and clothes, and also the impact of HIV/AIDS pandemic. There is also growing number of orphans without parental care and support who withdraw from school. In general, the district has experienced an increase in pupil enrolment since the introduction of Free Primary Education in 1994.

4.1 School Enrolment

School enrolment is one of the activities that re-enforce the rate of understanding of pupils to enhance their academic performance. Table 4.1 below provides information on school enrolment in Mulanje district. The table shows that the district has one of the highest enrolment rates for children in primary school at 96 percent. The table clearly shows that the district is under heavy pressure to adequately provide quality education as demanded by education standards in the country. For instance, the teacher pupil ratio is 1:99 and classroom pupil ration is 1:131 which is way above the recommended rate for the country, 1:60 for both rations. However, the situation is similar in most districts.

Table 4.1 Enrolment Rate for Mulanje

Indicator/ Characteristic	Results
Number of schools in the district	157
Number of pupils	
Boys	75767
Girls	76559
Total	152326
Number of teachers	1530
Enrolment rate for the district (percent)	96.0
Number of classrooms in the district	1160
Teacher pupil ratio	1:99
Classroom pupil ratio	1:131
Pass rate of primary School examinations (percent)	80.5

Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Mulanje 2011

Table 4.2 below provides a comparative assessment of enrolment in primary school in the district. The findings show that over a period of five years, the district has witnessed an increase of primary schools from 150 in 2006 to 157 in 2011.

Table 4.2 School enrolment, Number of Teachers and Teacher/pupil ratio by Traditional Authority

TA	No. of Such	Number of pupil			Number of teachers			Teacher/ Pupil ratio	Short Fall
		Boys	Girls	Total	Male	Female	Total		
Mabuka	48	22073	21195	43268	315	139	454	1:95	284
Nkanda	29	11148	10939	22087	162	40	202	1:109	162
Juma	25	6153	6760	12913	104	27	131	1:99	89
Chikumbu	16	8106	8198	16304	103	86	189	1:86	79
Mthiramanja	14	5602	5481	11083	84	37	121	1:92	72
Njema	14	7375	6851	14226	97	33	130	1:109	114
Total	**146**	**60457**	**59424**	**119881**	**865**	**362**	**1227***	**1:98**	**800**

Source: DEO 2006

***Note: Month-to-month teachers included**

4.2 Physical Facilities/ Infrastructure

Despite high enrolment rates reported above, the district like many districts in the country faces acute shortage of physical facilities such as classrooms; teachers' offices and houses and desks just to mention a few. This has come about due to the implementation of Free Primary Education policy. This policy, coupled with rapid population growth, has greatly increased access to primary education in the district and therefore, exerts pressure on the available physical facilities. The majority of pupils still learn under trees, especially those in junior classes. In addition, in almost all the schools half the number of pupils sits on the floor.

The district has some schools which do not have access to safe drinking water, latrines, classrooms, desks and this discourages pupils, especially girls, from going to school. The problem of absenteeism becomes worse during the rainy season. The school is perceived as a health hazard to pupils if these essential facilities are not in place. This has contributed to high dropout rate for girls in senior classes than junior classes. Table 4.3 below summaries the situation officially reported in 2006 with regard to physical facilities in primary Schools in the district.

Table 4. 3 School enrolment and physical facilities by Traditional Authority (T/A)

T/A	Enrolm.	Classrooms				Desks	Ratio	Toilets				Chairs
		P	T	T	Ratio			P	T	T	Ratio	
Chikumbu	16304	155	8	163	1:100	1926	1:8	81	86	167	1:98	2240
Juma	12913	127	13	140	1:92	1344	1:10	74	47	121	1:107	610
Mabuka	43268	341	50	391	1:110	4054	1:11	127	193	320	1:125	2772

Mthiramanja	11083	96	24	120	1:92	1673	1:7	11	83	94	1:118	529
Njema	14226	114	10	124	1:115	1968	1:7	109	5	114	1:125	129
Nkanda	22087	196	23	219	1:101	3611	1:6	64	82	146	1:151	1005
Total	**119881**	**1029**	**128**	**1157**	**1:104**	**14576**	**1:8**	**466**	**496**	**962**	**1:125**	**7285**

Source: DEO 2006; **P: Permanent; T: Temporary; T: Total; L: Laboratories; LI: Library**

Similar shortages were also reported for accommodation for teachers as shown in Table 4.4 below.

Table 4. 4 Number of teachers and physical facilities by Traditional Authority (T/A)

T/A	Staffing	Teachers' Houses				Teachers' Toilets				H/T's Office	Staff Room
		P	T	T	Gap	P	T	T	Ratio		
Chikumbu	189	64	17	81	108	17	6	23	1:8	9	2
Juma	131	55	19	74	57	5	3	8	1:16	4	0
Mabuka	454	122	55	177	277	38	27	65	1:7	25	3
Mthiramanja	121	33	13	46	75	7	9	16	1:8	5	0
Njema	130	54	17	71	59	17	0	17	1:8	8	2
Nkanda	202	85	16	101	101	20	6	26	1:8	15	1
Total	**1227**	**413**	**137**	**550**	**677**	**104**	**51**	**155**	**1:8**	**66**	**8**

Source: DEO 2006; P: Permanent; T: Temporary; T: Total; L: Laboratories; LI: Libraries

4.3 School Attendance

This section provides information on school attendance by all children who participated in the study. Data on school attendance was collected by asking the child if he/she was attending school in the current school year. Figure 4 presents a graphical presentation of information on the school attendance by sex. The figure shows that 88.3 percent of the children interviewed were attending school at the time of the study, 55.5 percent ever attended and 44.5 never attended. The results further show that there is no significant difference in the number of males and females who reported to be in school (88.7 percent for female and 87.9 percent for males).

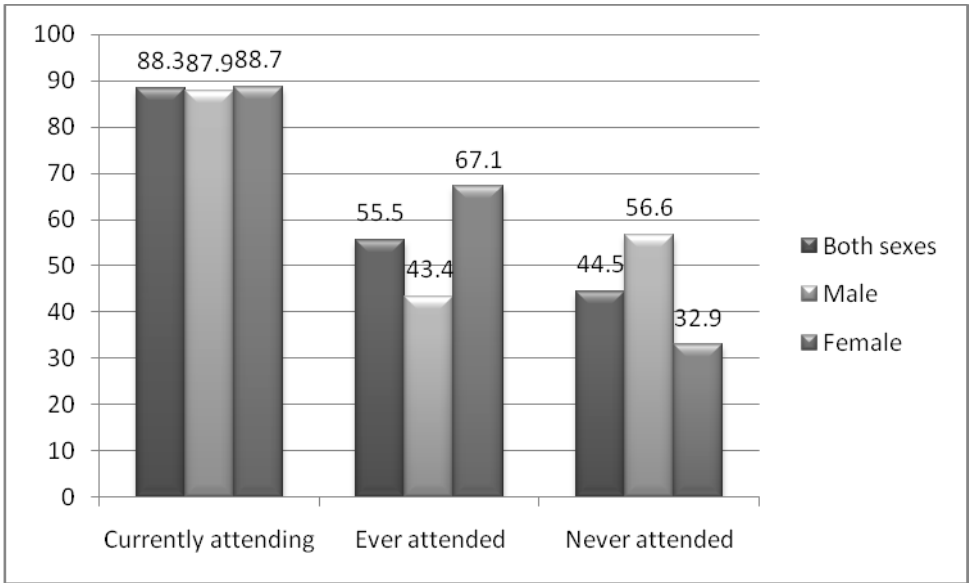


Figure 4 School attendance by sex

The numbers of children currently attending, those who have attended and never attended school is shown in figure 5 below.

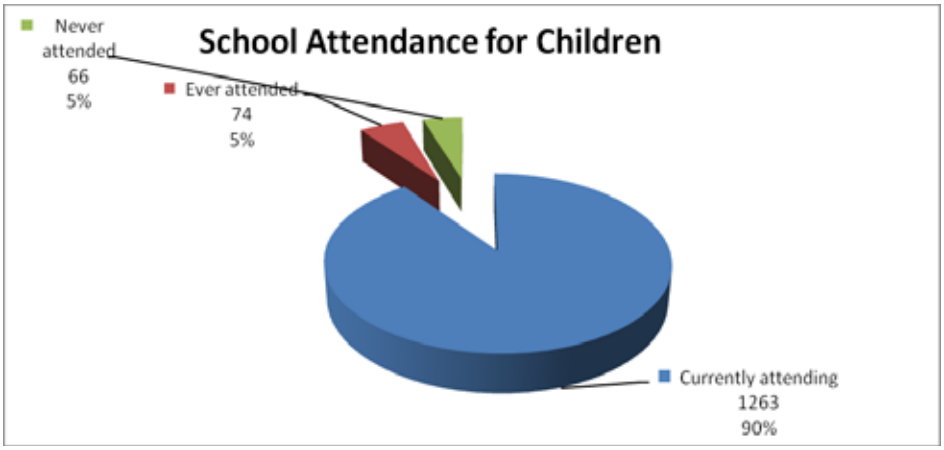


Figure 5 School Attendances for Children

Information on school attendance by TA is presented in Table 4.2 below. The table shows that Mulanje Boma reported the highest proportion of children attending school (98.1 percent) followed by Laston Njema (88.7 percent). Comparison on the proportions of the children never attended school indicates that Chikumbu and Mabuka had the highest proportions (56.0 and 53.2 percent respectively).The results also indicate that Mulanje Boma and Juma had the highest proportions of children ever attended.

Table 4.5 School Attendance by TA

District and TA	School Attendance		
	Currently attending	Ever attended	Never attended
Mulanje	**88.3**	**55.5**	**44.5**
Mabuka	88.7	46.8	53.2
Laston Njewa	88.7	59.4	40.6
Chikumbu	86.9	44.0	56.0
Mthiramanja	87.0	78.9	21.1

Juma	85.9	70.6	29.4
Mulanje Boma	98.1	100.0	0.0

4.3.1 Age at first Primary School Attendance

Attending school at the right age is one of the factors that determine when a child should start schooling. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology recommends that a child should first attain the age of 6 years before commencing primary school. Table 4.3 shows the distribution of the age at commencement of primary school attendance by TA. The information indicates that in all the TA's the majority of the children start schools at the recommended age of 6 followed by age 7.

Table 4. 6 Percent distribution of age at commencement of primary school attendance

Traditional Authority	Age			Total
	6	7	8	
Mabuka	75.0	20.0	5.0	100.0
Njema	81.8	10.1	8.1	100.0
Chikumbu	75.0	16.7	8.3	100.0
Mthiramanja	63.6	30.4	6.0	100.0
Juma	33.3	60.6	6.1	100.0
Mulanje Boma	65.5	29.3	5.2	100.0

4.3.2 Type of Primary School Attended

School attendance by type of school is shown in Table 4.4. The results indicate that the majority of primary school students attend government schools (93.7 percent) followed by mission schools (4.1 percent). More female students than male students attend private and mission schools. By TA, majority of the children attend government schools. It is also noted that Mulanje Boma has the highest proportion of students attending private schools while Chikumbu reported the highest number of children attending mission schools (6.7 percent).

Table 4.7 Percent distribution of pupils in primary school by type of school attending

Sex and TA	Type of school				Total
	Government	Mission School	Private School	Other	
Mulanje	**93.7**	**4.1**	**1.9**	**0.3**	**100**
Sex					
Male	94.3	3.7	1.7	0.3	100
Female	93.1	4.4	2.1	0.3	100
Traditional Authority					
Mabuka	91.8	5.6	2.4	0.2	100
Njema	98.0	0.8	0.8	0.4	100
Chikumbu	92.2	6.7	0.6	0.6	100
Mthiramanja	95.8	3.5	0.7	0.0	100
Juma	98.4	0.8	0.0	0.8	100
Mulanje Boma	78.0	6.0	16.0	0.0	100

4.2.3 Reasons for never attending school

There are various reasons why children never attended school. In most developing nations, the reasons are related to socio-economic conditions of the household. In the

study children who reported different reasons for not attending school. Figure 6 showed that majority of the children were considered too young to start school (76.8 percent). Ten percent of the children reported disability/illness as the main reason for never attending, 5.8 percent were not interested in school and 4.3 percent reported lack of school or the school was too far. Other serious reasons the study revealed were that family did not allow schooling, children preferred to work for pay and help at home with household tasks.

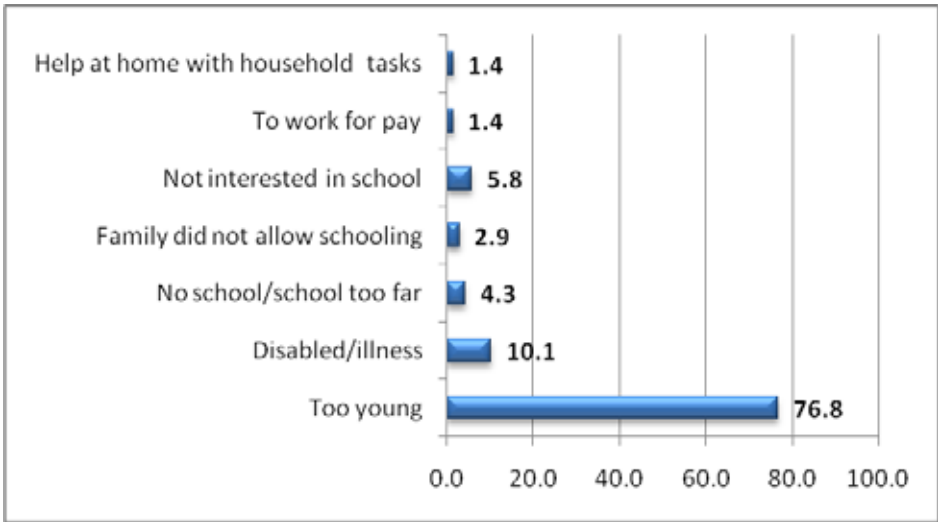


Figure 6 Reasons for never attending school

4.2.4 Reasons for dropping out of school

In spite of global and national efforts to ensure that by 2015, all children, boys and girls should be able to complete primary school, the incidence of pupils dropping out of school before completion still exists. There are various reasons why children drop out of school. The Child Labour Baseline Survey asked for the main reason that leads to pupils leaving school**.**

Figure 7 reveals that lack of school requirements (i.e. failure to afford schooling) was the major reason for dropping out of school, representing 20.3 percent of the children.

Other important reasons the study revealed were that children had no interest in school with 13.6 percent, marriage/pregnancy (11.9 percent) and disability/illness (5.1 percent).

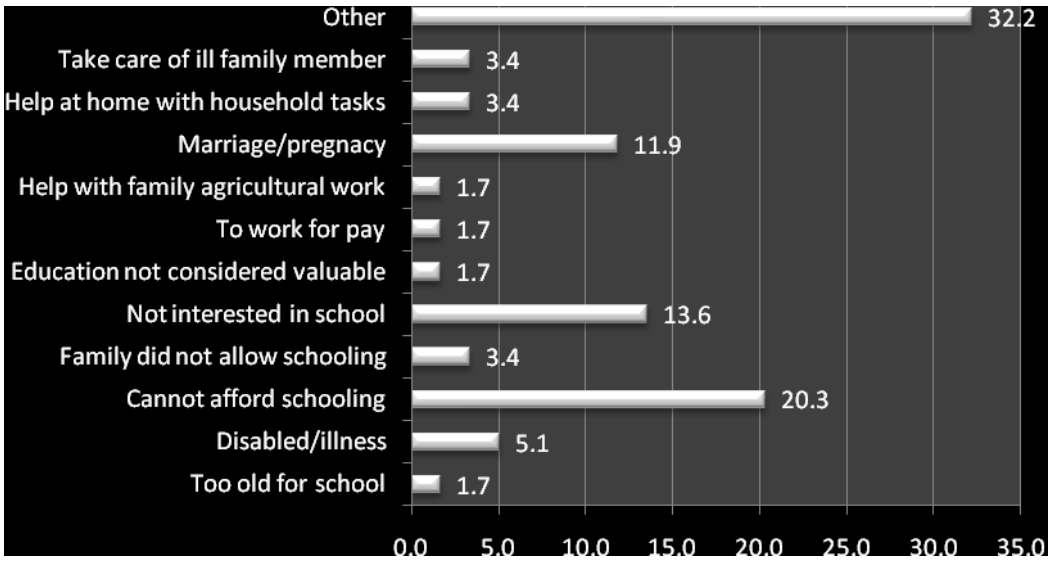


Figure 7 Reasons for dropping out of school

4.2.5 Absenteeim from School

The performance of school going children is significantly affected by the number of times any pupil misses school in any given term. Parents and teachers should endeavor to see that children attend school consistently if performance is to be improved. In the survey, information pertaining to absenteeism was collected. All children who did not attend school days in the week preceding the survey were asked reasons for missing the school.

Figure 8 shows the percent distribution of childrem absent from school seven days prior to the interviews. The figure indicates that 33.0 percent of the school going children were absent from school, majority of them were females (52.9 percent) while 47.1 percent were males.

Reasons for absenting from school are presented in Table 4.5. The results show that across all the TA's, disability/illness or injury, lack of school uniform and dirty clothes were the most common reasons for being absent from school. Bad weather conditions and helping at home with household tasks were other common reasons why pupils missed school.

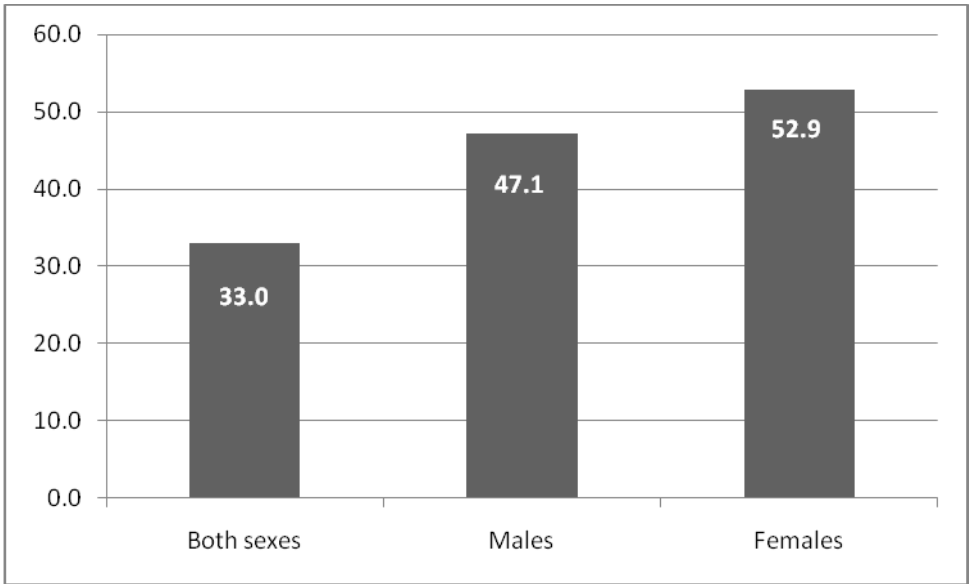


Figure 8 Percent of distribution of pupils absent from school

Detailed findings on children absent from school are presented in Table 4.8. below.

Table 4.8 Reasons for absenting from school

Reasons for absenteeism	TA						Total
	Mabuka	Laston Njema	Chikumbu	Mthiramanja	Juma	Mulanje Boma	
Teacher absent	83.3	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Bad weather condition	53.3	13.3	13.3	6.7	13.3	0.0	100
To help family business	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100
To help at home with	52.4	9.5	9.5	4.8	23.8	0.0	100

household tasks							
Working outside family business	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Disability/illness/injury	46.2	21.5	12.8	9.2	10.3	0.0	100
Help with family agricultural work	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	100
Help with agricultural work (outside household)	33.3	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Help with livestock grazing	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100
No uniform	28.6	21.4	21.4	21.4	7.1	0.0	100
Dirty clothes	40.7	18.6	18.6	11.9	8.5	1.7	100
Other	50.0	19.7	11.8	13.2	2.6	2.6	100

As already described at the beginning of this report, education is number three sector in the district that needs the attention of the district. A number of challenges are highlighted in the official and unofficial reports coming from the district *(see annex for summary of qualitative findings on key challenges reported by stakeholders in the district on the sector).* Suffice to mention that the following are some of the key challenges identified in the SEP.

Primary School Education

There is a great shortage of teachers in the district. According to the Ministry of Education policy, the recommended qualified teacher-pupil ration is 1:60 (MoEST: Policy and Investment Framework, 2001).as compared to 1:99 in the district. Basing on the current total enrolment, Mulanje district requires 1009 additional teachers in order to meet the recommended teacher-pupil ratio of 1:60 in all the primary schools. There is also an acute shortage of classroom blocks in the district.

Currently there are only 1,160 classrooms, which are not enough to accommodate 152,326 pupils. This translates to 131 pupils per classroom. As of 2006, the schools did

not have adequate desks and other basic furniture such as chairs for pupils and teachers.

About 66 percent of the teachers had poor accommodation and some were renting sub-standard houses. Very few primary schools had teachers' offices and staff rooms. Teachers were, therefore, demoralized and as such they could not provide quality services to the pupils. Although CIDA supplied textbooks and teachers' guides to all Primary Schools, there was a great shortage of other teaching and learning materials which included: exercise books, pens, pencils and chalk. These materials were last supplied to schools in 2003. Exercises books and pens which are supplied by UNICEF were not enough because of the high enrolment rate.

Secondary School Education

According to the SEP reports, the district also has great shortage of teachers in Secondary Schools especially in Community Day Secondary Schools (CDSSS). In some CDSSs, there are only 5 teachers against 4 classes. The teachers teach all the subjects on the Secondary School curriculum in all the classes. About 92 percent of teachers in all the CDSSs are under qualified as they are drawn from primary schools. Thus, with too much load, they cannot efficiently and effectively facilitate the teaching and learning process. This will, obviously, have an impact on the quality of education in these schools.

There is also a problem of infrastructure in many CDSSs. In some CDSSs, teaching and learning takes place in temporary shelters and borrowed premises. Secondary School teachers reside or rent sub-standard houses in the rural areas and this affects their performance in class.

There are 2 Conventional Secondary Schools in the district. These were built between 35 and 40 years ago and as such they need major rehabilitation, especially Mulanje

Secondary School where classrooms, hostels, toilets, and teachers' houses which require major maintenance.

There is great shortage of teaching and learning materials in the Secondary Schools in the district. There are inadequate textbooks in all the subjects on the national curriculum. In addition, students are not provided with exercise books.

Vocational Training Center for the Blind

The Vocational Training Centre has many problems which include shortage of infrastructure specifically hostels, toilets, houses, desks and chairs. The existing structures are very old since the institution was established some 48 years ago and as such they need major maintenance.

Overall the education sector in the district faces a number challenges highlighted in this report. However, complementary support is coming from the private and voluntary sectors. For instance, Eastern Produce, one of the major teas producing company in the district provided funding as part of its corporate social responsibility. The company donated 7 million Kwacha (approximately US$46,000) towards the education sector. Other notable players in the district include: Plan Malawi and Africare, which are supporting the construction of school blocks, teacher houses and provision of bursaries.

5.0 CHILDREN'S INVOLMENT IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

This chapter is the main chapter of the report. The chapter assesses the engagement of children in economic activities by describing the main characteristics of the vulnerable and working children in Mulanje, their nature, extent and causes of child labour and Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) in particular. The description and interpretation of child activities that constitute child work and child labour is adopted from ILO Resolution II Guidelines Concerning Statistics of Child Labour developed in 2008.[6] A summary of these guidelines is provided in this section to provide the understanding of the child labour baseline survey findings to follow in subsequent sections of this chapter and the one following. In other words, the findings in this chapter and chapter six have been linked with the objectives and understanding as outlined in the resolution.

5.1 Objectives and scope of child labour assessment

According to the resolution guidelines, an attempt has been made to provide reliable, comprehensive and timely data to serve as a basis for determining priorities for the SNAP Project in Mulanje and the other districts aimed at eliminating child labour, in particular its worst forms. It is hoped that data provided in these two chapters will serve as a basis for increasing public awareness of the problem, and supporting the development of regulatory frameworks, policies, and programmes on child labour not only for Mulanje but the country as a whole through advocacy work of the SNAP Project.

As such the statistics presented in these two chapters cover all productive activities in which children are engaged, distinguished by among those activities that are permissible and those that fall within the different categories of child labour. These

[6] *Resolution II: Resolution Concerning Statistics of Child Labour, the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 24 November to 5 December 2008.*

statistics have been developed in consultation with district and national economic and social statistics such as the socioeconomic profile (SEP) of the district.

5.2 Concepts and definitions

5.2.1 Child Labour

Although specific child labour legislation is not available in Malawi, international and local definitions of child labour where available have been used in this study. As such statistical concepts and definitions related to child labour have been closely aligned to the prevailing national laws and regulations such as the Republican Constitution and The Employment Act of 2000. For instance a *child is described as a person aged below 18 years according to Article 2 of ILO WFCL Convention, 1999 (No.182) and Article 1 of CRC, defines a child as every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.*

Section 23 of the Malawi Constitution states that children must be protected from economic activity or any treatment, work or punishment that is harmful to their physical, mental, spiritual or social development or may interfere with their education. The constitution describes a child as a person under the age of 16 years of age. On the other hand, *The Employment Act-part 4 (section 21-24)* sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years but does not apply to work done in vocational schools, other training institutions or unpaid work in homes. The Employment Act also allows children between the ages of 14 and 17 to engage in non-hazardous work that is not prejudicial to their attendance at school or any other vocational or training programme. The Act prohibits forced and compulsory labour.

According to the Resolution II, child labour is understood to be work that harms children's wellbeing and hinders their education, development and future livelihoods. It is work done by children under 18 years of age, which is mentally, physically, socially or

morally dangerous and harmful to children. It is also very clear that all work that is done by children is not harmful. The local definition of a child therefore is found to be in line with ILO Convention No. 182 on WFCL (1999) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child where a child is defined as an individual under the age of 18 years. In this survey, the target population for measuring child labour comprised all persons in the age group from 5 to 17 years, where age is measured as the number of completed years at the child's last birthday.

Furthermore, the resolution II, statistical measurement framework for child labour is also structured around what is defined as the *productive activities* by the child including their nature and the conditions under which these are performed, and the duration of engagement by the child in such activities.

Therefore the term child labour in this study reflects the engagement of children in prohibited work and, more generally, in types of work to be eliminated as socially and morally undesirable as guided by national legislation, the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), as well as their respective supplementing Recommendations (No's 146 and 190). Child labour may be measured in terms of the engagement of children in productive activities either on the basis of the general production boundary, or on the basis of the SNA production boundary. The underlying measurement framework in this study include children all persons aged 5 to 17 years who, during the past seven days prior to the survey engaged in one or more of the following categories of activities:

(a) *Worst forms of child labour*, as described in paragraphs 17–30 of resolution II;

(b) *Employment below the minimum age*, as described in paragraphs 32 and 33; and

(c) *Hazardous unpaid household services*, as described in paragraphs 36 and 37, applicable where the general production boundary is used as the measurement framework.

In Malawi a child is considered to be in child labour when the total number of hours worked in employment and unpaid household services exceeds forty (40) hours and 28 hours per five days and seven days' work week respectively.

5.2.2 Worst forms of child labour

According to Article 3 of ILO Convention No. 182, the worst forms of child labour comprise:

(a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, as well as 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 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.

In this study data was also collected on activities by children who are outside the general production boundary, such as begging and stealing, considered in the context of the worst forms of child labour.

5.2.3 Hazardous work by children

The list of hazardous work has been developed by the Government of Malawi. This list is an adaptation of the ILO Recommendation No. 190. It describes:

(a) Work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse;

(b) Work underground, under water, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces;

(c) Work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads;
(d) 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;
(e) 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.

5.2.4 Children in productive activities

The broadest concept relating to the measurement of child labour is *children in productive activities*, that is, children engaged in any activity falling within the general production boundary as defined in the System of National Accounts (SNA) (henceforth, referred to in Resolution II as the "general production boundary"). This comprises *children in employment* and *children in other productive activities*. *Children in employment* are those engaged in any activity falling within the production boundary in the SNA for at least one hour during the reference period. Industrial codes in this study were provided by National Statistics Office (NSO).

In general the productive activities consist of:
(a) those in *child labour* within the SNA production boundary (described in paragraphs 15 of the resolution and (b) children aged 12 to 14 years in *permissible light work* (described in paragraphs 33 to 35 of the resolution); and (c) adolescents in the age group 15 to 17 years and in the case of Malawi, those in age group 14-17 years engaged in work not designated as one of the worst forms of child labour. As mentioned earlier, The List of Hazardous Work has now been drafted for Malawi and is waiting for Government gazetting.

Chapters five and six also describe c*hildren in other productive activities who* include those who perform *unpaid household services*, that is, the production of domestic and

personal services by a household member for consumption within their own household, commonly called “household chores”. In contrast, the performance of household services in a third-party household, paid or unpaid is included within the production boundary of the SNA.

In these two chapters, specific tables attempt to describe the various aspects of child labour covered in Resolution II described above. The findings of the study on the various aspects of child work and child labour are described below in various sections as follows:

5.3 Activity status of children involved in the study

The overall proportion of children involved in economic activity ranged from 14.8percent in Mulanje Boma to 68.9percent in Chikumbu (Table 5.1). In each TA the highest proportion of children were involved in economic activity and were also attending school except in Mulanje Boma where most of the children were attending school but were not involved in economic activity. The proportion of children involved in economic activity and attending school ranged from 49.1percent in Mthiramanja to 63.1percent in Chikumbu and 14.8percent in Mulanje Boma. The proportion of children attending school and not involved in economic activity ranged from 24.8percent in Chikumbu to 41.2percent in Mabuka and a proportion of 85.2percent in Mulanje Boma was exceptionally high. The proportion of children involved in economic activity and not in school ranged from 0percent in Mulanje Boma to 9.3percent in Mthiramanja. The percentage of children reporting that they were not involved in economic activity and were not in school ranged from 0percent in Mulanje Boma to 6.3percent in Chikumbu.

Table 5.1 Child activity status by TA

Economic Activity	TA						Total
	Mabuka	Njema	Chikumbu	Mthiramanja	Juma	Mulanje Boma	
Involved in economic activity and not in school	3.8	5.0	5.8	9.3	9.2	0.0	5.3
Attending school and not involved in economic activity	41.2	33.0	24.8	39.1	33.1	85.2	37.8
Involved in economic activity and attending school	49.6	57.4	63.1	49.1	54.2	14.8	52.2
Not involved in economic activity and not in school	5.4	4.6	6.3	2.5	3.5	0.0	4.6
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total economic activity	53.4	62.4	68.9	58.4	63.4	14.8	57.6
Total attending school	90.8	90.4	87.9	88.2	87.3	100.0	90.0
Number	558	282	206	161	142	54	1403

5.4 Distribution of working children by sex, age group, school attendance and TA

5.4.1 Distribution of working children by age

Results on the distribution of working children by sex, age group, school attendance and TA are shown in Table 5.2. The survey revealed the highest incidence of economic activities in the 14-17 years age group (76.7 percent) followed by 10-13 (68 percent) and 5-9 years (41.9 percent). Similarly there are more children in the 14-17 years category who participated in household chores (92.8 percent). The overall proportion of children aged 14-17 years who participated in child work was 97.3 percent.

5.4.2 Distribution of working children by sex

Among children aged 5-17 years, 63.7percent and 50.9 percent of females and boys respectively, were involved in child work outside the household as shown in table 5.2. The corresponding proportion for girls participating in household chores was 85.4percent while the overall proportion of girls involved in child work was 85.8percent. A total of 77.3 percent of boys were doing household chores while the overall proportion of boys participating in child work was 81.5percent.

5.4.3 Distribution of working children by school attendance

Children aged 5-17 years were asked whether they were attending school or preschool during the current school year. Table 5.2 below shows that among children attending school the prevalence of child work outside the household was 58.4percent and the corresponding proportion among children not attending school was 51.2percent. Among children attending school, 83.5percent participated in household chores and 66.5percent of children not attending school were participating in household chores. The overall prevalence of child work among children attending school was 87.7percent and the corresponding prevalence among children not attending school was

71.3percent. A strong association was found between participation in child work and school attendance.

5.4.4 Distribution of working children by TA

Table 5.2 shows that TA Chikumbu had the highest proportion of 68.9percent who had worked on tasks outside the household during the 7 day period preceding the survey, 63.4percent of children in TA Juma had worked, 62percent of children in TA Njema reported that they worked, 58percent of children in Mthiramanja reported that they worked, 53percent of children in Mabuka had worked and Mulanje Boma had 15percent of children who had worked. The proportion of children participating in household chores ranged from 63percent in Mulanje Boma to 90.7percent in Mthiramanja. Overall the proportion of children participating in child work ranged from 64.8percent in Mulanje Boma to 94percent in Mthiramanja. P-values much less than 0.05 showed that there is strong evidence to suggest that the difference in prevalence of child work between TAs is highly significant.

Table 5.2 Distribution of working children by age group, sex and school attendance

Background characteristics	Percentage of children involved in child work outside the household	Percentage of children participating in child work through household chores	Overall percentage of children participating in child work
Age group			
5-9 (n=658)	41.9	69.1	74.2
10-13 (n=453)	68.0	92.3	95.4
14-17 (n=292)	76.7	92.8	97.3
Total (n=1403)	57.6	81.5	85.8
Sex of child			
Male (n=670)	50.9	77.3	81.5
Female (n=733)	63.7	85.4	89.8
Total (n=1403)	57.6	81.5	85.8

School attendance			
Yes (n=1239)	58.4	83.5	87.7
No (n=164)	51.2	66.5	71.3
Total (n=1403)	57.6	81.5	85.8
TA			
Mabuka	53.4	78.3	83.3
Njema	62.4	83.3	86.9
Chikumbu	68.9	85.4	86.9
Mthiramanja	58.4	90.7	94.4
Juma	63.4	82.4	90.1
Mulanje Boma	14.8	63.0	64.8
Total	**57.6**	**81.5**	**85.8**

5.5 Children's total involvement in work

5.5.1 Children's total involvement in work by TA

As shown in Table 5.3, in all the TAs except Mulanje Boma, children participated in economic activities while attending school. In Mulanje Boma, the children were not involved in any economic activity. The proportion of children participating in economic activities, household chores and attending school ranged from 13 percent in Mulanje Boma to 61.7 percent in Chikumbu. The proportion of children who participated in household chores, attended school but had no economic activity ranged from 15 percent in Chikumbu to 50 percent in Mulanje Boma. In all TAs there were fewer children participated in an economic activity, not attended school and do household chores. The proportion of these children ranged from 0.0 percent in Mulanje Boma, Chikumbu and Njema to 1.4 percent in Juma.

Table 5.3 Children's total involvement in work

Characteristics	TA						Total
	Mabuka	Njema	Chikumbu	Mthiramanja	Juma	Mulanje Boma	
Economic activity (but no school and no HH chores)	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.6	1.4	0.0	0.5
Economic activity and school (but no HH chores)	4.3	3.9	1.5	3.1	6.3	1.9	3.8
Economic activity and school and HH chores)	45.3	53.5	61.7	46.0	47.9	13.0	48.5
Inactive (no economic activity, no HH chores	4.3	2.1	3.4	0.6	2.1	0.0	2.9
HH chores (but no economic activity and no school)	1.1	2.5	2.9	1.9	1.4	0.0	1.7
HH chores and school (but no economic activity)	28.9	22.0	15.0	34.2	25.4	50.0	26.5
HH chores and economic activity (but no school)	3.0	5.0	5.8	8.7	7.7	0.0	4.8
School (but no economic activity and no HH chores)	12.4	11.0	9.7	5.0	7.7	35.2	11.3
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Number	558	282	206	161	142	54	1403

5.5.2 Children's total involvement in work by age group

In all age groups the highest proportion of children participated in economic activities and was in school and did household chores. The proportion of children participating in economic activities, household chores and attending school ranged from 34.2percent in the 5-9 years age group to 62.5percent in the 10-13 years age group (Table 5.4). The proportion of children who did household chores, attended school but had no economic activity ranged from 19.9percent in the 14-17 years age group to 29.3percent in the 5-9 years age group. In all age groups the lowest proportion of children participated in an economic activity but did not attend school and did not do household chores. The proportion of children who participated in an economic activity without attending school and without participation in household chores ranged from 0.0percent in the 10-13 years age group to 0.8percent in the 5-9 years age group. The proportion of children in school but not participating in economic activity and not participating in household chores was 19.6percent among children aged 5-9 years, 4.6percent among children aged 10-13 years and 2.7percent among children aged 14-17 years.

Table 5. 4 Children's total involvement in work by age group

	Age Group			
Economic Activity	5-9	10-13	14-17	**Total**
Economic activity (but no school and no HH chores)	0.8	0.0	0.7	0.5
Economic activity and school (but no HH chores)	4.3	3.1	3.8	3.8
Economic activity and school and HH chores	34.2	62.5	58.9	48.5
Inactive (no economic activity, no HH chores and no school)	6.2	0.0	0.0	2.9

HH chores (but no economic activity and no school)	2.9	0.7	0.7	1.7
HH chores and school (but no economic activity)	29.3	26.7	19.9	26.5
HH chores and economic activity (but no school)	2.7	2.4	13.4	4.8
School (but no economic activity and no HH chores)	19.6	4.6	2.7	11.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	658	453	292	1403

5.4 Place of work

With household chores excluded, children who had worked were asked to state the places where they had worked 7 days prior to the survey. Each child was allowed to state at most two places. The majority of the children had worked at the household level. Twenty three percent of the children had worked in a plantation, farm of garden (Table 5.5).

Table 5. 4: Place of work for children

Place of work	**Percent**
At the family dwelling	76.2
Client's place	6.5

Formal office	0.8
Factory/Barn	0.5
Plantation/Farm/Garden	23.0
Construction sites	0.3
Different places (Mobile)	1.1
Fixed, street or market stall	0.5
Pond/Lake/River	0.6
Other	0.3

5.7 Types of employers for working children

Working children were asked to state whether they worked as employees, own account workers, employers, members of cooperatives or unpaid family workers. As shown in table 5.6 below, the majority (96percent) of the working children worked as unpaid family workers, 2.6 percent were employees, 1 percent were own account workers and 0.2percent were employers.

Table 5. 5 Types of employers for working children

Type	**Percent N=808**
Employee	2.6
Own account worker	1.2

Employer	0.2
Unpaid family worker	96.0
Total	100.0

Figure 9 below describes common employers of children in Malawi. The data shows that most children work in their homes (96 percent). This is followed by those who can be described as child labourers estimated at 3 percent and those who are self-employed (1.2 percent).

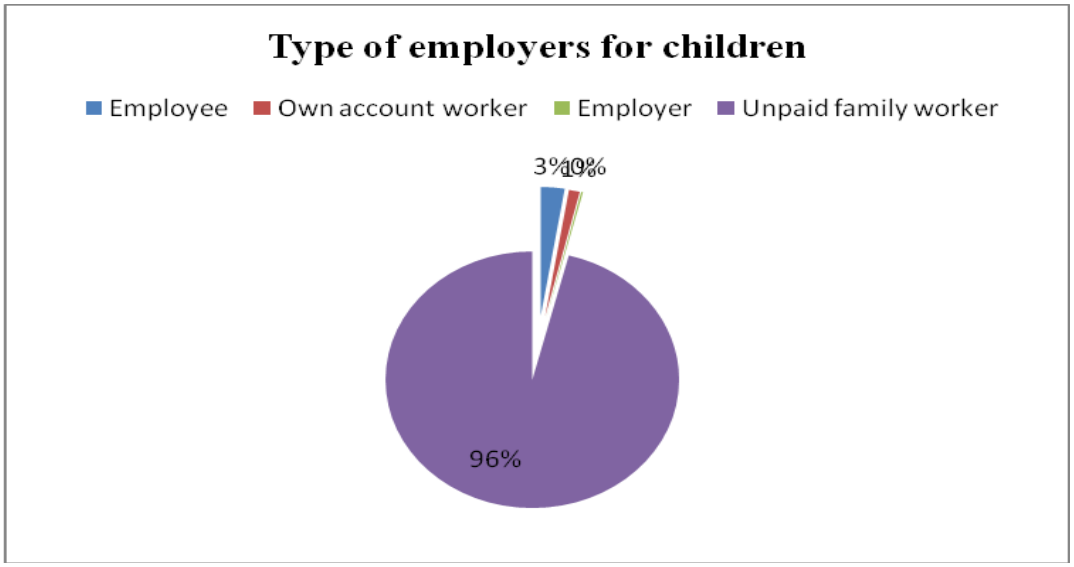


Figure 9 Employers of Children

5.6 Reasons why children work

Reasons why children work are presented in Table 5.7. The major reasons why children work include learning new skills as reported by 55 percent of the children, supplementing family food requirements as reported by 23.9 percent of the surveyed children, supplementing family income as reported by 14.5 percent of the children and helping in family enterprise as reported by 11.8percent of the children.

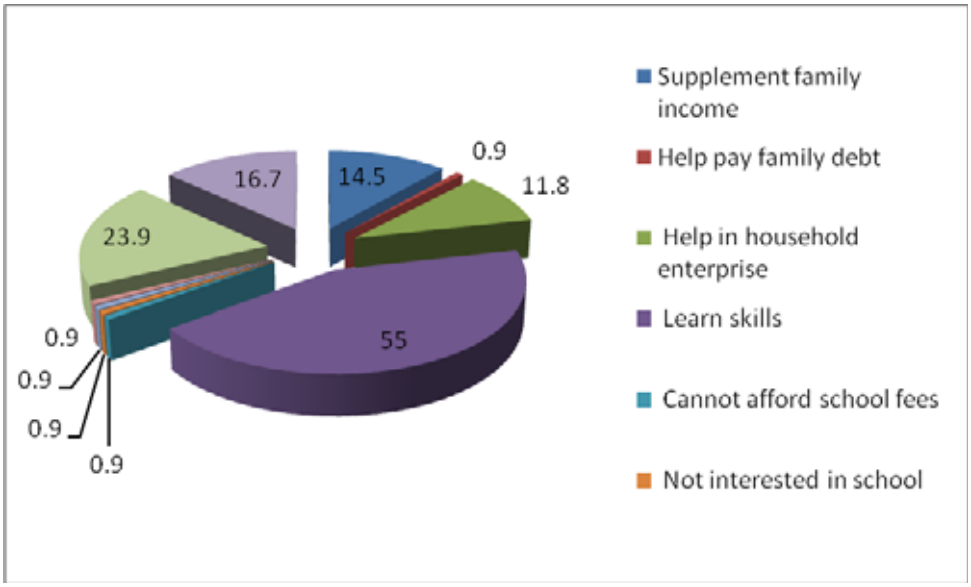


Figure 10 Reasons why children work

5.7 Child Labour

For the purpose of this report and as described in the preamble, children participating in child labour include the following:

- All children aged 5-9 years who worked;
- All children aged 10-13 years who worked for more than 28 hrs in the past week;
- All school-going children who worked during missed school hours;
- All working children aged 10-17 years exposed to hazardous conditions.

5.7.1 Distribution of children involved in child labour by age

As shown in table 5.8 below, the survey revealed that the highest prevalence of child labour was in the 5-9 years age group. A proportion of 41.9percent of children aged 5-9 years had been involved in child labour outside the household during the 7 day period preceding the survey and the corresponding proportion of children who participated in child labour through household chores was 1.1percent. The overall proportion of children aged 5-9 years who had participated in child labour was 42.9percent.

5.7.2 Distribution of children involved in child labour by sex

Among female children aged 5-17 years, 29.9 percent were found to be participating in child labour outside the household and 18.8 percent of the boys were found to be involved in child labour outside the household as shown in Table 5.8. The corresponding proportion for girls involved in child labour through household chores was 1.4 percent and the overall proportion of girls involved in child labour was 32 percent. The proportion of boys participating in child labour was 19 percent for work outside the household, 1percent for household chores and the overall proportion of boys participating in child labour was 21 percent.

5.7.3 Distribution of children involved in child labour by school attendance

Children aged 5-17 years were asked whether they were attending school or preschool during the current school year. Table 5.8 below shows that among children attending school the prevalence of child labour outside the household was 24.8 percent and the corresponding proportion among children not attending school was 23.3 percent. Among children attending school, 0.9 percent participated in child labour through household chores and 1.4 percent of children not attending school were involved in child labour through household chores. The overall prevalence of child labour among children attending school was 26.6 percent and the corresponding prevalence among children not attending school was 26.8 percent.

5.7.4 Prevalence of child labour by TA

Table 5.8 shows that TA Juma and Chikumbu had the highest prevalence of child labour (29.6 percent) outside the household during the 7 day period preceding the survey, while the lowest prevalence was in Mulanje Boma at 11percent of children. The proportion of children participating in child labour through household chores ranged from 0percent in Mulanje Boma to 2.2percent in Mabuka.

Table 5.6 Prevalence of child labour by age group, sex, school attendance and TA

Background characteristics	Percentage of children participating in child labour outside the household (percent)	Percentage of children participating in child labour through household chores	Overall percentage of children participating in labour
Age group			
5-9 (N=658)	41.9	0.9	42.9
10-13 (N=453)	10.6	1.1	13.9
14-17 (n=292)	7.2	2.1	9.9
Total (N=1403)	24.6	1.2	26.7
Sex of child			
Male (N=670)	18.8	1.0	20.6
Female (N=733)	29.9	1.4	32.2
Total (N=1403)	24.6	1.2	26.7
School attendance			
Yes (N=1239)	24.8	0.9	26.6
No (N=164)	23.2	3.7	26.8
Total (N=1403)	24.6	1.2*	26.7
TA			
Mabuka	22.9	2.2	25.6
Njema	26.2	0.4	27.7
Chikumbu	27.7	0.5	29.6
Mthiramanja	24.8	1.2	27.3
Juma	28.2	0.7	29.6
Mulanje Boma	11.1	0.0	11.1
Total	24.6	1.2	26.7

6.0 IMPACT OF CHILDREN'S WORK ON HEALTH AND SAFETY

This chapter mainly examines the working conditions of children reported working for which ILO Convention No. 182 and 138 describe as sub-groups of child labourers whose rights are most compromised and whose well-being is most threatened. The condition of work and how it generally affects their development (health, education, physical, moral and mental) of working children will be analyzed.

6.1 Children's work and health

6.1.1 Work related injuries

Children were asked to indicate whether they had suffered any of the listed types of injuries or any other injury as a result of their work during the 12 month period preceding the household survey. An overall proportion of 15 percent of working children reported that they had suffered at least one type of injury as a result of their work and 85 percent indicated that they had not suffered any injury.

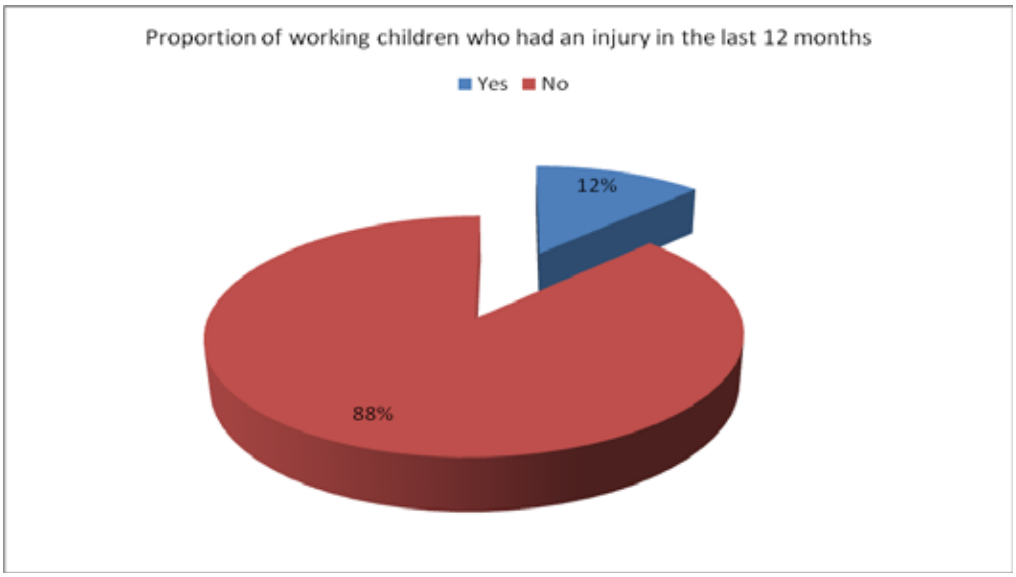


Figure 11 Proportion of working children who had an injury in the last 12 months

As shown in Table 6.1 below, the most common type of injuries were superficial injuries or open wounds and infected cuts or wounds as reported by 5 percent of working children who were affected by these types of injuries during the twelve month period preceding the baseline survey. Incidences of snake or wildlife attacks, slip and fall and inhalation of dust or smoke were also common in Mulanje as reported by 2.5percent of working children for each respective type of injury.

Table 6.1 Proportion of children who suffered worked related injuries in the last 12 months

Type of injury	Proportion having injury
Superficial injuries or open wounds	5.0
Snake/Wildlife bite or attack	2.5
Infected cuts or wounds	5.0
Slip and fall	2.5
Inhale of dust/smoke	2.5
Other	2.5

6.2 *Work related illnesses*

Children were asked to indicate whether they had suffered any of the listed types of work related illnesses or conditions as a result of their work during the 12 month period preceding the household survey. Figure 12 shows that an overall proportion of 7percent of working children reported that they had suffered at least one type of illness or condition as a result of their work and 93 percent indicated that they had not suffered any illness or condition.

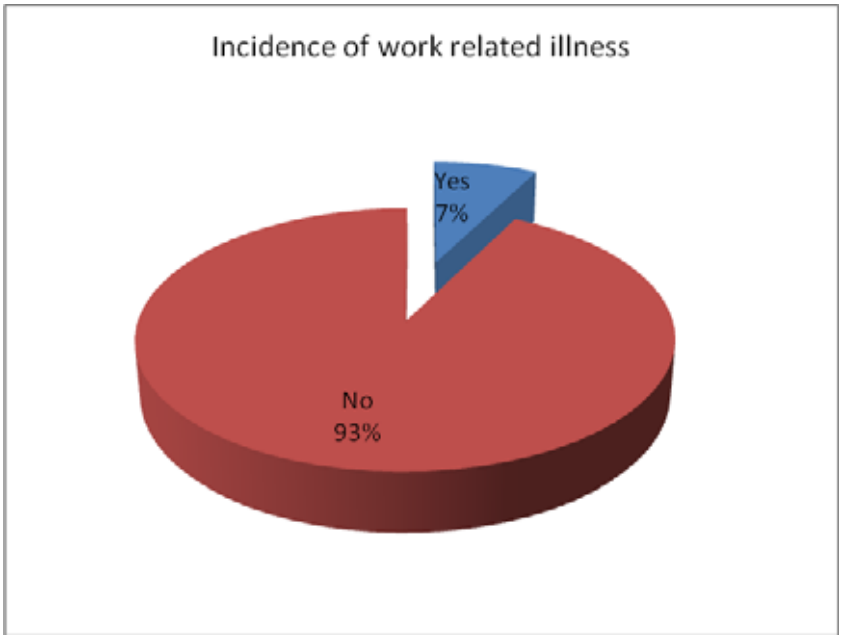


Figure 12 Incidence of work related illness

Table 6.2 shows that the most common type of illness was general illness as reported by 5percent of working children who were affected by this type of illness during the twelve month period preceding the baseline survey. Incidences of eye problems, fever, extreme fatigue and abdominal pain were also common in Mulanje as reported by 2.5percent of working children for each respective type of illness or condition.

Table 6. 2: Work related illnesses suffered by working children

Work related illnesses	Percent
Eye problems	2.5
Fever	2.5
Extreme fatigue	2.5
General Illness	5.0
Abdominal pain	2.5

6.3 Injuries at work

Table 6.3 below shows that among children who worked in during the twelve-month period preceding the survey and had injuries or illness due to work, 42.9 percent did not stop work or schooling, 42.9percent stopped work or schooling for short time and 14.3 percent stopped work or schooling completely. The proportion of male children who stopped work or schooling for a short time was higher for males than females and the proportion of female children who stopped work or schooling completely was much higher for females than males.

Table 6.3 Consequences of most serious injury of child on work

Background characteristic	Did not stop work or schooling	Stopped work or schooling for a short time	Stopped work or schooling completely	Total
Total	42.9	42.9	14.3	100.0
Age				
5-9	50.0	50.0	0.0	100.0
10-13	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
14-17	66.7	0.0	33.3	
Sex				
Male	33.3	66.7	0.0	100.0
Female	50.0	25.0	25.0	100.0

6.4 Carrying of heavy loads

Working children were asked to state whether they carried heavy loads when working. An overall proportion of 8.6 percent of working children reported that they carried heavy loads when working (Table 6.4). The proportion of boys reporting that they carried

heavy loads when working higher than the proportion of working girls who reported that they carried heavy loads at work. The proportion of children reporting that they carried heavy loads when working decreased with increasing age group.

Table 6. 4 Proportion carrying heavy loads at work by age group and sex

Background characteristic	Percent
Total	8.6
Age	
5-9	20.0
10-13	7.7
14-17	5.9
Sex	
Male	10.5
Female	6.3

6.5 Exposure to hazardous equipment and conditions

Working children were asked to state whether they worked with specific types of hazardous equipment. The results are presented in Table 6.5. The highest proportion (4percent) of working children reported that they worked with hoes, 0.9percent worked with panga knives, 0.4percent worked with saw, 0.4percent worked with a sickle, 0.1percent worked with ploughs and 0.1percent worked with big needles. Working children were asked to state whether they were exposed to specific hazardous conditions that included dust or fumes, fire, gas or flames, loud noise or vibration, extreme cold or heat, working underground, working at heights, working in water, dark or confined environment, insufficient ventilation, chemicals and explosives. Most (90percent) of working children reported that they worked without protective gear, 6.5percent reported that they carried or handled loads more than 10 kg and 3percent worked in extreme temperature.

Table 6.5 Hazardous equipment and conditions children are exposed to

Characteristics	Percent
Equipment used at work	
Ploughs	0.1
Hoes	3.7
Saw	0.4
Sickle	0.4
Panga knife	0.9
Big needle	0.1
Other	0.6
Conditions at work	
Working without protective wear	89.7
Working in extreme temperature	3.2
Carrying or handling heavy loads (more than 10kg).	6.5
Other	6.5

6.6 Physical, Psychosocial and Sexual Violence

Working children were asked to indicate whether they had been subjected to any of the listed forms of abusive treatment at the work place. The most common form of abusive treatment to which children were subjected was constant scolding as reported by 40.9 percent of children who had been subjected to abuse (Table 6.6). Eighteen percent of children subjected to some form of abuse reported that they had been repeatedly insulted; 18 percent reported that they had been beaten or physically hurt, 4.5 percent had been sexually abused and 4.5 percent were subjected to non-payment of wages.

Table 6.6 Exposure to Physical, Psychosocial and Sexual Violence at Work Place by Type of Violence

Background characteristic	Percent
Constantly shouted at	40.9
Repeatedly insulted	18.2
Beaten/Physically hurt	18.2
Sexually abused	4.5
Non-payment of wages	4.5
Other	4.5

6.7 Contractual arrangements for working children and knowledge of legal aspects of employment

Children who were employed were asked to state the contractual arrangements under which they were working. Most (65.4 percent) of the children working as employees reported that they had verbal contracts and 34.6 percent did not know the type of contracts they had. In terms of knowledge of legal aspects of employment, most children working (77.8 percent) did not know about labour inspections and 22.2 percent of working children reported that they knew about labour inspection. Fifty nine percent of children indicated that they observed weekly holidays and 41.2 percent indicated that they did not observe weekly holidays.

Table 6.7 Knowledge of legal aspects of employment

Background characteristic	
Type of contract	
Written	0.0
Verbal	65.4
Don't know	34.6
Total	100.0
Do you know about labour inspections	
Yes	22.2
No	77.8
Total	100.0
Do you observe weekly holidays	
Yes	58.8
No	41.2
Total	100.0

7.0 ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

This chapter gives a snapshot of the policy implications of the study findings on the implementation of SNAP Project in Mulanje and other districts. It analyses once more application of the study question and assumptions made earlier in the study design.

This study acknowledges the various upstream measures that have been taken to reform the legal and policy environment governing the fight against child labour in Malawi. For this reason, the NAP which has been launched at national level is expected to be disseminated at grassroots level. As a district Mulanje child protection committee, bemoans the lack of coordination during planning and implementation of child related programmes amongst stakeholders and hope that the SNAP project will not fall within the same trap.

The district has also set a good example of planning where multisectoral district wide plans for tackling child protection issues which include child labour have been developed. As the SEP has shown, child labour is not amongst the priority development needs of the district. For this reason, the department of labour has a lot of work to do to ensure that the NAP is mainstreamed in the District Development Plans (DIPs). This will begin with the development of district wide child protection plans for the district which is being coordinated by the Director of Planning and Development (DPD). The Department of Labour in the district has been asked to include in these plans its key interventions and programmes to be implemented in the district. The hope is that the new SNAP Project and implementing agency for the district will be proactive in involving other partners working in the district.

A number of policy options for ILO and its cooperating partners are available for the new SNAP Project not only in Mulanje but the other districts as a whole. The policies and strategies that should be considered for the project are as follows:

7.1 Numbers and concentrations (mapping) of child labour

From the 2002 National Child Labour Survey which indicated that 34 percent of children in Malawi were involved in child labour, and the 2004 ECAM study which showed that 52 percent of households reported their children to have worked, the trend for the district continue to show some progress towards reducing the number of working children in Mulanje district. In the current study prevalence of child labour in all the five Traditional Authorities in Mulanje is estimated at 24.6 percent with some variations between Traditional Authorities as follows: Mabuka, 22.9 percent, Boma 11.7 percent; Njema 26.2 percent; Chikumbu 27.7percent percent; Juma 28.2 percent and Mthiramanja 24.8 percent respectively. However, the proportion of children working in general remains high in each of the TAs surveyed (Chikumbu 68.9percent, Juma 63.4percent, Njema 62percent, Mthiramanja 58percent, Mabuka 53percent and Mulanje Boma15percent respectively).

The ECAM (2004) study on child labour in Mulanje and Thyolo also indicated that only 15percent of the children worked in the smallholder tea farms. The gains in the commercial tea plantations has resulted in an increase in proportion of children working in the smallholder farms as shown in Table 5.6 above. The current survey indicates that there are more children that reported to have worked in the past seven (7) days prior to the survey. Incidentally most of the children reported working are doing so within their homes (family dwelling) 76.2 percent and on plantation farms 23 percent. Agriculture remains the second highest sector where children are working. Most children working are unpaid family workers (96 percent). Those working as employees account for only 2.6 percent while 1.2 are working as own account workers. This simply indicates that the fight against child labour in the district must now focus on the households as opposed to formal employers. Nonetheless indirect child labour is reported even within the commercial sector. For instance while adults from surrounding communities may be working on the plantations, their children are left at home to care for their siblings and

perform other household tasks at the expense of their education. Some children are also reported to be working as domestic child labourers at the estates.

Finally, the lower prevalence rates of working children are supported by the proportion of children in school. The results show that Mulanje district has one of the highest rates of children attending school (88.3percent) with Mulanje Boma as an urban area the highest at 98.1percent attendance followed by Njema 88.7 percent. The findings showed some pattern of variations in school attendance by TAs with Juma, Chikumbu and Mthiramanja showing highest rates of children not attending school, 14.1 percent, 13.1 and 13 percent respectively. Despite higher rates of school attendance reported by the children, the authorities report a number of challenges facing the sector in the district. For instance the teacher pupil ratio is higher than the recommended 1:99. The classroom pupil ratio is also very high 1:131 against the recommended 1:60. Drop out and pass rates for the district are also not encouraging.

7.2 Potential children in and at risk of WFCL who could be potential project beneficiaries and main characteristics of working children and their households

Table 5.4 has shown that there are approximately 48.5 percent (680) economically active children in Mulanje. It is therefore this particular group that the new programme should be able to support. In addition Table 5.8 has shown that there also other vulnerable children who reported to have worked in the past seven days who are working outside the household as follows: (1) TA Juma, 28.2 percent (396); (2) TA Chikumbu, 27.7 percent (389); (3) TA Njema, 26.2 percent (368); TA Mthiramanja, 24.8 percent (348) and TA Mabuka, 22.9 percent (321).

Other potential beneficiaries of the project will be those children not currently attending school, 164 (11.7 percent) or dropped out of school. Amongst those that dropped out of school there are those that did so for not been able to afford it (20.3 percent); not interested in school (13.6 percent); marriage/ pregnancy (11.9 percent); disability/illness

(5.1percent); taking care of ill family member (3.4 percent) and those who wanted to work (1.7 percent). Majority of the children working are also coming from food insecure households who accounted for 80 (755 households) percent.

7.3 Causes and consequences of children engaged in child labour (both demand and supply factors)

The study has shown that most children were working as part of socialization process (55 percent). Other than that the results have confirmed one of the key study assumptions that poverty remains the major underlying factor why children work in Malawi. Children are working to supplement family food (23.9percent), supplement family income (14.5percent) and helping in family enterprise as reported by 11.8percent of the children.

The above results also show that as long as income levels for most households remain low, children from these households will remain vulnerable to child labour. This is also true for households with chronic food shortages. Children from food insecure households are left with very few survival options and working remains an easier coping strategy for most households. To support this view, the assessment of food security for most households interviewed has shown that only 20percent of the households have food to last until the next harvest. The situation is aggravated by the fact that most households are growing traditional food crops such as maize 96 percent. Cassava is only grown by 13percent of the households. Considering small landholding sizes of most households in the district, since it is one of the densely populated districts in the country, diversifying food sources and increasing sources of income for the vulnerable households remains some of the challenges the programme and stakeholders in Mulanje may need to tackle in future.

7.4 Forms of child labour prevailing in the district, particularly on WFCL

Based on the findings of the employers of working children, the results show that most children are working with the full knowledge of their families. Most children in Mulanje work as unpaid family worker (96percent), employees (2.6percent), own account worker (1.2percent) and very are employers, 0.2 percent. Consequently, the fight against child labour in Mulanje should start with the families involved. The battle will only be won if awareness on the dangers of child labour is raised amongst the communities. Targeting of child labour elimination programmes should also be aimed at addressing underlying factors of child labour in these families and poverty eradication interventions remain the key to eliminating child labour in households. If families are not provided with viable alternatives to child labour, sending children to work to supplement family incomes and food will continue to prevail in most families in the district.

7.5 Social services available in the districts including those of government in order to determine alternative livelihoods and support to target children in the three districts

This study acknowledges the cordial relations that exist between the commercial tea industry in Mulanje and the surrounding communities on one hand and government stakeholders on the other, in eliminating child labour and its causes. Due to the long history of the fight against child labour in Mulanje, the district has many well-wishers and partners who are working in various sectors of the economy. For instance, as part of corporate social responsibility (CSR), the Tea Plantations in Mulanje are providing a number of social amenities in the surrounding communities.

Miss Odetta Salewa, a needy form 1 student aged 16 at Provident Sec. School being supported by Eastern Produce Malawi Ltd, a tea company with tea estates in Mulanje and Thyolo Districts.

For example, the tea estates have contributed towards the construction of School blocks, Teachers houses while some estates run their own Primary Schools, contribute money to the District Council for school bursary and furthermore directly paying school fees to some needy students identified by the District Labour Officer in some instances and to the construction of bridges amongst others which were.

One of the major players who have supported the cause for the elimination of child labour in the district is the commercial tea sector. There are various initiatives that the commercial estates have taken to eliminate child labour in the sector. The discussions with the owners of the tea estates demonstrated that child labour has been fully eliminated in the commercial tea estates. To create conducive environment for the elimination of child labour in the district, the commercial tea sector through individual and corrective action has taken steps to improve the accessibility and availability of social services such as education and health to the surrounding communities. Through the Fair Trade Agreement, proceeds from tea sales on the global market are channeled through these estates to the surrounding communities in the form of the above services.

The NGO sector in the district is also working strongly towards eliminating child labour as part of the wider child rights and protection issue. Through the child protection committee of the district various issues affecting children in the district are being addressed including child labour. The judiciary, police and social welfare are working

hand in hand with the NGO sector to eliminate social ills prevalent in the district that affect child wellbeing and child labour is one of such issues being addressed.

Although various players have been supporting the district in the provision of various social services including education, there are a number of challenges that still exist. Most of the challenges facing schools in Mulanje include: (a) post-secondary education support is lacking which contributes dropout rates or children looking for employment. This scenario was also reported by the Child Protection Committee for the district which bemoaned lack of coordination amongst stakeholders supporting post primary education in the district; (b) some children especially girls are forced to work in estates as domestic workers. Some of these girls are receiving as little as MK33.00 per day; (c) Girls is dropping out of school due to early marriages. Others are caring for their siblings while adults work on tea estates. Parental care is also blamed for dropout rates in schools as most parents/ guardians migrate in search of employment elsewhere leaving children alone or with the mother/guardian. Some areas of the district have many children with learning difficulties which the existing schools do not have capacity to handle. Lack of role models in the community is also blamed for higher dropout rates. Poverty coupled with increasing number of OVCs make it difficult for households to continue supporting their children's education beyond primary school level.

The levels of school attendance by TAs correspond with children working. The study shows that there are more children who are working in TA Chikumbu (68.9percent), 63.4percent for Juma, 62percent for Njema, 58percent for Mthiramanja, 53percent for Mabuka while Mulanje Boma has 15 percent. As the normal trends show, there are more children working in rural settings as opposed to urban settings i.e. 94percent for Mthiramanja as opposed to 64.8percent for Mulanje Boma.

7.6 Child Labour Database

Based on discussions with child protection committees and other district level stakeholders, it is clear that child labour activities are yet to be mainstreamed in the reporting for many agencies. This is with the exception of the parent ministry which include child labour activities in its monthly and quarterly reporting. However, most of this reporting is adhoc and has no formal reporting format and sometimes irregular. While a national database was developed at ministry headquarters level, this has not been institutionalized at district level. Most of the reports that come from the district to headquarters are dependent on personal initiatives of the respective officials involved. In other words child labour database lacks the infrastructure at district level. There are no computers and where they exist, they are in most cases not functional for lack of service or stationery. If the equipment is available, the people to use it are not trained or refreshed on how to use it.

Finally, the lack of sound information and data management system at district level is hampering efforts to coordinate child labour activities. Information on who is doing what on child labour or child protection issues in the district is hardly available at one central place.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on study findings and conclusions on factors contributing to child labour in Mulanje district, the following recommendations are put forward for consideration by the new programme:

8.1 Poverty reduction strategy

Since poverty, poor education facilities, HIV/AIDS, culture, socioeconomic factors such as lack of decent employment for adults are driving children to work in Mulanje, the SNAP Project should support interventions aimed at reducing poverty amongst vulnerable households. A mapping of sustainable interventions that can be supported in the district should be undertaken. This should include a situational and capacity assessment of stakeholders on child labour or child protection issues in the district. To start the process, the report on existing interventions supporting children and their households in the district will be produced at the end of the study. Stakeholder mapping of the district should be undertaken to among other identify potential partners in the fight against child labour. Household food and livelihood security programmes should be promoted for the vulnerable households to improve the availability and access to food and income for both the adults and their children.

8.2 Mainstreaming of upstream measures taken to eliminate child labour in Malawi

While the team commend the adoption of the NAP as a major policy instrument in the fight against child labour, mainstreaming of the NAP in the district plans remains a challenge for the district stakeholders. Deliberate action should be taken to ensure effective coordination and mainstreaming of the priorities in the NAP into district implementation plans (DIPs). This will promote ownership and sustainability of the

interventions at grassroots level. In the case of Mulanje the ground work for the implementers of the programme in the district has already been done. The programme should encourage partners to use the district wide plans that have been developed to address child protection issues that include child labour. Buy-ins should be promoted by all stakeholders. This will be in line with Government priorities of transferring power to the councils to lead in the formulation, coordination and implementation of district plans in line with the Country's Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) which has been aligned with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on poverty eradication. This approach is cost effective and sustainable in the long term. Networking and coordination should be promoted at all levels and these activities should be properly funded. Multisectoral programming which is in the spirit of IABA requires heavy investment in partnership development and joint planning and implementation.

8.3 Support for children Education

If stakeholders are to retain children in schools, some serious reforms are required to address the gaps noted in this report. There are underlying factors leading to drop out rates, teacher pupil ratios being high in one area and low in others. Some structural reforms should be undertaken especially now that provision of education services has been decentralised. Proper coordination of the support to the sector is needed at district level. It was appalling to note that there were a number of stakeholders in the district that were working in the sector, but were not collaborating on child labour issues. For instance, while the district council through the department of Social Welfare is coordinating the provision of bursaries for needy students such as orphans and other vulnerable children, some partners continue to implement such programmes in isolation. Therefore, the district authorities should be encouraged to take a leading role in coordinating education activities in the district. One way would be to align their plans in the district and stakeholder plans. For this reason, communication among stakeholders involved in the sector should be promoted including sharing of the plans. The mapping

exercise of stakeholders in the district should help the department identify sources of support in the district.

8.4 Capacity development for Project Implementation

To support the implementation of the national and district plans that have been described in this report, the SNAP project should seriously address capacity challenges that exist in various offices responsible for the coordination of child labour activities if the IABA is going to work. A capacity assessment of district stakeholders should be undertaken before implementation of the programme begins. The district labour office lacks basic facilities to enable it effectively coordinate the programme at district level. For instance without a vehicle/ motorbike, the DLO's office could not provide oversight functions to the project. Staff capacity is also lacking in various areas. Implementing and cooperating partners in the district will need to be properly orientated on issues of child labour. The laws and policy instruments available to combat child labour should be made available to the stakeholders. The implementing agency selected for the district must prioritise capacity development for the district structures before they can be expected to take leading role in the fight against child labour.

8.5 Mainstreaming of crosscutting issues in the fight against child labour

Crosscutting issues such as gender, HIV/AIDS, environment, culture and diversity and others that have been attributed for the existence of child labour in the district must be mainstreamed in the programme interventions. Advocacy to end some of existing practices standing in the way of child labour elimination should be considered.

8.6 Monitoring and Reporting of child labour issues

Monitoring and reporting of child labour activities must be strengthened by supporting relevant systems or structures. As a district it does not have well-coordinated mechanisms for reporting child labour activities in the district. The community structures that the previous programme promoted are not functioning. Most of these structures stopped functioning with the end of the previous programmes. This can be attributed to the tendency by most implementing partners of promoting parallel structures in the districts or community. To avoid such a scenario, the new programme must seek to work with the best structures available in the district modelled around the child protection committee of the district which also serves as child labour committee. A strong database and information sharing mechanism of child labour and child protection issues should be developed in the district. This process can be mainstreamed in the existing district reporting mechanism adopted by the district council.

8.7 Making sustainable Impact on Child Labour

Child labour is a long term development issue hence requires long term solutions. To deliver sustainable impact, the SNAP project should implement the IABA project interventions where it is likely to have lasting impact. For instance, the study has shown that there are some areas in Mulanje that have high child labour prevalence and some with low poverty indicators , low attendance in school, household food insecurity. The programme should strategies where to implement the programme and the type of interventions to be promoted. In the same vein standardised menu projects should be avoided where possible. Interventions should be tailor made to suit existing conditions on the ground. The baseline data should guide the programme design and implementation.

While in general terms, child labour for the formal sector such as tea estates in Mulanje has almost ended, indirectly, these estates are employing children in people's homes as

the adults work in the estates. Where decent employment of adults is not available, persistent household poverty is forcing the children to seek employment to supplement household income or food. The formal sector in Mulanje must be actively engaged to address structural causes of child labour in the district. The results have clearly shown that by banning child labour in the formal sector in the district, most of these children have been pushed to work in people's homes or smallholder agriculture. Child labour has gone underground and has taken convert forms.

9.0 ANNEX

A1 Scope of the baseline survey

A summary of the main processes followed in conducting this study is outlined in Table 1 below.

Table A1.1 Processes/ Steps followed in the study implementation

Item	Step	Tasks Performed	Expected outputs
1	Preparation and Approval of Baseline Research Methodology (BRM)	· Identification of target area and trades in consultation with Implementing Agencies (IAs) · Preparation of Baseline Research Methodology (BRM) · Development preliminary design questionnaires · Designation of team leader/ contact person for duration of the assignment (3 months) · Pretest the questionnaires · Presentation of draft BRM and data tool to the review committee · Modification and finalizing BRM and data tools · Translate the questionnaire in local languages · Produce inception report	· Inception Report produced covering: (a) Scope of study defined (b) BRM , (c) data collection instruments (listing form, Household (HH) questionnaires, Focus Group Discussions (FGD), Key Informant Interviews (KII) guides), (d) sampling strategy etc. · Data collection instruments designed and submitted to the Review Committee · Team Leader identified · Questionnaire pretested

			· Questionnaire translated in local languages
2	Hiring of Baseline Team	Identify and recruit monitors, data entry staff and enumerators	Monitors, data entry staff and enumerators recruited
3	Training and Project Orientation of the Baseline Team	· Develop field manual for research team, enumerators to be reviewed by review team · Train baseline team on interviewing techniques, research methodology, FGDs	· Field Manual developed & baseline team trained · Interim report produced
4	Application of the Baseline Research Methodology (BRM)	· Prepare logistics for field work · Identify and map EAs · Sampling strategy developed · Conduct individual interviews , FGDs and KII · Data entry platforms developed · Process data and conduct data cleaning	· Logistics put in place · EAs mapped & HH identified · Individual, FGDs and KII conducted · Data processed and cleaned · Interim report produced
5	Data Entry and Report Writing	· Produce baseline data · Conduct data analysis · Compile baseline report · Submit report to the review committee for comments · Modify and finalize report based on committee comments · Present baseline study report to stakeholders	· 4,982 potential children in and at risk of Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) identified · Draft reports one per district produced and submitted to the Review committee within 3 months of the

			commencement of the work - Final report submitted to Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) ILO-IPEC SNAP Project within four months - Workshop on survey results conducted.

International Labour Organisation

International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour

Support to the National Action Plan to Combat Child Labour in Malawi (SNAP Project)

ILO-IPEC SNAP Project Office,
UNICEF Building, PO BOX 30135,
Lilongwe, Malawi.

Tel: +(265) 1 770 388 / 199 /155
Email : ndalama@ilo.org