



Child Labour in Mzimba Baseline Survey Report

2011



Support to the National Action Plan to Combat Child Labour in Malawi
MLVV/09/50P/USA

Baseline Survey on *Child Labour for Mzimba District Report*

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NOTE

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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 2015. 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 combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) in addition to stimulating collective and concerted efforts to combat 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 further analysis of the 2002 Malawi National Child Labour Survey (MNCLS) with detailed analysis on child labour. Technical support was received from ILO-IPEC during the analysis in the three 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 stand alone study on child labour carried out in Malawi. The broad objective of the survey was to collect high quality data on children to facilitate the measurement of the levels and nature of child labour in the focus districts. The data collection was carried out during the month of December 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, Malawi

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It was a great honour to interact with district and community leaders 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 on this study and Mr. Kelvin Saukila, Chief Statistician, National Statistics Office (NSO) for providing technical support during data processing and analysis. 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. Wishes Kambanizithe 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 showing greater commitment and sacrifice by accepting to work even on Christmas Day. Many thanks go to heads of households and children who accepted to be interviewed during our study. 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
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer
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
ECLT	The Foundation for the Elimination of Child Labour in Tobacco
Growing	
FBOs	Faith Based Organizations
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
GoM	Government of Malawi
HH	Household
HIV	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
HOH	Head of Household

IABA	Integrated Area Based Approach
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPEC	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
PPS	Probability Proportion to Size
PSLCE	Primary School Leaving Certificate of Education
PTA	Parents Teacher Association
SDPI	Sustainable Development Policy Institute
RA	Rapid Assessment
RFP	Request for Proposal
SACCO	Savings and Credit Cooperatives
SEP	Socio Economic Profile
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
YEDEF	Youth Development Enterprise

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Action Plan on Elimination of Child Labour in Malawi which was launched in August 2010 is 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 consulted during this study, 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-2010).

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.

Globally, it is estimated that there were 306 million children aged 5-17 years old who were economically active in 2008 and out of 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 and 153 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)¹.

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 of international conventions C182 and C138 which call for the elimination of all

¹ Child Labour National Action Plan on Child Labour 2010-2015, Ministry of Labour, Lilongwe, Malawi (August 2010), p1

forms of hazardous child labour and the setting up of minimum age for entry into formal employment respectively. These conventions have been domesticated in the country laws and policy instruments such as The Constitution, Employment Act of 2000 and The National Code of Conduct on Child Labour. All these instruments according to the NAP are aimed at protecting children from child 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 that these and those between the ages of 14 and 18 are not engaged in hazardous employment.

Currently, the Ministry of Labour has reviewed or adopted a number of policy instruments and guidelines and the biggest milestone has been the adoption of the NAP in August 2010. In addition, 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 from other countries. This programme has been designed in line with the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) which focuses on poverty reduction and the Decent Work Programme priority of creating more and better employment and income generation opportunities particularly for vulnerable groups including the youths, women and people with disabilities as well as ensuring the elimination of WFCL.

The baseline study on child labour in Mzimba district is aimed at: (1) collecting data on the numbers and concentrations (mapping) of child labour; (2) identifying potential children in and at risk of WFCL who could be potential project beneficiaries, (3) collecting information on the main characteristics of working children and their households, (4) collecting 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. Furthermore the survey in Mzimba like the ones done in Kasungu and Mulanje is undertaken to (5) 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) obtain through FGDs and KIs information the various forms of child labour prevailing in the district, particularly on WFCL and the underlying forces leading to the persistence of child labour, (7) assess level of social services available in the district including those of government in order to determine alternative livelihoods and support to target children, (8) 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. Finally, the baseline study was carried out to (9) 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, and (10) 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.

Detailed methodology for the study was outlined in the *Inception Report* that was produced at the beginning of the study in October 2010. The study utilized the Malawi Population and Housing Census (2008) sampling frame to identify enumeration areas where the survey was conducted in the district. All households in the selected enumeration areas (EA) were listed to identify eligible households with children aged 5 and 17 years old. Traditional Authorities (TAs) and Enumeration Areas (EAs) were selected using stratified sampling methods while households and child respondents were proportionally and randomly selected. Overall, 29 enumeration areas were selected in the district and 35 households for interviews in each EA. A total of 617 households and 888 children were interviewed. Overall the study utilized participatory methodologies by involving ILO staff locally and SIMPOC team in Geneva during planning, designing and implementation of the survey.

Interpretation of data and extent to which conclusions can be made is limited by: (a) abrupt closure of government offices during the festive season, Christmas, in the midst of the survey (b) all school during the period were also closed for Christmas (c) One Traditional Authority, Mtwalo was replaced by TA Jaravikuba for technical reason as NSO had erroneously printed wrong EA maps for Jaravikuba which became an automatic substitute as government offices that included NSO were closed at the time of the survey. The survey was also being conducted during the rainy season which made some areas inaccessible. Finally, (d) some macro level factors such as the poor tobacco prices have resulted in the drop in number of farmers growing tobacco and hence the drop in number of children involved in child labour. Literacy and awareness levels in the district are also relatively higher than most districts in the country.

Therefore, the completion of the baseline study on child labour in Mzimba consolidates the implementation 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 with 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 survey attempts to measure the initial conditions of working children in Mzimba in view of the above two conventions. The results will also help inform stakeholders in the implementation 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. A number of key findings have emerged from the study as follows:

Children involvement in work and school

The study shows that in all age groups the highest proportion of children participates in economic activities, in school and in household chores. This ranged from 34.2percent in the 5-9 years age group to 62.5percent in the 10-13 years age group and 58.9percent in the 14-17 age groups (Table 5.3). The proportion of children who participated in 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 participates in an economic activity but not attending school and neither in household chores. The proportion of children who participate in an economic activity without attending school and without participation in household chores range 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 is 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.

In terms of overall involvement in child labour, 40 percent of children interviewed in the district are involved in child labour.

Characteristics of children's work

The results show that TA Mpherembe had the highest proportion of children 84. 2percent involved in economic activities during the 7 day period preceding the survey. On the other

hand, 56.2 percent of children worked in TA Jaravikuba, 45.5percent in TA Mabilabo, 37.7percent in Mzimba Boma and 25.8percent in TA Chindi. The highest percentage children doing household chores was 43.6 percent in TA Mzikubola.

Most children worked in their homes as unpaid family workers (91. percent) followed by employees (3.9 percent) and own account worker 3.0 percent. Majority of children are working to supplement household food requirements (66.9 percent) while those working to learn skills (socialization) account for 59. 3 percent. Those working to supplement household income account for 24.8 percent and those helping in HH enterprise accounted for 31. 3 percent while 2.7 percent work to help pay family debt or they are not interested in school respectively. Finally in terms of food security, only 5.9 percent grew maize, the country's staple food crop yet 54.9 percent grew tobacco which explains why 66.9 percent of children would work to supplement household food requirements.

Involvement in hazardous work

In terms of hazardous work for children, the highest proportion (14.7 percent) of working children reported that they worked with hoes, 4 percent worked with panga knives, 1worked with saw, 2percent worked with a sickle, 1percent worked with ploughs and 1 percent worked with sprayer. Most children (98. 3 percent) work without protective gear, 1percent reported that they carry or handle loads more than 10 kg and 5.3percent work in conditions of extreme temperature.

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

Most children in Mzimba are attending school (90percent) with some variations between traditional authorities. There are more children attending school at the Boma (94.7percent). This is followed by TA Mpherembe, 94.7percent then Mabilabo, 92. 8percent, Jaravikuba, 90.9percent while Chindi and Mzikubola have the lowest attendance rates of 87percent and 86.3 percent respectively.

Since most of the children working are working within their households not many abuses are reported.

In conclusion, the baseline survey in Mzimba applauds upstream measures taken by Government and its cooperating partners to combat child labour such as the launch of the NAP in August 2010. However, recent developments within the tobacco sector have had significant impact on levels of child labour in the district as more and more people are abandoning the sector. Consequently, this drop in production is pushing more and more children into informal child activities such as casual labour, ganyu in search of food and income.

Overall, poverty and some cultural and social factors are the leading contributors of child labour in the district. In terms of social services the district is relatively well serviced. The education sector for example is meeting most of the agreed indicators of quality basic education with teacher pupil ratio within reach, pupil/classroom ratio and teacher/houses ratio well within reach of what the district can improve on. What needs to change is how these resources are shared equally amongst the traditional authorities as plenty coexist with need elsewhere within the district.

The findings of the SNAP Baseline Study in Mzimba District call for general and specific recommendations for consideration by the new programme. To address child labour in the district stakeholders need to tackle immediate, underlying and structural needs of children involved or at risk of child labour in the district. Broader human development interventions relevant to the underlying causes of child labour must be implemented. The fight against child labour as noted in this report calls for multi-sectoral poverty reduction programmes such as “conditional cash transfers” (CCT), payments to poor households made on condition that children attend school and health clinics. This model has been successful in Brazil where it greatly reduced the incidence of child labour recognized as the world’s largest CCT programme.

Progress towards "education for all" is the development indicator most closely linked with child labour. Every full-time student is one less potential full-time child worker. There is correlation between those countries lagging behind education targets and those in which child labour thrives, such as Pakistan and Nepal. In the case of Mzimba district, the survey has applauded the various initiatives towards meeting the MDGs on education where most of indicators show that the district is on track towards achieving these goals. However, distribution of education facilities is far from being equal with the more remote areas lagging

behind. As such the government and its cooperating partners such as ILO are being asked to address the causes of this inequality by consulting the relevant authorities. In other words, the integration of child labour concerns into national development strategies, backed by effective legislation, is therefore the preferred route to a lasting solution.

The specific recommendations being put forward include: (a) need to consolidate the fight against child labour in TA Mabilabo and Mzikubola, two selected areas where SNAP/IABA Project is being implemented although the results have not confirmed that these two areas have the highest number of working children. At the same time the project should strengthen advocacy work to cover the entire district; (b) there are 1403 potential children at risk of WFCL which have been identified by the study who must be reached by the project in its various interventions. These children include those from food insecure households, (66.9percent) those working to help repay family debt (2.7 percent) those who have stopped going to school (14. 3percent) among others. With the sadden developments affecting the tobacco industry which most households have abandoned in the district new livelihood opportunities such as commercializing livestock and cereal production should be promoted.

Policy reforms in the education sector which are affecting the delivery of quality education in the district should be undertaken on housing for teachers, allowance payments, leave grants and general conditions; supervision of teachers/ schools/ health facilities delegated to other districts/ jurisdictions, supply of learning and teaching materials in schools, school uniform, community contributions to the running of public schools; establishment of community day secondary schools to cater for the increasing demand for these schools; deployment of teachers in community day secondary schools (CDSS); recruitment of part time or temporary teachers and operations of SACCOs.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Baseline Study on Child Labour in Kasungu, Mzimba and Mulanje districts was premised on 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 Organisation 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 from other countries. 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 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 combating 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. To eliminate CL in Malawi, the programme also intends to strengthen further development of a monitoring system for child labour in the country as a whole as well as within its area of operations.

Therefore, the completion of the baseline study on child labour in Mulanje 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 Mzimba 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 Mulanje. 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 UNICEF (2007) Report, Malawi home to 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; prudent economic management, stable macroeconomic conditions and soaring agricultural production are helping to reduce poverty and hunger, and Malawi's HIV prevalence rates seems to have stabilised at 14 percent and now 12 percent. However, the impact of HIV/AIDS has left the country with 12 percent of its children orphaned.

On the down side, the same report argues, poverty continues to be chronic and widespread and the country's development is thwarted by a fast growing population, limited arable land, cyclical natural disasters such as floods, food insecurity, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS and a high incidence of malaria, one of the leading killers of children under the age of five. Children and women are becoming more vulnerable as their ability to recover from these relenting risks and shocks weakens.²

Malawi's child labour prevalence rates are relatively high despite numerous efforts by various stakeholders including Government, ILO and NGOs. The problem is well described in various studies conducted by NSO/ SIMPOC and other stakeholders such as Child Labour Survey (2002), DHS and MICS. 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.³

Globally, it is estimated that there were 306 million children aged 5-17 years old who were economically active in 2008 and out of these 215 million were child labourers. Of the child labourers, 115 million were engaged in hazardous work.

² Malawi Annual Report 2007, UNICEF, Lilongwe Malawi, p6

³ Malawi Annual Report 2007, UNICEF, Lilongwe Malawi, p7

In addition, there were 176 million children aged 5-14 years old who were engaged in economic activities and 153 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)⁴.

The Survey published in the Malawi Child Labour 2002 Report ⁵ indicated that in Malawi 1.4 million children were engaged in Child Labour representing 52percent and 48percent for girls and boys respectively. The report suggested that there were more girls than boys involved in domestic child labour. Girls were believed to be at higher risk of becoming domestic workers than boys due to the following:

- o Cultural acceptance of gender roles;
- o Lack of better alternatives for girls
- o Lack of efficient educational infrastructures
- o Lack of sufficient enabling environment and general situation of poverty at household level.
- o 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 indicates 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 0.39 million or 25.4percent of males aged 5-14 work and 0.34 million or 21.3percent of females of the same age group work resulting in 0.73 million or 23.3percent of all children ages between 5-14 work. This is broken down as follows:

- 5-9 years it was 38percent

⁴ *Child Labour National Action Plan on Child Labour 2010-2015, Ministry of Labour, Lilongwe, Malawi (August 2010), p1*

⁵ *Training Manual on Child Labour Law Enforcement in Malawi (2008), ILO-IPEC Country Programme, Malawi, p19*

- 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 are also found in the domestic (43.2percent) service carrying out work under conditions of isolation, excessive long hours, physical and sexual abuse. Children are also found in the streets as vendors and child prostitutes. In terms of working hours per week, 64.5percent worked 11-25 hours; 8percent worked 26-36 hours while 3percent worked over 49 hours per week.

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 C182 and C138 which call for the elimination of all forms of hazardous CL and the setting up of Minimum Age for entry into formal employment respectively. Furthermore, Malawi has 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) are 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 these and those between the ages of 14 and 18 are not engaged in hazardous employment.

So far the Ministry of Labour (MoL) has reviewed or adopted a number of policy instruments and guidelines. Key amongst the documents reviewed and adopted is the National Action Plan (NAP) on child labour which is to provide direction for progressive elimination of child labour from 2010 to 2015. 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.⁶

⁶ *National Action Plan on Child Labour, Ministry of Labour, Lilongwe, Malawi (2010), p2*

Table 1.1 Policy Instruments Reviewed by Government to Facilitate CL Elimination

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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. |
|---|

A number of critical challenges facing the Ministry and the country as a whole in the fight against child labour have been highlighted. 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 (2002 Survey)

	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 no major survey has been made but the trend is that the communities have been made 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 Mzimba District

1.3.1 Location and Size

Mzimba district otherwise known as M'mbelwa district council is one of the six districts located in the Northern Region. It has a total land area of 10,430 square kilometers and it is the largest district council in Malawi in terms of geographical coverage. It is bordered by Rumphi to the north, Nkhata-Bay to the east, Kasungu to the south and Zambia to the west. Its headquarters is situated about 250 kilometres north of Lilongwe, the Capital City of Malawi and about 100 kilometres away to the south west of Mzuzu City.

1.3.2 Topography, Geology and Hydrology

There are four major physical features in the district. The Viphya highlands in the East are the high plateau with the altitude of 1954 metres above sea level. The plains in the west extend into Kasungu and Zambia. The hill zones occur in Khosolo, Kanjuchi, Mpherembe and north of Mzimba Headquarters and are characterized by moderate to steep slopes. Hora Mountain is also one significant hill which is also associated with the Ngoni history of Mzimba.

There are also valleys along South Rukuru and Dwangwa rivers (Kabuwa area). South Rukuru is the biggest and longest river in the district and region. It meanders from the south to the north through Henga Valley in Rumphi. Lake Kazuni is situated on this river near Vwaza marsh in the north.

1.3.3 Population, Socio-Economic and Child Labour Activities

According to the 2008 Malawi Population and Housing Census, the district has an estimated population of 724, 873 people⁷ comprising 5.5percent of the country's population. The district is sparsely populated with 70 persons per square kilometer. The figure is much lower than the national figure of 139 persons per square kilometer, but it is higher than the northern region's figure of

⁷ Mzimba District Socio-Economic Profile, November, 2008, pp23-25

63persons per square kilometer. The district has one of the youngest populations with 53.26percent of the population under 18 years of years. The age group 18 and over comprises about 46.74percent of the population. In terms of household size, the district has the largest households in Malawi. The average size is 5.1 whilst the average size for Malawi is 4.4.This is attributed to the patrilineal kinship type.

The population is distributed in 1,726 villages spread in 10 traditional authorities plus Mzimba district headquarters (refer to Table1.3 below).

Table 1.3 Population Distribution and Villages by Traditional Authorities

Traditional Authorities	Population(2008)	No. of Villages
M'mbelwa	111,533	164
Mtwalo	140,599	345
Kampingo Sibande	56,201	182
Jaravikuba Munthali	14,266	57
Chindi	131,339	231
Mzikubola	66,873	157
Mabilabo	63,429	214
Khosolo Gwaza	37,085	112
Mpherembe	44,525	162
Mzukuzuku	32,267	102
Mzimba Boma	20,756	-
Total	724,873	1726

According to the Mzimba District Socio-Economic Profile- SEP(2008) for the district, children below the age of 14 were reported working as tobacco tenants, herding cattle, mushroom picking and selling merchandise along the M1 road between Chikangawa and Jenda area. Vending involving children was mainly common during mobile markets 'days. Internal trafficking of children coming into the district to work as tenants or cattle herders was also reported. On the other hand, the 2004 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey revealed that 4.6percent of children aged 5-14 years in the district were working as paid and

6.7percent as unpaid child labourers mainly for non relatives. Still majority, 39.2percent worked as unpaid family labourers on family farm or business while 73.7 percent worked as domestic servants but at less than 4 hours per day and 3.6 percent worked for 4 hours or more per day. Overall, the results of the 2004 survey revealed that 44.5percent of children aged 5-14years were working and a total of 1,146 children were involved in child labour.

The above results were complemented by the 2006 Rapid Assessment results on Child Labour where 16.1 percent of children in Mzimba were found working on farms, 75.6 percent were not working while 81.4percent of these were in school. Finally, the 2008 Rapid Economic Appraisal for one of the designated accelerated development area of the district, Jenda Trading Centre, revealed that children are mostly involved in packing tomatoes, Irish potatoes and onions while others come to the centre to watch videos during school time. On the market day, girls carry loads as means of getting money to meet their basic needs. The study concluded that child labour was rampant in the area for which some positive action has been taken to mitigate the impact.

In terms of socioeconomic profile of the district seventeen (17) district development priorities (needs) were identified.⁸ The following have been identified as the main development issues in the district:

- To increase health facilities from 53 to 60
- To reduce teacher house ratio from 1:4 to1:1
- To reduce pupil classroom ratio from 97:1 to 60:1
- To improve road network and increase number of telephone and postal services.
- To increase number of sustainable safe water points (living within 500 metres radius from water point) from 74percent to 88percent by 2011.
- To increase crop production by 2010 as follows: maize from 322, 492 to 427,420 metric tonnes; roots 386,184 to 613, 630 metric tonnes; fruits 114,073 to 123,051metric tonnes
- To increase irrigation infrastructure by 15 percent.

⁸ *Mzimba District Socio Economic Profile (SEP), 2006*, pages 156-157

- To increase fish production in ponds and small water bodies by 2010 from 840 kilogrammes to 1..00 kilogrammes per year
- To increase meat and milk production by 2010 as follows: (a) meat from 2777 to 9394; (b) milk from 10..4millitres to 1609 milliliters;
- To promote abstinence, mutual faithfulness, care and support and safe sex practices by
- To reduce child trafficking by 50percent by 2010 and reduce unfair labour practices by 60percent by 2010;
- To establish police units with the assistance of the community;
- To increase the district average literacy level from the prevailing 54percent to 85percent by 2011;
- To increase access through establishing convenient, affordable, flexible, permanently available and reliable microfinance services;
- To provide the electricity to the vulnerable people in the villages by 2011
- To reduce unemployment by 10percent by 2010; and
- To create awareness among the people of Mzimba on all important issues affecting delivery of services, roles of major public figures and different structures, expenditure details and changes occurring in the district.

1.4 Survey Objectives

The specific objectives of the baseline survey were:

- 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 KIs 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 Mzimba 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 is for Mzimba district. 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 Mzimba but also the other two districts namely: Kasungu and Mulanje.

This report is divided into chapters, one to eight. 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 Mzimba 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 Mzimba, 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 the key 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 Mzimba 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 analyze 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 Mzimba district. Suffice to say 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).

This baseline study was designed to cover 29 enumeration areas (EAs) in Mzimba district and 35 households were to be interviewed in each EA spread in six Traditional Authorities (TAs). In the end, 888 children were interviewed from 617 households. 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 involved four major processes in its implementation namely: Inception, Field Survey, Synthesis and Report Writing.

The first phase, *inception* involved holding of inception meetings with ILO staff in Malawi, development of 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) was involved in the delivery of the training. After completion of the training, the team left for Mulanje as the first district where the whole team was to start data collection. This was followed by Kasungu district where data collection was conducted between April and May 2011. Mzimba district is the third and last district where this baseline survey on child labour was conducted. A seventeen (17) member field team departed for Mzimba to carry out the baseline data on child labour on December 16, 2011 and data collection was completed on Christmas Day, December 25, 2011.

2.1.1 Scope and Coverage

The details of where the survey was conducted are provided in table 2.1 below. Enumeration areas were sampled from five of the ten traditional authorities (TAs) namely: Mabilabo, Mzikubola, Chindi, Jaravikuba, Mpherembe and Mzimba Boma (headquarters). 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 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 among others. 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 Mzimba District.

Sample size for household survey

The total number of households in Traditional Authorities of Mzimba was estimated from the sampling frame developed by NSO from the 2008 Population Census. By assuming that 37percent of the households in Mzimba 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 3.0percent 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 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 Traditional Authorities (TAs)

TA	No of EAs selected	No of households
Mabilabo	3	105
Mzikubola	4	140
Chindi	12	420
Mtwalo <i>(replaced by</i>	5	175
Mpherembe	3	105
Mzimba Boma	2	70
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. For the Mzimba study a number of setbacks affected its implementation. Prominent among these was fuel shortage currently affecting the country as a whole. This constrained the already depleted resources at our disposal as prices for this activity were determined over a year ago when the pump price for fuel was twice lower than the current price. In most cases this commodity was being bought at three times the original price from the parallel market where it was found.

Having conducted the study during the festive season, Christmas, Government Offices were abruptly closed in the midst of the survey. Where possible secondary data was relied upon where the officials were unavailable for interviews. Schools too had closed for the holidays. This meant that some questions especially on school attendance could not be administered to most school going children. Nonetheless, school attendance data could be cross-examined at the respective schools in the surveyed areas. One Traditional Authority, Mtwalo was replaced by TA Jaravikuba for technical reason. While in the field, the team discovered that NSO had erroneously printed wrong EA maps not for TA Mtwalo, but Jaravikuba which became an automatic substitute. With the closure of government offices that included NSO it was not possible to print the right maps for TA Mtwalo.

The survey was also being conducted during the rainy season which made some areas inaccessible. Finally, some macro level factors such as the poor tobacco prices have resulted in the drop in number of farmers growing tobacco in the current farming season. Since most people consulted during this study used to grow the product, they confessed that the drop in child labour may be directly related to this. Literacy and awareness levels in the district are also relatively higher than most districts in the country. As with the other districts, already studied, selection of the district 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 districts of the 28 in the country. *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 11.3percent of the households surveyed are situated in urban areas and 88.7percent are in rural areas. The table also shows that the highest proportion (28.4percent) are in TA Jaravikuba, 22.7percent are in Mzikubola, 18percent are in Chindi, 17percent in Mabilabo, 2.6 percent in Mpherembe and 11.3 percent are in Mzimba Boma. The same table also shows that 80.8 percent of the surveyed households were male headed and 19.2percent 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	Number of households	Percentage (percent)
Total	617	100
Urban	70	11.3
Rural	547	88.7
Traditional Authority (TA)		
Mabilabo	105	17
Mzikubola	140	23
Mzimba Boma	70	11
Chindi	110	18
Mpherembe	17	3

Jaravikuba	175	28
Total	617	100
Sex of Head of Household		
Male	499	80.8
Female	118	19.2

3.2 Distribution of surveyed population by age and sex

The results show that in the 617 households successfully interviewed 3214 household members were listed. Forty seven percent of these household members were males and 53 percent were females. Table 3.2 shows the age and sex distribution of the surveyed population. The table shows that all age groups except the 10-13 years, females are generally higher than males. The above statistics are exactly the same as found in the 2008 Population and Housing Census for the district.

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	165	5.1	234	7.3	399	13.4
5-9	292	9.1	335	10.4	647	19.5
10-13	243	7.6	221	6.9	464	14.4
14-17	150	4.7	152	4.7	305	9.4
≥18 years	643	60.0	699	71.7	1348	41.8
Not stated	6	0.9	74	3.10	80	11.5
Total	1499	100.0	1715	100.0	31214	100.0

3.3 Age-sex Structure of the Interviewed Children

Table 3.3 and Figure 3.1 below provide the age –sex distribution of the interviewed children. The results show that 50.8 percent of the children were females while males constituted 49.13 percent. By TA, the results show that Mpherembe had the highest proportion of females (66.7 percent) while Mzikubola had the lowest (47.7 percent). The trend is similar amongst the different age groups as shown in Figure 3.1 below.

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

District and TA	Sex	
	Male	Female
Mzimba	49.2	50.8
Mabilabo	45.7	54.3
Mzikubola	52.3	47.7
Mzimba Boma	41.7	58.3
Chindi	51.6	48.4
Mpherembe	33.3	66.7
Jaravikuba	49.8	50.2
Mzimba Boma	43.8	56.3

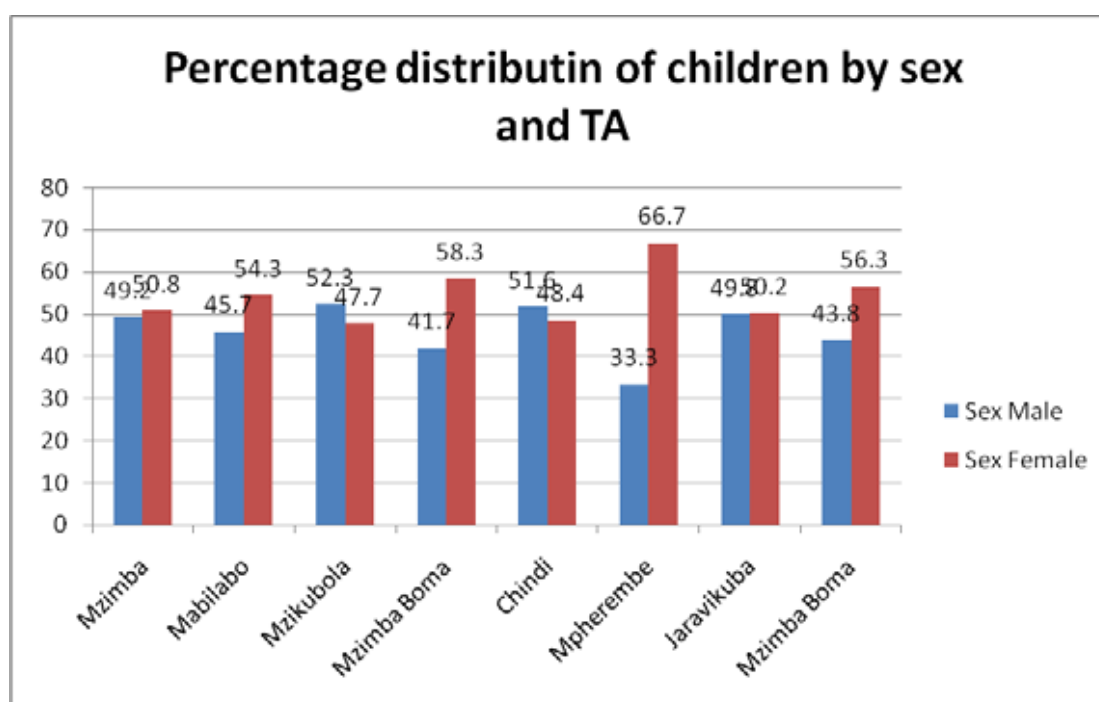


Figure 3.1 Percent distribution of children by age groups 5-9, 10-13 and 14-17 years

Table 3.4 shows the percent distribution of children by age group and TA. The results reveal that in general the majority of the children interviewed in all the TAs were aged 5-9, Mabilabo and Chindi having the highest proportion (46.8 percent) and Mzimba Boma registering the lowest number (33.3 percent), while for the older age groups of 14-17, the majority of the children interviewed were from Mpherembe (41.7 percent).

Table 3.4 Percent distribution of children by age group 5-9, 10-13 and 14-17 years and TA

District and TA	Age group		
	5-9	10-13	14-17
Mzimba	45.0	33.3	21.7
Mabilabo	46.8	32.6	20.6
Mzikubola	46.0	31.1	22.9

Mzimba Boma	33.3	50.0	16.7
Chindi	46.8	32.6	20.6
Mpherembe	25.0	33.3	41.7
Jaravikuba	42.7	36.3	21.0

3.4 Types of Dwelling Units and Ownership Status

Information on type of dwelling units and ownership status is presented in Table 3.5. The results indicate that 43.6 percent of the dwelling households were traditional, 39percent were permanent and 17.3 percent were semi-permanent structures. Most dwellings (81.8percent) were owned by members of households, 3percent were co-owned, 1.4 was subsidized by employers, 10.7 percent were rented and 3.1percentwere provided free.

3.4.1 Main materials for the Main House

Most of the main dwelling structures (61.2 percent) had burnt bricks as the main material for the wall, 7.6percent had walls made of unburnt bricks and 25.9 percent were made of mud (Table 3.5). The floor material for 63.1percent of main houses for surveyed households was earth or sand, 33.4percent had cement as the main material and 0.4 percent had broken bricks as the main material. The highest proportion (44.6percent) of the surveyed households had iron sheets as the main roofing material for the main houses, 23.3 percent had their main houses thatched and 30.5percent 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	43.6
Permanent	39.0
Semi-permanent	17.3
Total	100.0

Ownership status of dwelling	
Owned by any household member	81.8
Co-owner	3.0
Provided free	3.1
Subsidized by employer(lodging)	1.4
Rented	10.7
Total	100.0
Main wall material for main house	
Cane/palm/trunks	0.4
Dirt/mud	25.9
Bamboo/tree trunks with mud	0.4
Stone with mud	0.4
Cement	2.3
Stone with lime/cement	0.9
Burnt bricks	61.2
Unburnt bricks	7.6
wooden planks	0.2
Grass	0.9
Total	100.0
Main floor material for main house	
Earth/sand	63.1
Dung	0.5
Palm/bamboo	0.2
Brocken bricks	0.4
Vinyl or asphalt strips	0.4
Cement	33.4
Carpet	0.2
Other	1.9
Total	100.0
Main roofing material for main house	
No roof	0.7
Thatch/palm leaf	23.3
Rustic mat	0.4
Palm/bamboo/grass	30.5
Iron sheets	44.6
Duplicated cement	0.4
Plastic sheeting	0.2
Total	0.7

3.5 Main Sources of Energy for Cooking and Lighting

Most of surveyed households (95.4percent) 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 (72.1percent) stated torch as the main source of energy for lighting, 9.0 percent indicated that paraffin was a main source of energy for lighting and 6.3 percent use electricity.

3.6 Main Source of Drinking Water

The highest proportion of households (69.2 percent) stated the borehole as the main source of drinking water, 7.7 percent stated public or private piped water as the main source of drinking water, 4.9 percent had unprotected dug wells as a main source of drinking water and 7.8 percent stated that protected dug wells were a main source of drinking water (Table 3.6).

3.7 Toilet Use by Type

Table 3.6 also shows the type of toilet facility the households use. The highest proportion (60.1percent) of households reported that they had access to a pit latrine without a slab, 18.3 percent had access to a pit latrine with at least a slab, 9.4 percent had access to pit latrine with slab and cover and 1.9 percent had access to a flash toilet. At least two percent have no toilet for their households.

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

Main source of energy for cooking	Percent
Wood	95.4
Charcoal	3.9
Electricity	0.7
Total	100.0
Main source of energy for lighting	
Wood	0.7
Charcoal	0.2

Paraffin	9.0
Gas	0.5
Electricity	6.3
Solar	1.9
Candles	7.2
Torch	72.1
Maize/tobacco stalks	1.9
Other	0.3
Total	100.0
Main source of drinking water	
Borehole	69.2
Protected dug well	7.8
Unprotected dug well	4.9
Spring	0.7
Dam/river/stream	0.9
Rain/harvested water	0.5
Public tap/stand pipe	7.7
Piped into dwelling	2.6
Piped into yard	5.4
Other	0.3
Total	100.0
Type of toilet facilities	
Flash toilet	1.9
VIP	5.6
Pit latrine with slab	18.3
Pit latrine without slab/Open pit	60.1
Pit latrine with slab and cover	9.4
Pit latrine with slab and foot rest	1.0
Pit latrine with slab, cover and foot rest	1.0
Compositing toilet	0.7
No latrine or bush or field	2.0
Total	100.0

3.8 Sources of Household Income

Main sources of household income are presented in Table 3.7 below. The highest proportion (59.9 percent) of households reported that crop production was their main source of household income. On the other hand, 39.6percent rely on private transfers, 27.7 percent depend on livestock production, 24.6 percent are involved in casual labour, and 22.6 percent are in formal employment, 17.9 percent are engaged in income generating activities while 16.0 percent get involved in semiskilled contract work.

Table 3.7 Main sources of income for households

Source of Household income	Percent
Formal employment	22.6
Social transfers	1.7
Scholarship	2.4
Private transfers	39.6
Crop production	59.9
Livestock production	27.7
Selling natural resource products	20.1
Casual labour/hiring out labour	24.6
Semi skilled contract work	16.0
IGAs	17.9
Asset sales	1.4
Land and property rentals	2.0
Pension	1.7
Credits	9.4
Other	7.7

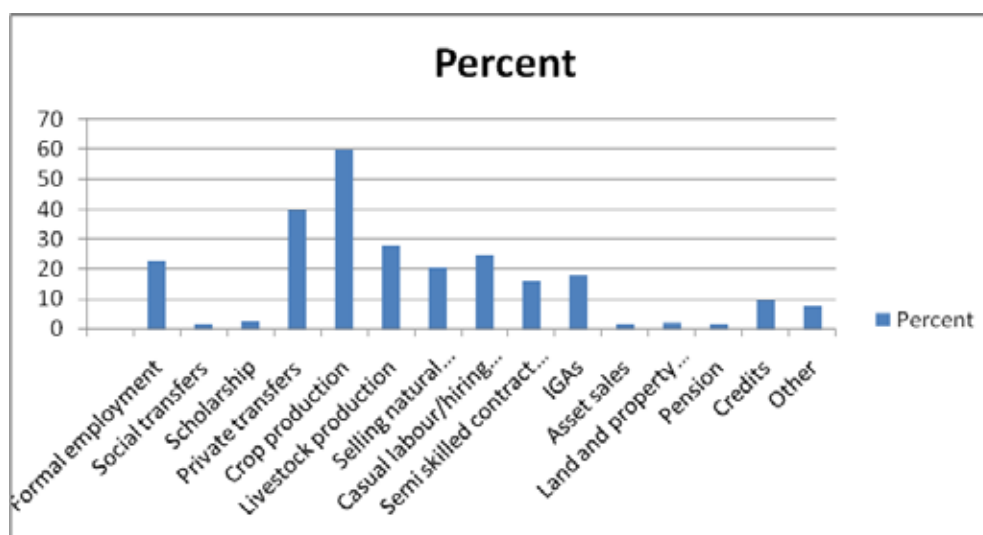


Figure 3.2 Main sources of income

3.9 Household income and expenditure

The average monthly household income per TA ranged from MK7, 700.00 in TA Mzikubola to MK35, 133.33 in TA Mpherembe (Table 3.8). Average household expenditure per TA ranged from MK4, 213.00 in TA Chindi to MK 17,685.45 at Mzimba Boma. Overall the average monthly household expenditure for the district 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 3.8 Household income and expenditure

Traditional Authority	Monthly Average Household Income (MK)	Monthly Average Household Expenditure (MK)
Mabilabo	12,444.44	8,109.80
Mzikubola	7,700	5,228.67
Mzimba Boma	23,942.04	17,685.45
Chindi	19,343.24	4,213.00
Mpherembe	35,133.33	12,031.25
Jaravikuba	17,322.92	7,250.67
Overall	18,882.29	7,480.80

3.10 Food security status of households

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Household food security is the application of this concept to the family level, with individuals within households as the focus of concern. On the other hand, food insecurity exists when people are undernourished due to the physical unavailability of food, their lack of social or economic access, and/or inadequate food utilization. Food insecure people are those individuals whose food intake falls below their minimum calorie (energy) requirements, as well as those who exhibit physical symptoms caused by energy and nutrient deficiencies resulting from an inadequate or unbalanced diet, or from inability of the body to use food effectively because of infection or disease. The degree of vulnerability for an individual, household or group of persons is determined by their exposure to the risk factors and their ability to cope with or withstand stressful situations.⁹

A major cause of food insecurity in Malawi is deep and pervasive poverty. Most households live below the national poverty line, being unable to afford a minimum basket of food and non-food items. *Ganyu*¹⁰ is a crucial poverty issue in Malawi because after own-farm production, *ganyu* is the most important source of livelihood for most poor households and is the most important coping strategy during the crucial period of food shortage (Whiteside, 2000). In the past, *ganyu* provided the main supplementary income for poor households, but *ganyu* is becoming more difficult to find (Devereux et al., 2006). Income poverty has led to asset poverty and general livelihood erosion over time as households have struggled to cope with the droughts that regularly affected the country prior to the introduction of agricultural input programme introduced by the Bingu Administration in 2005. As assets and livelihoods are often eroded, the extreme

⁹ Committee on World Food Security, 24th Session, Rome, 1998

¹⁰ The word *ganyu* is widely used in Malawi to describe a range of short-term rural labour relationships, the most common of which is piecework weeding or ridging on the fields of other smallholders, or on agricultural estates. *Ganyu* can be defined as any off-own-farm work done by rural people on a casual basis. Usually covering a period of days or weeks, remuneration may be in cash or in kind such as food (Whiteside, 2000).

poor have grown in number, food access shortfalls have grown, and the country's vulnerability to food insecurity has increased (Frankenberger, 2003).

In the 2011 Baseline Survey in Mzimba district, household food and livelihood security was assessed by asking households about their main sources of livelihoods, type of crops grown, period their own grown staple lasted after harvest and ownership of land and livestock among others. The findings are summarized in Tables 3.9 to 3.15 and figure 3.3 below.

Table 3.9 Main source of livelihood for the head of household

	Percentage
Formal employment	12.8
Social transfers	0.3
Scholarship	0.5
Private transfers (Gifts/remittances)	1.2
Crop production	40.4
Livestock production	14.6
Selling natural resources products such as charcoal, firewood and others	2.0
Casual labour/hiring out labour (ganyu)	13.3
Semi-skilled contract work	1.3
Income Generating activities	9.9
Asset sales	0.0
Land and property rentals	0.7
Pension	0.8
Credits	0.2
Other	7.2

Five main sources of livelihoods for most households in Mzimba district were mentioned namely: crop production (40.4percent), livestock production (14.6percent), casual labour/ ganyu (13.3percent), formal employment (12.8percent) and income generating activities (9.9 percent). Crop and livestock production depends on easy access to land. With the exception of TA Mabilabo, the majority of households reported owning their piece of land on which they grow crops and raise animals as shown in Table 3.10 below. As Table 3.10 shows, most households (80percent) in TA Mabilabo relatively do not have access to their own piece of land which is a critical resource for household food security. As the report will show in chapter five, the same TA registered a high

incidence of child labour. Most children who work do so to supplement household food requirement.

Table 3.10 Percentage of households that own land by TA

Name of TA	Ownership of land	
	Yes	No
Mabilabo	20.0	80.0
Mzikubola	57.6	42.4
Chindi	90.7	9.3
Mpherembe	81.3	18.8
Jaravikuba	78.1	21.9
Mzimba Boma/ Mmbelwa	58.2	41.8
Total	62.6	37.4

The remaining tables below show that most households have diversified their sources of livelihoods from growing staple crops, cash crops, livestock production to off farming activities such as income generating activities. Consequently, majority of the households have food available throughout the year (66percent) and 61.4percent own some form of livestock which are known to supplement food requirement and income at household level.

Table 3.11 Percentage of HH growing different varieties of crops for their livelihoods

	<i>Proportion of households</i>
percent household growing staple food crops	
Yes	85.5
No	14.5
Total	100.0
<i>Staple food crops grown</i>	
Maize	86.9
Rice	0.3
Sorghum	1.3
Millet	2.5
Cassava	1.7
Bananas	0.3
Sweet potatoes	7.9
Irish potatoes	3.4
Other	1.3

Table 3.12 Percentage of households with staple crops lasting twelve months after harvest

	<i>Proportion of households (percent)</i>
percent household still having main staple food left	
Yes	66.0
No	34.0
Total	100.0

Table 3.13 Percentage of HH growing different crops

Type of crops grown	Total
1. Maize	83.7
2. Rice	1.9
3. Cassava	7.1
4. Irish potatoes	4.4
5. Sweet potatoes	13.5
6. Beans	24.9
7. Peas	2.9
8. Tobacco	16.5
9. Groundnuts	26.1
10. Sorghum	0.8
11. Paprika	0.3
12. Millet	2.5
13. Chillies	0.2
14. Cotton	0.3
15. Tea	0.3
16. Coffee	0.2
17. Sugarcane	1.0
18. Vegetables	8.1

Table 3.14 Number of months after harvest that the staple food harvested lasted

Months	Percent (N=126)
Staple food still	
1. February 2010	4.0
2. March 2010	0.0
3. April 2010	1.6
4. May 2010	0.8
5. June 2010	3.2
6. July 2010	0.0
7. August 2010	2.4
8. September 2010	11.1
9. October 2010	15.9
10. November 2010	25.4

11. December 2010	29.4
12. January 2011	4.0
13. February 2011	2.4
Total	100.0

Table 3.15 Percentage of household who owned some species of livestock in the district

Household ownership of livestock	Percentage
Yes	61.4 [n=256]
No	38.6 [n=161]
Total	100.0

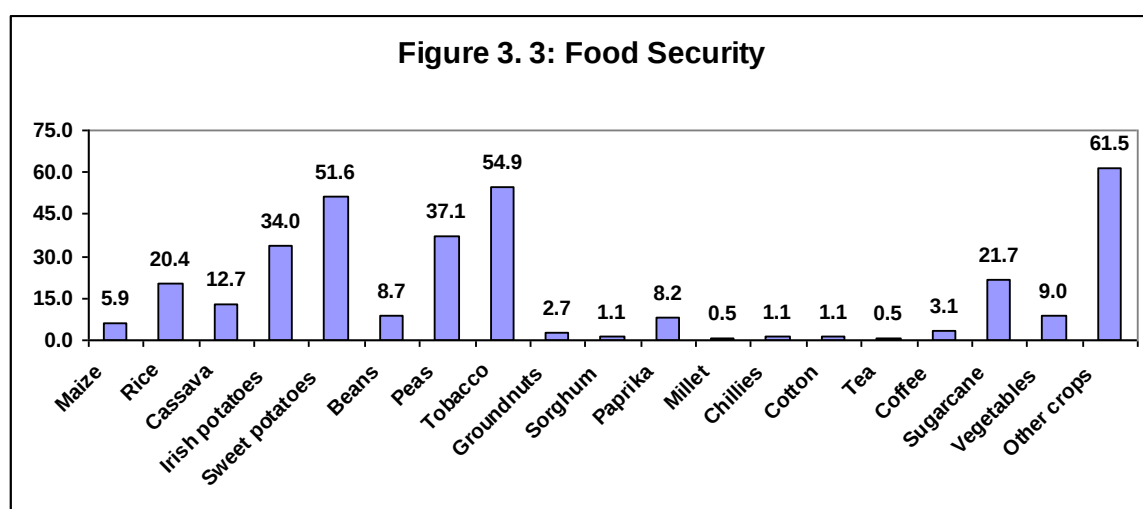


Figure 3.3 Crops grown by households

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.

Education is the key 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*). Some of these have been mentioned in the district Socio-Economic Profile (SEP).

Mzimba is one of the five education districts in Northern Education Division. The other four education districts are Chitipa, Karonga Rumphi, and Nkhata Bay/Likoma. Like other districts in Malawi, Mzimba district offers both primary education and secondary education. For easy management of the education system and indeed due to the decentralization process, which has been going on in Malawi since 1998, Mzimba district is sub-divided into 25 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, 2010) and District Socioeconomic Profile show that the district has 530 (five hundred and thirty) public primary schools (see Table 4.1), 88percent of these are full primary schools and the rest are junior primary schools. According to reports the district

has more girls going to school than boys. This according to SEP defeats some cultural practices in the district which discourages girls from going to school.¹¹

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 Mzimba 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 way above the recommended 1:60 for the country. The same is also true for classroom pupil ratio which is also 1:60.

Table 4.1 Enrolment Rate for children aged 5-17 years in Mzimba District

Indicator/ Characteristic	Results
Number of schools in the district	530
Number of pupils	223781
Boys	110138
Girls	106257
Total	216395
Number of qualified teachers	2967
Enrolment rate for the district (percent)	90
Number of classrooms in the district	3511
Teacher pupil ratio	1:73
Classroom pupil ratio	1:45
Teacher house ratio (permanent)	1: 3
Desk pupil ratio	1:19
School-borehole/ tap ratio	1:6
Girls-pupil ratio	1: 2
Pass rate of primary School examinations (percent)	64

Source: Mzimba District SEP, 2008.

Table 4.2 below provides a comparative assessment of enrolment in primary school in the district. Like the other two districts in the study on child labour in Malawi, Mzimba, continues to witness an increase of both primary schools and

¹¹ Mzimba District Socioeconomic Profile (SEP) Nov, 2008, p10.

enrolment in these schools. For instance, the district records show that between 2007 and 2008 enrolment in schools grew from 216, 395 to 223,781. This growth has been attributed to parents' involvement in the campaign of sending their children to school despite the poor socioeconomic status of most households.

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

TA	No. of School	Number of pupil			Number of teachers			Teacher / Pupil ratio	Short fall
		Boys	Girls	Total	Male	Female	Total		
Mabilabo	62	8924	8895	17819	182	39	221	1:49	+11
Khosolo	39	4929	4761	9690	108	12	120	1:81	-21
M'mbelwa	36	19893	19074	38967	359	143	502	1:78	-18
Mzukuzuku	19	4935	4687	9622	112	46	158	1:61	-1
Mtwalo	86	21111	20307	41418	402	196	598	1:69	-9
Mzikubola	52	12162	11683	23845	252	119	371	1:64	-4
Kampingo	46	8202	8010	16212	191	71	262	1:62	-2
Chindi	99	19881	18975	38856	379	98	477	1:81	-21
Mpherembe	36	6548	6516	13064	124	29	153	1:85	-25
Jaravikuba	17	3553	3349	6902	67	38	105	1:66	-6
Total	530	110138	106257	216395	2176	791	2967	1:73	-13

Source: Mzimba District SEP, 2008, pp 98- 105

*Note: Month-to-month teachers included

4.2 Physical Facilities/ Infrastructure

According to district records (SEP, 2008: 104), Mzimba education infrastructure and buildings, the district has 3511 classrooms for which 75.5percent were permanent. Overall classroom pupils ratio was 1:45 and higher for permanent classroom/ pupils ratio. The number of teachers' houses as of 2008 was 3465 and only 38percent of which were permanent. The same report indicates that the district had 2589 trained teachers, representing 87 percent.

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. During consultations with school authorities in the district key challenges facing the education sector were reported. These range from rampant poverty which hinders households' capacity to send their children to school.

Most schools visited during the study lack basic infrastructure such as school blocks, teachers' houses, sanitation facilities, learning and teaching materials among others. There are such schools as Chongeya in TA Mabilabo, Bowe Primary school in TA Mpherembe and Mbubuika School in TA Mabilabo that typify the shortages and challenges facing the sector not only in Mzimba district but the country as a whole. The situation at Chongeya and Bowe primary schools is pathetic. These two schools have five (5) teachers each against school enrolment of 374 and 819 respectively. For instance, head teacher at Bowe primary school teaches classes 5 to 8 apart from doubling as head teacher. The school has also among the five teachers, two teachers who are temporary. Other specific challenges experienced at these schools include: (a) severe shortage of teachers, learning and teaching materials; (b) poor housing which chases away those would be teachers at the school; (c) long distances from surrounding villages; (d) remoteness of the areas coupled with lack of

accessible roads during rainy season; (e) strange administrative arrangement for border schools with Rumphi where the district education officials from the latter are expected to support these schools as opposed to Mzimba education office; (f) schools' demand for monetary contributions towards school support has negative repercussions on school attendance; (g) weak local school management structures such as PTA and SMCs.

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 4.1 and 4.2 present a graphical presentation of information on the school attendance by sex. The figures show that 90 percent of the children interviewed were attending school at the time of the study. Of the remaining children interviewed, 55.5 percent ever attended and 44.5 percent never attended school. 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). As expected, Mzimba Boma which is an urban area has the highest number of children attending school (94.7 percent). It is followed by Mpherembe, 94.1 percent, Mabilabo, 92.8 percent, Jaravikuba, 90.9 percent, Chindi, 87 percent and Mzikubola, the lowest with 86.3 percent attendance.

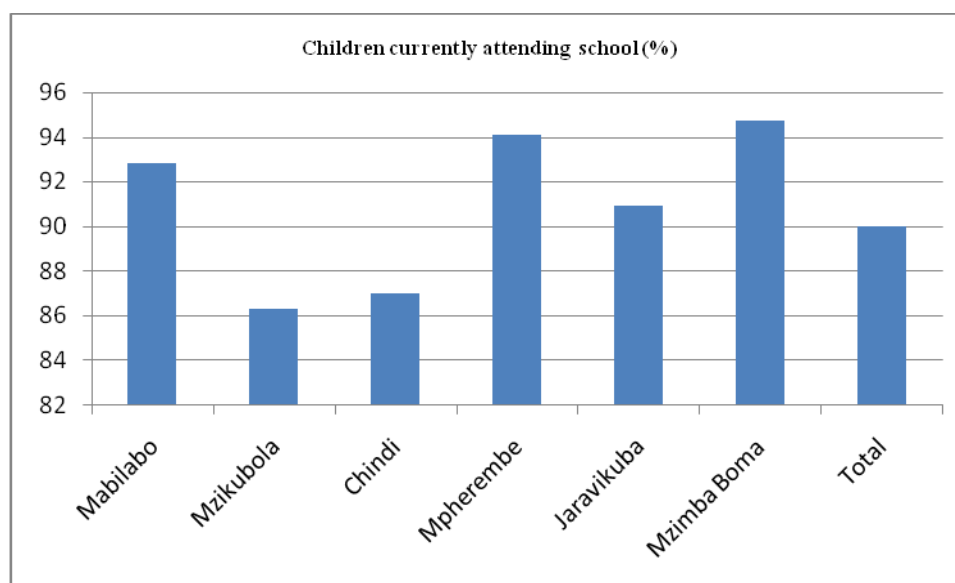
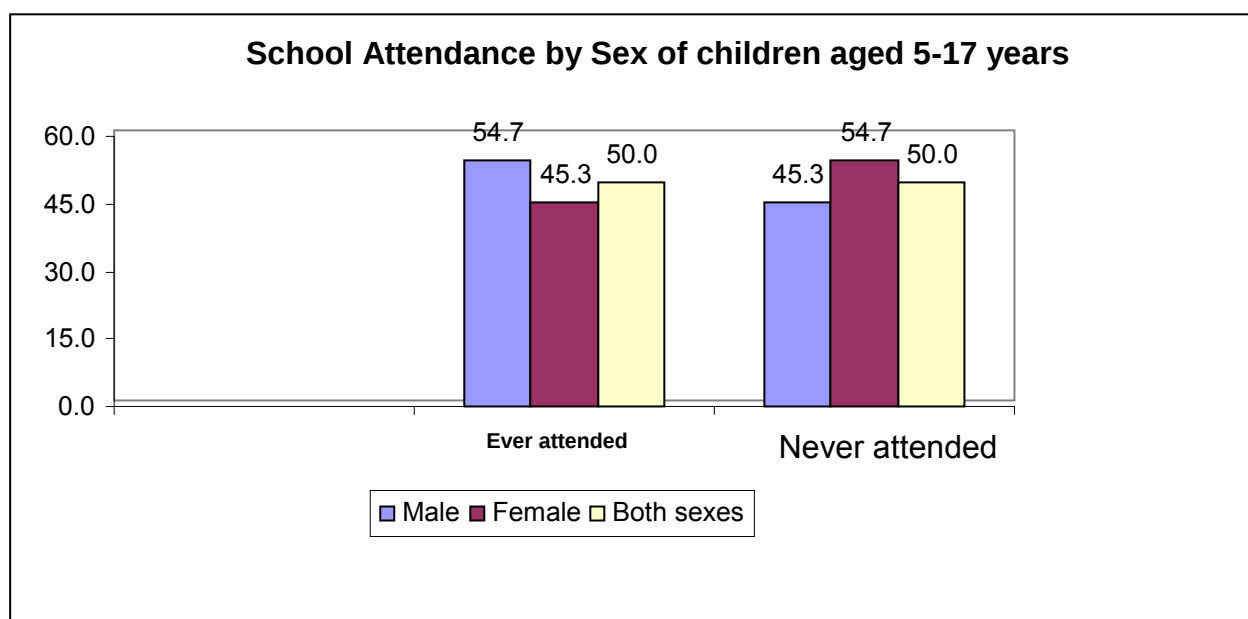


Figure 4.1 Children aged 5-17 years currently attending school



Information on school attendance by TA is presented in Table 4.5 below. The table shows that overall 90percent of children interviewed are currently attending school. On the other hand, Mzimba Boma reported the highest proportion of children attending school (94.7 percent) followed by Mpherembe (94.1 percent). Comparison on the proportions of the children never attended school indicates that Mabilabo has the highest population of children who have never attended school (86.7 percent). The results also indicate that Mpherembe, Mzikubola and Jaravikuba have the highest proportions of children ever attended with 66.7 percent, 63.9 percent and 62.5 percent respectively.

Table 4. 3: School Attendance by TA of children aged 5-17 years

District and TA	School Attendance		
	Currently attending	Ever attended	Never attended
Mzimba	90.0	51.5	48.5
Mabilabo	92.8	13.3	86.7
Mzikubola	86.3	63.9	36.1

Chindi	87.0	51.7	48.3
Mpherembe	94.1	66.7	33.3
Jaravikuba	90.9	62.5	37.5
Mzimba Boma	94.7	25.0	75.0

4.3.1 Age at first Primary School Attendance

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology policy recommends that a child should first attain the age of 6 years before starting primary school. Table 4.4 shows the distribution of the age at commencement of primary school attendance by TA. The findings show that although the majority of children in all the TAs start schooling at the recommended age of 6 years there are still significant proportion of children that begin school at a much earlier age or above the recommended minimum age. Interestingly, girls start attending school much earlier than boys. Notably rural communities in the district have more children starting school much earlier than the more urban ones. One explanation is that rural areas lack early childhood development centres (ECDCs) compared to their urban counterparts. The tendency is for parents/guardians to send their younger children to formal schools much earlier coupled with the fact that the country has no birth registration which makes it difficult to enforce age limitations in public schools.

Table 4.4 Percent distribution of age and sex at commencement of primary school attendance

Traditional Authority	Age				Total
	4	5	6	7	
Mabilabo	0.0	42.9	57.1	0.0	100.0
Mzikubola	0.0	14.3	57.1	28.6	100.0
Mpherembe					
Chindi	20.0	60.0	0.0	20.0	100.0
Mzimba Boma	5.0	40.0	40.0	15.0	100.0
Primary school entry age by sex					
	Mean age				Total

	Male	Female	
Mabilabo	5.75	5.33	5.57
Mzikubola	9.00	5.67	7.57
Chindi	5.00	5.33	5.20
Mpherembe	-	-	-
Jaravikuba	-	-	-
Mmbelwa	-	5.00	5.00
Mzimba	6.90	5.40	6.15

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 (93.4 percent) followed by mission schools (4.1 percent). More male students than female students attend private and mission schools.

Table 4.5 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	
Mzimba	93.4	4.1	2.3	0.3	100
Sex					
Male	91.6	5.9	2.0	0.5	100
Female	95.1	2.5	2.5	0.0	100
Traditional Authority					
Mzikubola	96.6	1.4	2.1	0.0	100
Chindi	97.0	1.2	0.6	1.2	100
Mpherembe	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Jaravikuba	89.7	6.2	4.1	0.0	100
Mzimba Boma	95.7	0.0	4.3	0.0	100
Mabilabo	90.5	8.9	0.6	0.0	100

4.2.3 Reasons for never attending school

There are various reasons why children never attend school. In most developing nations these reasons are related to socio-economic conditions of the household as described earlier in this chapter. In the study children who reported that they never attended school were asked to mention the reasons for never attending school. Figure 4.3 reveals that majority of the children were either ill, nursing injury or disabled (82.6 percent).

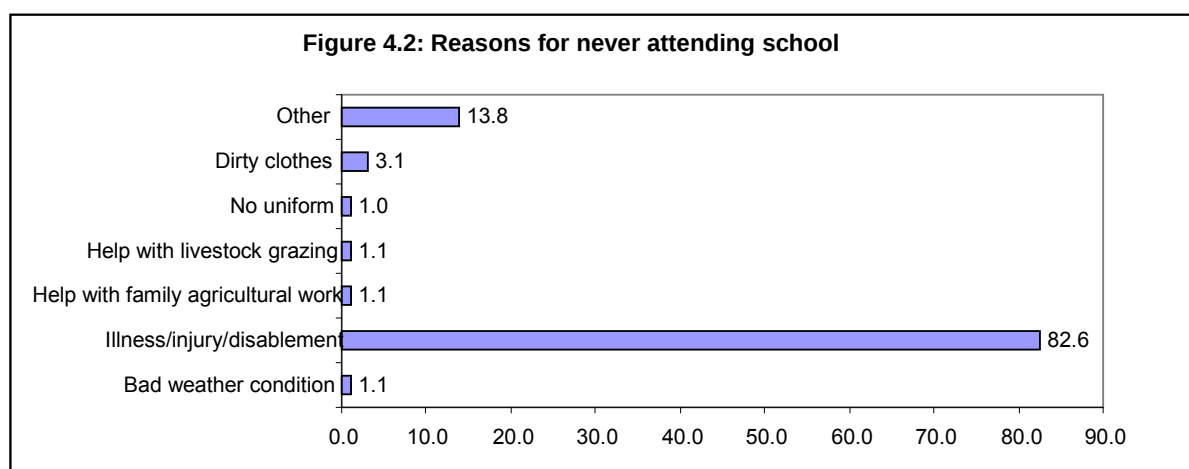


Figure 4.2 Reasons for never attending school of children aged 5-17 years

4.2.4 Reasons for dropping out of school

In spite of global and national (free primary education) efforts to ensure that by 2015, children 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 the main reasons why children drop out of school in the district. Figure 4.4 reveals that children in Mzimba equally drop out of school due to five main reasons. District reports indicate that the principle reason for dropout is that most schools have fewer teachers than the pupils and unavailability of other facilities available. Other reasons officially recorded by the district include family responsibilities, marriage, pregnancies, sickness and others.

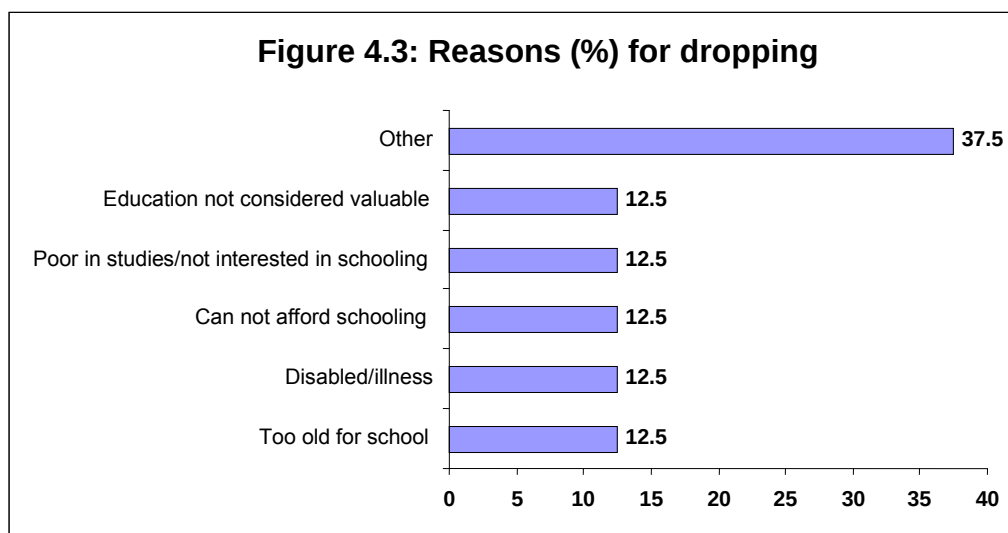


Figure 4.3 Reasons for dropping out of school of children 5-17 years

4.2.5 Absenteeism 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 4.5 shows the percent distribution of children absent from school seven days prior to the interviews. The figure indicates that 8.2 percent of the school going children were absent from school, majority of them were males (8.9 percent) while 7.5 percent were females. Since schools had closed for christmas holidays during the study, no reasons for absenteeism from school were asked as shown in in Table 4.5 below.

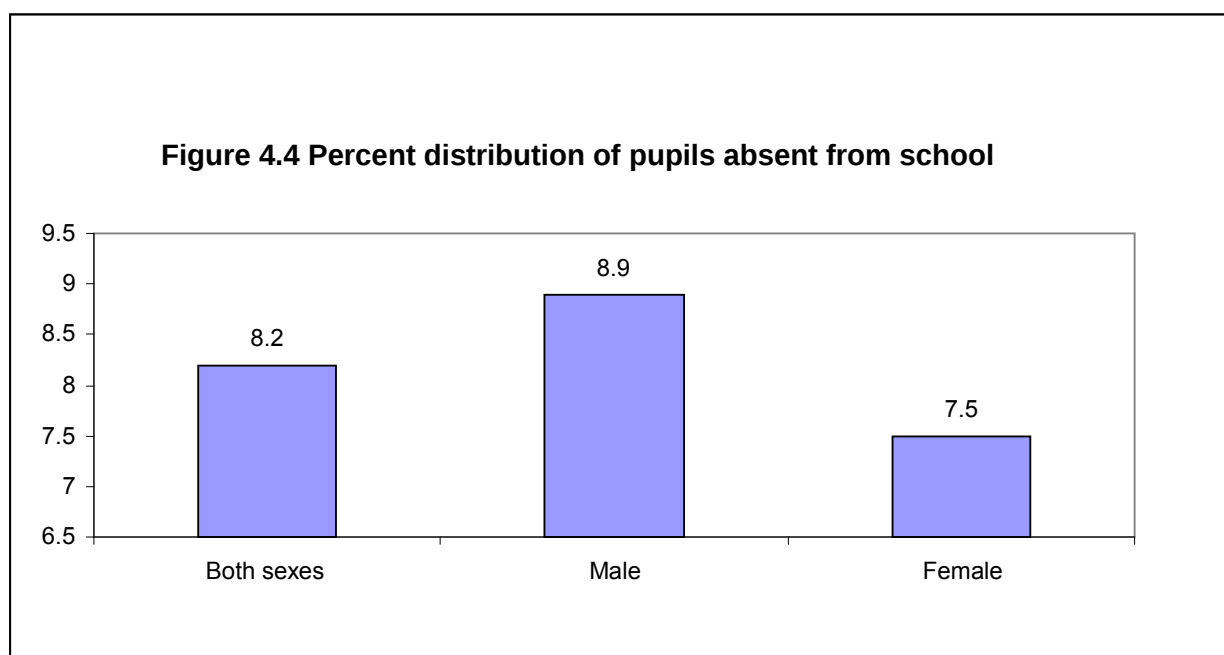


Figure 4.4 Percent distribution of pupils aged 5-17 years absent from school

Table 4.6: Reasons (percent) for absenteeism by children aged 5-17 years

Reasons for absenteeism	TA						
	Mabilabo	Mzikubola	Chindi	Mpherembe	Jaravikuba	M'mbelwa	Mzimba
Teacher absent	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bad weather condition	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
To help family business	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
To help at home with household tasks	0.0	0.0	9.5 (n=2)	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4 (n=2)
Working outside family business	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Disability/illness/injury	18.8 (n=3)	81.0 (n=17)	33.3 (n=7)	0.0	0.0	0.0	45.8 (n=27)
Help with family agricultural work	0.0	4.8 (n=1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7 (n=1)
Help with agricultural work (outside household)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Help with livestock	6.3 (n=1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7 (n=1)

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grazing							
No uniform	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dirty clothes	0.0	9.5 (n=2)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4 (n=2)
Other	0.0	14.3 (n=3)	47.6 (n=10)	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.0 (n=13)

5.0 CHILDREN'S INVOLVEMENT IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

5.1 Preamble

This chapter forms the main chapter of the report. It assesses the engagement of children in economic activities by describing the main characteristics of the vulnerable and working children in Mzimba, 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 2008.¹² 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.

The Constitution of Malawi under Chapter IV, Section 23 provides for the protection of all children from economic exploitation of any treatment, work or punishment that is, or likely to be hazardous, interfere with their education, or be harmful to their health or to their physical, mental or spiritual or social development. Child work and child labour as economic activities known to harm children involved must be safeguarded according to the Constitution. The same Constitution describes a child as a person under the age of 16 years of age.

The Employment Act-part 4 (section 21-24) on the other hand, sets out the minimum age for employment at 14 years. However, this does not apply to work done in vocational schools, other training institutions or unpaid work in homes which is considered beneficial to the child as part of socialization and skills development. For instance, vocational skills training is recognized as an appropriate and effective solution for older orphans for whom school attendance

¹² Resolution II: Resolution Concerning Statistics of Child Labour, The 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 24 November to 5 December 2008.

is no longer a possibility.¹³ 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 well being 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 (Numbers 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.

¹³ The Republic of Malawi, *National Plan of Action for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children*, 2005-2009, June 2005 p20

The underlying measurement framework in this study include 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.

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

5.2.1 Concepts and definitions related to child labour

For the sake of study the following are some of key concepts and definitions that help understand the context in which child labour is understood:

Child: A person younger than 18 years of age.¹⁴ The National Action Plan, which is the Government's main policy guidelines for fighting against child labour in Malawi, defines a child as any person under the age of eighteen years (18).

Child Labour: According to the NAP child labour refers to any activity that employs a child below the age of 14 or that engages a child between the ages of 14 and 17 and prevents him or her from attending school or concentrating on school, or negatively impacts on the health, social, cultural, psychological, moral, religious and related dimensions of the child's upbringing.¹⁵ Child labour according to UNICEF refers to work that is hazardous and likely to interfere with the child's education, or be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. Children's participation in family work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling is generally regarded as positive part of socialization.¹⁶

It is also defined as children's work that deprives them of their childhood and dignity, and which is harmful to their physical and mental development. Whether a particular kind of work performed by a child is to be considered child labour may depend on the child's age, the type and conditions of work, and the effects of the work on the child. Some kinds of work are always child labour.¹⁷

In Malawi a child is considered to be involved in child labour when they are engaged in economic activities (under 14 years) , when the total number of hours worked in formal employment exceeds 4 hours per day for those aged 14-17 years or when children under the age of 18 are engaged in hazardous activities.

Child Work- Child work in Malawi is defined as acceptable work undertaken by a child of any age that does not interfere with the child's schooling and his or her physical, moral, emotional or psychological development. It enables children to

¹⁴SIMPOC. 2005. Manual on Child Labour Rapid Assessment Methodology. ILO & UNICEF, p115.

¹⁵ *Child Labour National Action Plan, Draft Final- April 2010, page 2*

¹⁶ *Ministry of Women and Child Development/ UNICEF Child Protection Training Manual, page 104, Lilongwe, Malawi*

¹⁷SIMPOC. 2005. Manual on Child Labour Rapid Assessment Methodology. ILO & UNICEF, p115

learn the roles they are expected to take on during adulthood.¹⁸ In terms of implementation, the law enforcement agencies face challenges in enforcing these laws and policy guidelines as there is a thin line between child labour and child work in terms of what is and is not allowed for children to do which has always been the major challenge in fighting against child labour in Malawi.

Acceptable work: Work that is performed by children of legal working age, in accordance with national legislation and international standards, namely ILO Conventions 138 and 182; work that is non-exploitative; non-hazardous; and does not prevent the child from receiving the full benefit of an education.¹⁹

Bonded Labour: Situations arising from pledges by debtors of their personal services, or those of persons under their control, as security for debts. A bonded labourer must work until the debt has been paid off, which may present a very long-term prospect. Many children in bonded labour have been sent to work to repay a loan contracted by their parents.²⁰

Child Domestic Work: A wide variety of tasks performed by children in a private household, including cooking, cleaning, and the care of other children. The household is often not the child's own, and the child, usually female, tends to live where she works.²¹

Children's work: Almost all production activities performed by children, whether for the market or not, paid or unpaid, for a few hours or full time (for at least one hour during the reference week), whether on a casual or regular basis in the formal (organised) sector or in the informal sector. Children's work includes work in family enterprises and in household-based production activities, as well as domestic work performed in another household for an employer. Child labour is a subset of "children's work."²²

¹⁸ The NAP acknowledges that the above definitions are based on the provisions of international treaties that Malawi is party to including the ILO Conventions 138 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, p2

¹⁹ ECLT defined concept

²⁰ SIMPOC. 2005. Manual on Child Labour Rapid Assessment Methodology. ILO & UNICEF, p115.

²¹ SIMPOC. 2005. Manual on Child Labour Rapid Assessment Methodology. ILO & UNICEF, p115.

²² SIMPOC. 2005. Manual on Child Labour Rapid Assessment Methodology. ILO & UNICEF, p116

UNICEF defines child work as work that involves preparing or training children and is part of socialisation. It prepares the children for the future and also adulthood. It also acknowledges that in most cases culture determines what is child work and child labour and that work that is hazardous to the development of a child should be discouraged.²³

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: The exploitation of a child for commercial sexual purposes, including pornography.²⁴

Education and vocational programmes: Formal and non-formal education including bridging, and technical skill training programmes. These are considered useful to children whose time and opportunity to go back to formal education is no longer feasible i.e. for children withdrawn from child labour.

Forced labour: “All work or services which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which they said person has not offered himself voluntarily” (Article 2 of the ILO Convention on Forced Labour, No 29 of 1930).²⁵

Hazardous work: Work that jeopardises a child’s health, safety, or moral development. It comprises:²⁶

- work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse;
- work underground, under water, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces;
- work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads;

²³ Ministry of Women and Child Development/ UNICEF Child Protection Training Manual, page 104, Lilongwe, Malawi

²⁴ SIMPOC. 2005. Manual on Child Labour Rapid Assessment Methodology. ILO & UNICEF, p115.

²⁵ SIMPOC. 2005. Manual on Child Labour Rapid Assessment Methodology. ILO & UNICEF, p118.

²⁶ SIMPOC. 2005. Manual on Child Labour Rapid Assessment Methodology. ILO & UNICEF, p118.

- work in an unhealthy environment which may, for example, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health;
- Work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer.

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

Household: A person or a group of persons, related or unrelated, who live together in the same dwelling unit or separate dwelling units, but make common provisions for food and regularly take their food from the same pot or share the same grain store (nkhokwe), or who pool their income for the purpose of purchasing food.²⁷

Household chores: Domestic services provided by household members without pay. These are considered non-economic activities. Household chores include preparing and serving meals; making, mending, washing and ironing clothes; shopping; caring for children and/or the sick, or elderly persons in the household; cleaning, decorating, and maintaining, the dwelling; and transporting household members and their goods.²⁸

Safer job: Working under improved conditions not considered WFCL/hazardous in the previous month.²⁹

Slavery or slave-like conditions: Conditions that restrict the liberty of human beings. Child labour in slave-like conditions can occur across different economic sectors and types of activity, and can include the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, and forced or compulsory labour.³⁰

²⁷ National Statistics Office, 2009: Welfare Monitoring Survey (WMS).

²⁸ SIMPOC. 2005. Manual on Child Labour Rapid Assessment Methodology. ILO & UNICEF, p119.

²⁹ ECLT defined concept

³⁰ SIMPOC. 2005. Manual on Child Labour Rapid Assessment Methodology. ILO & UNICEF, p123.

Trafficking: Is the exploitation of a human being through recruitment and/or transportation for labour, generally through the use of violence, coercion, or deception, or as a result of debt bondage.³¹

Worst Forms of Child Labour: Forms of child labour that must be eliminated under the terms of the ILO Convention No. 182 of 1999. It is useful to make a distinction between two categories: “unconditional WFCL” and “hazardous work”. The WFCL under the former category are always considered WFCL regardless of the working conditions, and no national process of determination is necessary (e.g. CSEC, child trafficking etc.). By contract, WFCL under the category of hazardous work needs to be determined nationally after tripartite consultation. When determining consideration is given not only to the nature of the work but also the circumstances in which the work is being carried out in a particular setting at a particular time. Once defined to be hazardous work, it is considered WFCL and requires urgent attention.

It comprises (Article 3) which refers to:

- “all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties; and
- 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 (*commonly referred to as hazardous work*).³²

³¹SIMPOC. 2005. Manual on Child Labour Rapid Assessment Methodology. ILO & UNICEF, p122.

³²SIMPOC. 2005. Manual on Child Labour Rapid Assessment Methodology. ILO & UNICEF, p125.

Unconditional Worst Forms of Child Labour: According to the language of ILO Convention No 182, unconditional WFCL are:

- “all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties ...”³³ (Also refer to definition on WFCL).

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.

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

³³SIMPOC. 2005. Manual on Child Labour Rapid Assessment Methodology. ILO & UNICEF, p124.

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 *children 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 various economic activities children are involved in are summarized in Table 5.1 below. In terms of specific activities/ sectors, farming continue to dominate the engagement of children as reported by 24.5 percent of children in Mabilabo, 15.8 for Mzikubola, 19.5percent Chindi, 64.3 percent in Mpherembe, 47.7 percent in Jaravikuba and 57.7 percent for Mzimba Boma. Food collection and water collection account for 12.9 percent of children who worked in TA Mabilabo, 16.7 percent in Mzikubola, 6.5 percent in Chindi, 35.7 percent for Mpherembe, 40.9 percent for Jaravikuba, 19.2 for Mzimba Boma. The third sector/ activity involving most children is non paid HH business work which accounted for 3.2 percent of children in Mabilabo, 0.9 percent for Mzikubola, 0.0percent in Chindi and Mpherembe, 0.6 percent Jaravikuba and 7.7 percent for Mzimba Boma. Overall TAs Mpherembe (14.3 percent), M’mbelwa/ Mzimba Boma (12.1 percent) and Jaravikuba (11.7 percent) dominate in terms of children working in various sectors. These are seconded by Mabilabo (7.0 percent), Mzikubola (5.4 percent) and 4.6 percent for Chindi which has the lowest proportion of children working in the various sectors.

Table 5.1 Distribution of working children aged 5-17 years by activity status and TA

Economic Activity	TA					
	Mabilabo	Mzikubola	Chindi	Mpherembe	Jaravikuba	M'mbelwa/ Mzimba Boma
Engaged as a worker for a wage	3.2 (n=3)	0.9 (n=1)	0.0 (n=0)	0.0 (n=0)	0.0 (n=0)	0.0 (n=0)
Engaged in non-paid HH business work	3.2 (n=3)	0.9 (n=1)	0.0 (n=0)	0.0 (n=0)	0.6 (n=1)	7.7 (n=2)
Engaged in any farming activity	24.5 (n=23)	15.8 (n=18)	19.5 (n=24)	64.3 (n=9)	37.7 (n=58)	57.7 (n=15)
Engaged in construction/repair work for H/business/property	1.1 (n=1)	0.9 (n=1)	2.4 (n=3)	0.0 (n=0)	1.9 (n=3)	0.0 (n=0)
Engaged in fishing/hunting	0.0 (n=0)	0.9 (n=1)	1.6 (n=2)	0.0 (n=0)	0.0 (n=0)	0.0 (n=0)
Engaged in collection of food/drawing water	12.9 (n=25)	16.7 (n=19)	6.5 (n=8)	35.7 (n=5)	40.9 (n=63)	19.2 (n=5)
Engaged in manufacturing of other goods for HH	4.6 (n=9)	1.8 (n=2)	2.4 (n=3)	0.0 (n=0)	1.3 (n=2)	0.0 (n=0)

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

For the purpose of this report and as described in the preamble, child labour in Malawi includes:

- o All children aged 5-9 years who worked whom by law are not supposed to work at all;
- o All children aged 10-13 years who are supposed to work on light work but worked for more than 28 hrs in the past week. Child work according to Malawi is not supposed to take more than four hours per day. This means work which would be considered acceptable for children such as

household chores may become child labour if the minimum number of hours is exceeded.

- o All school-going children who worked during missed school hours as their work is deemed to have affected their education.
- o All working children aged 14-17 years exposed to hazardous work.

Overall, Table 5.2 shows that TA Mpherembe has the highest proportion of children 84.2 percent involved in economic activities mainly outside the household during the 7 day period preceding the survey while 56.2 percent work in TA Jaravikuba, 45.5 percent in TA Mabilabo, 37.7 percent in Mzimba Boma and 25.8 percent in TA Chindi. The proportion of children participating in household chores ranged from 0 percent in TA Mpherembe to 43.6 percent in TA Mzikubola.

5.4.1 Distribution of children involved in child labour by age

As shown in table 5.2 below, the survey revealed that the highest prevalence of working children is in the age category 14-17 years. At least 65.3 percent of children aged 14-17 years had been involved in economic activities outside the household that constitute child labour during the 7 day period preceding the survey. On the other hand 45.8 percent of children are involved in economic activities that constitute child labour through performance of household chores. The overall proportion of children aged 5-9 years who had participated in child labour was 55.6 percent.

5.4.2 Distribution of children involved in child labour by sex

Among female children aged 5-17 years, 45 percent were found to be participating in child labour outside the household and 39 percent of the boys and 45 percent for girls were found to be involved in child labour outside the household as shown in table 5.6 below. On the other hand, 36.7 percent and 39.1 percent of boys and girls are involved in child labour through household

chores respectively with an overall proportion of girls involved in child labour being 42.1 percent against 37.9 percent for boys.

5. 4.3 Distribution of children involved in child labour by school attendance

Children aged 5-17 years were asked whether they were attending school or pre-school during the current school year. Table 5.2 below shows that among children attending school the prevalence of child labour outside the household was 44.6percent and the corresponding proportion among children not attending school was 16.1 percent. Among children attending school, 44.3percent participated in child labour through household chores and 46.4percent of children not attending school were involved in child labour through household chores. The overall prevalence of child labour among children attending school was 44.5 percent and the corresponding prevalence among children not attending school was 31.3 percent.

Table 5.2: Distribution of child labour (5-17 years) by age group, sex and school attendance

Background characteristics	Percentage of children involved in economic activity	Percentage of children participating in child work through	Overall percentage of children participating in child work
Age group			
5-9 (n=413)	27.4	34.1	30.8
10-13 (n=285)	48.1	37.8	43.0
14-17 (n=190)	65.3	45.8	55.6
Total (n=888)	42.1	37.8	40.0
Sex of child			
Male (n=439)	39.0	36.7	37.9

Female (n=458)	45.0	39.1	42.1
Total (n=897)	42.0	37.9	40.0
School attendance			
Yes (n=781) (n=1239)	44.6	44.3	44.5
No (n=87)	16.1	46.4	31.3
Total (n=868)	41.7	44.5	43.1
TA			
Mabilabo (n=167)	45.5	38.1	41.8
Mzikubola (n=163)	30.7	43.6	37.2
Chindi (n=198)	25.8	39.5	32.7
Mpherembe (n=19)	84.2	0.0	42.1
Jaravikuba (n=273)	56.8	30.6	43.7
M'mbelwa/Mzimba Boma (n=77)	37.7	35.9	36.8
Total (n=888)	42.5	36.9	44.5

5.5 Children's total involvement in work

5.5.1 Children's total involvement in work by age group

In all age groups the highest proportion of children are involved in economic activities, in school and in household chores. The proportion of children participating in economic activities, household chores and attending school range from 34.2percent in the 5-9 years age group to 62.5percent in the 10-13 years age group and 58.9percent in the 14-17 age groups (Table 5.3). The proportion of children who participate in household chores, attend school but no economic activity range from 19.9percent in the 14-17 years age group to 29 and 3 percent in the 5-9 years age group. In all age groups the lowest proportion of children participate in an economic activity but do not attend school and nor participate in household chores. The proportion of children involved in an economic activity without attending school and participating in household chores range 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 is 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 5.3 Children's total involvement in work (5-17 years old)

Characteristics	TA					
	Mabilabo	Mzikubola	Chindi	Mpherembe	Jaravikub	M'mbelwa
Economic activity (but no school and no HH chores)	47.1 (n=8)	43.5 (n=10)	26.9 (n=7)	0.0 (n=0)	39.1 (n=9)	40.0 (n=2)
Economic activity and school (but no HH chores)	52.1 (n=140)	62.4 (n=125)	44.4 (n=99)	69.2 (n=13)	50.5 (n=208)	31.9 (n=72)
Economic activity and school and HH chores)	62.2 (n=28)	32.4 (n=12)	37.5 (n=15)	0.0 (n=1)	40.5 (n=15)	60.0 (n=6)
Inactive (no economic activity, no HH chores and no school)	49.6 (n=58)	61.5 (n=75)	28.6 (n=20)	60.0 (n=6)	44.4 (n=80)	18.6 (n=11)
HH chores (but no economic activity and no school)	26.9 (n=18)	32.1 (n=18)	42.9 (n=27)	23.1 (n=3)	25.7 (n=35)	31.0 (n=9)
HH chores and school (but no economic activity)	40.8 (n=64)	26.4 (n=37)	32.7 (n=56)	12.5 (n=2)	40.9 (n=101)	64.9 (n=48)
HH chores and economic activity (but no school)	73.1 (n=49)	67.9 (n=38)	57.1 (n=36)	76.9 (n=10)	74.3 (n=101)	69.0 (n=20)
School (but no economic activity and no HH chores)	44.8 (n=73)	29.5 (n=49)	38.2 (n=71)	22.2 (n=4)	43.1 (n=113)	66.2 (n=51)

The proportion of children engaged in various economic activities is presented in Table 5.4 below.

Table 5.4 Children's total involvement in work by age group for 5-17 years old

Economic Activity	Age Group			Total
	5-9	10-13	14-17	
Economic activity (but no school and no HH chores)	17.1 n=10	50.0 n=8	14.3 n=11	25.1 n=29
Economic activity and school (but no HH chores)	30.4 n=144	35.8 n=196	28.5 n=139	32.0 n=479
Economic activity and school and HH chores	35.6 n=144	37.1 n=196	45.9 n=139	39.2 n=479
Inactive (no economic activity, no HH chores and no school)	43.4 n=52	85.7 n=1	0.0 n=1	43.4 n=54
HH chores (but no economic activity and no school)	35.4 n=52	14.3 n=1	100.0 n=1	36.2 n=54
HH chores and school (but no economic activity)	33.4 n=173	40.7 n=52	38.2 n=31	35.5 n=256
HH chores and economic activity (but no school)	34.3 n=10	37.5 n=8	57.1 n=11	43.8 n=29
School (but no economic activity and no HH chores)	40.2 n=173	34.9 n=52	33.6 n=31	38.3 n=256
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	658	453	292	1403

5.6 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 family dwelling, 91.8 percent while the remainder, 8.2percent worked at client's place (Table 5.5).

Table 5.5 Place of work for economically active children aged 5-17 years

Place of work	Percent
At the family dwelling	91.8
Client's place	8.2
Formal office	0.0
Factory/Barn	0.0
Plantation/Farm/Garden	0.0
Construction sites	0.0
Different places (Mobile)	0.0
Fixed, street or market stall	0.0
Pond/Lake/River	0.0
Other	0.0

5.7 Types of employers for working children

In Table 5.6, 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 (93.1percent) of the working children worked as unpaid family workers, 3.9percent were employees, 3percent were own account workers and none worked as employers.

Table 5.6 Types of employers economically active children aged 5-17 years

Type	Percent N=
Employee	3.9
Own account worker	3.0
Employer	0.0
Unpaid family worker	93.1
Total	100.0

Figure 5.1 below shows common employers of children in Mzimba described in table 5.6 above.

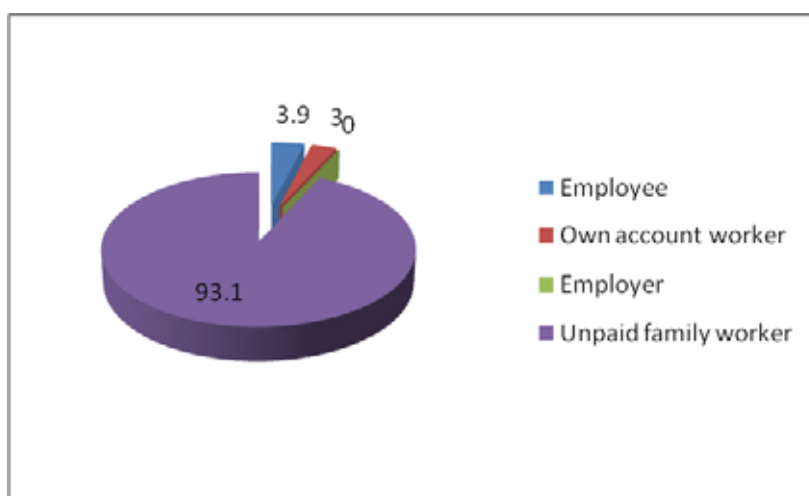


Figure 5.1 Employers of economically active working children aged 5-17 years

5.8 Reasons why children are involved in economic activities

Reasons why children work are presented in Table 5.7 below. Most children are working to supplement household food requirements (66.9 percent). This is followed by the quest to learn skills 59.3 percent, helping in HH enterprise (31.3 percent) and supplementing family income 24.8 percent.

Table 5.7 Reasons why children aged 5-17 years are involved in economic activities

Reason why work	Percent
Supplement family income	24.8
Help pay family debt	2.7
Help in HH enterprise	31.3
Learn skills	59.3
Schooling not useful for future	3.4
School too far/no school	0.0
Cannot afford school fees	1.8
Not interested in school	2.7
Temporarily replaced someone unable to work	0.0
Buy agricultural inputs	0.9
Invest in business	0.0
Supplement family food requirements	66.9
Lack of skills	0.9
Want freedom	0.0
Lack of opportunities	0.0
Other	23.3

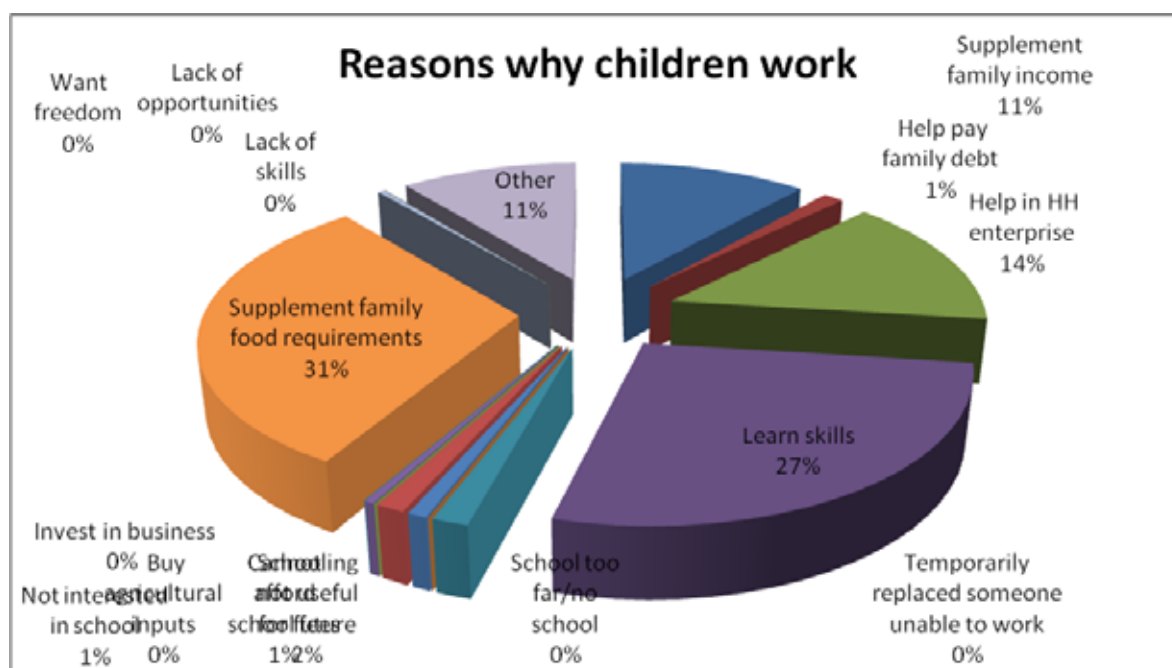


Figure 5.2 Reasons why children aged 5-17 years engage in economic activities

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 is the focus of this chapter.

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. About 14 percent of 98 children who responded to this question reported that they had suffered at least one type of injury. Nearly 36 percent (n=5) of those who had suffered various injuries in the last 12 months had superficial injuries/open wounds.

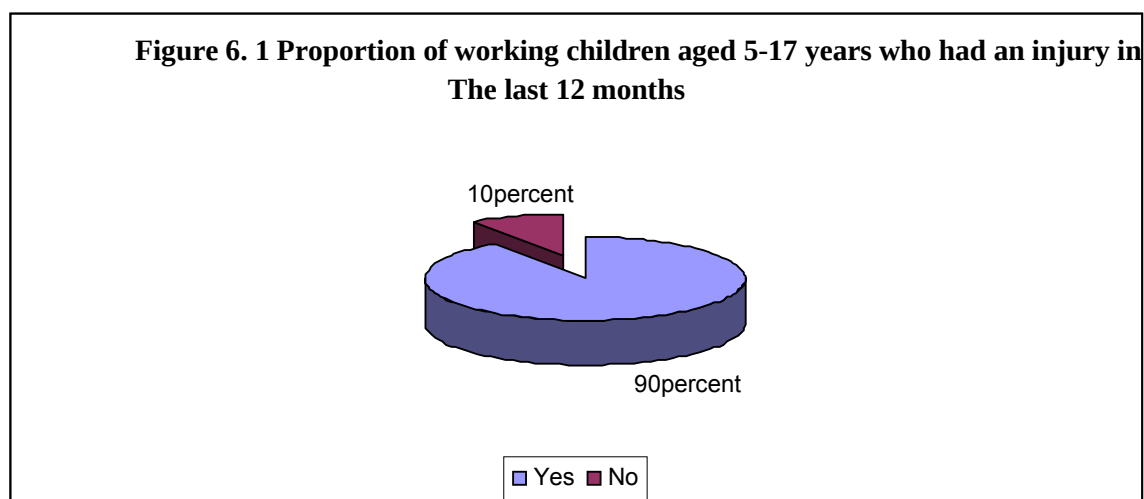


Figure 6.1 Proportion of working children aged 5-17 years who had an injury in the last 12 months

As shown in Table 6.1 below, the most common type of injuries were superficial injuries or open wounds as reported by 5.1 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 attack slip and fall and infected cuts or wounds were also common as reported by 1percent of working children for each respective type of injury.

Table 6.1 Proportion of children aged 5-17 years who suffered work related injuries in the last 12 months

Type of injury	Proportion having injury
Superficial injuries or open wounds	5.1
Snake/Wildlife bite or attack	1.0
Infected cuts or wounds	1.0
Slip and fall	1.0
Inhale of dust/smoke	0.0
Other	0.0

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 6.2 shows that only 1percent of working children reported that they had suffered at least one type of illness or condition as a result of their work and 99percent indicated that they had not suffered any illness or condition.

Figure 6. 2 Incidence of work related illness for children aged 5-17 years

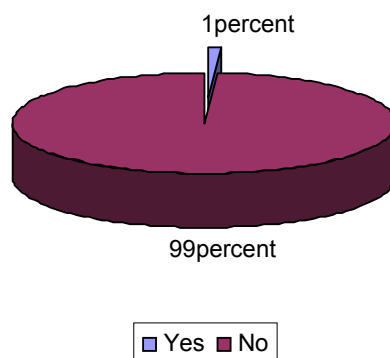


Figure 6.2 Incidence of work related illness for children aged 5-17 years

Table 6.2 shows that the most common type of illness was general illness as reported by 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 the district as reported by 1percent of working children for each respective type of illness or condition.

Table 6.2 Work related illnesses suffered by working children 5-17 years

Work related illnesses	Percent
Eye problems	0.0
Fever	1.0
Extreme fatigue	1.0
General Illness	1.0
Abdominal pain	1.0

6.3 Injuries at work

Table 6.3 below shows that among children who worked during the twelve-month period preceding the survey had injuries or illness due to work, 42.9 did

not stop work or schooling, 42.9percent stopped work or schooling for short time and 14.3percent 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 5-17 years old children on their 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 2.9 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 is 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 of children aged 5-17 years carrying heavy loads at work by age group and sex

Background characteristic	Percent
Total	2.9
Age	
5-9	0.0
10-13	2.9
14-17	0.0
Sex	
Male	1.9
Female	1.0

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 (14.7percent) of working children reported that they worked with hoes, 4percent worked with panga knives, 1percent worked with saw, 2percent worked with a sickle, 1percent worked with ploughs and 1percent worked with sprayer. 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 (98. 3percent) of working children reported that they worked without protective gear, 1percent reported that they carried or handled loads more than 10 kg and 5.3percent worked in extreme temperature.

Table 6.5: Hazardous equipment and conditions children aged 5-17 years are exposed to

Characteristics	Percent
Equipment used at work	
Ploughs	1.0
Hoes	14.7
Saw	1.0
Sickle	2.0
Panga knife	4.0
Oxcart	1.0
Sprayer	1.0
Conditions at work	
Working without protective wear	98.3
Working in extreme temperature	5.3
Carrying or handling heavy loads (more than 10kg).	1.0
Other	0.0

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 only reported minor form of abusive treatment to which children were subjected was constant shouting at children (0.2 percent) shown in Table 6.6 below.

Table 6.6: Exposure to Physical, Psychosocial and Sexual Violence at Work Place by Type of Violence of Children aged 5-17 years

Background characteristic	Percent
Constantly shouted at	0.2
Repeatedly insulted	0.0
Beaten/Physically hurt	0.0
Sexually abused	0.0
Non-payment of wages	0.0
Other	0.0

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. Table 6.7 shows that most children (75 percent) work as employees and have only verbal contracts while 16.6percent did not know the type of contracts they had. On the other hand, 8.3 percent reported having written contracts with their employers. In terms of knowledge of legal aspects of employment, most children working (86.7percent) did not know about labour inspections and 13.3percent of working children reported that they knew about labour inspection. Majority (67.7percent) of working children reported not observing weekly holidays while 33.3percent observe weekly holidays.

Table 6.7 Knowledge of legal aspects of employment of children aged 5-17 years

Background characteristic	Proportion
<i>Type of contract</i>	
Written	8.3
Verbal	75.0
Don't know	16.6
Total	100.0
<i>Do you know about labour inspections</i>	
Yes	13.3
No	86.7
Total	100.0
<i>Do you observe weekly holidays</i>	
Yes	33.3
No	67.7
Total	100.0

7.0 ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

This chapter highlights the policy implications of the baseline survey findings for the implementation of SNAP Project in Mzimba district. It analyses once more application of the study question and assumptions made earlier in the study design. For instance, to implement the SNAP Project, stakeholders may need to address immediate, underlying and structural needs of children involved or at risk of child labour. Broader human development interventions relevant to the underlying causes of child labour must be implemented. The fight against child labour as noted in this report calls for multi-sectoral poverty reduction programmes such as “conditional cash transfers” (CCT), creation of decent employment opportunities for adults, payments to poor households made on condition that children attend school and health clinics. This model has been successful in Brazil where it greatly reduced the incidence of child labour recognized as the world’s largest CCT programme.

On the other hand, progress towards "education for all" is the development indicator most closely linked with child labour. Every full-time student is one less potential full-time child worker. There is correlation between those countries lagging behind education targets and those in which child labour thrives. In the case of Mzimba district, the survey applauds the various initiatives towards meeting the MDGs on education where most of indicators show that the district is on track towards achieving these goals. However, distribution of education facilities is far from being equal with the more remote areas lagging behind. As such the government and its cooperating partners such as ILO should be asked to address the causes of this inequality by consulting the relevant authorities. In other words, the integration of child labour concerns into national development strategies, backed by effective legislation, is therefore the preferred route to a lasting solution.

The report wishes to acknowledge the various upstream measures that have been taken to reform the legal and policy environment governing the fight against child labour in Malawi. As with the other two districts in the study, Mzimba district has put in place measures favourable to the elimination of child

labour such as the Mzimba District Socio-Economic Profile (2008) and the District Education Plans (DEPs) - 2010. These policy instruments outline key sectors that the district is expected to deliver in terms socioeconomic development in the district. The education sector is one of the key sectors earmarked for development in line with the Country's macro and micro level policies and programmes as outlined in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS). The NAP which has been launched at national level is expected to be disseminated at grassroots level to increase awareness on the evils of child labour. So far the results show that majority (86.7percent) of the people do not know about labour inspections. Consequently, only a third (33.3percent) of working children observes weekly holidays and most (75percent) of them have verbal contracts with their employers.

In line with the baseline survey findings outlined in this report, a number of strategic issues are emerging which have policy implications on how the new programme (SNAP) is to be implemented in the district. Based on the study objectives the following issues are relevant to the successful implementation of the programme:

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, the 2011 Baseline Survey reveals that child labour in its various forms still exists in the district. This is contrary to the general views by stakeholders that with the decline in tobacco production in the district there are less and less children being employed as child labourers working in the sector. The results show that most working children are working as unpaid family workers (93.1percent). Although households growing tobacco may have been reduced in the current farming year, the number of children working may not necessarily have declined. In fact as the stakeholders and communities pointed out, the decline in tobacco prices in the past year is forcing parents to send their children to look for ganyu or piece work to supplement family food and income as reported by 66.9percent and 24.8

respectively. This confirms the fact that child labour can only be tackled effectively if underlying causes are well understood. It can therefore be concluded that rather than being a catalyst for the decline of child labour, the fall in both tobacco production and prices is pushing families to look for alternative survival options such as ganyu. No wonder the district is now having majority of children working to supplement basic needs for their households that previously depended on tobacco as main source of livelihood.

In terms of sectors, child labour continues to be dominated by two major sectors, the agricultural sector, 36.6 percent and the domestic sector, 22 percent. In terms of geographical areas, child labour is most predominant in three TAs namely: Mpherembe, 14.3percent, Mzimba Boma/ M'mbelwa and TA Jaravikuba. These are equally followed by TA Mabilabo, 7.0 percent, Mzikubola, 5.4 and Chindi, 4.6 percent. The triple combination of involvement in economic activity, school and performance of household chores, accounts for the greatest proportion of children working in the district, 48.5 percent. Overall, child labour is occurring within the homes where those children live (91.8) percent while remainder is shared amongst children who are working as employees at the client's work place (3.9percent) and 3percent as own account workers.

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

From the findings of this study a number of potential children at risk of WFCL who could be potential project beneficiaries can be identified. A total of 1403 economically active children aged 5-17 years have been identified. These children are involved in three types of activities: economic activities, schooling and household chores. At any point in the cycle, a child can slip into child labour. For instance children (1.7percent) involved in household chores (but no economic activity and no school) are vulnerable to becoming child labourers depending on number hours they spend performing the household chores. There are also those children (26.5percent) involved in household chores and school, but no economic activity). Finally there are also children working to

supplement family food requirement (66.9percent) and those working to supplement family income (24.8) percent. There are about 14. 3 percent of children that have stopped school completely. As it has been argued, the decline of tobacco production and prices has meant a reduction in income for most households that relied on the green gold for their livelihood. Unfortunately there are also some areas in the district such as TA Mabilabo and Jaravikuba that have chronic food insecurity precipitated by the areas' high dependency on tobacco among others.

Other children vulnerable to WFCL include those working outside the household (8.2) percent. Girls who work are also at risk of WFCL as most of them are already subjected to other negative cultural practices. There are also children that work because they have to help repay family debts, 2.7 percent.

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

The findings identify poverty as the main driving force behind child labour and why poverty reduction strategies should be mainstreamed in child labour reduction strategies proposed by the programme. With the near demise of the tobacco industry in the district which most households relied upon for decade, there are now more households that are vulnerable to child labour as they lack alternative livelihoods options besides tobacco production. Children from households that used to grow tobacco and have abandoned the industry due to poor prices on the market are left with no other option but to let their children work to supplement family income and food.

There are also children that are dropping out of school due to unavailability of support services and inability to afford schooling beyond certain levels. These children too are at risk of being involved in child labour if the situation remains unabated. As already mentioned, the demand for child labour previously experienced by the tobacco industry has declined sharply, both adults and children who used to work in the sector are now shifting to other areas such as ganyu. As of now one cannot predict where else they will go next, but for sure

these households will be caught in the poverty cycle. Consequently, the project should closely monitor the situation on the ground and engage other stakeholders who can address the plight of these people in view of the near collapse industry.

The above factors that cause child labour are immediate, underlying or structural in nature. Immediate factors are those that directly lead to children's involvement in child labour, while the underlying factors are the root causes of child labour and may actually not be obvious or directly linked to child labour. On other hand, structural factors are those that relate to how society is organized to take care of children. Some of the key factors which respondents mentioned include household poverty as manifested by chronic food shortage (66.9percent), low income levels (24.8percent), inability to pay for children's education (1.8percent) and the need to pay family debts. Overall, the survey findings support the selection of two TAs where SNAP/IABA Project is being implemented namely: Mabilabo and Mzikubola. The two TAs according to income levels fall within the second and lowest wealth quintile with average monthly incomes of MK12, 444.44 and MK7, 700.00 respectively.

A sizeable majority of working children report that they work as part of socialization to learn skills for the future (59.3) percent while a third (31.3percent) of the children report that they work to help with family enterprise. Alcohol and drug abuse prevalent in some parts of the district is also blamed for lack of parental care for children. This in turn forces children to look for employment to meet some of their basic needs and education requirements.

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 Mzimba work as unpaid family workers (93.1percent), employees (3.9 percent), own account worker (3percent) and none are employers of fellow children. Consequently, the fight against child labour in the district should start with the families involved. The battle will only be won if awareness on the dangers and consequences 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.

Culture is also contributing to some forms of child labour such as the desire for most households to receive lobola for the girl child denies the girl child access to education as some are reported dropping out of school in order to get married. The case of girls being forced to remain indoors when they reach puberty is another case in point that denies girls access to education. As earlier observed, child trafficking which was rampant during the tobacco boom is now in the decline or has already been eliminated with the collapse of the industry in the district. Most tobacco estates have stopped growing tobacco and see no reason to go and recruit children mainly from the centre and southern regions of the country. The change has also been attributed to the general level of awareness and involvement of law enforcement agencies such as the police in stopping the malpractice.

7.5 Social services available in the districts including those of government and alternative livelihoods and support for targeting children in the district

The report acknowledges the existence of many partners working in the district on child development. These are governmental and nongovernmental. There are also partners that are providing poverty eradication services such as microfinance which is reaching out to the poor. The results show that crop and livestock production remains the main source of livelihood for most households in the district, 59.9percent and 27.7percent respectively. Other sources of income for the majority of households interviewed include: formal employment (22.6percent); private transfer (39.6percent); selling natural resource products (20.1percent); casual labour (24.6percent); semiskilled contracts (16.0percent); IGAs (17.9percent) and credits 9.4 percent respectively.

Although the education sector is presented with some infrastructural and institutional challenges, statistically, the district is one of the few in the country that is in the right track towards meeting the country's education standards as outlined in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and country's sectoral goals. For instance, most indicators for quality education are being met such as the teacher pupil ratio; teacher house ratio and classroom/ pupil ratio are well within reach of country's standards. In other words, the social services such as education facilities which are key to fighting against child labour are adequately provided in all the areas visited. This does not dispute the fact that there are some disparities between Traditional Authorities in terms of social service provision. Gender disparities especially on teachers currently stand at 1:3 against female teachers. The district is an example of abundance existing alongside scarcity. Our assessment shows that remotest areas of the district such as Mabilabo and Mpherembe experience shortage while areas easily accessible and near district headquarters are adequately equipped.

7.6 Child Labour Database

The socioeconomic profile of the district contains a lot of statistics worth reporting and sharing on a regular basis. A child labour database integrated in the district wide database is yet to be institutionalized.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1. Numbers and concentrations (mapping) of child labour

The SNAP Project has already identified TA Mabilabo and Mzikubola as two areas where IABA is being implemented although not supported by the current survey findings. Based on these findings, TA Mpherembe and Jaravikuba which came first and second in terms of proportion of children involved in economic activities should have been considered for project implementation. Nonetheless the project in its advocacy activities should reach out to all areas which the results have shown that they may be vulnerable and have high concentrations of child labourers. The focus of the project in its remaining period should be to consolidate the gains where it can make lasting impact on underlying factors contributing to child labour as highlighted in the case of TA Mabilabo. In view of the falling tobacco production and prices which was the main source of livelihood for most households in the district, alternative poverty reduction strategies such as employment creation for adults and measures such as off farm income generating activities aimed at increasing household incomes should be promoted across the board. This will drastically help reduce the number of children seeking employment in the form of ganyu (piece work) to supplement family income and food.

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

The study has identified potential children 1403 children at risk of WFCL, who should be targeted by the project during implementation for positive outcome. Since most of the working children are household members, and include children currently attending school and involved in economic activities; children currently not in school; girls who currently work outside the households and children from food and income insecure households, child labour eradication measures should target specific households. By creating job opportunities for vulnerable households and promoting agricultural diversity which improves household livelihood security, most of the children working will be freed to

concentrate on their education. By advocating for the girl child education and sensitizing communities on the benefits of educating the girl child, the programme will help empower the communities to tackle some of the underlying causes of child labour such as culture that undermines girls' education in preference for early marriages for lobola. In this way, the project will be preventing many girls who work to earn a living or support in caring for their siblings. Children who can no longer go back to school should be put on vocational skills programmes or linked to poverty reduction programmes such as the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, YEDEF. On the other hand, food and income security programmes should be promoted to prevent vulnerable households sending their children to work to supplement household income and food. Therefore the project should promote integration of child labour interventions with existing social and economic development programmes such as social transfer and input subsidy programmes being implemented in Malawi.

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

The SNAP/IABA Project should address the underlying causes of child labour by mainstreaming child labour in poverty reduction strategies. The interventions should be aimed at addressing immediate, underlying and structural causes. Multi-sectoral response is therefore being called upon whereby all stakeholders in Mzimba take responsibility for fighting against child labour within their sectors. This may include involvement of children themselves, family, community, civil society and government. Strategies for combating child labour should be holistic and should focus at the macro and micro levels. Specifically the following measures should be considered by the Project:

- a) Household income security improvement- with livelihood diversification (crop and livestock production) already being promoted in the district, more households should be encouraged to grow a variety of crops that can generate income for the households from current status of 40.4 percent. At the same time livestock production as a source of income for the households should be promoted from current scenario where only 27.7 percent depend

on livestock as source of income despite 61.4 percent owning some form of livestock. It is not surprising to see that only 14.6percent of the households consider livestock as their main source of livelihood in the district. Fewer and fewer households depend on formal employment, 12.8percent, IGAs (9.9percent) while 13.3percent of households depend on casual labour. In other words off farm activities such as income generating activities (IGAs) should be promoted in the district including decent employment for adult household members.

- b) Household food security- Table 3.13 has shown that crop diversification is being practiced by most households. It is also pleasing to note that 85.5percent of the households grow maize, the country's main staple crop with 66percent of the households having food lasting twelve months after harvest. However, as some of the results have shown, 59.9 percent of the households in the district rely on crop production as main source of income, household food security remains at risk where crop and livestock diversification is minimal. Therefore, the project should promote both livestock and crop diversification as well as off farm activities that help generate household income. These may include promotion of income generating activities (IGAs-currently at 17.9percent) or decent work for adults including promotion of semiskilled contract work which was reported by 16percent of the households. At least 39.6percent of the households depend on private transfers and 22.6percent on formal employment, activities that can be linked to household food production. As for vulnerable households, conditional cash transfers have proved to be a viable solution. Both income and crop diversification are some of the ways food and income security and social protection measures can be mainstreamed in the fight against child labour in the district.

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

In view of the decline in demand for child labour which was blamed on tobacco, covert forms of child labour should be monitored as stated above. Although no known cases of WFCL were reported during this study but such activities as drug and alcohol abuse and commercial sex activities especially during weekly

market activities were reported by the community and some of the children during focus group discussion and key informant interviews. Child trafficking may continue to exist for such activities like cattle herding which dominates most households as the third main source of income.

8.5. Social services available in the district including those of government and alternative livelihoods and support for targeting children in the district

The study has revealed that the district is in need of alternative livelihoods for most households which depended on tobacco production as their main source of livelihood. Focusing on poverty eradication programmes should be a priority of the funded activities as a long term solution. Crop and livestock diversification should be promoted amongst vulnerable households as described in 8.3 above. These may include commercialization of livestock production and cereal production, measures which most families have already adopted as alternative strategies. Mzimba district is one of the districts that report receipt of cash transfers /remittals from relations living abroad and within the country as main source of income/ livelihood. This constant flow of income should be tapped for the benefit of households concerned to improve their livelihoods. Communities can be trained in how to invest these remittals in agribusinesses appropriate to their respective communities.

In terms of social support services available in the district, the project should help strengthen and review policy frameworks regulating the provision of such services as education, financial and health. For instance, due to decentralization process, the district needs to review existing policies on provision of housing for teachers, allowance payments, leave grants and general conditions; supervision of teachers/ schools/ health facilities delegated to other districts/ jurisdictions, supply of learning and teaching materials in schools, school uniform, community contributions to the running of public schools; establishment of community day secondary schools to cater for the increasing demand for these schools; deployment of teachers in community day secondary schools (CDSS); recruitment of part time or temporary teachers. Stakeholders especially teachers bemoan the operations of the Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs) which are accused of reaping off teachers hard earned incomes apart from

causing teacher absenteeism. The reviews will help address apparent gaps in the provision of these services amidst the plenty. The shortages existing in some parts of the district do not reflect the overall availability of facilities within the district as a whole since it is structural. An advocacy review should also be considered to assess the impact of gender disparities in the education sector as shown by the number of female teachers which stands at 1: 3 in the district.

8.6. Child Labour Reporting Systems

Reporting of child labour activities should be harmonized with existing reporting systems and structures adopted by various stakeholders in the district. This will help address gaps in the provision of social services such as education and health among others. Technical assistance wherever necessary to develop the database should be provided by the project as it will facilitate the tracking of changes the project will have made over time.

9.0 ANNEXES

AI: Scope of the baseline survey

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

Table 1. 4 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) - Pre test the questionnaires - Presentation of DBRM and data tool to the review committee - Modification and finalizing DBRM and data tools - Translate the questionnaire in local languages - Produce inception report	- Inception Report produced covering: (a) Scope of study defined (b) BRM , (c) draft 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

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			- 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 draft baseline report - Submit draft report to the review committee for comments - Modify and finalize report	- 4,982 potential children in and at risk of Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) identified - Draft reports one per district produced

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		based on committee comments - Present baseline study report to stakeholders	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.
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WARNING
Children in hazardous work

End child labour

International Labour Organisation

International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour

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