



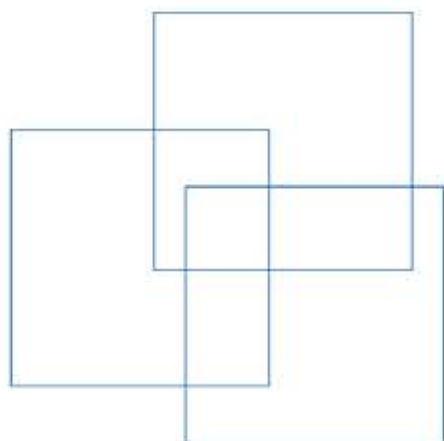
International
Labour
Organization

Child labour in rural Kazakhstan:

Baseline survey results in Almaty and South Kazakhstan oblasts



REPORT



International
Programme on
the Elimination
of Child Labour
(IPEC)

ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team and
Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

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Child labour in rural Kazakhstan: Baseline survey results in Almaty and South Kazakhstan oblasts. Report/ International Labour Organization, International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) - Almaty: ILO, 2013

ISBN: 978-92-2-026633-5 (Print bilingual version); 978-92-2-126634-1 (Web PDF English version)

International Labour Organization; ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour

child labour / child worker / ILO Convention / comment / rural area / Kazakhstan - 13.01.2

ILO Cataloguing in Publication Data

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication was elaborated by the Research Centre “Sange” for IPEC and coordinated by Ms. Dina O’Brien, from IPEC in Kazakhstan.

Funding for this ILO publication was provided by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany (Project RER/11/51/FRG).

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Printed in

Photocomposed by

Kazakhstan
IPEC Almaty, Kazakhstan

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Abbreviations

AO	Almaty oblast
CL	Child labour
FGD	Focus group discussion
HH	Household
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
IDI	In-depth interview
NGO	Non-governmental organization
RK	Republic of Kazakhstan
SKO	South Kazakhstan oblast
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VTs	Vocational technical school
WFCL	Worst forms of child labour
CLP	Child-labour intensive pocket (areas with highest concentration of child labour)
PSU	Primary sampling units

Executive Summary

The survey was conducted in October 2011 in selected settlements of Almaty and South-Kazakhstan oblasts and aimed to provide estimates of the magnitude of the child labour phenomenon in cotton, tobacco and vegetable production, profiling child labourers and their parents, and to identify potential project beneficiary children for the ILO-IPEC pilot project.

3763 households were covered by the listing exercise and 468 children aged 5-17 years engaged in cotton, tobacco and vegetable cultivation were identified with 184 children working on vegetable farms, 10 children on tobacco¹ and 274 children on cotton.

Older children are the predominant age group. The study revealed 200 children aged 15-17 years (42.7%); 178 children aged 12-14 years (38.1%), and 90 children (19.2%) aged 5-11 years were involved in work on vegetables and cotton.

The greatest number of working children were employed in the cotton industry: The majority of these were in Maktaaral (146 children) and Shardara districts (124 children).

There are more boys than girls among working children aged from 5 to 17 years. According to the listing exercise 273 boys (58%) and 195 girls (42%) were found working in the agricultural sector. While in cotton girls and boys are equally represented, work in vegetables is dominated by boys.

In vegetable fields children perform the following types of work: sowing (18%), watering (17%), weeding (40%), gathering vegetables (90%), loading/unloading vegetables (23%), carrying boxes with vegetables (20%) and vegetable sorting (33%). Two types of these works are heavy for children: loading/unloading vegetables and carrying boxes with vegetables: 28.6% of boys and 14% of girls were engaged in these types of work.

The season of intensive work in vegetable fields lasts from June to September: from 30% to 70% of interviewed children were engaged during these months. The average length of the working day in vegetables for children was 5-6 hours (38 hours on the last week of the working period). Girls involved in this work labour longer hours than boys (39 hours per week for girls in comparison with 37 hours per week for boys). Children from junior age groups of 5-11 years old (27 hours per week) are involved less than children at the age of 12-17 years old (40 hours per week).

The amount of earnings depends on a child's age and type of work. Earnings can vary from 400 tenge (for weeding and watering) to 3,000 tenge (for strawberry and grape harvesting) per day. For a month of work a child can earn from 10,000 to 35,000 tenge (68-237 USD).

In cotton children were involved in such works as cotton gathering (100%), weeding (21%), worm collection (1.3%), cotton bush collection (6.7%) and pruning (1.3%).

On weekdays in the last week of the working period, the average working day in cotton lasts 6 hours; on Sunday – 8 hours. The peak period of work in cotton is September-October, when 80-100 percent of interviewed children were engaged in work. Usually, earnings of children depend

¹ Four of these also were working on vegetable farms.

on the volume of gathered cotton. On the average, a child can earn 1,000-2,000 tenge per day or 30,000-40,000 tenge per month (203-270 US dollars).

The situation with child labour in tobacco production has significantly improved during recent years. There is a clause in the contracts between Philip Morris Kazakhstan, a tobacco company, and tobacco growers prohibiting the use of work of children in tobacco fields. On the one hand, it imposes obligations on tobacco growers and reduces the employment of children in the tobacco industry. On the other hand, parents try to hide the fact that their child is working on tobacco. Out of 10 interviewed children,² 10 were engaged in tobacco lacing, eight in weeding, seven in picking, five in sorting, four in pressing, and two in watering and sowing.

Children note that they work 5.5 hours on average on weekdays and 7.5 hours on Sunday, which is 32 hours per week on average. The main work season is May and August-September (60-70% of children note that they work during this period).

Children working in tobacco fields can earn 800 tenge a day or 4,800 tenge a week (32 US dollars). However, remuneration is paid at the end of a season, when tobacco growers deliver tobacco to Philip Morris Kazakhstan. Therefore, earnings of children are included in the total income of a family for the whole work season and parents receive the whole amount of money.

More than half of child labourers have a necessity to work even if they do not like it: according to the survey only 45.9% of children like their job, 32.7% of children say that they do not like their job very much and the remaining 21.5% note that do not like working at all but they have to. All 10 children working in tobacco indicated they do not like their job.

Not all working children stop working when the school year begins. Among interviewed children only 61% of children working in vegetable, 21% in cotton and 40% in tobacco production noted that they are going to stop working at the beginning of the school year. The other children continue working during the school year before or after lessons or on weekends. Some of these children continue working and regularly miss school lessons (11.6%) as a result of which their school performance and quality of studying are reduced.

Some child labourers have to miss school because of the need to work in the field. 11% of children working in vegetable and 44% of children engaged in cotton production have had to miss school lessons for more than three days consecutively because of work. Parents can ask for permission for their children to miss lessons because such families are usually poor and children have to earn money. However, parents conceal such information. For example, in some regions of South Kazakhstan oblast where cotton is produced 76% of interviewed children indicated that they miss school because they have to earn money and help their parents while only 8% of parents recognize such cases.

The results of profiling show that some of the interviewed working children aged 12-17 years lack basic skills. About 14.9% of profiled working children aged 12-14 years cannot read well, 10.8% cannot write well and 6.8% cannot count well. Among children aged 15-17 years, 4.3% cannot count well, 8.5% cannot write well and 6.4% cannot read well. These basic skills are formed in primary school by about the age of 11 years. However, according to the survey, children of 12-17 years old involved in child labour are deprived of basic skills. Considering the fact that these children are mostly from very poor families, in the future they will not get good education, and there is a risk that they will continue living in poverty.

²Since only 10 children were identified working in tobacco, statistical data on child labour in tobacco are not representative.

Only 20% of working children are engaged in extracurricular development activities. Many children do not even realize that they can and should spend their leisure time engaged in activities such as: health improvement, the extracurricular activity, personal development and rest. Only 23% of boys and 32% of girls understand that their need to work means they are not engaged in playing, resting, studying or enjoying extracurricular activity. For most of the children work in the field is an opportunity to earn money for themselves (65%). Extracurricular education is accessible only to 65% of interviewed children. Almost none of the researched settlements had sports stadiums, recreation centres or playgrounds available for children.

Child labourers are at risk of health problems. Over the previous two months interviewed children working in *cotton* were exposed to excessive fatigue and tiredness (12%), backache (12%), snake and insect bites (12% of interviewed children), and sunstroke (8%). Children working in vegetable fields also felt excessive fatigue and tiredness (21% of children), headache (20%), backache (8%), feeling sick (7%), sunstroke (7%). Children working *tobacco fields* had breathing and eye problems.

In case of injuries occurring in the course of work in fields, children receive medical aid from parents (69% of children). 57% of children on average noted that medical aid was rendered in such cases (62% of boys and 52% of girls).

Parents play the main role in bringing children to work. Characteristics of the parents of child labourers include low educational status, work in unskilled and partially skilled professions, lack of stable income and low income. 22% of fathers and 19% of mothers of working children identified themselves as unemployed.³ Forty-three percent of households are unable to satisfy their most basic needs for food, clothing, footwear and daily necessity and are extremely poor or poor (Almaty oblast, 50%; South-Kazakhstan oblast, 38%).

The primary reason for involving 5-17 year old children in work is the poverty of the family and lack of money. 56% of children work because of the extreme poverty of their families; 30% of children work because of unsatisfied needs (for clothes, footwear, school supplies, computers and cellular phones), and almost 14% of children work because there are no safe places for leisure activities.

The reasons⁴ for children to work were as follows: their family needs money (46%); they want to earn money for themselves (45%); their parents force them to work (9.2%); because their friends work (6.2%); to acquire skills and work experience (5.8%), or because they have nothing else to do (2.4%). Parents' answers confirm these reasons.

The child's income is essential for 72% of families. Parents play a critical role in child labour as it provides much needed extra income for the household. About 60% of parents work in vegetable, cotton or tobacco fields together with their children.

Children's interests may also suffer from a decision in the household to take out a loan. The low-income status of households can be worsened when a family takes on debt. This situation is more frequently found in South-Kazakhstan oblast. Households in Almaty oblast repay loans out of adult HH members' wages while households in South-Kazakhstan oblast repay them out of money earned by their children in cotton (14% of HH) or out of children's allowance and other social state transfers (32% of HH).

³ Comparing to the national unemployment rate (5.4%) for the fourth quarter of 2011, official data of Kazakhstan's statistics agency.

⁴ Children could indicate more than one reason.

Information sharing and advocacy on child labour issues should be conducted both with parents and children. In 75.7% of cases the decision to work was taken by children themselves, by parents or relatives in 19.9%, on advice of friends in 3.4% or on the advice of an employer for whom parents of a child work (0.5%).

As an alternative to child labour, it is necessary to provide light work for children of 14 years and above in conformance with labour legislation of the RK and in support of youth employment.

Proposed measures to eradicate and prevent the worst forms of child labour include:

- adoption of the term "hazardous forms of child labour" for work that may pose a risk to the child's health or interfere with the child's education, and the term "education to work transition," to include light work to help to support the family and children's working activities in conformance with national and international legislation, as well as practical vocational training;
- solving the problems related to families' poverty, also through the payment of conditional social benefits to households;
- advocacy and provision of information on consequences of child labour for children and their parents;
- preventive work with employers;
- active development of forms of extracurricular education, recreation centres, sports clubs, garden clubs, libraries, sport grounds, recreation places for children, and summer camps, especially in rural areas;
- to regulate the organization of child labour on the governmental level, i.e. to provide light work for children of 14 years and above in conformance with labour legislation of the RK and in support of youth employment;
- mechanization of the agricultural sector (vegetable and cotton industries).

Key concepts and definitions

Child – a person below the age of 18, unless the laws of a particular country set the legal age for adulthood lower (*Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Rights of the Child*).

Child labour is defined on the basis of ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, ILO Convention 182 on the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour according to which children under 15 years⁵ should not be employed and work. Such work types are defined in Article 7 of 138 ILO Convention as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that (a) is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; or (b) interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work (*ILO Convention No. 138 on the minimum age for admission to employment and work, ILO Convention No. 182 on the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour*).

Worst forms of child labour: - (i) 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; (ii) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances; (iii) 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; (iv) 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 (*ILO Convention No 182, article 3*).

Hazardous work is labour that jeopardises the physical, mental or moral well-being of a child, either because of its nature or because of the conditions in which it is carried out. In Kazakhstan “The list of works, prohibiting hiring of workers under 18 years of age, and limiting norms of carrying and moving for workers under 18” is approved. As a result, it is prohibited in Kazakhstan to use the work of those under 18 years of age on tobacco and cotton farms; it is prohibited to engage children in any kind of work with pesticides and herbicides, and those who work in nightclubs, cabarets, restaurants are prohibited from accepting a job related to trade and storage of wine, alcohol and alcoholic beverages and beer, tobacco products. The limit for carrying and moving loads for male teens of 16-18 years old is no more than 16.4 kg and for females, not more than 10.25 kg. (*Order of the Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan, dated July 31, 2007, N 185-n*).

⁵ In different countries this age limit can be fixed either at 14 or 16 years. In Kazakhstan it fixed at 14 years

Introduction

In this study, the worst forms of child labour refers to work which by its nature or circumstances is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children (ILO Convention No.182, art.3, p "d").

The Government of Kazakhstan has ratified ILO Convention No. 138 on the Minimum Age for admission to employment and work (1973) and Convention No.182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999) and thus has recognized child labour as unacceptable and illegal. However, according to data of the rapid assessment of the situation done in 2005- 2006, child labour issues still exist in Kazakhstan.⁶

Currently, there is insufficient data on child labour in Kazakhstan. In this regard, ILO-IPEC initiated a baseline survey on child labour in agriculture in Almaty and South Kazakhstan oblasts aimed at providing more detailed information on the situation in cotton, tobacco and vegetable production in southern regions of Kazakhstan.

Based on the results of this survey, an ILO-IPEC pilot project on for the prevention and elimination of the worst forms of child labour will be developed. Therefore, the general object was to identify potential project beneficiaries in South Kazakhstan (SKO) and Almaty oblasts, i.e. children aged 5 to 17 years involved in vegetable, tobacco and cotton cultivation, and their siblings. The specific objects were to assess and rank communities that constitute “child-labour intensive pockets” (areas with a concentration of families having children working in the agricultural sector); to elaborate a profile of project beneficiaries – child labourers and their families – and to develop recommendations for policy reform and interventions to address the issue of child labour in Kazakhstan.

In the frame of the research the following issues were also identified: primary factors leading to child labour; socio-economic context of child labour; children’s and their families’ residential characteristics; attitudes of community, local authorities, parents and employers towards the fact that children are forced to work; alternatives to child labour that could be offered to prevent the situation; the needs of the working children; access to education and healthcare services for working children, and elements revealing lack of information on child labour.

⁶Child labour in tobacco and cotton industries of agricultural sector in AO and SKO. Report on the Study of Current Situation, 2004; The Centre for Study of Public Opinion (CIOM), prepared for ILO-IPEC.

Research Methodology

The research methods included:

- ✓ Listing of 5- to 17-year-old children in households;
- ✓ Survey of the households with child labourers: interviewing children and their parents, making profiles;
- ✓ Focus group discussions and interviews with key informants, local authorities, NGOs, representatives from educational and healthcare institutions, employers and community members;
- ✓ Direct observation.

Study instruments were developed based on ILO-IPEC Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour manual (SIMPOC) and Rapid Assessment Methodology.⁷ A review of the current situation in cotton, tobacco and vegetable cultivation in Kazakhstan was performed based on the “*Value Chain Development for Decent Work*”⁸ Manual.

Target groups consisted of:

- (a) 5- to 17-year-old child labourers in vegetable, cotton and tobacco (206 children).
- (b) parents of child labourers (204 adults)
- (c) siblings of child labourers (178 children)
- (d) key informants: local authorities, departments of child protection of the Ministry of Education and Science of RK, public organizations, health and education authorities, employers (20 interviews).

Table 1. Results of household listing by region

CLP	Total HH	including households:					Number of 5 to 17 year-old children	5 to 17-year-old children in labour		
		With 5- to 17-year-old children	no children in HHs	Refused	Dwelling vacant or address not a dwelling	No competent member of HHs		Identified as child labourer	Interviewed	Response rate, %
Eskeldy	448	188	228	2	22	8	278	14	11	78.6
Enbekshikazakh	580	329	237	1	6	6	614	50	35	70.0
Karatal	823	362	427	0	26	8	561	37	32	86.5
Talgar	530	292	222	1	1	14	500	35	23	65.7
Maktaaral	413	282	107	5	6	1	716	148	51	34.5

⁷ ILO, SIMPOC [Module of essential questions on child labour for inclusion in household surveys](#); [National child labour survey interviewer's manual, September 2008](#); SIMPOC training modules, National Child Labourer Survey, June 2007; SIMPOC Manual on methodologies for data collection through surveys, 2004; V. Verma, IPEC, Sampling for household-based surveys of child labourer, 2004; SIMPOC, Manual on child labour Rapid assessment methodology, 2005; IPEC, Sampling for household-based surveys of child labourer, 2004; SIMPOC, Manual on child labour Rapid assessment methodology, 2005.

⁸ M.L.Herr Tapera, J. Muzira, Value Chain Development for Decent Work. A guide for development practitioners, government and private sector initiatives. ILO, 2009 (http://www.ilo.org/empent/Publications/WCMS_116170/lang—en/index.htm).

Saryagash	396	225	127	5	3	36	521	58	30	51.7
Shardara	573	398	115	1	9	50	939	126	24	19.0
Almaty oblast	2381	1171	1114	4	55	37	1953	136	101	74.3
SKO	1382	905	349	1	18	99	2176	332	105	31.6
Total	3763	2076	1463	15	73	136	4129	468	206	44.0

Table 2. Target groups of the survey

Region	Number of child labourers identified during the listing	Number of children interviewed	Number of parents interviewed *	Number of non-working siblings
Almaty	136	101	97	65
South Kazakhstan	332	105	95	113
Total	468	206	192	178

* Additional fifty-seven parents were interviewed using the parent questionnaire, but their children refused to answer the questionnaire.

Sampling

Identifying Child Labour Intensive Pockets. At the first stage about eight areas were defined as CLPs based on secondary information sources (previous sociological studies, literature review, regional poverty maps) and consultations with the child protection departments of the Education and Science Ministry of RK and local NGOs. These areas have fields where vegetables, tobacco and cotton are cultivated and poor population is concentrated.

The following seven CLP were selected for the survey upon consultation with International Labour Organization representatives: Enbekshikazakh, Karatal, Eskeldy and Talgar districts in Almaty oblast and Maktaaral, Saryagash and Shardara districts in South Kazakhstan oblast.

Selection of Primary Sampling Units (PSU). 57 settlements, both urban and rural, in the selected CLPs were identified as PSUs – the territories for collection of listing details of child labour. The main criteria for selection of a PSU were the following: (1) it must be an agricultural area where there are a number of vegetable, tobacco and cotton fields; (2) the settlement should be inhabited mainly by poor and low-income population; (3) a high proportion of the population should be unemployed or self-employed working in agriculture, and (4) there should be at least 600 people living in the settlement. Some settlements were selected for the study because previous case studies have confirmed the presence of child labour. The final list of PSU settlements was formed in consultation with local authorities, departments of child protection and NGOs.

Table 3. CLP for Almaty and South Kazakhstan oblasts

# CLP	District Name	Agricultural Sector
Almaty oblast		
1	Enbekshikazakh	Tobacco and vegetables (potatoes, onions, corn)
2	Eskeldy	Vegetables (beets, potatoes, garlic, onions, soy and corn)
3	Talgar	Vegetables and fruits (potatoes, onions, strawberries, apples, grapes, corn)
4	Karatal	Vegetables (onions, potatoes, cabbage, garlic, onions, carrots, soybeans, rice, watermelon, cantaloupe)
South Kazakhstan oblast		
5	Saryagash	Vegetables (cabbage, tomatoes, greens, Bulgarian pepper, potatoes, carrots, onions,

# CLP	District Name	Agricultural Sector
		grapes)
6	Maktaaral	Cotton
7	Shardara	Cotton

Three to five PSU areas were selected in each CLP for 100 percent household listing and profiling of children and parents (Annex 1, Table A). Settlements were chosen by random selection from each CLP in Almaty oblast (see Sampling Guide, Robert Magnani, SIMPOC, page 27) and by purposive selection method (non-random selection) in South Kazakhstan oblast.

Subsequently PSU areas were selected in which 100% of households were to be covered by the listing exercise. Three methods were used for area selection: (a) the researchers in PSU settlements asked local people about the most densely populated locations with poor people whose children might be labouring in the fields. In this case, the researchers used local community knowledge; (b) These could be households located next to the fields at the outskirts of settlements, (c) When researchers saw children returning from the fields after their work, they asked where they lived – the study began with these houses.

Chapter 1. Description of the Current Situation in the Cotton, Tobacco and Vegetable Cultivation Sectors

1.1. Cotton industry review

In Kazakhstan, cotton is grown in Maktaaral, Saryagash, Shardara, Ordabasy, Baidibek, Otyrar and Sairam districts and near Turkestan, Shymkent and Arys towns of South Kazakhstan oblast. The main cotton fields are located in Maktaaral district, which accounts for 65 to 75% of the cotton crop in the region⁹.

Cotton is cultivated primarily with manual labour. After germination, plants are weeded by hand to form the desired thickness. Weeds in the field are removed by hand weeding and inter-row cultivation. In September, *kuraks* – hard big buds of orange size – appear on cotton bushes. When it is unravelled, a *kurak* produces a magnificent bunch of cotton. One cotton bush matures 12 to 15 cotton bolls. The cotton collected immediately after the boll unravels is of very high grade and is more expensive. If not collected on the same day, cotton falls on the ground and gets dirty. This cotton will be of third or fourth grade and will have the lowest price. Cotton can be collected manually or by cotton-picking machines. During manual cotton-picking losses of cotton are significantly lower than during machine gathering. When cotton-picking is done by machines, some cotton still falls down on the ground. This fallen cotton can be gathered only by hand.

Cotton receiving and processing companies. A monopolistic system for cotton purchasing has operated among cotton processing plants since long ago. Cotton planting is carried out by private land-owning farms (more than 60,000). These farms grow and harvest cotton as raw material. Farmers deliver the cotton as raw material to the middlemen at the cotton receiving points. There is a chain of middlemen between farmers and cotton processing enterprises. As a result, cotton processing plants, by mutual agreement, buy good-quality cotton for very low prices¹⁰. According to the results of sociological study and interviews with field owners, farmers sold cotton to middlemen at cotton receiving points at the price of 100-120 tenge per kilogram or 750 USD per ton in 2011. By comparison the stock market price for cotton was \$4700 USD per ton in 2010. In order to introduce a centralized procurement system, “Prod korporatsiya” JSC was established by the initiative of Government.

Health risks for children. Taking into account the adverse working conditions in cotton, the use of child labour on cotton plantations has been listed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection as prohibited for the employment of workers under the age of 18.

Cotton production is associated with great risks to health and hard working conditions. Huge amounts of pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and other toxic substances are used for cotton cultivation¹¹. Use of fertilizers can adversely affect the health of people working in the fields (see insert 1). The working day on cotton fields (usually up to 12 to 13 hours per day) exceeds the norms of RK Law on Labour. Working in the field under the sun leads to solar and

⁹ The special economic zone “Ontustik” Development Program for 2007-2015, source: <http://ru.government.kz/docs/p060895~2.htm>. Сохранено 25.11.2011

¹⁰ Thus, 75% of last year's cotton yield purchased from cotton growers of SKO, was announced as fourth grade. However, according to the sales data at least 15% of this amount was sold as much higher grade in Latvia and, accordingly, by higher price <http://articles.gazeta.kz/art.asp?aid=59717>

¹¹ Usually doses of nitrogen are introduced by 100-200 kg / ha, phosphorus 100-175, 100-125 K kg / ha.

thermal shock of workers, and they are at risk of insect and snake bites. Cotton thorns hurt hands and leave wounds and cuts.

Although child labour in the cotton industry is prohibited by law in Kazakhstan, according to the survey results children are involved in all kinds of work with cotton, such as: weeding, worm removal, picking cotton and collecting cotton bushes, and pruning. The cotton picking process is carried out by hand using child labour. The study of 5- to 17-year-old children in Maktaaral and Shardara districts demonstrated that 100 percent of interviewed child labourers were engaged in cotton fields.

Child employment arrangements in cotton. Manual collection of cotton requires many people for a short period of time. Picking cotton should be carried out very quickly so the crop does not lose its grade. During the FGD and interview process, local residents and employers described several ways of arranging child labour in cotton fields.

If a family has its own land where they grow cotton (not more than 2-3 hectares, Shardara and Maktaaral districts), they don't hire other people for fee, but work their plot by themselves. All family members, including children and relatives with their children, are involved in cotton picking. Revenue from collected cotton is spent on general needs of families to buy food and things of common use.

Sometimes a field owner asks his neighbours and their children to help him with cotton collection for a fee. If the fields are close, then hired workers get there by foot. In this case, parents are not afraid to let their children go. They know that their child is working under the neighbour's supervision near their home.

If cotton fields are very far away from settlements or if there are not enough local people available to complete the work, the employer (cotton field owner) calls on middlemen. The middlemen go to several settlements by car and recruit children and adults through their relatives, neighbours and acquaintances. Information is disseminated by word-of-mouth. People who go to middlemen are usually those who would like to make some money. The middleman negotiates on behalf of the employer to pay people and fixes the time when he arrives. In this case, parents often take their children to work with them. The middleman's duties are to transport people to the fields and take them back to home at night. The employer typically pays the middleman 8,000 tenge (55 US dollars) per day for these services.

Some employers do not work with local populations and hire only migrants for a full season. Migrants from other countries are involved in cotton harvesting only through middlemen. The middlemen go to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, negotiate with the families on the work on cotton field for one season (September- early October), carry them across the border and introduce the family to the employer. Typically, a family consists of two or three adults and one child. The middleman's duties include settlement of the issues with customs authorities, border services, local authorities and police through bribes and informal payments. The middleman gets paid about 70,000 tenge per family per season.

Children are actively involved in cotton picking for several reasons. Typically, adult family members go to nearby cities to find work while children remain at home. Thus, not so many adults remain in settlements, but there are lots of children. And as cotton collection requires many workers, employers are forced to involve children because of lack of manpower. Second, employers believe that most adults are lazy, pick cotton slowly or do not want to work on fields

because of low pay for these jobs. Whereas children pick cotton quickly, are more active and "pick cotton like playing a game."¹²

1.2. Tobacco industry review

The survey results showed that cultivation of tobacco in Enbekshikazakh district of Almaty oblast has been declining in recent years. In many settlements, former tobacco cultivators have now shifted to livestock breeding or vegetable cultivation. The number of settlements where farmers continue to cultivate tobacco has decreased significantly. Residents of only three of 15 surveyed settlements of Enbekshikazakh district continue to engage in tobacco cultivation.

Land owners (tobacco growers) cultivate tobacco on their own small plots of land in Enbekshikazakh district. They make formal agreements on tobacco crop supply with Philip Morris Kazakhstan and ship it to the company.

Tobacco cultivation is a very complicated process. Almost all work must be carried out manually. Planting of nursery plants from greenhouses must be carried out manually, as even minor damage of the roots can kill the tobacco bush. Harvesting is carried out only by hand. Tobacco leaves ripen gradually from bottom to top and the process of gathering leaves is continuous. After that a drying process is started, as newly collected leaves are not considered a ready product. Tobacco leaves are sorted by hand, laced and hung on special devices.

I had concluded an agreement with Philip Morris Kazakhstan. They buy all my crops, if everything is done according to the contract. The most important condition is not to hire children under 18. (In-depth interview with employer, tobacco field owner, AO)



Farmers using child labour in tobacco production increasingly hide this fact. But despite Kazakhstan's prohibition of child labour in tobacco production, Human Rights Watch registered 72 cases of employment of individuals under 18 on tobacco fields near the Malybay village in year 2010¹³.

Recently, the employees of Philip Morris Kazakhstan have been conducting regular inspections and making significant efforts to reduce and eliminate child labour in the tobacco industry. The Company terminates contracts with tobacco growers who employ child labourers on tobacco fields. The study showed that children and their parents hide the fact that children are involved in tobacco cultivation because of fear of sanctions, fines and loss of business with the purchasing company. That is why children work with tobacco in the backyards, lacing and drying leaves. Identifying and studying this target group was extremely difficult.

Health risks for children. The use of child labourers under age 18 on tobacco farms has been prohibited by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

¹² Opinion of the parents and employers in SKO.

¹³ Human Rights Watch, 2010, www.hrw.org

Due to forced exposure to tobacco, children often get sick from early childhood, suffering pulmonary disease, and often suffer from asthma.¹⁴ A child's hands are covered with tar after picking tobacco leaves and the child will ingest a large amount of nicotine (see Picture 1).

Children's health is at risk not only as a result of working directly with tobacco, but also as a result of being near tobacco for a long time. During monitoring works on tobacco, there was a heavy tobacco smell in the air near the houses where tobacco was being dried. Even if children of families living in such conditions do not work with tobacco, they are forced to inhale hazardous air and their health is constantly at risk.

Picture 1. Child labourers in tobacco



Source: <http://daypic.ru>.¹⁵

Child employment arrangements in tobacco cultivation. Thanks to the measures taken by International organizations, NGOs and Philip Morris Kazakhstan, children under 18 years old are not currently hired to work with tobacco on fields. However, children can work on family-owned fields. Typically, parents cultivate tobacco on small plots of land, and sort, lace and dry it at home. Sometimes children are forced to help their parents and, as the study showed, often work with tobacco at home. According to the survey of children, they may be involved in all types of work from the age of 12, such as: planting, watering, weeding, breaking, sorting, lacing and pressing of tobacco.

"Based on the terms of the contract with Philip Morris, I decided to never hire locals. How do I tell them that they cannot take their children to work? It is clear that these are children from poor families, and they need money. And I do not want any problems later with Philip Morris. So I only hire workers from Kyrgyzstan. I make conditions so they come without children. Those who want to work come and ask about it."(IDI with employer, AO)

1.3. Vegetable production sector review

Almaty and South Kazakhstan oblasts are the main vegetable suppliers in Kazakhstan.¹⁶

There are more than 355 farms in the region, 335 greenhouses (with 144 more greenhouses currently

Businessmen from other regions such as Astana, Almaty and Petropavlovsk buy vegetables. Agreements are concluded and prepayments are made in advance. Grapes are used in a local wine shop and Bakhus distillery. Vendors buy vegetables for good prices, we sell what remains ourselves (in-depth interview with a farmer, SKO)

¹⁴ Sange Research Center, Eurasia Foundation. Assessing population needs in Yenbekshikazakh District. Report on survey, 2004.

¹⁵ "Children on the tobacco plantations". "Human rights protection" Organization, 2010, <http://daypic.ru>

¹⁶ Based on the data from Statistics Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan total vegetables planting acreage amounted to 26.1 thousand hectares in Almaty region and 29.8 thousand hectares in South Kazakhstan region in 2010. Vegetable harvest amounted to 656.7 thousand ton in Almaty region and 642.8 thousand ton in South Kazakhstan region in 2010. http://www.stat.kz/digital/selskoe_hoz/Pages/default.aspx

under construction), and 41 vegetable storage facilities, 11 storage facilities for fruits and berries and 43 storage facilities for potatoes.

Four districts in Almaty oblast – Enbekshikazakh, Talgar, Karasay and Ili – are specialized in cultivating such vegetables as onions, cabbage, potatoes, corn, strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots and grapes. Potatoes, onions, strawberries, cabbage, tomatoes, greens, bell peppers, carrots, grapes, watermelons, melons and corn are cultivated in South Kazakhstan oblast.

According to the survey results vegetables in the regions are grown by large and small farms and land-owning family businesses. Large farms have their own vegetable storages and sales networks. Small family businesses, producing small amounts of vegetables, usually travel independently to nearby cities and sell their products in markets or outlets, often through their relatives and friends. Small farms sell their products to middlemen wholesale firms.

Managing sales, physical inaccessibility of sales markets and lack of vegetable storages are the main problems for farmers. High fuel prices and lack of automobile transport adapted to carrying vegetables complicate crop delivery to markets for rural residents. The vegetable procurement system is monopolized by large middlemen wholesalers. These firms dictate purchase prices for agricultural products. Therefore, middlemen firms get the bulk of profit, and farmers sell their products at very low prices.

The Government intends to change the situation by opening large vegetable procurement centers. The Rural Consumer Cooperative and Service and Procurement Centers Creation Program are being implemented by the Government of Kazakhstan at the moment. The government is planning to launch 10 vegetable storages in 2011 and 2012, the construction of which were financed by KazAgroFinance: two vegetable stores in Almaty oblast, three in South Kazakhstan oblast, two in Pavlodar oblast and by one in Atyrau, Kostanay and East Kazakhstan oblasts.¹⁷ Thus, a food belt around big cities in Kazakhstan will be formed.

Child labour has been used in planting, weeding and harvesting vegetables since the Soviet era. However, not all forms of child labour in vegetable fields are the worst forms of child labour. Of course, children working in the vegetable fields are also prone to health risks. Unfavourable labour conditions and risks to health include: heat; sun; absence of pure drinking water or adequate conditions for rest and having meals; work with cutting objects; carrying heavy loads; snake and insect bites, and use of fertilizers.

Health risks for children. The use of child labour on vegetable farms has not been listed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection as prohibited for the employment of workers under the age of 18.

Children from the age of 14 may work on vegetable farms with parental consent in compliance with the rules of working time. However, if the child is younger than 14 years of age or his work involves carrying heavy loads, then these jobs should be defined as child labour. Limits for carrying and movement of heavy loads are established by order of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection: for male teens aged 16-18 years, not more than 16.4 kg and for female teens, not more than 10.25 kg.

¹⁷ The Development Program on special economic zone “Ontustik” for 2007-2015. Link: (<http://www.spk-ontustik.kz>).

However, there are some health risks for children working on vegetable farms. A child's body takes in and accumulates pesticide residue faster through breathing, eating and contact with skin than an adult's. While working in vegetable fields, children may be susceptible to allergies from the use of organic and chemical fertilizers such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and various other pesticides for growing vegetables.¹⁸

Children may come into contact with ground contaminated with pesticides, and through dirty hands to get the chemicals in their organism. Such protective equipment as gloves and masks, and the availability of water in the workplace can reduce these negative impacts.

Arrangements for hiring children to work in vegetable production. Children work in the field/garden cultivating and harvesting strawberries, cabbages, potatoes, grapes and apples. They work mainly at home with corn, sorting and husking it. This means that children may work both in the field and at home in the yard. Children are usually hired to work in vegetable fields through their relatives, acquaintances and neighbours. Some children work in vegetable fields that belong to their family or close relatives. This is a very widespread situation in Karatal and Eskeldy districts of Almaty oblast. Typically, local residents work in families. That is why the employers find their employees among their own relatives.

"In general, we have family enterprises. There are many relatives. There is a job for everyone. Some hire migrants. But this year I have not seen any migrants; neither adults nor children. Regarding middlemen, I do not know anything about them, never heard a thing". (in-depth interview with an employer, AO).

"Locals have a well-functioning system of recruitment. There are the same families working for the field owner every year. Another method is searching through relatives and acquaintances. As a rule in one settlement there are many relatives living together and when there is a lot of work to be done they help each other using the Asar principle (this is when all acquaintances complete a large task by helping each other out)" (in-depth interview with an employer, SKO).

If the fields are not far from the settlements, field owners may find employees among local residents since they know each other quite well: who among them is unemployed, in need of money or comes from a family with many children. They approach such people and offer them a paid job. On the other side, those looking for a job spread the word among their acquaintances and field owners that they are looking for a job. Local residents usually know which of the field owners whose fields are in close proximity to the settlement need help with

harvesting. In this case word-of-mouth plays an important role. Job-seekers approach field owners from the same community regarding work. Quite often they work in families with children or merely send their children off to the fields. Usually, the fields are in close proximity and children get there on foot. In many settlements people have never heard about any middlemen.

If the fields are far from the settlement, hiring is carried out through middlemen from the closest settlements. The middlemen drive their own car or minivan throughout the nearest settlements and invite people to work in the fields.

"I find workers with middlemen's help. Then the middlemen bring people into the fields in their own cars. I give 8000 tenge to each of them." (in-depth interview with an employer, SKO).

¹⁸ Most farmers use pesticides, such as potassium chloride, ammonium sulfate, ammonium nitrate, urea, ammonium nitrate, ammophos, herbicides, suprefos, nitrogen-sulfur containing phosphate, granular, phosphogypsum, sodium, tripolifosfat, etc.

There are two or three exchange points in Saryagash district where people willing to work in the fields come. Field owners or middlemen come in cars or buses to gather them and take them to the fields. They are paid 1500 tenge for one day's work. Poor families come to the exchange point and get hired along with their children.¹⁹

"I usually hire migrants; they are a cheap labour force. We hire those from Uzbekistan. There are difficulties when preparing papers for a migrant. It would be good if there were more quotas for unqualified labour. Local people also work, but what they make here in terms of money is very little for them." (in-depth interview with an employer from SKO).

Field owners actively attract migrants from neighbouring countries (Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan). These people are paid less than the locals. Migrants usually come with their families and children and work together throughout the entire season. The same arrangements used in hiring migrants to work in cotton fields are used.

¹⁹ Information from interview with local residents in SKO.

Chapter 2. Child labour in agricultural sector

2.1. Involvement of children in labour: results of the listing exercise in CLP

In total 3876 households were surveyed in 29 settlements (PSU) in Almaty and South Kazakhstan oblast. According to the listing exercise of 5- to 17-year-old children (brief survey of HH), 58.7% of households have children (51.2% in Almaty oblast and 72.2% in SKO). The total number of children in these households is 4129.

Children carry out various types of paid and unpaid work.²⁰ About 60 percent of children spent at least one hour in the past week with household chores and helping parents with other work at least one hour during the past two months. It was also found that children 5 to 17 years old helped, or have worked on their own, on tobacco (0.2%), vegetables (4.9%) or cotton (6.7%) for at least one hour per day for the last two months. To identify the target group of 5- to 17-year-old child labourers in vegetable, cotton and tobacco cultivation the researchers were guided by ILO methodology.²¹

Table 4. Housekeeping activities of children ages 5-17, N=4129, in percent

Types of activities	Age group			Sex		Total N=4129
	5-11 y.o. N=2373	12-14 y.o. N=952	15-17 y.o. N=806	Boy N=2130	Girl N=1999	
Household chores * (washing clothes, cleaning, cooking, etc.)	52.3	80.0	77.3	50.7	77.3	63.6
Helping parents with other work**	45.7	79.7	81.9	68.3	52.4	60.6
Caring for younger siblings*	23.6	34.6	31.5	23.8	31.8	27.7
Working on his/her own plot, garden**	20.9	40.7	44.3	38.8	20.7	30.0
Looking after animals in the household, grazing own cattle**	12.9	33.7	35.6	33.8	9.8	22.2
Grazing cattle of other people**	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2
Selling something with the parents or alone **	0.2	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.3	0.5
Helping parents or working by himself/herself on vegetable growing in the field or at home **	1.7	6.6	12.5	6.1	3.8	4.9
Helping parents or working by himself/herself on tobacco growing in the field or at home **	-	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.2
Helping parents or working by himself/herself on cotton cultivation in the field or at home**	2.1	12.4	13.5	7.2	6.2	6.7
Engaged in household chores in a third-party household, paid or unpaid **	-	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1
Engaged in other types of work on paid basis **	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.1	1.5	1.8

* at least 1 hour in the last week; **at least one hour during the past two months; Sources: Listing of all 5- to 17-year-old children.

The girls are mostly occupied with household chores (laundry, ironing, cooking, dishwashing) and taking care of younger siblings. Boys work in the garden and tend to cattle.

²⁰The data from the sociological research on household listing has limitations since study sampling was targeted determined (please refer to section VI).

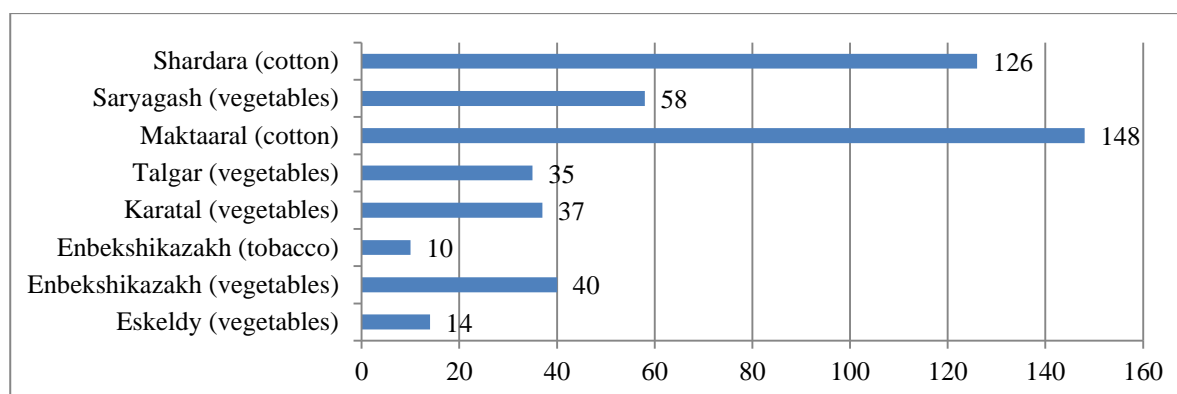
²¹ 18th ICLS resolutions

By age groups children of 12 to 17 years have been more involved in some kind of work activities (80%). Children aged 12 to 14 years are primarily occupied with household chores and taking care of younger siblings. Older children aged from 15 to 17 years help their parents with gardening and tend to their cattle and take care of animals. However, sometimes parents request 6- to 11-year-old children to help them out as well. According to the survey, 5-year-old children were not involved in any kind of labour.

In total 468 child labourers were identified among 5- to 17-year-old children (or 11.3% of all children of that age) who have worked themselves or helped their parents in cotton, vegetables or tobacco for at least one hour a week over the past two months. There were 314 siblings of working children identified.

By the research districts the largest number of children from target groups has been identified in Maktaaral (148 children) and Shardara (126 children), which are considered to be cotton districts. All identified children were involved in cotton harvesting.

Diagram 1. The number of identified child labourers in each agricultural sector, by district



Source: Listing of all 5- to 17-year-old children.

2.2. Involvement of children in labour: results of the profiling of children

According to the survey results, 95% of children from the target group do some kind of chores around the household: cleaning house; washing dishes; taking care of younger siblings and sick family members; buying food; cooking meals; laundry and ironing, and repairing household appliances. This work is not only rendering help to the parents around the house, but also is a part of the educational process in the family.

Girls are more involved in helping out with household chores. These differences are related to national peculiarities and cultural traditions about distribution of household chores among family members.

Forty-four percent of children perform other types of work, though this is more common among boys (50% in comparison with 35% of girls). Among “other types of work,” children have indicated bringing home water from a water source; working in their own garden; grazing their own or other people’s cattle; taking care of domestic animals, and helping out other people with their household chores.

Table 5. Types and duration of work performed by children, according to results of interviews with children

Types of work		Child's sex		Child's age			Total, N=206
		Boy, N=122	Girl, N= 84	5-11 years old , N=38	12-14 years old , N=74	15-17 years old , N= 91	
Percentage of children occupied during the past week with, %	Household chores	91.1	100	94.7	94.6	94.7	94.7
	Other types of work	49.6	34.9	44.7	44.6	42.6	43.7
Hours per week during the past week of working	Household chores	11	14	13	11	13	12
	Cotton	34	31	31	32	36	33
	Tobacco	33	31	31	31	34	32
	Vegetables	37	39	27	40	40	38
	Other types of work	10	8	4	7	12	9

Source: Profiling of 206 child labourers in agriculture.

In addition to household chores, children from the target group worked in agriculture with cotton, vegetables or tobacco. According to the children's responses, they work an average of 33-38 hours per week.

2.3. Employment in the agricultural sector

During the listing exercise 206 working children were interviewed by questionnaire out of all identified child labourers. This included 126 children engaged in vegetables (Saryagash, Enbekshikazakh, Karatal and Talgar districts), 75 children in cotton (Maktaaral and Shardara districts) and 10 children tobacco (Enbekshikazakh district). Out of 206 interviewed children four were working both in vegetables and tobacco.

Working on vegetables. When working on vegetable farms, children were engaged in the following types of labour: sowing (18%); watering (17%); weeding (40%); harvesting (90%); loading and unloading vegetables (23%); carrying boxes (20%), and sorting (33%). Two types of work are hard to do for children: loading and unloading vegetables and carrying boxes of vegetables. Nevertheless, 28.6% of boys and 14% of girls were involved in loading and unloading vegetables, and 28.6% of boys and 6% of girls carried boxes with vegetables.

The working season in the vegetable industry lasts from June to September, and 30% to 70% of interviewed children worked during these months (see diagram 2). Children worked in vegetable fields for 5 to 6 hours a day or about 38 hours a week on average (the question was asked in regard to the last period when the work was done). Girls are more involved in this kind of work than boys (39 hours a week for the girls compared to 37 hours a week for the boys). Children from younger age groups, 5- to 11-year-olds (27 hours per week), are less occupied than 12- to 17-year-old children (40 hours per week).

Table 6. Types of work with vegetables by age groups and sex, N=126, in percent

Types of work	Sex		Age group			Total N=126
	Boy N=77	Girl N=49	5-11 years old N=22	12-14 years old N=43	15-17 years old N=61	
Sowing	19.5	16.3	18.2	27.9	11.5	18.3
Watering	20.8	10.2	22.7	20.9	11.5	16.7
Weeding	31.2	53.1	40.9	30.2	45.9	39.7
Picking	89.6	89.8	86.4	88.4	91.8	89.7
Loading/unloading	28.6	14.3	9.1	20.9	29.5	23.0
Carrying boxes	28.6	6.1	9.1	16.3	26.2	19.8
Sorting	35.1	30.6	31.8	32.6	34.4	33.3
Other types of work with vegetables	3.9		4.5	2.3	1.6	2.4

Source: Profiling of 206 child labourers in agriculture.

Working in cotton. Seventy-five child labourers in cotton in South Kazakhstan oblast were interviewed during the survey. Child labourers in cotton do the following types of work: picking (100%); weeding (21 %); collecting cotton bushes (6.7%); collecting worms (1.3%), and pruning (1.3%). Absolutely all children did cotton picking. Using child labour for cotton picking is beneficial for the employer since children do the work very quickly²² and agree to work for low pay.

On average children work in cotton fields for 6 hours a day on weekdays and 8 hours on Sundays (33 hours within the last week of the working period). Boys work a little bit longer (34 hours per week) than girls (31 hours per week). Children 5- to 11-years-old worked 31 hours per week; children aged 12 to 14 years worked 32 hours and 15 to 17 years worked 36 hours a week. Cotton cultivation season lasts from September to October. This is when 80-100% of children were working (diagram 2).

Table 7. Types of work in cotton fields by age groups and sex, N=75, in percent

Types of work with cotton	Sex		Age group			Total N=75
	Boy N=41	Girl N=34	5-11 years old N=16	12-14 years old N=29	15-17 years old N=30	
Weeding	19.5	23.5	18.8	17.2	26.7	21.3
Picking	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Collecting worms	2.4	-	-	-	3.3	1.3
Collecting cotton bushes	7.3	5.9	-	6.9	10.0	6.7
Other types of work with cotton*	2.4	-	-	-	3.3	1.3

* Other types of work: tearing off the tips of cotton shoots for the bush to grow in width and not in height (pruning).

Source: Profiling of 206 child labourers in agriculture.

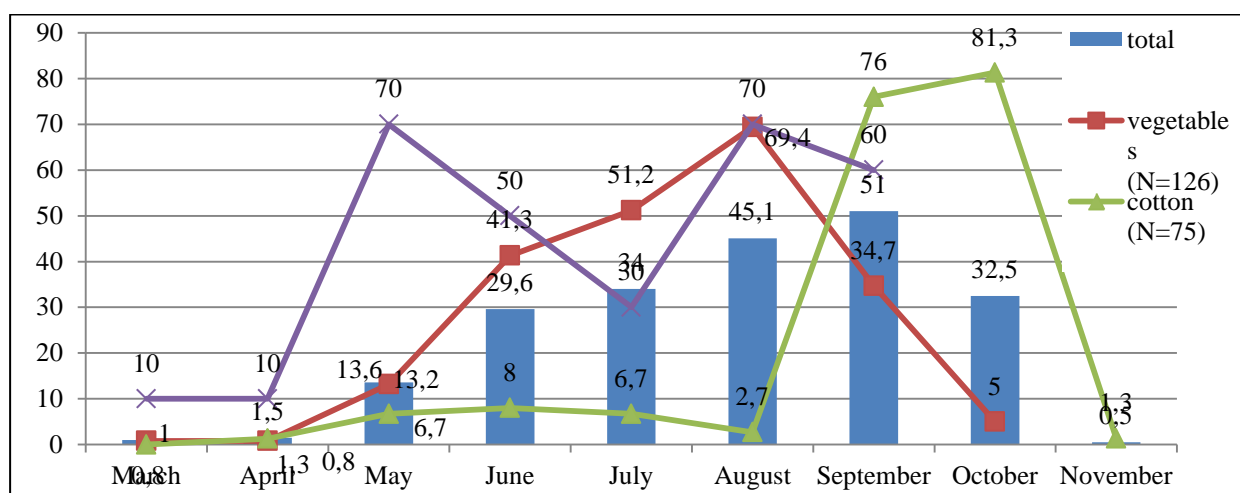
Working on tobacco. It was possible to interview only 10 child labourers in tobacco cultivation during the survey, including one girl and nine boys. Five of them were aged from 12 to 14 years

²² Opinion of parents and employers in SKO.

and five from 15 to 17 years. All 10 children were involved in tobacco lacing, eight in weeding, seven in breaking (gathering), five in sorting, four in pressing and two in watering and sowing.

Children have noted that they work 5.5 hours a day on weekdays and 7.5 hours a day on Sundays or about 32 hours per week on average. The main working season is May and August-September (60 to 70% of children confirmed working during this period).

Diagram 2. What months do you engage in these types of work? Share of the children, %



Source: Profiling of 206 child labourers in agriculture.

2.4. Child labour payments

About 28% children do not get paid since they work together with their parents at their own or rented pieces of land. (Among them there are more boys than girls; there are also more young children aged 5 to 11 years than older children aged 12 to 17 years.) Parents sell the harvest and the family lives off this money throughout the year. The remaining children get the money by themselves (56%), or their parents get the money (16%). Parents get their children's earnings when they work together with the child. Usually children receive payment for their labour in cash (94%) while only 3% of children receive food and another 3% of children receive some cash and some food.

Cash payments are made on a daily basis upon completion of work for 60% of our interviewees (80% of children in cotton and 51% of children in vegetables), 27% once a year (80% of children in tobacco and 29.8% in cotton), others, once a week (6.8%), once a month (5.4%) or once a quarter (0.5%).

A child's labour can be paid for in several ways. The most common way of paying for the services rendered in cotton in South Kazakhstan oblast is according to the weight of cotton picked. The rate of payment for cotton from the first harvest is 10 tenge per kilogram; for the second, 20 tenge per kilogram, and for the third pick, 30 tenge per kilogram. The employer pays for the time spent working for weeding cotton and collecting worms as well as collecting cotton bushes. A child is paid 100 to 2,000 tenge per day (usually it is 1,000 tenge a day) and 90 to 900 tenge for a half day of work in cotton cultivation. The daily earnings depend on the child's age. In a season working on cotton, children 12 to 17 years old can earn 30,000-40,000 tenge per month.

Table 8. Regularity of payments to children, in percent

Regularity of payment	Vegetables	Cotton	Tobacco	Total
Yearly	29.8	16.2	80	27.3
Quarterly	0.8	-	-	0.5
Monthly	9.1	-	-	5.4
Weekly	9.1	4.1	-	6.8
Daily, in the evening	51.2	79.7	20	60
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Size of regular payment per day, tenge	1000	1000	800	-
Maximum size of payment per day, tenge	2000	3000	800	-
Maximum size of payment per month, tenge	35000	20000	15000	-

Source: Profiling 206 child labourers in agriculture.

Payment for vegetable harvesting is made according to the number of kilograms gathered per day or by day rate. Usually children are paid 400 tenge (potato, onion, cabbage and beetroot) or 3,000 tenge (strawberry, apples and grapes) for a day's work. Some children are paid their salary once a week (from 3,000 to 10,000 tenge). Children working in vegetable harvesting can earn from 10,000 to 35,000 tenge per month.

Children earn 800 tenge a day or 4,800 tenge a week working in tobacco. Two interviewed children get paid every day. Eight children work along with their parents in their own field, so they get paid their salaries only once a year after the harvest has been sold. According to the children's responses, their annual income is about 15,000 tenge.

Children can spend their earnings in various ways, but most children give all of their money to their parents (53% of children) or give part of it to their parents and spend the rest of it according to their own wishes (13.6%). Some children use their earnings to cover their own needs: they buy clothes (27.2%), spend the money according to their own discretion, save up money to buy a personal computer or notebook, cell phone or spare parts for their bicycle (6%).

"My daughter is studying in 11th grade and she had once been picking cotton all week long and made 20000 tenge; this made it possible for her to buy all the necessary clothes for fall and winter; surely, this is of help to the family budget. (interview with a parent during filling in questionnaire, SKO)

There is a need for our child to work. Without the money that the child makes life would have been more difficult. Children's wages are of a great help to family budget. The money made by children is spent on their needs. (interview with a parent during filling in questionnaire a parent, AO)

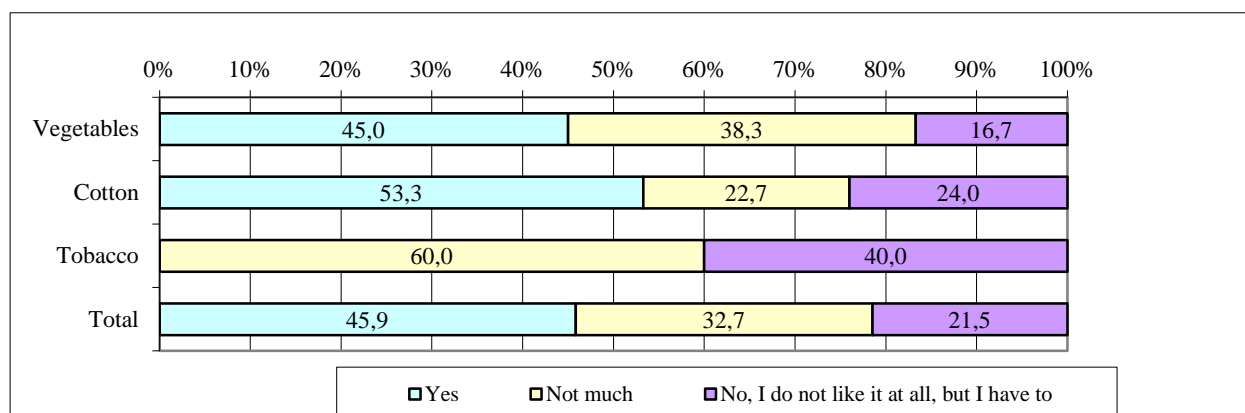
According to parents' responses, children's earnings are a significant addition to the family budget (54% of parents) and are extremely helpful; some say it would have been impossible for the family to live without them (18%). Others have noted that the child's earnings are too little and are not crucial for family budget and the family budget would not be affected if the child stopped working.

2.5. Child labour conditions

The results of profiling showed that the harder the working conditions of the child, the fewer of them like the work. During the interview, 45.9% of all children noted that they like working, 32.7% of children noted that they do not like their work and the remaining 21.5% of children

said that they do not like working at all but they have to. None of the identified child labourers in tobacco likes his work.

Diagram 3. Distribution of responses to the question, “Do you like working?” according to types of activity, by percent



Source: Profiling 206 child labourers in agriculture.

Working conditions of child labourers do not differ from those of the adults. Children have to deal with dust and persistent pungent odours (74.8%), work in extreme cold or heat (63.1%), use dangerous items in their work such as knives and pruners (18.9%), deal with pesticides and chemicals (9.7%) and with extremely loud noise and/or vibration (12%) in their work. Children have to suffer from insufficient ventilation of the rooms where they work (3.4%) and insect and snake bites (5%). Two 15- to 17-year-old boys deal with fire. Conditions on cotton farms in particular are severe.

Table 9. Distribution of children’s responses to the “what conditions do you face at your work place?” by percent

Dust, persistent odour	74.8	Snake and insect bites (wasps, bees and gnats)	4.9
Extreme cold or heat	63.1	Insufficient room ventilation	3.4
Dangerous items (knives, pruners, etc.)	18.9	Working place is very dark or confining	1.5
Loud noise and strong vibrations	12.1	Fire, flame	1.0
Chemicals (pesticides, adhesives)	9.7		

Children often do not have a kitchen or a place for lunch (75%), toilet (76%), a medical facility or medical worker (96%), or pure drinking water (19%) at their workplace (in the field). According to children’s responses they are not fully provided with protective gear: only 23.3% of children have special clothes and shoes, 8.3% of children have respiratory masks, 3.4% of children have mosquito repellents, 53% wear gloves and 41% use sun block. Working conditions are particularly unfavourable on cotton cultivation fields in South Kazakhstan oblast.

Table 10. Working conditions: inaccessibility for children at their workplace, N=206, by percent

Respiratory masks	82.0	Special clothes/shoes	68.4
First aid post or a medical worker	96.1	Sun protection	54.4
Mosquito repellent	88.3	Gloves	44.7

Kitchen or other place for lunch	75.2	Pure drinking water	18.9
Toilet	75.7	Time for rest/break/lunch	15.0
Place for rest	69.4		

Sixteen percent of children complained about working conditions and 8.3% complained to their parents about their employer. Children complain that they get tired and the work they have to do is hard while the employer pays very little. However, if the children have made their own decision to work they usually can choose a place where they want to work and they work willingly (knowing that they will have their own money).

An official labour contract serves as a guarantee for compliance with the Labour Code of Kazakhstan. Only 2.4% of children said that their employer had an agreement with them (all of these children were labourers in vegetables). 87.4% of children have not had any contract concluded with them and 10.2% had difficulty answering this question. These data may be explained by the fact that the interviewed children were involved in working activities illegally.

“Children understand that this is seasonal income and do not want to lose it. They wake up early in the morning and go to work without a single objection.” (interview with a parent during filling in questionnaire a parent, Maktaaral district)

In Almaty oblast many fields belong to a large landowner. Local residents commented very warmly about the employer during the survey and in-depth interviews. From the words of parents and children the employer provides them with transportation (a bus), protective tools, gloves, as well as pure drinking water and lunches. Working time does not exceed four hours a day. 14- to 17-year-old children are only hired upon their parents' agreement. Children of younger age are not involved in working on the fields. All work is very well paid. (interview with a parent during filling in questionnaire a parent, AO)

The relations that the child builds with other children and adults at work are very important. 83% of children build ‘respectful’ relations with the adults. 7.8% of children noted that adult workers take care of them and are friendly towards them, which especially has been pointed out by girls. 96.3% of children noted that they have ‘respectful’ and ‘friendly’ relations with other child labourers.

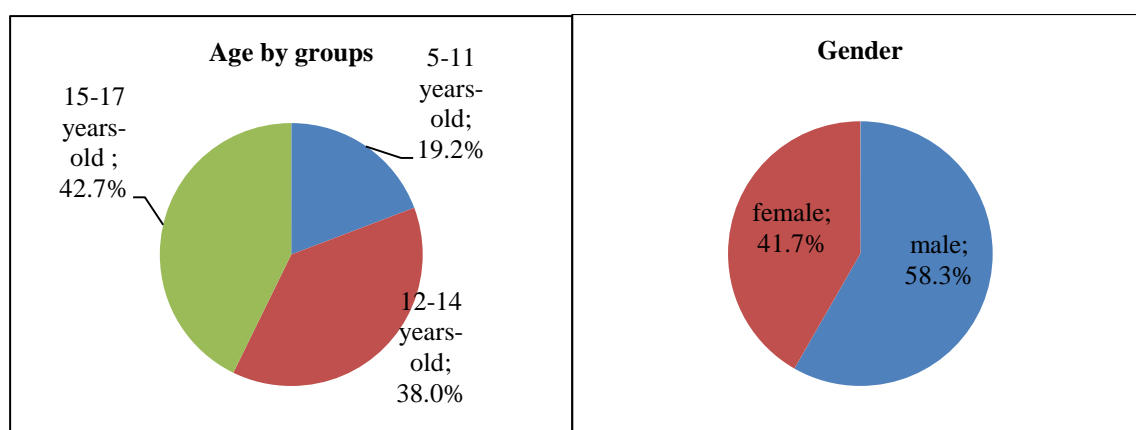
Chapter 3. Profile of child labourers and their families

3.1. Profile of children, identified by listing

According to the listing of working children, more child labourers are boys than girls. The target group consisted of 58% boys and 42% girls. Most probably this is related to the fact that girls are better doing household chores and taking care of younger children and boys may carry out heavy work (moving collected vegetables, boxes, sacks and bags with cotton) in the fields. The share of boys is especially high in Enbekshikazakh (63%) and Saryagash (69%) districts where vegetables are grown.

According to age groups children aged from 15 to 17 (42.7%) and 12 to 14 years (38%) predominate. However, 5- to 11-year-old children engaged in cotton and vegetable cultivation and made up 19.2%.

Diagram 4. Target group children by age and gender, N= 468



Source: data from the listing of 5- to 17-year-old child labourers in the agricultural sector.

3.2. Profile of working children interviewed in the survey

A total of 206 interviews with child labourers and 204 interviews with parents of working children were conducted. Part of the respondents in each of the studied oblasts denied the fact of engaging child labour and refused to answer the questionnaire. Based on the profiling of the children and their parents, we have gathered more detailed data on family, living conditions, attitudes towards child labour and other aspects of child labour in the agricultural sector.

Table 11. Child labour according to age groups

Agricultural sector		Age groups			Sex		Total
		5-11 y.o.	12-14 y.o.	15-17 y.o.	Boys	Girls	
N of children	Vegetables	22	40	59	73	48	10
	Tobacco*	-	5	5	8	2	75
	Cotton	16	29	30	41	34	10
	Total	38	74	94	122	84	206
Share, %	Vegetables	18.2	33.1	48.8	60.3	39.7	100%
	Tobacco*	-	50.0	50.0	80.0	20.0	100%

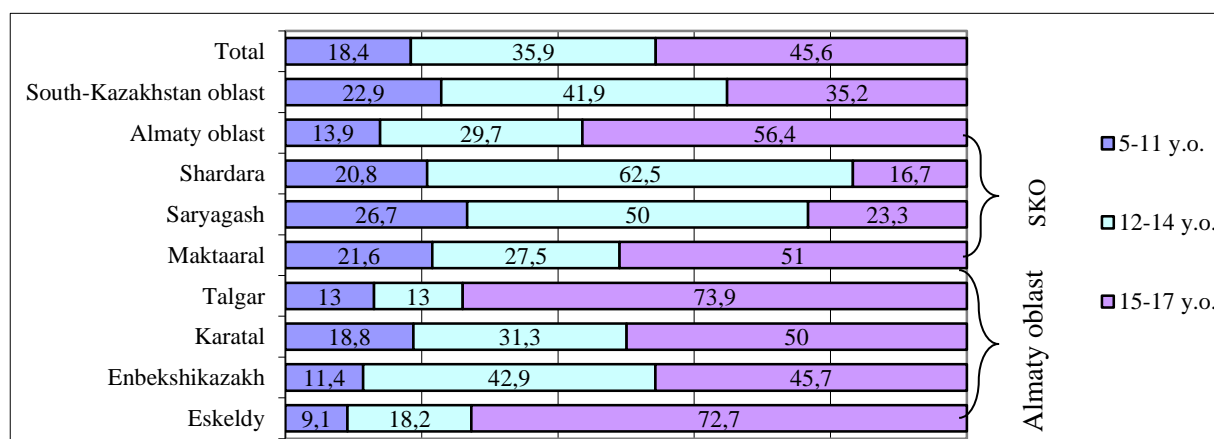
Agricultural sector		Age groups			Sex		Total
		5-11 y.o.	12-14 y.o.	15-17 y.o.	Boys	Girls	
	Cotton	21.3	38.7	40.0	54.7	45.3	100%
	Total	18.4	35.9	45.6	59.2	40.8	100%

Source: Profiling of all 5- to 17-year-old children. * including four children involved in vegetable cultivation in addition to tobacco.

In terms of gender, boys are prevalent. There were 60% boys and 40% girls among the interviewed working children. Girls do not work on vegetable loading or potato digging. Both boys and girls are involved in cotton cultivation, especially cotton harvesting. The types of work carried out by children do not differ depending on the child's sex.

The proportion of younger children from 5 to 14 years is higher in SKO than in Almaty oblast. This may be noted especially in vegetable fields in Saryagash district where 26.7% of child labourers were between the ages of 5 and 11 years. In South Kazakhstan oblast children from poor and large families start working in cotton cultivation when they are 5 to 6 years old. However, most child labourers in Shardara and Saryagash districts are under 14 years old – 83.3% and 76.7% respectively. In Almaty oblast the situation is better; there the majority of child labourers are children of 15 years and older (56.4%). In total the study found 18.4% of child labourers identified were between 5 and 11 years, 35.9% aged 12 to 14 years and 45.6% between 15 and 17 years.

Diagram 5. Age distribution of child labourers in the agricultural sector, in percent.

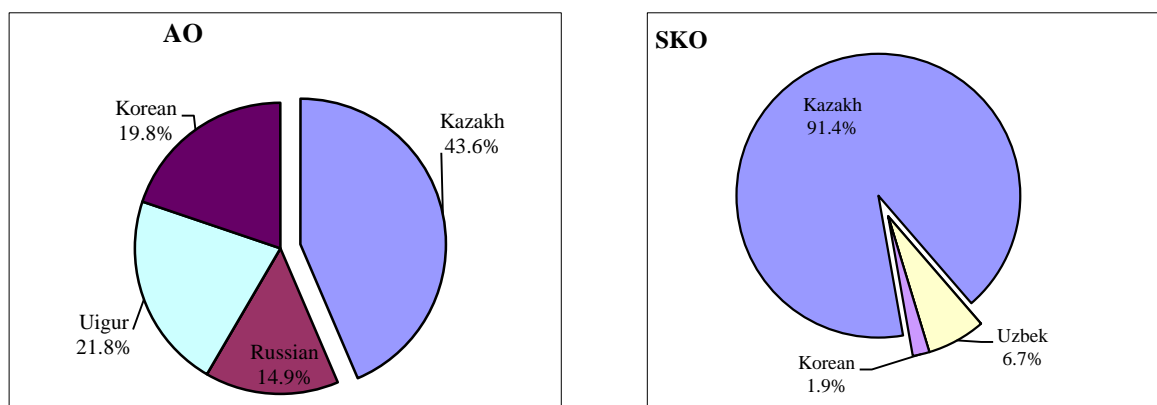


Sources: Profile of 206 child labourers in agricultural sector.

The ethnicity of interviewed children significantly differs in the two oblasts. Differences across the oblasts depend on the ethnic composition of the residents of each oblast.²³ In South Kazakhstan, child labourers are primarily of Kazakh (91.4%) nationality, but in Almaty oblast, the structure looks the following way in the ethnicity cross section: Kazakhs (43.6%), Uigurs (21.8%), Koreans (19.8%) and Russians (14.9%).

²³Based on the data of Statistics Agency, in 2009 in South Kazakhstan region the rural population was comprised mainly by Kazakhs (74.2%) and Uzbeks (18.1%). In Almaty region 70.1% were Kazakhs, 13.3% Russians, 9% Uigurs, 0.6% Koreans. Listing of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2009. Brief takeaways. Statistical collection.// Edited by A.A. Smailov, Astana, 2010, pp. 23-24.

Diagram 6. Percentage of child labourers in the agricultural sector by ethnicity

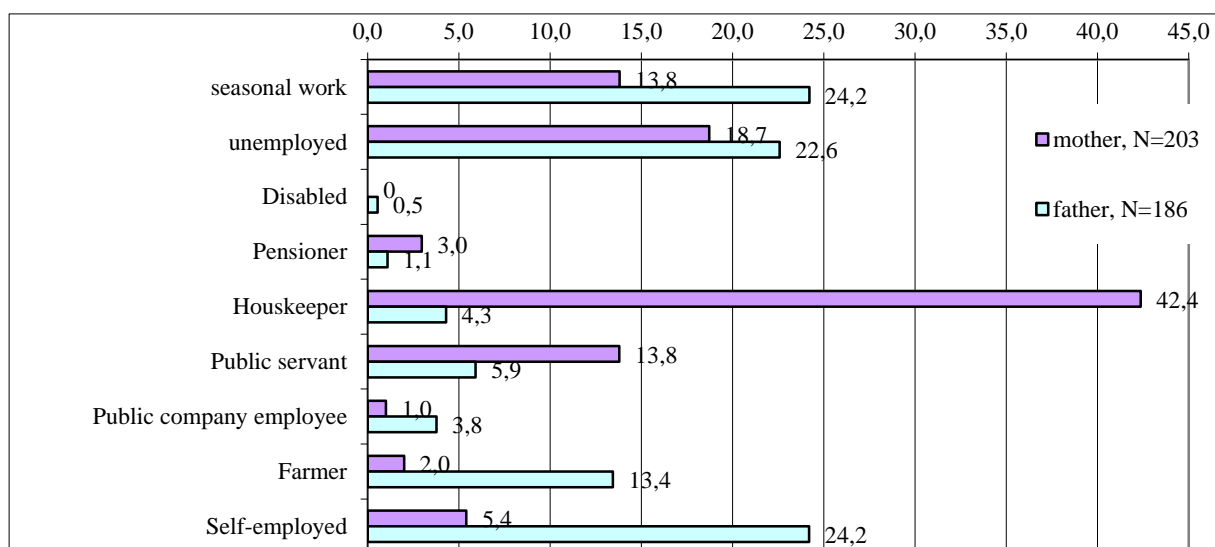


Source: Profile of 206 child labourers in agricultural sector.

Child labourers usually live in large families with many children.²⁴ The survey shows there are on average six people (from 4 to 12 people) in the family of a working child. 86% of children have siblings aged 5 to 17 years. Child labourers's parents are usually married (88.2%) or co-habit but have not officially registered their marriage (1.5%). A single mother or father may care for the child in 10.3% of the cases for the following reasons: widow/widower (5.9%), divorced (2.9%) or single (1.5%).

Most parents of working children have secondary education (66.3% of fathers and 62.6% of mothers) or professional vocational education (20.9% of fathers and 17.2% of mothers), and only 5.9% of fathers and 3.9% of mothers have higher education.

Diagram 7. Employment status of the parents of working children, by percentage



Source: Profiling of 204 parents.

The unemployment level is quite high among interviewed parents: 22.6% of fathers and 18.7% of mothers indicated their status as 'unemployed.' In addition, 15.6% of fathers and 8.4% of mothers do not have a permanent job and take up seasonal jobs. Among mothers, 42% are housewives who do not have any income while 24% of fathers/male guardians defined

²⁴ The section on family composition and economic status was written based on profiling the adult family members of working children: mothers (72.5%), fathers (18.1%), grandparents (5.9%) and other relatives such as sisters and uncles (2%) answered the questionnaire.

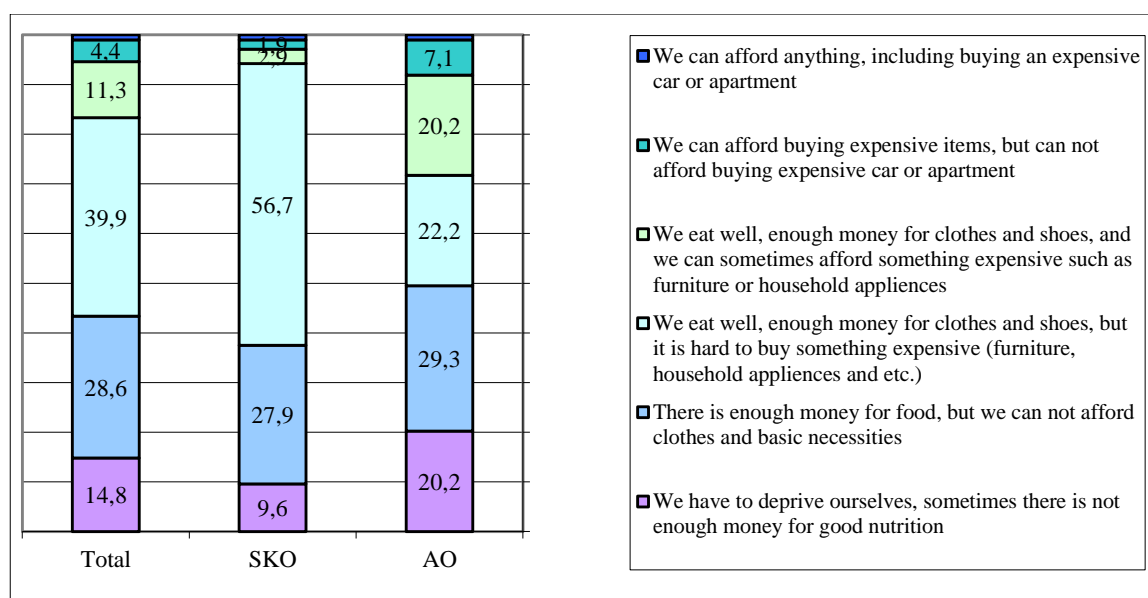
themselves as self-employed (taxi drivers, merchants, construction workers, etc.) and do not have stable income either (see Diagram 7).

Thus, only 20% of mothers and 24% of fathers among interviewed respondents have stable income as private company employees, government officials, retirees or farmers. The absence of stable income among other households defines these households as extremely vulnerable and low-income.

3.3. Families' economic situation and income sources

A family's income determines their economic status. According to the parents' assessments,²⁵ the parents of 43% of child labourers cannot provide for the most basic needs in food (28.6%), or clothes, shoes, or basic necessities (14.8%). About 50% of working children are from extremely poor households in Almaty oblast and in SKO, 38%.

Diagram 8. Households' economic status, in percent



Source: Profiling of 204 parents.

Households with low income are eligible for social assistance from the local budget. The amount of social assistance in Kazakhstan is extremely small and does not help families in overcoming poverty. However, even this small influx of money is a significant source of income for many poor families, especially if there are no other income sources. Forty percent of families with child labourers get benefits for low-income families and around 5% more get benefits for families with children. 27.4% of parents have noted that they get benefits for families with many children, 8.3% get targeted social assistance for poor, 4.9% get housing benefits for poor, 8.8% get benefits for children from low-income families and 2% get loss-of-breadwinner benefits (one family may be entitled to get paid several benefits).

Breeding livestock is another source of family income. Families living in rural areas quite often breed livestock for their own consumption. Among interviewed families 48.5% breed cows, 27% birds, 16.7% sheep and 10.8% horses. Rarely, families breed goats and pigs. A plot of land could be used as a source of income, which is done by 88.0% of households. In SKO, some of the household plots can be quite large – up to 0.5 hectares.

²⁵ The applied scheme of household well-being self-assessment has been developed and used by the Statistics Agency of RK when conducting household living standards survey.

Based on parent profiling, 26% of families have taken loans for various needs within the past 12 months. That is another factor that increases the vulnerability of these families.

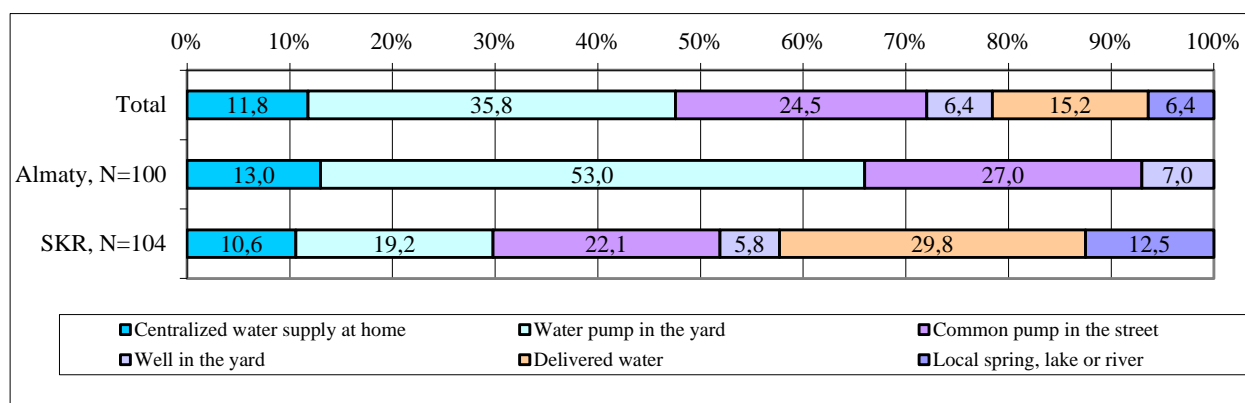
3.4. Living conditions

A detailed picture of the living conditions of families including child labourers will help create a better understanding of these families' well-being and to what extent the home environment is beneficial for the child's well-being.

Only 80% of families resides in their own house. The households are mostly heated by coal (91.5%) since this is the most affordable type of fuel for the poor. Some households use gas for heating which is a more expensive type of fuel (3.5%). The rest of the families use the cheapest type of fuel, dung (2.5%), firewood or illegally collect haloxylon (2.5%).

Only 11.8% of families have a centralized water supply. 35.8% have a water pump in their yards and 24.5 % use a public water pump in the street, while 15.2% buy water that is brought over and 6.4% bring water from a local spring, lake or river. The situation with water supply in South Kazakhstan oblast is significantly worse than in Almaty oblast. In SKO, 29.8% of families use imported water and 12.5% use water from local springs, lakes or rivers. According to parents' responses, 60% of families in SKO and 6% of families in AO do not have access to pure drinking water.

Diagram 9. Water sources in the households, in percent



Source: Profiling of 204 parents.

99% of the families have electricity. Regarding other things the amenities differ significantly between Almaty and South Kazakhstan oblast. In South Kazakhstan oblast, none of the surveyed households has hot water, a toilet inside the house, a centralized sewer or a septic tank in the yard. In Almaty oblast, 11.0% of respondents have hot water in the house, 3.0% have centralized sewer, 8.0% have a toilet inside the house and 30.0% have a septic tank in the yard.

In terms of possessing household appliances, most families only have a TV set (98%) and a cell phone (85.8%). There are significant differences in household appliance possession among the families in South Kazakhstan and Almaty oblasts. Families in Almaty oblast are more likely to have a refrigerator (91.0% of cases) than are families in SKO (44.2%), washing machine (68.0% in Almaty, 26% in SKO), vacuum cleaner (37.0% in Almaty, 8.7% in SKO), satellite antenna (37.0% of families in AO, in SKO only 3.8%), land line telephone (37.0% in AO, 11.5% in SKO) or personal computer (27.0% of families in Almaty oblast, 0% in SKO).

A child's own room provides him or her with personal space. Only 38.3% of children surveyed have their own rooms. There is quite a large disparity in this regard across districts (CLP). In SKO districts, the number of children who have their own rooms is quite low: 20.0% in Saryagash, 20.8% in Shardara and 27.5% in Maktaaral districts. This difference across Almaty and South Kazakhstan oblasts may be explained by the fact that in the southern regions of Kazakhstan there are a number of large families and quite often several children have to share one room. The overall number of girls having their own room is 3% lower than that of boys.

According to the survey results, quite often children do not have a separate table to do their homework assignments. Only 60% of children have a separate table to do homework assignments (49% in South Kazakhstan oblast compared to 73% in Almaty oblast). One child noted during the interview that he does his homework assignments sitting on the bed or on the floor (from in-depth interviews and interviewers' observations).

The economic situation of surveyed families shows that more than 70% of interviewed children live in bad living conditions. If the parents had money, they would spend all that money to buy food (50%), clothing (30.7%) and shoes (1.6 %) for their children and family. This data suggests that more than half of the families are extremely poor and they are not able to satisfy even the most basic needs for food, clothing and footwear.

Chapter 4. Child labour risks and consequences

Parents realize the threats that their children are susceptible to when working in vegetable, cotton or tobacco production. According to parents' opinions, it is very hard for children to work, especially for those younger than 14. Parents pity their children but unfortunately they do not see any other option: their children have to work because their families are very poor.

Parents believe that one of the negative consequences of child labour is missing classes at school. During the cotton harvesting season children from poor families have to skip school for several days in a row. Parents do not let their children go to school as it is important to complete harvesting on time and make money. Often parents try to avoid this by letting the child work during free time: in summer, during vacations, on Sundays and after classes are over.

According to parents, the main danger is the transport which brings their children to the fields. In South Kazakhstan oblast children get to work in the back of a tractor trailer or in carts. They are taken back home in the same transport. However, on the way back children have to sit on the sacks of cotton that they have picked. Whenever there are bumps on the road there is danger of falling off the trailer.

"Of course it is difficult. Especially it is hard for children aged 13 to 14 years. They are still young. However, if the parents do not have enough money and children need clothes, there is simply no other option but for children to work." (Almaty oblast, focus group discussions)

"We are forced to leave our children because we are unable to pick the cotton on time." (focus group discussions, SKO).

Parents also note health risks for their children. Sometimes children have skin or eye allergies to cotton dust and/or chemical fertilizers. Children are more vulnerable than adults to chemicals used during cotton and vegetable cultivation. This brings on risks to their health.

Long periods working in heat under the sun may lead to heat stroke for children, especially those of younger age. Insect, gnat and snake bites may also be dangerous. There are large quantities of wasps around cotton and vegetable fields. Children walk across cotton fields and prune in summer. High risk of being stung by wasps scares children. This is also true for snakes, especially in the mountainous regions.

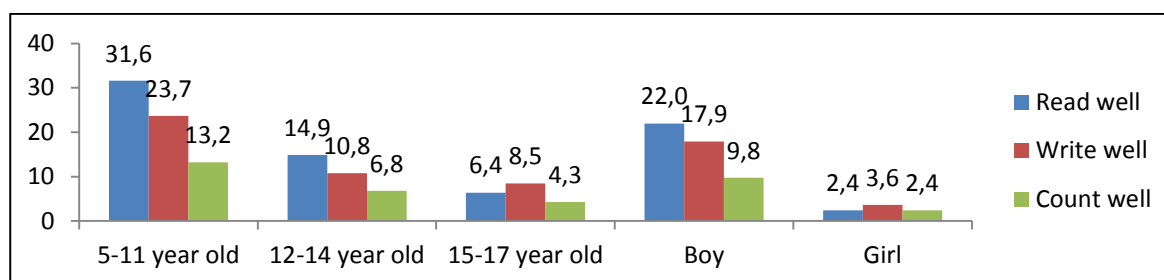
One more danger is that when children play they might throw cotton bolls (*kurak*) at each other. These cotton bolls are very hard and sometimes children become bruised.

4.1. Access to education

Good accessible education is the primary means for increasing the quality of life. Education is one of the most important factors of human development; it broadens people's opportunities for gaining knowledge and professional skills. A good education gives a good head start for children's future to earn more and provide for their family and to get out of poverty.

Basic education skills. According to the self-assessment of the children, many working children cannot read, write or count. Of 12- to 14-year-old children, 14.9% cannot read well, 10.8% cannot write well and 6.8% cannot count well. Among the 15- to 17-year-old children, 4.3% do not know how to count well, 8.5% how to write well and 6.4% how to read well. These basic skills are formed in elementary school. These children are deprived of basic skills.

Diagram 10. Share of the children who cannot read, write and count well by their own self-assessment, the proportion of children in each group by sex and age group, N = 206, in percent



Source: Profiling of children.

The most important components of accessible education for children are physical accessibility, quality of education at school, attending school regularly, diversification through additional education and the opportunity to get professional education. All of them are discussed below.

Availability of educational infrastructure. Among interviewed children, 10% (20 out of 206 children) attend school in neighbouring settlements or study in a boarding school. But only two children under the age of 14 reported that transport is not regular and it is very difficult to get to school. According to the parent profiling results, it is easy to get to school for 85% of children from the target group (93% in SKO and 77% in AO). The remaining 15% have difficulties in getting to school, including one child who does not attend school because of this.

School attendance. According to the listing of 5- to 17-year-old children, most of the children from the target group are pupils and enrolled at school (94% of children), 1.5% finished 9 or 11 grades and do not study anymore, 4% are studying in college, and 0.2% are preschool children. The remaining 0.2% are those who should study in school according to their age, but do not. The data on age group of child labourers according to the listing²⁶ are shown in the table.

Coverage of child labourers under the age of 14²⁷ of basic school education is rather high (99.6%). Providing a system of universal education is a great merit of teachers, school administrations and the Departments of School Education of Ministry of Education and Science of Republic of Kazakhstan. Parents noted that school attendance is strictly monitored by school administrations.

Table 12. School attendance by 5- to 17-year-old children in the current academic year, according to the listing, in percent

School attendance	Not child labourers N=3347	Siblings N=314	Target group (child labourers)		By age groups (child labourers according to the listing)		
			By listing N=468	By interview N=206	5-11 years-old	12-14 years-old	15-17 years-old
Do not attend school, pre-school age	9.4	18.2	0.2	0.5	15.7	-	-
Attending a school (from 1st to 11 th grade)	89.1	78.3	94.0	88.3	84.0	99.6	90.3
Have finished 9 th grade, does not study anymore	0.1	0.3	1.3	5.8	-	-	1.5
Have finished 11 th grade, does not	0.1	0	0.2	0.5	-	-	0.4

²⁶ The survey did not involve the children who have to study by their age, but do not. For this reason, only the data of listing of 5- to 17-year-old children might be considered.

²⁷ Nine grades of secondary school, which is equal to secondary education.

School attendance	Not child labourers N=3347	Siblings N=314	Target group (child labourers)		By age groups (child labourers according to the listing)		
			By listing N=468	By interview N=206	5-11 years-old	12-14 years-old	15-17 years- old
study anymore							
Attending professional technical school, college, vocational school	1.1	1.3	4.1	4.4	-	-	7.3
Should attend school by age, but do not	0.1	1.9	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.2
Home schooling, because of disability	0.1	0	0	0.5	0.1	0	0.2
All	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

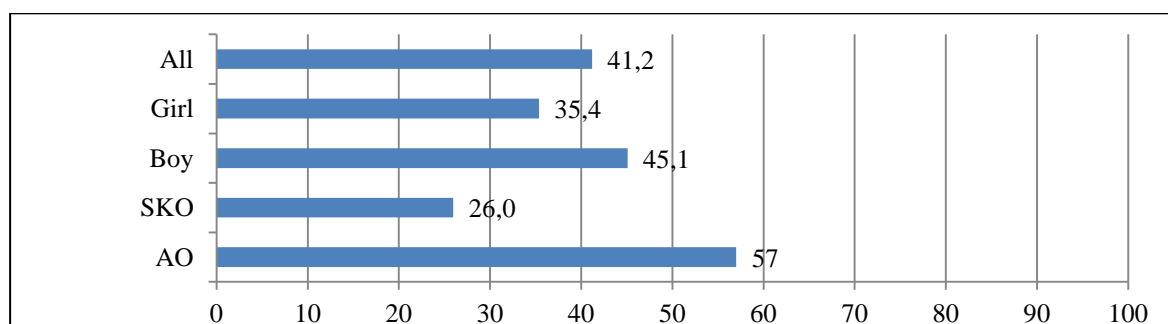
Source: The listing of 5- to 17-year-old children in the HH, N = 4129 and child labourers survey results N = 206.

Children from the target group (child labourers and their siblings) have less access to secondary and professional education than other children. This conclusion is reached by comparing children from non-targeted groups (not working) with the target group of children (child labourers in the agriculture and their siblings). For example, 1.3% of children from the target group completed only 9th grade and do not study anymore and another 0.2% of children completed the 11th grade and do not study anymore. Among the non-target groups of these children there are only 0.3% and 0%, respectively.

The quality of education. Quality education is the most important component of accessibility of education for children. 67% of parents rate the quality of education as good or excellent, 31% satisfactory and 2% of parents are not happy with the quality of education for their children.

Accessibility of professional education. According to the FGD results many parents are not able to give a child a decent education and opportunity to acquire a profession in a college or vocational school. Thus, according to the family survey results, only 41% of parents could afford to educate their 14- to 17-year-old children in a college or professional school (26% of such children are in the South Kazakhstan oblast and 57% in Almaty oblast). Boys could get such education to a greater extent than girls.

Diagram 11. Percent of parents who would be able to educate their 14- to 17-year-old child in college or VTS (Vocational technical school) N = 204

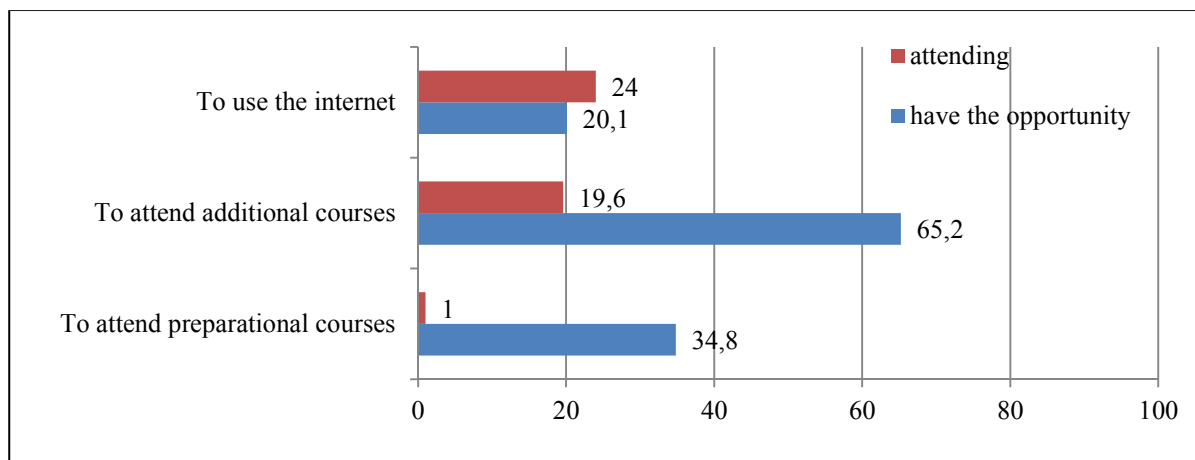


Source: Profiling of 204 parents.

Extracurricular education. Extracurricular education is only available for 65% of the target-group children, but the percentage of children who are getting it is not more than 19.6%. About 24% of children use the Internet and only about 1% attend extracurricular courses. Extracurricular education and training courses are not available for the children from the target group in the majority of researched settlements. And this is one of the main causes of child

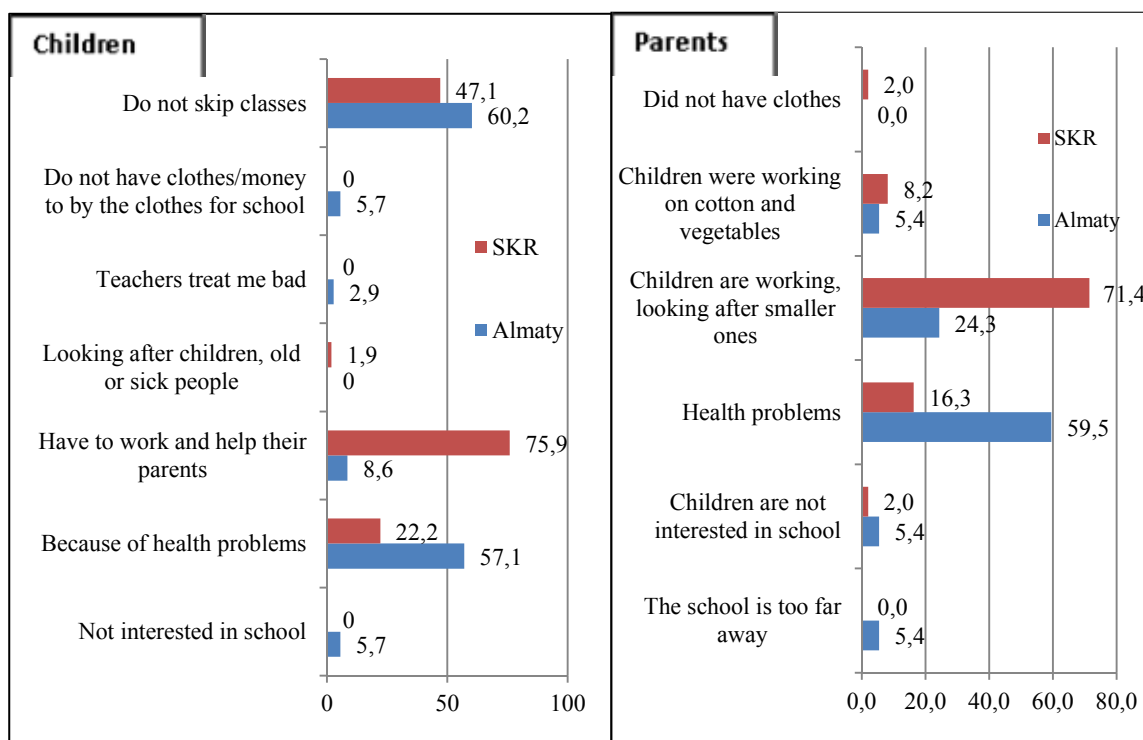
labour. Children have nothing to do and in order not to let them get caught in bad company parents insist on their working. On the other hand, some children cannot attend extra classes because they are involved in child labour.

Diagram 12. Availability of extracurricular education, N = 206, in percent



Source: Profiling 204 parents. There are no statistically significant differences in child's sex and age.

Diagram 13. The reasons for not attending the school by children from the target group according to parents and children themselves, in percent



Source: Profiling 206 child labourers in agriculture - Source: Profiling 204 parents.

Reasons for not attending school. About 55% of children miss classes. 15- to 17-year-old children miss classes in 57% of cases, whereas 7- to 11-year-old children miss only in 25% of cases. Thus, 60% of children in AO and 47% of children in SKO noted that they do not miss lessons. In the cotton areas of Southern Kazakhstan, 76% of children said that they miss school because they have to earn money and help their parents. As for parents, only 8% of them admit that children had to work on the fields.

According to the in-depth interviews and FGDs, children from poor, needy or disadvantaged families are more likely to skip classes. Parents said that sometimes they ask schools to let their children take time off since their households cannot afford food and children have to earn money. During these days, children labour in cotton and vegetables. But some children do not want to study, do not obey their parents and instead of studying they go to work in the fields. Some parents may not have known about such situation.

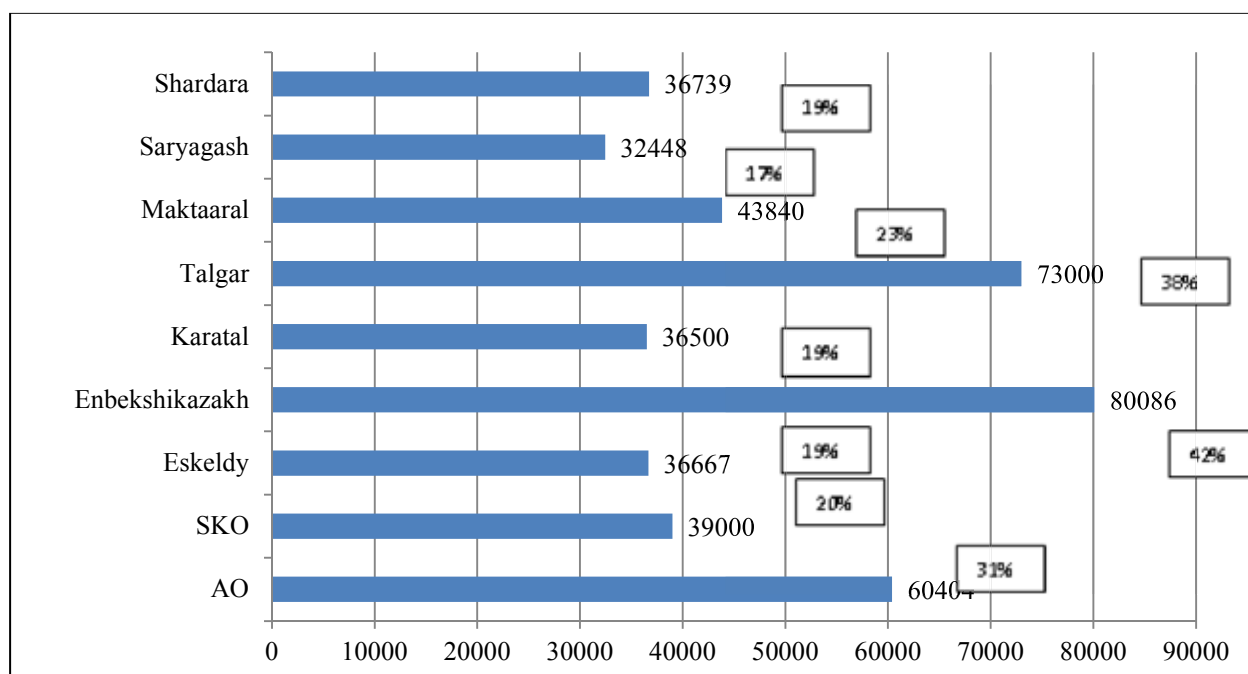
On the whole about 50% of interviewed children stop working when the school year begins: 64% of child labourers in vegetables, 22% in cotton and 50% in tobacco. Others work before or after school or on week-ends. Some children (12%) continue to work, missing school sometimes.

“Nowadays, it is very hard to provide the education for children. Just think about education: actually it is free, but at the same time you need money for textbooks, clothing, school fund.”
(FGD with parents, AO)

Many child labourers cannot prepare school homework on time. Thus, 70% of child labourers in cotton said that they do their homework late at night, 1.4% on class breaks. 23% of child labourers in vegetables do their homework late at night, 1.8% do not have time to do it at all and 0.9% do it on class breaks.

Educational expenses. Currently, secondary education in Kazakhstan is provided free of charge. However, each parent carries lots of expenses to get the child ready for school. Often, parents' income is insufficient to cover these costs. This forces parents to accept the fact that children also have to earn money.

Diagram 14. The amount of educational expenses needed per child for the past academic year, in tenge, and its share of the minimum wage, in percent



Source: Profiling of 204 parents.

According to the parent profiling results, education costs for one school year are about 25%

of the annual minimum wage,²⁸ or about 49,000 tenge. By region, they are about 39,000 tenge (20% of the annual minimum wage) in SKO and more than 60,000 tenge (31%) in Almaty oblast.

4.2. Access to healthcare services

Out of 29 settlements where the research was conducted, there are no medical facilities in three settlements. Parents reported that the following medical services are available in the settlements: child immunization (89%), emergency (70%), newborn care (78%), paediatric services (67%), dentist (32%) and surgeon (16%). As noted by local residents, healthcare services are less accessible in rural areas than in urban areas.

The quality of medical services. Forty percent of parents are not satisfied with healthcare services. According to them, there is a shortage of competent professionals in particular specialties, no pharmacy, and it is difficult to get qualified medical care in an emergency situation. Some parents were asked bribes at medical facilities.

Parents tend to believe that their children are healthy. However, more than 10% of child labourers in cotton have felt fatigue and tiredness, snake and insect bites, or backache. Child labourers in vegetables also feel fatigue and tiredness, and headache were indicated by about 20% of children. Less than 10% of children working in vegetables suffer from back pain, overall poor health and sunstroke, etc. The child labourers in tobacco had breathing and eye problems.

Table 13. Health problems, indicated by children (N = 206) and their parents (N = 197) according to child employment sectors, in percent

Kinds of health problems	Based on children's answers			Based on parents' answers		
	Working on vegetables	Working on cotton	Working on tobacco*	Working on vegetables	Working on cotton	Working on tobacco*
Allergy/ itchy skin	5.0	-	20.0	1.8	-	20.0
Stomach problems/diarrhea	3.3	-	-	3.5	-	-
Strain, fatigue	20.7	14.7	10.0	14.0	17.6	
Sunstroke	6.6	8.0	10.0	8.8	5.9	10.0
Headaches / dizziness	19.8	9.3		10.5	7.4	-
Backache	8.3	12.0	10.0	5.3	1.5	-
Burn, scalds or frostbite	0.8	-	-	-	-	-
Respiratory disease (breathing problems)	1.7	2.7	10.0			10.0
Eyes problems	1.7	4.0	10.0	0.9	1.5	10.0
Superficial injuries or open wounds	3.3	4.0	-	0.9	1.5	-
Sprains or stains, dislocations	0.8		-	-		-
Poor health	7.4	1.3	-	7.9	1.5	-
High temperature/fever	5.0	1.3	-	-	4.4	-
Insects and snakes bites	0.8	12.0	-	2.6	5.9	-
No problem	60.3	69.3	50.0	72.8	77.9	70.0

*Since there were only 10 child labourers in tobacco, the statistics do not entirely reliable due to a small sample.

²⁸ The minimum wage per month is approved by the Law of RK about the budget for the current year; in 2011 it was 15,990 tenge per month, about 109 U.S. Dollars.

If a child was injured working in the field, 57% of children got medical help (62% of boys and 52% of girls). When children got injured at a workplace they got help from parents (69% of children), adults working in the field (15.2%) or a foreman (1.5%). They can also get help from friends and siblings (7.6%). Three percent of children have been assisted by doctors. Another 3% of children responded that they were never helped.

According to the results of FGD with parents, there are no medical staff in the fields. Parents believe that if a child were injured medical assistance would be rendered to their children. The parents said that they treat their children themselves at first and then, if they see something serious, go to the doctor.

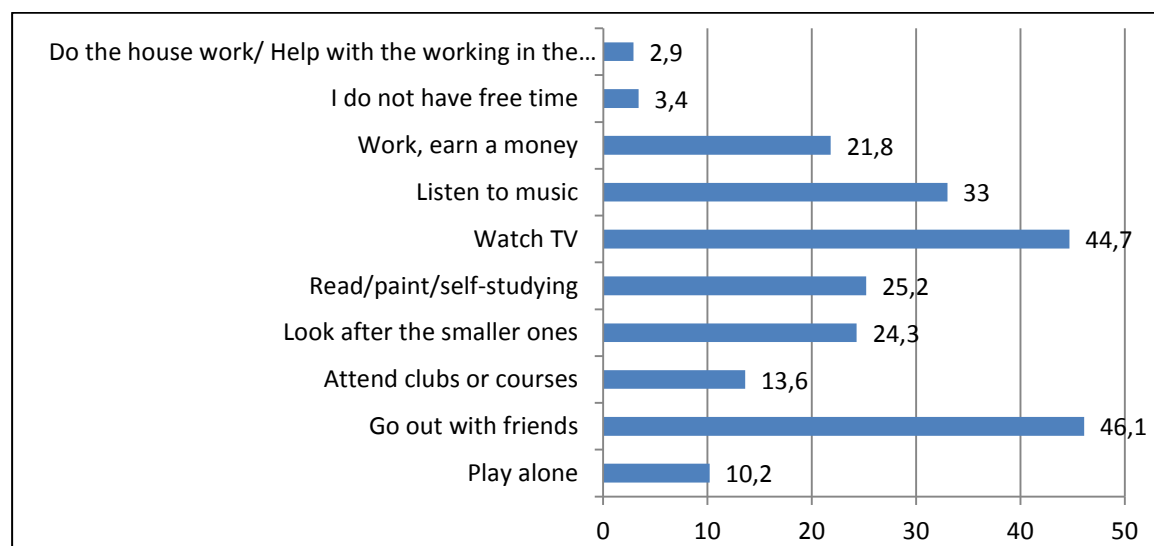
"I treat my child myself at home, if I see something serious I take him to the doctor. Now, due to advertising, children themselves know what medicine to take." (FGD with parents, AO)

4.3. Child needs (leisure time, difficulties, desires)

One of the questions of the child survey asked children about their free time and how they pass it. According to the children's responses, some of them do not even realize that they have a right to free time, which they can spend for recreation and self-education.

Thirty percent of interviewed girls and 16% of boys confirm that work takes all their spare time. Three percent of children said that they do housework in their free time, 3.4% indicated that they have no free time, and 21.8% that they are working and earning money. Twenty-four percent take care of younger children.

Diagram 15. How do the children spend their leisure time, N = 206, in percent



Source: Profiling of 206 child labourers in agriculture.

Children perceive working in the fields primarily as an opportunity to earn money for themselves (65%). This means that most of these children are experiencing problems with money and unsatisfied needs: not enough money for food (9.7% of children), or clothing (26%), they do not have anything to wear to school (14%), or they lack school supplies (5%).

Fifty-two percent of children have access to sports sections and 56.4% to extracurricular education. But only 1.5% of the children are involved in sports and 11.8% in extracurricular education. One of the main causes of child labour is the lack or absence of additional education

or training in the sections, clubs or preparatory courses available for target-group children.. Children have nothing to do and in order not to let them get caught in bad company parents insist on their working.

Table 14. How the children from the target group spend their leisure time, N = 204, in percent

	Almaty Oblast				South Kazakhstan Oblast		
	Eskeldy N=10	Enbekshikazakh N=35	Karatal N=32	Talgar N=23	Maktaaral N=51	Saryagash N=30	Shardara N=23
Do not participate in any activities	90.0	20.0	75.0	60.9	52.9	66.7	43.5

Source: Profiling of 204 parents.

About 54% of parents reported that their children do not engage in any extracurricular education. There are regional differences by surveyed CLP. The situation with extracurricular education is very complicated in all districts except for Enbekshikazakh district (AO) and Shardara district (SKO).

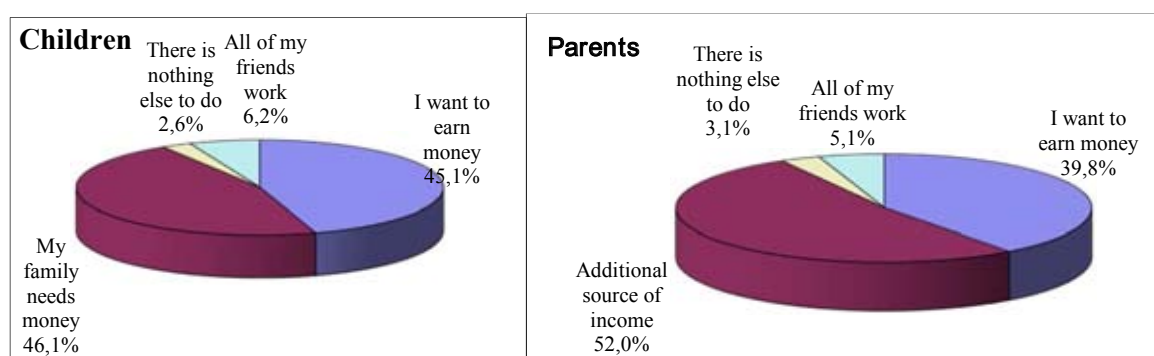
Local residents of settlements in South Kazakhstan oblast indicated that they are lacking child sections, clubs, sports stadiums and cultural facilities, playgrounds, recreation areas for children, and domestic clubs. The children could spend their free time and get a more diverse extracurricular education. Local population noted that, unfortunately, they cannot influence the local authorities' decisions and measures and make them take into consideration their needs.

Chapter 5. How to prevent child labour

5.1. Causes of child labour

The main reasons for child labour are family poverty and unemployment of adult members of the family. The main causes of child labour according to the opinion of surveyed children are poverty and lack of money in the household (46%) and desire to earn money (45%). Parents are more inclined to think that child labour is rather an additional income to family budget (52%) than just simple desire to earn money (39.8%).

Diagram16. Distribution of children's responses to the question "Why does the child work?" in percent



Source: Profiling of 206 child labourers in agriculture and Profiling of 204 parents. *Only a part of responses are reflected in the diagram.

According to focus group discussion findings and in-depth interviews, local residents believe that it is most often children from vulnerable, single-parent, migrant or large families who have to work. If there are no jobs in companies and organizations in the village, the adult population may not be able to find a job. In this case adult members have to go to larger cities to earn money. Their children stay with their grandparents and other relatives. Children have to work in order to help their families survive and feed themselves.

Unsatisfied needs of children due to family's low income strengthen the involvement of children in labour. Another widespread reason for child labour is that the

"I believe that these are the children from low income households where adults do not have a regular job. Children from large families are also forced to work because of poverty. At times adults may not even know that their children are working." (interview with parent during filling in questionnaire, AO)

children want to make their own money

(45% of children and 38% of adults). Not all of these children come from extremely poor families, but neither do they have sufficient money to cover their needs. Since these children earn the money to pay for their own clothes and school supplies they help their families make more money.

An oralman (repatriate) family from Afghanistan was identified during the study. It is a family with five children including two twins. The children are forced to work since the family is extremely poor. The twin boys take turns working in cotton cultivation: while one of them is working the other one goes to school and in the evening he retells the themes they have covered at school to his brother who had missed school. The next day they switch. The twins' father works with the children at cotton fields. According to him, the family would die of starvation if the children stopped working. (interview with parent during filling in questionnaire, SKO).

Lack of alternative ways to spend leisure time also contributes to child labour spreading. Some children work merely because there is nothing else that they can occupy themselves with (2.6% of children and 3.1% of adults). This is especially true for older 15- to 17-year-old children. Another reason for them to start working is because all of their friends also work (6.3% of children and 4.9% of adults).

In the researched settlements, social and cultural infrastructure is underdeveloped: there are no accessible sports sections, clubs and places for children's rest and entertainment. Children do not have any options as to what to do during their leisure time. This is why many children go to work in order to 'kill' time – both to earn some money and to socialize with their friends.

Influence of parents, traditions and mentality have a big impact on the involvement of the children in work. Parents play the most important role when involving their children in work: 60% of parents work with their child.

Some parents come from low income families and usually they insist that their child work if the family or its relatives have a field of their own – then all members of the family work there together. Children in that case play the role of an additional labour force.

Some children work in fields that belong to their families, relatives or neighbours; they do simple work and help their parents. In this case, they work on the family enterprise and help parents/relatives. From the parents' point of view, this is not child labour, but a part of labour education.

"Our children go to work when we start picking potatoes, cabbages or cucumbers in our fields. We bring children with us in order to complete the work on time. Of course children are not much help, but still this is some help at least. We hire adults to do heavy work." (interview with parent during filling in questionnaire, SKO)

On the other hand, some parents send their child to work on purpose, so that the child has something to do and does not aimlessly walk around the village risking getting into bad company. This is why most of the villagers do not view child labour as something negative but rather as something of preventive and educational nature. It is through work that the child learns to love working and be responsible for his/her family, which is, in parents' opinion, necessary for the child's life in the future.

According to Muslim traditions, especially in rural areas, it is mandatory for children to get used to working starting in early childhood. It is believed that a 13-year-old girl should be able to cook meals and clean while boys should be able to do manly tasks.

Most of the parents worked in cotton, vegetable or tobacco cultivation in their childhood (61%). Reasons for child labour, according to parents' responses, were the same: (a) the family lived in poverty, (b) they were growing up in a family with many children and the family had financial problems, (c) children were helping their parents to earn money. The parents used to work in the same way in their childhood and even knowing about the prohibitions,

"In rural areas, the fact that the child works in cotton is regarded as something normal. You should agree that this is something much better than if the child got into bad company and did something bad." (FGD with parent, SKO)

they do not consider their children's work at cotton or vegetable fields the worst forms of child labour. In their opinion, the child has to be taught how to work, and labour all by itself carries an educational aspect to it. Moreover, nowadays, urban parents send their children to the village for them to learn job skills, aimed at getting work experience (labour education) and to protect them

from drugs, alcohol and gaming. But in the case of work in cotton, tobacco or vegetables, an explanatory work should be provided for this group of parents.

The results of focus group discussions and interviews confirm that the local community generally endorse and support the involvement of children in work, not realizing that these are the worst forms of child labour. Only 2% on average said that surrounding people's attitude is negative towards the fact that the child has to work.

Who makes the decision for the child to work? According to children's responses, most have made this decision independently (76% of children), in 19% of cases the decision was made by the parents or guardians, and in 3.4% of cases with the influence of friends.

It is more often that the parents make decisions about work for the boys than the girls (14.5% of girls compared to 22% of boys). According to the study results, it is up to the child to make an independent decision to work and one has to provide consultations regarding possible threats and the worst forms of child labour not only to the parents but also to the children (for instance during classes at school).

Employers are aware that it is prohibited to use child labour in cotton and tobacco cultivation, and that child labour in vegetables is permitted only under specific conditions. In general, most employers deny they use child labour. Those employers who recognized that they employ children (in vegetables) reported that they comply with all terms and conditions of employment legislation.

Representatives of local government, public health service, the Department of Child Protection and school administrators have a negative attitude to the existence child labour in society. Local authorities run an active propaganda campaign against child labour and in many ways require the public to avoid child labour.

5.2. Offers of the communities' representatives

What can help prevent the use of child labour, and particularly its worst forms? Local residents, parents, community leaders, employers, representatives from healthcare, education and law enforcement bodies, and NGOs were interviewed about the alternatives to child labour in the agricultural regions of Kazakhstan during the survey. As a result, the following alternatives have been proposed.

Organizing domestic clubs, students' houses, clubs, sports clubs and extracurricular education facilities. The research revealed that some children are involved in child labour (in vegetables and cotton) only because they have nowhere to spend their leisure time. Additional education, training in the sections, clubs and preparatory courses are almost inaccessible for children in these villages. In rural areas there are no clubs, sports facilities and places for recreation and entertainment for children. The parents insist on children working instead of getting caught in "bad" company. Yard clubs, groups and sections organized in the summer and autumn can provide youth recreation.

Jobs and overcoming poverty. Public representatives and local residents believe that the most effective alternative to child labour is decent jobs for adults, especially in rural areas. It is necessary to provide adult populations with work, the income from which would allow anyone to support his family. The government should take the necessary measures to provide the working

age population with jobs. This is especially important for those who have only temporary, impermanent or seasonal earnings.

"The family has the own field, growing corn and tobacco on it. There are 4 children in the family, two of whom have been disabled since childhood. For this reason they do not attend school. All four children do not match their ages. The family is very poor and sometimes they don't even have money for food. The oldest 16-year-old disabled girl helps with working on tobacco for 4-5 hours a day. She does not go to school. The family does not receive any social assistance, but the mother wanted the family to be helped with it. Despite the fact that children are in poor health, parents continue to grow tobacco, putting their children's health in danger." (interview with parent during filling in questionnaire, AO)

Decent child benefits and accessible social assistance for families with many children. Social assistance in the form of child benefits can serve as an alternative to child labour. The majority of families with child labourers do not rely on social benefits from the government. Firstly, the amount of child benefit for low-income families is very low. Secondly, it is very difficult to get eligibility for it, especially in rural areas.

Currently, benefits do not help a poor family in supporting a child and preventing child labour. Government (represented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection) should review benefits and make the amount more appropriate for social security of extremely poor families with children.

Income in the form of child benefits may be an alternative to child labour if the payments were to be conditional. That is, benefits should be paid only if the parents guarantee that they will avoid child labour.

Summer camp vouchers for children could serve not only as a form of social assistance, but also as a viable alternative to child labour.

Conducting explanatory work with parents

Parents are the ones who decide whether children should or should not work. Sometimes, the parents do not realize the dangers associated when the child is engaged in cotton or working next to tobacco that is being dried. Parents do not realize that these are the worst forms of child labour. Outreach to educate parents on the types of dangers to children in the cotton farms and working with tobacco would help to reduce the amount of child labour in these areas.

Introducing new technologies to Kazakhstan's agricultural sector. The research has shown that there is a great need for manual labour and there is a shortage of workers during the harvest season in the agricultural sector in Kazakhstan. This leads to the use of child labour. Mechanizing agriculture and introducing the latest Western technology would help to reduce manual labour.

An alternative to child labour in agriculture

"We can collect cotton almost completely with combines. We must adopt innovative foreign technologies in growing cotton. With this technique, cotton is processed by special chemicals and 90% of boxes on a bush open up simultaneously. They can be collected at one time with a combine. There will be no need for working one field a few times. The remaining 10% of cotton can be collected manually. But for a start we should test this approach on the test field, which is why we need support from the local authorities. That means that the use of child labour in cotton fields can only be avoided if it becomes unprofitable for the employer. And for that, we have to make mechanized cotton collection profitable for the employer, and then there will be no demand for child labour." (IDI with NGO representatives, SKO)

For example, today there are technologies that allow collecting cotton on six-thousand hectares of land with the use of only nine people. In Kazakhstan, many people are required for manual collection of cotton. Currently, combines collect only the top and the opened buds. As noted above, the cotton ripens in stages and

combines need to be run a few times on a single field. It is not profitable for the employer from the financial point of view, to run the combine constantly. Employers prefer to pay for harvesting by hand. Public representatives believe that we can avoid using child labour only if all the latest technology and new agricultural techniques (mini-combines, tractors) will be provided to cotton cultivation and collection of cotton, which will reduce manual collection. But for this to happen, mechanized work has to become more cost-effective for farmers than manual. This cannot happen without support from local authorities.

Using modern mini-tractors and mini-harvesters to collect vegetables would allow farmers to avoid manual labour. But there is a need to make use of the technology more cost-effective than manual labour. The cost of agricultural machinery is high, and it can only be bought by well-provided households. Only government support for small farms could help farmers to acquire the latest technology (mini-tractors and mini-harvesters) at discounted prices.

Sorting, drying, and lacing tobacco require manual labour and is now being done in the yards of homes where people live. As an alternative, these types of work could be carried out in specially constructed storage and drying facilities, where tobacco growers could rent a place for a low cost. In this case, the children clearly could not be involved in hazardous forms of work. Local authorities could undertake efforts to build storage facilities for tobacco.

Making use of child labour in society unprofitable or even completely eliminating it can be done through the introduction of light work for children aged 14 years and above taking into consideration Kazakhstani labour law.

As an alternative to child labour it is necessary to develop a set of organizational and economic measures to encourage employers not to use child labour. Such measures could include, for example, tax breaks, preferential loans, providing leasing of agricultural machinery at reduced rates, etc.

5.3. Local authorities' role in eliminating child labour

In the course of the research, informants identified the following measures taken by local authorities to prevent child labour: The most common measure is conducting information and advocacy campaigns. Representatives of local *akimats*, schools and hospitals are constantly doing outreach to residents about the illegality of child labour. In some settlements, city officials take an oral pledge from parents that their children will not be involved in work. As a result of these activities, almost all parents are aware of the illegality of involving children in cotton and tobacco cultivation and restrictions on age and duration of work on vegetables. However, if a family is in a hopeless situation, the parents simply hide the fact that their children work, but continue to involve them in work.

“The local administration took an oral pledge from us that we will not force our children to work.” (interview with parent during filling in questionnaire, SKO)

As has been noted by members of the public, NGOs and employers, local authorities actively work with employers, i.e. the owners of the fields. Local administrations warn employers not to recruit children during the school year. Employers who violate this warning are punished with fines and reprimands. As a result of these actions, all employers are aware of the worst forms of child labour. Many of them prefer to involve migrants from neighbouring countries into work, especially in vegetables and tobacco. And, according to local people, currently the spread of child labour in the agricultural sector has slightly decreased compared to 3 to 5 years earlier.

Local authorities and school officials conduct a program of universal education (education for all). The Department of Education issues an order against involvement of children in cotton cultivation and against missing lessons. School attendance is strictly monitored by school administrators. Most of the residents in South Kazakhstan oblast noted that the measures taken by the government are effective. Previously, most of the children had been missing classes during the harvest; now they rarely miss classes because of work on cotton. However, according to local NGOs, employment of children on cotton in SKO still continues.

“The prohibitions had an effect. Previously, parents would not let their children go to school because of the harvest. Now they do not miss classes.” (interview with parent during filling in questionnaire, SKO)

In addition, local authorities and the Department of Child Protection conduct raids on schools and the surrounding fields. In case of children working on the field during the school time, strict measures are to be taken against parents: they write explanatory notes and are intimidated by administrative fines. This activity affects the parents.

However, in the most surveyed settlements, according to residents, that was the only measure taken by local authorities. For example, more than half of parents in South Kazakhstan oblast say that the work by local authorities is limited to ensuring that children do not go to work in the field.

Then how else can the local authorities help in solving the problem of child labour? According to parents' opinions (80%), local authorities could assist in the creation of recreation places for the youth. For example, in the opening of children's clubs, sports clubs, domestic clubs, in creating opportunities for recreation for children and sports. Currently, parents in Almaty oblast believe that local authorities are doing nothing to set the conditions for recreation places. Only nine parents (0.5%) in Almaty oblast indicated that local authorities are trying to create conditions for children in the form of free sports sections in schools, opening sports or music schools, and organizing parties.

“Local administration has forbidden employment of children of school age. There is a special commission in the District Governor's office conducting the raids. In cases identifying children working during the studying process, or simply working in the field, explanatory conversations with their parents will be conducted.” (interview with parent during filling in questionnaire, SKO)

“Local authorities can only help with allowances for large families and disabled. They could also organize clubs, sections and repair the library. They could provide lands and facilities for this.” (interview with parent during filling in questionnaire, SKO)

Parents from South Kazakhstan oblast indicate that child benefits would be the best type of help. Benefits would increase the welfare of the family and would reduce or eliminate the need for children to work. Provision of child benefits, indeed, could help to address the child labour issue. In order to avoid any dependency trends, it is necessary to study and learn from the experience of providing **conditional cash** payments of the BOTA Foundation, which provides

cash allowances to poor families in certain circumstances (for example, children must attend school, women should be examined regularly in the clinic, etc.) Child benefits might be provided under the parents' guarantee that they will not involve children in labour.

According to officials of the Department of Child Protection, the issue of child labour cannot be addressed solely by local authorities' efforts. There is a need for help of the civil society that can provide training to people and raise awareness to prevent child labour.

5.4. Role of public organizations in protection of child rights

Most parents do not know and have never heard of social organizations working in their communities to protect children's rights. Respondents said that the NGOs may operate only in large cities of Kazakhstan.

However, some parents have come across and know about the activities of NGOs. There are societies of the soldiers who served in Afghanistan, the council of elders and NurOtan Party operating in some settlements in Almaty oblast. They are involved in charity work and help poor families. Parents and children from the Enbekshikazakh district said that the Philip Morris Kazakhstan had provided vouchers to summer camp to children from low-income families. In the Maktaaral district in SKO parents mentioned the activities of the council of elders in their village, and local NGO Sana Sezim, which is engaged in helping children from poor families and conducts classes on Economic Education for Children.

“The elder of our village runs the so-called “public fund”. Each family passes 250 tenge each month to this fund. The fund allocates money for various needs of the community: (1) to conduct weddings, funerals, (2) repair of the road, (3) the purchase of medications for patients, and (4) assistance to orphans and poor families. However, this amount will need to be returned back (by parts, without the specific terms and conditions, at the time when the family will be able to do this). Assistance to poor families from the Fund is conducted 2 times a year in spring and summer.” (FGD with parent, Maktaaral region, SKO)

There is an interesting example of Council of Elders (aksakals), which is operating in rural areas of SKO. Elders (Bi) play an important role in resolving social issues. The Elder is chosen by the voting of residents in the village. The task of the elders is helping poor families to regulate disputes, advising the villagers and controlling public funds. Local authorities inform the people through these elders that children should not work. The Elder is respected and his words are listened to; the words of elders in the village are like law. But, despite this, they cannot prohibit child labour as many local residents own fields and children work on those fields.

Non-governmental organizations operating in the regions could make a significant contribution to address the child labour issues:

- conducting trainings, developing a negative public attitude towards child labour in parents, children and the public, and explaining what harm it can cause to the younger generation's health,
- participating in the organization of children's leisure
- assisting in addressing poor families' problems.

Conclusions and recommendations

Some limitations of the research data should be noted. *Purposive* (non-random deterministic method) sampling settlement (in SKO) and the areas within the settlements were carried out for listing. A deterministic sampling method was selected in order to meet the needs of the study and the subsequent ILO- IPEC Project: Identification of potential beneficiaries. Therefore, data on the use of child labour cannot be extended to the general population of Almaty and South Kazakhstan oblasts. Data on the prevalence of child labour are adequate only for the settlement areas with a high concentration of poor and low-income people living next to the vegetable, cotton and tobacco fields.

Actual indicators of child labour in selected areas might be higher. Researchers faced the fact that adults and children often hide the fact that they are working in the field. This happens because of fear of persecution by local authorities, police and the Department of Child Protection of MES RK. For example, before the beginning of field work in SKO local authorities carried out raids and outreach to prevent child labour. Parents were told that they would be fined and may be punished. People from poor families were very much afraid of such consequences. However, they continued with their work but they concealed the fact from investigators during the household listing.

For the same reasons, many child labourers and their parents refused to answer survey questions. So, in SKO district the response rate did not exceed 52%, and it was particularly low in the cotton growing district: Shardara (19%) and Maktaaral (34%).

Only 10 people were found for the assessment of the profiles of child labourers in tobacco cultivation. All of them were interviewed. However, due to the small 10-child sample data on the profile of child labourers in tobacco cultivation was not statistically significant. This should be taken into account when analysing statistics on child labour in the tobacco sector.

According to the results of the survey, Kazakh authorities acknowledge the existence of the child labour problem and make active efforts to reduce the WFCL through advocacy and educational work with children, parents and businessmen thereby ensuring school attendance.

The child labour problem exists in Kazakhstan because of a complicated combination of social, cultural and economic factors. The survey has revealed such factors of child labour prevalence as: low educational status among parents, absence of stable job and income among parents, unemployment, large number of family members, extreme poverty, lack of alternatives to child labour and positive attitude to child labour on the part of society.

The prevalence of child labour in the agricultural sector of the surveyed settlements in Almaty oblast was 7% and for South Kazakhstan 15.3%. A reason for 56% of cases of child labour is extreme poverty of families; therefore, children have to work in order to help their parents earn money. Another reason is that children have unsatisfied needs for clothes, footwear, school supplies and other necessary things such as computers, cellular phones and bicycles and their families cannot buy such things (about 30%). However, 14% of children work because of the fact that there are no safe places for leisure activities and normal conditions for additional education and human development. The first groups of households need social assistance and support, and the child labour problems existing in the second group could be solved through organization of safe and informative alternative activities for children.

Influence of parents, traditions and mentality can also be the reasons for the involvement of children in work. Local communities generally endorse and support the involvement of children in work, not realizing that they are the worst forms of child labour: only 2% on average said that surrounding people's attitude is negative towards the fact that a child has to work.

The cotton, tobacco and vegetable industries in Kazakhstan make widespread use of manual and low-skilled labour at all stages of cultivation. This makes it possible to use child labour.

Formally, all working children between the ages of 7 and 14 years old have access to secondary education:²⁹ they attended school during the last and the current school year. However, working children miss school lessons during the cotton harvesting season because they have to work and earn money (11% of children in vegetable fields and 44% of children in cotton fields), as a result of which their school performance and quality of studying are reduced.

Based on the results of the survey, the following recommendations can be given for the purpose of formation of the policy for prevention and elimination of the worst forms of child labour in Kazakhstan:

It is necessary to develop in adults and children alike intolerance for the worst forms of child labour. This can be implemented through school lessons. Promotional, educational and other information campaigns could help form a negative attitude to child labour on the part of the general public, local population, parents and children. Furthermore, such actions could explain to parents and children what harm can be inflicted to the health of the younger generation by involvement in the worst forms of child labour. Indeed, children do not quite understand that their decision to work in cotton, tobacco or vegetable fields can be harmful to their health.

Development of alternative forms of child labour will help reduce the prevalence of child labour. According to the results of the survey, leisure activities in various groups, physical culture schools and recreation centres, and extracurricular education are not accessible for children, primarily because of a lack of such schools and centres in the most populated areas under consideration. There is also lack of safe leisure areas for children, sports grounds, recreation centres and cinemas. Construction of such centres could reduce the prevalence of child labour among those children who work "for the company of their friends." Local authorities and regional local non-government organizations could take responsibility for arrangement of such centres and schools.

A children's allowance would really help solve problems related to elimination of child labour among very poor families. The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan in conjunction with local authorities should study and implement the practice of providing a ***conditional cash transfers*** like that of the BOTA Foundation in the form of payment of a child allowance. In order to avoid a welfare mentality, the monetary allowance should be paid to low-income families subject to certain conditions such as guarantees of parents that their children will not be involved in labour.

There is a need to develop economic levers regulating the organization of child labour as an alternative to child labour. It is necessary to organize internships which would give children the opportunity to earn money and to ensure compliance with labour legislation. There could be camps of labour and recreation, or tourism and labour camps.

²⁹ Age for getting secondary education guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "About Education."

A significant contribution to solving problems related to child labour could be made by local non-government organizations through conducting trainings, and advocacy and educational campaigns, promoting a negative attitude to child labour on the part of the general public. Non-government organizations can participate also in organizing child labour through the formation of recreational centres, sports groups and additional education for children. Non-government organizations can render assistance in solving problems existing in poor families.

It is advisable to improve a mechanism for getting social security benefits and ensuring their availability for poor families with working children. Local authorities can influence the situation and solve problems of poor families in each particular case.

For the subsequent pilot project of ILO-IPEC we recommend choosing Maktaaral and Shardara regions of South-Kazakhstan oblast. Based on the results of the survey, the highest prevalence of child labour is observed in these regions, where children are engaged in work in cotton fields. According to the population listing, 148 and 126 children were revealed to be working in Maktaaral and Shardara districts, respectively.

The authors of this report believe that the results of the survey and all information on the potential beneficiaries should be used not for punitive purposes, imposition of bans and punishment of parents and children but for positive actions such as identification of needs and providing the assistance to households.

Annex 1: Survey tables

Table A. The listing results of 5- to 17-year-old children in households by PSU settlements

CLP District	PSU Settlement	TotalH H	HH with children	HH without children	HH, with non-effective visits *	Number of children in HH	Childr en in labour	Share of children in labour in %
Almaty oblast								
Eskeldy	Karabulak	191	62	113	16	98	7	7.1
	Matai Baisov	81	61	20	0	80	3	3.8
	Abai	176	65	95	16	100	4	4.0
Enbekshikazakh	Ashysai	122	69	52	1	139	15	10.8
	Koram	185	123	59	3	218	10	4.6
	Shelek (Mayskoe v.)	119	49	68	2	95	14	14.7
	Teskensu	154	88	58	8	162	11	6.8
Karatal	Ushtobe city	293	114	170	9	176	11	6.3
	Eskeldi bi	182	80	89	13	136	8	5.9
	Kyzylzhar	178	93	78	7	130	12	9.2
	Zhanatalap	170	75	90	5	119	6	5.0
Talgar	Kyzylkairat	141	94	45	2	163	4	2.5
	Malovodnoe	139	66	71	2	118	10	8.5
	Birlik	118	74	37	7	119	11	9.2
	Yenbek	132	58	69	5	100	10	10.0
Total for Almaty oblast		2381	1171	1114	96	1953	136	7.0
South Kazakhstan oblast								
Maktaaral	Zhanaauil	146	96	34	16	225	30	13.3
	Maktaly	77	53	18	6	114	34	29.8
	Koksu	25	25	0	0	58	14	24.1
	Dostyk	84	50	32	2	107	37	34.6
	Besketik	81	58	23	0	212	33	15.6
Saryagash	Uchhozcurlis	22	10	8	4	20	1	5.0
	Akniet	112	63	33	16	140	4	2.9
	Dikhan baba	79	34	33	12	84	6	7.1
	Atameken	88	51	30	7	123	29	23.6
	Aganai	95	67	23	5	154	18	11.7
Shardara	Turyspekov	166	99	43	24	231	24	10.4
	Syrdariya	107	79	19	9	188	14	7.4
	Kosseit	172	116	35	21	283	45	15.9
	Koksu	128	104	18	6	237	43	18.1
Total for SKO		1382	905	349	128	2176	332	15.3
Total		3763	2076	1463	224	4129	468	11.3

*Non-effective visits include: flat refusal of household members to participate in polling, the house is non-inhabited, abandoned or vacant; there is nobody at house or no competent household members.

Table B. Child labour profile by sex and age groups (national standards)

Agriculture	CLP	N	Sex	Age groups
-------------	-----	---	-----	------------

industries			Boy N=276	Girl N=195	5-11 y.o. N=90	12-14 y.o. N=178	15-17 y.o. N=200
Vegetables	Eskeldy	14	57,1	42,9	14,3	14,3	71,4
	Enbekshikazakh	40	62,5	37,5	25,0	27,5	47,5
	Karatal	37	51,4	48,6	16,2	35,1	48,6
	Talgar	35	60,0	40,0	22,9	14,3	62,9
	Saryagash	58	69,0	31,0	24,1	44,8	31,0
Cotton	Maktaaral	148	53,4	46,6	20,9	36,5	42,6
	Shardara	126	57,9	42,1	15,1	49,2	35,7
Tobacco	Enbekshikazakh	10	80,0	20,0	0	50	50
Vegetables (all CLP)		184	61,4	38,6	21,7	31,0	47,3
Tobacco		10	80,0	20,0	0,0	50,0	50,0
Cotton (all CLP)		274	55,5	44,5	18,2	42,3	39,4
Almaty oblast		136	59,6	40,4	19,1	26,5	54,4
SKO		332	57,8	42,2	19,3	42,8	38,0
Total		468	58,3	41,7	19,2	38,0	42,7

Source: Listing of all 5 to 17-year-old children.

Table C. Child labour profile by sex and age (for international comparison)

Agriculture industries	CLP	N	Age groups		
			5-9 y.o.	10-14 y.o.	15-17y.o.
Vegetables	Eskeldy	14	14,3	14,3	71,4
	Enbekshikazakh	40	12,5	40,0	47,5
	Karatal	37	8,1	43,2	48,6
	Talgar	35	14,3	22,9	62,9
	Saryagash	58	17,2	51,7	31,0
Cotton	Maktaaral	148	14,2	43,2	42,6
	Shardara	126	11,1	53,2	35,7
Tobacco	Enbekshikazakh	10	-	50	50
Vegetables (all CLP)		184	13,6	39,1	47,3
Tobacco		10	-	50,0	50,0
Cotton (all CLP)		274	12,8	47,8	39,4
Almaty oblast		136	51,7	29,2	19,2
SKO		332	49,0	31,2	19,9
Total		468	12,8	44,4	42,7

Source: Listing of all 5- to 17-year-old children.

Table D. Types of work performed by children, in percent by age (for international comparison)

Types of work	Age groups			Not child labourers N=3347	Child labourers N=468
	5-9 y.o. N=2075	10-14y.o. N=1248	15-17 y.o. N=806		
household chores * (washing clothes, cleaning, cooking, etc.)	48,7	79,5	77,3	62,6	77,6
Engaged in other types of work**	41,9	78,0	81,9	57,0	100,0
Caring about younger siblings*	22,2	34,4	31,5	25,7	41,0
Working on his/her own plot, garden**	18,7	39,6	44,3	31,3	32,7
Looking after animals in the household, graze	11,6	31,1	35,6	20,9	38,9

Types of work	Age groups			Not child labourers N=3347	Child labourers N=468
	5-9 y.o. N=2075	10-14y.o. N=1248	15-17 y.o. N=806		
own cattle**					
Grazing cattle of other people**	0,2	0,4	0,1	0,2	0,9
Selling something with the parents or alone **	0,2	0,6	1,0	0,5	0,2
Helping parents or working by himself/herself on vegetable growing in the field or at home **	1,2	6,3	12,5	0,3	40,6
Helping parents or working by himself/herself on tobacco growing in the field or at home **	0	0,4	0,6	0,0	2,1
Helping parents or working by himself/herself on cotton cultivation field in the field or at home**	1,7	10,6	13,5	0,0	58,8
Engaged in household chores in a third-party household, paid or unpaid **	0	0,1	0,4	0,0	0,6
Engaged in other types of work on paid basis**	1,4	2,2	2,2	1,8	2,8

* at least 1 hour on the last week; **at least one hour during the past 2 months; Sources: Listing of all 5 to 17-year-old children

Table E. Causes of child labour, in percentage (for international comparison)

Reasons for employment	Age group			Total N=206
	5-11 years old N=15	12-14 years old N=97	15-17 years old N=94	
I want to make extra money	33,3	40,2	52,1	45,1
The family is in need of money	46,7	52,6	39,4	46,1
There is nothing else to do besides it	-	-	5,3	2,4
Parents said to	13,3	9,3	8,5	9,2
All of my friends work	6,7	4,1	8,5	6,3
I acquire new skills (I learn to do something at work)	-	5,2	4,3	5,8
We are used to working with the entire family for this employer, we do not have a choice	-	-	2,1	1,0

Annex 2: Questionnaires

Child Questionnaire (5-17 years)

Dear respondent! Sange Research Center is conducting a survey on the employment of children and their needs. This questionnaire is a tool for research. To answer questions is not difficult. Your answers are confidential and will only be used by the International labour Organization in order to find out what is necessary to help children like you.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Write down the address in legible writing. **Household address**

Street _____ house _____ phone _____

2. What is your name? _____

3. How old are you? _____ full age

4. What is your sex: 1.Male 2.Female

5. What is your nationality: 1.Kazakh 2.Russian 3.Uzbek 4. Uighur 5. Other (specify) _____

6. Do you have brothers and sisters aged between 5 – 17 years? 1.Yes 2.No *skip to Q8*

7. How many of them are working now including you? (fix info only for person aged between 5-17 years)

1. Are working _____ children 2. Are not working _____ children

8. Can you read, write and count:

	Yes, can do it good	Not well	Bad	Cannot do it
Read	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>
Write	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>
Count	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>

HOUSING

9. Do you have your own separate room? 1. Yes 2. No

10. How do you spend your spare time?

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Play alone | 6. Watch TV |
| 2. Go out (walk) with friends | 7. Listen to the music |
| 3. Go to sport sections/extracurricular activity | 8. Working, earn money |
| 4. Look after youngsters | 9. I have no spare time |
| 5. Read/draw/educate myself | 10. Other (specify) _____ |

WORKING CONDITION

11. During the past week do you do any of the tasks indicated below for this household?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Shopping for the household | 5. Cleaning utensils/house |
| 2. Repairing any household equipment | 6. Washing/ironing clothes |
| 3. Cooking | 7. Caring for children/old/sick |
| 4. Washing dishes | 0. No, didn't do anything |

11.a. For each day worked during the past week how many hours did you actually do household tasks?

Days of the week	Task for the household (q. 11) hours
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	

12. What's the nature of work you do in vegetable/cotton/tobacco cultivation? (multiple answers)

VEGETABLE	
1	Sowing
2	Watering
3	Weeding
4	Gathering vegetables
5	Loading/unloading vegetables
6	Carry boxes with vegetables
7	Vegetables sorting
8	Other (specify) _____

COTTON	
1	Weeding
2	Cotton gathering
3	Worm collection
4	Picking cotton bushes
5	Other (specify) _____
6	Other (specify) _____

TOBACCO	
1	Sowing
2	Watering
3	Weeding
4	Breaking
5	Sorting
6	Lacing
7	Pressing
8	Other (specify) _____

13. How many months do you do the following activities?

	month
13_1 Vegetables	

	month
13_1 Cotton	

	month
13_1 Tobacco	

14. In what months do/did you do these activities?

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. March | 4. June | 7. September |
| 2. April | 5. July | 8. October |
| 3. May | 6. August | 8. November |

15. In addition to the work you do in cotton/tobacco/vegetable cultivation, did you do any other work during the past 1-2 months? (ex., work on his/her own or the household's plot, farm, food garden, or help in growing farm produce or in looking after animals for the household, etc)

1. Yes 2. No

16. For each day during the last week of the period that you worked, how many hours did you actually work?

Days of the week	Cotton/ Tobacco (q. 12) hours	Vegetable (q. 12) hours	Other activity (q. 15) hours
Monday			

Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

17. At what time does your working day at vegetable/cotton/tobacco cultivation start and end? At what time do you have lunch?

17.1 Vegetable From _____ till _____ If you have time for Lunch : From _____ till _____

17.2 Cotton/tobacco From _____ till _____ If you have time for Lunch : From _____ till _____

18. Why are you working? (what is the reason)

1. Need for money for myself
2. Need for money for my family
3. Nothing else to do
4. School is not interesting
5. Employer provides food and accommodation in exchange for my work
6. My recruitment was part of the agreement when parents took a loan
7. Asked by the parents
8. All my friends are working
9. Learn skills
10. My parents received an advance on my salary
11. Whole family has always worked for this employer and my family has no choice but to accept
12. I had to replace a member of my family who was working for this employer and is unable to work

19. Who decided that you should take your current job?(vegetable/cotton/tobacco cultivation)

1. Myself
2. Friends
3. Parents/guardians
4. Relatives
5. Employer/landowner of my parents
6. The loaner of my parents
7. Neighbours, other adults (friends' parents, friends of my parents)
8. Other (specify) _____

20. How do you get the field (working place)?

1. By foot
2. On a bike
3. Go on donkey/ horse/ trap
4. Employer' transport
5. By car
6. I do this job at home - *skip to Q23*
7. I live I live in the field- *skip to Q23*

21. How much time does it take to get from home to place of your work (field), on average?

_____ hours _____ min

22. With whom do you get to work?

1. Alone
2. With the parents
3. With the friends
4. With the other workers

23. Does your employer execute an employment contract with you?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know, parents agreed about the work
4. Hard to say

24. Do you get salary?

1. Yes, myself
3. Don't get anything - *skip to Q29*

32. If “Yes”, what kind of penalties?

33. At what age do you start working at first time? _____ years

34. Do you like this job? 1. Yes 2. Not so much 3. No, don't like, but I have to

35. Do you stop working when the school year begins?

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Yes | 4. No, don't stop, continue working |
| 2. Not always | 5. Don't study, graduate from the school |
| 3. Work after classes | 6. Other (specify) _____ |

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

36. For children of 8 age and above. Did you attend school last year?

1. Yes 2. No

37. Do you attend school this year?

1. No, I don't, because I finished 9th form, now not studying - skip to Q45
2. No, I don't, because I finished 11th form, have no qualification - skip to Q45
3. No, I don't, because I have the specialty already - skip to Q45
4. No, I don't, because I am preschool child - skip to Q 45
5. Yes, I study at _____ grade (Write the grade)
6. No, I don't, because I attend lyceum/vocational School
7. No, I don't

38. Did you miss lessons at school during last month? Why? (indicate all possible answers)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Not interested in school, not willing to study | 8. Teachers treat me badly |
| 2. Due to the health status (disabled/poor health) | 9. Cannot find common language with peers |
| 3. Have to help parents and to work (earn money) | 10. Cannot afford schooling |
| 4. Parents don't permit to go to school due to religious principles | 11. I don't study because have no ID |
| 5. Cannot cope with my studies | 12. Other (specify) _____ |
| 6. No school/School is too far | |
| 7. Care for children/old/sick | |

0. Do not miss (drop out of) school

39. Do you have to miss lessons at school because or working in vegetable/cotton/tobacco cultivation more than 3 days consecutively? 1. Yes
2. No

40. Is the school in which you study in your village?

1. Yes skip to Q43 2. No

41. If “no” then how do you get to the school usually?

1. Parents take me to the school in their own car → Skip to Q.43
2. On any transport going in the direction of the school → Skip to Q.43
3. By foot → Skip to Q.43
4. School bus
5. Other (specify) _____

42. If you take a bus, how well does it work?

1. Yes, everyday and in any weather conditions
2. Not regularly
3. Hard to say

43. Do you have your own place to do your school home tasks? 1.Yes 2.No

Comments _____

44. At what time do you usually do your homework?

1. In the morning, as I study in the afternoon
2. Immediately after returning home from school and rest
3. After finishing household chores
4. After working in the field
5. In school, before lessons or during breaks
6. Late in the evening, at night
7. Have no time to do it
8. Other (specify) _____

HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

45. What of the given below you faced at work during last 2 months?

1. Allergy/itchy skin
2. Stomach problems/ diarrhea
3. Extreme fatigue, tiredness
4. Sunstroke
5. Headaches/dizziness
6. Backache
7. Burns, scalds or frostbite
8. Breathing problems
9. Eye problems
10. Superficial injuries or open wounds
11. Fractures, traumas
12. Dislocations, sprains or stains
13. Malaise
14. Fever
15. Insects and snake bites
16. Other (specify) _____

0. No problem

46. If you get injured, were you provided with medical care? 1. Yes 2. No - *skip to Q 48*

47. Who provided you with medical care at your work place?

1. Health worker
2. Friends
3. Parents/guardians
4. Adults, working on the field
5. Adult member of HH
6. Nobody
7. Other (specify) _____

48. In case you feel ill on the field/ at workplace, whom will you go to?

1. Parents
2. Doctor/health worker
3. Employee
4. Friend
5. Will stand till the end of the work day
6. Nobody
7. Other (specify) _____

49. Would you be penalized, if you do not work, because you felt bad? (only 1 answer)

1. No, I won't be punished
2. I can be dismissed
3. I will still have to work
4. I will go home, and will be paid as usual
5. Will let me go home, paying only for worked time
6. Other (specify) _____

CHILDREN NEEDS

50. Do you agree with the following statements:

Yes No

I have to work with vegetable/tobacco/cotton, instead of learning	1	2
I have to work in the field instead of playing, having a rest, do extracurricular activities or doing whatever I want in my spare time	1	2
Working in vegetable/cotton/tobacco cultivation is the opportunity to earn money for myself	1	2
This work takes all my spare time	1	2

51. What are your relations with the adults in the field? (only 1 answer)

1. Respectful
2. I try not to communicate with adults
3. I'm afraid of adults working with me
4. Any, doesn't across with them
5. Do all their instructions
6. Conflict with them constantly
7. Friendly, they care about me
8. Other (specify) _____

52. What kind of relationship do you have with the working children? (only 1 answer)

1. Respectful
5. Friendly

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. I try not to communicate with them | 6. Senior children care about me |
| 3. I'm afraid of them | 7. Others humiliated and bullied me |
| 4. Constantly conflict | 8. Other (specify) _____ |

53. How do the people, friends, classmates etc refer to the fact that you work? (only 1 answer)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Positively, understand me | 4. Do not care about that (don't mind) |
| 2. Negatively, condemn | 5. It's normal thing, as all children in our settlement work (veg/cot/tob) |
| 3. Negatively, but understand me | 6. Don't know, hard to say |

54. What problems do you currently face? (multiple answer). *Interviewer: Use card*

-
1. Lack of money for food
 2. Lack of money for clothes
 3. I don't have the shoes and clothes for school
 4. I don't have an access to clubs and extracurricular activities
 5. Parents spend a little time with me
 6. A lot of work on the our own farm, because of which I get tired and do not have time to learn
 7. I have to work
 8. Lack of place to do safely homework, read, etc
 9. I haven't got school materials
 10. Become ill very often or tied
 11. I am afraid to go to school
 12. I don't like to go to school
 13. Have to care about family members because of that miss lessons/have bad grades
 14. Racketeering in the school
- 0. I have no problems**

55. Which of the items below would you buy first if you had money (about 10000-15000 tenge)?

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Food | 6. Tutors lessons |
| 2. Clothes | 7. Medicines/treatment |
| 3. Shoes | 8. Games/toys/entertainment |
| 4. Things for school | 9. Nothing |
| 5. Books/textbook | 10. Other (specify) _____ |

Thank you for participation!

Interviewer _____

Supervisor _____

Questionnaire for parents

Dear respondent! Sange Research Center is conducting a survey on the employment of children and their needs. Your answers are confidential and will only be used by the International labour Organization in order to find out what is necessary to help children.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. How many people live in the household, including you? _____ people
2. How many of them are children aged between 0 and 4 years? _____ children
3. How many of them are children aged between 5 and 17 years? _____ children
4. Indicate data on all children aged between 5 and 17 years: name, age and whether she/he was interviewed or not and if the child has ID or not (Q5).

Child code	Name	Sex 1. Male 2. Female	Age	Work in agriculture sector (vegetables/cotton/tobacco) past 1-3 months 1. Yes 2. No	Has been interviewed: 1. Yes 2. No	Identification Document See: Code in Q5
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						

5. Have your children identification documents? Write down the info about each child and put the code into last column of the table in Q4 above.
1. Birth certificate 2. Identification card 3. Have no documents

6. Household address (Write down the address in readable writing).

Street _____ house _____ phone _____

7. Are you a local resident? Do you live here permanently?

1. Yes, local people
2. No, migrant from other region/settlement of Kazakhstan (indicate which one) _____
3. No, migrant from other country (indicate the country) _____

8. If you are going to move/leave this place in nearest future, could you please tell us where we can find you in 6-12 month? Write the address (country, oblast, rayon, settlement, street, house, app.,

9. Respondent (whom you are interviewing):

1. Father 2. Mother 3. Guardian 4. Grandparents 5. Other (specify) _____

10. What is the nationality of child labourer parents? Mother/guardian |_____|
Father/guardian|_____|

- 1- Kazakh, 2 - Russian, 3 – Uzbek, 4 – Uigur, 5- Other (specify) _____

11. What is the highest education level of the child parents: Mother/guardian |_____|
Father/guardian|_____|

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Without formal education, pre-school | 5. Vocational |
| 2. Primary | 6. Unfinished higher |
| 3. Unfinished secondary (9 grade) | 7. University or Higher |
| 4. Secondary (11 grade) | 8. Degree |

12. What is the marital status of the parents:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1. Married | 4. We live together, but not officially married |
| 2. Single | 5. Widower/widow |
| 3. Divorced | 6. Other (specify) _____ |

13. Occupation of the child labourer's parents: Mother/guardian |_____|
Father/guardian|_____|

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Work at state-owned enterprise/ budget organization | 4. Pensioner |
| 2. Work at private firm/company | 5. Unemployed |
| 3. Worker/salesman/work in agriculture sphere | 6. Housekeeper |
| 4. Seasonal work | 7. Other (specify) _____ |
| 5. No constant job, jobs | |

14. Household's financial status:

1. We have to deny ourselves everything, sometimes money is not enough for normal diet
2. Money is hardly enough for food, clothes, so we cannot buy other things
3. Money is enough for food and clothes, but it is hard to buy something more expensive (furniture, appliances, etc.)
4. Money is enough for food and clothes and sometimes we can buy something expensive, ex., furniture; household appliances
5. We can afford to buy expensive things, but cannot afford to buy an expensive car or apartment
6. We can afford everything, including the purchase of an expensive car and house.

15. Do you (father/mother/guardian) get any benefits or state aid or help from relatives? (indicate all kinds, that respondent gets)

1. Yes, benefit for children from poor families
2. Yes, allowance for children under 1 year
3. Yes, TSA – targeting social aid
4. Yes, housing allowance
5. Yes, allowance for the loss of a breadwinner
6. Yes, allowance for disability (*not to confuse with disability pension*)
7. Yes, allowance for the mothers with many children
8. Yes, allowance for the families with many children
9. Yes, I get help from the relatives
10. No, don't get any

HOUSING CONDITION

16. The house the child lives in:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Owned by any household member | 4. Hostel |
|----------------------------------|-----------|

2. Rented
3. Provided free

5. Subsidised by employer (lodging)
6. Other (specify) _____

17. Only for those who live in the dwelling subsidised by employer. On what terms your employer provides you with dwelling? Whether employer takes it from your salary/wage and how much?

	Is taken from the wage: 1. Yes 2. No	Sum in average in a month, tenge
For housing		
Utility costs (water, gas, electricity)		
Providing products (flower, vegetables, etc)		

18. What is the main source of energy?

1. Gas 4. Haloxylon
2. Coal 5. Dung
3. Central heating 6. Other (specify) _____

19. What is the main source of water of this household?

1. Central 5. Imported water
2. Water column in the yard 6. Local spring, lake, river, etc
3. Water column in the street 7. Other (specify) _____
4. Well in the yard

20. Does your household have access to:

		N
Hot water		2
Access to the drinking water		2
Electricity		2
Telephone		2
Sewerage		2
Sink (in the yard)		2
Toilet in the house		2
Toilet out of the house		2
Land plot/garden		2

21. Does the household own any of the following? (indicate all)

1. TV 9. Mobile phone
2. Refrigerator 10. Car
3. Computer 11. Motorbike
4. Microwave 12. Tractor
5. Vacuum cleaner 13. Bicycle
6. DVD 14. Animal-drawn cart
7. Washing machine 15. Satellite/Cabel TV
8. Telephone (land line) 16. Other (specify) _____

22. Does the household own any livestock? How many?

	Own: 1. Yes 2. No	In number
Camel		
Horse		
Cow/bufallo		
Sheep		
Goat		
Pig		
Poultry		

- 23. Did any of your household members obtain a loan/debt during the past 12 months?**
 1. Yes 2. No – *skip to Q.26*

24. Was the loan/debt paid back?

1. Yes, fully – *skip to Q.26*
 2. Yes, partially
 3. No

25. How is the debt paid back? (read all options and circle the appropriate one)

1. Cash, by borrowing money from someone else
 2. Cash, by selling some assets
 3. Cash by getting income from work
 4. Provide direct labour to the creditor by adult household member
 5. Provide direct labour to the creditor by child household member
 6. In kind
 7. Other (specify) _____

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

26. Is there a school in the settlement?

1. Yes, only primary 4. No, there is no school
 2. Yes, secondary till 9th form 5. Other (specify) _____
 3. Yes, secondary till 11th form

27. Do the school available for your children to attend it?



Child's name (Q4.)	Child's code (Q4.)	Code (from 1 to 6 bellow)

CODE: 1. Yes, available
 2. No, it is not
 3. Not easy at all

4. Do not attend school, miss, drop out of school
 5. Finished school/study in PVS
 6. Live and study in boarding school

28. Could you please assess education quality that your children get in school by 5 grade scale?

5- excellent, 4-good, 3-satisfactory, 2-bad, 1- very poor


 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5
 

Comments

29. If the child missed school during last month, name, please, the main reasons for non-attendance?

Child's name (Q4.)	Child's code (Q4.)	Reason (code)

CODE: 1. School is too far

4. Expenses for education too high

2. He/she is not interested in school 5. Because she/he has to work (in economic activities)
 3. Health problems (disability) 6. Other (specify) _____
 7. Because she/he has to do household chores at home

30. Is there in the settlement opportunity for children to:

		No
Do the extracurricular activity at school		2 – <i>skip to Q 32</i>
Do additional classes (Additional study)		2 – <i>skip to Q 32</i>
Do sports		2 – <i>skip to Q 32</i>
Use Internet		2 – <i>skip to Q 32</i>
Attend the training courses		2 – <i>skip to Q 32</i>

31. Where your children go to?

1. To the extracurricular activity at school 4. To sports
 2. To additional classes 5. To attend training courses
 3. To Internet club (café) 6. No, don't go to any

32. How much did you spend for children education last year? _____ KZT

33. If your child aged 14-17 years wants to study at a vocational school, could you afford it?

1. Yes 2. No

Comments _____

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

34. Are there in the settlement health care facilities?

1. Polyclinic 4. MAC
 2. Hospital 5. Noting of given *skip to Q37*
 3. FDC 6. Other (specify) _____

35. What health care services are available to children of your village?

		N
Immunization		2
Emergency		2
Care for newborns		2
Dentist		2
Pediatrician		2
Surgeon		2

36. Could you please assess the quality of the health care service provided to your children by 5 grade scale?

5- excellent, 4-good, 3-satisfactory, 2-bad, 1- very poor

☹ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 ☺

Comments _____

37. Had your child any health problems during last 2 month when he/she worked?

Child's name (Q4.)	Child's code (Q4.)	Reason (code)

- Code:** 1. Allergy/itchy skin
2. Stomach problems/ diarrhea
3. Extreme fatigue, tiredness
4. Sunstroke
5. Headaches/dizziness
6. Backache
7. Burns, scalds or frostbite
8. Breathing problems
9. Eye problems
10. Superficial injuries or open wounds
11. Fractures, traumas
12. Dislocations, sprains or stains
13. Malaise
14. Fever
15. Insects and snake bites
16. Other (specify) _____
0. No problem

38. In case your child/children become ill/sick at work place, to whom would they go?

1. Parents (mother, father)
2. Doctor/health worker
3. Employer
4. Their friends
5. Will endure till the end of working day
6. Adults, working in the field
7. Adult member of the household
8. Nobody
9. Other (specify) _____

WORKING CONDITION

39. Do your children have a spare time? 1. Yes 2. No *–skip to Q41*

Child's name (Q4.)	Child's code (Q4.)	Reason (code)

40. What do the children do at their spare time? (multiple answer)

Child's name (Q4.)	Child's code (Q4.)	Reason (code)

- CODE:** 1. Play with friends
2. Walk with friends
3. Do the extracurricular activity
4. Watch TV
5. Listen to the music
6. Read/draw/learn smth
7. Nothing
8. Other (specify) _____

41. When you were a child did you work? 1. Yes 2. No *skip to Q43*

42. If 'yes' why (reason)? _____

43. Could you please name the reason why your children have to work?

Child's name	Child's code	Reason

- CODES:** 1. Wants to earn money for himself/herself
2. Supplement to family income
3. Nothing else to do
4. Child not interested in school, schooling is not useful

5. Employer provides food and accommodation in exchange for my work
6. Help family to pay debt
7. All his/her friends work
8. Learn skills
9. It is necessary to work out received advance
10. Whole family has always worked for this employer and my family has no choice but to accept
11. He/she had to replace a member of my family who was working for this employer and is unable to work

44. Does the work of your children help the family budget?

Child's name (Q4.)	Child's code (Q4.)	Code (from 1 to 4 bellow)

CODES: 1. Yes, helps very much, it's difficult to subsist without it
 2. Yes, it's very significant, but not the main income of the family
 3. No, income is very low, not significant for the family
 4. No, family budget won't suffer if he/she stops working

45. Do you (mother/father/guardian) work together with the children in the field? 1.

1. Yes 2. No

46. Does your child get salary himself/herself?

46.1. In what kind he/she gets salary?

46.2. How much does he/she get?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1.1. Yes, himself/herself | 2.1. Cash |
| 1.2. No, don't get salary | 2.2. Products |
| 1.3. No, I get his/her salary (i.e. one of the parents) | 2.3. Cash and product (half by half) |

Child's name	Child's code	46. Does he/she get salary (indicate code: 1.1, 1.2, or 1.3)	46.1 In what kind (indicate code: 2.1, 2.2, or 2.3)	46.2. Salary size and for what period
				for
				for
				for
				for

47. How often does your child get salary?

Child's name (or code)	Once a year	Once in a half year	Once in a quarter	Once in a month	Once in a week	At the end of each day	Other (specify)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

48. What do you do with children's earnings?

Child's name (Q4.)	Child's code (Q4.)	Purpose (Codes from 1 to 7)

CODES: 1. Buy food for the family
 2. Buy children necessary things

3. Spend all money for household needs
4. Give one part to child, and other spend at my own discretion
5. Save money (purpose) _____
6. Child takes all his/her salary for him/herself
7. Other (specify) _____

49. Do the children complain to work conditions?

Child's name (Q4.)	Child's code (Q4.)	1. Yes 2. No

Comments _____

50. Do the children complain to their employer?

Child's name (Q4.)	Child's code (Q4.)	1. Yes 2. No

Comments _____

ATTITUDE TO CHILDREN EMPLOYMENT

51. Does the local government take any measures to create conditions for children development? Do they create/open work places for adult population? What are these measures?

52. Are there in your settlement public organizations/NGOs that protect the interests of the children?

If yes, what they take for this, and to what extent they do it?

53. Imagine that you would have now 15000 KZT. For what needs of the child would you spend them?

Would you spend the whole sum on his needs?

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Food | 6. Tutors lessons |
| 2. Clothes | 7. Medicines/treatment |
| 3. Shoes | 8. Games/toys/entertainment |
| 4. Things for school | 9. Other (specify) _____ |
| 5. Books/textbook | 0. I wouldn't spend on child's need |

54. And if you would have now 30000 KZT. For what needs of the child would you spend them?

Would you spend the whole sum on his needs?

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Food | 6. Tutors lessons |
| 2. Clothes | 7. Medicines/treatment |
| 3. Shoes | 8. Games/toys/entertainment |
| 4. Things for school | 9. Other (specify) _____ |
| 5. Books/textbook | 0. Wouldn't spend on child's need |

Thank you for the participation!

Interviewer, thank respondents for taking participation in the survey and then -

Not asking the respondent, indicate in what type of dwelling does the household live:

1. Apartment/flat/room
2. Private house
3. Part of a private house
4. Mobile home (e.g. tent, caravan)
5. Shelter
6. Shanty
7. Other (specify) _____