

National report on the results of the child labour survey in Honduras

Prepared by:

Rubén Hernández Cruz

May 2002



ILO - IPEC
National report on the results of the child labour survey in Honduras.
San José, Costa Rica, International Labour Office, 2004.

Child labour, Youth, Research, Survey, Honduras

14.02.2

ISBN: Printed: 92-2-115780-6
Web pdf: 92-2-117781-4

Copyright © International Labour Organization 2004
First published, 2004

Publications of the International Labour Office enjoy copyright under protocol 2 of the Universal Copyright Convention. Nevertheless, short excerpts from them may be reproduced without authorization, on condition that the source is indicated. For rights of reproduction or translation, application should be made to the Publications Bureau (Rights and Permissions). International Labour Office, CH-1211, Geneva 22, Switzerland. The ILO welcomes such applications.

The designations employed, which are in conformity with United Nations practice, and the presentation of material therein do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the International Labour Office concerning the legal status of any country, area or territory or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers. The responsibility for opinions expressed in signed articles, studies and other contributions rests solely with their authors, and publication does not constitute an endorsement by the ILO of the opinions expressed in them.

Reference to names of firms, commercial products and processes does not imply their endorsement by the International Labour Office, and any failure to mention a particular firm, commercial product or process is not a sign of disapproval.

Visit the ILO web sites: www.ipec.oit.or.cr and www.oit.or.cr

Printed in Costa Rica

Edition

International Labour Office (ILO)
International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)
Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC)

General Coordination and Supervision

Angela Martins Oliveira
International Labour Office (ILO)
International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)
Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC)

National Technical Coordination

Paulette Zúñiga
Instituto Nacional de Estadística (Honduran National Institute of Statistics)

Report prepared by:

Rubén Hernández Cruz

Technical Assistance and Review:

Germán Leitzelar Vidaurreta, State Secretary of Labour and Social Security
Ángel Antonio Escobar Escalante, State Under-secretary of Labour and Social Security
Rosibel Garay Flores, General Director of Social Security
Angela Martins Oliveira, Senior Statistician, ILO/IPEC-SIMPOC
Astrid Marschatz, Data Analysis Expert, ILO/IPEC-SIMPOC, Central America and the Dominican Republic
Paulino Isidoro Ramírez, National Co-ordinator, ILO/IPEC, Honduras
Mayella Abudoj, ILO/IPEC-Honduras

Partial or total reproduction of the material published here is permitted as long as the data are not altered and corresponding credit is given.

Funding for this ILO publication was provided by the United States Department of Labor. This publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the United States Government.

Diseño y diagramación:

Erick Valdelomar F., Douglas Calderón L.
NeoGráfica S.A.

Foreword

With the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour, the International Labour Office (ILO) has converted a progressive process for the prevention and elimination of child labour into a universal cause.

Child labour is a globally widespread, complex and many-faceted phenomenon. Furthermore, a lack of reliable information and quantitative analysis makes it even more difficult to find effective ways of confronting the problem. For many years, the lack of information on its causes, magnitude, nature and consequences has been a considerable obstacle to implementation of effective actions to confront, halt and eliminate this phenomenon affecting millions of boys, girls and adolescents throughout the world.

Since 1998, the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour has administered the Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC), in order to assist participating countries to generate cross-country comparable data on child labour.

SIMPOC's global objective is to use household surveys to generate quantitative data on school activities, and on children's economic and non-economic activities outside school, in addition to collecting qualitative data and establishing databases containing information on child labour. These data were the basis for different studies prepared in the participating countries.

The collection of reliable data and their analyses provide support for development of effective interventions against child labour. With the data gathered in different countries and the studies drafted based on these data, we hope to facilitate development, implementation, and monitoring of policies and programmes to counter this phenomenon, as well as promoting social attitudes in favour of sustainable prevention and progressive eradication of child labour.

I am certain that the information presented in this study on child labour in Honduras will contribute to improve understanding and increase sensitivity towards the situation of working boys, girls and adolescents and will allow better strategies to be drafted to combat this phenomenon.

For each of the participating countries, availability of a panorama of ever-greater clarity regarding this phenomenon will undoubtedly lead to a more effective process and a shortened path to achieving a world without child labour.

Guillermo Dema
Sub-Regional Coordinator
ILO/IPEC PROGRAMME FOR CENTRAL AMERICA,
PANAMA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HAITI AND MEXICO

Index of contents

Executive summary	XIII
CHAPTER 1. Introduction	1
1.1 Background and Justification	2
1.2 Survey Objective	2
1.3 Organization of the Report	2
CHAPTER 2. Methodology	5
2.1 Scope and Coverage	5
2.2 Questionnaire and Target Respondents	5
2.3 Sample Design and Implementation	5
2.4 Training and Fieldwork Organisation	6
2.5 Data Processing	6
2.6 Weighting Factor	7
2.7 Reliability of the Estimates	7
CHAPTER 3. The country's socio-economic background	9
3.1 Gross Domestic Product	9
3.2 Income Distribution	9
3.3 Poverty	10
3.4 Employment and Underemployment	11
3.5 Demographic and Social Aspects	11
3.5.1 Education	12
3.5.2 Health	12
3.5.3 Housing	13
3.6 Summary of Laws, Action Programmes and Governmental Policies	14
3.6.1 Summary of laws	14
3.6.2 Government policy and action programmes	15
CHAPTER 4. Characteristics of the population between 5 and 17 years of age	17
4.1 Population Composition	17
4.2 Dwelling Characteristics	19
4.3 Economic Characteristics of the Households	19

CHAPTER 5. Working boys and girls	21
5.1 Rate of Working Children	21
5.2 Employed EAP Aged 5 to 17 Years by Industry	22
5.3 Occupational Category and Occupational Group of Employed EAP Aged 5 to 17 Years	24
5.4 Domestic Chores	25
5.5 Hours Dedicated to Labour in Economic Activities	26
5.6 Perception by Parents and Children of Work	27
5.6.1 Parental perception	27
5.6.2 Children's perception	29
5.7 Behaviour of Child Work	30
5.7.1 Employment and wages	30
5.7.2 Savings expectations of gainfully employed male and female children	31
CHAPTER 6. Effects of work on children	33
6.1 In Education	33
6.2 Industry and School Attendance	34
6.3 Health Effects	35
6.4 Working Condition and Environment	35
6.4.1 Working Children and labour hazards	35
6.4.2 Hazards in agricultural labour and others	35
6.4.3 Risks for illness	36
6.4.4 Types of self-medication	36
6.5 On Family Income	36
6.6 Employment of Adults in General	38
CHAPTER 7. Some of the worst forms of child labour	39
7.1 Worst Forms of Child Labour	39
7.1.1 Domestic child labour	39
7.1.2 Diving	40
7.1.3 Refuse collectors	40
7.1.4 Commercial sexual exploitation	40
7.1.5 The mara (gang) phenomenon	41
7.2 Activities Generating the Worst Forms of Child Labour	41
7.2.1 Farmers and cattle raisers	41
7.2.2 Tradespersons and salespersons	41
CHAPTER 8. Programmes and projects	43
CHAPTER 9. Main conclusions and recommendations	45
9.1 Conclusions	45
9.2 Recommendations	47
9.2.1 Education of gainfully employed children	47
9.2.2 Labour inspection and monitoring	48
9.2.3 Research	48
9.2.4 Programmes and policies	48
9.2.5 Awareness	48
Referenses	49
Appendices	51
Appendix A- Detail of estimation procedures	51
Appendix B- Survey instrument	54
Appendix C- Time line of survey activities	55

List of tables

CHAPTER 2

Table 2.1	Sample: Dwellings and Census Tracts by Dominion
-----------	---

CHAPTER 3

Table 3.1	Extremes of Income Distribution
Table 3.2	Households by Situation of Poverty, According to Area of Residence
Table 3.3	Population of Honduras and Intercensal Growth Rates 1950 - 2001
Table 3.4	Statistics by Educational Level, 2001
Table 3.5	Immunobiological Coverage by Type in Children Aged 12 to 59 Months, 2001
Table 3.6	Infant Mortality Indicators: 1996 and 2001

CHAPTER 4

Table 4.1	Male and Female Children by Area of Residence, According to Sex
Table 4.2	Males and Females by Area of Residence and Sex, According to Age Group
Table 4.3	Children by Sex, According to Relationship to Head of Household
Table 4.4	Composition by Sex of the Population, According to Age Groups
Table 4.5	Characteristics of Dwellings Inhabited by the Population Aged 5 to 17 Years
Table 4.6	Age of Head of Household with Children Aged 5 to 17 Years

CHAPTER 5

Table 5.1	Employed EAP 5 to 17 Years of Age by Age Group, According to Industry
Table 5.2	Employed EAP 5 to 17 Years of Age by Sex and Age Group, According to Industry
Table 5.3	Working Children by Occupational Group
Table 5.4	Boys and Girls Working in Economic Activities by Age Group and Area of Residence, According to Status in Employment
Table 5.5	Average Weekly Hours Worked in Economic Activities by Minors, by Sex According to Industry
Table 5.6	Average Weekly Hours Worked by Working children, by Sex and Area of Residence, According to Age Group
Table 5.7	Reasons for Parents or Guardians to Allow Children to Work in Economic Activities
Table 5.8	Reasons for Parents or Guardians to Allow Children to Work by Age Groups
Table 5.9	Reasons for Minors to Work in Economic Activities by Sex and Area
Table 5.10	Working Children by Collaboration with Household Chores and Schooling Situation, According to Child's Reasons for Working
Table 5.11	Working Children with Incomes who Save Part of Their Income, by Educational Situation, According to Reasons for Saving

CHAPTER 6

Table 6.1	School Attendance by Employment Condition, According to Sex and Area of Residence
Table 6.2	Gainfully Employed Minors by School Attendance, According to Industry
Table 6.3	Working Children by Area of Residence, According to Household Poverty Situation
Table 6.4	Working Children by Consequences to the Household if They Were to Cease Working, According to Age Group (Parent's Opinion)

Abbreviations

used in the document

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ASHONPLAFA	<i>Asociación Hondureña de Planificación Familiar</i> (Honduran Family Planning Association)
BCG	Bacillus Calmette Guerin (Tuberculosis vaccine)
DGEC	<i>Dirección General de Estadística y Censos</i> (Statistics and Census Office)
DPT	Diphtheria Pertussis Tetanus
ENESF	<i>Encuesta Nacional de Epidemiología y Salud Familiar</i> (National Epidemiology and Family Health Survey)
EPHPM	<i>Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples</i> (Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey)
ERP	<i>Estrategia para la Reducción de la Pobreza</i> (Poverty Reduction Strategy)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IHNFA	<i>Instituto Hondureño de la Niñez y la Familia</i> (Honduran Institute for Children and the Family)
IHSS	<i>Instituto Hondureño de Seguridad Social</i> (Honduran Social Security Institute)
INE	<i>Instituto Nacional de Estadística</i> (National Institute of Statistics)
IPEC	International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour
ILO	International Labour Office
MEAS	Measles
MMR	Measles-Mumps-Rubella
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization

PAI	<i>Programa Ampliado de Inmunizaciones</i> (Extended Immunisation Programme)
EAP	Economically Active Population
PENT	Pentavalent vaccine which includes DPT + HB/HIB (Hepatitis B – Haemophilus Influenza B)
PROHECO	<i>Programa Hondureño de Educación Comunitaria</i> (Honduran Community Education Programme)
SABIN	Surname of the person that discovered the oral poliomyelitis vaccine
UNAH	<i>Universidad Autónoma de Honduras</i> (Autonomous University of Honduras)
UPEG	<i>Unidad de Planeamiento y Evaluación de Gestión</i> (Management Planning and Evaluation Unit)
UPFW	Unpaid Family Worker
UPM	<i>Unidad Primaria de Muestreo</i> (Primary Sampling Unit)
UPNFM	<i>Universidad Pedagógica Nacional Francisco Morazán</i> (Francisco Morazán National Pedagogical University)
USM	<i>Unidad Secundaria de Muestreo</i> (Secondary Sampling Unit)

Executive summary

Among laws regulating child labour in Honduras are the country's Constitution, the Children and Adolescents Code, the Labour Code, and the Family and the Criminal Code. The country also has several governmental policies and programmes to protect the rights of boys and girls. Honduras has also ratified international conventions that require the country to take actions to eliminate and prevent child labour.

Between May and June 2002, the National Institute of Statistics (INE) gathered information for the Child Labour Survey. To this end, a module on child labour had been added to the 2002 Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey. According to data from this Household Survey for 2002, within the country there were 367,405 boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 17 years working or actively seeking work. Of these, 356,241 were working in economic activities, while the remaining 3.0% constituted the group of unemployed and potential workers.

Of this total of young workers aged 5 to 17 years, 73.6% were males and 26.4% were females. Child labour is a predominantly rural phenomenon: 69.2% of child workers resided in rural areas, and only 30.8% were urban residents.

The percentage of working children increases as their age increases. Among boys and girls between 5 and 9 years of age, only 2.0% were working in economic activities; among the group aged 10 to 14 years, this increased to 16.4%, and among those 15 to 17 years of age it reached 40.5%.

There is a clear differential by gender in percentages of working males and females, with a predominance of

males in all age groups. The gap between males and females is greater in rural areas than urban areas.

More than one-half of the gainfully employed boys and girls (56.2%) were in agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing; these were followed by trade, hotels and restaurants (24.4%), and manufacturing industry (8.2%). There were no major differences among industries with regard to age groups. Males of all ages were found predominantly in agriculture, but females participated to a greater extent in trade, hotels and restaurants, and in community, social and personal services as well as agriculture. Among working youths in services, 88.8% were females. In trade and manufacturing industries, about 50% were females. In the rest of the industries, males predominated.

Of all working youths, 61.1% were unpaid family workers and 27.6% were private employees. Work without pay is more common the younger the child. Agricultural and livestock workers made up 55.5% of child workers.

Most gainfully employed male and female children also carry out domestic chores in their own homes, with younger girls contributing most to domestic chores.

Working children that dedicate more time to their jobs are the ones that do not attend school, regardless of whether they carry out domestic chores or not. Mining and quarrying, electricity, gas and water, community, social and personal services industries are the ones that demand longer working hours for children, more than 40 hours per week on the average. Generally, males, adolescents and rural workers are the ones dedicating the largest number of hours to gainful employment.

Arguments used by fathers, mothers or guardians to justify a child's work vary by age of the child. Among those aged 5 to 9 years, family participation (66.1%) and formation (42.7%) constitute the main reasons. In the 10 to 14 year-old group, the major reasons are to keep boys or girls away from vices and for them to contribute to household expenses. For adolescents between 15 and 17 years of age, contributing to household expenses is the most important reason. Nevertheless, almost one-half of parents or guardians said that they would have preferred that their gainfully employed boys and girls would have been studying full time.

Gainfully employed minors were of the opinion that they worked to participate in family activities (51.4%) and to help with household expenses (52.3%), among other reasons. Among these working boys and girls, their preferences were for full-time work or to work and attend school, but not for exclusive schooling. Females, however, showed a greater preference for schooling than males.

Nationwide, 26.9% of boys and girls between 5 and 17 years of age do not attend school. Non-attendance varies a great deal according to individual employment conditions. Among child workers, 59.8% do not attend any educational centre, while in the case of the non-employed, school non-attendance is only 20.5%. Among unemployed, the school non-attendance problem is most serious, with a non-attendance rate of 87.3%.

For many male and female youths, working in transportation, construction, or agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing means having to leave school. There are better possibilities for school attendance for those involved in trade or industry. This is a promising datum, since trade is on the increase and currently represents 24.4% of gainfully employed EAP children.

In addition to work-related illness, job-related accidents affect 12% of the children, including small cuts through loss of an extremity. Agricultural, forestry, hunting and fishing industries are the ones with the greatest risks for diseases and injuries.

Among parents or guardians, 41.8% are of the opinion that if a minor from the household were to cease working, there would be no effect on the household, and 40.2% feel that household income and standard of living would suffer. To a great extent, if child labourers do receive any income, this is below the minimum wage. Nevertheless, 82.2% of child labourers earning an income contribute some or all of their income to the household, and 37% contribute more than one-half. Among those receiving an income for their labours, 29.7% save part of their income.

Poverty and limited employment opportunities for family members are factors conditioning child labour. Of all child labourers, 78.9% are poor. In rural areas, this proportion climbs to 83.2%, while in urban areas it drops to 69.2%.

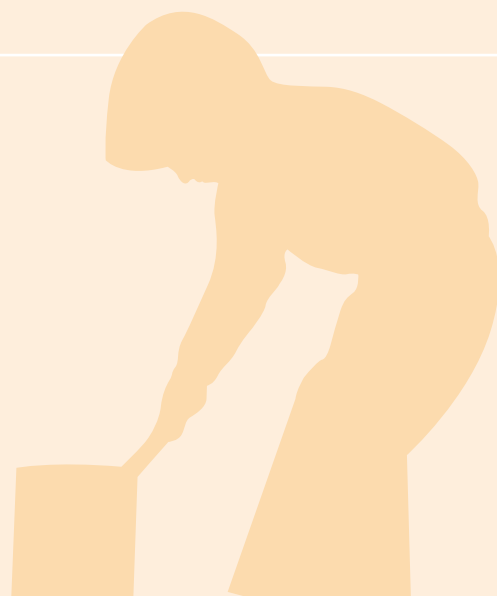
Some of the worst forms of child labour and hazardous labour can be found in agriculture, trade and services, since these reproduce the worst working conditions with regards to wages, risks and general welfare. Other worst forms occurring in Honduras are domestic child labour, diving, and commercial sexual exploitation.

National legislation assigns significant functions to the Department of Labour and Social Security for granting working permits to young males and females over 13 years of age, overseeing working conditions for the children with working permits, receiving and processing denunciations and applying sanctions. With outside assistance, the Department has developed an awareness campaign on child labour, as well as a training programme in some of its regional offices.

On the other hand, the Honduran Institute for Children and the Family (IHNFA) has provided integral assistance for boys and girls in difficult situations through their Family Welfare programme.

The Poverty Reduction Strategy (ERP) also includes the implementation of several projects related with the child population, which could affect child labour.

Introduction



When the Children and Adolescents' Code (*Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia*)¹ went into effect in September 1996, Honduran legislation not only met one of the commitments contracted on November 20, 1989, after subscribing and ratifying the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, but it also gave full effect to Convention Number 138 of the International Labour Organization on Minimum Age for Work, ratified by Honduras since June 9, 1980, and also created the conditions for Legislative approval of the ratification of ILO Convention Number 182 on Prohibition of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in July 2001.

The Children and Adolescents' Code establishes general provisions on protection of boys and girls from economic exploitation, mistreatment, and in favour of education and health, among others.

One of the major provisions is the duty of the State to draft policies, prepare, promote and implement programmes leading to a gradual abolition of work by boys and girls, creating programmes for family support for those families with male and female children in a situation of risk.

In Honduras, more than 300,000 male and female children are working, placing their health at risk, exposing themselves to physical, psychological and moral hazards; losing the enjoyment of their elementary rights such as education, recreation, and rest.

This is the basis for the importance of analysing the labour situation of minors under age 18. First, due to an accelerated increase in child employment in Honduras and deterioration in quality of life for families that have had to complement their income and face economic crises through the gainful employment of their sons and daughters. Second, to delve into the relationships formed within child labour, contrasting their situation with that of existing national and international norms against child labour, and its negative impact on male and female child development.

The main source of information for this analysis is the Twenty-Fifth Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey (*Vigésima Quinta Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples*, EPHPM), carried out by the National Institute of Statistics (INE) between May and July 2002, as well as other specific information sources that aid in contrasting different scenarios, which deal with the topic of child labour. This analysis uses the concept of child labour covering activities to produce, transform, market, distribute or sell goods and services, whether reimbursed or not, carried out on an independent basis or in the service of another physical or corporate person, by persons under 18 years of age. In Honduras there is another delimitation of child labour that includes a part of the economically inactive population within the concept of child labour, in particular that group of girls and boys that carry out household chores and do not study. Notwithstanding, for the purposes of this study, the group analysed consists solely of those male and female children working only in gainful employment.

¹ *Código de la Niñez y de la Adolescencia*, National Congress of the Republic, Decree No. 73-96, Republic of Honduras

1.1 Background and Justification

The Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey had been carried out previously by the Census and Statistics Office 24 times, with some interruptions, the survey has been applied twice a year. Although the main objective is to measure the labour situation of the economically active population, the basic format has incorporated questions related to other topics of national interest. Thus, questions have been added on migration, fertility, agriculture, consumption and female economic participation, among others, but the economic activity of some groups in the population had yet to be discovered.

The International Labour Office (ILO), under the Regional Project for Latin American and the Caribbean (PREALC), based in Panama, has contributed for several years to promote in-country analysis of the characteristics of the economically active population, its trends and economic and social implications of development policies being applied at the time.

Thus, Honduras has a considerable amount of data, information and enriched analysis allowing researchers, educators, planners, and above all, decision-makers to take advantage of a valuable stock of results, results that on more than one occasion showed how actual circumstances surpassed every time what had been attained in methodological progress for generating and analysing labour statistics.

In 1980, the Government of the Republic of Honduras approved ILO Convention N° 138 on the Minimum Age, specifying that the minimum would be 14 years of age. In 1989, it ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, in 1996, the National Congress passed the Children and Adolescents' Code, and in 1998 the Honduran Institute for Children and the Family was created (IHNFA). In 2001, ILO Convention N° 182 (1999) on the Worst Forms of Child Labour was ratified and the National Plan for Gradual and Progressive Eradication of Child Labour was drafted and approved. In spite of all this, Hondurans continue to live immersed in a reality they do not desire, one where boys and girls work, dropping out of school and exposing themselves to physical, moral and cultural risks that predispose them more easily to renewed poverty.

Thus, insofar as this report aids in increasing awareness and developing concrete actions in favour of Honduran children, the National Institute of

Statistics and ILO's International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) will recognize that the present effort was worth the trouble.

1.2 Survey Objective

With the ratification of ILO Convention N° 182 (1999) on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, a concern appeared within the National Institute of Statistics to obtain from the household survey a clearer focus on this phenomenon and analyse it to contribute to new proposals, but especially to new attitudes in the face of male and female child labour.

In the same vein, the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour supported the inclusion in the household survey of a special module to gather information on perceptions of parents and working boys and girls in a more realistic age range (5 through 17 years), and with specially designed questions to showcase reality in the face of the legal rhetoric.

1.3 Organisation of the Report

This Report consists of 9 Chapters. The **first** introduces the reader to information on national and international circumstances contributing to the elaboration of the present analysis. The **second** chapter is dedicated to the methodology employed by the survey is its different stages, sample definition, fieldwork, training and data processing.

A **third** chapter focuses on national characteristics, macro-level aspects that provide a rapid sketch of the economic and social scenario surrounding the Honduran population, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), poverty, income distribution, demographic and health-related aspects, education and employment. This chapter closes with a summary of national laws on child labour, action programmes being carried out, and governmental policies related to children.

The **fourth** chapter profiles the population under study, to wit, the population aged 5 to 17 years, their composition by gender, area of residence, characteristics of the dwellings where they reside, and economic and social characteristics of the households to which they belong.

The **fifth** chapter delves into the central topic of this report, and provides an outline of the youths working in gainful employment in each of the environments: the industry, occupation, employment category, weekly working hours,

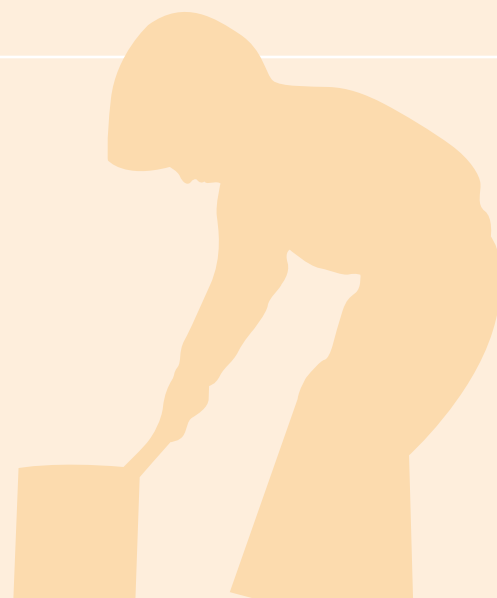
demographic characteristics and employers. Of greater import are the working conditions and environment, the risks the children are exposed to, and their and their parents' perceptions.

The **sixth** chapter describes the effect of work on children's education, health, relationship to family income and adult employment. The **seventh** concentrates on some of the worst forms of child labour identified in this country analysis. The **eighth** chapter provides a rapid overview of some intervention programmes in favour of children.

Finally, the **ninth** chapter summarizes the conclusions and suggests some policy recommendations.

Of further usefulness to the reader, at the end of the document there are **Appendices**. Appendix A includes a breakdown of procedures used for survey estimates, Appendix B includes a copy of the survey instrument and a timeline of survey activities is included as Appendix C.

Methodology



2.1 Scope and Coverage

The analysis of the child labour situation is based primordially on the results of the Twenty-Fifth Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey (EPHPM), carried out during the period between 10 May and 10 July 2002 (see the timeline in Appendix C).

The survey was carried out nationwide, except in the departments of Islas de la Bahía (Bay Islands) and Gracias a Dios, which traditionally have been excluded from national surveys due to their difficult access that implies elevated costs for any research endeavour, since they can only be reached by air and sea, and because together they represent no more than 1.5% of the total population (according to the 2001 Population Census)².

The final unit of study for the survey was the household. In this sense, the survey visited households established in private dwellings, excluding collective dwellings such as hotels, hospitals, jails, military bases and convents. Similarly, embassies and ambassadors' or consuls' residences were not included. However, those households using premises not built for that purpose, such as garages, warehouses and other similar establishments were included.

2.2 Questionnaire and Target Respondents

The basic questionnaire provides information on household composition, dwelling conditions and

educational, demographic and ethnic characteristics of the population. Employment is investigated in reference to one or more hours worked during the week prior to the interview, distinguishing between primary and secondary occupation, industry and occupational category; finally, income from primary and secondary occupation is investigated for salaried and self-employed, as well as monetary or in kind income from other sources (rents, interest, remittances, bonuses, etc.).

A special 32-question module was added to the basic questionnaire for all male and female children in the household aged between 5 and 17 years, referring whether they carried out household chores, worked, or helped out in some business during the week prior to the survey, reasons for doing so, their preferences, if they are paid, if they save, regarding injuries/illnesses suffered, severity and care for same, on school attendance and reasons for non-attendance, and 28 similar questions for their respective parents.

2.3 Sample Design and Implementation

The sample of 20,955 dwellings is self-weighted and distributed by allocation proportional to size of the domain. Distribution of the Primary Sampling Units (UPMs) and dwellings is shown in Table 2.1.

Probabilistic, stratified and two-stage sampling was used. The census tracts making up the Primary Sampling Units (UPMs) were selected in the first stage; in the second stage the Size

² *Censo de Población y Vivienda 2001*, National Institute of Statistics 2002.

Sample: Dwellings and Census Tracts by Dominion Table 2.1

Dominions	Dwellings	UPM
Total	20,955	4,191
Central District	3,510	702
San Pedro Sula	2,345	469
Rest Urban	5,815	1,163
Rural	9,285	1,857

Measures or compact groups that make up the Secondary Sampling Units (USM), consisting of 5 nearby dwellings, were selected.

This module is divided into 5 sections: I- Geographic and Sample Identification to identify each household interviewed; II- Interview results to score the content of each questionnaire; III- Dwelling Data: obtains information on housing conditions, types of dwelling, walls, floors, access to major services, water, electric power, sewer service, type of toilet, refuse collection, ownership, appliances, and number of rooms; IV- Household Composition: relationship with head of household, age, gender and marital status, a number of questions identify specifically those children between 5 and 17 years of age; and V- Individual Characteristics: educational characteristics, reads, attends school and at what level; demographic characteristics, place of birth and reasons for migration; ethnic characteristics, ethnic group, language or dialect, from whom learn it, parents' language; economic characteristics, a series of questions allow categorising the person as gainfully employed or inactive, employed or unemployed, new worker, occupation, industry, occupational category, as well as a series of questions on income from primary and secondary employment, as well as monetary or in kind income from different specific sources.

With the inclusion of the module on child labour as section VI, the information on participants in the field and visit control became section VII.

Child Labour Module. The initial proposal from ILO was to include as a minimum a total of 6,000 dwellings, so that a sub-sample was chosen from within the Household Survey, equivalent to 2 of every 5 dwellings, selected randomly within each Secondary Sampling Unit (USM), which allowed obtaining information from all of the sample tracts, for national, departmental and dominion representativeness, with a sub-sample of 8,382 dwellings.

This is found in section VI of the questionnaire and contains a series of questions addressed to parents or guardians and to the male and female

children on their current preferences and those when the minors reach 18 years of age, regarding activities at home, about work, Department of Labour permits, wages, savings, contributions to the household, reasons for working or allowing the minor to work, most common accidents and illnesses. Similar questions were asked of the parents about the boys and girls aged 5 to 17 and the boys and girls themselves.

2.4 Training and Fieldwork Organisation

The Survey was designed to be carried out by direct interviews of the members of all households in the selected dwellings. This required the organisation and training of fieldwork personnel at three hierarchical levels: **Field Chiefs**: in charge of planning and preparing field work by giving clear and exact instructions to the **Supervisors**, who were responsible for data quality through support and follow-up of the **Interviewers** who were directly responsible for obtaining questionnaire responses.

The activities analysing the questionnaire, last moment changes, revision and correction of interviewer, supervisor, critique and transcription manuals took place from 11 March through 5 April 2002. These were followed by sample design and UPM and USM selection during the whole month of April and first week of May. Recruitment and training of field personnel and preparation of materials (caps, IDs, folders, etc.) took place between 22 April and 10 May. Finally, data collection activity, critiquing, coding, transcription and validation were almost simultaneous starting on 11 May through 10 July.

2.5 Data Processing

Data processing for this study occurred in 2 stages. The first tasks were coding, transcription and database construction, carried out by technical personnel from the National Institute of Statistics (INE). A second stage took place during this technical assistance and is related to the construction of variables specific to child labour based on the special module. The database provided by INE was analysed with SPSS for Windows, due to its versatility and rapidity, as well as due to the fact that it is the tool used by the consultant to analyse the survey from other years on related topics.

2.6 Weighting Factor

Sample results have been expanded on the basis of each Primary Sampling Unit selected, in order to produce valid estimates for the national population.

The weighting factor is the reciprocal of the probability of selection for each compact group adjusted for a non-response factor, to represent the interviews not carried out, and by a cartographic adjustment factor, which corrects for the number of unsuitable, destroyed, under construction, unoccupied or converted dwellings.

2.7 Reliability of the Estimates

The estimates based on the household survey results are backed by the structures from the Population and Housing Census of 2001. Therefore, they need to be compared, in order to identify possible differences to avoid precipitate judgments that might lead to erroneous conclusions.

The first observation regarding the results is related to declared age, where the informant's response tends to underestimate the female population at ages 5, 9, 12 and 15 years, while showing preferences for 4, 10, 13, 16 and 18 years. With regard to males, population at ages 6, 7, 9 and 16 years are undervalued while those at ages 5, 8 and 14 years are overestimated.

These oscillations are not obvious when population data are presented in 5-year age groups. A graph with these age groups shows a smooth transition from one age group to the next. This means that the survey approximates the true structure of the population, even though within each group the population has been declared with one year more or one year less of age.

A rapid comparison with the 5-year structure of the population obtained from the survey and the two previous censuses shows that the 2001 Census had a relative increase in the population between 15 and 35 years of age among both males and females. However, the household survey tends to reflect the structure found in the 1988 Census. The concern remains as to whether this is an effect related to the sampling framework, expansion factors or due to emphasis placed on the child population module.

Another aspect that we must not lose sight of is that the household survey whose research objective is not exactly the population group under 5 years of age, tends to undervalue them. The May 2002 household survey gives greater relative weight to the 0-4, 20-24, 25-29 and 30-34 groups, giving less relative weight to the 5-9 and 10-14 age groups. This differential distribution by age groups between the censuses and the survey occurs among both males and females.

The statistical analyses carried out on the economically active population should take into account that the survey contemplates some degree of omission of both males and females in ages between 20 and 34 years, and also because of the emphasis on economic activities of children aged 5 through 17 years, the survey better reflects the true population distribution in those ages in comparison with the representation of the populations outside that range.

The country's socio-economic background



3.1 Gross Domestic Product

The socio-economic situation of Honduras, as shown in the *Estrategía para la Reducción de la Pobreza* (Poverty Reduction Strategy, ERP)³ continues in effect. It clearly shows that for economists, wealth and national development (rather than poverty, in the case of Honduras) are reflected in the size and growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP); experts have calculated for Honduras that each percentage point in GDP growth over the last decade, there was a poverty reduction of an average of 0.65 percentage points, while for the rest on the countries in Latin America the average was 0.94 points.⁴

But in Honduras, GDP growth (in real terms) has been erratic over the last decade. It achieved its highest rate in 1993 (3.3%), while declining in 1999 (-4.3%). Real GDP growth for 2001 was 2.6% while the government has forecast 3.5% to 4% for this year (2003).

ERP makes reference in its analysis to several methodologies for measuring poverty, but those commented in this document are limited to a measurement based on the poverty line set by monthly per capita cost of a basic market basket of foods and other basic needs. Thus, poor households are those whose income does not exceed monthly per capita cost of the basic market basket, which for May 2002 was 1,098 lempiras (US\$69.70, at an exchange rate of 15.75 lempiras to the US dollar in May 2002).

Poverty in Honduras is related to unequal income distribution. For 2002, the wealthiest 20% of households received 61.1% of all income, while the poorest 20% received a mere 1.9% of the income, which explains why countries with similar per capita GDPs and different income structures have different poverty levels.

According to the ERP, if Honduras, El Salvador and Mexico had a similar pattern of distribution of wealth, in Honduras poverty would be reduced by 10 percentage points with a GDP similar to El Salvador's and by 41 points with a GDP equal to that of Mexico.

This means that in spite of government efforts, the Honduran State is far from achieving better poverty levels by increasing the GDP.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Poverty Reduction Strategy places a long-term emphasis on a fundamental requisite: accelerated and sustained economic growth to generate permanent employment and establish a basis for a real increase in per capita income.

3.2 Income Distribution

As was mentioned above, income distribution in Honduras is very unequal. If we look at a distribution of households by quintiles of income, we can see how far apart in reality the country's poorest and wealthiest households are. The wealthiest 20% take home more than one half of all income in the

³ *Estrategía de Reducción de la Pobreza*, (ERP) August 2001, Office of the President of the Republic, Honduras.

⁴ Observations on GDP and poverty indicators are taken from the document on Poverty Reduction Strategy (ERP) August 2001. Poverty is measured as a percentage of households with income below the cost of the basic family market basket.

Extremes of Income Distribution

Table 3.1

	Wealthiest 20% of households	Poorest 20% of households
Persons in households	966,705	1,688,237
% of total national income	61.1	1.9

Percentage of income = mean income per capita of household (extreme 20%) / sum of mean per capita income of all households.

country while the poorest 20% do not even have access to 2.0% of the income.

Income distribution is not only inadequate in terms of households, but also in terms the individual. While in the wealthiest 20% of the households their members receive a monthly average of 4,060 lempiras each, the members of the poorest 20% of the households must survive with an average of 132 lempiras each month, to wit, the wealthiest individuals live with 8 dollars a day and the poorest with 8 dollars a month.

This is the great gap, many individuals with low income and few individuals with high income. In the midst of these groups we find the boys and girls and youths absorbing responsibilities that do not correspond to them, paying what they do not owe and suffering all of this without comprehension.

3.3 Poverty

The Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey has monitored the evolution of poverty in

the country. In 1991, 75% of households were below the poverty line, while in 2002, this group represented 63.9% of households, which shows a relative improvement.

However, while the percentage of households below the poverty line declined in relative terms, the absolute number of households in poverty increased. There were more than 657 thousand poor households in 1991; this number has grown to almost 885 thousand in 2002. This implies an increase of almost one million individuals in poverty. This apparent contradiction can be explained in part by the differential demographic dynamics between poor and non-poor households. The non-poor tend to form homes with less children, while the poor tend to increase in household number, but also in number of persons that depend on a single pot on the stove or a single head of household, as they also have a greater number of children.

In other words, to speak of 10 non-poor households means referring to 30 or 40 persons, while if the households are poor, one is then speaking of 50 or 60 persons.

Put simply, the country's poverty continues to increase and the poor tend to counteract the situation by modifying the structure of their households, joining budgets or incorporating male and female children into the labour force, while at the same time unfortunately worsening other living conditions, reflected in over-crowding and school attrition, while maintaining related behaviour, such as family disintegration, irresponsible parenthood and reproduction of their poverty.

Households by Situation of Poverty, According to Area of Residence

Table 3.2

Dominion	Total Households	Number of Households		Percent of Households	
		Non-poor	Poor	Non-poor	Poor
Total Nationwide	1,337,694	482,749	854,945	36.1	63.9
Urban	665,875	291,380	374,495	43.8	56.2
Tegucigalpa	180,902	91,901	89,001	50.8	49.2
San Pedro Sula	110,823	57,199	53,624	51.6	48.4
Mid-size Cities	245,270	107,507	137,763	43.8	46.2
Small Cities	128,880	34,773	94,107	27.0	73.0
Rural Areas	671,819	191,369	480,450	28.5	71.5

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

3.4 Employment and Underemployment

According to the May 2002 Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, in Honduras the open unemployment rate is 4%, a figure that represents only those who are without work momentarily, and expect to find a job opening. The high poverty levels force the population to accept almost any work, so that more than one half (51%) is “employed” even though for their work they receive less than the monthly minimum wage (the minimum wage is less than US\$180 per month).

Among those occupied with less than the minimum wage, 6 of every 10 work more than 36 hours per week, which does not leave them much time to try and make a little more take-home from other activities.

Thus, the principal employment problem is that those employed receive a salary or wage insufficient to meet their basic needs, particularly for those that must work more than 36 hours per week while receiving wages below the minimum wage.

On the other hand, underemployment is high especially among those involved in self-employed economic activities. Sixty percent of this group earns less than the monthly minimum wage. It is even worse among domestic service workers, almost all of whom are female, where 93% earn less than the minimum wage.

Although open unemployment is an important problem, underemployment affects the greatest majority in its different forms, insecure and unstable jobs, low wages, unpaid overtime, etc. Of every 10 workers, 7 are males and the only sectors where females are a majority are the public sector and domestic service. Coincidentally, employed workers that have not completed secondary education are those found in domestic service and as self-employed.

Scant private sector technological development is reflected by the fact that 70% of employees have no education or some primary education. On the other hand, the salaried private sector does not take advantage of experience in the population, since a majority of employees are between 15 and 29 years of age. The experienced ones and those with more education have found placement in the public sector or are self-employed

3.5 Demographic and Social Aspects

In Honduras, as in a majority of the developing countries in Latin America, progress in medicine and technology has brought about an accelerated decline in infant mortality, while the lack of education and poverty have made for a slow and late fertility decline. These phenomena place Honduras among the five most rapidly growing countries in Latin America.

This rapid population growth doubled the 1950 population in less than 24 years, and the 1974 population in less than 26 years, according to the 2001 Census.

The 2001 population census reports that Honduras has a total population of 6,535,344 persons, almost as many males as females, with just 73,428 more females than males. Similarly, the population is equally distributed between rural and urban areas and between those under and those over 18 years of age.

But these may be the only equitable distributions in the Honduran population, since its distribution on the land is very unequal. Four departments representing 50% of the nation’s land area hold a mere 16% of the population and in contrast, 50% of the population resides on a mere 19% of the territory.

Honduras is a country of significant contrasts, with high population concentration and high dispersion, at the same time. For example, the municipalities holding the major cities of San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa have population densities of more than 600 persons per square kilometre, while the municipality of Puerto Lempira in Gracias a Dios department has only 3 persons per square kilometre.

The political territorial division⁵ is capricious, insofar as there are municipalities less than 40 sq. km in extension (Dulce Nombre de Copán, Lauterique de La

Population of Honduras and Intercensal Growth Rates 1950-2001

Table 3.3

Year	Population	Intercensal Period	Intercensal Growth Rate
1950	1,399,588	1950-1961 1961-1974 1974-1988 1988-2001	3.28 3.07 3.11 2.64
1961	1,996,185		
1974	2,966,244		
1988	4,614,377		
2001	6,535,344		

Source: Population and Housing Censuses, 1950-1988, Statistics and Census Office. 2001 Census, National Institute of Statistics, 2001.

⁵ División Política Territorial Administrativa de la República de Honduras, Anuario Estadístico 1994, Statistics and Census Office, 1994.

Paz, among others) while others are very extended (Iruya de Colón, Catacamas de Olancho, Brus Laguna and Puerto Lempira in Gracias a Dios), which exceed 4000 sq. kilometres.

This extensive dispersion of the population increases the cost of projects aimed at satisfying the basic needs of those communities (access to drinking water, electricity, health services, education, etc.), while the disordered concentration also causes a collapse of urban development planning (over-crowding, underemployment, excessive demand for health services, education, housing, etc.), so that both phenomena make it impossible to achieve better human development indices.

3.5.1 Education

With regards to education, according to official statistics, the illiterate population represents 18% of the population over 10 years of age, showing a 10 point improvement over the last 30 years, insofar as the 1974 figure was 28%.

School attendance, measured by net registration, reached 78% in 1980. The Government of the Republic was proud to have achieved an index of 87% for 1999. Nevertheless, class repeats (9.7%) dropouts and over-age attendees are factors that influence the level of schooling and the level of student efficiency.

At the secondary level, coverage is about 35%, which means that more than one-half million youths do not have access to education while class repeats are estimated at 10.3%.

Higher education is centred in the two most important universities funded by the State. They receive 94% of the students at that level; the remaining 6% are in private universities. The National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) registered more than 68 thousand students in 2002 and will receive 8000 new students in 2003, who are not assured of being able to register. On the other hand, the student population

will find higher fees for registration, changing majors, IDs, and extraordinary exams, to mention just a few of the limitations that will go into effect in 2003. To make the situation worse, this institution reports that the repetition rate is 17%.

Similarly, the Francisco Morazán National Pedagogical University (UPNFM) put into effect for 2003 an entrance exam, by means of which only 50% of the candidates were able to achieve the right to register (approximately 1,400 students). In addition, the University announced that the passing grade would climb from 60 to 70 over 100 at mid-year.

A minimum percentage of the population reaches the university level. According to the household survey for 2002, the population attending university was a mere 3.8% of the population between 18 and 45 years of age.

At the secondary level, the government response to the demand for coverage has been to extend basic education through ninth grade, initiating this experiment in 35 schools. Similarly, the Honduran community education programme began offering educational services in poor rural areas with direct participation by parents in administering educational services. Furthermore, departmental and district directions were established as part of governmental decentralisation.

3.5.2 Health

Until 1990, improvements in life expectancy and declines in infant mortality characterised the health system as successful. Vaccination levels against measles and whooping cough reached proportions above 90%, achieving international certification of the eradication of wild poliovirus. Increased access by the population to drinking water also contributed to this improvement.

It is worth noting that the health system has maintained high proportions of complete immunization in children from 1 to 3 years of age, and that it has upheld control mechanisms preventing deaths from diarrhoea and respiratory infections. (See table 3.5)

But past achievements are insufficient and not lasting. Recent results⁶ show that diarrhoeas (23%) and respiratory infections (49%) continue to prevail in children less than 5 years of age in 2001, figures higher than those found in 1996 (19% and 39%,

Statistics by Educational Level, 2001			Table 3.4
Level	Teachers	Students	Centres
Pre-school	2,996	94,667	3,288
Primary	28,966	1,022,817	9,504
Secondary	804	181,022	523

Source: Infotecología, Department of Public Education

⁶ Encuesta Nacional de Epidemiología y Salud Familiar ENESF 2001. Department of Health/ ASHONPLAFA.

respectively). Chronic malnutrition, another scourge among the youngest Hondurans, particularly among those between 12 and 59 months, was 33% in 2001.

Weak sectorial guidance by the Department of Health, high delinquency rates, malnutrition and death from AIDS, have brought a change to the positive morbidity and mortality trends in the population. Another contributing factor for these negative trends has been institutional dysfunctionality of the Health Sector, which reached the point of allowing the closure of 140 primary health care health service units.

In 1998, the primary health care network was 56% larger than it had been in 1990, with 1079 health care service units, but at the beginning of 2002 a total of 233 health centres were in total abandonment and closed for lack of budget, of these, only 89 have been put back into operation.

In view of the foregoing, it is no surprise that childhood mortality indicators have remained stable or increased between 1996 and 2001.

3.5.3 Housing

Most dwellings used by the Honduran population have at least one unmet basic need, or a housing situation reflecting living conditions that limit human development for those living there, keeping them on the margin of the benefits of development, and in the worst situation cut off from the most elemental human rights, such as water or a decent dwelling.

In **urban areas**, only 55% of dwellings are owned by their inhabitants, 25% rent them and the rest are paying for them to inhabit them under circumstances that have not been legalised.

In this area, dwellings with brick or poured cement floors predominate (83.2%), but there are still almost 10% with earthen floors.

On the other hand, only one-half (51%) of the dwellings have inside access to water, the rest (41%) have it on the property, or do not have access (7%), and only 57% are connected to the sewer network.

Electric power is one of the benefits of development that reaches almost all of the urban dwellings (92.8%).

In summary, the population in Honduras' cities subsists with three unmet basic needs: population

Immunobiological Coverage by Type in Children Aged 12 to 59 Months, 2001

Table 3.5

Area	BCG	SABIN	DPT/PENT	MEAS/MMR
Total	98.3	95.5	93.4	93.4
Urban	98.5	96.3	95.8	92.9
Rural	98.2	95.1	95.3	97.7

Source: Extended Immunization Programme (PAI), Department of Health, see definitions in List of Abbreviations.

Infant Mortality Indicators: 1996 and 2001

Table 3.6

Indicator	1996	2001
Perinatal mortality rate (per 1000 births)	25	29
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	19	19
Post-neonatal mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	17	15
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	36	34
Mortality rate for children under 5 years of age	48	45

Note: The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths to children less than one year of age per 1000 live births during the same period. Neonatal mortality measures the number of deaths to children during their first 28 days of life, for each 1000 live born during the same period. Post-neonatal mortality measures the number of deaths to children after their first 28 days of life per 1000 live births in the same period.

Source: Encuesta Nacional de Epidemiología y Salud Familiar 2001, Department of Health

access to drinking water, connection to the sewer network, and ownership of a decent dwelling, each of them is of vital importance for the physical and mental health of the population. Although a solution implies tremendous effort and investment, the permanence of these shortfalls provokes an increased demand for health services and generates social instability.

In **rural areas**, the situation is different, although no less difficult. Twenty percent of dwellings have wattle walls, one-half have earthen floors, 30% are without access to water and do not even have a latrine.

In this area, home ownership does not seem to be a problem, since 80% of the dwellings are owned by those inhabiting them. But it is worth mentioning in this regard that the survey did not request the informant to show ownership papers, and it is known that in the countryside there is a great deal of disputed land, which suggests that this datum should be accepted with caution. Furthermore, electricity has reached only 34% of rural dwellings.

In general, in rural areas it is hard to establish priorities because so many things are lacking, but assuredly a reduction in the number of households with earthen floors, without drinking water or toilets would improve the living conditions of the population.

3.6 Summary of Laws, Action Programmes and Governmental Policies

3.6.1 Summary of laws

The Constitution of the Republic establishes the following in Articles 16 and 18: Art. 16: *“All international treaties must be approved by the National Congress prior to ratification by the Executive Branch. International treaties subscribed by Honduras with other States, once they go into effect, shall constitute a part of domestic law.”*; Art. 18: *“In the event of conflict between the treaty or convention and the Law, the former will prevail.”*

Honduras is signatory of international conventions relating to living conditions, labour situations, rights and specifically on the worst forms of child labour, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Honduras since 1990 by Legislative Decree #75-90, ILO Convention 138 Concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, ratified by Honduras since 9 June 1980, which establishes the minimum age for admission to employment at 14 years, and ILO Convention 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, ratified by Honduras in July 2001.

On the national stage, there are legal bodies such as the **Constitution of the Republic**, which is the main instrument from which the normative framework has been derived for protection of childhood and adolescence. As can be seen in some articles, as follows:

Art.# 111 *“... infancy is under the protection of the State”*.

Art.# 119 *“The State has the obligation to protect infancy. Children shall enjoy the protection foreseen in international agreements that oversee their rights. The laws protecting childhood are of a public order and official establishments destined to that end have the character of social assistance centres.”*

Art. # 124 *“All children must be protected from all types of abandonment, cruelty and exploitation. They shall not be the object of any type of trafficking. They shall not work before an adequate minimum age, nor will they be permitted to work in any occupation or employment that might be prejudicial to their health, education or impede their physical, mental or moral development.”*

The **Children and Adolescents’ Code** went into effect on 5 September 1996. Chapter V “On the protection of children against economic exploitation”, contains four sections: Generalities,

Authorization for work, Apprenticeship contracts and Protection against economic exploitation. It stipulates that it is the State’s duty to formulate policies and prepare, promote and implement programmes tending to a gradual abolition of labour among children.

Furthermore, it also regulates working hours and determines the contents of the record that must be kept by the employer of child labour. A violation of these provisions will be sanctioned with a fine, unless the child’s life has been placed at risk or his or her morals and good customs have been threatened and there has been harm done, in which case the appropriate civil or criminal sanctions will be applied.

The apprenticeship contract will be remunerated and the amount cannot be less than the minimum wage. Inspection of child labour will be regulated.

The following will be a crime of economic exploitation and will be punished by imprisonment from three to five years for: a) making a child work overtime hours or night shifts, b) obliging a child to work for a wage below the minimum, c) promoting, inciting or making a child carry out illicit or dishonest activities, d) who with a motive of family or domestic labours infringes the rights contained in this Code if, after notification, persists in the violation.

With regard to social security, it stipulates that coverage be extended gradually and progressively; additionally, it classifies begging as grounds for legal emancipation for a male or female child from their parent that induces or obligates them to dedicate themselves to this activity.

According to Article 139 of this Code, a child is at social risk if *“... s/he is in a situation such that his/her rights or integrity are threatened...”*. According to Article 25 it is the duty of all individuals to oversee that the dignity of male and female children is respected and to *“protect them against any inhumane, violent, terrorising, humiliating or destructive treatment, even though its intention may be for reasons of discipline or correction, whomsoever may be the active agent.”*

According to Article 51, the State will provide conditions for male and female children to enjoy their right to rest, recreation and sports.

The **Labour Code** is a framework of legal norms reflecting international instruments that focus on the problem of child labour. In Article 127 it says: “Work for females and minors must be suitable,

especially for their age, conditions, physical state and intellectual and moral development.” Article 128 states: “Minors that have not reached their sixteenth (16th) birthday and women may not perform those labours that this Code, the Health Code and health and safety regulations consider unhealthy or dangerous.” And Article 129 stipulates: “Night work and overtime hours are prohibited for those minors under sixteen years...”

The Department of Labour and Social Security is the entity in charge of overseeing that male and female children do not perform tasks that are dangerous, hinder their education or affect their physical or mental development. More specifically, the **Regulation on Child Labour**, which went into effect after publication in La Gaceta, the Honduran Government’s Official Journal, on 31 December 2001, implemented by Executive Agreement STSS-211-01, of the Department of Labour and Social Security, is designed to develop administrative sanctions applied to infractions committed regarding provision of services by adolescents and apprentices and their employers and trainers.

The regulation reflects the orientation that must be provided to adolescent workers, their parents, siblings and legal representatives, as well as to employers regarding rights and duties imposed by our current legislation, including those from the Code on Childhood and Adolescence that indicate tasks and working shifts forbidden to adolescents and measures of occupational health.

Similarly, it mentions the competent authority to oversee compliance with norms protecting working children, how inspections are to be carried out at sites where adolescents work and, generally, on other matters related to their work, all of which is aimed at reinforcing operational instruments to better apply current legislation on child labour in Honduras.

Minors are also protected under the **Family Code**, for example, Article 186 says that “the male or female under-aged child authorized to work by the Law shall administer and dispose of the goods acquired by his or her labours or public employment as though s/he were an adult.”

The Criminal Code does not indicate specific penalties for those employing children in the worst forms of child labour, but such behaviour may be punished by analogy, since the sale or trafficking of children, sexual exploitation, abduction, kidnapping thereof, or hindering a male or female child from

abandoning such a situation are punishable under Articles 195, 197 and 201.

The Attorney General’s Office (Ministerio Público) has among its major goals to oversee prompt, correct and effective administration of justice, especially in criminal matters. Since 1995, it has included the Special Attorney for Children (Fiscalía de la Niñez), whose functions are to care for children’s affairs in conflict with the laws, as both active and passive subjects, seeking to provide legal representation, psychological and social care as required in each case. According to Article 16 of the law on the Attorney General’s Office, its attributes are: *“to present claims and formalise accusations representing minors who have been passive victims of crimes of private action, did not receive the protection of justice due to negligence or poverty of their parents or legal guardians.”*

3.6.2 Government Policy and Action Programmes

In 1980, Honduras ratified ILO Convention 130 Concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Work. In July 2001, it ratified Convention 182 Concerning the Worst Forms of Child Labour and ILO Recommendation 190.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed in November 1996 between the Government of Honduras and the ILO, instructed the former concerning the creation of **Regional Technical Sub-Councils** in several parts of the country. These sub-councils have specific functions and responsibilities aimed at: sensitizing the local population regarding the child labour situation, training different players regarding national and international norms relative to child labour, carrying out actions of social mobilisation to increase public awareness on the impact that dangerous forms of work produce in the lives of child labourers, dialog sessions with social sectors involved in child labour, and implementation of pilot activities that may contribute to eradication of child labour while offering educational opportunities to working children and adolescents.

In 1998, the Honduran Government created the **National Commission for the Gradual and Progressive Eradication of Child Labour**, whose main activity to date has been to draft a General Diagnosis of the Situation of Child Labour in Honduras and a National Action Plan. Within the framework of the National Action Plan, Regional Technical Sub-Councils for Eradication of the Worst Forms of Child Labour were created.

The Law on the **Honduran Institute for Children and the Family** (INHFA), passed on 17 December 1995 by the National Congress, created and empowered the INHFA as the technical authority of the State to guarantee the higher interest of children. It states that its methodologies will respond to the Doctrine on Integral Protection, decentralising services in regional offices to increase coverage and incorporating in its activities all governmental organisations, civil society, including NGOs, the Church, local authorities, municipal childhood protection officers and other active local groups.

The INHFA has defined three programmes to achieve its integrated child protection objectives.⁷

- 1) **Community Family Development Programme:** all activities in this programme have a preventive focus and it is composed of the following sub-programmes: a) *Casa de los Niños* (Children's Home), which includes Day Care Centres, Non-Formal Pre-School Education Centres, Student Assistance Workshops and Nutrition Building Activities. Additionally, community projects are defined and carried out by families with support from the community centres. As a part of the programme, community volunteers are trained to provide special support for children, and there is Family Counselling as well.
- 2) **The Programme for Social Intervention and Protection** has sub-programmes such as Solidarity Moms, Solidarity Families, Las Casitas Centre, Disabled, Scholarships and Subsidies, Adoptions and La Esperanza (Hope) Project focusing on street children.
- 3) **The Re-education and Social Reinsertion Programme** with three sub-programmes: a) Delinquent Adolescents, for children aged 12 to 18 that have run afoul of the law, with internment measures in a closed centre, internment in a semi-open centre and assisted freedom. B) Social reinsertion stage, and finally the programme known as "To the Rescue" (*Al Rescate*) aimed at minors involved with gangs.

Furthermore, the **Department of Education**⁸ proposes significant goals of educational transformation in its Plan of Action and Strategies 2002 – 2006. Only those related with coverage, permanency and compulsoriness of basic education are emphasised as having possible impacts on working children.

1. Creation of a year of pre-basic education, which will gradually become universal and compulsory.
2. Obligation of the State to finance and make nine-grade basic education universal.
3. Institutionalise alternate types of education, integrating non-formal education within a unitised educational concept and managerial structure.

Measures:

1. Destine greater resources to the educational sector so that, at the end of the government term, this will have increased towards 8% of GDP, insuring due control and efficient use of these resources.
2. Seek new resources from international cooperation and provide incentives for investment in education by private enterprise.
3. Encourage parents, teachers and private enterprise to become "godparents" in administering the schools.
4. Grant bonds to the poorest parents for keeping their children in school, particularly in rural areas, and carry out an effective scholarship plan.
5. Grant a bond for academic excellence to the poorest students in rural areas.
6. Introduce a school snack plan at those sites where it is not possible to recur to the attendance bond.

In more general terms, the Children's Courts, the Special Attorney for Childhood, the Human Rights Commissioner, the municipalities, the General Directorate of the Crime Prevention Police and the Municipal Childhood Protection Offices and the National Institute of Women are responsible for those matters relating to compliance with the law regarding Honduran children, and especially in those cases where it becomes necessary to restore to them those rights that have been suppressed.

Obviously there is a legal framework, regulations and institutions sufficient for the task of punishing, caring for, preventing or eliminating child labour, but plans, policies or strategies are lacking with budgetary conditions, training or logistics sufficient to provide on-going and systematic follow-up of this problem.

⁷ Memoria 2002, Instituto Hondureño de la Niñez y la Familia, IHNFA, (Draft), April, 2003.

⁸ Plan de Acción y Estrategia 2002-2006, Department of Public Education.

CHAPTER 4

Characteristics of the population between 5 and 17 years of age



4.1 Population Composition

To provide an idea of the composition of the population of interest in this analysis, we will refer to the size, distribution by sex and relative weight of this special group with regard to the population as a whole and with regard to other groups that make up and share the scene with the population aged 5 to 17 years.

According to the 2001 Census, the Honduran population numbers slightly more than 6 million persons. Most have not been alive for 30 years and one-half of them are barely over 18 years of age. Of every 10 Hondurans, 1 is less than 5 years of age and 4 are between 5 and 17 years of age. So that when we refer to the child population it means turning our interest to more than one-third of the whole population, i.e., more than 2 million persons, who may currently be ignored, marginalized, exploited, and what is worse, still in slavery and physically and psychologically abused.

Among minors, 57.2% live in rural areas and 42.8% in urban areas. Among the rural inhabitants, 51.4% are males, showing that a greater proportion of males remain in rural areas, while females are moving to the cities, with 50.2% of urban minors.

As is characteristic in countries with high fertility, the Honduran population is very young. Countrywide, two thousand households are headed by a minor, and more than 20 thousand females have become wives (or daughters-in-law) before their 18th birthday. If we consider the children that are not offspring or stepchildren, 503,708 children (21.8%) live in a household whose head is not their father and 47,967 (2%) live with a head of household who is not even a relative.

These characteristics are a reflection of a demographic dynamic with high indices of family disintegration and fertility, or early sexual experience

Male and Female Children by Area of Residence, According to Sex

Table 4.1

Sex	Area of Residence				Total	
	Urban		Rural			
	% row	% column	% row	% column	% row	% column
Male	42.0	49.8	58.0	51.4	100.0	50.7
Female	43.5	50.2	56.5	48.6	100.0	49.3
Total	42.8	100.0	57.2	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

and adolescent pregnancy, characteristics placing Honduras among the fastest growing countries in Latin America.

According to the National Epidemiology and Family Health Survey of 2001, *“of ever-pregnant youths, 60% got pregnant for the first time before their 17th birthday and among the women whose pregnancy occurred before they were 15 years of age, 50% declared that it was a desired pregnancy.*

Apparently, many young Honduran women have few expectations for life, except to be mothers, even while girls.”

The Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey (EPHPM) showed that male and female children 5 to 17 years of age occupy an important space with regards to the rest of the population. Within each household, 30% of the members are children between 5 and 17 years of age. In rural areas, they make up 53%, and in urban areas 45% of the population, and as heads of household, we found some between 15 and 17 years of age.

This population group represents 35.1% of the whole population and is equitably distributed by gender.

Of the total of male and female children, a majority resides in rural areas (57%). This is a reflection of the high fertility levels among rural women. A simple distribution by sex does not provide and significant differences, but in rural areas males predominate, while in urban areas the opposite is the case, as a consequence of rural-urban migration among young females.

Males and Females by Area of Residence and Sex, According to Age Group

Table 4.2

Age Group	Area of Residence		Sex		Total
	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	
5-9	39.5	42.6	41.3	41.3	41.3
10-14	38.5	39.3	39.3	38.5	39.0
15-17	22.0	18.1	19.3	20.2	19.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

Children by Sex, According to Relationship to Head of Household

Table 4.3

Relationship to head of household	Total	Sex	
		Males	Females
Head	2,002	716	1,286
Spouse, son/daughter-in-law	20,660	108	20,552
Child or stepchild	1,810,178	944,810	865,368
Other relative	435,081	210,807	224,274
Non-relative	40,849	17,705	23,144
Domestic servant	7,118	108	7,010
Total	2,315,888	1,174,254	1,141,634

Source: Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

Composition by Sex of the Population, According to Age Groups

Table 4.4

Age Group	Sex		% Total
	Males (%)	Females (%)	
0 – 4	14.7	13.5	14.0
5 – 17	36.5	33.7	35.1
18 and over	48.8	52.8	50.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

There is a differential age composition, since a change in residence by male and female children begins to become an important factor after age 13, probably due to the search for space in the educational system at the secondary level, which is more accessible in urban areas, and also, because the girls with lower educational achievement can enter gainful employment in domestic service or in the draw-back industry in urban areas.

4.2 Dwelling Characteristics

As was mentioned in Chapter III, many dwellings in Honduras lack basic services of water, electric power, toilets, refuse collection, with rural areas in a more precarious situation. This situation does not differ for the population aged 5 to 17 years.

The following table indicates the percentage of the population 5 to 17 years of age by dwelling characteristic, we must call attention to children in rural areas, where 20.7% live in dwellings whose walls are built of sticks, cane or refuse, more than half live in dwellings with earthen floors, few have sewerage connections or refuse collection, and many are still lit by candles or gas lamps. If these indicators are barely more than 50% for urban areas, in rural areas, where a majority of children live and unmet needs are found, it will be some time before improved living conditions are achieved.

4.3 Economic Characteristics of the Households

Survey data show that males head 74% of households with children aged 5 to 17 years and females head 26%.

According to the educational level of the head of household, 24.3% have had no schooling, slightly more than one-half have had some primary education (55.4%), 15.3% had some secondary education and only 5.0% had received some higher education.

By age of the head of household, 25% of households with children between 5 and 17 years of age are headed by persons with less than 35 years of age, which indicates that many undertook their duties as parents very young, without having achieved educational or economic maturity.

These characteristics give witness to the fact that a majority of these households tend to be poor, with fathers, mothers or guardians with low levels of schooling hindering them from access to well-paid jobs, so that many of them have to use their male and female children as part of the labour force.

Characteristics of Dwellings Inhabited by the Population Aged 5 to 17 Years

Table 4.5

Dwelling Characteristics	Area of Residence		Total
	Urban	Rural	
Independent house or apartment	93.1	95.6	94.5
Walls of wattle, sticks or refuse	4.6	20.7	13.8
Earthen floor	12.1	50.6	34.2
Lacks piping for water	8.6	32.9	22.5
Public water supply	62.0	7.9	31.1
Private collective water service	26.8	53.7	42.2
Water supply inside dwelling	46.2	11.1	26.1
Water outside dwelling but on property	44.4	61.0	53.9
Toilet connected to sewer network	51.0	3.1	23.6
Lighting with candles	2.8	7.2	5.3
Lighting with oil or gas lamps	4.4	46.3	28.4
Public refuse collection	54.7	2.7	24.9
Owned and fully paid-up	58.7	83.4	72.9
Own and being paid	6.5	1.3	3.5

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002

Age of Head of Household with Children Aged 5 to 17 Years

Table 4.6

	Frequency	Percent
Valid 10 - 14	155	0.0
15 - 19	95,970	0.6
20 - 24	31,456	3.2
25 - 29	84,716	8.6
30 - 34	123,584	12.6
35 - 39	144,065	14.6
40 - 44	153,124	15.6
45 - 49	120,732	12.3
50 - 54	100,025	10.2
55 - 59	61,541	6.3
60 - 64	53,889	5.5
65 - 69	39,759	4.0
70 - 74	32,415	3.3
75 - 79	18,144	1.8
80 and up	13,921	1.4
Total	983,496	100.0

Source: Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002

Working boys and girls



One-half of the Honduran population is under 18 years of age, this implies a heavy demand on adults to provide health, education, food, clothing, etc. In an ideal distribution of responsibilities, each adult should provide satisfaction for the basic needs of at least 2 Hondurans: those of a minor and his or her own. Obviously this burden of responsibilities can be greater, as for example in rural areas or among the poor, where household size is greater and the responsibilities fall on those who are working.

In Honduras, the child work market, synonymous with the economically active child population (EAP), consists of 367,405 boys and girls who work or are actively seeking employment. Of these, 356,241 (97.0%) were working at the time of the survey, which gives us an unemployment rate for this population of 3.0%. Of this total of persons 5 to 17 years of age in the employed EAP, 73.6% were males and 24.6% were females.

5.1 Rate of Working Children

The work rate provides information about participation of the working population within the working-age population. In this sense, we can identify that rates of working children increase as age increases. Among children aged 5 to 9 years, the work rate is 2.0%, in those aged 10 to 14 years, it is 16.9%; and in the group aged 15 to 17 years, the work rate is 40.5%. This explains that the greater the age of the minors, the greater the probabilities of their labour force insertion. This is due in part to the fact that after age 14 there is a norm from the Department of Labour to issue working permits to minors.

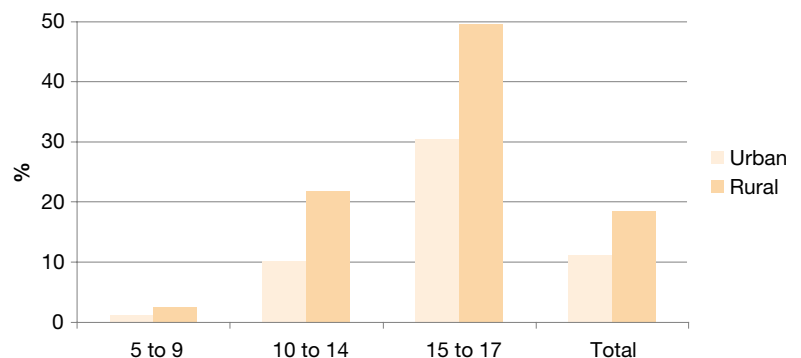
Nationwide, among minors aged 5 to 17 years, 15.4% are working. This rate highlights the deterioration in the economic situation of families obligated to complement household income through the manpower of their children, negating the importance of their education.

As can be seen in Figure 5.1, the work rate is higher in rural areas than urban areas for all age groups.

The rate of economic participation by children increases with age, especially among those 14 to 17 years of age. After age 14, the Department of Labour authorises children to work under certain conditions. During 2000, it issued 1,140 working permits.

Work Rates of Male and Female Minors Between 5 and 17 Years of Age According to Group and Area of Residence

Figure 5.1



Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002

By sex, it can be seen that work rates are higher for male children than female children in all age groups. A majority of children in the employed EAP are males (73.6%) and only 26.4% are females. In the 15 to 17 year old group, for every 28 males working there are only 10 females. This low female participation includes a significant under-registration since there are many activities that female minors carry out, which are not considered gainful employment and household statistics do not capture them.

One example of this was found when the INE (the D.G.E.C. at that time) included a module on women in the May 1990 survey⁹, which incorporated specific questions to capture economic activities carried out by women. The findings showed an increase in participation rates from 25% to 58%, which means that there are many activities that become invisible due to the way information is gathered.

In rural areas, the proportion of males among child workers is higher than in urban areas. In rural areas, 80.6% of working persons between 5 and 17 years of age are males. In urban areas, the situation changes, since only 57.9% of the child labourers are males.

Figure 5.2 shows higher work rates for males in urban and especially in rural areas. Male involvement in work activities in rural areas is significantly higher than in urban areas, but this situation is inverted for females. Urban females have higher work rates than rural females.

By geographic area, it can be seen that the highest work rates are in rural areas, indifferent of age group and sex, responding to greater opportunities and/or demands for workers in agriculture, especially for children. Tasks such as hauling water, transporting agricultural products, chopping wood, fertilising and planting basic cereals are activities considered typically masculine. Of all economically active working children, 69.2% (246,628) live in rural areas and only 30.8% (109,613) are urban residents.

Female children find less to do in rural areas. Tasks that they traditionally carry out are inside the home, and thus are not remunerated. Tasks such as caring for younger siblings, preparing meals, cleaning house, are things considered without economic value, insofar as they are carried out as reproductive labour.

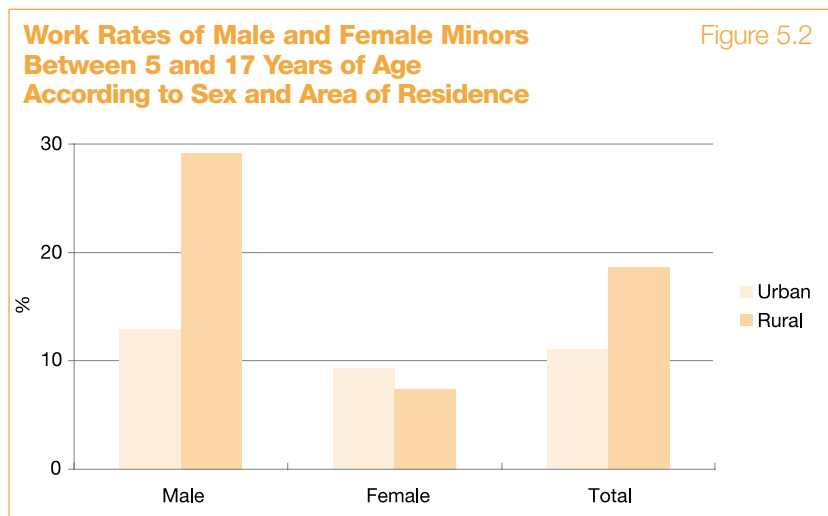
5.2 Employed EAP Aged 5 to 17 Years by Industry

The population of working children is concentrated in agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing (56.2%), wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants (24.4%) and manufacturing industry (8.2%); the remaining 11.2% of working children are found in mines and quarries, electricity, gas and water, construction, transportation, finance and services.

By age group, the importance of the agricultural, forestry, hunting and fishing sector for all groups stands out (over 50%), as well as the decreasing relative importance of trade, hotels and restaurants, which drops from 35.5% for the 5 to 9 age group, to 21.0% for the 15 to 17 year old group. Furthermore, the services sector, which has no children between 5 and 9 years of age, absorbs 9.5% of adolescents aged 15 to 17.

In the 5 to 9 age group, boys are primarily occupied in activities related to agriculture, while girls work in commercial activities; this situation does not change among the males, although it does for the females.

Jobs for girls in trade (street hawkers or salespersons in businesses) decline with age, 66.0% in the 5 to 9 year old group, to 38.1% for adolescents 15 to 17 years of age, and increases in activities relat-



Source: Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002

⁹ *Pobreza Femenina y Sector Informal*, June 1993, *Compilación de Estudios sobre Población, Pobreza y Empleo*, Volume IV, SECLPLAN/ILO/PNUD, October 1993.

ed to social, community and personal services, which increase by age from 0.0% for 5 to 9 year olds, to 32.8% among those 15 to 17 years old. This industry includes household service, personal care, work in beauty salons, among others. Similarly, as they grow up, females abandon rural activities, such as agriculture. It is worth noting that a recently incorporated category becomes important as females increase in age, and that is related to man-

ufacturing industries, which climbs from 10.5% in the first age group to 16.8% in the oldest group.

Services industries are predominantly female and in manufacturing and trade industries, about 50% of working minors are female. The other industries are predominantly male (see Figure 5.3).

Employed EAP 5 to 17 Years of Age, by Age Group, According to Industry

Table 5.1

Industry	Age Group			Total
	5-9	10-14	15-17	
Agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing	54.3	59.8	53.5	56.2
Mines and quarries	-	-	0.3	0.1
Manufacturing industry	8.5	6.9	9.3	8.2
Electricity, gas and water	-	-	0.1	-
Construction	1.5	1.4	4.5	3.0
Wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants	35.5	27.3	21.0	24.4
Transportation, storage and communications	0.2	0.6	1.4	1.0
Financial and insurance establishments	-	0.1	0.4	0.3
Community, social and personal services	-	3.9	9.5	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002

Employed EAP 5 to 17 Years of Age by Sex and Age Group, According to Industry

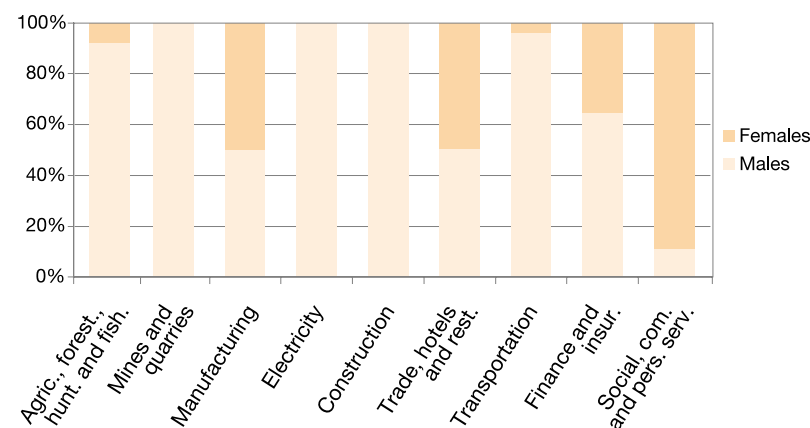
Table 5.2

Industry	Sex					
	Male			Female		
	5-9	10-14	15-17	5-9	10-14	15-17
Agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing	66.7	73.8	67.0	23.5	19.7	11.1
Mines and quarries	-	-	0.3	-	-	-
Manufacturing industry	7.7	4.2	7.4	10.5	14.6	16.8
Electricity, gas and water	-	-	0.1	-	-	-
Construction	2.2	1.9	6.8	-	-	0.3
Wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants	23.1	18.6	14.7	66.0	52.2	38.1
Transportation, storage and communications	0.3	0.8	1.8	-	-	0.3
Financial and insurance establishments	-	0.1	0.3	-	-	0.6
Community, social and personal services	-	0.5	1.6	-	13.5	32.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002

Percentage Distribution of Working Children by Sex and Industry

Figure 5.3



Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

Working Children by Occupational Group

Table 5.3

Occupational group	% of total
Professionals and technicians	0.5
Office employees	0.4
Trade and sales persons	20.0
Farmers and cattlemen	55.5
Drivers in transportation	0.5
Workers in textile, masonry, mechanical industries	8.9
Workers in graphics, chemical, food industries	4.6
Cargo operators	1.5
Service occupations	8.2
Total	100.0

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

5.3 Status in Employment and Occupational Group of Employed EAP Aged 5 to 17 Years

Other important categories to analyse are the status in employment and occupational groups.

The occupational groups that hold the majority of working children are as farmers and cattlemen (55.5%), trade and sales persons (20.0%), textile industry workers (8.9%), service occupations (8.2%), and following in order, children working in the graphics, chemical and food industries (4.6%).

On analysing status in employment, it can be seen that the categories under which children are employed primarily are un-paid workers, private employees, and self-employed. The public employee category does not contain many workers due to prohibitions in effect against child employment by the State.

The un-paid worker category is of equal importance for males and females, however, the private employee and self-employed categories are more important for males, with 30.6% and 7.4%, respectively, than for females, with 19.0% and 4.3%, respectively. Furthermore, the domestic employee category concentrates 15.3% of all working female children, but only 0.3% of males.

Regarding status in employment there are important differences by age group, in both urban and rural areas. Figure 5.5 shows the behaviour of the main employment status of males and females by age groups. It is noteworthy that the categories of private employee, domestic employee and self-employed absorb the larger numbers of minors as their age increases, but in the un-paid worker category, the opposite is the case. While 87.4% of the youngest economically active boys and girls are not paid for their work, this proportion drops to 78.5% among 10 to 14 year olds and to 44.3% among adolescents 15 to 17 years of age. This result shows that remuneration becomes more common as working children ages increase. Furthermore, as they grow from one age group to another, the gamut of job opportunities increases for these minors, as they enter the categories of domestic employee and public employee and the self-employed category increases.

In all age groups, a majority are un-paid family workers, while the second most important source of employment for these minors is the private sector, although generally informally, since under the law there is a regulation prohibiting work in economic activities for children under 14 years of age and regulating that among minors aged 14 to 17 years.

During the year 2000, for example, the Department of Labour, which grants working permits for minors that are requested by employers or family members, delivered 1,140 working permits in Tegucigalpa. There were 730 for males and 410 for females between the ages of 14 and 17 years. The most common permit is to work in private enterprise, although it is obvious that there are more working minors in private enterprise than permits issued. Minors working in domestic service are usually not legally recognised, neither are those who generate their own employment.

The un-paid family worker category takes on greater importance in rural areas where child labour translates into helping the family, making it a kind of child exploitation. For every 2 children working in urban areas in this category, there are 3 in rural areas. In urban areas, working as self-employed is of greater importance (37.4%) than in rural areas (24.3%).

Un-paid family work constitutes one of the worst forms of child exploitation. For every 2 boys and girls working in economic activities as un-paid family workers in urban areas, there are 3 in rural areas.

In rural areas, boys and girls are frequently contracted to work in agricultural activities, especially harvesting basic staple crops, primordiallly the coffee harvest. In urban areas, boys and girls perform many activities, such as hawking newspapers, selling chewing gum, washing automobiles, selling fruit, while others are dedicated to begging. In most cases they are employed as un-paid family workers that do not receive cash wages, but rather in kind, such as meals and housing.

Around two hundred thousand children are working in agricultural activities, but 69.6% of them do not receive a wage, since they are family workers. Another important employment status is that of hawkers and salespersons, but here once again the children do not receive a wage. The best alternatives for receiving a wage narrow down to the textile, mechanical or masonry industries, becoming a cargo operator, or in domestic service, but these occupations, due to their low educational requirements are also low pay and hard work, two characteristics prohibited by law.

Community and personal services are represented primordiallly by the domestic employee category (51.9%), which concentrates the largest number of females, since traditionally they have been assigned domestic chores in their own homes.

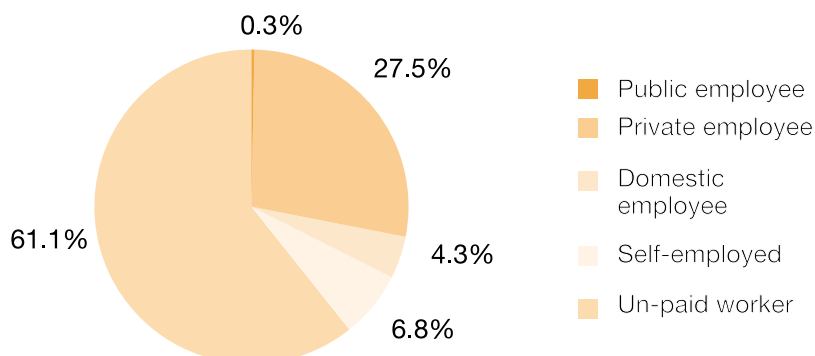
5.4 Domestic Chores

Of a total of 2,315,886 persons between 5 and 17 years of age in the country, most (80.7%) carry out domestic chores in their own homes. Due to cultural circumstances, this proportion is higher among females (85.6%) than males (75.8%). Household chores can have repercussions on children's health and education that are as serious as their economic activities.

Among persons aged 5 to 17 years that do household chores at home, 76.7% attend school¹⁰, with a slight advantage for males. Among those that do not do household chores, only 62.3% are able to attend school. In this case, females show a slight advantage, with a rate of attendance of 67.4% versus 59.5% for males.

Working Children Aged 5 to 17 Years by Status in Employment

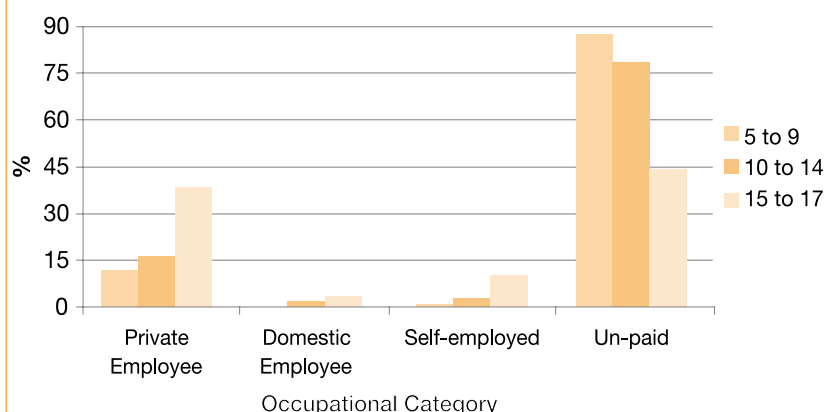
Figure 5.4



Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

Main Employment Status of Working Children 5 to 17 Years of Age, by Age Group

Figure 5.5



Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

Boys and Girls Working in Economic Activities by Age Group and Area of Residence, According to Status in Employment

Table 5.4

Status in Employment	Area of residence		Total
	Urban	Rural	
Public employee	0.5	0.2	0.3
Private employee	37.4	24.3	27.6
Domestic employee	10.4	1.8	4.3
Self-employed	6.2	7.0	6.8
Un-paid family worker	45.5	66.7	61.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

¹⁰ Nationwide, 68.7% of the population aged between 5 and 17 years attend school.

Most working children, in addition to their economic activity outside the home, carry out domestic chores within the household itself, which are not considered economic activity. Nevertheless, the percentage of minors doing household chores is lower among those working in economic activities than among those that do not participate in the labour market. Sixty-eight percent of working minors also collaborate with domestic chores in their homes. This proportion is equivalent to 63.5% of males and 80.7% of females.

The proportion of working children that also carry out household chores varies significantly by age. In the 5 to 9 year-old group, about 18 of every 20 boys and girls collaborate with domestic chores. In the 10 to 14 year old group, this number drops to 16 of every 20, and in the adolescents 15 to 17 years old, this drops once again to 13 of every 20.

Among children that are working and also doing household chores at home, 80.0% collaborate with household chores 7 days a week. This proportion decreases with age: 88.0% for those aged 5 to 9 years, 82.5% for 10 to 14 year-olds, and 76.3% for 15 to 17 year-olds. More than one-half (61.2%) of the minors that combine work outside the household with domestic chores dedicate an average of less than two hours a day to these chores, and the proportion dedicating less than two hours is higher among younger males than females.

In addition, it can be clearly seen that the more time children dedicate to their economic activities, the less time they will have to collaborate with domestic chores. On the other hand, another relevant finding was that 51.3% (122,382) of the children involved in economic activities, and that

also collaborate with domestic chores at home, do not attend school.

5.5 Hours Dedicated to Work in Economic Activities

According to the Children and Adolescents' Code, work by minors must not limit their personal growth. In this sense, they are prohibited from working more than 30 hours per week. Thus, the number of hours worked per week by these boys and girls becomes a major obstacle for developing their educational capacities, while at the same time violating their rights as minors.

Mines and quarries, construction and transportation are particularly absorbing occupations for male working children, with high average hours worked per week (51, 41 and 36 hours per week respectively). With regard to hours worked, females receive better treatment than males in manufacturing industry and in trade (26 and 27 hours for females, 36 and 32 hours males).

Furthermore, area of residence does not make a significant difference regarding the time children are exploited. The industry with a significantly different number of hours worked by area is transportation, storage and communications, with 11 more hours of work in urban areas and manufacturing industry with 5 more hours of work, also in urban areas (see Figure 5.6).

Age is particularly determinant for the average number of hours worked per week by minors. In the 5 to 9 year-old group, on the average, they work between 15 and 16 hours per week. This increases to 31 hours among males less than 15

Average Weekly Hours Worked in Economic Activities by Minors, by Sex According to Industry

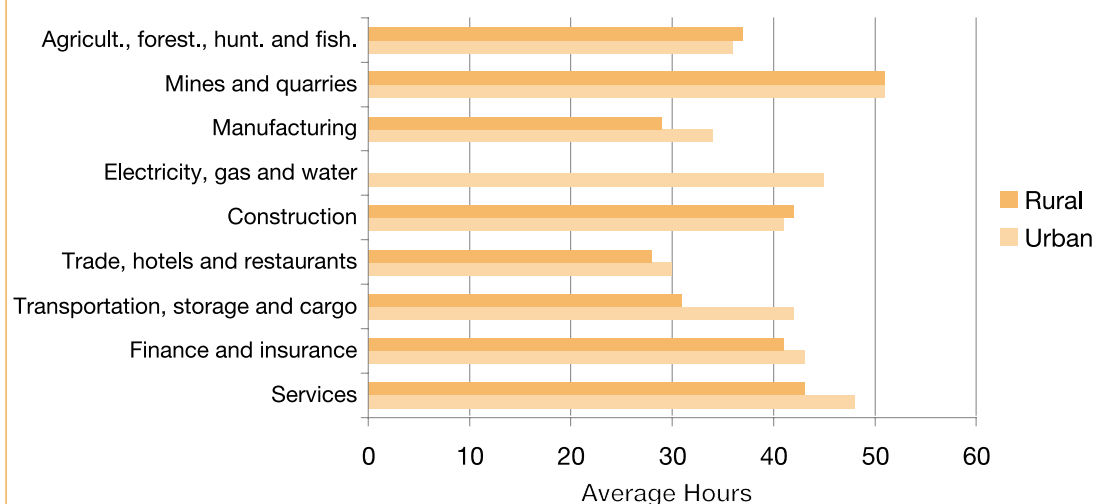
Table 5.5

Industry	Sex	
	Male	Female
Agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing	38	34
Exploitation of mines and quarries	51	.
Manufacturing industry	38	26
Electricity, gas and water	45	.
Construction	41	.
Wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants	32	27
Transportation, storage and communications	36	9
Finance and insurance establishments, real estate and services provided to enterprise	43	40
Community, social and personal services	42	46

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

**Average Weekly Hours Worked by Minors
by Industry and Area of Residence**

Figure 5.6



**Average Weekly Hours Worked by Working Children,
by Sex and Area of Residence, According to Age Group**

Table 5.6

Age Group	Sex		Area of Residence	
	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
5-9	15	16	16	15
10-14	31	26	26	31
15-17	44	39	42	43

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

years old, and exceeds by 14 hours the 30-hour limit permitted by Honduran law among males 15 to 17 years old. By both sex and area of residence, average hours worked per week increase by age. Generally, males dedicate more hours to work than females. In urban areas, the average shifts are longer for the 5 to 9 year-old group, but in the 10 to 14 and 15 to 17 year-old groups, rural residents dedicate more hours on the average to their work.

5.6 Perception by Parents and Children of Work

5.6.1 Parental perception

There are reasons why a mother, father or guardian of a minor may be in agreement with a child's participation in gainful employment. The reasons follow a predetermined order of

importance. The two reasons mentioned by the largest number of parents were: 1) to participate in family activities (53.5%), and 2) work will make them honest (47.2%). The first is more traditional, which has become a family norm, the second is a reason related to the sense of obligation that parents have towards making their children into honourable men and women.

In descending order of importance and closely related to the foregoing, the reasons for a father, mother or guardian to accept child labour are: 3) must help out with household expenses (41.0%); and 4) working will keep them off the street and away from vices (35.4%).

Reasons 1) and 3) are economic in nature, compulsory and commit a child to work, while reasons 2) and 4) illustrates parents' desire for their children to become good persons, but also transfer this

responsibility to the job activity or job supervisor, with the pretension that work will keep them out of trouble on the street, although because of the work they will be exposed to influences beyond the morality of their home and the very dangers of those same streets.

Finally, the perception of the parents or guardians as to why the children should work is less related to having to pay for their studies (7.2%), help pay off a debt (4.5%) or the lack of a school close-by (2.5%), demonstrating that economic reasons or evasion of responsibilities by parents or guardians are above those related to studies and payment of debts.

The differences by sex are not very large, but do allow us to see parental perceptions of the need for their male or female children to be in gainful employment. Males bear a more traditional weight of economic and moral reasons and must work for these reasons and because they are males.

The difference between males and females is set when a female child wants to study. Among the females, 11.8% must help defray the cost of their studies, while among the males this drops to 5.7%. Among other reasons, female children also bear a larger proportional burden than males (8.7% versus 5.7%), this may be related to pregnancies, since they tend to occur at an early age, as was mentioned previously.

Reasons for Parents or Guardians to Allow Children to Work in Economic Activities

Table 5.7

Reasons for work	Sex of child		Area		Number	Total
	Male	Female	Urban	Rural		
Must participate in family's activities	54.6	50.3	41.2	58.8	154,007	53.5
Work forms good and honourable character	47.9	45.3	47.2	47.2	135,950	47.2
Must help out with household expenses	42.7	36.0	36.3	43.0	117,935	41.0
Work keeps him/her off street away from vices	36.5	32.2	38.8	34.0	102,003	35.4
Everyone at home has worked since they were small	12.6	11.8	8.8	13.9	35,675	12.4
Must help pay for studies	5.7	11.8	12.1	5.1	20,801	7.2
To help pay off loan or debt	4.2	5.3	3.5	4.9	12,841	4.5
No school nearby for studies	2.9	1.2	1.0	3.1	7,098	2.5
Other	5.7	8.7	9.8	5.0	18,640	6.5

Note: The percentages are the number of responses for each reason divided by total respondents. More than one answer was allowed per respondent.

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

Reasons for Parents or Guardians to Allow Children to Work by Age Group

Table 5.8

Parent's reasons	Age group		
	5-9	10-14	15-17
Must help out with household expenses	21.5	35.4	47.3
Must participate in family's activities	66.1	60.6	46.5
Work forms good and honourable character	42.7	50.4	45.1
Work keeps him/her off street away from vices	28.7	37.6	34.3
Everyone at home has worked since they were small	24.6	11.9	11.7
Must help pay for studies	7.2	7.6	6.9
To help pay off loan or debt	2.8	5.2	4.0
No school nearby for studies	4.6	2.8	2.0
Other	5.4	5.2	7.6

Note: The percentages are the number of responses for each reason divided by total respondents. More than one answer was allowed per respondent.

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

Parents and guardians residing in urban areas have a different mindset in this regard. Here, parents or guardians give highest priority to the reason that the child must work because work builds character and honourability. This reason is accentuated here possibly because of a fear of leisure time as an inducement to the child to join gangs, a recent phenomenon of social decomposition.

Nevertheless, in urban areas, a parent's perception that a child must work to maintain his/her studies gains strength, while in rural areas the traditional pattern of working to be a part of the family's activities is accentuated (58.8%) as well as the economic factor of aiding with household expenses (43.0%).

The arguments brandished by parents and guardians for having children work vary by children's ages. At first (5 to 9 years of age), family participation (66.1%) and training (42.7%) are the major reasons. Among 10 to 14 year olds, work is more useful to keep the child away from vices and contributes to household expenses, but after 15 years of age, contributing to household expenses becomes the most important reasons, and even helping to pay for studies loses weight, perhaps because at this age most are out of school.

It is interesting that more than one-half of parents or guardians (51.8%) say that they would prefer that children currently working would only study. This percentage is higher in the case of female children (55.0%) than in the case of males (50.7%). This percentage also diminishes as children's age increases.

5.6.2 Children's perception

If we contrast adult responses with those of minors, we find that they are similar, since children responded that they agreed to work in gainful employment because a) they had to participate in family activities (51.4%), b) they had to aid with household expenses (42.3%), c) work builds character and honour (38.3%), and they accept that working may keep them away from vice (28.8%).

The perception of work held by both players provides economic reasons, but also social and cultural ones, since by emphasizing reasons such as "work makes them honourable and keeps them out of trouble" or "they have worked since they were little" go beyond merely economic reasons for work.

The perceptions of minors themselves show little variation by sex. Sex differentials encountered show that a certain fear has been transmitted to children that males that do not work in economic activities cease to be honourable and will become involved in vice (30.8% vs. 23.8%, respectively), as well as that females realise that to be able to study they have to earn the privilege by working (12.3% vs. 6.9%).

The perception by a male or female child residing in urban areas is that they work in some economic activity to contribute to household expenses (42.3%), and particularly they differentiate from a child in rural areas because they do so to contribute to pay for their studies (13.7% urban versus 5.4% rural).

Reasons for Minors to Work in Economic Activities by Sex and Area

Table 5.9

Reasons for minor	Sex		Area		Total	
	Male	Female	Urban	Rural	Number	%
Must participate in family's activities	51.3	51.8	40.0	57.5	164,751	51.4
Must help out with household expenses	43.2	40.0	42.3	45.7	135,505	42.3
Work forms good and honourable character	41.2	31.0	36.5	40.3	122,572	38.3
Work keeps him/her off street away from vices	30.8	23.8	29.9	29.6	92,228	28.8
Everyone at home has worked since they were small	13.7	14.2	11.9	15.9	44,436	13.9
Must help pay for studies	6.9	12.3	13.7	5.4	27,151	8.5
To help pay off loan or debt	3.9	4.0	8.9	3.5	12,654	3.9
No school nearby for studies	2.6	1.3	0.9	3.0	7,108	2.2
Other	6.0	7.5	2.6	4.8	20,656	6.4

Note: The percentages are the number of responses for each reason divided by total respondents. More than one answer was allowed per respondent.

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

Working Children by Collaboration with Household Chores and Schooling Situation, According to Child's Reasons for Working

Table 5.10

Child's reasons	Activities according to child				Total
	Does not do household chores		Does household chores		
	Does not attend	Attends	Does not attend	Attends	
Must help pay for studies	3.5	15.9	10.6	69.8	23,094
Must help out with household expenses	29.4	5.9	40.0	24.5	126,537
To help pay off loan or debt	20.6	7.2	46.1	25.9	11,519
Must participate in family's activities	17.9	5.0	38.2	38.8	147,161
Work forms good and honourable character	21.5	5.2	39.1	34.0	110,919
Work keeps him/her off street away from vices	23.5	5.1	37.5	33.8	84,377
No school nearby for studies	29.1	3.0	61.7	6.0	6,559
Everyone at home has worked since they were small	23.4	7.9	32.7	35.8	41,478
Other	26.4	8.8	27.4	37.2	15,002

Note: The percentages sum to 100% horizontally.

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

Similarly, just like their parents or guardians, children from urban areas feel that they work due to economic factors more than cultural factors, while those in rural areas do so more due to a family tradition of participating in shared activities. In rural areas helping out with household expenses falls in second place and in third place they look on work as an instrument for training and honourability. Among children working in gainful employment that attend school, the main reason for working is to help pay for their studies, regardless of whether they also carry out chores in their own household. For those not attending school, distance to the school is an important reason for their involvement in work.

In contrast to parents or guardians, gainfully employed working children prefer to work on an exclusive basis (30.7%), work and study at the same time (29.5%), or just study (26.9%). Females show a higher preference for studying exclusively (34.2%), than for work (14.6%), but the inverse is true for males, who prefer work (36.5%) to studies (24.3%) on an exclusive basis.

5.7 Behaviour of Child Work

5.7.1 Employment and wages

As was mentioned previously, child employment and wages are perceived as an important part of economic contributions to the household. Among children working in gainful employment that receive income for their labours, 17.8% do not contribute to household revenues, but the

Relatives and private employers are the main violators of children's rights: the families, because they obligate them to work and provide money for the household, and the employers, because they employ them below the minimum age and pay them less than the minimum wage.

remaining 82.2% do provide part or all of their income to the household. More than one-third (37.0%) of child labourers that receive an income and contribute it to household revenues, do so by handing over more than one-half of their income. Among those contributing directly to the household, the contribution of the minors varies in magnitude: 10.4% of the children that contribute provide less than 10% of family income; 15.3% of the children contribute between 21 and 50% of household income; and 35.4% provide more than 50% of total household income. This aspect, besides constituting a factor of exploitation by parents or guardians of their children, it also signifies a transfer of family responsibilities onto the shoulders of these minors by the adults, prompted by the unemployment and underemployment situation that they face in the adult labour market.

From the wages received by the male and female children, it is possible to identify that 69.7% of them receive less than Lps. 1000.00 (US\$63.50) per month, an amount significantly below that established as the legal minimum wage, constituting an additional violation of their rights. Among 5 to 9 year-olds, 92.5% receive wages below Lps. 1000.00

per month, declining to 86.2% in the 10 to 14 year-old group, and to 63.8% among those 15 to 17 years old. By gender, it can be seen that 65.7% of the males receive less than Lps. 1000.00 per month, but in the case of the females, this number increases to 80.5%.

5.7.2 Savings expectations of gainfully employed male and female children

The income received by the minors working in economic activities has a varied destiny. A percentage of the income is surrendered to their parents or guardians, but in some cases another portion is put into savings, a strategically important question if they have expectations of a better future. Among those minors with an income, 29.7% are able to save part or all of their income. Among the expectations of the minors that save some or all of their earnings, we find: a) a better life (33.5%), b) study in a better place (17.7%), c)

start-up a business (14.2%), and d) move out of the town, city or country (5.6%).

In another sense, linking income or wages to educational aspects, there is a clear reflection of the low probability that a child that works and perceives an income would attend school. Of all children receiving money for their work, 73.6% do not attend an educational establishment, making child employment a negative factor in their lives, insofar as it denies minors valuable opportunities for their education and their expectations for improving their future quality of life.

The contribution by a minor to the household income may become so pressing that s/he will make extra efforts to be able to meet this contribution. Not surprisingly, the statistics show that the more a minor contributes to the household income, the lower the probability that s/he will be attending school.

One of the main expectations for savings among minors is to have a better life, which constitutes an important factor for all human beings, to fight for better living conditions, empowering their future life project through savings. Three of every 10 boys and girls that save have this expectation.

Male and female minors in gainful employment in this country are less likely to enter school, when they are obligated to surrender to their parents more than 21% of their wages received, since they have to work many more hours.

Working Children with Incomes who Save Part of Their Income, by Educational Situation, According to Reasons for Saving

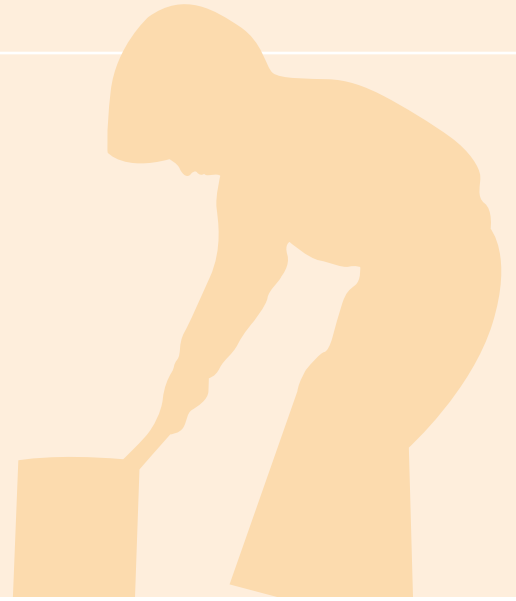
Table 5.11

Reason for saving	Current attendance at educational establishment		Total
	Yes (%)	No (%)	
To begin own business	24.8	75.2	3,356
To be able to study at a better place	50.6	49.4	4,168
To leave town / city / country	0.0	100.0	1,314
To live better	28.6	71.4	7,871
Other	29.1	70.9	3,588

Note: Does not include "Unknown".

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

Effects of work on children



The effects of involvement in economic activities on minors are complex, according to parents and thus children come to believe as well. Work forms them and makes them honourable; therefore the effects of labour on their health are not important. The contribution of a child to the family business or family income is more important, even though this affects the country now, due to displacement of adult workers, and in the future, when qualified youths and adults will not be available.

6.1 In Education

Among male and female minors in economic activities, 59.8% are not attending an educational centre. If these boys and girls were not working, i.e., were inactive, 79.5% of them would be attending school, so that the educational system would have the challenge of an additional 6% of coverage among the population 5 to 17 years of age. However, as work is necessary for many of them, since their parents say that working is good formation and makes them honourable and they have to contribute to the family's income, so many minors must work to the extent that almost 60% of those working must exclude themselves from the educational system.

This phenomenon increases the challenge to the educational system, in view of the fact that at present 26.9% of the school age population is not attending school, and this has contributed to the fact that 28.8% of the population does not enjoy the right to read and write, suffering the consequences of social marginalization.

School attendance depends to a great extent on a minor's employment situation, sex and place of residence. Attendance is higher among those not employed and in urban areas. Among the youngest workers, attendance is higher among females than males. If a boy or girl is not working and resides in a rural area, most probably s/he does not attend school, his/her priority is to find work, but if this unemployed male or female resides in an urban area, there is an 87% probability that s/he may be attending an educational centre.

Work has a negative influence on school attendance primordially on employed males, 65 of every 100 employed male minors have ceased attending classes. This is not the case for females, who in spite of their employment 54.1% continue with their education. Non-working females attend less than their non-working male counterparts, a factor related to the negative effects of household chores on the time available for studies, and becomes a hindrance to education primarily for the girls.

The situation reflected in the following table shows that rural children have a great deal of difficulty in accessing education, whether this be due to the lack of an educational centre in their community, the distance to the school from their home or simply due to the scant importance that parents give to the education of their sons and daughters, since they frequently become the labour reserve in agricultural activities. Non-attendance is generalised in rural areas, varying from 26% among those not working to 100% among the unemployed.

School Attendance by Employment Condition, According to Sex and Area of Residence

Table 6.1

Attendance, sex and area of residence	Employment condition					
	Employed		Unemployed		Not working	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
School attendance by male children nationwide						
Yes	92,295	35.2	863	11.5	754,749	83.5
No	169,622	64.7	6,636	88.5	149,573	16.5
Total	261,917	99.9	7,499	100.0	904,322	100.0
School attendance by female children nationwide						
Yes	50,837	54.1	560	15.3	794,179	76.1
No	43,169	45.9	3,104	84.7	249,385	23.9
Total	94,006	100.0	3,664	100.0	1,043,564	100.0
School attendance in urban areas						
Yes	56,284	51.3	1,424	19.8	759,617	87.0
No	53,329	48.7	5,764	80.2	113,837	13.0
Total	109,613	100.0	7,188	100.0	873,454	100.0
School attendance in rural areas						
Yes	86,848	35.2	-	-	789,311	73.5
No	159,461	64.7	3,977	100.0	285,121	26.5
Total	246,309	99.9	3,977	100.0	1,074,432	100.0

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

6.2 Industry and School Attendance

School attendance by gainfully employed male and female minors is related in a significant manner to the industry within which they are employed. As was mentioned above, 59.8% of minors working in all industries are not attending school.

The situation is worse in agriculture, where 69.7% of all working children do not attend school. Children working are quite common in agricultural activities, which in addition to consuming a great deal of their time, act as a disincentive to education due to energy consumed and fatigue implied by working in these activities.

For most children, working in transportation, construction and agriculture implies dropping out of school. Agriculture, construction and transportation are the industries that most hinder the working child from attending school. Their levels of school attendance do not exceed 30%, and it is particularly harmful to the males who are a majority in these activities.

There are better possibilities for those working in trade or industry. This is an encouraging fact, since trade is an increasingly important activity, which currently is absorbing 24.4% of the EAP aged 5 to 17 years.

Boys and girls that work or seek work in agriculture, construction or transportation, drop out of school more frequently than those working or seeking work in trade or a manufacturing industry.

6.3 Health Effects

Effects on health are in part instantaneous. Illnesses that parents or guardians and children considered as consequences of work affected 10% of working minors, increasing childhood morbidity as well as increasing their learning difficulties and natural bodily development.

In addition to illnesses, work-related accidents affected 12% of working children including small wounds through the loss of an extremity. If the lack of a school in a community or the distance from it constitutes an argument for not entering the educational system, loss of health from a labour accident is an even more forceful argument.

Accidents affect males more than females, among males up to 13.8% have suffered some type of accident, but only 6.3% of females. It is worth emphasizing that among males the main types of accident were blows or wounds, while among females it was burns.

**Gainfully Employed Minors by School Attendance,
According to Industry**

Table 6.2

Industry	Currently attending educational centre			Column total
	Yes	No	Row total	
Agriculture	30.3	69.7	100.0	56.2
Mines and quarries	34.2	65.8	100.0	0.1
Manufacturing industry	48.1	51.9	100.0	8.2
Electricity, gas and water	0.0	100.0	100.0	-
Construction	24.3	75.7	100.0	3.0
Trade, hotels and restaurants	64.9	35.1	100.0	24.4
Transportation, storage and communications	19.2	80.8	100.0	1.0
Financial and insurance establishments	37.8	62.2	100.0	0.3
Community, social and personal services	34.0	66.0	100.0	6.3
Total	40.2	59.8	100.0	100.0

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002, 0.2% did not respond regarding attendance.

6.4 Working Conditions and Environment

6.4.1 Working children and labour hazards

Boys and girls at work also incur in job hazards such as illness and accidents, due to the nature of the labours carried out. Some of the accidents or illnesses are caused by their own lack of work experience or emotional immaturity.

Among gainfully employed male and female children, 7.2% have suffered blows or wounds, 1.0% fractures, and 1.0% pulled and sprained muscles. Among those minors that indicated they had suffered blows or wounds, this type of accident was seen to occur up to three times in the same person.

Blows and superficial wounds are the most common accidents among gainfully employed working minors, 7.2% of child labourers have suffered a blow or superficial wound at some time.

Many of these accidents occur due to the lack of experience and immaturity of the children, which does not allow them to size up the dangers to which they are exposed.

6.4.2 Hazards in agricultural labour and others

The children working in agriculture are more exposed to accidents than the children working in other industries. Among all the minors that indicated that they had suffered wounds, 67.2%

worked in agriculture. Of those suffering fractures, 87.1% were in agriculture, and of those with pulled and sprained muscles, 78.2% were also working in agriculture.

After agriculture, manufacturing industry also presents hazards from burns (40.7% of all burns), especially among the females. Working in trade, hotels and restaurants takes on importance due to poisoning (41.2%) and burns (35.3%).

These data indicate that agriculture is one of the most dangerous sources of jobs for children.

Poisoning and intoxications are another type of accidents that minors are exposed to while working in agriculture, since by its very nature, this work requires that minors manipulate chemicals for their agricultural activities.

According to the National Plan for the Gradual and Progressive Eradication of Child Labour in Honduras, sales and handling of agricultural chemicals is one of the worst forms of child labour.

Due to the conditions it imposes, agriculture may be one of the worst sources of jobs for children and is one of the most hazardous activities in terms of accidents and illness.

Manipulation or use of agricultural chemicals by children is prohibited; nevertheless, it occurs on a daily basis in agricultural chores.

6.4.3 Risks for illness

In addition to accidents, boys and girls working in economic activities are exposed to illnesses derived from the type of activities carried out. Among all working minors, 3% have suffered infections or respiratory allergies, and 2.9% skin complaints, rashes, allergies or blemishes.

Once again, the agricultural sector has the largest number of cases. Male and female minors working in agriculture are exposed to illnesses such as a) respiratory infections and allergies (33.5%), b) diarrhoeas, indigestion and intoxication (9.9%), c) anaemia (5.0%), d) skin complaints, rashes and blemishes (31.0%), e) convulsions, paralysis, tremors of the hands and body and eye and ear infections (9.1%) and f) other illnesses (7.2%).

The most frequent health problems suffered by working youths are respiratory infections and allergies and skin complaints. These problems are caused by their frequent contact with chemicals and exposition to the sun's rays.

The problem is complex, since children not only suffer the poverty typical of low-income levels, and are vulnerable to labour accidents and illnesses, but also it becomes more serious since these children are not covered by social security medical care or that of any other social protection mechanism.

Attention must be given to male and female minors working in agriculture, since they suffer the highest proportion of illness, especially respiratory, cutaneous, and allergic ailments. They usually have no social security medical coverage. Some of them self-medicate or apply household remedies due to scant medical care in their community.

6.4.4 Types of self-medication

Some of these illnesses are so serious that they have driven the minors to seek medical treatment or to self-medicate.

In agriculture, for example, 27.2% of minors suffering an illness or accident self-prescribed medications or applied household remedies, 23.4% of children did not require treatment, 22.7% stopped working temporarily, 14.6% received medical care, without the need for hospitalisation, and 10.1% had to be hospitalised.

The severity of the diseases, their frequency and the type of treatment depend on the area of economic activity. Thus, it is possible to indicate that children working in services have not required medical treatment due to the occupational accidents or illnesses that they have suffered.

It is important to note the existence of a significant percentage of minors that self-medicate or use home remedies to cure themselves. Among the 32,933 children that required medical treatment, 8,734 self-medicated, which may well be hazardous to their health.

6.5 On Family Income

The contribution to household income by working children is very important for the parents, and this is also the opinion of their children, to the point that many responses indicate that a child must work in gainful employment because s/he has to participate in family activities (53.5%), must help out with household expenses (41.0%) or contribute to pay off a debt (4.5%). Due to the importance given to child labour, only 18.6% of those receiving an income do not contribute directly to the family's revenues. It is interesting that males have a greater tendency to contribute some or all of their income to the household; only 17.4% of males make no direct contribution, while female non-contribution rises to 21.9%.

Some cease attending school to increase their contribution to household earnings. Among those not contributing directly to household income, non-attendance is 52.8%. Although this non-attendance rate is high, it is considerably lower than that seen in the case of minors that do contribute part or all of their wages to the household income; among this group, non-attendance climbs to 76.7%.

Poverty is usually mentioned as the most important cause for child labour. In Honduras, nationwide 78.9% of working children are below the poverty line, which affects a greater number and proportion in rural areas, where this rises to 83.2%, and in urban areas it is 69.2%. The cycle of poverty in children from poor households means that because they work, the children stop studying, and because they have not completed studies, they will be incapable of earning enough to rise out of poverty.

The foregoing is a challenge that must be met as soon as possible by decision makers to develop public policies at the local level as a part of the

country's decentralisation process, focusing actions to improve education, health, employment and infrastructure among others aspects, to improve the intra-household conditions.

Although the survey did not show greater probabilities of poverty among children whose mothers were heading their households, other research reveals that there is a higher probability of poverty inside homes with a female head, where as a result the minor children become members of a secondary labour force.

As was mentioned previously, child labour attests to the poverty within which a majority of the country's households survive, which has a negative impact on their present and future lives.

However, one cannot ignore the reality in which these children live and the social fabric prevailing in this situation, since they have to meld their work on the job, on household chores, and in many cases on their studies.

If the State does not implement public policies leading to creation of employment and social improvements for male and female adults in this country, any possibility for these children to have a better future is practically void, since parents' quality of life has deteriorated to such a point that it has been passed on to their children, and possibly the latter will also pass it on to their children, since they are unable to break this vicious circle.

Parents of the boys and girls caught in this social trap visualize their situation as even more precarious if their children were not working. Among parents of children between 5 and 9 years of age, 24.4%

feel that if the children ceased working, household income would decline, and this percentage increases with age in the other age groups, 37.5% felt this is the case when the children were between 10 and 14 years of age, and 44.8% feel this way if the minors were between 15 and 17 years of age.

For the group between 5 and 17 years of age, when asked what would happen to the household and its economy if they were to cease working, the most common responses were that revenues would drop and so would the household standard of living (40.7%), contrasted to nothing (41.8%). The other responses were distributed as follows: a) the household could not survive (6.6%); b) the mother or father would have to work (2.6%); c) could not continue studying (2.5%); d) the family business would go bankrupt (1.2%); and e) other reasons and no response (4.5%).

The perception of minors employed in gainful activities is that their income makes a significant contribution to the household's economic situation. This perception increases as they grow up.

Working Children by Area of Residence, According to Household Poverty Situation Table 6.3

Poverty	Area of residence		%
	Urban (%)	Rural (%)	
Poor	69.2	83.2	78.9
Non-poor	30.8	16.8	21.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

Working Children by Consequences to the Household if They Were to Cease Working, According to Age Group (Parent's Opinion) Table 6.4

Effect on the household and its economy if child ceases working								
Age Group	Income and standard of living drop	Household could not survive	Father or mother would have to work	Could not continue studies	Family business would go bankrupt	Nothing	Other	Total
5-9	24.4%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.9%	70.6%	2.8%	13,935
10-14	37.5%	6.1%	2.1%	2.8%	0.7%	45.1%	5.4%	123,239
15-17	44.8%	7.5%	3.1%	2.4%	1.5%	36.3%	3.9%	150,732
Total	40.7%	6.6%	2.6%	2.5%	1.2%	41.8%	4.5%	287,906

Source: Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey, May 2002.

These responses demonstrate the importance of a child's income to these households, as well as the economic and family burdens they must assume from an early age.

6.6 Employment of Adults in General

Justifications for child labour are insufficient and in many cases ridiculous, since, in the end, they

show the results of the opportunism of those employing them and the irresponsibility of those that allow it. In Honduras, the number of unemployed adults could easily cover the more than 300 thousand jobs occupied by minors, and it would be better if it were these unemployed generating the wealth to cover the educational needs of the children currently working in those economic activities.

Some of the worst forms of child labour



7.1 Worst Forms of Child Labour

For many boys and girls in this country, work is anything they have to do to survive and contribute to the family's survival, it may consist of begging, washing cars, cleaning windows, selling fruits, hauling crates, among others.

Most of these minors that work are not doing so because they want to, rather they are obligated by different circumstances, where the main reasons for so doing are that their parents make them do it and due to economic necessity.

Their desire for a better life is truncated by the need to contribute income to their households. In this sense, for these children, the country's laws, created to protect them, become a contradiction if their parents are without employment that would allow the minors to be immersed full time in the educational system.

In many countries, as in Honduras, labour and child welfare laws prohibit work by children less than 14 years of age. However, compulsory school attendance and prohibitions from working do not take into account the sad reality of poverty or basic human needs, such as food, housing and clothing. Formal education and leisure become a luxury, so that prohibition from any work may well be contrary to the very survival of these boys and girls.

Most children feeling shortages in their homes find themselves obligated to carry out activities illegally without benefits of protection, which is

futile when their daily work is a question of life or death, both their own and that of their family.

In many parts of the world, children work, and their participation in economic activities is a determining factor for their future personality, ability and perspectives as adults. In Honduras, child labour force participation rates have increased in recent years, with children becoming involved in frequently hazardous activities, such as exposure to vehicular traffic, street hawking, exposing themselves to additional hazards such as sexual abuse by adults. These boys and girls are starting their adulthood very early due to the household responsibilities that fall on their shoulders.

Work may have very varied effects on these children, from positive lessons for life to exploitation by adults who abuse them for their own lucre.

Much research has been done on different types of child labour. Some of these studies have identified types of child labour prohibited due to its impact on children's health, education and general welfare.

7.1.1 Child domestic labour

Child domestic labour is primarily carried out by females. The household survey reported that approximately 16,000 girls do domestic labour both in and outside their homes.

When done for third parties, it can become a factor of exploitation, discrimination and abuse by the employer, since it is difficult to regulate their salaries, working shifts and some inappropriate activities.

Recent research on domestic child labour in Honduras¹¹, based on 239 female and 11 male interviewees (they are known as TID, trabajador infantil doméstico) in the two major cities, Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, showed that: 64.4% lived with their employers, 67.8% had less than one year with the same job, they worked for an average of 10 hours a day, 62.8% did not receive any social benefits (vacations, “thirteenth” and “fourteenth” month bonuses), 100% were without health insurance, 77% had one day or less free per period, 70.3% began work at 6 a.m., 52.7% went to bed after 9 p.m., none had a written contract, 6.8% worked without pay, 53.1% were not studying, 25.5% had suffered verbal abuse from their employers, 11.9% were victims of physical mistreatment and 5.1% of sexual abuse, while 84.1% were unaware of their rights.

Within the household, domestic chores become a traditional obligation for a female, and they adopt them as natural, since for them and for their parents it is a way of learning about life as housewives, while giving little importance to their daughter’s intellectual development, especially in rural areas.

Among the girls interviewed, 64.4% entered the labour market at an average of 12 years of age, 21.3% of the interviewees had begun to help out with household chores before age 7 years, and 67.8% sent or gave money to help sustain their family of origin.

Domestic labour also is one of the delineating factors for rural-urban migration due to poverty, as well as discrimination, since it is one of the least valued activities in a social and economic sense. Of the girls interviewed, 77.9% came from poor families in rural areas or small urban centres, having migrated to Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula seeking work.

7.1.2 Diving

Diving also constitutes one of the worst forms of child labour; it is expressly forbidden and cannot be granted a permit by the Department of Labour, so that it is carried out completely illegally. According to the census carried out in the township of Villeda Morales¹², about 200 children are divers, canoe paddlers and deckhands who wait on

the high seas while the divers search for lobsters. They also dive down to point out the lobster banks to the divers, with exposure to multiple hazards. Similarly, there are many children working as divers without any protection whatsoever, who are thus exposed to disabilities.

The children in the dugouts are exposed to the normal use of alcohol and drugs in the boat or dugout canoe and living in overcrowded conditions with intoxicated adults. The treatment received by children working in diving is frequently one of verbal and psychological abuse from the rest of the crew, and at times one of physical abuse when working as canoeists they lose sight of the diver. There have been occasions when captains of fishing boats have left the canoeists and divers abandoned on the open ocean when working border areas that are still under litigation (PLATS/IPEC).

7.1.3 Refuse collectors

There are estimates¹³ that in Tegucigalpa alone, there are 292 children that make a daily appearance at the Municipal refuse dump, a number that may vary by day of the week, school term and other circumstances. In a subset of 96 children interviewed, 26% were females and 20% came from other parts of the country. In this group as a whole, 6.3% were between 5 and 7 years of age, 66.7% were between 8 and 13 years of age and 27.1% were over 14 years of age.

Their reasons for working were the same: 53.5% said they were working to help out the family, 19.8% because they liked to work and the rest for similar reasons (money, to purchase their own things, there is no work). In this type of “work” the major hazards are diseases, be they respiratory or gastrointestinal, and stomach ache, headache, chest and bone pains, as well as foot inflammations and herpes.

7.1.4 Commercial sexual exploitation

According to a recent study¹⁴, commercial sexual exploitation of girls, boys and adolescents is a growing activity that is linked to services provided to tourism, hotels, night clubs, restaurants, casinos,

¹¹ ILO, IPEC *Trabajo Infantil Domestico en Honduras, A puerta cerrada...*, CEM-H, Government of Canada, Department of Labour and Social Security, 2003.

¹² PLATS/IPEC, *Estudio de Línea de Base, El trabajo Infantil y adolescente en el Municipio de Villeda Morales*, Dept. of Gracias a Dios, Honduras 2001.

¹³ IPEC/COMPARTIR, *Niñez trabajadora en el depósito de basura de Tegucigalpa*, 2001

¹⁴ IPEC/ILO, *Explotación Sexual Comercial de niños, niñas y adolescentes en Honduras*, 2002.

clubs, beauty or massage salons, internet recreation, visual media, public and private shows. This problem in Honduras is not included in either the Government's or civil society's agenda, in spite of the fact that it fosters the movement of large sums of money and involves a wide variety of players.

The commercial sexual exploitation network operates closely with national and international organised crime. The study concludes that exploited children are the last link in a very lucrative chain, they are the merchandise sold in this business.

The main problems suffered by girls interviewed for the study in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula are psychological aggression (76.7% and 53.5% in each city, respectively), physical aggression (69.8% and 62.8%) and pregnancy (60.5% and 69.6%). In Tegucigalpa, 34.9% of the girls experienced sexual abuse before age 12 and 26.6% of them were victims of incest. In San Pedro Sula, these proportions were 48.8% sexually abused before their 12th birthday and 52.4% victims of incest.

Although there are no figures on the total number of boys and girls that are victims of commercial sexual exploitation, the following declaration by one of the girls interviewed throws some light on the size of the problem: "At age 12, I got involved with the *mara* (gangs) and there you either join them or you join them. One day they grabbed me and I had to go to bed with the leader, then I had to do it with all the rest of the gang... After a year of being in the *mara* they told me I had to start working, first I started working as a waitress, and then I started going out with the clientele, I didn't like it, but I had to obey them.. I'm one of them now, I can't get out, if I want to get out, they'll kill me..."

7.1.5 The *mara* (gang) phenomenon

"*Mara*" is the term used for juvenile gangs, a phenomenon that underwent explosive growth in the 1990s, within the socio-economic context of structural adjustment and increasing migration to the United States, which may be the source of the influence for developing the *maras* or gangs. By 1999, according to Police records, there were 397 gangs in the country, with 19,840 males and 6,100 females as members, a total of 25,940 youthful gangsters, with 8,262 sympathisers.

By 2002¹⁵, these figures had increased to a national total of 425 gangs, 21,850 males, 8,010 females, for a total of 29,860 gang members, with approximately 90,500 sympathisers nationwide.

7.2 Activities Generating the Worst Forms of Child Labour

The household survey provides statistical data on different activities carried out by young workers in different industries, occupational groups and occupational categories, reporting the pitiful conditions under which child labour occurs, especially those activities carried out as self-employment or under the responsibility of a family member, which are not regulated or supervised by Government agencies.

7.2.1 Farmers and cattle raisers

Jobs generated in agriculture constitute one of the worst forms of child labour, since of the 198,663 minors working in agriculture or animal husbandry, 137,635 are working without pay, in addition to being exposed to the inclemency of the climate, accidents and manipulation of chemical products, which cause respiratory illnesses, skin problems and intoxications. An example of this is found in the children working on the tobacco farms in the Jamastrán Valley¹⁶, Municipality of Danlí, El Paraíso Department. Of the 143 child labourers interviewed for a study, 84.1% received no labour benefits (vacations, thirteenth and fourteenth bonus months, social security, etc.) and 62.7% have been exposed to some type of pesticide or herbicide without even minimum safety measures.

7.2.2 Tradespersons and salespersons

The boys and girls working as tradespersons and salespersons number approximately 72,157, of whom 53,771 were working without pay, since like the farmers, they worked for a family member. Of this total, 5,003 boys and girls were working as self-employed and 13,383 were in private enterprise.

The self-employed children (5,003) carry out their activities from within the informal labour market, especially in urban areas, where there is a greater diversity of products and services to be offered and greater opportunities for carrying

¹⁵ Source: National Police, Mara Prevention Unit, "Estadísticas de Maras a Nivel Nacional, hasta enero del 2002"

¹⁶ IPEC/ILO/CEPROD, *Diagnostico sobre Trabajo Infantil y Adolescente en las fincas de tabaco del valle de jamastrán*, Danlí, El Paraíso, 2002.

out their informal activity in places with greater population concentrations.

According to a study carried out by IHNFA for a project on Eradicating Child Labour at Stoplights and Fast Food Restaurants, they identified that of the 300 boys and girls in the study, 112 were females and 187 males. Of these, 194 had some schooling and 142 had never gone to school.

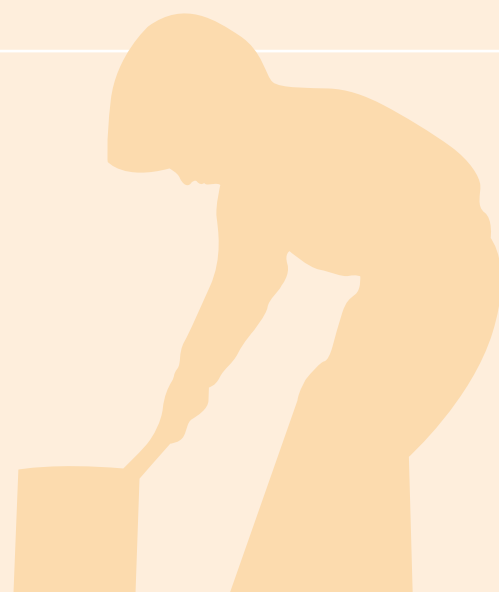
These children were occupied in sales (192), begging (68), cleaning and washing cars (22), vagrancy (15) and refuse collectors (3).

Many of these children work the stoplights, exposing themselves to accidents and respiratory diseases due to vehicular contamination. The reasons they got involved in these activities were extreme poverty and economic exploitation by their families.

The regulations on child labour prohibit employment where minors are exposed to vehicular traffic; however, many of them carry out their activities where they must confront this hazard.

CHAPTER 8

Programmes and projects



The Department of Labour and Social Security has important functions allocated under national legislation, to grant work permits to minors over 13 years of age, oversee working conditions of such minors and receive and handle complaints and apply sanctions.

The Department, together with the Spanish International Co-operation Agency, has developed an awareness campaign on child labour by publishing didactic manuals, triptychs and posters, workshops with children, youths and

employers that request work permits and radio and press announcements. Similarly, the Department and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have supported training processes in six regional Department offices: Santa Rosa de Copán, San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba, Juticalpa, Danlí and Choluteca.

Under the Family Welfare programme, the **Honduran Institute of Children and the Family (IHNEFA)** has provided integral care through its infant care services as follows:

Type of service	Boys and girls assisted
Nutritional support	1,941
Early stimulation	672
Cepenf	1,122
Community child care homes	993
Subsidised private centres	1,275
Adolescent vocational workshops	2,085
482,028 food rations	–
Promotion and organisation of children support agencies	
Community child care homes	21
Childhood councils	74
Municipal Childhood Protection Officers	106
School for mothers and fathers	20
Artistic vocational workshops	34
Training Services	
Personnel	Participants
Members of Childhood Councils	107
Educators and Assistants	111
Guide mothers	262
Fathers and mothers	1,100
Strengthening family support groups	1,629

The topical content for training is the following: nutritional care, psychomotor development, first aid, early stimulation, managing your budget, communication and other related topics.

Poverty reduction strategies include implementation of the following projects, which are mentioned since they are child-related, some depend on obtaining external financing:

Formalisation and regulation of street hawkers. This project proposes to elaborate a census of all street hawkers existing in the country's major cities, determining the current deficit of points of sale, formulating a plan to regulate informal trade; promote organisation into co-operatives encouraging savings in this sector; and seeking fresh funding for developing specific projects.

Strengthening pre-basic education and that of 7th and 9th grades. The purpose is to meet goals for increased coverage at these levels, so that an expanded infrastructure is needed, as well as more teachers.

Extension of educational coverage with alternate models. This programme includes a second phase of the Honduran Community Education Programme (Programa Hondureño de Educación Comunitaria, PROHECO), where educational administration is under the direction of a Parent's Association and other models of educational service delivery. Every attempt is being made to continue extending pre-basic and basic educational coverage, under models including participation by parents, NGOs and other community organisations.

Scholarships for poor students. They are trying to increase opportunities for youths with academic potential providing education in the third cycle of basic education and in diversified education, emphasising technical majors, taking into account both public and private educational availability.

Basic Health Services package. The purpose is to guarantee delivery of a standardised intervention package, which will guarantee cost effective care for the population in extreme poverty, including indigenous groups. It would take into account actions to care for morbidity, health promotion services for children, including nutrition, integral care for pregnant women, surveillance and control of vectors (control of pests, flies, mosquitoes), and community organisation.

Healthy schools. This project will continue to benefit children in pre-basic and first and second

grades of basic education in public schools nationwide. It considers integral assistance in education and health related to behavioural development: abilities and skills aimed at health practice and conservation, food and nutrition; promotion of healthy environments; prevention of health hazards and problems; and physical, psychological and emotional development of children.

Modernisation of the legal and institutional framework for labour. Its aim is to define and set reforms for the Labour Code and define a new legal and institutional framework for the Department of Labour. It provides for institution building for the labour administration to formulate and implement employment, wage and social security policies and programmes. Furthermore, it seeks to establish mechanisms for coordination to improve management capacity.

Gradual and progressive eradication of child labour. This project is designed to look after the problem of children who are carrying out specific types of work, which under national and international norms is classified as a violation of their rights, by hindering their normal bio-psycho-social development.

Protection for the adolescent working population. The objective is to intervene in the problem of adolescents involved in high-risk jobs, such as underwater fisheries, mining and occupations exposed to toxic substances. Furthermore, it will attend to adolescents working in domestic service, applying current rules to prevent their economic exploitation.

Strengthening IHNFA's child-centred activities. The objective is to improve capacity and expand institutional coverage so that it can carry out its legally assigned functions effectively and efficiently, in favour of children, especially those at social risk or under conditions of mistreatment or disregard for their rights. The Programme includes the following projects: i) care in early infancy, schools for mothers and fathers, promotion of municipal councils for childhood and families; ii) protection of boys and girls on the streets; iii) care for children and adolescents at social risk and integral care for adolescents in conflict with the law, promoting their rehabilitation and social re-immersion; iv) prevention of alcohol, drug and narcotic consumption in adolescent males and females; v) sexual and reproductive education for adolescents; and vi) support for adolescent mothers.

Main conclusions and recommendations



Child labour has many effects on the current and future lives of this country's children. The 367,405 children working or actively seeking work, plus those entering the labour force each year, face a labour market full of conditions of inequality, discrimination and exploitation.

If the country does not define Government policies to eliminate and prevent child labour, if no mechanisms are sought to put plans, conventions or laws that have already been promulgated back into practice to protect and improve children's quality of life, we will be faced by an army of illiterate boys and girls, who are also disabled and bear social pathologies that will be difficult to face in the future.

This whole panorama provides evidence that childhood constitutes a severely affected stratum of the population. Honduras is signatory of international agreements to protect the rights of the child and to eradicate the worst forms of child labour. There are programmes and projects, as well as institutions regulating child labour, however, the number of children not attending school continues to grow with increasing proportions employed in the worst forms of child labour or joining **maras**.

9.1 Conclusions

In 2002, the National Institute of Statistics (INE), with technical and financial support from ILO/IPEC, carried out a Child Labour Survey in the form of a module attached to the Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Survey. This allowed compilation of updated information on labour,

educational and other activities in the population between 5 and 17 years of age.

Honduras has several laws regulating labour force participation by minors, including the Constitution of the Republic, the Children and Adolescents' Code, the Labour Code, Child Labour Regulations, the Family Code, and the Criminal Code. Furthermore, there are several governmental policies and programmes in favour of children's rights. In a similar vein, the country has ratified international conventions requiring it to take steps to eliminate child exploitation occurring as child labour. In spite of the existence of these laws, policies, international conventions, and programmes, child work is a very real phenomenon in the country, affecting more than 15% of children between 5 and 17 years of age.

Work is harmful because it limits children's education, does not allow them to develop all their capacities and to live each one of the stages of their lives in a normal manner, because they reach psychological maturity early with serious difficulties and conflicts.

It is not just the 367,405 economically active children that suffer these limitations, but perhaps the 320,652 boys and girls that do only household chores as well, facing the world in conditions of inequality, discrimination and exploitation.

With regards to the population aged 5 to 17 years of age according to housing characteristics, the especially precarious situation of children in rural areas is noteworthy: 20% live in dwellings whose walls are made from sticks, cane or refuse, more

than one-half live in dwellings with earthen floors, most do not have sewerage connections or garbage collection, and are still lit with candles or gas lamps. If these indicators of access to basic services are barely above 50% in urban areas, rural areas, with a majority of the child population and service requirements will have to wait some time before reaching better living conditions.

In Honduras, there are 367,405 economically active children, who are working or actively seeking employment. Of these boys and girls, 97% (356,241) are employed in economic activities while the remaining 3% are unemployed and potential workers. Of this total aged 5 to 17 years, 73.6% are males and 26.4% are females. Child work is primarily a rural phenomenon, since for every 10 gainfully employed boys and girls aged 5 to 17 years in urban areas, there are 22 in rural areas.

The percentage of working children increases as age increases. In boys and girls 5 to 9 years old, 2.0% are working in economic activities. Among the 10 to 14 years-olds, this percentage increases to 16.9%; in the 15 to 17 year-old group, it is 40.5%. This means that with increasing age, minors have an increasing probability of participating in the labour market, in part because there is a norm followed by the Department of Labour allowing working permits to be issued to persons between 14 and 18 years of age.

By sex, labour participation rates are higher for males than females in all age groups. Among the 15 to 17 year-olds, for every 10 females at work, there are 28 males in the labour market. This low female participation contains significant under-recording, since there are many activities performed by females that are not considered gainful employment, which household statistics do not usually capture.

In rural areas, for every 41 male minors going to work, 10 females follow their steps. In urban areas for every 14 male minors entering the labour market, there are 10 females that also join.

More than one-half of the boys and girls employed in economic activities can be found in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, followed by retail and wholesale trade, hotels and restaurants, and in a distant third place, manufacturing industry. No large differences are observed by industries among the age groups. However, by sex, males at all ages are primarily concentrated in agriculture, but females, in addition to agriculture, also participate to a great extent in trade, hotels and restaurants,

and in community, social and personal services. Among the minors working in the service industry, 88.8% are females. In trade and manufacturing industries, around 50% are females. In other industries, males predominate.

Six of every ten child labourers are unpaid family workers and 3 of 10 are private employees. With regard to occupational groups, 6 of every 10 child labourers are farmers or cattle raisers.

Most of the minors occupied in gainful employment, in addition to their economic activity, carry out household chores in their own homes. This domestic help is more frequent among females and among the younger age groups.

Working children that dedicate more time to work are those not attending school, regardless of whether they also do household chores or not. Mining and quarries, electricity, gas and water, and community, social and personal service industries are the ones demanding the longest shifts from the children. Males, adolescents and rural workers put in the longest hours.

Fathers', mothers' or guardians' reasons for allowing a child to work in gainful employment vary by age. In the 5 to 9 year-old group, family participation (66.1%) and formation (42.7%) are the main reasons. For the 10 to 14 year-old group, gainful employment is seen as useful for a minor to stay away from vices and contribute to household expenses, but after age 14 years, contributing to household expenses is the most important reason, where even paying for their own studies loses importance, which may well be due to the fact that at this age they do not attend school. However, around one-half of the parents or guardians say that they would prefer that their working children would dedicate themselves exclusively to studies.

In the case of minors in gainful employment, more than one-half feel that they are working to participate in family activities, followed by the need to help out with household expenses. Among these working children, they would prefer to work exclusively or work and attend school, but not attend school exclusively. Among females, however, there is a greater preference for schooling than among males.

Among the working minors, 59.8% do not attend any school, a much higher rate than that among the economically inactive minors. Among the unemployed, non-attendance is even higher. Currently, 1 of 4 children do not attend school,

and this has contributed to the fact that 28.8% live without the right to read and write, and to suffer the consequences of social marginalization. Achieving school attendance among this young population segment is a challenge to the school system.

For many children, working in transportation, construction and agriculture mean leaving school. There are better possibilities for school attendance for those in trade or manufacturing industries. This is an encouraging fact, since trade activities are increasing and currently occupy 24.4% child employment.

In addition to illness, work related accidents affect 12% of the minors, going from minor cuts to the loss of an extremity. If the absence of a nearby school is an argument for not entering the educational system, loss of health from a labour accident is a much more convincing argument. Agriculture presents the greatest risks for illness and injury.

Four of every 10 parents or guardians felt that if a minor from the household were to cease working, there would be no effect on the household, another 4 of 10 felt that household income and living standards would fall. To a great extent, child labourers, if they do earn any income, it is below the minimum wage. In spite of this, almost 80% of child labourers that do perceive an income contribute part or all of it to the household. Less than one-third saves part of their income.

Working from childhood in economic activities is a traditional norm for rural society. In the countryside, boys and girls work from a very young age. Parents look positively on work by their children from these early ages, because work by their male children is seen as manpower and that of their female children is frequently seen as reproductive labour and important for them as future wives and mothers, cultural values well-rooted in rural society.

But if work forms a minor and keeps him/her away from vices, according to family beliefs, then what will happen to the 27,038 children over age six who are not doing chores, nor are they working, nor are they studying? We can suppose that they will join the already bulging ranks of the *maras* and delinquency.

Poverty and the lack of employment opportunities for household members are factors conditioning child labour, however, cultural factors have an important weight on the determining which children will work in gainful employment from early ages, with little import for their education.

Labour and child welfare laws prohibiting employment of minors contradict the reality within which more than 350 thousand gainfully employed boys and girls live, not because they wish to, but because they have been obligated to do so to cooperate with some family business or bring money home, where formal education and leisure are an unattainable luxury.

Some of the worst forms of child labour and hazardous labour are found in agriculture, trade and services, because they reproduce the worst working conditions with regards to wages, risks and general welfare. If the girls in the juvenile gangs are induced into commercial sexual exploitation to contribute to the *mara*, this means that approximately 8,010 girls forming a part of the *maras* may be exploited with no opportunity to escape from this situation.

9.2 Recommendations

9.2.1 Education of gainfully employed children

Ideally, a child's formation should take place without him or her working, while dedicating him/herself to developing abilities through education, recreation and play, among others. However, Honduras provides a different reality for thousands of boys and girls; the State should play an important role developing public policies aimed at guaranteeing that the more than 367,000 children in the country's labour force would have a better life, ensuring their primary education, especially for those between 6 and 13 years of age.

For those children employed in economic activities that must definitely work, the Department of Education must make alternative education programs available, such as School at Home (*Maestro en Casa*), Schooling for All (*Educadores*) and distance education, that can extend educational coverage and increase promotion for those living in both urban as well as rural areas. This will allow children to study even if they must be gainfully employed.

The State and those institutions working with children must develop programmes for the children whose parents have no resources to allow them to study, developing scholarship programmes, patronages, school lunch programmes, awards and other types of mechanisms that help children get into school and stay there.

9.2.2 Labour inspection and monitoring

The Department of Labour should implement greater supervision and surveillance of jobs car-

ried out by gainfully employed children, especially those employed in agriculture and ambulatory commerce, which is precisely where some of the worst forms of child labour occur.

Work by minors over age 14 years authorised by the Department of Labour must be regulated, especially in those aspects related to working conditions, social security, wages and other social benefits, as well as allowed working shifts, since it has been shown that most children are working longer shifts than those allowed, while receiving wages below the minimum, not receiving benefits to which they have rights and working under conditions and in places that are inadequate. Finally, work in hazardous conditions must be overseen.

Most dangerous child labour is occurs outside of the law, so that there must be greater supervision and regulation, especially of the minors involved in agriculture and pedestrian hawking, since these appear to be some of the most exploited, discriminated and impoverished activities.

It is important to guarantee that the employers of these minors meet the requirements imposed by the Department of Labour, by carrying out a systematic follow-up at their places of work and imposing fines in those cases where there have been infractions, up to and including temporary closure the establishment to penalise abuses.

In rural communities, municipal governments play an important role in surveillance of children's working conditions, especially in agriculture and ambulatory commerce, since as reported by the survey, this area of activity is where the worst forms of child labour occur. Community members must play a denunciatory role before the authorities in those cases of abuse, mistreatment and substandard working conditions for children.

9.2.3 Research

IHNFA, as the governmental agency responsible for drafting and implementing public policy aimed at improving living conditions for children, in coordination with other agencies, such as the National Commission for Gradual and Progressive Eradication of Child Labour, must develop

research programmes in those cities where there are large concentrations of children working in the informal sector, to identify their working, health and educational conditions, as well as the hazards they face on the job, in order to focus actions and develop programmes leading to a systematic eradication of child labour and achieve the incorporation of these children into the educational system,

9.2.4 Programmes and policies

If the State does not implement public policies leading to job creation and social improvements for adults in this country, the possibility for these children to achieve a better quality of life for the future is practically non-existent.

Furthermore, it would be beneficial to channel the support from NGOs working in this field to develop alternative education and work programmes for minors currently employed in hazardous jobs, especially in rural areas, specifically in agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing and ambulatory commerce.

In health, there is a need to promote Health Programmes in the workplace and / or extend coverage so that minors can receive care in the Honduran Social Security Institute (I.H.S.S.) in cities where it provides service.

There is also a need for organising self-employed children to receive benefits from the State or private agencies working in this field, who can develop actions for children to work with less exposure to risk.

9.2.5 Awareness

There must be greater efforts to develop training and awareness programmes for children and adults to understand their rights and the risks they run doing a job not regulated by the State's authorities.

As part of the awareness campaign, it may be possible to inform society regarding research carried out on the situation of children, to heighten awareness and knowledge, while persuading society of the social and economic hazards of children that work rather than study.

References

1. *Código de la Niñez y de la Adolescencia*, National Congress of the Republic, Decree No. 73-96, Republic of Honduras
2. *Censo de Población y Vivienda 2001*, National Institute of Statistics 2002
3. *Estrategia de Reducción de la Pobreza*, (ERP) August 2001, Office of the President of the Republic, Honduras.
4. *División Política Territorial Administrativa de la República de Honduras, Anuario Estadístico 1994*, Statistics and Census Office, 1994
5. *Encuesta Nacional de Epidemiología y Salud Familiar ENESF 2001*. Department of Health/ Ashonplafa.
6. *Memoria 2002*, Honduran Institute on Childhood and the Family, IHNFA, (Draft), April, 2003.
7. *Plan de Acción y Estrategia 2002-2006*, Department of Public Education.
8. *Pobreza Femenina y Sector Informal*, June 1993, Compilation of Studies on Population, Poverty and Employment, Volume IV, SEC-PLAN/ILO/PNUD, October 1993.
9. *Trabajo Infantil Domestico en Honduras, A puerta cerrada...*, ILO, IPEC, CEM-H, Government of Canada, Department of Labour and Social Security, 2003.
10. *Estudio de Línea de Base, El trabajo Infantil y adolescente en el Municipio de Villeda Morales, Dpto. de Gracias a Dios, PLATS/IPEC*, Honduras 2001.
11. *Niñez trabajadora en el depósito de basura de Tegucigalpa*, IPEC/COMPARTIR, 2001
12. *Explotación Sexual Comercial de niños, niñas y adolescentes en Honduras*, IPEC/ILO, 2002.
13. *Diagnostico sobre Trabajo Infantil y Adolescente en las fincas de tabaco del valle de Jamastrán, Danlí, El paraíso*, IPEC/ILO/CEPROD, 2002.
14. *Ley de Municipalidades y su Reglamento*, Decree 134-90 dated 29 October, published in the Official Journal, "La Gaceta", dated November 19, 1990.
15. *Infotecnología*. Department of Public Education, summary of data from the Infotechnology Department.
16. *Encuesta Nacional de Epidemiología y Salud Familiar 2001*. Department of Health/ Ashonplafa.

17. *Diagnóstico General de la Situación del Trabajo Infantil en Honduras*, National Comisión for the Gradual and Progressive Eradication of Child Labour, IPEC/ILO, UNICEF, SAVE THE CHILDREN, UK, November 2001.
18. *Mujer y Pobreza*. ZELAYA Alma, Project on Population, Poverty and Employment, 1993.
19. Statistical figures from UPEG, based on data from the Central Office and regional offices of the Regional Inspectorate of Labour and General Director of Social Prevention.
20. *Trabajo Infantil Doméstico en Honduras, "A puerta cerrada..."* International Programme for the Eradication of Child Labour, IPEC. ILO. 2003.
21. *Investigación sobre Pandillas y Violencia Juvenil*, Young Men's/Women's Christian Association, Save The Children UK, 2000.

Appendices

APPENDIX A DETAIL OF ESTIMATION PROCEDURES

1. Coverage

The final study units of the Permanent Multiple Purpose Household Surveys are the households. In this sense, households established in individual dwellings were visited and interviewed. Thus, collective dwellings such as hotels, hospitals, prisons, military bases, convents, etc. were excluded. Similarly, neither embassies nor ambassadors nor consuls' residences were included in the research. However, those households that are installed in individual premises not constructed expressly as such, to wit, garages, mobile homes, warehouses, etc., were included.

With regards to geographic coverage, the survey was set-up in such a way that there would be a representative sample from the urban and rural areas of the country's 16 departments. It did not include the Islas de la Bahía or Gracias a Dios department.

2. Sampling Framework

The Sampling Framework for this Survey consisted of 1,436,978 dwellings recorded in the Pre-Census (1999) for the 2000 National Population and Housing Census, for all of the departments except for Gracias a Dios and the Islas de la Bahía (Bay Islands), with their respective tract division and cartography.

The Framework was divided into five study areas or dominions: Central District, San Pedro Sula, Mid-Size Cities, Small Cities and Rural Areas. The sum of the first four dominions is the urban total. However, the way that the sample was selected made information available for 16 of the country's 18 departments, in both urban and rural

areas. The definition for urban was taken from the Pre-Census, considering each of the municipal seats urban, with the rest considered rural.

The 1,436,978 dwellings in the Framework are distributed in 20,270 census tracts. These census tracts constitute the Primary Sampling Units (UPM). Each UPM has an average of 75 dwellings.

Table 1 provides a clear distribution of the dominions at the household and UPM levels.

Dwellings and Census Tracts by Dominion

Table 1

Dominions	Dwellings	Tracts
Central District	189,927	2,686
San Pedro Sula	123,283	1,741
Mid-size cities	242,418	3,441
Small cities	143,695	2,088
Rural	737,655	10,314
Total	1,436,978	20,270

The Secondary Sampling Units (USM) constitute the Size Measures (Medidas de Tamaño) or compact groups, made up of five adjacent dwellings.

3. The Sample

The need for a sample with high reliability for estimation at the departmental level, as well as the construction of a Master Sampling Framework capable of supporting it and other household surveys led to the decision to create a sample of 20,955 dwellings.

Sample of Dwellings and Census Tracts by Dominion

Table 2

Dominions	Dwellings	Tracts
Central District	3,510	702
San Pedro Sula	2,345	469
Mid-size cities	3,910	782
Small cities	1,905	381
Rural	9,285	1,857
Total	20,955	4,191

The sample for the XXV Household Survey was distributed by allocation proportional to size among the dominions. The distribution of UPMs and dwellings in the sample is shown in Table 2.

Two-stage stratified probabilistic sampling was used. In the first stage, the UPMs were selected; the last selection units – compact groups or USM – were selected in the second stage. Both sampling units, primary and secondary, were selected by means of systematic sampling with a random starting point. The UPMs were selected from within each one of the five dominions and the USMs within each UPM.

4. Estimates

The sample results are representative for the whole study population (sample population), so that these must be expanded for each UPM selected, in order to produce valid estimates for the universe (National population).

The expansion factor (Fe) is nothing more than the reciprocal of the final probability of selection for each compact group (USM) (Phi).

$$Fe = \frac{1}{Phi} \quad Phi = nh \cdot \frac{Mhi}{Mh} \cdot \frac{mhi}{Mhj}$$

where:

- nh: Total UPMs in the sample in the hth stratum
- Mhi: Total dwellings in the ith UPM in the hth stratum
- Mh: Total dwellings in the hth stratum
- mhi: Size Measure (= 5 dwellings)
- Mhj: Total dwellings of the jth USE in the hth stratum

At times, the expansion factor needs to be adjusted to reflect reality with greater certainty. In this case, there were two types of adjustments:

No response adjustment

This adjustment is applied when all the planned interviews were not carried out, and those that were carried out in the UPM have to be expanded to represent those not carried out. This is adjustment A1,

$$A1 = \frac{5}{Rhi}$$

where:

where Rhi: Number of interviews in the UPM

Cartographic adjustment

This must be carried out when, in field work it is found that one or more of the expected dwellings are not effective, since they have been destroyed, are under construction, unoccupied or converted into a business, in other words, not used as a dwelling. These must be subtracted from the dwellings to be estimated, thus the expansion factor for this UPM needs to be “dis-inflated”. This is adjustment A2,

$$A2 = \frac{5 - bhi}{5}$$

where:

where bhi: Number of dwellings effectively not found in the field

Therefore, the final expansion factor will be:

$$Fef = Fe \cdot A1 \cdot A2$$

5. The Child Labour Module

5.1 The sub-sample

Under an agreement with the International Labour Office (ILO), an arrangement was reached to incorporate a module in the 2002 household survey to measure the incidence of child labour in Honduras. ILO's initial proposal was to survey 6,000 households as a minimum and finally it was agreed to take a sub-sample from within the household survey, selecting 2 of every 5 dwellings in the USMs. The selection of these two dwellings in each group is random.

By doing it this way, it was possible to guarantee that all the census tracts in the sample would be visited, maintaining the same dominions and departments. To wit, the sub-sample is representative at the dominion and departmental levels, and instead of being 6,000 dwellings, the final result was 8,382.

5.2 The expansion factor for the module

Since it is a sub-sample, the expansion factors applicable to the Child Labour Module also had to be adjusted, in order to estimate the desired indicators with the same level of confidence found in the household survey.

Thus, the factors for the Module are the result of the following formula:


$$Fmti = Fe \cdot Amti$$

Where: Fmti = Expansion factor for the Child Labour
Module
Fe = Final factor for the household survey
Amti = Adjustment for the sub-sample
selection

The adjustment to the factor for the sub-sampling effect is nothing more than the reciprocal of the probability of selecting 2 dwellings from the compact group of 5 that make up the USMs. This probability and adjustment are calculated as follows:

$$P(mti) = \frac{2}{5} \quad Amti = \frac{1}{P(mti)}$$


Questionnaire



REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY

NATIONAL STATISTICS INSTITUTE

Continuous Multiple Purpose Household Survey
May / 2002



CONFIDENTIAL NATURE
The individual data will be guarded in strict confidence.
Decree 55 - 2000, Art. 31 — July, 2000

FORM _____ OF _____

I. GEOGRAPHIC AND SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION

DEPARTMENT:

MUNICIPALITY:

VILLAGE:

NEIGHBOURHOOD:

ADDRESS: _____

CORRHO:

STRUTHE:

SECTOR:

BLOCK:

DWELLING:

ROUTE:

HOUSEHOLD:

II. INTERVIEW RESULTS

1. ☐ CARRIED OUT

2. ☐ REJECTED

3. ☐ PERSONS ABSENT

4. ☐ COLLECTIVE DWELLING

III. DATA ON THE DWELLING

How many persons or groups of persons that purchase and cook their meals separately live in this dwelling?

1. TYPE OF DWELLING

1. ☐ Independent house or apartment

2. ☐ Block

3. ☐ House in tenement or block of flats

4. ☐ Bungalow-style flat

5. ☐ Depressed house
intended as a dwelling

6. ☐ Premises not built for habitation

7. ☐ Other: _____

2. PREDOMINANT BUILDING MATERIAL USED IN THE WALLS

1. ☐ Brick, stone or coloured blocks

2. ☐ Adobe

3. ☐ Wood

4. ☐ Wall, made in place

5. ☐ Waste materials

6. ☐ Other: _____

3. PREDOMINANT BUILDING MATERIAL USED IN THE FLOORING

1. ☐ Ceramic tile

2. ☐ Cement slab

3. ☐ Clay brick

4. ☐ Polished cement

5. ☐ Wood

6. ☐ Earth

7. ☐ Other: _____

4. WATER SERVICE

1. Do you have water pipes installed?

1. ☐ Yes 2. ☐ No

1. ☐ Public service

2. ☐ Private collective service

3. ☐ Well with pump

4. ☐ Well with pump

5. ☐ River, stream, spring, natural pool

6. ☐ Cistern

7. ☐ Other: _____

5. TOILET

a. What type of toilet do you have?

1. ☐ Flush toilet connected to sewer network

2. ☐ Flush toilet connected to septic tank

3. ☐ Latrine with hydraulic descent

4. ☐ Latrine with septic tank

5. ☐ Pit latrine

6. ☐ Doesn't have Toilet in the block

b. Toilet in septic tank:

1. ☐ exclusive to this dwelling?

2. ☐ shared with other dwellings?

6. WHAT TYPE OF LIGHTING DO YOU HAVE

1. ☐ Public service

2. ☐ Private collective plant

3. ☐ Private individual plant

4. ☐ Solar energy

5. ☐ Candle

7. HOW DO YOU ELABORATE FOOD IN THIS DWELLING?

1. ☐ Public household collection

2. ☐ By placing it in containers

3. ☐ By buying

4. ☐ By buying

5. ☐ By buying it separately

6. ☐ Other: _____ (Specify)

8. IN WHAT YEAR WAS THIS DWELLING BUILT?

1.

2. ☐ Don't know

9. DWELLING OWNERSHIP

Under what condition do you occupy this dwelling?

1. ☐ Owner and it is fully paid up

2. ☐ Owner, currently paying

3. ☐ Rented

4. ☐ On loan without charge

5. ☐ Rented and legalised

6. ☐ Rented without legalisation

10. DOES THIS DWELLING HAVE YES NO

a. Refrigerator 1. ☐ 2. ☐

b. Television 1. ☐ 2. ☐

c. Radio 1. ☐ 2. ☐

d. Telephone 1. ☐ 2. ☐

11. NUMBER OF ROOMS IN THE DWELLING

1. How many rooms does this dwelling have? (Include the kitchen but not the bathroom)

2. How many rooms are used for sleeping?

IV. HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

What is the total number of persons that eat and sleep in this household?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
No. of The Person	ENTER THE NAMES AND SURNAMES OF THE PERSONS USUALLY RESIDING IN THIS HOUSEHOLD IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER: 1. Head of Household, 2. Spouse or Companion, 3. Children or stepchildren, oldest to youngest, 4. Parents, 5. Son/daughter in law, 6. Other relatives (grandchildren, grandparents, uncles/aunts, nephews/nieces, cousins), 7. Other non-relatives (governor/other master in law, guests, friends, etc.), 8. Domestic help, 9. Outside contributor (FILL IN SECTION IV ONLY)	RELATIONSHIP TO THE HEAD	SEX	AGE	CURRENT MARITAL STATUS	MOTHER
		Relationship to the head (HH) of each member of the HH	1. Male 2. Female	Age at last birthday. For children under 1 year enter 00.	1. Married 2. Widowed 3. Divorced 4. Separated 5. Single 6. Consensual Union	Number in order of the mother, 00 if she does not live in this HH
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						

Under 5 years of age 5 - 17 years of age 18 or more years Total

8- How many persons between 5 and 17 years of age that usually lived in this HH in May of last year no longer live here?

1-

2- ☐ None

[Go to Section V](#)

1: Go to No. 17

2: End for this child

Child's name	Relationship with the head of HH	C o d e	Sex 1. Male 2. Female	Age	With whom does he/she live?	What does he/she do?	Does he/she communicate with the HH? 1. Yes 2. No	When was the last time that he/she was in contact?			Does he/she send money or goods to the HH? 1. Yes 2. No	When was the last time that he/she sent money or goods?		
								D	M	Y		D	M	Y
1														
2														
3														
4														
5														
6														

No.	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
-----	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Codes for Question No. 13

- 1. Father
- 2. Mother
- 3. Both parents
- 4. Other relative
- 5. Other non-relative
- 6. Institution

Codes for Question No. 14

- 1. Only works
- 2. Only studies
- 3. Works and studies
- 4. Don't know
- 5. Other (specify)

V. PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS (FOR THOSE 4 OR MORE YEARS OF AGE)

Name: _____ Age:

No. of person: No. of Person reporting:

EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. DO YOU KNOW HOW TO READ AND WRITE?

1. ☐ YES 2. ☐ NO

2. DO YOU CURRENTLY ATTEND AN EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT?

1. ☐ YES 2. ☐ NO

Name: _____

3. WHAT IS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF STUDIES YOU ARE ATTENDING OR HAVE TAKEN, AND WHAT IS THE HIGHEST GRADE PASSED AT THAT LEVEL?

1. ☐ None
 2. ☐ Nursery School
 3. ☐ Literacy Centre
 4. ☐ Teacher at home
 5. ☐ Primary 1-5
 6. ☐ Secondary, common cycle 1-3
 7. ☐ Secondary, diversified 1-4
 8. ☐ Higher, non-university 1-4
 9. ☐ Higher, university 1-8
 10. ☐ Post-graduate 1-4
 11. ☐ Don't know, no response

☐ last year approved

CONTINUE ONLY FOR THOSE OVER AGE 1 YEAR

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

4. WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

Dept.:
 Municipality:
 Country:

5. FOR HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN THIS PLACE?

1. ☐ Has always lived here Go to No. 9
 2. ☐ Less than one year
 3. ☐ One year or more number of years

6. IN WHICH DEPARTMENT AND MUNICIPALITY DID YOU LIVE BEFORE LIVING IN THIS PLACE?
 (If he/she lived abroad, enter the name of the country)

Dept.:
 Municipality:
 Country:

7. WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THE LAST PLACE OF RESIDENCE BEFORE COMING TO LIVE IN THIS PLACE?

1. ☐ Working
 2. ☐ Studying
 3. ☐ Working and studying at the same time
 4. ☐ Was under 5 years of age
 5. ☐ Nothing
 6. ☐ Other: _____

(Specify)

8. WHAT WERE YOUR REASONS FOR MIGRATING TO THIS PLACE?

1. ☐ To look for work
 2. ☐ Job transfer
 3. ☐ To study
 4. ☐ His/her parents brought the family
 5. ☐ Got married
 6. ☐ Other: _____

(Specify)

ETHNIC CHARACTERISTICS

9. OF WHICH ETHNIC GROUP OR RACE DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A MEMBER

1. ☐ Garifuna
 2. ☐ Black English
 3. ☐ Taino
 4. ☐ Pech (Paya)
 5. ☐ Miskito
 6. ☐ Lenca
 7. ☐ Tawakka (Sema)
 8. ☐ Chorti
 9. ☐ Mestizo or Ladino
 10. ☐ Other: _____

(Specify)

10. WHICH LANGUAGE OR DIALECT IS SPOKEN IN THE HOUSEHOLD?

1. ☐ Spanish
 2. ☐ English Creole
 3. ☐ Garifuna
 4. ☐ Miskito
 5. ☐ Tawakka
 6. ☐ Pech
 7. ☐ Tost
 8. ☐ Other: _____

(Specify)

11. WITH WHOM OR WHERE DID YOU LEARN IT?

1. ☐ With the mother
2. ☐ With the father
3. ☐ With both parents
4. ☐ With the grandparents
5. ☐ With the community elders
6. ☐ At school
7. ☐ At work
8. ☐ Doesn't remember
9. ☐ Other: _____
(Specify)

12. WHAT LANGUAGE DID / DO YOUR PARENTS SPEAK?

1. Mother ☐ Enter the corresponding language
2. Father ☐ code according to Q. 10
3. Don't know ☐

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

13. DURING THE LAST WEEK, DID YOU DEDICATE AN HOUR OR MORE TO SOME JOB OR ACTIVITY WITH PAY IN CASH OR IN ANOTHER FORM OR DID YOU HAVE ANY EARNINGS? (Except household chores)

1. ☐ Yes
2. ☐ No

14. DURING THE LAST WEEK, DID YOU CARRY OUT OR HELP CARRY OUT ANY JOB WITHOUT PAY? (Except household chores)

1. ☐ Yes
2. ☐ No

15. ALTHOUGH YOU DID NOT WORK LAST WEEK, DO YOU HAVE A JOB THAT YOU WILL RETURN TO SOON?

1. ☐ Yes
2. ☐ No

16. WHY DIDN'T YOU WORK THIS PAST WEEK?

1. ☐ Bad weather
2. ☐ Lack of raw materials, money, etc.
3. ☐ Strike or work stoppage
4. ☐ Family or health problems
5. ☐ Vacations, study, etc.
6. ☐ Due to the season
7. ☐ Other: _____
(Specify)

17. DO YOU HAVE ANOTHER JOB BESIDES YOUR MAIN EMPLOYMENT?

1. ☐ Yes _____
Secondary Employment
2. ☐ No

18. HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU WORK LAST WEEK?

Main Employment
Secondary Employment
Total (for office use)

19. HOW MANY TOTAL HOURS DO YOU NORMALLY WORK PER WEEK?

Main Employment
Secondary Employment
Total (for office use)

20. AFTER MEETING JOB, STUDY AND HOUSEHOLD DUTY OBLIGATIONS, DO YOU WANT TO WORK MORE HOURS PER WEEK, AND ARE YOU AVAILABLE TO DO SO FOR MORE PAY OR INCOME?

1. ☐ Yes
2. ☐ No
3. ☐ Don't know

21. HOW MANY ADDITIONAL HOURS PER WEEK ARE YOU WILLING TO WORK?

Number of hours
per week:

22. WHY DON'T YOU USUALLY WORK MORE HOURS PER WEEK?

1. ☐ For health reasons
 2. ☐ Due to studies
 3. ☐ For family or personal reasons
 4. ☐ Because he/she couldn't get more work
 5. ☐ For other reasons: _____
(Specify)
- Go to Q. 30A

23. DID YOU LOOK FOR WORK OR TRY TO ESTABLISH YOUR OWN BUSINESS OR FARM?

1. ☐ Yes, during the last week
2. ☐ Yes, during the last four weeks
3. ☐ No

24. WHAT WAS THE MAIN THING YOU DID TO SEEK WORK OR ESTABLISH YOUR OWN BUSINESS OR FARM?

1. ☐ Visited firms, offices, cooperatives.
2. ☐ Made efforts through friends or relatives
3. ☐ Sought land to work or premises for firm
4. ☐ Filled out applications, sought loans
5. ☐ Other: _____
(Specify)

25. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING FOR WORK OR TRYING TO ESTABLISH OWN BUSINESS OR FARM?

1. ☐ Less than one month
 2. ☐ One month to a year
 3. ☐ More than a year
- Go to Q. 29

26. WHY DIDN'T YOU LOOK FOR WORK OR TRY TO ESTABLISH YOUR OWN BUSINESS OR FARM?

1. ☐ Will start working within a month
2. ☐ Has a sure job after a month
3. ☐ Has heard from some of the applications
4. ☐ Is waiting for the next working season
5. ☐ Thinks that he/she won't find work
6. ☐ Stopped looking for work momentarily
7. ☐ Has no land or capital
8. ☐ Doesn't have time to look for work
9. ☐ Doesn't need to work
10. ☐ Can't work because of age
11. ☐ Other: _____

(Specify)

27. WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT CONDITION?

1. ☐ Retired, pensioner
2. ☐ Annuitant
3. ☐ Student
4. ☐ Does the household chores
5. ☐ Temporarily disabled
6. ☐ Permanently disabled
7. ☐ Other: _____

(Specify)

28. DO YOU DESIRE TO WORK AND ARE YOU ABLE TO DO SO?

1. ☐ Yes, right now
2. ☐ Yes, at another time of year
3. ☐ No.

End for this person

29. HAVE YOU WORKED BEFORE?

1. ☐ Yes
2. ☐ No

End for this person

30A. WHAT IS OR WAS YOUR MAIN EMPLOYMENT?

30B. WHAT ARE OR WERE THE TASKS OR FUNCTIONS THAT YOU CARRIED OUT?

31A. WHAT IS THE MAIN PRODUCT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OR FARM WHERE YOU WORK, OR WHAT DOES (OR DID) IT DO?

(If self-employed, enter the goods produced, sold or service provided)

31B. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OR FARM WHERE YOU WORK OR WORKED?

32. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING (OR WORKED) IN THAT ESTABLISHMENT OR FARM?

1. ☐ Less than a year
2. ☐ A year or more

Number of years _____

33. HOW MANY PERSONS WORK (OR WORKED) FULL-TIME IN THAT ESTABLISHMENT OR FARM?

1. ☐ Less than ten
2. ☐ Ten or more

Number of employees _____

34. WHAT IS OR WAS YOUR MAIN OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORY?

1. ☐ Public employee or worker
2. ☐ Private employee or worker
3. ☐ Domestic help

4. ☐ Member of a cooperative, settlement, group
5. ☐ Self-employed worker that does not contract temporary labour
6. ☐ Self-employed worker that does contract temporary labour
7. ☐ Employer or active partner
8. ☐ Unpaid family worker
9. ☐ Unpaid labourer

Go to Q. 35

End

35. IS OR WAS YOUR EMPLOYMENT IN YOUR MAIN ACTIVITY OF A TEMPORARY NATURE?

1. ☐ Temporary?
2. ☐ Permanent?

INCOME

INCOME FOR MAIN EMPLOYMENT FOR SALARIED WORKERS

36. HOW MUCH WERE YOU PAID FOR THE TIME YOU WORKED LAST MONTH IN YOUR MAIN EMPLOYMENT?

Leempine: _____

37. DURING THE LAST MONTH DID YOU RECEIVE PAYMENTS IN KIND FOR YOUR WORK, IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Food, meals | 1. <input type="radio"/> Yes | _____ | 2. <input type="radio"/> No |
| Clothing, footwear | 1. <input type="radio"/> Yes | _____ | 2. <input type="radio"/> No |
| Housing | 1. <input type="radio"/> Yes | _____ | 2. <input type="radio"/> No |
| Transportation | 1. <input type="radio"/> Yes | _____ | 2. <input type="radio"/> No |
| Other | 1. <input type="radio"/> Yes | _____ | 2. <input type="radio"/> No |

(Specify)

FROM ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SOURCES?

Category	1. Yes 2. No	Amount		Total
		Last month	Last 3 months	
1 Pension or retirement				
2 Rents				
3 Subsidies				
4 Bank interest				
5 Overseas remittances				
6 Family assistance				
7 Private assistance				
8 Bonds				
9 Severance pay				
10 Inheritances				
11 Other				
Total				

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical margin lines, and the page is completely devoid of any text, drawings, or other markings.

VII FLOW CONTROL																			
<p>a. PERSONNEL PARTICIPATING</p> <p>Interviewer: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____</p> <p>Supervisor: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____</p> <p>Coder: _____</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	<p>b. CONTROL DE VISITS</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 5%;">N°</th> <th style="width: 20%;">DATE</th> <th style="width: 20%;">TIME</th> <th style="width: 35%;">RESULT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		N°	DATE	TIME	RESULT	1				2				3			
N°	DATE	TIME	RESULT																
1																			
2																			
3																			

[illegible]

VI-a MODULE ON CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PERSONS BETWEEN 6 AND 17 YEARS OF AGES - QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE PARENTS							
	1 [Single Resp.]	2 [S. R.]	3 [S. R.]	4 [S. R.]	5 [Mult. Resp.]	6 [M. R.]	
H*	What would you prefer that (...) would be doing currently?	What would you prefer that (...) does when he/she turns 18 years old?	Did (...) help out with the household activities last week?	How much time did he/she help out last week with the household chores?	What activities did he/she carry out?	Why does he/she have to do these chores?	
a	1. Only studying	1. Only study	1. Yes	1. Hours	1. Wash clothes	1. He/she parents have to work.	Did (...) work an hour or more last week?
b	2. Only working	2. Only work	2. No	2. Days	2. Iron	2. There is no one else to do them.	1. Yes 2. No
c	3. Only doing household chores	3. Only do household chores			3. Cook	3. He/she needs to learn, for what he/she grows up.	
d	4. Studying and working at the same time	4. Study and work at the same time	Go to Q. 7		4. Care for smaller children	4. He/she needs to participate in the household chores.	
e	5. Studying and doing the household chores at the same time	5. Study and do the household things at the same time			5. Care for sick or disabled persons in the household	5. Everyone in the HH had helped out since they were little.	
f	6. Working and doing the household chores	6. Work and do the household chores			6. Tend the family garden, feed and care for animals	6. Other: (Specify)	
g	7. Other: (Specify)	7. Other: (Specify)			7. Run errands and/or go to the market		
h					8. Organ and maintain the household		
i					9. Other: (Specify)		
j							
k							
l							
m							
n							
o							
p							
q							
r							
s							
t							
u							
v							
w							
x							
y							
z							

VI-a MODULE ON CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PERSONS BETWEEN 6 AND 17 YEARS OF AGES - QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE PARENTS				
	7 [S. R.]	8 [S. R.]	9 [S. R.]	10 [S. R.]
H*	What would you prefer that (...) would be doing currently?	What would you prefer that (...) does when he/she turns 18 years old?	Did (...) help out with the household activities last week?	How much time did he/she help out last week with the household chores?
a	1. Only studying	1. Only study	1. Yes	1. Hours
b	2. Only working	2. Only work	2. No	2. Days
c	3. Only doing household chores	3. Only do household chores		
d	4. Studying and working at the same time	4. Study and work at the same time	Go to Q. 7	
e	5. Studying and doing the household chores at the same time	5. Study and do the household things at the same time		
f	6. Working and doing the household chores	6. Work and do the household chores		
g	7. Other: (Specify)	7. Other: (Specify)		
h				
i				
j				
k				
l				
m				
n				
o				
p				
q				
r				
s				
t				
u				
v				
w				
x				
y				
z				

	14 (S.R.)	15 (M.R.)	16 (S.R.)	17 (S.R.)	18 (S.R.)	19 (S.R.)	20 (M.R.)
1. What was the child's condition and its severity? (S.R.)	<p>Did not know L.J. Had ever had an infection of the following nature while working or in the work place:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Superficial illness or wounds 2. Fractures 3. Twisted or sprained muscles 4. Burns 5. Poisoning or intoxication 6. Amputations or loss of any extremity 7. None 8. Other: (Specify) 						
2. How frequently?	<p>More than 5 times 2 to 5 times 1 to 3 times</p>						
3. Which was the most serious?	<p>From the codes listed in Q. 15, enter the one the parent considers the most serious</p>						
4. How serious was it?	<p>1. He/she had to be hospitalized 2. He/she had to stop work temporarily 3. He/she stopped working permanently 4. Received medical treatment without the need for admission 5. He/she took care of themselves and applied household remedies 6. Did not require medical treatment</p> <p>Go to Q. 22</p>						
5. How did L.J. recover?	<p>1. Public Hospital 2. Health centre 3. Clinic / private hospital 4. Private physician 5. Medical office 6. Pharmacy 7. Elsewhere (Specify)</p>						
6. Who paid for the care of L.J.?	<p>1. Social Security 2. The employer 3. The parents 4. He/she paid 5. It was free 6. Other (Specify)</p>						

	21 (M.R.)	22 (M.R.)	23 (S.R.)	24 (S.R.)	25 (S.R.)	26 (S.R.)	27 (M.R.)	28 (M.R.)
1. Who paid for the care of L.J.?	<p>Who paid for the care of L.J.?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social Security 2. The employer 3. The parents 4. He/she paid 5. It was free 6. Other (Specify) 							
2. How frequently?	<p>More than 5 times 2 to 5 times 1 to 3 times</p>							
3. Which was the most serious?	<p>From the codes listed in Q. 22, enter the one the parent considers the most serious</p>							
4. How serious was it?	<p>1. He/she had to be hospitalized 2. He/she had to stop work temporarily 3. He/she stopped working permanently 4. Received medical treatment without the need for admission 5. He/she took care of themselves and applied household remedies 6. Did not require medical treatment</p> <p>End for this case</p>							
5. How did L.J. recover?	<p>1. Public Hospital 2. Health centre 3. Clinic / private hospital 4. Private physician 5. Medical office 6. Pharmacy 7. Elsewhere (Specify)</p>							
6. Who paid for the care of L.J.?	<p>1. Social Security 2. The employer 3. The parents 4. He/she paid 5. It was free 6. Other (Specify)</p>							

[illegible]

APPENDIX C
SURVEY ACTIVITY TIMELINE
2002

	March		April				May					June			
	11-15	18-22	1-5	8-12	15-19	22-26	29-3	6-10	11-19	20-24	27-31	3-7	8-12	15-19	22-26
A) Fieldwork															
1. Questionnaire analysis															
Questionnaire management															
Changes															
2. Revision of Manuals															
Interviewer, supervisor															
Prepare exam for critic and trans,															
3. Preparation of Materials															
Print manuals, quest., folders.															
Caps															
ID cards															
4. Cartography															
UPM selection															
Dwelling selection															
5. Personnel Selection															
Recruit interviewers, chequers															
Training															
Theoretical and field assessment															
6. Information gathering															
Assign work loads															
Critique and coding															
Reception of forms															
Check coverage															
b) Sample design															
Sampling framework															
C) Quality control															
Fieldwork															
Transcription and Validation															
D) Tabulation plan															
Indicators															
Tables															