

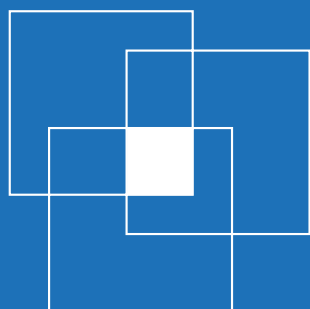


International
Labour
Organization



Republic of
Sierra Leone

REPORT ON NATIONAL CHILD LABOUR IN SIERRA LEONE 2011



International
Programme on
the Elimination
of Child Labour
(IPEC)

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**International
Programme on
the Elimination
of Child Labour
(IPEC)**

**Statistics Sierra Leone
Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Sierra Leone
International Labour Organization (ILO)**

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Executive summary

The Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey is a stand-alone survey. Since 2002, an important volume of statistics has been produced, yet up to date reliable and comprehensive child labour statistics have been still lacking; thus the need for this study. The survey was conducted by the National Statistics Office; Statistics Sierra Leone in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, with funding and technical assistance from the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The main objective of the study was to analyse the current child labour situation in Sierra Leone so as to generate detailed up-to-date statistics on working children. Specifically, the key objectives of this survey were:

- a) to provide national and regional estimates of the extent of child labour and children in employment;
- b) to describe the main characteristics of children in employment;
- c) to analyse the school attendance of children in employment;
- d) to determine the extent to which children are involved in non-economic activities especially in unpaid household services or household chores; and
- e) to provide information on the status in employment and distribution of child labourers in the three major economic sectors; agriculture, industry and services.

To attain the above objectives, a robust but reliable research design was generated and a two stage sampling technique was applied. In the first stage of selection, the primary sampling unit was the Enumeration Area (EA). A total of 400 EAs were scientifically selected from a sample frame which was derived for the 2004 population and housing census. At the second level of selection a total of 6,000 households were also scientifically selected for interview in the 400 selected enumeration areas. The response rate in a research is very important, therefore to ensure a high response rate, a household listing exercise was implemented to update the 2004 population and housing census sample frame. The instrument for data collection in this study was a structured questionnaire designed to obtain accurate and correct responses from the respondents. Intensive training was provided to 54 enumerators, 6 coordinators, 6 supervisors and 5 electronic data personnel (EDPs).

Sierra Leone's population of children 5 to 17 years old was estimated at 1,950,761 in 2011. Of these children, 65.5 per cent were 5 to 12 years old. Those aged 13 to 14 years accounted for only 11.7 per cent. More than half of these children lived in rural areas (66.9 per cent). About 36.7 per cent of these children lived in the northern region while 31.8 per cent lived in the eastern region.

The number of children aged 6 to 17 years attending school in 2011 was estimated at 1,208,668. Almost similar proportions of boys and girls attended school. Children between 13 to 14 years old attended school more than those of 6 to 12 years old and 15 to 17 years old. Urban areas registered the high proportion of children attending school.

Household chores activities included shopping for household, repairing household equipment, cooking, cleaning, washing clothes and caring for children. Most children 5 to 17 years old cleaned and washed clothes as part of their household chores, these activities were reported by more girls than boys (70.2 per cent for girls and 61.3 per cent for boys). Regardless of the nature of household chores, girls were more involved than boys.

The survey gathered information on various activities in which children had currently engaged. Most children 6 to 17 years old who attended school were also involved in economic activity with boys showing a high proportion (40.5 per cent) than girls (35.6 per cent). More girls attended school only than boys. In addition, 44.4 per cent of the children in urban areas attended school only as compared to only 21.7 per cent of the children in rural areas.

The number of children seeking work in 2011 was estimated to be about 7,265 (3.3 per cent of the total number of children 5 to 17 years old). At the national level, it was found out that boys sought for work more than girls. “Working children” refers to those engaged in economic activities within the system of National Accounts (SNA) production boundary. Child labour, a subset of work, is defined as work which is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children and which interferes with their schooling. In other words, *hazardous work* is a subcategory of *child labour*, which in turn is a subcategory of economic activity (*working children* or *children in employment*).

More than half (54.9 per cent, 1,071,022) of the total of 1,950,761 children 5 to 17 years old were in employment or engaged in some form of work. By sex, more boys (571,805) were working than girls (499,218); across age groups, too, the percentage of boys in employment was higher than that of girls. A total of 895,427 (45.9 per cent) children in the age group 5 to 17 years were reported as child labourers during the reference week of which 428,776 children were engaged in hazardous work (22 per cent). The proportion of working children in rural areas was higher than that in urban areas. Across regions, the northern region reported the highest number of children engaged in employment (436,398 or 60.9 per cent). Overall, the proportion of children engaged in child labour was generally higher than that of those who were not engaged.

Working children between 5 to 17 years old were mostly employed in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector; more than half of them were being engaged in this sector. Both boys and girls were actively involved in agriculture, forestry and fishing, though the proportion of boys was slightly higher – about 63.8 per cent against 59.5 per cent among girls. Older children aged 15 to 17 years were more likely to be working in agriculture sector (66.8 per cent) than in any other age group. The share of working children in the industrial sector and services sector was 1.6 per cent and 36.6 per cent respectively. The vast majority of the working children were contributing family workers/ unpaid family workers with 92.4 per cent; this was true for both boys and girls.

Children in Sierra Leone generally worked fewer than 40 hours in a week. About half of the working boys and working girls respectively worked between 15 to 40 hours a week. Boys and girls who worked 1 to 14 hours made up 25.1 per cent and 30.4 per cent respectively, while 20 per cent of the working boys worked more than 40 hours as compared to 19.2 per cent of the working girls.

In terms of hours of work spent on household chores, 55.4 per cent of all working children spent 1 to 14 hours doing household chores, but about 15.1 per cent did so for 15 to 27 hours. An estimated percentage of 19.5 per cent did not engage in any unpaid household services.

Regarding the education of working children, more than a half (56.5 per cent) of the children 6 to 17 years old in employment were attending school during the reference period; and of those children who were in employment and attending school, almost 4 out of every 5 children were in child labour activities. Boys in employment attended school more than girls. In regional terms, the western area had the biggest proportion of boys in employment attending school (77.0 per cent) followed by the eastern region with 71.0 per cent. The eastern region in addition reported a higher proportion of school girls in employment as compared to other regions.

Working children may or may not be classified as child labourers. According to international statistical measurement standards, all working children aged 5 to 12 years are classified as being engaged in child labour. By this definition, the proportion of such children in Sierra Leone is 52.9 per cent for boys and 48.7 per cent for girls. Therefore of the 1,071,022 children who were working, about 895,428 were deemed to be engaged in child labour.

Of the total of 895,428 children engaged in child labour (about 45.9 per cent of all children 5 to 17 years old), roughly 648,994 (72.5 per cent) were in the 5 to 12 age group, 115,931 (12.9 per cent) in the 13 to 14 age group and about 130,502 (14.6 per cent) in the 15 to 17 age group. More than half (52.2 per cent) of the identified as being engaged in child labour were boys. More than 56 per cent of the child labourers were working in the agricultural sector, 41.5 per cent in the services sector and about 1.7 per cent in the industrial sector. In terms of place of work, over a half of the child labourers (53.2 per cent) worked on plantations/farms/gardens and 31.9 per cent worked in their family dwellings. The share of other places of work was below 5 per cent. In addition, 93.1 per cent of the child labourers were contributing/ unpaid family workers.

The northern region had the biggest number of children engaged in child labour with 365,101 (40.8 per cent) followed by the eastern region 273,612 (30.6 per cent), southern region 203,239 (22.7 per cent) and the western area 53,475 (6.0 per cent).

1.1 Geographical location and demographics of Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone is located on the West coast of Africa between 7th and 10th parallels North of the equator. Sierra Leone is bordered by Guinea to the North and North East, Liberia to the South and South East, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. In terms of administrative division, Sierra Leone is divided into four regions namely North, South, East and West. The country is subdivided into 14 districts and further into 149 chiefdoms. It has a total area of 71,740 kilometer square divided into a land area of 71,620 kilometer square and water of 120 kilometer square. The land area is divided into four distinct geographical regions: the coastal guinea mangroves, the wooded hill country, an upland plateau and the eastern mountains. Eastern Sierra Leone is an interior region of large plateaus interspersed with high mountains, where Mount Bintumani rises to 1,948 meters (6,391 ft). Sierra Leone has a tropical climate, although it could be classified as a tropical monsoon climate, it could also be described as a climate that is transitional between a continually way tropical rainforest climate and a tropical savanna climate.

In 2004 the population of Sierra Leone was 4,976,871 and was projected to be at 6,244,647 in 2013 with an annual growth rate of 2.7 per cent.



1.2 Historical and economic background

Sierra Leone emerged from a decade of civil war in 2002, with the help of Britain, the former colonial power, and a large United Nations peacekeeping mission. Several years on, the country still faces the challenge of reconstruction, and is at an important juncture in terms of consolidating peace and advancing recovery. Significant progress has been made since the declaration of peace in 2002 with the extension of civil authority throughout the country, peaceful parliamentary and presidential elections, and the return of over 0.5 million displaced persons. Although these are encouraging signs, much remains to be done to improve lives and to set the country on the path to sustainable development.

The country is an extremely poor nation with tremendous inequality in income distribution. While it possesses substantial mineral, agricultural, and fishery resources, its physical and social infrastructure is not well developed, and serious social disorders continue to hamper economic development. Nearly half of the working-age population engages in subsistence agriculture. Manufacturing consists mainly of the processing of raw materials and of light manufacturing for the domestic market. Alluvial diamond mining remains the major source of hard currency earnings accounting for nearly half of Sierra Leone's exports. The fate of the economy depends upon the maintenance of domestic peace and the continued receipt of substantial aid from abroad, which is essential to offset the severe trade imbalance and supplement government revenues.

In addition, Sierra Leone has a special significance in the history of the transatlantic slave trade. It was the departure point for thousands of West African captives. The capital, Freetown, was founded as a home for repatriated former slaves in 1787. The restoration of peace in 2002 was expected to aid the country's promotion as a tourist destination in the long term. Sierra Leone boasts miles of un-spoilt beaches along its Atlantic coast, and hopes to emulate its neighbour Gambia in attracting tourists. Sierra Leone is also rich in diamonds and other minerals. The trade in illicit gems, known as "blood diamonds" for their role in funding conflicts, perpetuated the civil war. The government has attempted to crack down on cross-border diamond trafficking.

Sierra Leone has experienced substantial economic expansion in recent years. Despite the global economic crisis, inflation was brought down to single digits; poverty and unemployment remain major challenges. The IMF has completed a Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility program in Sierra Leone that helped stabilize economic growth and reduce inflation. A recent increase in political stability has led to a revival of economic activity such as the rehabilitation of bauxite and rutile mining. In June 2009, the UN reported that despite some impressive gains in rebuilding since the end of the civil war, efforts to consolidate peace and prosperity in the country remained fragile.

Sustained economic recovery is still at risk and has been slow, partly because the reconstruction needs are great. Around half of government revenue comes from donors. The country still suffers from lack of infrastructure (roads, electricity, and water) and weak

institutions. Notwithstanding economic growth in recent years, per capita income remains low (it returned to the pre-conflict level just a few years ago), poverty is pervasive (at 60 per cent of the population), and Sierra Leone ranks almost at the bottom of the UNDP's Human Development Index.

The socio-economic challenges faced in the country have had a significant bearing on children whose labour has tended to be a coping mechanism on the one hand while on the other, many households are unable to support the education of their children.

1.3 Justification of the Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey

Sierra Leone has not had a Labour Force Survey since 1989. As a result, information on the size of the formal and the informal economies, and knowledge of employment patterns and sector distribution, the size of the urban and rural economically-active population and the number and role of women in the labour force is lacking. There is also no reliable information on the working conditions of employees and the evolution of real wages, the country's ability to provide decent work, including Sierra Leone's compliance with national and international labour laws and standards.

In the absence of accurate and up-to-date labour statistics, it is difficult to analyse, evaluate and monitor the way the economy is performing and the effectiveness of current and longer term economic policies. It is also difficult to determine Sierra Leone's priorities and development interventions on the basis of employment data. With no comprehensive Labour Force Survey conducted in Sierra Leone for almost 25 years, the most complete recent data available on the employment situation in the country have been collected from the Population and Housing Census (PHC) and the Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey (SLIHS) conducted by the SSL in 2003-2004 and 2004, respectively. Another Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey (SLIHS) was conducted in 2011. Employment and unemployment statistics were however only by-products of the above statistical exercises.

In 2008 Sierra Leone was to conduct both the Labour Force Survey and the National child Labour together but because of lack of the huge funds required for these activities, a formal request was received by ILO-IPEC from Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL), Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) and Government of Sierra Leone for technical and financial assistance to support a standalone National Child Labour Survey in 2010-11 for Sierra Leone (SL-NCLS 2010-11) to be implemented by SSL, which is the only national agency with the mandate and expertise to collect official statistics in Sierra Leone.

The NCLS 2011 was implemented by Statistics Sierra Leone in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social security with technical assistance from International Labour Organization (ILO) through its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). The statistics derived from the child labour survey are expected to provide valuable inputs to government programmes aimed at improving public welfare and identifying problems in the area of child labour and worst forms of child labour.

1.4 Survey objectives

The main objective of the study was to analyse the current child labour situation in Sierra Leone so as to generate detailed up-to-date statistics on working children. The specific objectives were as follows:

- a) to provide national and regional estimates of the extent of child labour and children in employment;
- b) to describe the main characteristics of children in employment;
- c) to analyse the school attendance of children in employment;
- d) to determine the extent to which children are involved in non-economic activities especially in unpaid household services or household chores; and
- e) to provide information on the distribution of child labourers in the three major economic sectors; agriculture, industry and services.

1.5 Structure of the report

The survey methodology is presented in chapter 2 of this report, followed in chapter 3 by a description of the children's activities. Chapters 4 and 5 present the survey findings regarding the characteristics of working children, their education and, lastly, child labour and hazardous work.

Chapter 2: Survey methodology

2.1 Scope and coverage of the survey

Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey (SL-NCLS) 2011 was conducted through the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL) in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO). The design of the sample was based on the national sampling frame that had been developed for the 2004 Sierra Leone Population and Housing Census (SLPHC 2004).

Administratively, Sierra Leone is divided into 4 provinces with 14 districts, 149 chiefdoms and 1,322 sections. According to SLPHC 2004, each section was subdivided into convenient area units called Enumeration Area (EA). Every EA contained census information on household, population, urban-rural specification and administrative belongings. The census EA was used as a primary sampling unit (PSU), also called cluster, for the SL-NCLS 2011 study. The frame excluded the population living in collective housing units, such as hotels, hospitals, work camps, prisons among others. Table 2.1 shows the distribution of EAs and their average size plus the distribution and proportion of households by district and by urban-rural residence according to the final results of the 2004 census.

Table 2.1: Number of EAs and their average size, number of households and their proportion, by district and type of residence, 2004 Census

District	Number of EAs			Average number of households per EA			Households			Proportion		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	District
Kailahun	86	618	704	109	90	92	9,353	55,573	64,926	0.14	0.86	0.079
Kenema	312	691	1,003	99	84	88	30,783	57,773	88,556	0.35	0.65	0.108
Kono	109	496	605	180	79	97	19,642	39,184	58,826	0.33	0.67	0.072
Bombali	166	644	810	93	72	76	15,503	46,408	61,911	0.25	0.75	0.076
Kambia	84	422	506	81	72	73	6,793	30,346	37,139	0.18	0.82	0.045
Koinadugu	41	468	509	91	85	86	3,714	39,986	43,700	0.08	0.92	0.053
Port Loko	124	767	891	85	72	74	10,552	55,038	65,590	0.16	0.84	0.080
Tonkolili	122	703	825	74	62	64	9,058	43,803	52,861	0.17	0.83	0.064
Bo	251	586	837	115	80	91	28,932	46,868	75,800	0.38	0.62	0.092
Bonthe	53	310	363	70	70	70	3,701	21,784	25,485	0.15	0.85	0.031
Moyamba	67	549	616	57	75	73	3,857	41,366	45,223	0.09	0.91	0.055
Pujehun	49	428	477	76	75	75	3,712	31,927	35,639	0.1	0.9	0.043
Western Area Urban	1,349		1,349	99		99	134,138		134,138	1	0	0.164
Western Rural	90	86	176	196	145	171	17,617	12,443	30,060	0.59	0.41	0.037
Sierra Leone	2,903	6,768	9,671	102	77	85	297,355	522,499	819,854	0.363	0.637	1

According to the 2004 census report, the sampling frame covered the whole country. The total number of EAs in Sierra Leone were 9,671 with 2,903 EAs located in urban areas and 6,768 EAs in rural areas. On average, a census EA had 102 households in the urban areas and 77 households in the rural areas, with an overall average of 85 households per EA. In addition, 35.8 per cent of the household population lived in urban areas and they occupied 36.3 per cent of the households according to the sampling frame.

2.2 Principles of sample selection and distribution of sample households.

Table 2.2: Sample allocation of households and EAs by region, district and stratum, 2011

SL-NCLS 2011 SAMPLE ALLOCATION						
District/Region	Households			EAs/Clusters		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Kailahun	66	408	474	4	27	31
Kenema	227	421	648	15	28	43
Kono	143	289	432	10	19	29
Eastern region	437	1,116	1,554	29	74	102
Bombali	114	342	456	8	23	31
Kambia	49	221	270	3	15	18
Koinadugu	25	293	318	2	20	22
Port Loko	77	403	480	5	27	32
Tonkolili	65	319	384	4	21	25
Northern region	334	1,578	1,912	22	105	127
Bo	210	342	552	14	23	37
Bonthe	28	158	186	2	11	13
Moyamba	30	300	330	2	20	22
Pujehun	26	232	258	2	15	17
Southern region	294	1,039	1,333	20	69	89
Western Urban	984	0	984	65	0	65
Western Rural	131	91	222	10	6	16
Western area	1,111	91	1,202	75	6	81
Sierra Leone	2,160	3,840	6,000	144	256	400

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Table 2.2 above presents the sample allocation of households and EAs by district and by stratum (i.e. urban or rural area). The sample was randomly selected by a two-stage cluster sampling methodology; using the census frame for all the districts. Stratification was achieved by separating each district into urban and rural areas (as strata) and 27 sampling strata were constructed in total. Samples were selected independently in each stratum, by a two-stage selection. The first stage involved the selection of EAs while the second stage involved the selection of households in the selected EAs. In the first stage, a sample size of 400 EAs was

selected from the 9,671 EAs making the sampling frame, with probability proportional to measures of size (PPS); where the measure of size was the number of households from the 2004 population and housing census.

Samples were selected independently in every stratum (urban, rural), with a predetermined number of EAs to be selected within each stratum. By using a probability proportional to size selection at the first stage's sampling, an implicit stratification and proportional allocation was achieved at each of the lower administrative levels of the districts, by sorting the EAs, within each sampling stratum, according to lower administrative units. In total, 400 EAs were selected with 144 EAs in urban areas and 256 EAs in rural areas; and 6,000 households, with 2,160 households in urban areas and 3,840 households in rural areas.

2.3 Questionnaire, concepts and definitions¹

The SL-NCLS questionnaire was divided into 7 sections namely:

- a) Household and housing characteristics;
- b) Household composition and characteristics for all household members;
- c) Educational attainment for all household members aged 5 and above;
- d) Current economic activity status of all household members (5 years and above) during the referenced week;
- e) Usual employment status of all household members (5 years and above) during the last 12 months;
- f) Health & safety issues about working children (5 to 17 years); and
- g) Household task of children (5 to 17 years).

Sections (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) were addressed to the most knowledgeable adult household member while sections (f) and (g) were addressed directly to children 5 to 17 years of old.

As for any survey, it is important that correct terminology be adopted for the field operations. Therefore, the standard concepts, terms and definitions adopted for the field operations while conducting the SL-NCLS are described below. These concepts were set out in detail in the interviewer's instruction manual.

¹ The 19th ICLS standards of work statistics might affect some concepts and definitions.

Household

A household is defined as a person or group of persons who live together in the same house or compound, who share the same housekeeping arrangements and who are catered for as one unit. Members of a household are not necessarily related to each other either by blood or marriage. Conversely, members who live together in the same house or compound and are related by blood or marriage do not necessarily belong to the same household. In order to be considered a household member;

- a) an individual must reside with the other household members in the dwelling for a substantial part of the year (some countries use a 6-month criterion) and
- b) must not be a member of any other household.

Economic activity

The definition of economic activity used in the survey is based on the concept of economic activity adopted by the 13th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) (1982). The economically active population is measured/defined in terms of the production of goods and services as set forth in the System of National Accounts (SNA).

The 13th ICLS Resolution specifies that “the economically active population comprises of all persons of either sex who furnish the supply of labour for the production of economic goods and services, as defined by the United Nations Systems of National Accounts and Balances (UN SNA), during a specified time-reference period.” Thus, persons are to be considered economically active if (and only if) they contribute, or are available to contribute, to the production of goods and services falling within the SNA production boundary.

The SNA production boundary includes production of all services by market enterprises and by government and non-profit institutions (e.g. religious institutions and charities). It is important to note, however, that it excludes the production of almost all services for own final consumption within the same household. An important exception to this is the provision of domestic and personal services by paid domestic staff, which is included within the SNA production boundary.

The use of a definition of economic activity based on the SNA serves to ensure that the concepts used in employment and production statistics are consistent, thus facilitating the joint analysis of the two bodies of data.

Economically active population

The 13th ICLS distinguishes between the concepts of “currently active population” and “usually active population”. Current economic activity is measured in relation to a short reference period (generally one week), whereas usual economic activity is measured in relation to a longer period (such as the preceding 12 months). The economically active population includes both employed and unemployed persons. The currently active population is also known as the “labour force”.

Employed

Individuals are defined as employed if they are engaged (for one or more hours during the reference period) in the production of economic goods and/or services for pay or profit or without pay in a family farm/business or if they did not work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent. For the purposes of the Child Labour Survey (CLS), “working children” and “employed children” are synonymous. Unpaid apprentices in training are considered to be “employed”, and their employment status is considered to be that of “employee”.

The classification of employers and own-account workers engaged in seasonal activities as either “employed” or “unemployed” when they are not at work should be based on the continued existence of their enterprise.

Unemployed

The reference period but were actively looking for work (i.e., had taken specific steps in the past four weeks to find work) and were ready to start work if an opportunity presented itself. In developing countries, in practice a relaxed definition is used i.e. “actively looking for work” is not applied.

Out of the labour force

Individuals who are neither employed nor unemployed are considered to be out of the labour force. Examples include students, homemakers, individuals who have given up looking for work (“discouraged workers”) and retired individuals.

Non-economic activity

Activities that fall outside the production boundary of the UN SNA are considered to be “non-economic activity”. Such activities include services rendered by and for household members, such as preparing and serving meals; mending, washing and ironing clothes; shopping; caring for siblings and sick/disabled household members; cleaning and maintaining the household dwelling; repairing household durables; transporting household members and their goods; etc.

Household chores

Household services carried out by and for household members, such as preparing and serving meals; mending, washing and ironing clothes; shopping; caring for siblings and sick/disabled household members; cleaning and maintaining the household dwelling; repairing household durables; and transporting household members and their goods are non-economic activities that are referred to as “household tasks” in own household. However, these activities in a third household will become “economic activities”.

Operational definitions of child labour

Child

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) designate individuals less than 18 years of age as children. Since it is rather uncommon for children younger than 5 years of age to work or start schooling, the CLS only interviews children between the ages of 5 and 17 years as recommended in the resolution concerning statistics of child labour (paragraph 12).

Child labour

Child labour is defined on the basis of ILO Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, ILO Convention No. 182 on the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, together with national legislation. The term reflects the engagement of children in work that is prohibited, or, more generally, in work to be eliminated as socially and morally undesirable. Not all working children are considered to be child labour. On the basis of the SNA production boundary, the CLS defines child labour as all persons aged 5-17 years who, during a specified time period, were engaged in one or more of the following activities:

- *Hazardous work by children.* As described in Article 3 (d) of ILO Convention No. 182, hazardous work is defined as work which, by either its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.
- *Worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work.* As described in Article 3 of ILO Convention No. 182, worst forms of child labour comprise:
 - (a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, as well as forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
 - (b) the use, procurement or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;

- (c) the use, procurement or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs, as defined in relevant international treaties; and
- (d) work which, by either its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

Activities covered under clauses (a) to (c) are referred to as “worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work” and as “unconditional worst forms of child labour”, whereas activities covered under clause (d) are referred to as “hazardous work”.

- *Other forms of child labour* applicable to children aged 5-14, including any work that is performed by a child who is under the minimum age specified for that kind of work and which is thus likely to impede the child’s education and full development. In cases where, in accordance with Article 7 of ILO Convention No. 138, national legislation permits.

The target population of SL-NCLS 2011 therefore aimed at estimating the child labour situation in Sierra Leone as per the above definition of child labour with:

- 1) 5 to 11 years of age including all children engaged in some form of economic activity;
- 2) 12 to 14 years of age including all children engaged in some form of economic activity excluding those who worked 14 hours or less per week in non- hazardous activities; and
- 3) 15 to 17 years of age including all children engaged in hazardous work.

Information was collected on children 5 to 17 years old, according to rural and urban residency, and by activities engaged in schooling/ economic activities/ non- economic activities.

2.4 Training of interviewers, supervisors and fieldwork

Supervisors and interviewers were trained by coordinators from Statistics Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and the ILO-IPEC. Among other issues the training covered:

- The National Legislation on Child Labour/Child Protection in Sierra Leone. Detailed presentation on the Sierra Leone Child Rights Act, the Sierra Leone Education Act and the Sierra Leone Employer and Employed Act. Employment of Children and Hazardous work – minimum age. Light work and the minimum age for work in Sierra Leone (15 years).
- From conceptual frame work to operational definition of child labour, hazardous work, light work, household chores etc.

- An overview of the SL-NCLS questionnaire. The overview was basically based on showing the link between the questions in each section of the questionnaire to the objectives and the concepts of child labour statistics.
- Detailed presentation on the questionnaire starting from the front page panel unto the end of sections (b) and (c), which covered question by question with reference to the manual.
- An in-depth look into Sections (d), (e), (f) and (g). In each of these sections, each question was thoroughly examined taking into consideration the skips and filters. Some issues and questions raised were very instrumental in making clarifications and explaining the questionnaire further as far as the concepts and definitions of child labour and objectives of the survey were concerned.

The fieldwork arrangement involved 14 teams for the 14 districts i.e. one team per district. Each team comprised of 1 driver, 3 interviewers and 1 supervisor (i.e. 5 individuals per team with at most one female per team). The fieldwork for this survey was carried out over a period of 4 weeks between the 1st – 30th June 2011; and there was proper coordination between the interviewers and supervisors.

Some of the challenges faced during the field operations were: i) the rainy season in which the survey was conducted, this made it difficult to reach some of the selected households due to poor roads; ii) refusal of some respondents to cooperate and provide information to the interviewers, and iii) in a few cases there were problems of understanding skip patterns in the questionnaire. These challenges were encountered by the strong team spirit built by the supervisors and interviewers.

2.5 Data processing

The processing of the child labour data began immediately after fieldwork was completed. Spot checks were done by supervisors in the field, before leaving the EA in order to minimize errors in the collected data. Completed questionnaires were forwarded to SSL headquarters in Freetown, where data entry supervisors also checked each one of them to ensure completeness from the field. The questionnaires were then entered by data processing personnel recruited and trained for this task. The data processing personnel included two supervisors and fifteen (15) data entry operators. A standard CPro program was developed and used for data capture. Data editing and cleaning were done using SPSS version 18.

The level of aggregation that was targeted in the SL-NCLS 2011 study was at the district level (a third level of aggregation after the national and regional levels).

Chapter 3: Children's activities

3.1 Population of children 5 to 17 years old

Table 3.1 shows the number and percentage distribution of children 5 to 17 years old in 2011, by age group, urban-rural classification and region.

Table 3.1: Number and percentage distribution of children 5 to 17 years old, by sex and selected characteristics, 2011

Selected characteristics	Sex					
	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Age group						
5-12 years	641,360	64.4	636,312	66.6	1,277,672	65.5
13-14 years	113,784	11.4	114,469	12.0	228,253	11.7
15-17 years	240,115	24.1	204,721	21.4	444,836	22.8
Residence						
Rural	672,556	67.6	633,341	66.3	1,305,897	66.9
Urban	322,703	32.4	322,161	33.7	644,864	33.1
Region						
Eastern	296,937	29.8	323,469	33.9	620,406	31.8
Northern	387,966	39.0	328,420	34.4	716,386	36.7
Southern	203,267	20.4	190,689	20.0	393,956	20.2
Western area	107,089	10.8	112,924	11.8	220,013	11.3
Total child population	995,259	100	955,502	100	1,950,761	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Sierra Leone's population of children 5 to 17 years old was estimated at 1,950,761 as shown in table 3.1 representing 39.2 per cent of the total population based on the 2004 population and housing census. In addition this estimate was 74.9 per cent of the total population of children under 18 years old (2,605,924). Children 5 to 12 years old accounted for 65.5 per cent, 11.7 per cent for children 13 to 14 years old and 22.8 per cent for those 15 to 17 years old.

The rural area recorded the highest number of children 5 to 17 years old, where there were more boys than girls (672,556 boys against 633,341). The proportion of girls in rural areas was 32.6 per cent higher than in urban areas, and the proportion of boys in rural areas was 35.2 percent higher than in urban areas.

The northern region had more children 716,386 (36.7 per cent) than other regions with more boys 387,966 (39.0 per cent) than girls 328,420 (34.4 per cent). On the other hand, the western area recorded the least number of children 5 to 17 years old i.e. 11.3 per cent, compared to other regions.

3.2 School Attendance

Table 3.2: Number of children 6 to 17 years old attending school or not by sex and selected characteristics, 2011

Selected characteristics	Attending school							
	No		Yes		Total			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%(No)	%(Yes)	%
Sex								
Boys	297,469	50.9	621,284	51.4	918,753	32.4	67.6	100
Girls	286,478	49.1	587,385	48.6	873,863	32.8	67.2	100
Age group								
6-12 years	356,107	61.0	763,419	63.2	1,119,526	31.8	68.2	100
13-14 years	59,603	10.2	168,717	14.0	228,320	26.1	73.9	100
15-17 years	168,338	28.8	276,532	22.9	444,870	37.8	62.2	100
Residence								
Rural	450,050	77.1	740,000	61.2	1,190,050	37.8	62.2	100
Urban	133,999	22.9	468,668	38.8	602,667	22.2	77.8	100
Region								
Eastern	175,319	30.0	388,107	32.1	563,426	31.1	68.9	100
Northern	239,428	41.0	426,194	35.3	665,622	36.0	64.0	100
Southern	121,886	20.9	235,080	19.4	356,966	34.1	65.9	100
Western area	47,416	8.1	159,287	13.2	206,703	22.9	77.1	100
Total child population (less children 5 years old and those not reported)	584,049	100	1,208,668	100	1,792,717	32.6	67.4	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

The number of children 6 to 17 years old who were attending school in Sierra Leone in 2011 was estimated at 1,208,668 or 67.4 per cent of the total. The proportion of boys attending school (51.4 per cent) was by 2.8 per cent higher than that of girls (48.6 per cent). More than half of the children attending school were in the age group of 6 to 12 years (63.2 per cent), 14 per cent in 13 to 14 year age group and 22.9 per cent in the 15 to 17 year age group.

School attendance of children at ages 6 to 12 years (68.2 per cent) was significantly higher than those who did not attend school. Also at ages 13 to 14 years, school attendance rate was greater than the attendance rate at ages 6 to 12 years (73.9 per cent against 68.2 per cent). School attendance rates declined after age 14 (62.2 per cent), as children became older towards adulthood. This showed that above 14 years, children were expected to have completed their Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE).

The proportion of children attending school in urban areas (77.8 per cent) was 15.6 per cent higher than that of children in the rural areas (62.2 per cent).

The western region recorded a high percentage of children 6 to 17 years old attending school with 77.1 per cent followed by the eastern region with 68.9 per cent, southern region with 65.9 per cent and the northern region with 64 per cent. The low school attendance rate in the northern region was justified by the predominance of mining activities in that part of the country.

3.3 Household chores done by children 5 to 17 years old

The survey sought to know whether children aged 5 to 17 years had carried out any household chores in the last 7 days preceding the survey and the number of hours spent on those activities. Household chores mean activities such as preparing meals, cleaning dishes, taking care of sick, infants or elderly, and other household light activities carried out by children in their own households. Table 3.3 presents the number and percentage distribution of children who did household chores during the reference period, by sex and age group.

Table 3.3: Percentage distribution of children 5 to 17 years old by sex, age group and type of household chores, 2011

Type of HH chores	Sex							
	Boys				Girls			
	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years	Total	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years	Total
Shopping for HH	38.8	45.2	50.6	42.3	43.1	61.9	68.2	50.7
Repair HH equipment	16.8	29.0	35.3	22.5	12.8	15.0	21.1	14.8
Cooking	27.6	35.9	39.2	31.2	44.4	68.3	74.4	53.4
Cleaning	59.1	64.7	65.8	61.3	65.6	78.2	80.6	70.2
Washing clothes	50.3	65.7	69.4	56.4	53.8	77.1	81.0	62.5
Caring for children	22.3	25.9	27.6	23.9	26.8	39.2	41.8	31.5
Others	11.1	13.2	15.7	12.4	13.8	12.9	16.9	14.4

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Most children 5 to 17 years old did shopping for the household, repaired household equipment, cooked, cleaned, washed clothes and cared for children. Nevertheless, regardless of the nature of household chores considered, girls were more involved than boys.

The major household chore for boys between 5 to 12 years old was cleaning (59.1 per cent) while 65.7 per cent of boys in the age group of 13 to 14 years and 69.4 per cent of boys 15 to 17 years old did more of washing clothes. On the other hand, girls 5 to 12 years old (65.6 per cent) and those 13 to 14 years old did more of cleaning. Washing clothes was the major household chore for girls 15 to 17 years old (81.0 per cent).

Table 3.4: Percentage distribution of children 5 to 17 years old by locality, age group and type of household chores, 2011

Type of HH chores	Locality							
	Rural				Urban			
	5-12	13-14	15-17	Total	5-12	13-14	15-17	Total
Shopping for HH	37.5	48.8	53.5	41.9	49.4	61.1	66.5	55.8
Repair HH equipment	14.9	21.5	30.2	18.6	14.6	23.1	26.7	19.1
Cooking	35.7	52.8	53.6	40.9	36.6	50.7	58.8	44.5
Cleaning	61.8	70.5	68.9	64.1	63.5	72.5	78.0	68.6
Washing clothes	51.7	70.3	72.5	57.7	52.8	73.2	78.1	62.4
Caring for children	25.0	35.4	34.1	27.9	23.4	28.5	34.5	27.1
Others	11.6	12.1	15.4	12.4	14.2	14.4	17.5	15.2

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

In both rural and urban areas, children 5 to 17 years old did more of cleaning, followed by washing clothes and shopping for their households. Regardless of the age group, children in urban areas did more household chores than those in rural areas. In urban areas, older children 15 to 17 years, did more household chores as compared to the younger ones by scoring higher proportions in all household chores, compared to other age groups. A similar trend was observed for the rural areas except for children aged 13 to 14 years who did more cleaning (70.5 per cent) than those aged 15 to 17 years (68.9 per cent).

3.4 Children involved in various forms of activities

Table 3.5 shows the percentage distribution of children by sex, age group and type of activity classified into four non-overlapping activity groups. The activity groups were; children in economic activity only, children attending school only, children combining schooling and economic activity and children neither involved in school nor economic activity. The table shows that in 2011, the largest proportion of female children 6 to 17 years old i.e. 35.6 per cent worked in economic activity and attended school at the same time, while 31.6 per cent attended school only, 19.0 per cent worked in employment only and 13.8 per cent were neither involved in school nor economic activity.

Table 3.5: Percentage distribution of children 6-17 years by sex, age group and type of activity, 2011

Type of activity	Sex							
	Boys				Girls			
	Age group			Total	Age group			Total
	6-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years		6-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years	
Attending school only	30.1	26.7	20.4	27.1	33.4	32.4	26.4	31.6
School combined with economic activity	37.7	47.4	43.8	40.5	35.2	41.3	33.4	35.6
Economic activity only	18.7	17.8	22.1	19.5	16.6	15.9	27.2	19.0
Neither school nor economic activity	13.5	8.1	13.7	12.9	14.8	10.4	13.0	13.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

The proportion of children 6 to 17 years old who attended school combined with economic activity was high for both boys and girls while the group of children 6 to 17 years old neither attending school nor economic activity reported the least proportions for both boys and girls. Girls attending school only registered a high proportion of 31.6 per cent compared to boys (27.1 per cent). Boys 6 to 17 years old who did economic activity only accounted for 19.5 per cent while girls accounted for 19.0 per cent.

Table 3.6 below shows the percentage distribution of children by residence, age group and type of activity. These activities were grouped into children in economic activity only, children attending school only, children combining school and economic activity and children neither involved in school nor economic activity.

Table 3.6: Percentage distribution of children 6 to 17 years old by residence, age and type of activity, 2011

Type of activity	Residence							
	Rural				Urban			
	Age group			Total	Age group			Total
	6-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years		6-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years	
Attending school only	24.7	20.0	13.8	21.7	47.7	44.7	37.6	44.4
School combined with economic activity	38.7	50.0	40.8	40.5	31.4	35.4	36.3	33.4
Economic activity only	21.9	21.2	32.2	24.2	8.0	10.0	12.4	9.6
Neither school nor economic activity	14.6	8.9	13.2	13.6	12.9	9.8	13.7	12.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011

By residence, urban areas had the highest proportion of children 6 to 17 years old attending school only (44.4 per cent), compared to rural areas (21.7 per cent) while on the other the proportion of children attending school combined with economic activity was high in

rural areas (40.5 per cent). Urban areas in addition reported the least proportion of children in economic activity only (9.6 per cent).

In urban areas, most of the children who attended school only were those between the age of 6 to 12 years old (47.7 per cent). Half of the children (50.0 per cent) between 13 to 14 years old in rural areas attended school combined with economic activity.

3.5 Children seeking work

Table 3.7 shows the number of children 5 to 17 years old who were seeking work during days prior to being interviewed. The number of children seeking work in Sierra Leone in 2011 was estimated to be about 7,265, 3.3 per cent of the total number of children in the 5 to 17 year age group.

Table 3.7: Number of children 5 to 17 years old seeking work by sex, age group, residence and region, 2011

Selected characteristics	Sex					
	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Age group						
5-12 years	2,359	3.3	1,350	1.6	3,709	2.4
13-14 years	432*	3.7	616*	6.0	1,048	4.8
15-17 years	1,402	6.3	1,106	5.2	2,508	5.8
Residence						
Rural	1,628	3.3	1,418	2.7	3,046	3.0
Urban	2,565	4.5	1,653	2.7	4,218	3.6
Region						
Eastern	665*	2.3	1,375	4.1	2,040	3.3
Northern	874*	2.9	357*	1.4	1,231	2.2
Southern	671*	4.0	81*	0.5	752*	2.2
Western area	1,982	6.6	1,259	3.4	3,241	4.8
Total	4,193	4.0	3,072	2.7	7,265	3.3

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Note: Figures should be interpreted with caution since estimates are based on a small sample size.

The survey revealed that a greater proportion of girls within the age group 13 to 14 years old 6.0 per cent (616) sought for employment as compared to boys 3.7 per cent (432). However, as children grew older, the proportion of boys within 15 to 17 years old seeking for work increased i.e. 6.3 per cent (1,402), than girls 5.2 per cent (1,106). At national level, a high proportion of children 15 to 17 years old (5.8 per cent) sought for work compared to ages 5 to 14 years old. This was probably due to the fact that a child was expected to have completed his/her Basic Education Certificate Examination at age 15.

At the regional level, the western region registered a high proportion (6.6 per cent) of boys 5 to 17 years old who sought for work compared to other regions. On the other hand the eastern region registered the highest proportion of girls 5 to 17 years old seeking for work (4.1 per cent). In all regions (except for the eastern region), boys sought for work more than girls. The western area had the highest proportion of children seeking for work with 4.8 per cent at the national level followed by the eastern region with 3.3 per cent. This was justified by the many economic activities in the western area and a wide range of mining and agricultural activities in the eastern region.

In terms of residency, 4.5 per cent of boys 5 to 17 years old in urban areas sought for work, a proportion higher than that of the national average for boys by 0.5 per cent.

Chapter 4: Characteristics of working children

The term “working children” refers to those children engaged in economic activities that come within the SNA production boundary. Child labour, which is a subcategory of economic activity, is defined as work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, with whose schooling it interferes. Hazardous work is a subcategory of child labour. It should be noted that the terms “working children”, “children in economic activity”, “work of children”, and “children in employment” are used interchangeably in this report.

4.1 Main findings on children’s work

4.1.1 By sex

In 2011, the number of children in Sierra Leone who were classified as in employment or working was 1,071,023 or about 54.9 per cent of the total number of children 5 to 17 years old. This number was regardless of whether or not the work was categorized as child labour. An estimated number of children engaged in child labour was 895,428, 45.9 per cent of all children 5 to 17 years old. 428,776 children were identified as being engaged in hazardous work, which is about 22.0 per cent of the total number of children 5 to 17 years old. Table 4.1 shows the number and percentage distribution of children 5 to 17 years old by sex and child labour status.

Table 4.1: Number and percentage distribution of children 5 to 17 years old by sex and child labour status, 2011

Child labour status	Sex					
	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
In employment	571,805	57.5	499,218	52.2	1,071,023	54.9
Child labour	467,534	47.0	427,894	44.8	895,428	45.9
Hazardous work (5-17 years)	221,742	22.3	207,034	21.7	428,776	22.0
Other child labour (5-14 years)	245,792	32.5	220,860	29.4	466,652	31.0
Not child labour	104,271	10.5	71,324	7.5	175,595	9.0
Other non-child labour (15-17 years)	90,661	37.8	61,250	29.9	151,911	34.1
Permissible work (13-14 years)	13,610	12.0	10,074	8.8	23,684	10.4
Not in employment	319,317	32.1	366,965	38.4	686,282	35.2
Total	995,259	100	955,503	100	1,950,762	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

For all children 5 to 17 years old in employment, 53.4 per cent were boys and 46.6 per cent were girls. 57.5 per cent of the total number of boys 5 to 17 years old were in employment while the proportion of girls in employment compared to the total number of girls in the same age group was 52.2 per cent.

The proportion of boys 5 to 17 years identified as engaged in hazardous work was 22.3 per cent (221,742) while that of girls was 21.7 per cent (207,034 girls). For children within the age bracket of 5 to 14 years, 31.0 per cent were in other child labour, with a high percentage of boys 32.5 per cent as compared to girls (29.4 per cent).

Children not in child labour were estimated at 9.0 per cent (175,595) of all children 5 to 17 years old. Of these, children within the age bracket 15 to 17 were found in other non-child labour with 37.8 per cent among boys and 29.9 per cent among girls. Results also showed that 10.4 per cent of children aged 13 to 14 years were engaged in permissible or light work with 12.0 per cent boys and 8.8 per cent girls.

In total, 35.2 per cent (686,282) of children 5 to 17 years old were not in employment. More girls i.e. 38.4 per cent of the total number of girls were not engaged in work as compared to boys (32.1 per cent).

4.1.2 By age

Table 4.2: Percentage distribution of children 5 to 17 years old by sex, age group and child labour status, 2011

Child labour status	Sex							
	Boys				Girls			
	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years	Total	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years	Total
In employment	52.9	65.2	65.9	57.5	48.7	57.2	60.6	52.2
Child labour	52.9	53.2	28.2	47.0	48.7	48.4	30.7	44.8
Hazardous work (5-17 years)	19.3	26.7	28.2	22.3	18.2	25.0	30.7	21.7
Other child labour (5-14 years)	33.6	26.5	-	32.5	30.5	23.4	-	29.4
Not child labour	0.0	12.0	37.8	10.5	0.0	8.8	29.9	7.5
Other non-child labour (15-17 years)	-	-	37.8	37.8	-	-	29.9	29.9
Permissible work (13-14 years)	-	12.0	-	12.0	-	8.8	-	8.8
Not in employment	36.1	26.0	24.4	32.1	41.1	35.5	31.6	38.4

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Table 4.2 above shows the percentage distribution of children 5 to 17 years old by sex, age group and child labour status. It can be deduced from the table that 57.5 per cent of boys were engaged in employment as compared to 52.2 per cent of girls. In all age groups, the proportion of boys in employment was high compared to that of girls. Boys within the age bracket of 15 to 17 years old showed a high percentage of 65.9 per cent in employment yet the same group showed a low percentage in child labour i.e. 28.2 per cent. For age group 15 to 17 years, by definition child labour estimates are equal to the hazardous work estimates.

Based on national and international standards, children (boys and girls) 5 to 12 years old in employment, were all found to be in child labour. Some 53.2 per cent of boys within 13 to 14 years of age were in child labour while 48.4 per cent of girls in the same age group where

in child labour. Furthermore girls (30.7 per cent) within the age group of 15 to 17 years were more engaged in child labour compared to boys (28.2 per cent) of the same age group. Although the proportion of children 15 to 17 years old in child labour seemed small (for both boys and girls), all of these children were engaged in hazardous work. The results for other forms of child labour in age group 5 to 12 years, for both boys (33.6. per cent) and girls (30.5 per cent) indicated higher percentages as compared to other age groups.

Engagement of children in work that is not child labour accounted for 10.5 per cent for boys and 7.5 per cent for girls. The age group of 15 to 17 years for both boys (37.8 per cent) and girls (29.9 per cent) indicated the highest percentage not in child labour and all these were categorized under other non-child labour. The age group of 13 to 14 years had more boys 12.0 per cent engaged in light or permissible work as compared to girls (8.8 per cent). The findings revealed that in all age groups, girls recorded the highest percentage (38.4 per cent) for non-engagement in work as compared to boys (32.1 per cent). However, these children may be involved in household chores.

4.1.3 By residence

Table 4.3: Number and percentage distribution of children 5 to 17 years old by residence and child labour status, 2011

Child labour status	Residence					
	Rural		Urban		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
In employment	799,866	61.3	271,156	42.0	1,071,022	54.9
Child labour	659,640	50.5	235,787	36.6	895,427	45.9
Hazardous work (5-17 years)	276,830	21.2	151,945	23.6	428,775	22.0
Other child labour (5-14 years)	382,810	37.0	83,842	17.8	466,652	31.0
Not child labour	140,226	10.7	35,369	5.5	175,595	9.0
Other non-child labour (15-17 years)	121,274	44.9	30,637	17.6	151,911	34.1
Permissible work (13-14 years)	18,952	13.6	4,732	5.3	23,684	10.4
Not in employment	378,494	29.0	307,890	47.7	686,384	35.2
Total	1,305,897	100	644,966	100	1,950,863	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Table 4.3 shows the number and percentage distribution of children 5 to 17 years old by residence and child labour status. Results revealed that 54.9 per cent of children 5 to 17 years were in employment with 61.3 per cent in the rural areas and 42.0 per cent in urban areas. This showed that there were more working children in rural areas than urban areas. Half of the children who resided in rural areas (50.5 per cent) were engaged in child labour as compared to 36.6 per cent of children who lived in urban areas.

The proportion of children 5 to 17 years old in child labour was estimated at 45.9 per cent at the national level. Children 5 to 17 years old in hazardous work accounted for 22.0 per

cent of the total child population with 23.6 per cent living in urban areas and 21.2 per cent in rural areas. This further revealed that though child labour was more visible in rural areas, a slightly higher proportion of children in urban areas was engaged in hazardous work. Other forms of child labour by residence and child labour status indicated 37.0 per cent for rural residence and 17.8 per cent for urban residence.

At national level, the proportion of working children not in child labour was estimated at 9.0 per cent with 10.7 per cent of children in rural residence and 5.5 per cent of those in urban residence. For the age group of 15 to 17 years old, 44.9 per cent of children in rural residence were engaged in other non-child labour work compared to the proportion estimated for this category in urban areas (17.6 per cent). This further justified that more children were in employment in rural areas.

Children in the age group of 13 to 14 years old who lived in rural areas were more engaged in permissible or light work with a proportion of 13.6 per cent as compared to 5.3 per cent for those who lived in urban areas within the same age bracket. Results indicated that 35.2 per cent of children 5 to 17 years were not in employment, with 29.0 per cent for rural residence and 47.7 per cent for urban areas.

4.2 Region and place of work

4.2.1 By region

Table 4.4 shows the number of children 5 to 17 years old by region and child labour status. The percentage of children 5 to 17 years old in employment by region revealed that 60.9 per cent of the children in the northern region were in employment followed by those in southern region (58.6 per cent). The western area reported among all its children the least proportion of working children with 27.7 per cent. The southern region reported a higher proportion of children engaged in child labour with 51.6 per cent followed by the northern region with 51.0 per cent.

With regard to hazardous work for children 5 to 17 years old, it was more prevalent in the southern and northern regions with 26.0 per cent and 24.2 per cent respectively. A lower proportion of children 5 to 14 years old in other child labour was reported for the western area (8.5 per cent) while the other regions reported almost similar percentages.

Table 4.4: Number and percentage distribution of children 5 to 17 years old by region and child labour status, 2011

Child labour status		Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
In employment	No.	342,754	436,398	231,007	60,863	1,071,022
	%	55.2	60.9	58.6	27.7	54.9
Child labour	No.	273,612	365,101	203,239	53,476	895,428
	%	44.1	51.0	51.6	24.3	45.9
Hazardous work (5-17 years)	No.	113,192	173,124	102,464	39,995	428,775
	%	18.2	24.2	26.0	18.2	22.0
Other Child labour (5-14 years)	No.	160,420	191,977	100,775	13,481	466,653
	%	33.2	35.0	32.0	8.5	31.0
Not Child labour	No.	69,142	71,297	27,768	7,388	175,595
	%	11.1	10.0	7.0	3.4	9.0
Other non-child labour (15-17 years)	No.	59,955	61,282	24,601	6,073	151,911
	%	43.6	36.6	31.2	10.0	34.1
Permissible work (13-14 years)	No.	9,187	10,015	3,167	1,315	23,684
	%	13.9	11.5	7.3	4.1	10.4
Not in employment	No.	213,262	225,866	122,777	124,478	686,383
	%	34.4	31.5	31.2	56.6	35.2

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

The eastern region reported a higher proportion of working children not in child labour with 11.1 per cent. In addition, within the eastern region, 43.6 per cent of the children 15 to 17 years old not in child labour, were in other non-child labour work. For permissible or light work within the age group of 13 to 14 years old, results revealed that in all regions, children were engaged in light work with more cases in the eastern region (13.9 per cent). The western area reported the lowest proportion of 4.1 per cent. National findings indicated that 35.2 per cent of children 5 to 17 years old were not in employment, with the western area reporting the highest percentage of children not in employment i.e. 56.6 per cent.

4.2.2 By place of work

According to table 4.5, working children 5 to 17 years old were more likely to be working in plantations/farms/gardens (57.3 per cent) followed by work in family dwellings (28.3 per cent) than any other place of work. Places of work which reported the lowest proportion of working children where pond/river (0.7 per cent), factory (0.3 per cent), client place (0.2 per cent), mines/quarry (0.2 per cent) and formal office (0.1 per cent).

A higher proportion of girls who worked in family dwelling (31.6 per cent), different places/mobile (3.3 per cent) and market stalls (3.4 per cent) was reported as compared to that of boys in similar work places. On the other hand, boys worked more in plantations/farms/gardens (59.6 per cent), shops (2.6 per cent), mines / quarry (0.4 per cent) and ponds/river (0.9 per cent) as compared to girls in the same work places.

Table 4.5: Number and percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years by sex and place of work, 2011

Place of work	Sex				Total	
	Boys		Girls			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
At (his/her) family dwelling	144,250	25.4	156,697	31.6	300,947	28.3
Clients place	701*	0.1	1,022	0.2	1,723	0.2
Formal office	767*	0.1	476*	0.1	1,243	0.1
Factory/atelier	1,407	0.2	2,113	0.4	3,520	0.3
Plantations/farms/gardens	338,724	59.6	271,010	54.6	609,734	57.3
Construction sites	16,341	2.9	14,169	2.9	30,510	2.9
Mines/quarry	2,460	0.4	64*	0.0	2,524	0.2
Shop/kiosk/coffee house/restaurant/hotel	15,009	2.6	8,320	1.7	23,329	2.2
Deferent places (mobile)	18,400	3.2	16,320	3.3	34,720	3.3
Fixed street or market stall	18,404	3.2	16,766	3.4	35,170	3.3
Pond/lake/river	4,982	0.9	2,781	0.6	7,763	0.7
Classroom	6,919	1.2	6,090	1.2	13,009	1.2
Others	256*	0.0	527*	0.1	783*	0.1
Total	568,620	100	496,355	100	1,064,975	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Note: One should be careful when reading these figures concerning working children by branch of economic activity. The sample size (unweighted data) was not designed to produce these detailed statistics.

Table 4.6: Number and percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years by age group and place of work, 2011

Place of work	Age group						Total	
	5-12 years		13-14 years		15-17 years			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
At (his/her) family dwelling	215,582	33.5	30,324	21.8	55,041	19.5	300,947	28.3
Clients place	942*	0.1	362*	0.3	418*	0.1	1,722	0.2
Formal office	499*	0.1	0	0.0	744*	0.3	1,243	0.1
Factory/atelier	1,555	0.2	616*	0.4	1,349	0.5	3,520	0.3
Plantations/farms/gardens	360,494	56.0	80,631	57.9	168,610	59.8	609,735	57.3
Construction sites	17,685	2.7	4,241	3.0	8,584	3.0	30,510	2.9
Mines/quarry	380*	0.1	642*	0.5	1,503	0.5	2,525	0.2
Shop/kiosk/coffee/house/restaurant/hotel	6,056	0.9	6,896	4.9	10,377	3.7	23,329	2.2
Different places (mobile)	13,240	2.1	7,414	5.3	14,066	5.0	34,720	3.3
Fixed. Street or market stall	12,843	2.0	5,820	4.2	16,507	5.9	35,170	3.3

Place of work	Age group						Total	
	5-12 years		13-14 years		15-17 years			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Pond/lake/river	4,619	0.7	1,242	0.9	1,903	0.7	7,764	0.7
Classroom	9,132	1.4	1,028	0.7	2,849	1.0	13,009	1.2
Others	527*	0.1	131*	0.1	125*	0.0	783*	0.1
Total	643,554	100	139,347	100	282,076	100	1,064,977	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Note: Figures should be interpreted with caution since estimates are based on a small sample size.

Across all age groups, children worked more in plantations/farms/gardens and in family dwellings. Children aged 5 to 12 years worked more in family dwellings as compared to children in any other age groups. Older children, 15 to 17 years worked more in plantations/farms/gardens (59.8 per cent) and fixed street/market stalls (5.9 per cent).

4.3 Status in employment

4.3.1 By sex

Table 4.7 below shows the number and percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years old by sex and status in employment. Most of the working children 5 to 17 years old were contributing² family workers with a proportion of 92.4 per cent. Others were account owners (5.1 per cent) or employees (1.6 per cent), while the rest were either employers or members of producer's cooperatives.

Table 4.7: Number and percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years old by sex and status in employment, 2011

Status in employment	Sex					
	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Employee	9,810	1.7	7,676	1.5	17,486	1.6
Own account workers	27,709	4.9	26,890	5.4	54,599	5.1
Employers	1,778	0.3	2,598	0.5	4,376	0.4
Member of producers Cooperative	2,166	0.4	2,856	0.6	5,022	0.5
Contributing family worker	527,402	92.7	456,471	91.9	983,873	92.4
Total	568,865	100	496,491	100	1,065,356	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Working boys classified as unpaid family workers accounted for 92.7 per cent of the total number of working boys while boys who were own account workers accounted for 4.9 per cent. Most working girls were unpaid family workers (91.9 per cent), followed by own account

² In this report, contributing family workers and unpaid family workers are used interchangeably.

workers (5.4 per cent). Employment status in the form of employers (0.4 per cent) and members of producer's cooperatives (0.5 per cent) were not common.

4.3.2 By age

Table 4.8 shows the number and percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years old with the status of unpaid family workers by sex and age group. The proportion of children who were unpaid family workers was high in the age group of 5 to 12 years with 62.1 per cent. Of the total number of girls classified as unpaid family workers, 63.4 per cent were aged 5 to 12 years while boys in this age group accounted for 61.0 per cent of the total number of boys classified as unpaid family workers.

Table 4.8: Number and percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years old with the status of unpaid family workers by sex and age group, 2011

Age group	Sex					
	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
5-12 years	321,914	61.0	289,231	63.4	611,145	62.1
13-14 years	68,392	13.0	61,870	13.6	130,262	13.2
15-17 years	137,096	26.0	105,369	23.1	242,466	24.6
Total	527,402	100.0	456,470	100.0	983,873	100.0

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Among children 15 to 17 years, the proportion of boys in unpaid family work (26.0 per cent) was higher as compared to that of the girls in the same age group. Children aged 13 to 14 years reported almost similar proportions for unpaid family work for both boys and girls.

Table 4.9: Number and percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years old with the status of own account workers by sex and age group, 2011

Age group	Sex					
	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
5-12 years	9,732	35.1	11,047	41.1	20,779	38.1
13-14 years	3,732	13.5	1,334	5	5,066	9.3
15-17 years	14,245	51.4	14,509	54	28,754	52.7
Total	27,709	100	26,890	100	54,599	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Own account workers were mainly children aged 15 to 17 years old (52.7 per cent) and children 5 to 12 years old (38.1 per cent). By sex, still these two age groups accounted for higher proportions with girls being more own account workers (54.0 per cent for 15 to 17 years and 41.1 per cent for 5 to 12 years) than boys (51.4 per cent for 15 to 17 years and 35.1 per cent for 5 to 12 years). Boys aged 13 to 14 years were more own account workers than girls.

4.4 Working children by economic sector

Table 4.10: Number and percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years old by sex and economic sector, 2011

Economic sector	Sex					
	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Agriculture	362,906	63.8	29,5234	59.5	658,140	61.8
Industry	15,233	2.7	1,767	0.4	17,000	1.6
Services	190,797	33.5	199,490	40.2	390,287	36.6
Total	568,936	100	496,491	100	1,065,427	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Working children in Sierra Leone were mostly employed in the agricultural sector accounting for 61.8 per cent of the total number (1,065,427) of working children. This was due to the fact that agriculture is the major sector in Sierra Leone and contributes 47 per cent of the country's GDP, therefore the sector employs more children 5 to 17 years old than any other sector.

More than half of the working boys and girls were employed in the agriculture sector (63.8 per cent of the boys and 59.5 per cent of the girls). Girls (40.2 per cent) tended to be more visible than boys (33.5 per cent) in the services sector. Almost 3 out of every 100 boys worked in the industry sector as compared to almost none for girls.

Table 4.11: Number and percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years old, by sex and major industry groups, 2011

Major industry groups	Sex				Total	
	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	362,906	63.8	295,234	59.5	658,140	61.8
Manufacturing	1,688	0.3	656*	0.1	2,344	0.2
Manufacturing	10,883	1.9	932*	0.2	11,815	1.1
Construction	1,323	0.2	179*	0	1,502	0.1
Wholesale and retail trade	42,528	7.5	43,329	8.7	85,857	8.1
Transportation and storage	474*	0.1	474*	0.1	948*	0.1
Accommodation and food service activities	2,083	0.4	2,504	0.5	4,587	0.4
Administrative and support service activities	296*	0.1	171*	0	467*	0
Education	719*	0.1	-	0	719*	0.1
Human health and social work activities	655*	0.1	750*	0.2	1,405	0.1

Major industry groups	Sex				Total	
	Boys		Girls			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	125*	0	-	0	125*	0
Other service activities	137,215	24.1	145,196	29.2	282,411	26.5
Activities of households as employers. undifferentiated goods and services producing activities of HH for own use	8,039	1.4	7,066	1.4	15,105	1.4
Total	568,934	100	496,491	100	1,065,427	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Note: Figures should be interpreted with caution since estimates are based on a small sample size.

Table 4.11 above shows the number and percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years old, by sex and major industry groups. Almost 62 out of every 100 working children 5 to 17 years old worked in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry (61.8 per cent). Other service activities accounted for 26.5 per cent of the working children and wholesale and retail trade industry accounted for 8.1 per cent.

Boys worked more in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry, manufacturing and construction industry (63.8 per cent, 1.9 per cent, and 0.2 per cent respectively) than girls (59.5 per cent, 0.2 per cent, and 0 per cent). On the other hand girls worked more in other service activities, wholesale and retail trade, accommodation and food service activities and human health and social work activities than boys.

Table 4.12: Number and percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years old in wholesale and retail trade and related activities by sex and age group, 2011

Age group	Sex				Total	
	Boys		Girls			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
5-12 years	15,603	36.7	13,338	30.8	28,941	33.7
13-14 years	9,121	21.4	10,116	23.3	19,237	22.4
15-17 years	17,804	41.9	19,875	45.9	37,679	43.9
Total	42,528	100	43,329	100	85,857	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Table 4.12 shows that working young boys 5 to 12 years old worked more in the wholesale and retail trade industry (36.7 per cent) than working girls of the same age (30.8 per cent). For working children 13 years and above, girls worked more in this industry than boys. In all, older working children 15 to 17 years worked more in the wholesale and retail trade industry (43.9 per cent) followed by those aged 5 to 12 years (33.7 per cent).

Table 4.13: Number and percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years old in the agriculture sector by sex and age group, 2011

Age group	Sex					
	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
5-12 years	205,865	61.1	173,883	56.6	379,747	59
13-14 years	48,406	65.4	41,485	63.5	89,891	64.5
15-17 years	108,635	68.7	79,867	64.4	188,502	66.8
Total	362,905	63.8	295,235	59.5	658,140	61.8

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

In general boys worked more in the agricultural sector than girls given all the age groups. Older children 15 to 17 years worked more in this sector with 68.7 per cent of boys and 64.4 per cent of girls. Children aged 5 to 12 years old reported the least proportion of children working in the agriculture sector.

4.5 Weekly hours of working children

4.5.1 By sex

Table 4.14: Percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years by sex, age group and weekly hours of work, 2011

Age group	Sex					
	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Number	(hours)	Number	(hours)	Number	(hours)
5-12 years	339,400	24.8	309,594	22.6	648,994	23.7
13-14 years	74,142	27.5	65,473	28.3	139,615	27.9
15-17 years	158,263	29.4	124,151	29	282,413	30
Total	571,805	26.4	499,218	25.3	1,071,022	25.8

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Findings in table 4.14 show the percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years by sex, age group and weekly hours of work. Working boys in the age group 15 to 17 had slightly more weekly hours than girls in the same age group (29.4 hours of work against 29 hours) whereas girls in the age group 13 to 14 years worked more than boys (28.3 hours against 27.5 hours). Children aged 5 to 12 years worked less hours weekly compared to all other age groups in all cases.

4.5.2 By age

Table 4.15: Number and percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years by sex, age group and weekly working hours, 2011

Sex	Number of working hours	Age group							
		5-12 years		13-14 years		15-17 years		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Boys	1-14 hours	90,997	28.6	17,722	25.0	26,588	17.6	135,307	25.1
	15-40 hours	172,164	54.2	37,662	53.0	86,669	57.5	296,495	54.9
	> 40 hours	54,687	17.2	15,643	22.0	37,514	24.9	107,844	20.0
Total boys		317,848	100	71,027	100	150,771	100	539,646	100
Girls	1-14 hours	101,458	35.4	14,167	22.4	26,613	22.6	142,238	30.4
	15-40 hours	144,502	50.4	36,042	57.0	55,178	46.8	235,722	50.4
	> 40 hours	40,602	14.2	13,054	20.6	36,015	30.6	89,671	19.2
Total girls		286,562	100	63,263	100	117,806	100	467,631	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

At a national level, 54.9 per cent of the total number of working boys aged 5 to 17 years worked 15 to 40 hours a week. 2 out of every 10 boys worked more than 40 hours per week. On the other hand, almost half of the working girls 5 to 17 years old worked 15 to 40 hours a week (50.4 per cent).

Older boys 15 to 17 years of age tended to work longer hours per week (57.9 per cent) as compared to younger boys. About 24.9 per cent of them worked 40 hours or more. On the other hand young boys 5 to 12 years of age (28.8 per cent) worked 1 to 14 hours per week as compared to other age groups.

Girls aged 13 to 14 years worked 15 to 40 hours a week with a proportion of 57.0 per cent which is higher than that of the other age groups. Some 30.6 per cent of the girls 15 to 17 years of age worked 40 hours and 35.4 per cent of girls aged 5 to 12 years worked 1 to 14 hours compared to 22.4 per cent and 22.6 per cent of girls aged 13 to 14 years and 15 to 17 years respectively.

4.5.3 By economic sector

Table 4.16: Number and percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years by sex, weekly hours and economic sector, 2011

Sex	Number of working hours	Economic sector							
		Agriculture		Industry		Services		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Boys	1-14 hours	68,098	19.6	2,656	17.8	63,580	36.4	134,334	25.0
	15-40 hours	203,965	58.6	8,271	55.5	83,068	47.6	295,304	54.9
	> 40 hours	76,041	21.8	3,966	26.6	27,836	16.0	107,843	20.1
Total Boys		348,104	100.0	14,893	100.0	174,484	100.0	537,481	100.0
Girls	1-14 hours	67,886	24.2	0.0	0.0	73,634	40.2	141,520	30.4
	15-40 hours	151,873	54.1	1,209	68.4	81,592	44.5	234,674	50.4
	> 40 hours	60,836	21.7	558	31.6	27,987	15.3	89,381	19.2
Total Girls		280,595	100.0	1,767	100.0	183,213	100.0	465,575	100.0

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Given the 3 economic sectors, i.e. agriculture, industry and services, most of the boys spent 15 to 14 hours working in the agricultural sector (58.6 per cent) as compared to 55.5 per cent and 47.6 per cent of the industry and services sector respectively. On the other hand, majority of the girls spent 15 to 14 hours working in the industry sector with a proportion of 68.4 per cent. Some boys and girls worked more than 40 hours in the industry sector with 26.6 per cent of boys and 31.6 per cent of girls. More girls, 40.2 per cent spent 1 to 14 hours working in the service sector per week as compared to 36.4 per cent of boys in the same sector.

4.6 Main types of household chores

Table 4.17 below shows the number and percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years who do household chores by sex and age group.

Table 4.17: Number and percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years involved in household chores by sex and age group, 2011

Age group	Sex			
	Boys		Girls	
	Number	%	Number	%
5-12 years	274,835	81.0	262,551	84.8
13-14 years	59,406	80.1	54,982	84.0
15-17 years	127,804	80.8	104,982	84.6
Total	462,045	80.8	422,515	84.6

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Of all working children 5 to 17 years old, 82.5 per cent (884,560) were engaged in household chores. Results revealed that girls were more involved in household chores than boys in all age groups, (84.8 per cent of girls against 81.0 per cent of boys for age group 5 to 12 years, 84.0 per cent of girls against 80.1 per cent of boys for age group 13 to 14 years and 84.6 per cent of girls against 80.8 per cent of boys for age group 15 to 17 years).

Table 4.18 below shows the percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years by sex and type of household chores. Girls did more of cleaning (74 per cent), washing clothes (67.8 per cent), cooking (57.9 per cent) and shopping for the household (52.5 per cent) as compared to boys 65.2 per cent, 61.0 per cent, 34.1 per cent and 43.1 per cent respectively.

Table 4.18: Percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years by sex and type of household chores, 2011

Type of HH chores	Sex							
	Boys (Percent)				Girls (Percent)			
	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years	Total	5-12 years	13-14 years	15-17 years	Total
Shopping for HH	40.4	41.9	49.6	43.1	46.1	57.5	66.1	52.5
Repair HH equipment	18.5	32.5	39.8	26.1	14.6	16.1	23.8	17.0
Cooking	31.1	36.5	40.2	34.1	49.8	66.2	74.3	57.9
Cleaning	64.5	65.8	66.4	65.2	71.4	79.0	80.1	74.5
Washing clothes	55.3	65.0	72.4	61.0	59.8	78.3	81.9	67.8
Caring for children	23.9	28.5	31.0	26.3	29.1	39.1	44.4	34.3
Others	11.9	13.4	18.1	13.7	15.2	12.3	18.7	15.7

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Older boys aged 15 to 17 years did more of washing of clothes (72.4 per cent) while those aged 13 to 14 years and 5 to 12 years did more of cleaning (with 66.4 per cent and 64.5 per cent respectively). For household chores like shopping for households, cooking, repairing of household equipment and caring for children, older boys 15 to 17 years had higher proportions followed by boys aged 13 to 14 years and 5 to 12 years. This implied that older boys did more of different household chores. Similarly, girls in the age group of 15 to 17 years old did more of washing of clothes (81.9 per cent) as compared to younger girls. It was observed that older girls 15 to 17 years had higher proportions for all household chores followed by those aged 13 to 14 years and 5 to 12 years. This in addition confirmed that older children did more household chores than the younger ones.

Table 4.19 shows that more than half of the working children 5 to 17 years old spent 1 to 14 hours doing household chores (55.4 per cent). The proportion of girls who were engaged in household chores was higher than that of boys for all hour ranges except for working more

than 40 hours. Also more boys spent time doing unpaid household chores (21.7 per cent) than girls (17.1 per cent).

Table 4.19: Number and percentage distribution of working children 5 to 17 years by sex and weekly hours spent doing household chores, 2011

Hours of household chores (h)	Sex					
	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1-14	290,883	53.8	271,158	57.1	562,041	55.4
15-27	78,267	14.5	75,287	15.9	153,554	15.1
28-40	42,682	7.9	39,625	8.3	82,307	8.1
+40	11,331	2.1	7,389	1.6	18,720	1.8
Not in household chores	117,227	21.7	81,179	17.1	198,406	19.5
Total	540,390	100	474,638	100	1,015,028	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

4.7 Working children and disability

Table 4.20 shows the number and percentage distribution of working children who suffered an injury or illness by sex, age group and region. It was reported that boys aged 15 to 17 years suffered more injuries and illnesses (60.2 per cent) as compared to 54.7 per cent of girls. Similar trends were observed for age groups 13 to 14 years and 5 to 12 years.

Table 4.20: Number and percentage distribution of working children 6 to 17 years who suffered an injury or illness by sex, age group and region, 2011

Age group	Sex			
	Boys		Girls	
	Number	%	Number	%
6-12 years	169,795	53.5	146,287	50.8
13-14 years	40,987	59.2	36,145	57.9
15-17 years	85,582	60.2	61,644	54.7
Region				
Eastern	105,963	65.3	98,290	62.5
Northern	132,937	58.8	94,683	52.6
Southern	53,118	45.7	45,001	46.0
Western area	4,346	18.1	6,102	21.7
Rural	229,859	58.1	188,138	54.4
Urban	66,505	49.9	55,937	47.7
Total	296,364	56.0	244,076	52.7

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Note: One should be careful when interpreting these results based on declaration from children.

The eastern region reported a higher percentage of suffered injuries or illnesses with 65.3 per cent of boys and 62.5 per cent of girls. The western area reported a lower percentage of suffered injuries/illness as compared to all other regions (18.1 per cent of boys and 21.7 per cent of girls). In all regions, a higher percentage of boys suffered injuries or illnesses more than girls except for the western region where girls had a higher percentage than boys. In addition, a higher percentage of children suffered injuries or illnesses in rural areas than in urban areas (58.1 per cent of boys in rural areas against 49.9 per cent of boys in urban areas and 54.4 per cent of girls in rural areas against 47.7 per cent of girls in urban areas).

4.8 Education of working children

Education is an important variable in decision making processes aimed at enhancing the quality of life. As a key component of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), education targets are used to assess the level of development of an individual, communities as well as nations worldwide. As a result, the Sierra Leone Child Labour Survey conducted in 2011 investigated various levels of education of children in the country. The main characteristics of the education system related to school attendance, educational attainment, enrolment, and school administration among others. However, the survey mainly investigated school attendance as a way of assessing the educational strength of working children.

School attendance showed the number of children that went to school during the reference period of the survey. School attendance was still a major concern for most children and child labour issues were taking a toll on children schooling. For instance, table 4.21 shows that more than a half of the children 6 to 17 years old in employment (56.5 per cent) were attending school during the reference period; and of those children who were in employment and attending school, almost 4 out of every 5 children were in child labour activities. This was very high, given the fact that those children were expected to be concentrating on their studies rather than worrying about work and earning income. Of the children 13 to 14 years who were attending school and in employment, 11.4 per cent were doing permissible work.

Table 4.21: Number and percentage distribution of children 6 to 17 years old attending school or not attending school by child labour status, 2011

Child labour status	School attendance					
	Attending		Not attending		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
In employment	683,130	56.5	326,813	63.5	1,009,943	58.6
Child labour (6-17 years)	559,493	46.3	277,672	54.0	837,165	48.6
Hazardous work (6-17 years)	250,322	20.7	153,613	29.9	403,935	23.4
Other child labour (6-14 years)	309,170	33.2	124,059	33.2	433,229	33.2
Not child labour (6-17 years)	123,637	10.2	49,141	9.6	172,778	10.0
Other non-child labour (15-17 years)	113,251	41.0	48,669	34.5	161,920	38.8
Permissible work (13-14 years)	19,241	11.4	4,130	8.4	23,371	10.7

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Table 4.22: Number and percentage distribution of children 6 to 17 years old in employment and attending school by sex, age group and region, 2011

Age group	Sex			
	Boys		Girls	
	Number	%	Number	%
6-12 years	212,884	66.8	195,431	68.0
13-14 years	53,878	72.7	47,305	72.3
15-17 years	105,216	66.5	68,416	55.1
Region				
Eastern	119,043	71.0	114,593	70.5
Northern	153,061	65.0	109,272	59.9
Southern	78,080	65.2	66,438	65.5
Western area	21,793	77.0	20,848	67.7
Rural	260,304	63.1	221,491	62.1
Urban	111,674	80.6	89,661	74.4
Total	371,978	67.5	311,152	65.2

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Table 4.22 shows that of the boys in the age group of 6 to 12 years who were attending school, 66.8 per cent were described as working children, while 68.0 per cent of the girls in the same age group were working. More than three-quarters of the boys attending school in the western area were described as working (77.0 per cent), compared to the eastern (71.0 per cent), southern (65.2 per cent) and northern (65.0 per cent) regions. This showed that though the proportion of school boys in employment was generally high in all regions, the issue was more apparent in the western area, where there were booming economic activities and in the eastern region, where mining and agricultural activities were widely spread. On the other hand, the eastern region reported a higher proportion of school girls in employment (70.5 per cent) as compared to other regions.

In terms of locality, the percentage of school boys and school girls in employment, in urban areas was 13.1 per cent and 9.2 per cent respectively higher than the national averages. This showed that working children attending school were more apparent in urban areas where there were more economic activities than in the rural areas.

Chapter 5: Child labour and hazardous work by children

This chapter deals with the analysis of children, 5 to 17 years, who were engaged in child labour and hazardous work. The concept of child labour could be a difficult and controversial issue. Therefore this analysis attempts to clarify the concept by first stating work on activities done by children that do not encompass child labour.

Millions of young people undertake work, paid or unpaid, that is appropriate for their age and level of maturity. Child labour does not include activities such as helping out – after school is over and schoolwork finished – with light household or garden chores, child care, or other light work. Such work contributes to the children's development and to the welfare of their families, and is thus permissible. It develops useful skills, attitudes and experience, and helps the child to become a useful and productive member of society in later years, as an adult.

Working activities of children can be looked at first from the general perspective of employment. The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines children in employment as those children who are engaged in any activity falling within the production boundary of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA), for at least one hour during the reference period. This refers to economic activities of children, covering all market production and certain types of non-market production (principally the production of goods and services for own use). It includes forms of work in both the formal and informal economy; inside and outside family settings; work for pay or profit (in cash or in kind, part-time or full-time), or as a domestic worker outside the child's own household for an employer (with or without pay).

Child labour, on the other hand, is work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity. It interferes with their physical and mental development. In its most extreme forms, it involves enslavement, separation from families, exposure to serious hazards and illnesses, and/or being left to fend for themselves on the streets or large cities- all of these often at a very early age.

Based on international standards, three types of work fall under the category of child labour and are therefore slated for abolition:

- Work performed by a child who is under the minimum age specified for the kind of work (as defined by national legislation, in accordance with accepted international standards) which will likely impede the child's education and full development.
- Hazardous work: this is any work that can jeopardize the physical, mental or moral well-being of a child either because of its nature or because of the conditions in which it is carried out.
- Unconditional worst forms of child labour (worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work): these are internationally defined as slavery, trafficking,

debt bondage and other forms of forced labour, forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict, prostitution, pornography, and illicit activities.

In a nutshell, within the universal set of children 5 to 17 years, there is a bigger subset consisting of children in employment, and within this subset, there is another subset of children involved in child labour and further more within the child labour subset, there is another subset of children engaged in hazardous work. In other words, hazardous work is a sub category of child labour which in turn is a subcategory of economic activity.

5.1 Residence of child labourers

Table 5.1: Number of child labourers by sex, region and residence, 2011

Age group	Sex				Total	
	Boys		Girls			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
5-12 years	339,400	72.6	309,594	72.4	648,994	72.5
13-14 years	60,532	12.9	55,399	12.9	115,931	12.9
15-17 years	67,601	14.5	62,901	14.7	130,502	14.6
Region						
Eastern	134,852	28.8	138,760	32.4	273,612	30.6
Northern	199,411	42.7	165,690	38.7	365,101	40.8
Southern	108,264	23.2	94,975	22.2	203,239	22.7
Western area	25,007	5.3	28,468	6.7	53,475	6.0
Residence						
Rural	345,655	73.9	313,985	73.4	659,640	73.7
Urban	121,879	26.1	113,909	26.6	235,788	26.3
Total	467,534	100	427,894	100	895,428	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

The total number of child labourers 5 to 17 years old in Sierra Leone was estimated at 895,428, representing approximately half (46 per cent) of the total number of children 5 to 17 years in the country. More boys reported that they were engaged in work activities related to child labour than girls.

Child labourers were more common in rural areas (73.7 per cent), compared to urban areas (26.3 per cent) regardless of the sex. This trend was justified by the fact that many young men leave rural areas to seek fortune in urban areas, leaving children, women and old people in rural areas to take care of themselves, thus increasing pressure on them for their livelihood. Another possible reason for this trend was the fact that outreach sensitization programmes on children welfare seldom gets to remote areas of the country and also the effect of law enforcement agencies to protect the right of a child have little presence in rural areas.

The northern region reported the highest proportion of child labourers (40.8 per cent) with the least proportion in the western area (6.0 per cent). This was justified by the fact that food crop cultivation and livestock rearing are the common practices in the northern region and because of absence of young men to work in the fields; children were utilized in some production activities such as bird scaring, transportation of harvested food crops at the expense of their schooling. Child labourer figures were low in the western area (mostly urban) because of the law enforcement agencies which reminded parents of the advantages of allowing children to spend more time in school activities than work.

Almost three-quarters of child labourers were aged 5 to 12 years (72.5 per cent). The lowest proportion of child labourers was reported for children aged 13 to 14 years (12.9 per cent).

5.2 Economic sectors of child labourers

Table 5.2 shows the sectoral distribution of child labour in relation to the type of economic activity.

Table 5.2: Number and percentage distribution of child labourers by sex and economic sector, 2011

Economic sector	Sex				Total	
	Boys		Girls			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Agriculture	272,533	58.6	233,134	54.8	505,667	56.8
Industry	13,779	3.0	1,767	0.4	15,546	1.7
Services	178,613	38.4	190,546	44.8	369,159	41.5
Total	464,925	100	425,447	100	890,372	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

A higher proportion of child labourers was reported in the agricultural sector (56.8 per cent). Possible reasons for this outcome have been already highlighted in the preceding sections of this report. Since retail trade is a subset of the service sector, it was quite common to find children engaged in petty trading including street hawking across regions and localities. This justified the 41.5 per cent proportion of child labourers in the service sector. There are very few industries in Sierra Leone and also as a result of regular labour inspection visits to formal industrial sites; a small proportion of child labourers was reported in this sector. Few children were found working in informal cottage industries (smelting of tins to make pots and buckets) in the provinces.

5.3 Hours of work

Time spent by children working is important in determining whether a child engaged in a particular work can be referred to as a child labourer or not. The instrument for data collection captured time spent working in hours per day. In this analysis the number of hours spent working is in hours per week.

Table 5.3: Number and percentage distribution of child labourers by working hours, age group and sex, 2011

				Boys		Girls	
				Number	%	Number	%
Age group	5-12	Number of hours	1-14 hours	90,997	28.6	101,458	35.4
			15-40 hours	172,164	54.2	144,502	50.4
			> 40 hours	54,687	17.2	40,602	14.2
		Total		317,848	100	286,562	100
	13-14	Number of hours	1-14 hours	6,074	10.2	6,005	10.9
			15-40 hours	37,662	63.4	36,042	65.4
			> 40 hours	15,643	26.3	13,054	23.7
		Total		59,379	100	55,101	100
	15-17	Number of hours	1-14 hours	8,216	12.6	8,716	14.4
			15-40 hours	19,336	29.7	15,950	26.3
			> 40 hours	37,514	57.7	36,015	59.4
		Total		65,066	100	60,681	100
Total		Class of hours	1-14 hours	105,288	23.8	116,179	28.9
			15-40 hours	229,162	51.8	196,494	48.8
			> 40 hours	107,843	24.4	89,671	22.3
		Total		442,293	100	402,344	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

For younger children 5 to 12 years, a higher proportion of girl child labourers (35.4 per cent) worked less than 15 hours, compared to 28.6 per cent of boys. For this same age group, a higher proportion of boy child labourers were working from 15 to 40 hours per week (54.2 per cent) and working more than 40 hours per week (17.2 per cent), compared to girls (50.4 per cent and 14.2 per cent respectively). Child labourers in the age group 13 to 14 years reported almost equal proportion of boys and girls who worked less than 15 hours a week. More of the girls in this age group worked 15 to 40 hours a week while more of the boys, as compared to girls worked more than 40 hours.

Girl child labourers in the age group of 15 to 17 years (59.4 per cent) worked more than 40 hours, compared to boys (57.7 per cent).

In general, a higher proportion of girl child labourers (28.9 per cent) worked less than 15 hours a week, compared to boys (23.8 per cent) while on the other hand more boy child labourers (51.8 per cent) worked 15 to 40 hours a week, compared to girls (24.4 per cent).

5.4 Place of work of child labourers

This section highlights the distribution of child labourers in various work places. This analysis could help policy makers to quickly identify the direction of intervention programmes geared towards the elimination of child labour.

Table 5.4: Number and percentage distribution of child labourers by place of work and sex, 2011

Place of work	Sex				Total	
	Boys		Girls			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
At (his/her) family dwelling	133,907	28.8	150,386	35.4	284,293	31.9
Clients place*	589	0.1	895	0.2	1,484	0.2
Formal office*	655	0.1	160	0.0	1,815	0.1
Factory/atelier	1,039	0.2	1,477	0.3	2,516	0.3
Plantations/farms/gardens	258,374	55.6	215,244	50.6	473,618	53.2
Construction sites	12,874	2.8	12,563	3.0	25,437	2.9
Mines/quarry*	2,460	0.5	64	0.0	2,524	0.3
Shop/kiosk/coffee house/restaurant/hotel	13,312	2.9	6,219	1.5	19,531	2.2
Different places (mobile)	16,144	3.5	14,418	3.4	30,562	3.4
Fixed street or market stall	14,259	3.1	14,920	3.5	29,179	3.3
Pond/lake/river	4,273	0.9	2,655	0.6	6,928	0.8
Classroom	6,591	1.4	5,782	1.4	12,373	1.4
Others*	131	0.0	527	0.1	658	0.1
Total	464,608	100	425,310	100	889,918	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

Note: Figures should be interpreted with caution since estimates are based on a small sample size.

Table 5.4 above shows that over half of child labourers were reported to be working in agricultural related places; plantations/farms/gardens (53.2 per cent) followed by family dwellings (31.9 per cent). The findings further showed that child labourers working as hawkers (mobile) and in fixed market stalls, most probably retailing wares, constituted 3.4 per cent and 3.3 per cent of the total number of child labourers respectively.

5.5 Status in employment

This section attempts to throw light on the status in employment of child labourers in their various places of work. It serves as a strategic guide to organizations working towards the elimination of child labour.

Child labourers working as unpaid family workers constituted 93.1 per cent at national level according to table 5.5. This trend could possibly be explained by the general economic status of households in Sierra Leone. If households are not economically empowered then adults will have no choice but to use the children to facilitate the livelihood of the home, even at the detriment of the health, psychological and educational status of the child. Child labourers working on own account (on own businesses) were found to be 4.7 per cent of the total number of child labourers (890,372).

Table 5.5: Number and percentage distribution of child labourers by status in employment and sex, 2011

Status in employment	Sex				Total	
	Boys		Girls			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Employee	8,299	1.8	5,658	1.3	13,957	1.6
Own account worker (his/her own business without employee)	19,244	4.1	22,345	5.3	41,589	4.7
Employer (his/her own business with employees)	815	0.2	2,598	0.6	3,413	0.4
Member of producers (agricultural) cooperative	1,040	0.2	1,830	0.4	2,870	0.3
Unpaid family worker	435,527	93.7	393,016	92.4	828,543	93.1
Total	464,925	100	425,447	100	890,372	100

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

5.6 School attendance and child labour

This analysis presents the educational status (school attendance) of children in child labour and those that are not in child labour. One important consequence of child labour is its effect on the school attendance of children. Work allocated to children should not affect their health and attendance to school.

Table 5.6 shows that children 6 to 17 years not in child labour, reported a higher proportion of both boys and girls who attended school (73.5 per cent of boys and 65.8 per cent of girls), compared to the proportion of child labourers who attended school (66.1 per cent of boys and 65.1 per cent of girls) in the same age group.

All working children 5 to 12 years were child labourers and attended school with a proportion of girls (68.0 per cent) slightly higher than that of the boys (66.8 per cent). For other age groups, non-child labourers attended school more than child labourers in both boys and girls.

Table 5.6: Number and percentage distribution of child labourers and not child labourers attending school by sex and age group, 2011

Age group	Not Child labourers				Child labourers			
	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
6-12 years					212,884	66.8	195,431	68.0
13-14 years	11,139	81.8	8,102	80.4	42,739	70.6	39,202	70.8
15-17 years	65,552	72.3	38,844	63.4	39,664	58.7	29,573	47.0
Total	76,691	73.5	46,946	65.8	295,287	66.1	264,206	65.1

Source: SSL, Sierra Leone National Child Labour Survey, 2011.

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Annex A: Sample size calculation

The target sample size for the SL-NCLS 2011 study was calculated as 6000 households. For the calculation of the sample size, the key indicator used was the proportion of children aged 5 to 17 years who are not at school. Since children not going to school are more likely to be used in child labour as paid or unpaid family workers. Most of the children who are out of school are engaged in street trading, household work, or work on the family farm or business.

The following formula was used to estimate the required sample size for this indicator:

$$n = \frac{4(r)(1-r)(f)(1.1)}{(0.04r)^2(p)(h)}$$

Where:

- n is the required sample size, expressed as number of households;
- 4 is a factor to achieve the 95 per cent level of confidence;
- r is the predicted or anticipated prevalence (coverage rate) of the key indicator;
- f is the shortened symbol for *deff* (design effect);
- 1.1 is the factor necessary to raise the sample size by 10 per cent for non-response;
- $0.04r$ is the margin of error to be tolerated at the 95 per cent level of confidence, defined as 4 per cent of r (relative sampling error of r);
- p is the proportion of the total population upon which the indicator, r , is based; and
- h is the average household size in Sierra Leone.

For the calculation, r (children 6 to 17 years not in school) was estimated to be 33 per cent (2004 Census). The value of *deff* (design effect) was taken as 1.5 based on estimates from previous surveys, p (percentage of children aged 6 to 17 years in the total population) was taken as 30 per cent (2004 Census), and h (average household size) was taken as 6.0 households.

Using the formula above, the number of required households was calculated as 6000. With a cluster size of 15 households, the total number of required clusters/EAs was 400.

INPUT VALUES		
Parameter		Value
Predicted value of indicator (in target/base population)	r	0.33
Design effect (DEFF)	f	1.5
Relative margin of error at 95% confidence	RME	0.04
Proportion of base population in total population	p	0.3
Average household size	h	6
Adjustment for non-response	AdjNR	1.1
Additional calculations (optional)		Value
Cluster size		15
Target/base populations in total population:		
Proportion of children age 0-4		0.15
Proportion of women age 15-49		0.24
Proportion of children age 6-17 years		0.3

OUTPUT VALUES	
Estimates	Value
Estimate, r	0.33
Confidence limits (at 95% confidence)	
Upper	0.341623969
Lower	0.318376031
Number of households (sample size)	6000
Standard error	0.005811985
Additional output	Expected Value
Number of clusters	400
Completed observations on	
Total households	5455
Total household members	32727
Children age 0-4	4909
Women age 15-49	7855
children age 6-17 years	9818

Annex B: Calculation of sample weights

Since the estimated number of households in each enumeration area (PSU) in the sampling frame used for the first stage selection and the updated number of households in the enumeration area from the listing were different, individual sampling fractions for households in each sample enumeration area (cluster) were calculated. The sampling fractions for households in each enumeration area (cluster) therefore included the first stage probability of selection of the enumeration area in that particular sampling stratum and the second stage probability of selection of a household in the sample enumeration area (cluster).

Sampling probabilities were calculated separately for each sampling stage and for each cluster. The following notations were used:

P_{1hi} : first-stage sampling probability of the i^{th} cluster in stratum h

P_{2hi} : second -stage sampling probability within the i^{th} cluster (household selection)

Let a_h be the number of clusters selected in stratum h , M_{hi} the number of households according to the sampling frame in the i^{th} cluster, and $\sum M_{hi}$ the total number of households in the stratum. The probability of selecting the i^{th} cluster in the SL-NCLS 2011 sample was calculated as follows:

$$\frac{a_h M_{hi}}{\sum M_{hi}}$$

Let L_{hi} be the number of households listed in the household listing operation in cluster i in stratum h , let g_{hi} be the number of households selected in the cluster. The second stage's selection probability for each household in the cluster was calculated as follows:

$$P_{2hi} = \frac{g_{hi}}{L_{hi}}$$

The overall selection probability of each household in cluster i of stratum h is therefore the production of the two stages selection probabilities:

$$P_{hi} = P_{1hi} \times P_{2hi}$$

Sampling weights will be required to ensure the actual representative ness of the sample at the national level and at the domain level as well. The sampling/design weight for each household in cluster i of stratum h is the inverse of its overall selection probability:

$$W_{hi} = 1 / P_{hi}$$

A spread sheet containing all sampling parameters and selection probabilities were prepared to facilitate the calculation of sampling weights.

A second component in the calculation of sample weights takes into account the level of non-response for the household and individual interviews. The adjustment for household non-response is equal to the inverse value of:

$$RR_h = \text{Number of interviewed households in stratum } h / \text{Number of occupied households listed in stratum } h$$

After the completion of fieldwork, response rates were calculated for each sampling stratum. These were used to adjust the sample weights calculated for each cluster.

Similarly, the adjustment for non-response at the individual level for each stratum is equal to the inverse value of:

$$RR_h = \text{Completed individual's questionnaires in stratum } h / \text{Eligible individuals in stratum } h$$

The non-response adjustment factors for individual's questionnaires are applied to the adjusted household weights. Numbers of eligible individuals were obtained from the roster of household members in the Household Questionnaire for households where interviews were completed.

The design weights for the households were calculated by multiplying the above factors for each enumeration area. Sample weights were appended to all data sets and analyses were performed by weighting each household and individual with these sample weights.

Annex C: Technical note on the child labour measurement framework used in the Sierra Leone child labour survey data analysis

Children in employment are those engaged in any activity falling within the production boundary of the System of National Accounts (SNA) for at least one hour during the reference period. This refers to economic activities of children, covering all market production and certain types of non-market production (principally the production of goods and services for own use). It includes forms of work in both the formal and informal economy; inside and outside family settings; work for pay or profit (in cash or in kind, part-time or full-time), or as a domestic worker outside the child's own household for an employer (with or without pay). The terms "working children", "children in economic activity", and "children in employment" are used interchangeably in this note. All denote a broader concept than child labour.

While "child labour" and "hazardous work by children" are to be targeted for elimination, some of work by "children in employment" is indeed permissible by national laws (and the guidelines of the 18th ICLS Resolution on statistics of child labour).

Thus, a subset of the child population aged 5 to 17 years is "children in employment". "Child labour" is a further subset of "children in employment"; and again, "hazardous work by children" is a subset of "child labour".

For the purpose of child labour estimation based on national and international standards, a single variable called child labour status (CLS) has been constructed. This variable is composed of five mutually exclusive and exhaustive categories as indicated in the tabulation below.

Each child for a given sex and age group was categorized in one and only one CLS category: CLS=1 representing hazardous work; CLS=2 other child labour, CLS=3 permissible light work, CLS=4 other employment, not child labour employment, and CLS=5 not in employment.

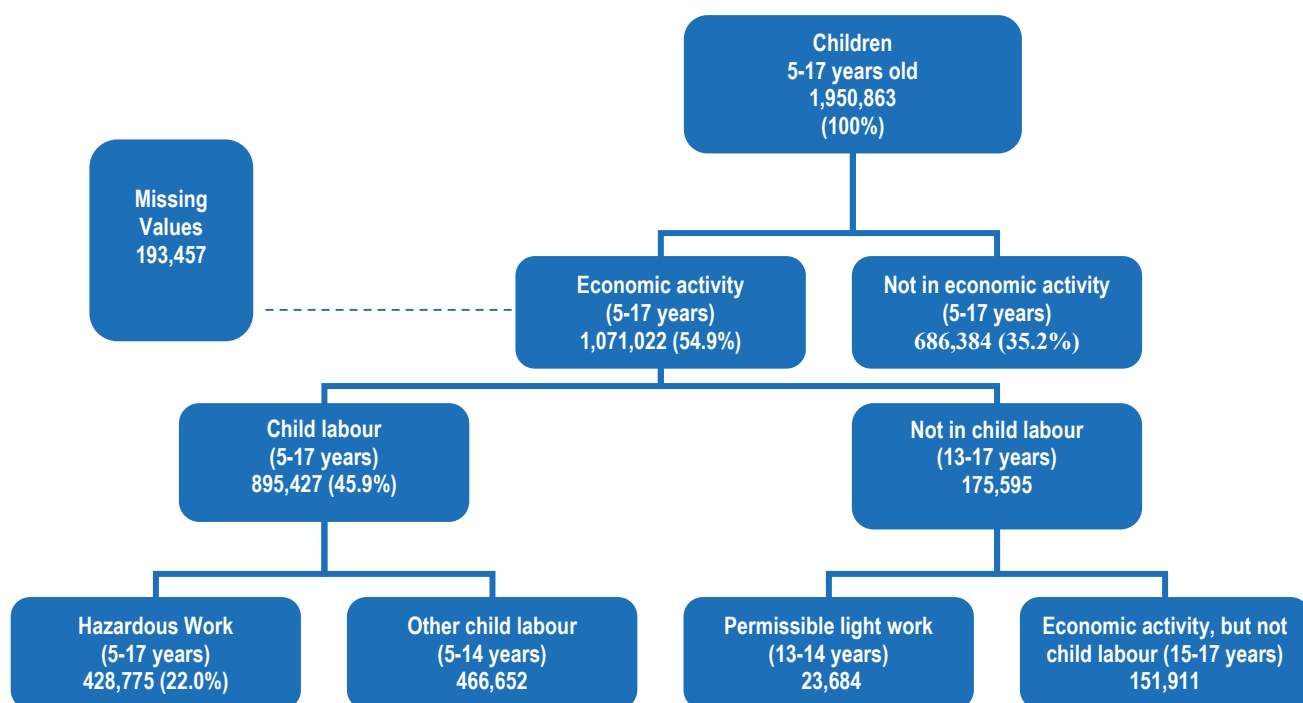
Child labour status by sex and age group

Sierra Leone child labour survey, 2011		Boys				Girls			
		Age group				Age group			
		Total	5-12	13-14	15-17	Total	5-12	13-14	15-17
1-5	Total number of children (CLS=1-5)	995,259	641,360	113,784	240,115	955,502	636,312	114,469	204,721
1-4	In employment (CLS=1-4)	571,804	339,400	74,142	15,8262	499,218	309,594	65,473	124,151
1-2	Child labour (CLS=1-2)	467,533	339,400	60,532	67,601	427,894	309,594	55,399	62,901
1	Hazardous work (CLS=1)	221,741	123,707	30,433	67,601	207,034	115,491	28,642	62,901
2	Other child labour (CLS=2)	245,792	215,693	30,099	-	220,860	194,103	26,757	-
3	Permissible light work (CLS=3)	13,610	-	13,610	-	10,074	-	10,074	-
4	Other employment, not child labour (CLS=4)	90,661	-	-	90,661	61,250	-	-	61,250
5	Not in employment (CLS=5)	423,454	301,960	39,642	81,852	456,285	326,719	48,996	80,570

Not all children in employment are considered as child labour.

CLS=1 plus CLS=2 gave the number of children ages 5 to 17 in child labour in their respective sex and age group. CLS=1 to 4 gave the number of children in this age population in employment and CLS=1-5 gave the total number of children between 5 and 17 in the corresponding sex and age category in case there is no missing value.

Key findings of the SL Child Labour Survey, 2011



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