



Current conceptual framework of statistics on child labour

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1. International standards



International conventions

- ILO Minimum Age Convention (C138, 1973):
 - https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C138
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC, 1989):
 - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>
- ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (C182, 1999):
 - https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C182



International statistical standards

- Resolution II: Resolution concerning statistics of child labour (18th ICLS, 2008)

https://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/standards-and-guidelines/resolutions-adopted-by-international-conferences-of-labour-statisticians/WCMS_112458/lang--en/index.htm

- Resolution IV: Resolution to amend the 18th ICLS Resolution concerning statistics of child labour (20th ICLS, 2018)

https://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/meetings-and-events/international-conference-of-labour-statisticians/20/WCMS_648624/lang--en/index.htm



Relevance (1): in the SDGs

- An SDG indicator:
 - 8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age;
- Selected to measure SDG Target 8.7:
 - Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, **and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.**



Relevance (2): progress to ending CL

- A huge number of children still in unacceptable forms of works, despite the agenda to eliminate it:
 - 152 million in 2016 (or 9.6% of all children, against 10.6% in 2012); 70.9% in agriculture; and 48% were aged 5-11 years;
- Considerable challenge to end child labour by 2025;
- Child labour is associated with other issues such as educational marginalization, conflicts and disasters, subsistence farming, etc.



2. From conventions to key concepts of child labour



Summary of key background concepts

- Child;
- Minimum age at work;
- Light work;
- Worst forms of child labour;
- Hazardous work.



Child & target group of CL statistics

- “For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means **every human being below the age of eighteen years** unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier” (Article 1, UNCRC, General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989);
- “For the purposes of this Convention, the term child shall apply to **all persons under the age of 18**” (Article 2, C182, 1999);
- Target group of child labour statistics: persons aged **5 to 17 completed years**.



Minimum age framework C138 (1)

- Each member States that ratifies shall specify a minimum age for admission to employment or work (Art. 2.1);
- The minimum age specified shall not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling and, in any case, shall not be less than **15 years** (Art.2.3);
- Age exception for developing economies (14 years, Art.2.4-5);
- **Light work** exception: National laws or regulations may permit the employment or work of persons 13 to 15 years of age on light work (Art.7.1).



Minimum age framework C138 (2)

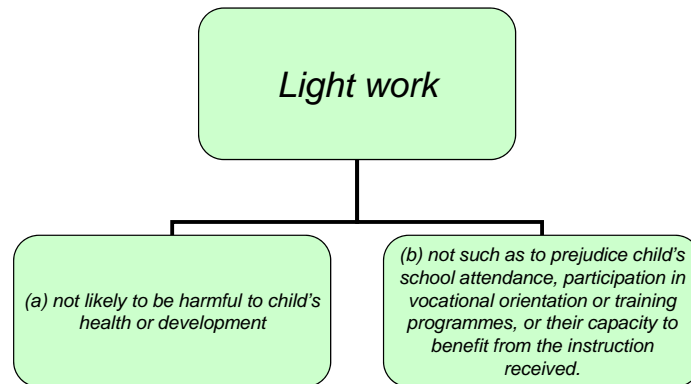
Nature of work that requires a specification of minimum age (Art. 2-7)

NATURE OF WORK	GENERAL	EXCEPTIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Normal work/ employment (Art. 2)	15 years (NOT less than end of compulsory schooling)	14 years
Hazardous work* (Art. 3)	18 years (16 years conditionally)	No exception
Light work (Art. 7)	13-14 years	12-13 years

() Also applies to the worst forms of child labour*



Light work (Art.7, C138)



[Note: A restriction on weekly hours of work is required for this age group, but the determination of the maximum number of hours is left to the competent national authorities. In its absence 14 hours per week limit may be applied.]



Worst Forms of Child Labour (C182)

Defined in Article 3 (No.182) as:

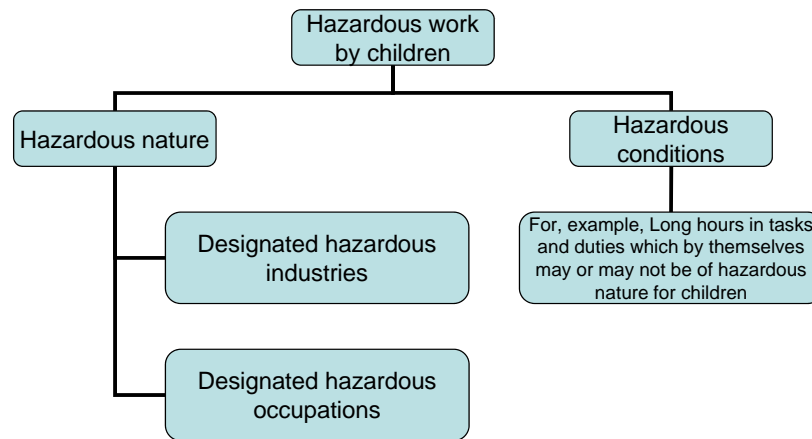
- (a) all forms of **slavery**, and practices similar to slavery, include debt **bondage & forced labour**, and use of children in armed conflict
- (b) use, procuring or offering of a child for **prostitution**, pornography, etc.
- (c) use, procuring or offering of a child for **illicit activities**, particularly **trafficking in drugs**

Hazardous work

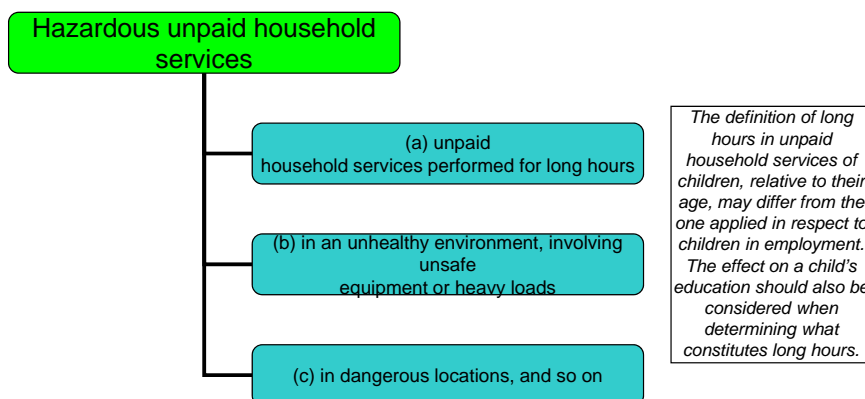
- (d) work that is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of children (hazardous work, **in all forms of work**).



Hazardous work by children



Hazardous unpaid household services





- Includes all children aged 5 to 17 years who, during a specified reference period performed unpaid household services for their own household for:
 - a) Long hours
 - b) Unhealthy environment, involving unsafe equipment or heavy loads
 - c) Dangerous locations
- Definition of long hours may differ from other forms of SNA work
- Includes household producing services for others as part of unpaid household services



3. Measurement framework of child labour statistics: definition and framework



Working children

Is the broader concept relating to the measurement of child labour statistics; comprises two groups:

- ***Children at work***: **work** defined by the 19th ICLS (Para. 6) as “Any activity performed by persons of any sex and age to produce goods or to provide services for use by others or for own use” (SNA concept of productive activities-General production boundary);
- ***Children in specified non-productive activities*** (non-SNA) such as: begging, stealing, etc.



Statistical definition of child labour

- All persons aged 5 to 17 years who, during a specified reference period, engaged in one or more of the following categories of activities:
 - a) ***worst forms of child labour***;
 - b) ***work within the SNA production boundary performed by children below the minimum age (*working children*)***, not including light work;
 - c) ***hazardous work by children*** in all forms of work, i.e. including ***hazardous unpaid household services***; and
 - d) ***Hazardous non-productive activities*** by children (non-SNA activities such as begging, stealing, etc.).



Framework of CL statistics

Resolution on child labour statistics by the 18th ICLS

The statistical measurement framework for child labour is structured around two main elements, namely:

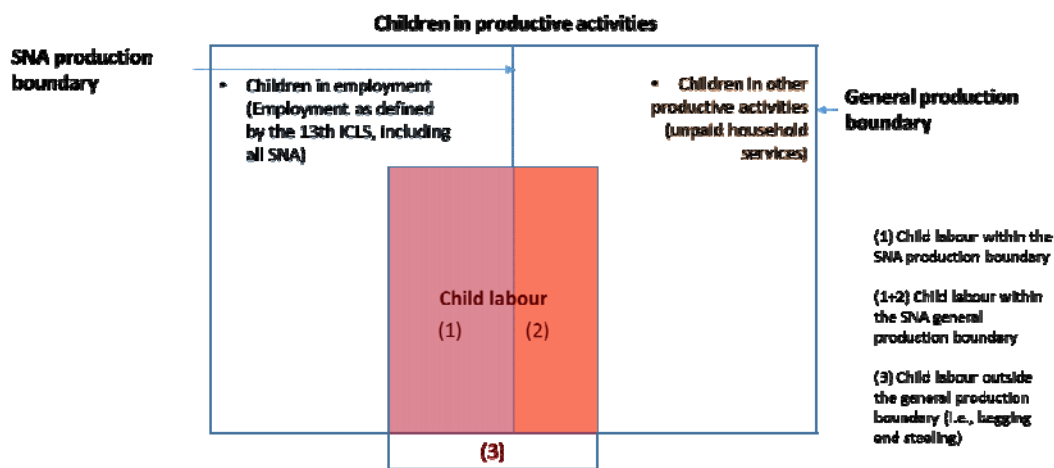
(i) the *age* of the child;

(ii) the *working activities* by the child including their *nature* and the *conditions* under which these activities are performed, and the *duration* of engagement by the child in such activities; and

the specific non-productive activities that are by definition hazardous for children, such as: begging, stealing, etc.

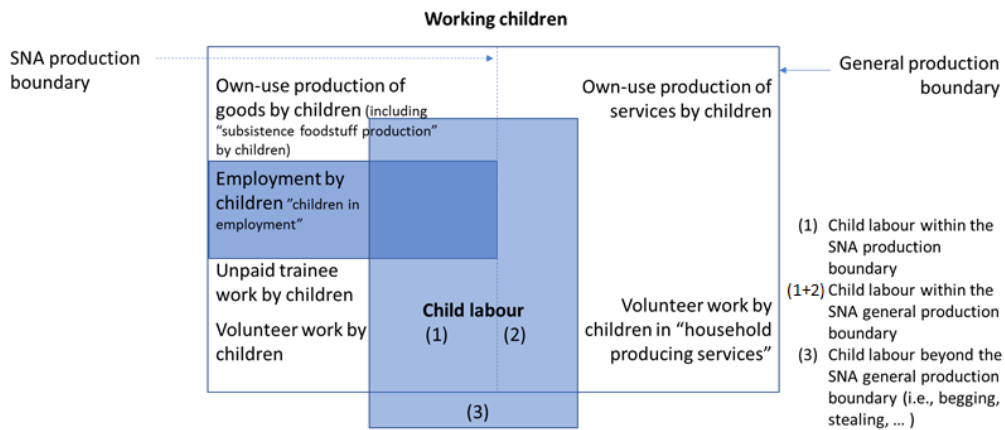


Key features from the 18th ICLS





Children & forms of work (19th ICLS)



Summary framework (20th ICLS, Resol. IV)

Framework for statistical identification of child labour

Age group	General production boundary					
	SNA production		Worst forms of child labour		Non-SNA production	
	(1a) Light work in SNA production ¹	(1b) Regular work in SNA production ¹	(2a) Hazardous work in SNA production ¹	(2b) Worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work	(3a) Hazardous unpaid household services ²	(3b) Other work in non-SNA production
Children below the minimum age specified for light work (for example, 5-11 years) ³	Employment and other forms of work in SNA production below the minimum age for light work	Employment and other forms of work in SNA production below the general minimum working age	Work in industries and occupations designated as hazardous, or work for long hours ⁴ and/or at night in industries and occupations not designated as hazardous	Children trafficked for work; forced and bonded child labour; commercial sexual exploitation of children; use of children for illicit activities and armed conflict	Own-use production of services or volunteer work in household producing services for long hours ⁵ ; involving unsafe equipment or heavy loads; in dangerous locations; etc.	
Children within the age range specified for light work (for example, 12-14 years) ³						
Children at or above the general minimum working age (for example, 15-17 years) ³						

¹ Work within SNA production boundary includes employment work, own-use production of goods, unpaid trainee work, volunteer work in market and non-market units and volunteer work in household producing of goods, in line with 19th ICLS Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, 2013.

² Category (3a) is applicable where the general production boundary is used as the measurement framework for child labour.

³ Age-group limits may differ across countries depending upon the national circumstances.

⁴ The threshold for long hours of work at employment and at other forms of work in SNA production.

⁵ The threshold for long hours of work at unpaid household services should take into account the age of the child and the cumulative hours worked at employment and at other forms of work in SNA and non-SNA production.

Denotes child labour as defined by the amended resolution
 Denotes activities not considered child labour



4. Key questions and flowchart



Key questions: informal economy

Forms of work/ SNA activities

- Employment
- Own-use production
- Unpaid household services
- Other forms of work
- Specified non-SNA (non-productive) activities: begging, stealing, etc.

From conventions: C138, C182

- Age
- Working conditions
 - Hours worked per day/ week
 - Time of day when work is carried out
 - Exposure to hazards and various forms of violence at work
 - Industry
 - Occupation

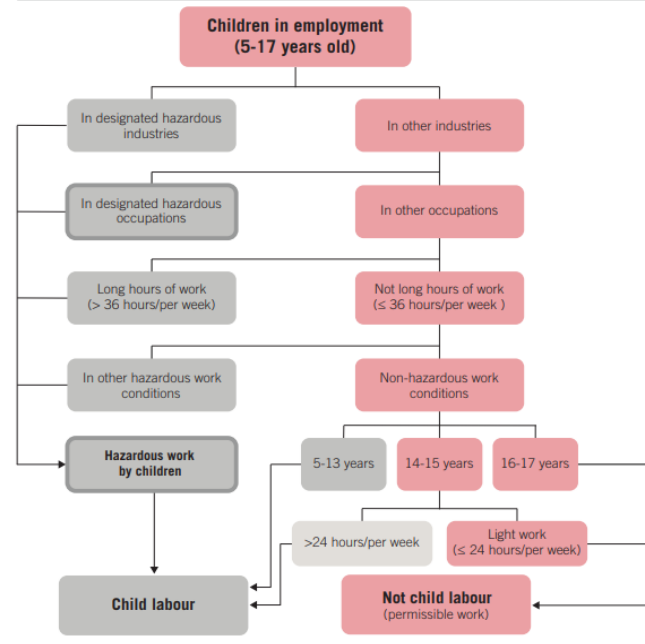


Flowchart examples (1)

Figure 4.1. The structure of child labour, Georgia, 2015

Example 1:
Georgia stand-alone NCLS
2015

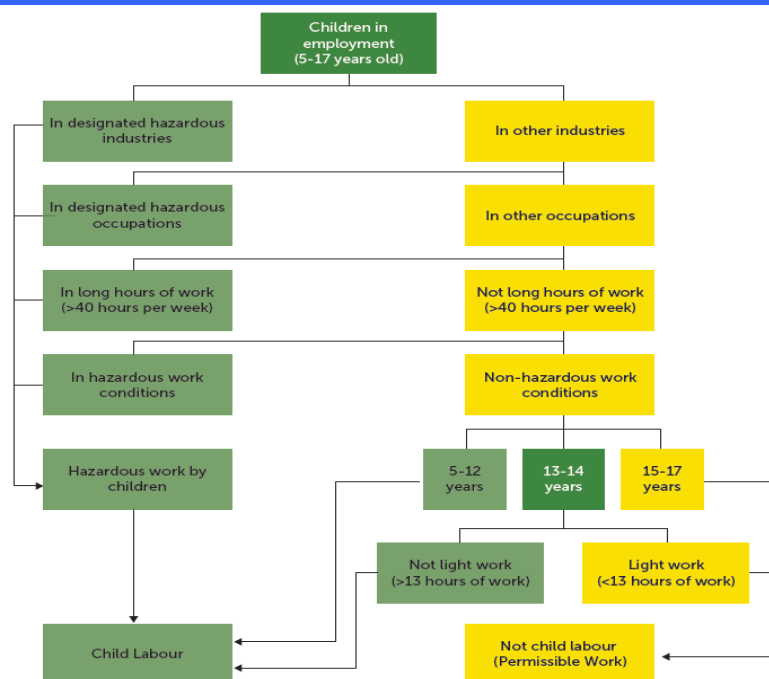
Note:
Concept of "Children in
employment" now
replaced by that of
"Working children"



Flowchart examples (2)

Example 2:
Jamaica stand-alone
NCLS 2015

Note:
Concept of "Children in
employment" now
replaced by that of
"Working children"





References

- ILO (2018); [Resolution IV: Resolution to amend the 18th ICLS Resolution concerning statistics of child labour](#); 20th ICLS, Geneva, October;
- ILO (2017); [Global Estimates of Child Labour](#); Geneva;
- ILO (2008); [Report of the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians](#); Geneva, December;
- ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (C182, 1999);
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC, 1989);
- ILO Minimum Age Convention (C138, 1973).