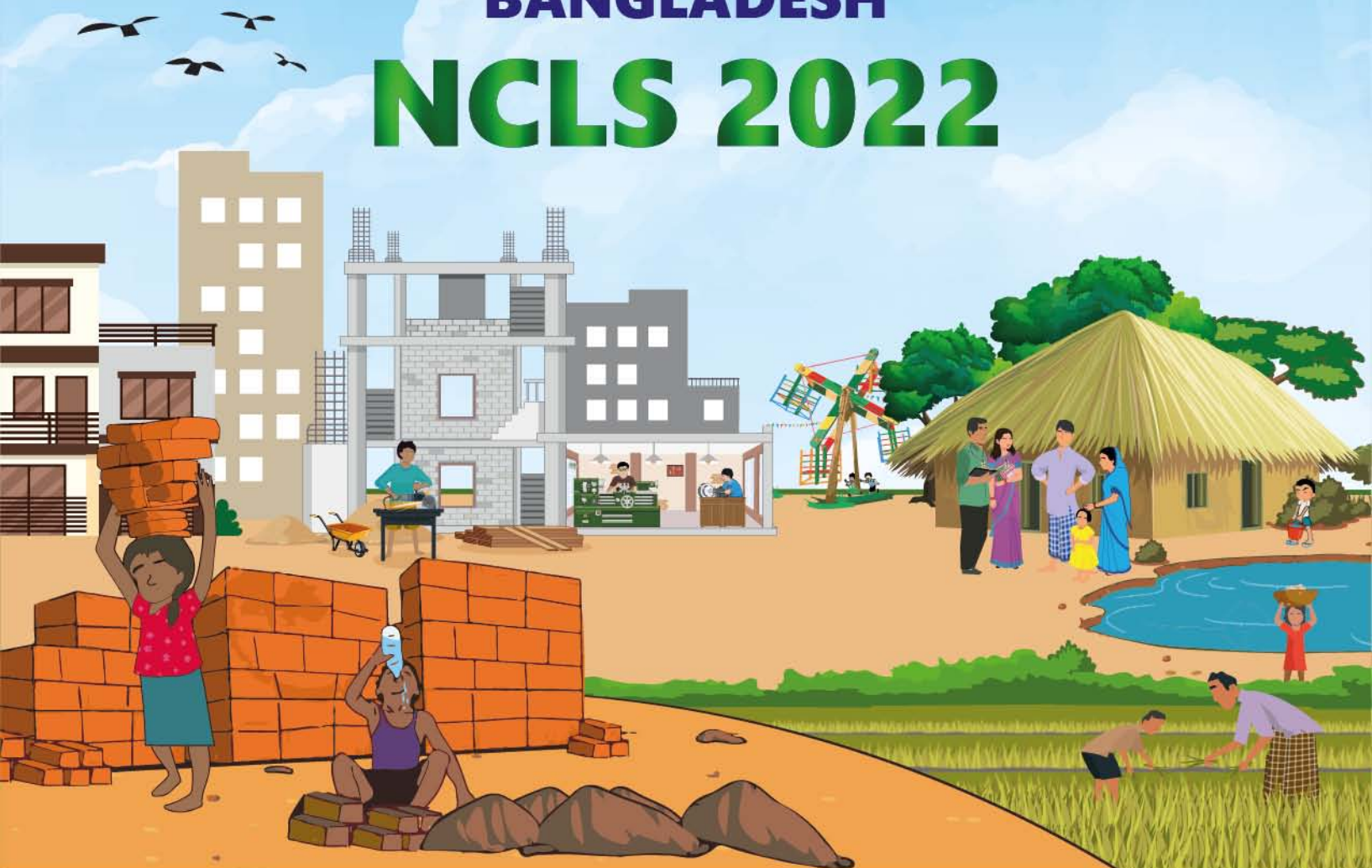




## PROVISIONAL REPORT

# NATIONAL CHILD LABOUR SURVEY BANGLADESH

# NCLS 2022



**Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics**  
Statistics and Informatics Division  
Ministry of Planning

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



International Labour Organization





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# National Child Labour Survey (NCLS) 2022

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## Prepared by:

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Secretary  
Statistics and Informatics Division (SID)  
Ministry of Planning  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

## Foreword

The Government of Bangladesh has endorsed different initiatives, especially regional and international conventions, covenants and frameworks regarding children's welfare and rights. Bangladesh Government is committed to eliminating all forms of child labour by 2025. Therefore, the National Child Labour Survey 2022 was conducted to provide evidence to formulate strategies and action plans for eradicating child labour from Bangladesh.

The National Child Labour Survey 2022 is the fourth full-fledged survey in Bangladesh that generates data on working children, child labour and hazardous child labour in particular. The survey was guided and followed the relevant rules and norms obliged by the International Standard, considering the 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) held in October 2018 in Geneva.

I would like to convey my appreciation to all who have contributed their best efforts to make this survey successful. My heartfelt gratitude to the Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning, Mr. M.A. Mannan, MP for his kind support in upholding these survey activities. My heartfelt gratitude is also due to our Honourable Minister of State, Ministry of Planning, Dr. Shamsul Alam for his valuable suggestions for conducting this survey.

I would like to express my thanks to our officials of the Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) and the Director General of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) Mr. Md. Matiar Rahman for their efforts to bring out this publication within the stipulated time frame.

Finally, I expect that the findings depicted in the report will be pivotal to planners, policymakers and other stakeholders in formulating policy to eliminate child labour from Bangladesh.

Dhaka  
July 2023

Dr. Shahnaz Arefin, *ndc*  
Secretary





Director General  
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics  
Dhaka

## Preface

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) conducted the National Child Labour Survey 2022, considered the fourth national survey in Bangladesh. This survey will allow the inclusive estimates of working children aged 5-17 years and provide relevant statistics on the child labour situation at the national level.

The percentage of working children in 2022 is 8.9%, a slight increase from the 2013 survey estimate of 8.7%. The ratio of children engaged in child labour is estimated at 4.4% in 2022 and was 4.3% in 2013. It is noted that child labour in hazardous sectors is found at 2.7% in 2022, which was 3.2% in 2013, and this is a significant decline during the last ten years. It is possible due to the different interventions implemented by our Government to eradicate child labour from our country. The report will provide a clear picture of the country's child labour situation and also help researchers and policymakers recommend appropriate policies and guidelines related to child labour in the future.

My sincere thanks to all our officials involved in conducting this survey and preparing the report, particularly Mr. Kabir Uddin Ahmed, Director of Industry and Labour Wing, BBS and Mr. Mohammad Saddam Hosain Khan, Deputy Director and the Focal Point Officer of the survey.

My special thanks and gratitude to Dr. Shahnaz Arefin, *ndc*, Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID), for her administrative support in conducting this survey. Also grateful to International Labour Organization (ILO) for their financial support and technical assistance in completing the survey and the report.

We strongly believe that BBS's hard work will come to success as soon as this report is deemed applicable to our policymaking inputs. Comments for further improvement of the survey & report will be highly appreciated.

Dhaka  
July 2023

Md. Matiar Rahman  
Director General





Country Director  
International Labour Organization  
Country Office, Dhaka

## Message from ILO Country Director

On behalf of the International Labour Organization (ILO), I would like to congratulate Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) for generating the Provisional Report on the National Child Labour Survey 2022.

This report provides vital information on the country's current situation of working children and child labour. It contributes relevant data to support the implementation of the National Plan of Action to Eliminate Child Labour 2021-2025, and for implementing the National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010.

The report's findings on working children, child labour and children engaged in hazardous work are important sources of information for the Government, employers and workers and society at large, to understand child labour better in order to develop holistic approaches to address child labour now and ensure that vulnerable children are able to escape the poverty cycle as adults. Youth need to be provided with right opportunity to be part of a skilled, healthy, and productive labour force for Bangladesh, and our collective efforts must be continued in supporting them.

I express my sincere thanks to Mr. Md. Matiar Rahman, Director General, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and his predecessor for their cooperation and overall supervision for this survey. I acknowledge the great efforts of Mr. Kabir Uddin Ahmed, Director, BBS and Mr. Mohammad Saddam Hossain Khan, BBS, and the Focal Point Officer to make the survey successful. I want to thank my colleagues in ILO Dhaka Office and ILO Geneva for providing technical assistance and guidance in conducting the survey.

I also acknowledge the efforts made by the respected Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division, Dr. Shahnaz Arefin, *ndc*, for her continuous support in administering the survey.

I believe this report will greatly enhance national support to eliminate child labour from Bangladesh in the coming years.

Dhaka  
July 2023

  
Tuomo Poutiainen  
Director





Focal Point Officer, NCLS 2022  
&  
Deputy Director  
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics  
Dhaka

## Acknowledgements

As an evolving economy, Child labour is a crucial issue in Bangladesh and must be eliminated by 2025. National Child Labour Survey 2022 will provide the data inputs to strengthen national policies to eliminate child labour.

My deep gratitude and sincere thanks to Mr. M. A. Mannan, MP, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning and Dr. Shamsul Alam, Honourable Minister of State, Ministry of Planning for their kind directions to conduct this survey and prepare this report on time.

I would like to express our profound regard and a deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Shahnaz Arefin, *ndc*, Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) for her tremendous support in completing the survey and publishing this report on time. My sincere appreciation and gratefulness to the former Director General of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Mr. Mohammad Tajul Islam for his kind guidance in conducting this survey. Sincere thanks to Mr. Md. Matiar Rahman, Director General of BBS for his relentless support and contribution to generate this report. I do acknowledge the hard work and contributions at all stages for conducting this survey, especially designing the sample by Mr. Syed Shahadat Hossain, Professor, ISRT, University of Dhaka and Mr. Kabir Uddin Ahmed, Director, BBS.

I am expressing my special thanks and gratefulness to Mr. Shaikh Md. Kabeedul Islam, Additional Secretary and Chairman of the Report Scrutiny Committee and its members for their relentless effort to make this report as final.

I am feeling indebted to the contribution of my colleagues in the Industry and Labour Wing, Ms. Aziza Rahman, Deputy Director, Mr. Minar Uddin, Statistical Officer and my survey team, especially Mr. Dulal Miah, Ms. Nadia Jannah, Mr. Sanjatul Islam Sohel and Mr. Mosharof Hossain for the preparations, implementation and management of the survey as well as publication of this report. Also, the University graduates who were involved as enumerators deserve special recognition for their time and efforts.

I am indeed grateful to the stakeholders, particularly to the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE), Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) and Bangladesh Employer Federation (BEF) for their valuable suggestions during the preparatory stages of the survey. Finally, I am expressing my heartfelt thanks to the ILO Dhaka and ILO Geneva teams for their relentless efforts in aspects of technical issues and overall guidance for conducting the survey and processing data as well as preparing this report.

Any comments or suggestions for further improvements to the report will be highly appreciated.

Dhaka  
July 2023

Mohammad Saddam Hossain Khan  
Focal Point Officer, NCLS 2022





**2022**





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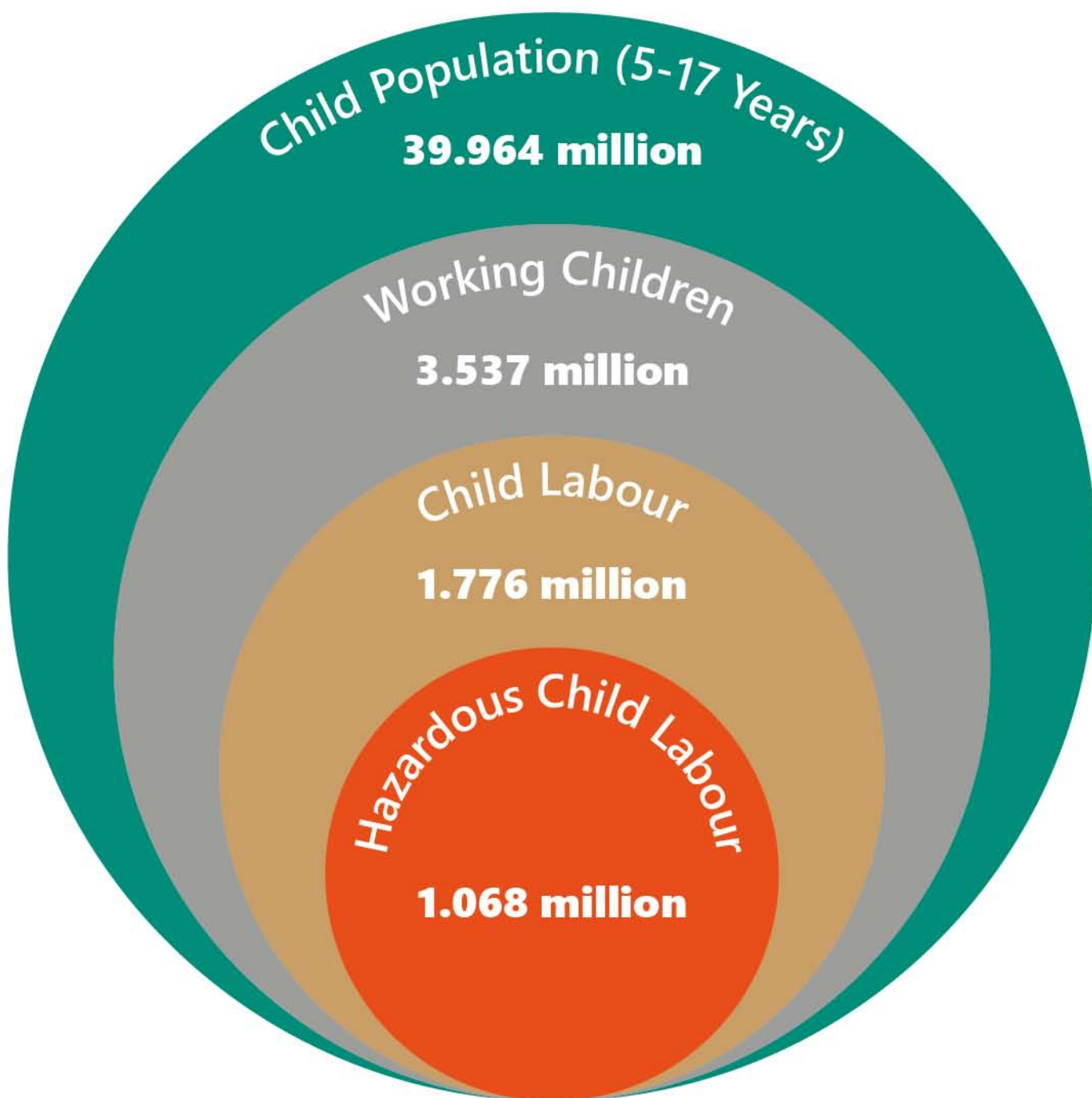
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## KEY FINDINGS

Figure K.1: Child Labour Statistics at a Glance



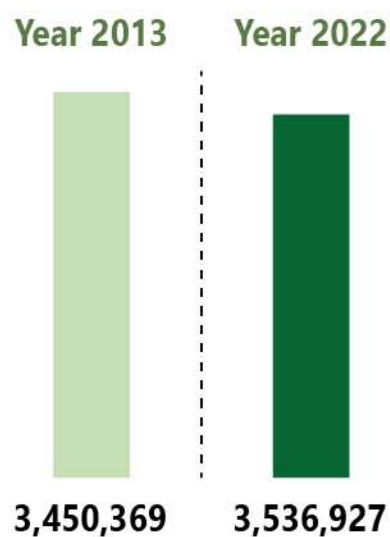
**Table K.1: Comparison of Child Labour Indicators between 2013 and 2022**

Indicators	Year	
	2013	2022
Total population	154,145,734	169,828,911
Children aged 5-17 years	39,652,384	39,964,005
A. Not working children	36,202,015	37,026,443
B. Working children	3,450,369	3,536,927
a) Not in child labour	1,751,475	1,760,830
b) Child labour	1,698,894	1,776,097
i) Hazardous child labour	1,280,195	1,068,212
ii) Non-hazardous child labour	418,699	707,885
Proportion of Working children	8.70%	8.90%
Proportion of Child labour	4.30%	4.40%
Proportion of Hazardous child labour	3.20%	2.70%

Source: The data presented in the table for the year 2013 and 2022 is the findings of the Child Labour Survey 2013 (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2015) and the National Child Labour Survey 2022. Note that, according to the Population and Housing Census 2022, the population of Bangladesh is 169,828,911.

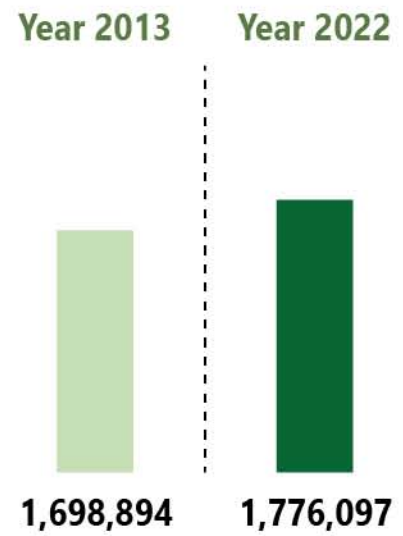


## Working children





## Child labour



## Hazardous child labour

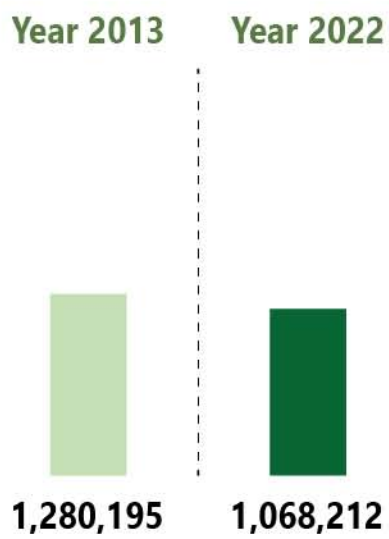
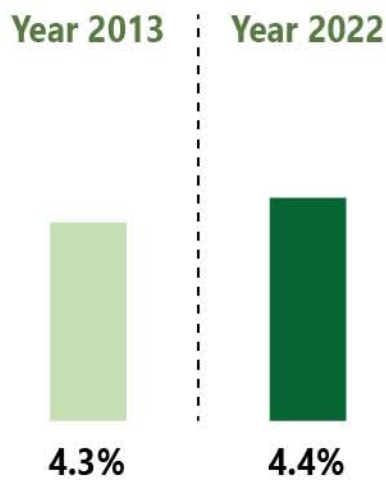
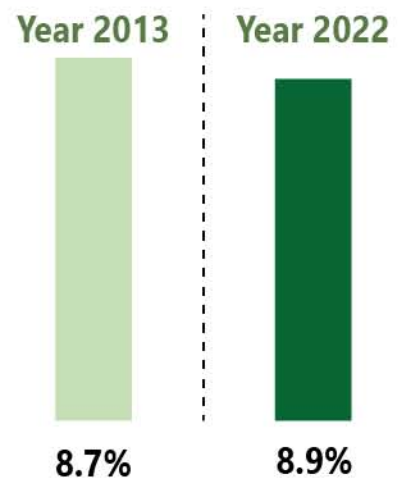


Figure K.2: Comparison of Child Labour Indicators by the Years 2013 and 2022 (million)



Figure K.3: Comparison of Child Labour Prevalence by the Years 2013 and 2022 (%)

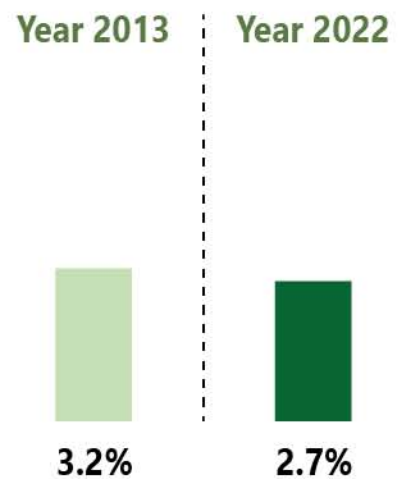
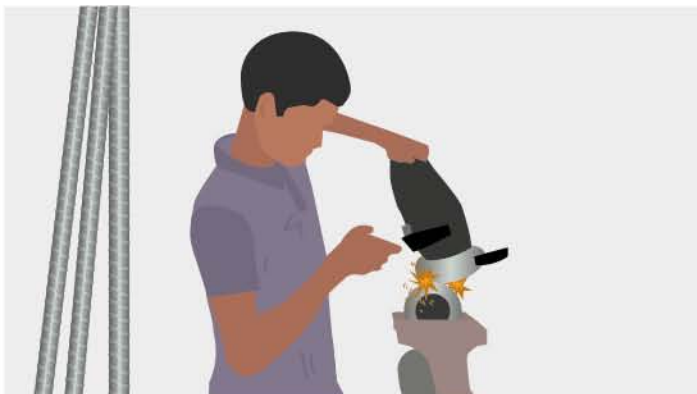
### Working children



### Child labour



### Hazardous child labour





# CHAPTER 1



**2022**



# Chapter 1

## Introduction

Child labour is an emerging social issue that is increasing worldwide. According to the latest global estimates by International Labour Organization and United Nations Children's Fund, there are 160 million children engaged in child labour in the world, which rose by 8.4 million in the last four years, and in 2020, almost one in every ten children was involved in child labour globally with 63 million female children and 97 million male children (ILO & UNICEF, 2021). Child labour is described as employment depriving children of their youth, potential, and dignity (Kamruzzaman & Hakim, 2018). In developing nations, children are frequently used as labourers, Bangladesh is no exception. Poverty is the main factor that forces children to enter the labour market early to earn a livelihood and support their families (Naeem Z. et al., 2001). Also, the recent consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a lot of economic and social stress across the world. Children are more likely to engage in hazardous child labour when they are in poverty. According to UNICEF and ILO, child labour increases in some nations by at least 0.7% for every one-percentage point increase in poverty (ILO & UNICEF, 2020). As a result, children may drift away from the house and become victims of exploitation when the head of the household cannot find employment and options for survival at home run out (International Labour Organization, 2020).

### 1.1 *Child Labour Scenario in Bangladesh*

According to the National Child Labour Survey 2022, the number of children aged 5-17 years is 39,964,005 or 39.96 million. Among these children, the working children are 3,536,927, children in child labour are 1,776,097, and hazardous child labour is 1,068,212. In light of the decrease in the number of hazardous child labourers compared to the previous child labour survey in 2013, there is high hope that the number of children engaging in child labour will also fall in no time.

## **1.2 Child Labour Statistics in Bangladesh**

In Bangladesh, child labour related statistics usually come from two sources, such as micro and macro. Several developments and research institutions also generate reports focusing on some specific areas of child labour issues. There are investigative data to reveal the state of responsibility for child labour in various sectors. However, such data only meet some of the demands for adopting necessary interventions. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), as a national statistical organization, publishes the most detailed data at the national level on the essential factors. In Bangladesh, three national surveys on child labour were sequentially conducted in 1995, 2002-03 and 2013. It is the 4<sup>th</sup> National Child Labour Survey conducted in 2022. The importance of national statistics is profound in light of growing social concerns about child labour and international and national commitments to eliminate it. It is expected that this report will meet the anticipated demand.

## **1.3 National Policies for the Prevention of Child Labour**

In combating child labour, laws and policies are essential tools, and the Government of Bangladesh has effectively put the above in place. The Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 has laid down the basic principles for the employment of children and adolescents (BLA, 2006). It has barred the employment of any children in any occupation and establishment (section 34); the adolescents are permitted while possessing a certificate of fitness issued by a registered medical practitioner (section 34/2). Besides these threshold like Long hours > 48 hours + Light work < 25 hours + Age group (5-11, 12-13, 14-17) are considered for calculating the child labour according to the labor law 2006 chapter 3, clause 41, 4 b and the clause from Child Labour Elimination policy 2010 (serial 10- the working environment of working children). To establish child rights in the country, which in turn also helps restrict child labour, the government has promulgated the Shishu Ain 2013 or the Children Act 2013. It has premised UNCRC to lay down the principle of categorizing a child and provide direction on how to deal with children who are in conflict with the law (Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 2013)<sup>1</sup>. Apart from the above, the government has also announced the National Children Policy 2011 (Ministry of Women and Children Affairs & GOB, 2011) to clarify what kind of future it desires for the children apart from the National Plan of Action issued in different years.

In 2010, the government announced the National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010 (Ministry of Labour and Employment & GOB, 2010)<sup>2</sup>. The document revealed a governmental commitment to eliminate child labour in a time-bound manner and establish their inalienable rights to education and other aspects. The national labour code, or the Bangladesh Labour Act, was adopted in 2006, and it has earmarked fourteen years as the minimum age for the entry of a person to employment. The government has also focused on the worst form of child labour and wanted to remove it by 2016. Through Gazette notification, the government has released a list of Bangladesh's worst forms of child labour (Ministry of Labour and Employment & GOB, 2013). As many as 43 (forty-three) types of work have been declared as the worst form for children, including manufacturing aluminium products, bidi, cigarettes and others.

The government has also ratified different international conventions in combating child labour, including UNCRC in 1990 and ILO Convention 182 in 2001. The above unity indicates that the Bangladesh government owns the global concern to combat child labour and ensure a deserving future for the children. Also in 2022, Bangladesh has ratified ILO convention 138 on the minimum age for employment, taking a significant step in the battle of elimination of child labour.

## 1.4 Objectives

The objectives of the survey are as follows:

- i. To identify the number of children engaged in child labour;
- ii. To obtain information on the child population according to various sectors and by sex, location and households with children;
- iii. To generate data on educational attainment of the child population;
- iv. To identify contractual aspects of employment, the nature and types of child employment, working children, child labour, and hazardous child labour and to collect data on the socio-economic situation of the children.

---

<sup>1</sup> Shishu Ain 2013 (The Children Act, 2013) has replaced the previous one enacted in 1974, which is much broader in scope and effective in providing essential support to children. The Ministry of Social Welfare drafted it.

<sup>2</sup> The Ministry of Labour and Employment authored the document.

## 1.5 *Scope and Coverage*

The National Child Labour Survey 2022 was conducted to provide reliable estimates of the child labour population at the geographic division level with rural-urban breakdown. The target population was the children aged 5-17 living in the sample households to obtain estimates on many variables, particularly about the economic and non-economic activities of the population. The survey covered a sample of 30,816 households (including 12 non-responsive households) from 1,284 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs)/sample enumeration areas distributed across all 64 Districts. The survey included urban and rural areas and dwelling households, including one-person households. The institutional households, those living in hostels, hotels, hospitals, old homes, military and police barracks, prisons, welfare homes and other institutions were excluded from the survey.

## CHAPTER 2



**2022**



## Chapter 2

### Methodology, Concepts and Definitions of the Survey

This chapter describes the methodology used in the National Child Labour Survey. It explains the sample frame, sample size and allocation, field operation, data collection and processing, and concepts and definitions.

#### 2.1 The Sampling Frame

The Enumeration Areas (EA) of the 2nd zonal operation of the Population and Housing Census 2022 is used to generate the sampling frame of this survey. The Primary Sampling Unit (PSU) of NCLS 2022 comprised one or more than one enumeration area (EA).

#### 2.2 Determination of Sample Size and Allocation

The number of households'  $n$  needed to estimate an individual-level prevalence  $P$  with a margin of error  $E$  at the confidence level  $\alpha$  is given by

$$n = \frac{Deff}{c} \frac{t_{\alpha}^2 P(1 - P)}{E^2}$$

Where  $Deff$  is the design effect due to stratification and clustering,  $c$  is the average number of relevant individuals per household, and  $t_{\alpha}$  is the standard deviation corresponding to the confidence level  $\alpha$ .

The earlier Child Labour Survey (CLS) 2013 reported hazardous child labour rate of 3.2%, with a design effect of 1.5 and an average of 0.95 working children per household. Using

these figures as referential parameters, the number of households needed to estimate this indicator with a margin of error of 1% at the 95% confidence level is

$$n = \frac{1.5}{0.95} \frac{(1.96)^2 * 0.032 * (1 - 0.032)}{(.01)^2} \approx 1,920$$

This implies that a sample of approximately 30,816 households would be required to achieve the desired accuracy in all 16 estimation domains. The survey has used Kish's allocation, which is generally considered the best compromise between these two extremes: the sample will be thus distributed in proportion to the factors  $\sqrt{\frac{1}{N_h^2} + \frac{1}{H^2}}$ , Where  $H$  represents the number of strata (24 in this case) and  $Nh$  ( $1 \leq h \leq H$ ) represents the number of households within each domain.

Lastly, the sample was collected using a two-stage stratified cluster sampling approach. As part of the first stage, 1,284 PSUs (Primary Sample Units) were selected, and in the second stage, 24 households were selected from each PSU.

### 2.3 Survey Questionnaire

The National Child Labour Survey 2022 questionnaire consists of 152 questions under five modules mentioned below:

- Module 1: Household roster and demographics module consists of 18 questions
- Module 2: The education module consists of 20 questions
- Module 3: Forms of work module (FOW) consists of a total of 87 questions, where FOW covers 41, and the hazardous (HAZ) part consists of 46 questions
- Module 4: The household chores module consists of 3 questions along with different options
- Module 5: The housing module consists of 24 questions.

### 2.4 Training of Enumerators and Supervisors and Field Work

The NCLS 2022 has organized intensive training for survey supervisors, enumerators and coordinators to conduct nationwide surveys smoothly. Training activities included general

interview processes, field operations (including sample selection), a thorough discussion of questionnaire items, and instructions on field interview practice. A total of 107 enumerators, 57 females and 50 males, and 80 supervisory officers were engaged and given a three-day residential data collection training.

## **2.5 Data Collection**

Data collection was done using CAPI (computer-assisted personal interviewing), developed by the Census and Survey Processing System (CSPPro) and incorporated with checks to ensure accuracy. Special training was provided to BBS officials and outsourcing enumerators participating in this survey for performing the data collection. They visited the selected households for the data collection with the assigned questionnaire. Before the interview, the enumerators were urged to introduce themselves to the households. The enumerators were given identity badges and letters of introduction outlining the survey goals to help them identify themselves and gain entry into the residence. Depending on the household size, it took the enumerators between 30 and 40 minutes to administer the survey questionnaire.

Experienced officers from BBS and SID conducted field checks to identify and correct any wrong information during interview sessions. Additionally, the supervising officers regularly paid courtesy visits to the households. To further guarantee the accuracy of the data gathered, follow-up/re-interviews of a few selected households were also conducted. Three month-long data collection occurred between February to May 2022.

## **2.6 Data Processing**

The primary classification manual of industries and occupations was edited and coded by selected editors and coders at BBS headquarter. Supervising officers verify and select data by sampling questionnaires administered through random selection. Weights were created to account for selection probabilities, and results were generated using the design weight of the PSU with Non-response adjustments. Captured data were then exported to STATA format for cleaning and analysis.

## *2.7 Concepts and Definitions of the Survey*

The NCLS 2022 adopted the concepts and definitions of Child, Working Children, Child Labour and Hazardous Child Labour from the 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Resolution IV<sup>3</sup> (International Labour Organization, 2018).

### *i. Child*

According to the ILO's Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child should be defined as an individual under the age of 18 years. The National Child Labour Survey 2022 has adopted the reference age for a male or female child for this survey as 5-17 years.

### *ii. Working Children*

Working children are employed children engaged in economic activity, fitting the production boundary of SNA (System of National Accounts), and working at least one hour during the previous work period of the survey. It is related to children's economic activity covering all the products in the market and certain kinds of products of non-market origin (mainly producing goods and services for personal use). It includes forms of work in formal and informal sectors of the economy, inside and outside of families and work for payment or profit (in monetary or in kind, incomplete working day or whole working day) or as a household worker outside of the child's family for an employer (with or without payment). According to the SNA, in the category 'working children', the performance of household chores/tasks within their household by children is excluded. The performance of domestic work in another household, paid or unpaid (whether by a child or an adult), is considered economic activity. Children involved in domestic work in a third household are included in working children.

### *iii. Child Labour*

The term child labour reflects the engagement of children in prohibited work and, more generally, in types of work to be eliminated as socially and morally undesirable as guided

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<sup>3</sup> More information can be found in the 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Resolution IV.

by national legislation, the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), as well as their respective supplementing Recommendations (Nos. 146 and 190). Child labour may be measured in terms of children's engagement in work activities based on the general production boundary or the SNA production boundary, in line with the concepts and definitions specified in the 19th ICLS resolution concerning work, employment and labour statistics under utilisation, 2013. The underlying measurement framework should be established.

Work performed by a child under the minimum age for entering employment varies according to the country's legislation. National Child Labour Survey 2022 considers the following age group for a child to enter into employment in terms of a relationship with the employer according to the labour legislation of Bangladesh.

- Age 5-11: working in economic activities for 1 hour and more
- Age 12-13: working in economic activities for 25 or more hours per week or in hazardous activities
- Age 14-17: working in economic activities for 48 or more hours per week or in hazardous activities.

#### *iv. Hazardous Child Labour*

According to Article 3 of ILO Convention No. 182, "hazardous child labour" is defined as work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm children's health, safety or morals.

According to ILO Recommendation No. 190, the following criteria should be taken into account when determining hazardous work conditions of children at the national level:

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

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

Bangladesh officially identified 38 sectors along with 5 sectors in total 43 sectors as hazardous. BBS has considered those sectors by converting into ISIC (International Standard of Industrial Classification) codes in addition to the conceptual definition of HCL (Hazardous Child Labour) to match the national context.



## CHAPTER 3



**2022**



## Chapter 3

### Salient Characteristics of the Child Population

In Bangladesh, many children attend school and simultaneously engage in various economic activities. This chapter will explore the proper understanding of children's engagement in economic activities in terms of age, sex and area including children's school attendance and others.

#### 3.1 *Participation of Children in Economic Activities by Sex*

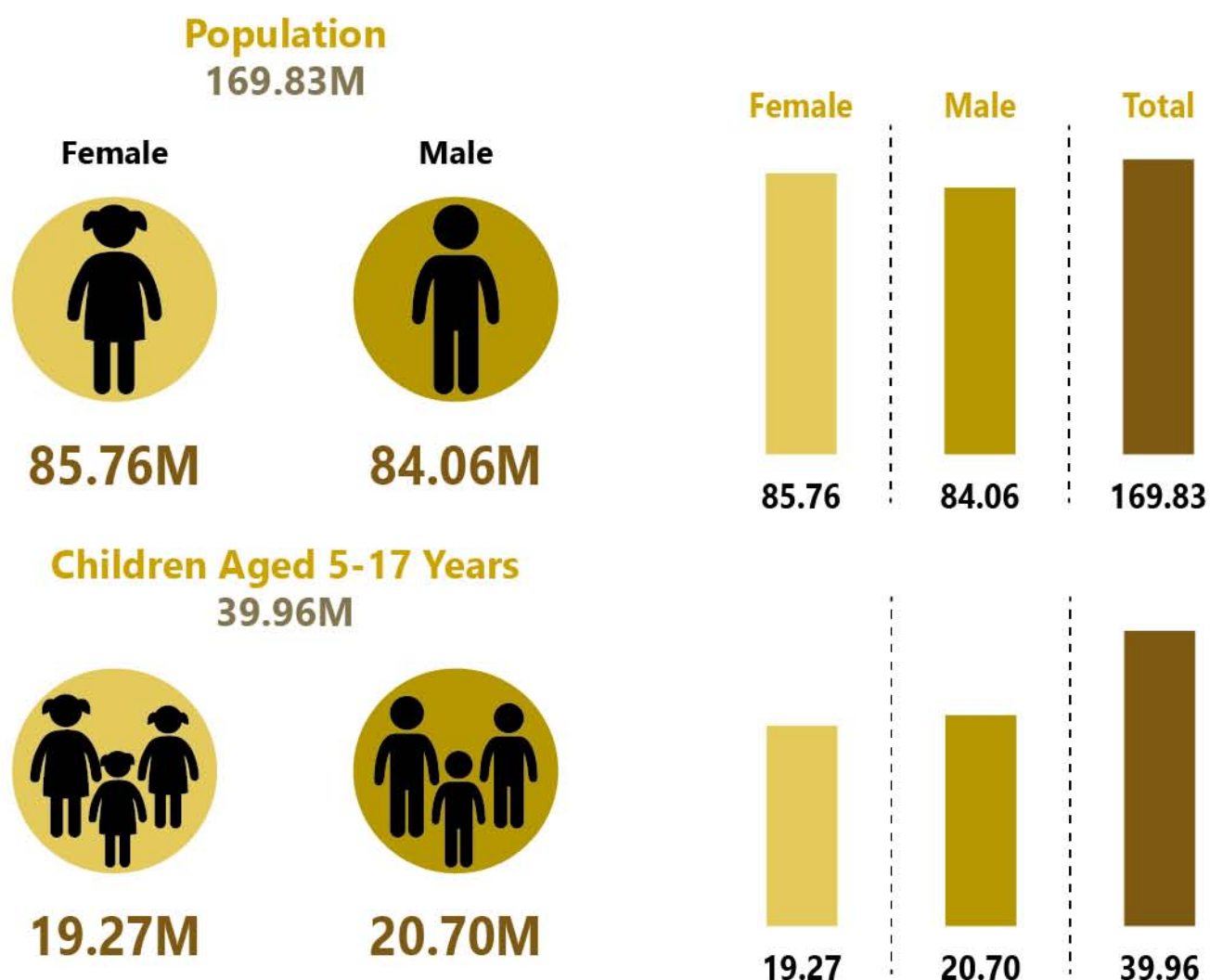
According to the National Child Labour Survey 2022 (**Table 3.1**), there are 39,964,005 or 39.96 million children aged 5-17 years in Bangladesh; of these, more than half of the children, 51.79% (20,698,077 or 20.70 million) are male children, and remaining 48.21% (19,265,375 or 19.27 million) are female children. The number of working children is 3,536,927 (3.54 million), comprising 2,734,044 male and 802,883 female children. Male children are 1,374,154, and female children are 401,943 out of the 1,776,097 (1.78 million) children engaged in child labour. Similarly, out of the 1,068,212 (1.07 million) children in hazardous child labour, the number of male children is 895,195, and the number of female children is 173,017.



**Table 3.1: Distribution of Population and Child Labour by Sex<sup>4</sup>**

Indicators	Sex		
	Male	Female	Total
Population	84,062,404	85,756,752	169,828,911
Children aged 5-17 years	20,698,077	19,265,375	39,964,005
Number of working children	2,734,044	802,883	3,536,927
Number of child labour	1,374,154	401,943	1,776,097
Number of hazardous child labour	895,195	173,017	1,068,212

**Figure 3.1: Distribution of Population and Child Labour Indicators by Sex (million)**



<sup>4</sup> In addition to Table 3.1, Annex A7 reflects the number of children engaged in household chores for at least an hour in a week, not considered significant economic activities.

## Number of Working Children 3.54M

Female



0.80M

Male



2.73M

Female

Male

Total

0.80

2.73

3.54

## Number of Child Labour 1.78M



0.40M



1.37M

0.40

1.37

1.78

## Number of Hazardous Child Labour 1.07M



0.17M



0.90M

0.17

0.90

1.07



### 3.2 Participation of Children in Economic Activities by Area

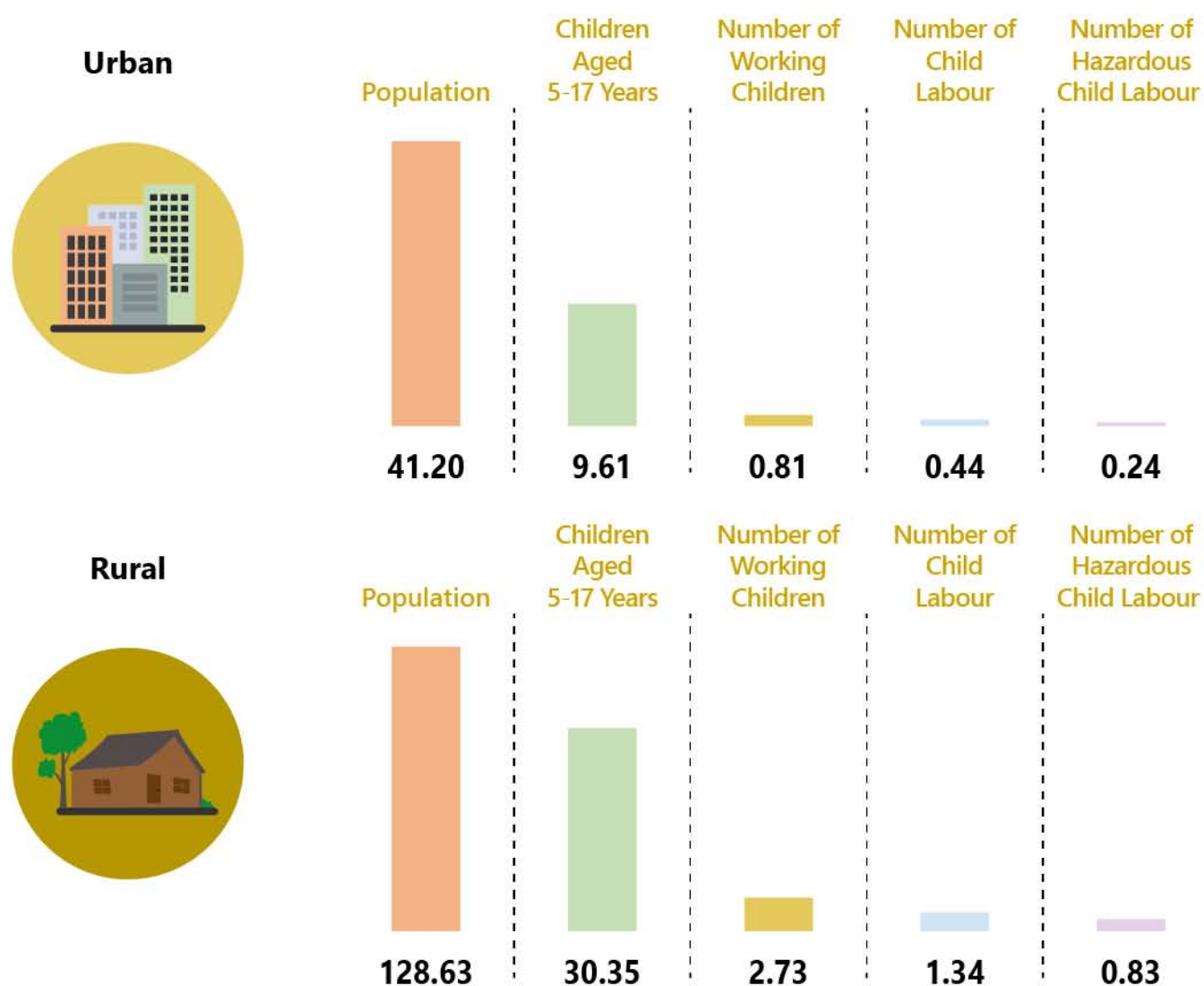
**Table 3.2** depicts the distribution of population and child labour indicators in rural and urban areas. According to Population and Housing Census 2022, the population of Bangladesh is 169,828,911 or 169.83 million, of which the number of children aged 5-17 years is 39,964,005 or 39.96 million. Of these 5-17 years old children, rural areas account for 30,349,052 or 30.35 million children, and the urban regions account for 9,614,953 or 9.61 million. The numbers of working children in rural and urban areas are 2,725,400 (9%, Table A.2) and 811,527 (8.4%), respectively. Similarly, the number of children engaged in child labour in rural areas is 1,337,464 (4.4%) and in urban areas is 438,634 (4.6%). In rural and urban areas, children involved in hazardous child labour make up 832,693 (2.7%) and 235,519 (2.4%).

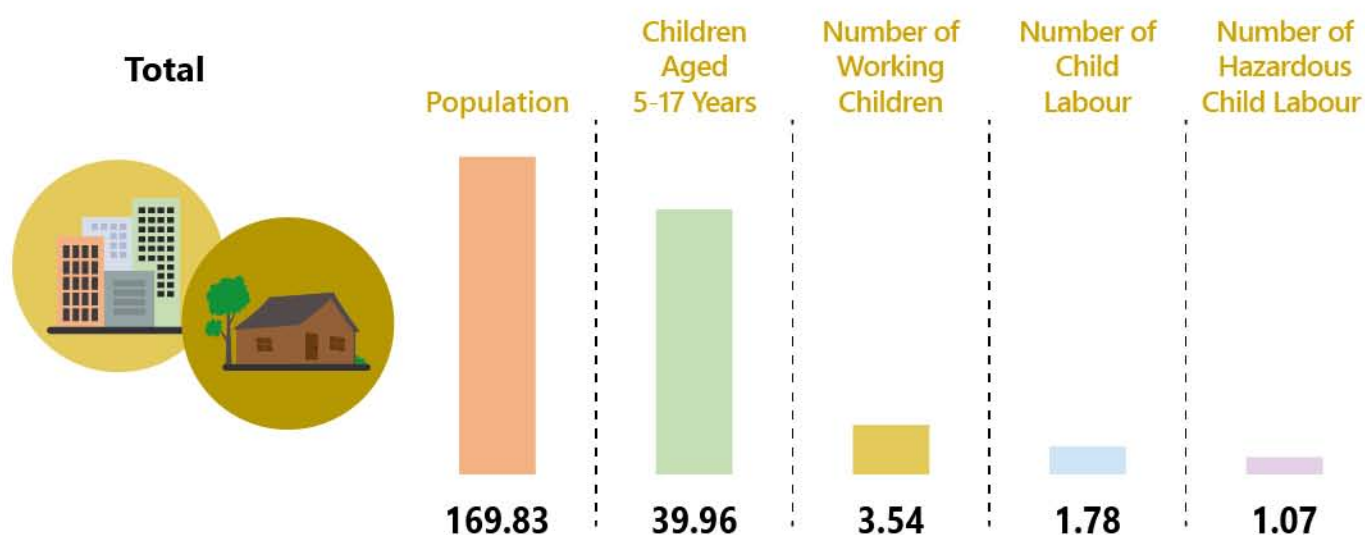


**Table 3.2: Distribution of Population and Child Labour Indicators by Area**

Indicators	Sex		
	Rural	Urban	Total
Population	128,632,198	41,196,713	169,828,911
Children aged 5-17 years	30,349,052	9,614,953	39,964,005
Number of working children	2,725,400	811,527	3,536,927
Number of child labour	1,337,464	438,634	1,776,097
Number of hazardous child labour	832,693	235,519	1,068,212

**Figure 3.2: Distribution of Population and Child Labour Indicators by Locality (million)**





### 3.3 Proportion of Children Engaged in Economic Activities by Sex

**Table 3.3** shows that the ratio of working children is 8.9% (3,536,927, **Table 3.1**), comprising 13.2% (2,734,044) male children and 4.2% (802,883) female children. Similarly, the percentage of children involved in child labour is 4.4% (1,776,097), of which 6.6% (1,374,154) are male children, and 2.1% (401,943) are female children. The proportion of hazardous children is 2.7% (1,068,212) which is comparatively lower than the other two groups. However, 4.3% (895,195) of male children and 0.9% (173,017) of female children are in hazardous labour.

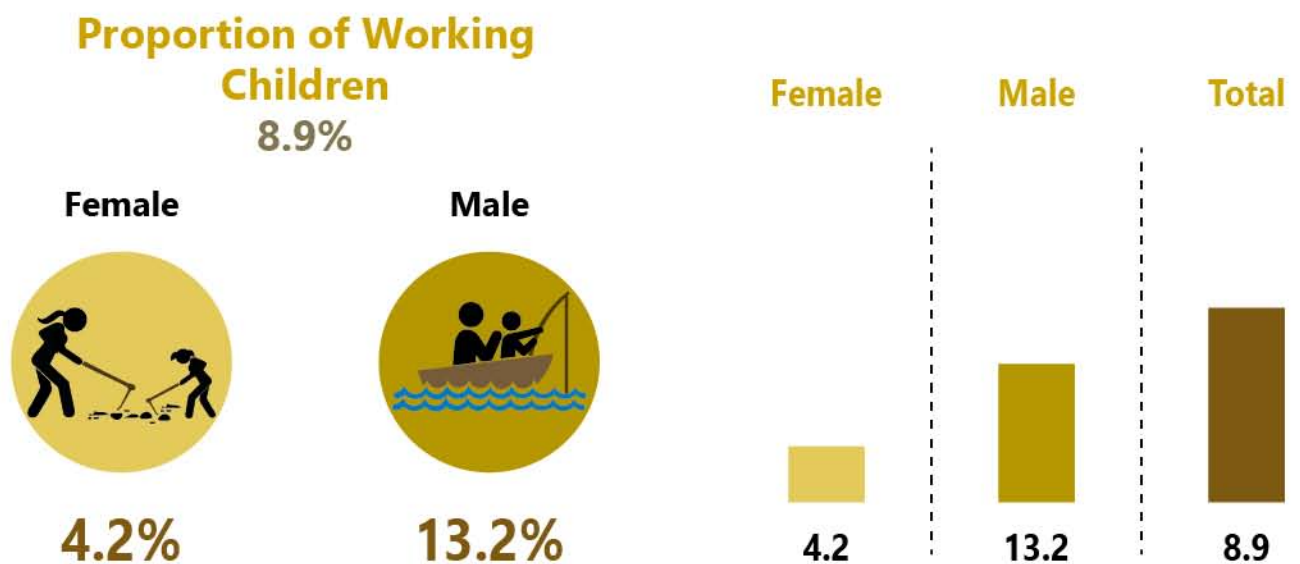


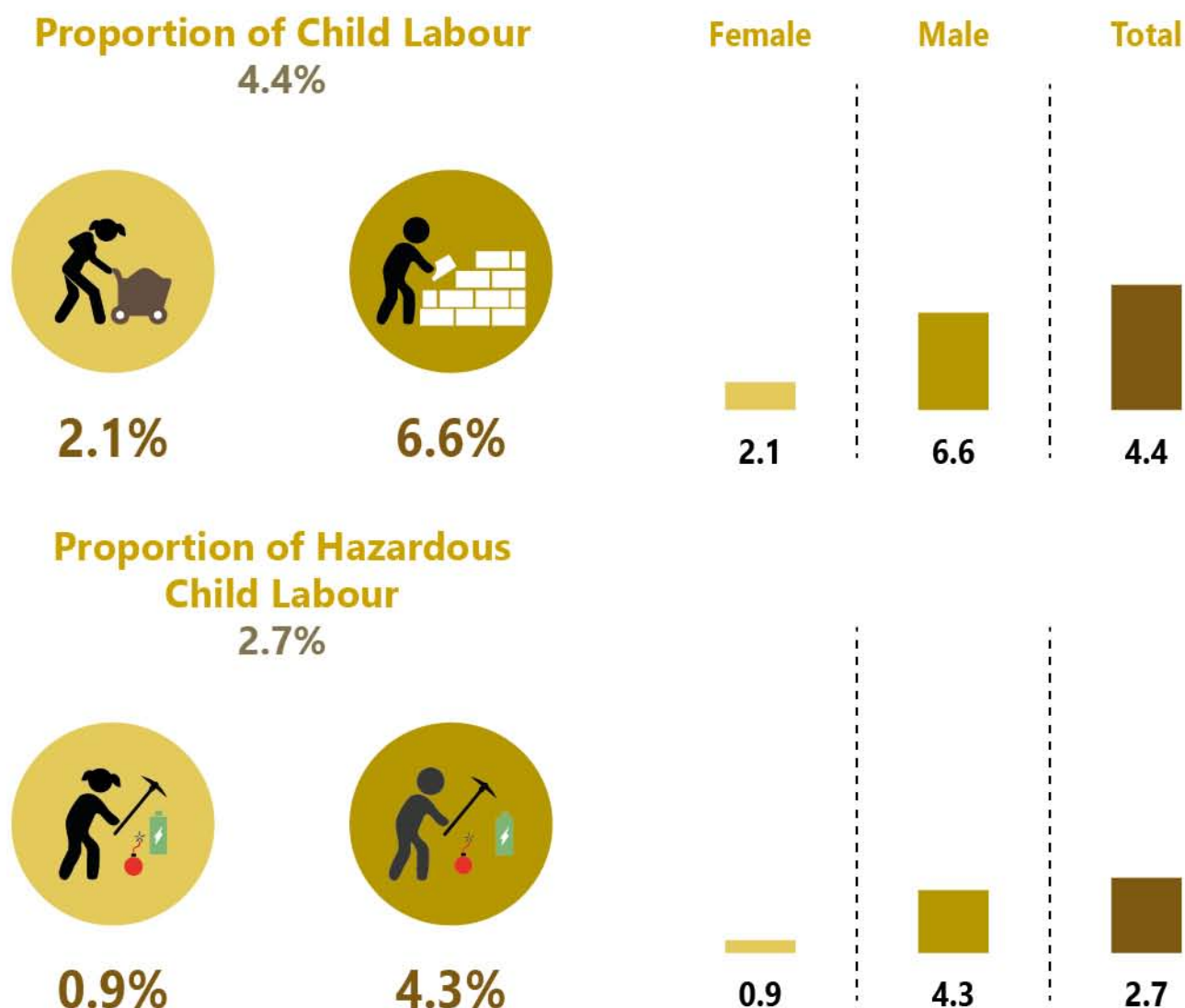


**Table 3.3: Child Labour Prevalence by Sex and Percentage**

Indicators	Sex		
	Male	Female	Total
Proportion of working children	13.2	4.2	8.9
Proportion of child labour	6.6	2.1	4.4
Proportion of hazardous child labour	4.3	0.9	2.7

**Figure 3.3: Child Labour Prevalence by Sex and Percentage**





### 3.4 Proportion of Children Engaged in Economic Activities by Education

**Table 3.4** indicates the percentage of children in child labour, children aged 5-17 years, by education of the household head. The study shows that working children and children in child labour is more prevalent in households where the head of the household has a lower level of education. However, the percentage of working children and children in child labour shows an inverse trend in the household heads' higher secondary and tertiary education. The working children ratio is 1.7% and 1.8%, and the child labour ratio is 0.4% and 1.1% for the household head with higher secondary and tertiary education respectively.

## Proportion of Child Labour Prevalence by Education Level of the Household Head (%)



**8.0%**  
**No class passed**

**4.6%**  
**Primary**

**3.1%**  
**Secondary**



**0.4%**  
**Higher secondary**

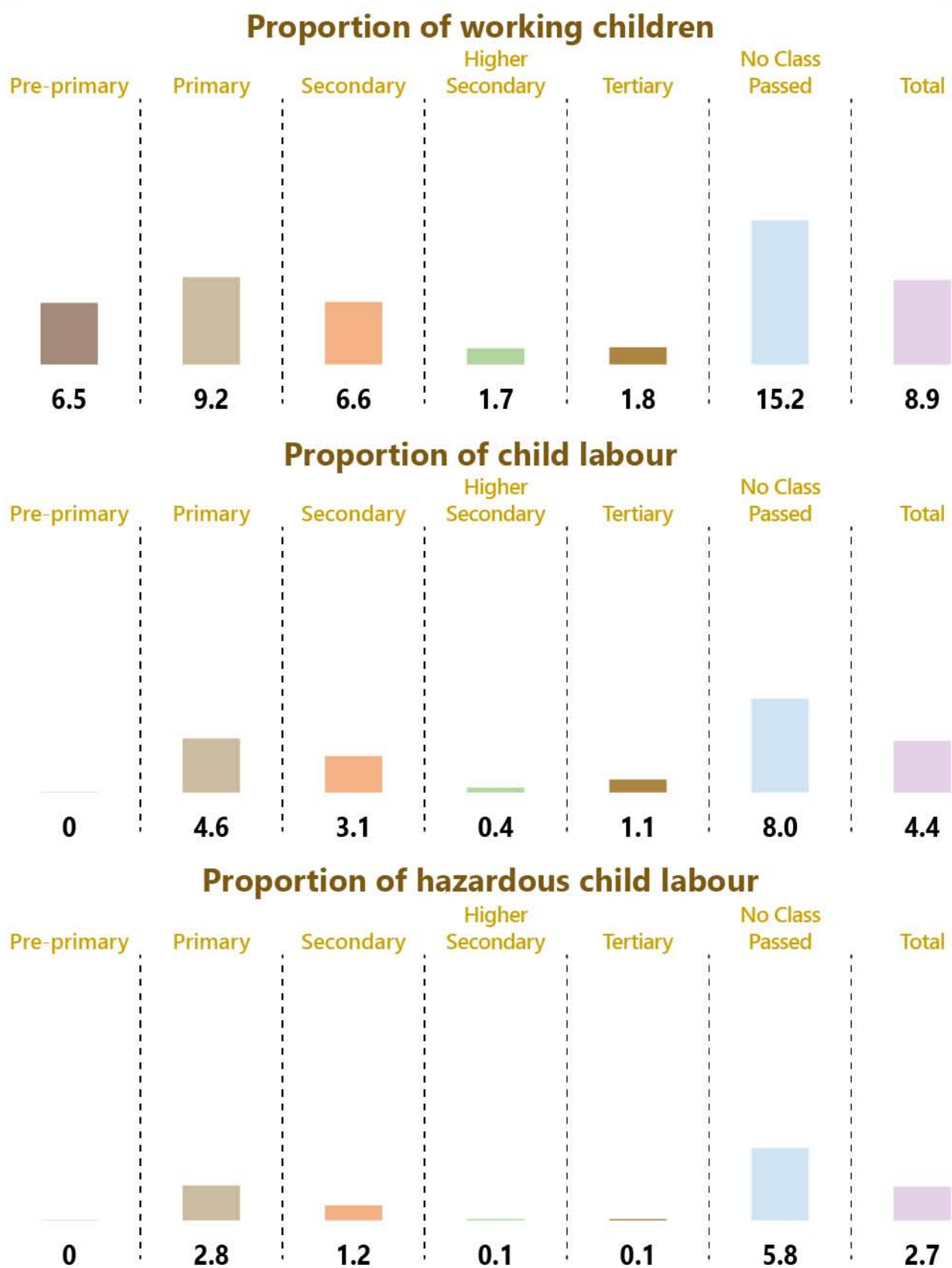
**1.1%**  
**Tertiary**



**Table 3.4: Child Labour Prevalence by Education Level of the Household Head (%)**

Indicators	Household head's education level						Total
	Pre-primary	Primary	Secondary	Higher secondary	Tertiary	No class passed	
Proportion of working children	6.5	9.2	6.6	1.7	1.8	15.2	8.9
Proportion of child labour	0.0	4.6	3.1	0.4	1.1	8.0	4.4
Proportion of hazardous child labour	0.0	2.8	1.2	0.1	0.1	5.8	2.7

**Figure 3.4: Child Labour Prevalence by Education Level of the Household Head (%)**



### 3.5 Proportion of Children Engaged in Economic Activities by Age Group

According to **Table 3.5**, of all children aged 5-11 years, 3.0% (660,500) are working children, 2.8% (609,408) are engaged in hazardous child labour, and 0.2% (47,821) are involved in hazardous child labour. The percentage shares of working children, children in child labour and hazardous child labour aged 12-13 years are 9.3% (585,592), 3.9% (247,444 ) and 1.6% (101,146), respectively. Data show that the children's working status ratio in the three categories is the highest in the 14-17 age group compared to the other two age groups. In this group, the proportion of working children is 19.7% (2,290,835), the ratio of children in child labour is 7.9% (919,245), and the percentage of children in hazardous child labour is 7.9% (919,245) in the overall child group aged 5-17 years.

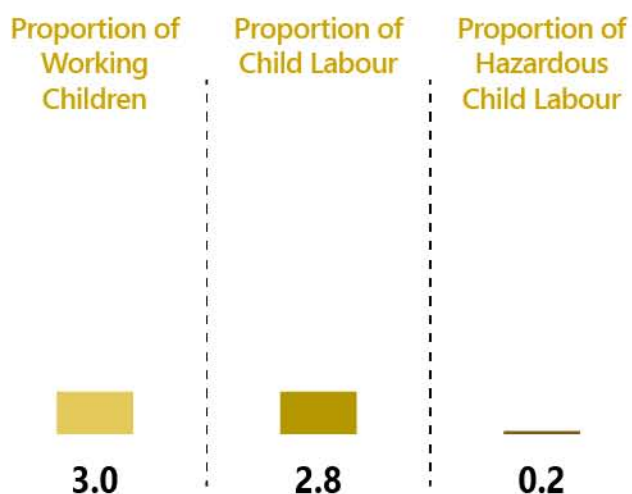
**Table 3.5: Child Labour Prevalence by Age Group (%)**

Indicators	Child age group			
	5-11 years	12-13 years	14-17 years	Total
Working children %	3.0	9.3	19.7	8.9
Child labour %	2.8	3.9	7.9	4.4
Hazardous child labour %	0.2	1.6	7.9	2.7

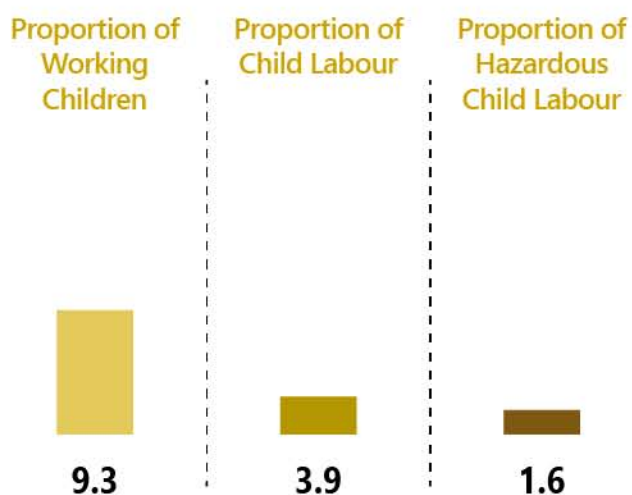


Figure 3.5: Child Labour Prevalence by Age Group (%)

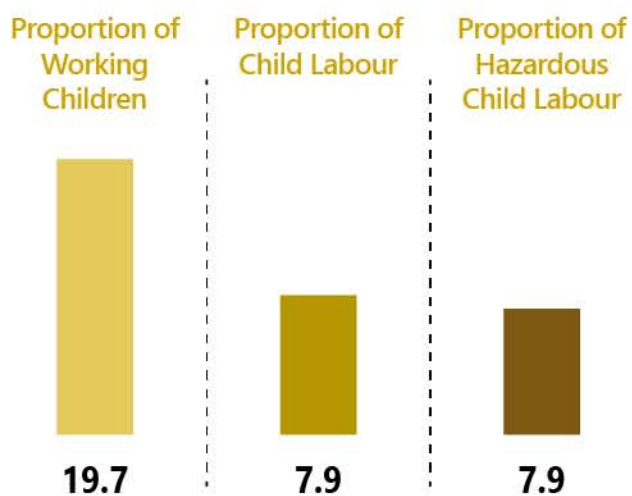
### 5-11 Years

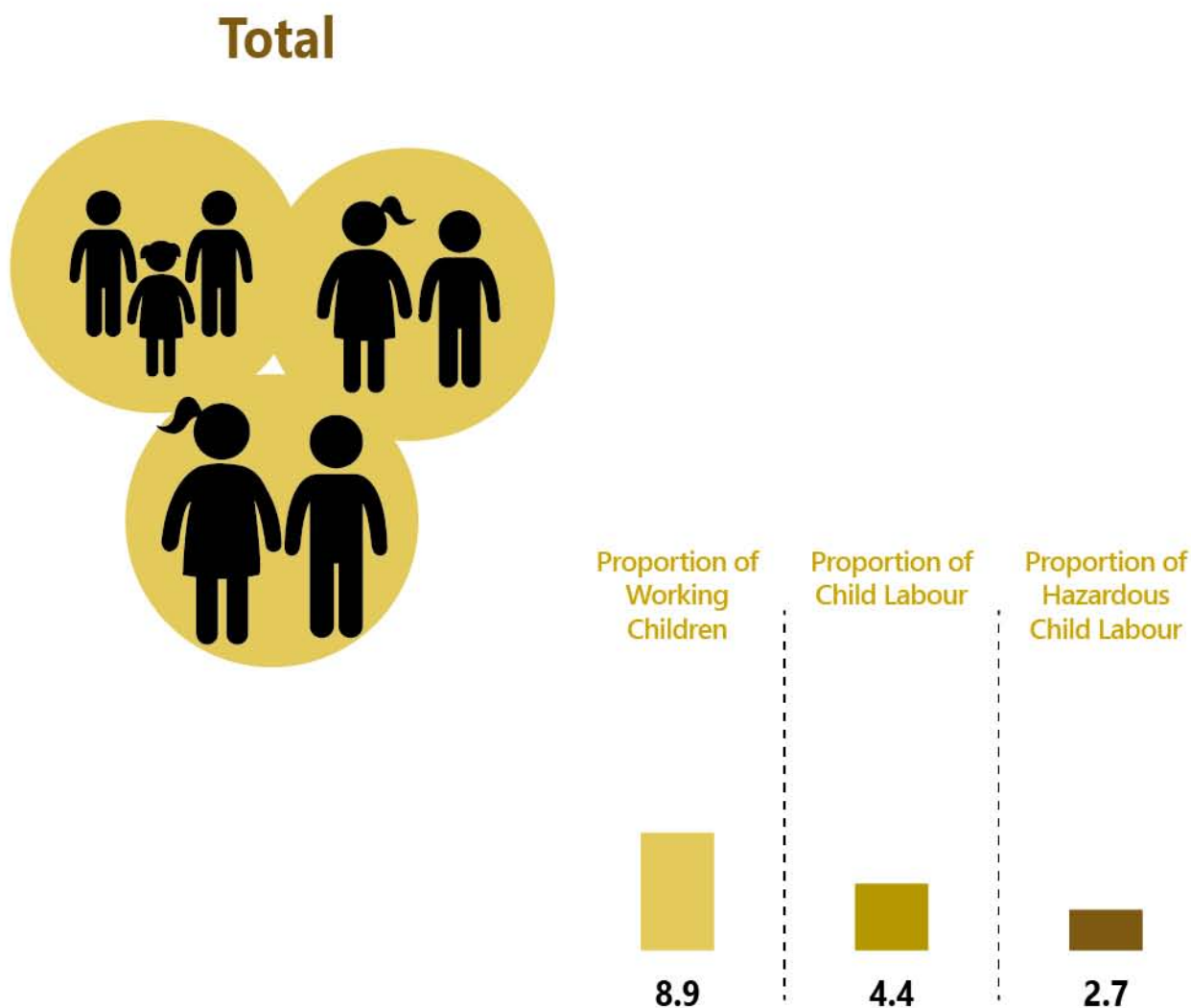


### 12-13 Years



### 14-17 Years





### 3.6 *Distribution of Children Engaged in Economic Activities by School Attendance Status*

**Table 3.6** describes that during the NCLS 2022 survey period, 6.2% of working children, 2.7% of children in child labour and 1.0% of children in hazardous child labour responded that they are currently attending school. The reactions for currently not attending school are 26.9% from working children, 16.5% from children in child labour and 13.8% from children in hazardous labour. This shows that a significant number of children are out of school during the survey.



**Table 3.6: Child Labour Indicators at National Levels by School Attendance Status**

Indicators	School attendance status		
	Currently attending school	Currently not attending school	Total
Children aged 5-17 years	34,805,194	5,158,811	39,964,005
Number of working children	2,147,377	1,389,550	3,536,927
Number of child labour	927,048	849,049	1,776,097
Number of hazardous child labour	357,501	710,710	1,068,212
Volunteer work	765,917	54,131	820,048
Employment work	1,032,100	1,212,807	2,244,907
Own-use production work	970,551	162,858	1,133,409
Apprentice work	144,726	13,885	158,612
Proportion of working children	6.2	26.9	8.9
Proportion of child labour	2.7	16.5	4.4
Proportion of hazardous child labour	1.0	13.8	2.7

### 3.7 *Distribution of Children by Households Taken any Strategies to Recover from the Tough Situation that Affected Children*

In **Table 3.7**, the data show the status of the children 5-17 years old according to their households which have taken any strategies that affect the children during the challenging situation (natural disaster, pandemic, e.g. COVID-19 etc.) faced by the households within the past three years. The data reveals that 48.5% of working children, 32.9% of children in child labour and 15.2% of children in hazardous child labour were under the households that took strategies to recover from the challenging situation that has affected children.



**Table 3.7: Distribution of Child Labour Indicators at National Levels by Households Taken any Strategies to Recover from the Tough Situation that has Affected Children**

Indicators	The proportion of households taken any Child affecting Strategies		
	Not taken strategies	Taken strategies	Total
Children aged 5-17 years	38,717,291	1,246,714	39,964,005
Number of working children	2,932,148	604,779	3,536,927
Number of children in child labour	1,365,838	410,259	1,776,097
Number of children in hazardous child labour	878,556	189,656	1,068,212
Volunteer work	790,699	29,349	820,048
Employment work	1,866,092	378,815	2,244,907
Own-use production work	961,919	171,490	1,133,409
Apprentice work	104,137	54,475	158,612
Proportion of working children	7.6	48.5	8.9
Proportion of child labour	3.5	32.9	4.4
Proportion of hazardous child labour	2.3	15.2	2.7



### **3.8** *Distribution of Children's Average Hours Engaged (worked at least one hour in last 7 days) in Additional Own-use Work (not economically significant)*

In Bangladesh, children typically spend a few hours in some additional work for their own use which is insignificant and considered as non-economic activity. However, in the last seven days, the average hours spent by the children to complete the following activities are mentioned in **Table 3.8**. These are exclusively irregular and insignificant activities performed by the children in their respective households.



**Table 3.8: Distribution of children's average hours engaged (worked at least one hour in last 7 days) in additional own-use work (not economically significant)**

Indicators	Sex		
	Male	Female	Total
Collection of forest food [mushrooms, berries, herbs, etc.]	2.5	2.8	2.6
Hunting or related task for own consumption	2.1	2.2	2.1
Helping to prepare and preserve food or beverages	3.3	2.7	3.0
Participate/assist in house construction, renovation, or expansion	3.3	2.7	3.1
Spend some time making products like mats, baskets, Furniture, clothes, etc.	2.7	3.2	3.1
Collecting water from any natural or public source	2.6	2.9	2.8
Collection of any fuel wood/other natural materials of fuel to use s fuel	3.5	2.9	3.3
Other activities	5.9	9.9	7.2

## Conclusion

The total child population in the age group 5 to 17 now stands at 39,964,005 or 39.96 million in the country. A substantial number, 3,536,927 or 3.54 million, are still working children, which would be a colossal task to end child labour shortly. The more frequent presence of those who are not child labour by definition but still present among the working children indicates that the existing legal description is broad in its scope while defining a working child.

Children's educational participation is necessary for various reasons (e.g. to prevent entering child labour) noted in the report, and the child population are currently attending school in a substantial number. The current efforts of governmental and non-governmental organisations to reduce child labour and improve their condition can be said to be effective. However, there remains a significant number of children as working children, children engaged in child labour and hazardous child labour who are still left behind in educational attainment, indicating that the increase in vulnerability of the children may reduce their attendance in school. Preventing the entry of new children may improve the current situation soon.

However, the elimination of child labour has been explicitly addressed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target 8.7 (United Nations Statistics Division, 2020). The present survey report will enable the Government to formulate policies more precisely and implement appropriate legal instruments more effectively to address child labour issues on relevant SDG targets. In addition to the national institutions, including Government, the survey result will also help international organisations to acquaint themselves with the prevailing situation of child labour and strengthen their collaboration with Government for its ultimate eradication.



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# ANNEX

## List of Statistical Tables and Figures



**2022**



# Annex

## List of Tables

**Table A.1: Child Labour Calculation**

Forms of work (Work statistics)	
A. Volunteer work (Vw)	820,048
B. Employment work (Ew)	2,244,907
C. Own use production work (OPw)	1,133,409
D. Apprentice work (Aw)	158,612
<b>E= Forms of work/Work statistics [ A+B+C+D, i.e. (Vw+Ew+OPw+Aw)]</b>	<b>4,356,976</b>
	<b>Or 4.36 million</b>
<b>Working children calculation</b>	
E. Forms of work (Work statistics) / Fow	4,356,976
A. Volunteer work/Vw	820,048
<b>F= Working children [ E-A, i.e. (Fow - Vw)]</b>	<b>3,536,928</b>
	<b>Or 3.54 million</b>
<b>Child labour calculation</b>	
G. In designated hazardous industries	432,627
H. Other industries + Hazardous occupation	144,948
I. Other industries+ Other occupation+ Long hour>48 hours	196,260
J. Other industries+ Other occupation+ No long hour+ Hazardous work condition	294,378
<b>K= Hazardous Work (G+H+I+J)</b>	<b>1,068,212</b>
	<b>Or 1.07 million</b>
L. Other industries+ Other occupation +No long hours <48+ Non-hazardous work condition (5-11 Years)	561,587
M. Other industries+ Other occupation+ No long hours<48+ Non-hazardous work condition (12-13 Years) > 25 hours per week	146,299
<b>O= Non-hazardous (L+M)</b>	<b>707,886</b>
	<b>Or 0.71 million</b>
<b>P= Total child labour [ K+O, i.e. (Hazardous + Non-hazardous)]</b>	<b>1,776,098</b>
	<b>Or 1.78 million</b>

**Table A.2: Distribution of Population and Child Labour Indicators by Area and Sex<sup>5</sup>**

Indicators	Locality								
	Rural			Urban			Total		
	Sex			Sex			Sex		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Population	63,658,899	64,964,210	128,623,109	20,403,505	20,792,542	41,196,047	84,062,404	85,756,752	169,819,156
Children aged 5-17 years	15,787,744	14,561,308	30,349,052	4,910,334	4,704,067	9,614,401	20,698,077	19,265,375	39,963,453
Working children	2,142,382	583,019	2,725,400	591,662	219,864	811,527	2,734,044	802,883	3,536,927
Child labour	1,058,994	278,470	1,337,464	315,160	123,473	438,634	1,374,154	401,943	1,776,097
Hazardous child labour	709,951	122,742	832,693	185,244	50,275	235,519	895,195	173,017	1,068,212
<b>Work Statistics</b>									
Volunteer work	266,971	362,830	629,801	94,874	95,373	190,247	361,846	458,202	820,048
Employment work	1,476,140	199,946	1,676,086	435,159	133,661	568,820	1,911,299	333,607	2,244,907
Own-use production work	610,886	318,982	929,868	140,175	63,365	203,540	751,061	382,348	1,133,409
Apprentice work	55,355	64,090	119,446	16,328	22,838	39,166	71,684	86,928	158,612
Proportion of children	24.8	22.4	23.6	24.1	22.6	23.3	24.6	22.5	23.5
Proportion of working children	13.6	4.0	9.0	12.0	4.7	8.4	13.2	4.2	8.9
Proportion of child labour	6.7	1.9	4.4	6.4	2.6	4.6	6.6	2.1	4.4
Proportion of hazardous child labour	4.5	0.8	2.7	3.8	1.1	2.4	4.3	0.9	2.7

<sup>5</sup> Table A.2 does not include the number of the third gender (hijra) in child population.

**Table A.3: Distribution of Child Labour Indicators by Age Group<sup>6</sup>**

Indicators	Child age group			
	5-11 years	12-13 years	14-17 years	Total
Children aged 5-17 years	22,062,009	6,279,178	11,622,265	39,963,453
Number of working children	660,500	585,592	2,290,835	3,536,927
Number of child labour	609,408	247,444	919,245	1,776,097
Number of hazardous child labour	47,821	101,146	919,245	1,068,212
<b>Work Statistics</b>				
Volunteer work	243,898	141,103	435,047	820,048
Employment work	216,597	324,406	1,703,904	2,244,907
Own-use production work	341,226	256,219	535,964	1,133,409
Apprentice work	102,677	4,967	50,967	158,612
Proportion of working children	3.0	9.3	19.7	8.9
Proportion of child labour	2.8	3.9	7.9	4.4
Proportion of hazardous child labour	0.2	1.6	7.9	2.7

**Table A.4: Distribution of Child Labour Indicators by Education Attainment**

Indicators	Highest Education Level						
	Pre-primary	Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary	Tertiary	No class passed	Total
Children aged 5-17 years	4,380,225	17,858,784	12,747,874	56,915	-	4,919,654	39,963,453
Number of working children	73,425	1,524,485	1,689,568	1,306	-	248,143	3,536,927
Number of child labour	69,741	1,009,456	480,774	647	-	215,479	1,776,097
Number of hazardous child labour	9,736	503,663	432,854	647	-	121,312	1,068,212
<b>Work Statistics</b>							
Volunteer work	12,682	304,721	483,206	1,895	-	17,544	820,048
Employment work	12,377	1,060,605	1,012,118	1,306	-	158,501	2,244,907
Own-use production work	32,133	409,442	628,891	-	-	62,942	1,133,409
Apprentice work	28,916	54,438	48,559	-	-	26,699	158,612
Proportion of working children	1.7	8.5	13.3	2.3	.	5.0	8.9
Proportion of child labour	1.6	5.7	3.8	1.1	.	4.4	4.4
Proportion of hazardous child labour	0.2	2.8	3.4	1.1	.	2.5	2.7

<sup>6</sup> Table A.3 and A.4 does not include the number of the third gender (hijra).

**Table A.5: Distribution of Population and Child Labour Indicators by Education of the Head of the Households**

Indicators	Household head's education level						
	Pre-primary	Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary	Tertiary	No class passed	Total
Population	178,108	53,113,689	50,189,249	10,573,397	11,928,730	43,845,738	169,828,911
Children aged 5-17 years	33,527	12,535,105	12,537,452	2,476,533	2,679,158	9,702,229	39,964,005
Number of working children	2,171	1,148,910	821,586	42,613	49,245	1,472,402	3,536,927
Number of child labour	-	572,982	386,116	10,597	28,582	777,820	1,776,097
Number of hazardous child labour	-	355,358	147,457	1,756	3,795	559,846	1,068,212
<b>Work Statistics</b>							
Volunteer work	565	261,891	304,412	50,202	79,313	123,666	820,048
Employment work	2,171	694,666	428,447	20,145	20,441	1,079,038	2,244,907
Own-use production work	-	424,395	341,192	21,985	17,205	328,632	1,133,409
Apprentice work	-	29,849	51,948	484	11,599	64,733	158,612
Proportion of working children	6.5	9.2	6.6	1.7	1.8	15.2	8.9
Proportion of child labour	0.0	4.6	3.1	0.4	1.1	8.0	4.4
Proportion of hazardous child labour	0.0	2.8	1.2	0.1	0.1	5.8	2.7

**Table A.6: Distribution of Child Labour Indicators by Broad Economic Sectors**

Indicators	Broad economic sector			
	Agriculture	Industry	Service	Total
Children aged 5-17 years	1,079,559	1,191,806	1,270,431	3,541,796
Number of working children	1,079,559	1,190,419	1,266,949	3,536,927
Number of child labour	418,638	793,653	563,806	1,776,097
Number of hazardous child labour	35,894	652,453	379,865	1,068,212
<b>Work Statistics</b>				
Volunteer work	-	-	1,576	1,576
Employment work	294,822	983,690	966,394	2,244,907
Own-use production work	752,587	141,375	239,447	1,133,409
Apprentice work	32,150	65,354	61,108	158,612
Proportion of working children	100.0	99.9	99.7	99.9
Proportion of child labour	38.8	66.6	44.4	50.1
Proportion of hazardous child labour	3.3	54.7	29.9	30.2

**Table A.7: Distribution of Number of Children Engaged in Additional Own-use Work in last 7 days (not economically significant)<sup>7</sup>**

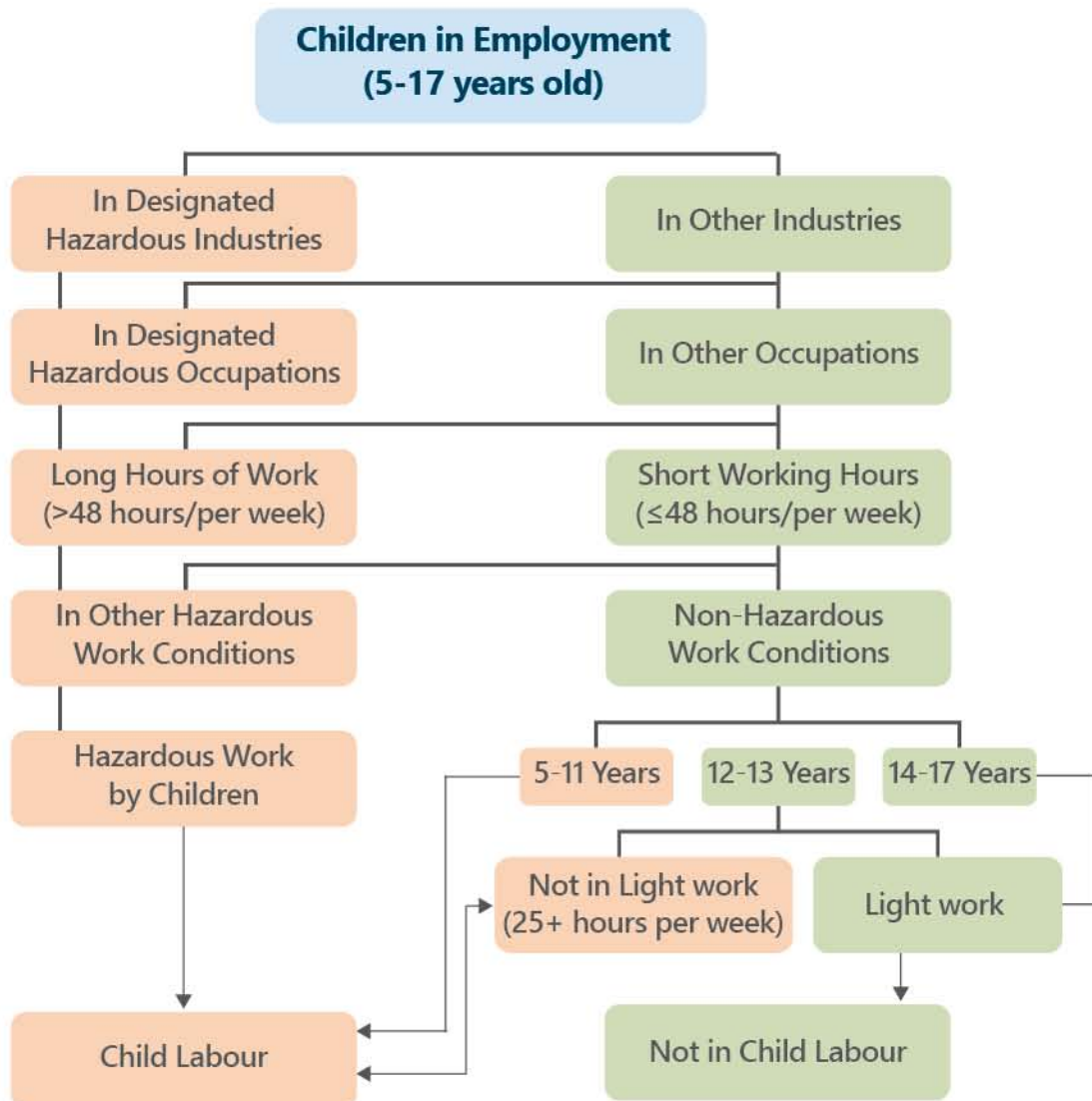
Indicators	Sex		
	Male	Female	Total
Collection of forest food [mushrooms, berries, herbs, etc.]	235,259	210,078	445,338
Hunting or related task for own consumption	315,610	141,098	456,708
Helping to prepare and preserve food or beverages	852,794	738,854	1,591,649
Participate/assist in house construction, renovation, or expansion	1,051,919	547,325	1,599,245
Spend some time making products like mats, baskets, Furniture, clothes, etc.	275,232	872,634	1,147,866
Collecting water from any natural or public source	612,301	1,003,707	1,616,008
Collection of any fuel wood/other natural materials of fuel to use as fuel	2,304,434	1,310,990	3,615,424
Other activities	439,451	375,583	815,035
Total	6,087,000	5,200,269	11,287,273
<b>Average hours worked in last 7 days</b>			
Collection of forest food [mushrooms, berries, herbs, etc.]	2.5	2.8	2.6
Hunting or related task for own consumption	2.1	2.2	2.1
Helping to prepare and preserve food or beverages	3.3	2.7	3.0
Participate/assist in house construction, renovation, or expansion	3.3	2.7	3.1
Spend some time making products like mats, baskets, Furniture, clothes, etc.	2.7	3.2	3.1
Collecting water from any natural or public source	2.6	2.9	2.8
Collection of any fuel wood/other natural materials of fuel to use s fuel	3.5	2.9	3.3
Other activities	5.9	9.9	7.2

<sup>7</sup> Annex A7 depicts the number of children at the household-level own-use consumption activities who have worked at least for 1 hour in the last 7 days. In the socio-economic context of Bangladesh, this part adds value to socio-economic analysis but does not directly converge to significant economic activities.

# Annex

## List of Figures

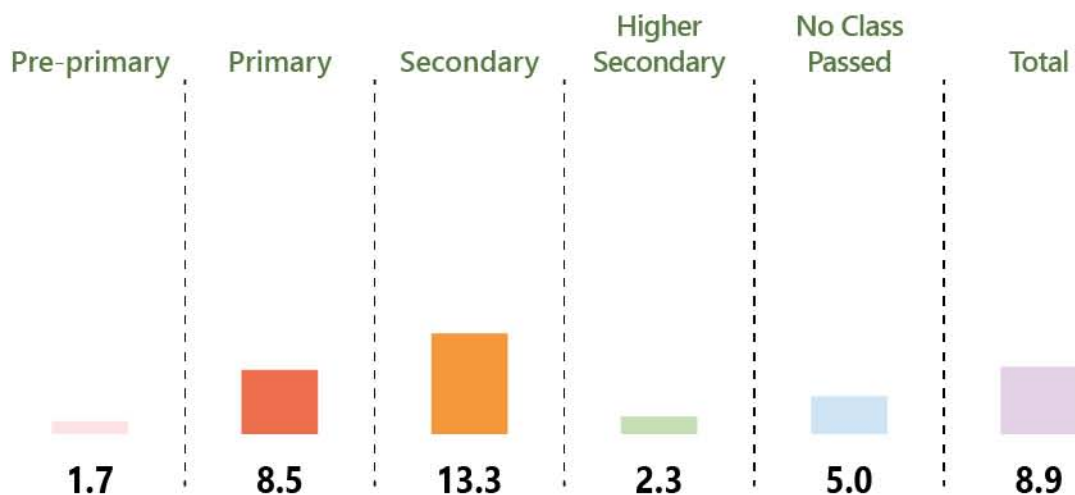
**Figure A.1: Child Labour Framework**



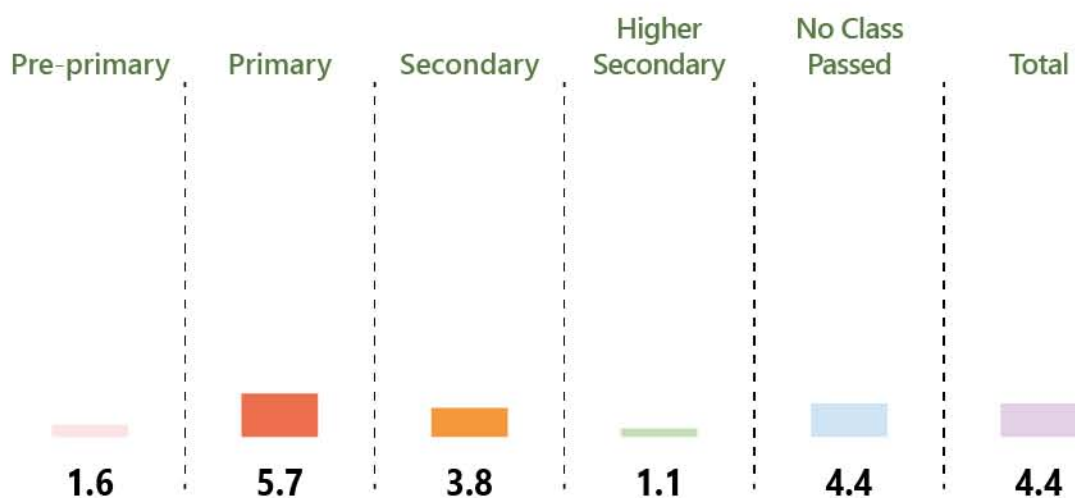
Source: International Labour Organization & National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT), 2016

Figure A.2: Child Labour (5-17 years) Prevalence by Education Attainment (%)

## Working Children



## Child Labour



# Hazardous Child Labour

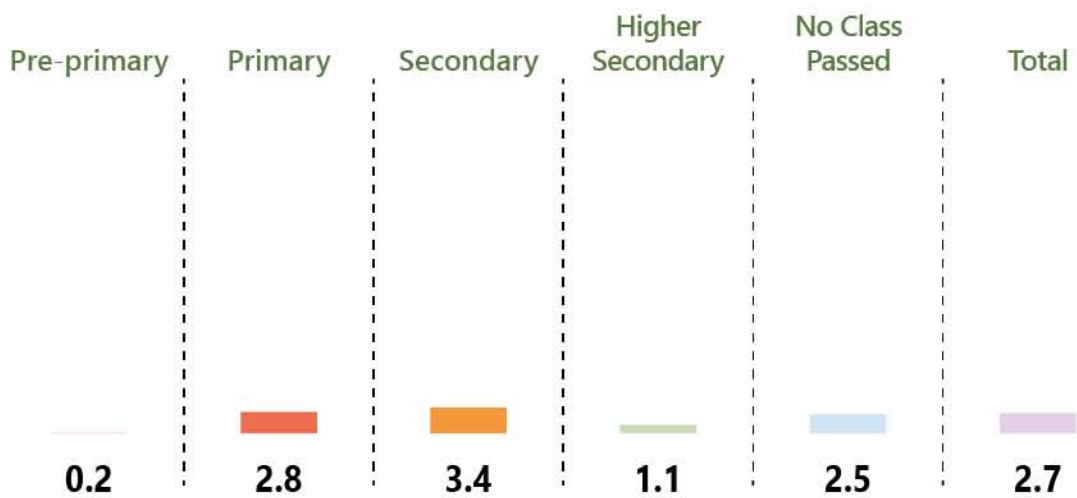
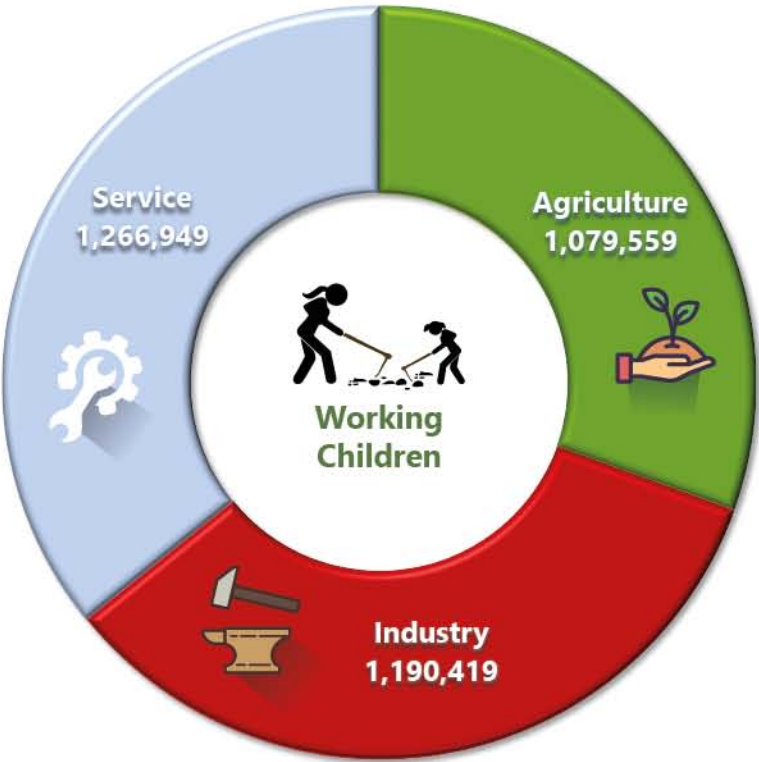


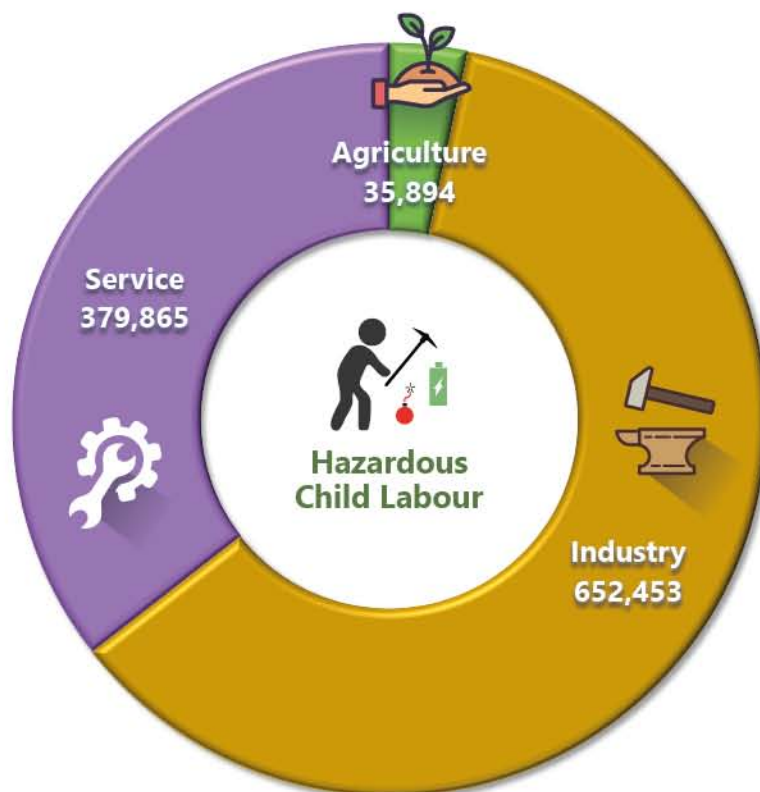
Figure A.3: Distribution of Working Children by Broad Economic Sectors



**Figure A.4: Distribution of Children in Child Labour by Broad Economic Sectors**

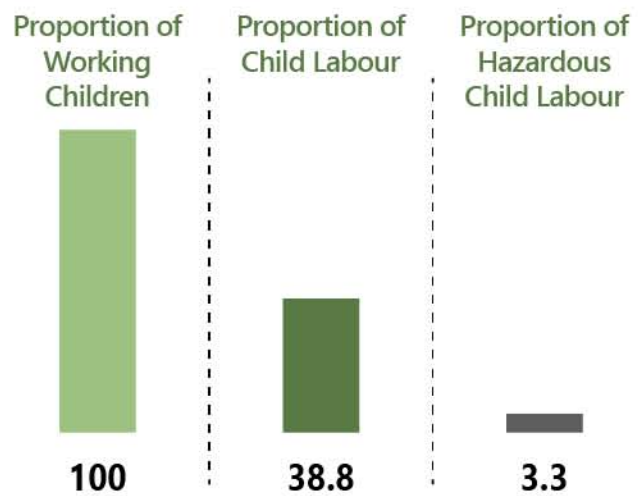


**Figure A.5: Distribution of Children in Hazardous Child Labour by Broad Economic Sectors**

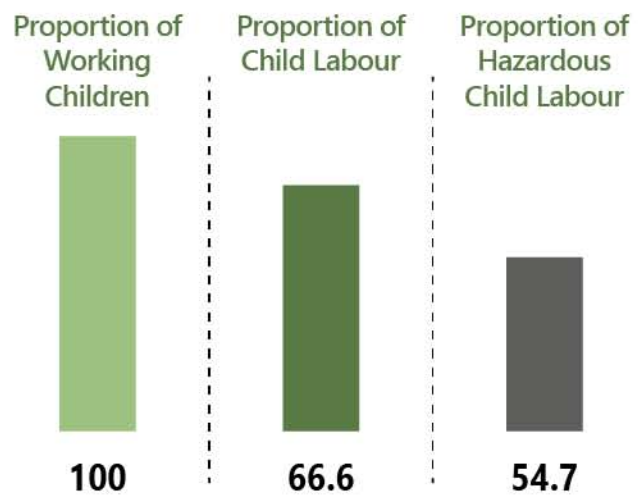


**Figure A.6: Child Labour Prevalence by Broad Economic Sectors (%)**

## Agriculture



## Industry



## Service

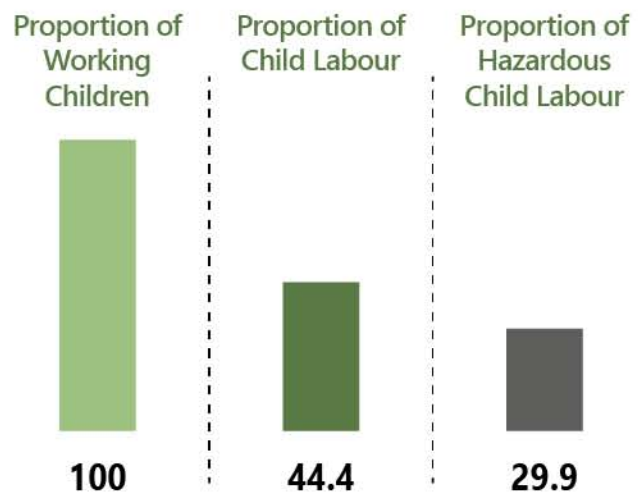
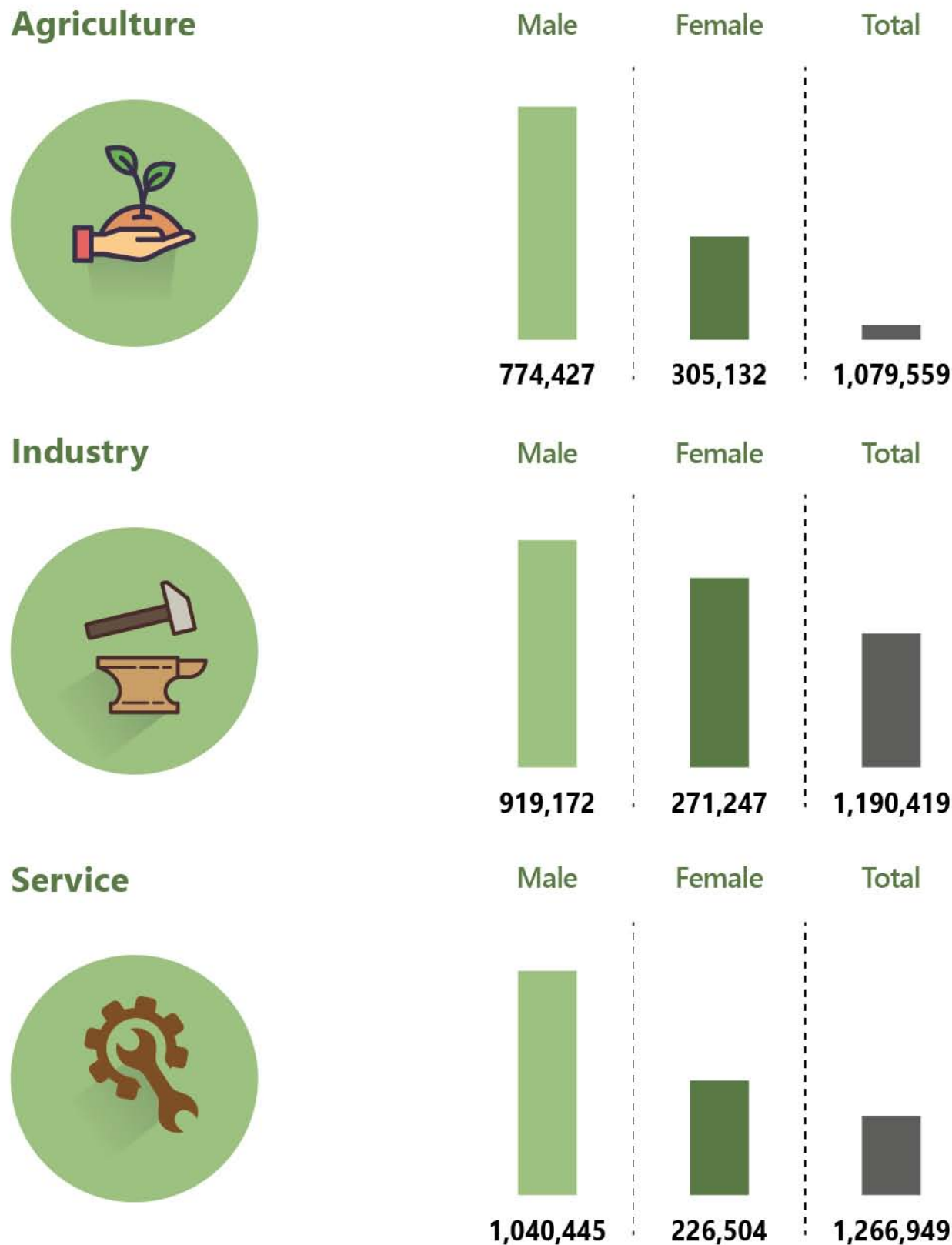
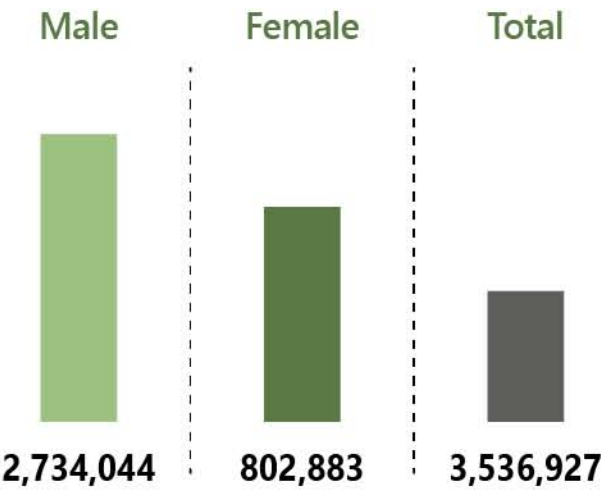


Figure A.7: Distribution of Working Children by Sex and Broad Economic Sectors



**Total**







# 2022



For more information:

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