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CHILD DOMESTIC LABOUR & TRAFFICKING IN PERSPECTIVE

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Definitions

- **Domestic work (DW):**

work performed in or for a household or households

- **Domestic worker:**

any person engaged in domestic work within an employment relationship;

(a person who performs domestic work only occasionally or sporadically and not on an occupational basis is not a domestic worker)

- **Child domestic labour (CDL):**

domestic work undertaken by children under the legal minimum working age, or by children above the legal minimum age but under the age of 18, under slavery-like, hazardous or other exploitative conditions

(a form of “child labour to be eliminated” as defined by international instruments)



Background (traditional views)

- **Domestic work is considered as a perpetuation of traditional female roles and responsibilities within and outside the household**
- **Domestic work is perceived as part of a woman's apprenticeship for adulthood and marriage**
- **Thus, in many countries, children in domestic work is a phenomenon:**
 - **socially and culturally accepted**
 - **regarded positively as a protected type of work**
 - **considered as preferable to other forms of work, specially for the girl-child**



Background

These views contribute:

- to the low recognition of DW as a form of economic activity => to the social, economic and statistical invisibility of DW
 - to the non recognition of CDL as a form of child labour
 - to the ignorance of / the disregard for the risks children might be exposed to
 - to the widespread institutional reluctance to address the issues with specific policies and laws
- => CDL has only recently come to the forefront of the international debate as potentially one of the most widespread worst forms of child labour (WFCL)**



Root causes

CDL is a multi-causal and multi-faceted phenomenon

● Some push-factors:

- poverty and its feminisation
- certain cultural and social practices that render those with low social status (racial & ethnic minorities, lower casts, rural-urban divide...) and/or women and girls more apt for DW
- lack of economic or employment alternatives
- lack of education / poor quality education
- the perception of girl's education as secondary / as a "bad investment"
- domestic violence
- displacement and rural-urban migration,
- certain survival strategies (HIV-AIDS, orphans...)

● Some pull-factors:

- increasing social and economic disparities
- following the growing participation of women in the labour force child DW becomes increasingly as an alternative and as an affordable one
- the perception of DW as an opportunity for education / as a preparation for marriage
- the perception of DW as a good option for the girl-child, and of the work as a "light work"
- the perception of the employer as a benefactor / "extended family" and of the private household as a safe and protected environment for the child (specially for girls)
- perception of urban areas as places offering more opportunities than the rural ones



Risks and hazards

- **Long working and tiring working days** (24/7, on call work, night work)
- **Physical and chemical dangers** (fire, smoke, cleaning and agricultural chemical products, petroleum, gas, flammable liquids,...)
- **Biological dangers** (risk of infection from bacterial, viral, and parasitic illnesses from secretions, blood, excreta, and vomit from persons –younger children, sick persons, elderly- or animals)
- **Carrying of heavy loads** (wood, water, laundry,...)
- **Handling of dangerous tools and items** (electric tools, cutting tools -knives, scissors, axes-, hot pans and pots, irons,...)
- **Insufficient or inadequate food and accommodation**
- **Physical, psychological and emotional violence**
- **Sexual abuse**
- **Isolation, confinement and deprivation of social life**
- **Deprivation of education**
- **Discrimination, social stigma**

Due to these risks and hazards, CDL may be considered to be one of the WFCL!!!



How many child domestic workers?

- Lack of statistics given the hidden nature of the work, varying definitions and under-reporting because of the high incidence of informal and undeclared working relationships
- However, conservative estimates put the total number of domestic workers (adult + children) today at above 100 million
- Overwhelmingly female and with a significant percentage below the age of 18
- More girls under 16 are in domestic work than in any other category of child labour
- **Currently IPEC is carrying out statistical work to produce a global estimate on child domestic labour (June 2010)**



Child labour estimates (2010)

Table 1.2. Global estimates of children in employment, child labour and hazardous work, 2008

	Total children (‘000)	Children in employment		Child labourers		Children in hazardous work	
		(‘000)	%	(‘000)	%	(‘000)	%
World	1 586 288	305 669	19.3	215 269	13.6	115 314	7.3
Boys	819 891	175 177	21.4	127 761	15.6	74 019	9.0
Girls	766 397	129 892	16.9	87 508	11.4	41 296	5.4
5–11 years	852 488	91 024	10.7	91 024	10.7	25 949	3.0
12–14 years	364 366	85 428	23.4	61 826	17.0	26 946	7.4
(5–14 years)	1 216 854	176 452	14.5	152 850	12.6	52 895	4.3
15–17 years	369 433	129 217	35.0	62 419	16.9	62 419	16.9

Figure 1.4. Child labour, distribution by economic activity (5–17 age group)

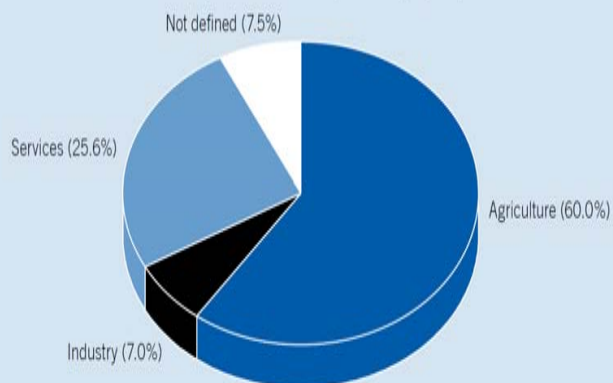
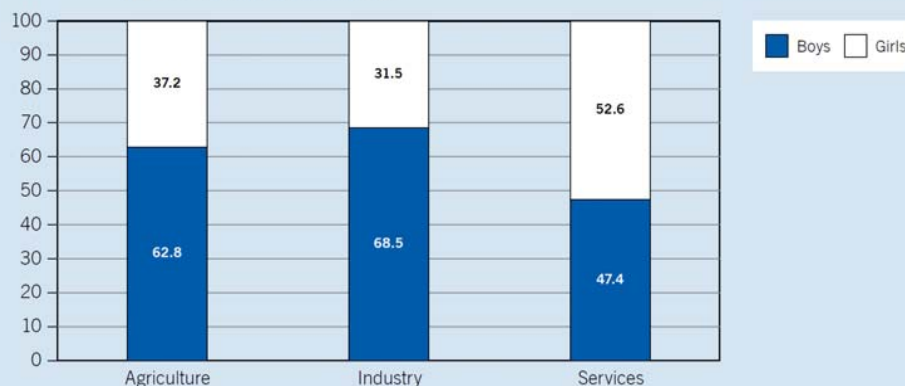


Figure 1.5. Child labour, distribution by branch of economic activity and by sex (5–17 age group, percentage)



Child domestic labour and trafficking

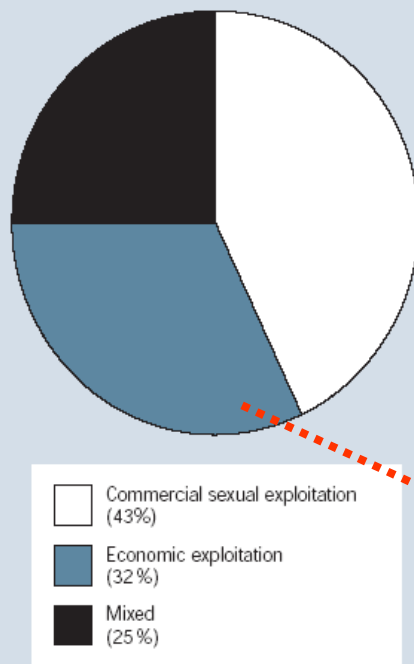
Table 1.2. Regional distribution of trafficked forced labourers

	Number of people in forced labour as a result of trafficking
Asia and Pacific	1 360 000
Industrialized countries	270 000
Latin America and Caribbean	250 000
Middle East and North Africa	230 000
Transition countries	200 000
Sub-Saharan Africa	130 000
World	2 450 000

Note: Figures do not add up to total shown because of rounding.
Source: SAP-FL.

**AROUND
50% IS
BELOW
18 YEARS!**

Figure 1.4. Trafficked forced labour by form



Source: SAP-FL.

Figure 1.6. Forced commercial sexual exploitation by sex

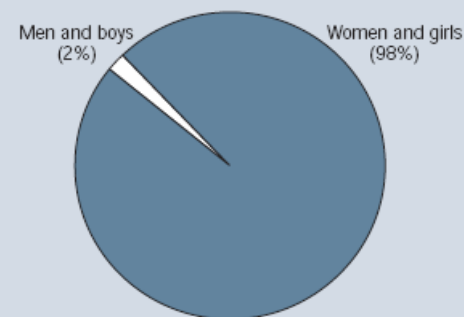
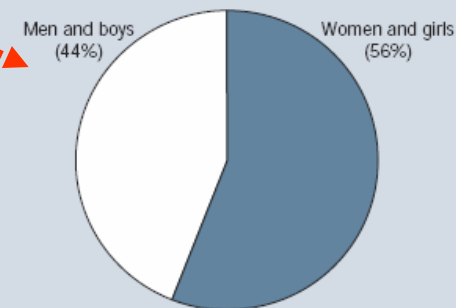


Figure 1.5. Forced economic exploitation by sex



Source: SAP-FL.

Data from the ILO 2005 Global Report on Forced Labour



ILO response

Normative action:

- C138 and Recommendation R146 on Minimum Age for Employment, 1973
- C182 and Recommendation R190 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999
- => ILO supervisory mechanism
- => Current Standard setting action on Decent Work for Domestic Workers (2010-11)

Technical cooperation:

- Expanding the knowledge base
- Awareness raising on CDL
- Capacity building of governmental officers, social partners (Workers and Employer's organizations) and civil society organizations
- Direct action pilot interventions
- Development of holistic care intervention models
- Knowledge and experience sharing
- Compilation of best practices and lessons learnt



CDL & TRAFFICKING & MIGRATION

- **CDL AS AN END RESULT HAS TO BE CONSIDERED WITHING THE TRAFFICKING FRAMEWORK...**
- **BUT CDL ALSO NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED IN A BROADER MIGRATION FRAMEWORK**
- **THE GREATER THE LEVEL OF VULNERABILITY (because of low age, gender, isolation, work related violence,...) THE HIGHER THE CHANCES THAT THE RELATIONSHIP MIGHT BE TANTAMOUNT TO FORCED LABOUR , i.e. AN SLAVERY-LIKE SITUATION**

