



National Bureau of Statistics



International Labour Organization

▶ Child Labour in Nigeria - At a glance

Results from the Nigeria child labour and forced labour survey 2022

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Child labour refers to work for which children are either too young or that may be physically or psychologically injurious to their health and well-being.

ILO Child Labour Conventions



ILO Convention

- ▶ Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
- ▶ Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)



Ratification status

- In force
- In force



Ratification date

- 2 October 2002
- 2 October 2002

Child labour situation

Economic activity

50.5%

of children are in economic activity

Boys (50.7%)

Girls (50.2%)

Urban (41.8%)

Rural (55.7%)

▶ 31,756,302

children are involved in economic activity

Child labour

39.2%

of children are in child labour

Boys (39.6%)

Girls (38.8%)

Urban (30.0%)

Rural (44.8%)

▶ 24,673,485

children are in child labour

Hazardous work

22.9%

of children are in hazardous work

Boys (23.1%)

Girls (22.7%)

Urban (16.3%)

Rural (26.8%)

▶ 14,390,353

children are in hazardous labour

► Children activity status

Percentage of children aged 5-14 years old by activity category, sex and residence

In the 5-14 age group, 77.6 per cent of children attend school, 46.5 per cent are working and 11.2 per cent are exclusively working. Children in urban areas are substantially less likely to be working only and more likely to attend school only than their rural counterparts. There are few differences between boys and girls.

Individual background variables		Mutually exclusive activity categories				(a)&(c) Total working	(b)&(c) Total in school	(a)&(d) Total out of school
		(a) Only working	(b) Only schooling	(c) Working and schooling	(d) Neither activity			
Sex	Boys	11.7	42.3	34.9	11.1	46.6	77.2	22.9
	Girls	10.6	42.4	35.7	11.4	46.3	78.1	21.9
Residence	Urban	3.8	57.6	33.2	5.5	37.0	90.7	9.3
	Rural	15.5	33.2	36.6	14.7	52.1	69.8	30.2
Total		11.2	42.3	35.3	11.2	46.5	77.6	22.4

Percentage of children aged 15-17 years old by activity category, sex and residence

In the 15-17 age group, more than two thirds of children are working and 21.9 per cent are exclusively working. Children living in rural areas are 12 percentage points more likely to be working and 17 percentage points less likely to attend school than children living in urban areas.

Individual background variables		Mutually exclusive activity categories				(a)&(c) Total working	(b)&(c) Total in school	(a)&(d) Total out of school
		(a) Only working	(b) Only schooling	(c) Working and schooling	(d) Neither activity			
Sex	Boys	20.7	25.1	47.1	7.2	67.8	72.1	27.9
	Girls	23.3	24.4	43.4	9.0	66.7	67.8	32.2
Residence	Urban	14.5	34.7	45.4	5.5	59.9	80.1	20.0
	Rural	26.8	18.2	45.3	9.8	72.0	63.4	36.6
Total		21.9	24.7	45.3	8.1	67.2	70.0	30.0

► Child labour prevalence



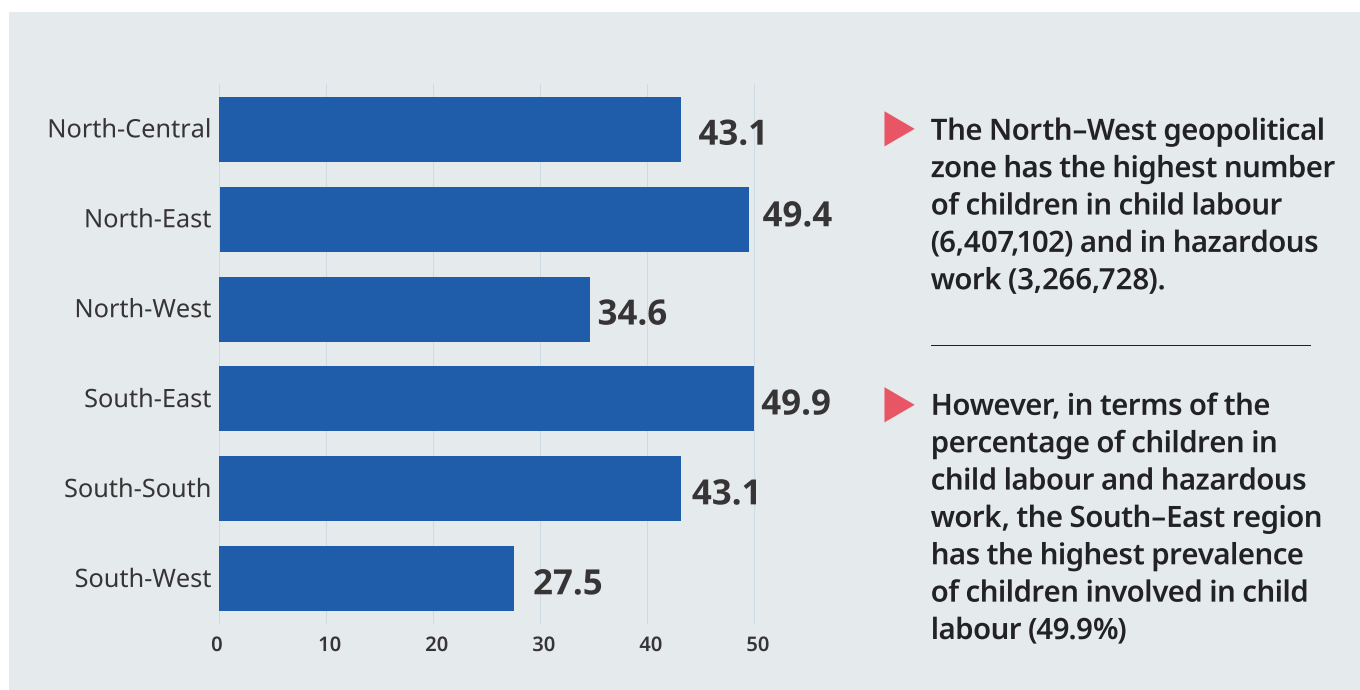
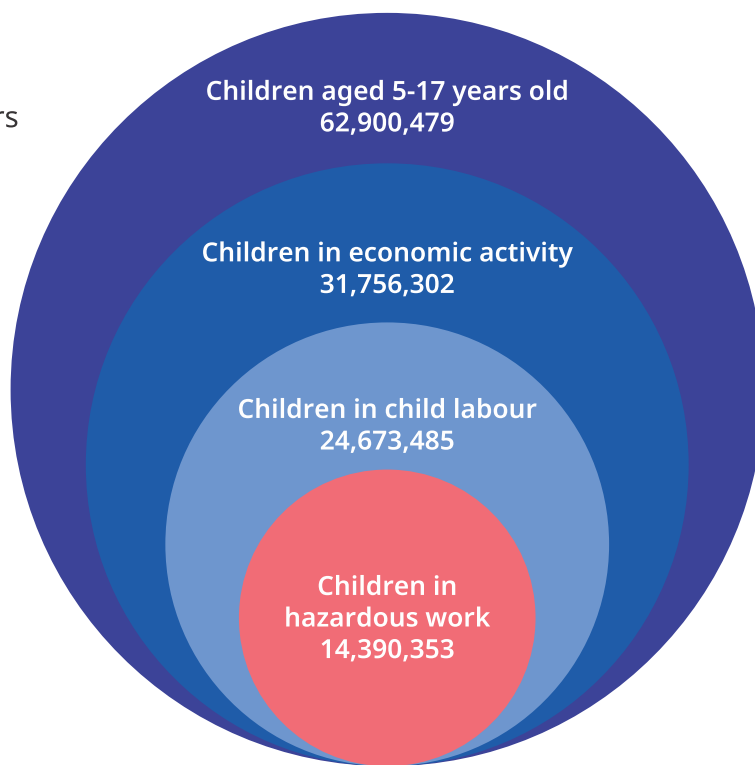
50.5 per cent (31,756,302) of all children aged 5-17 years old in Nigeria, are engaged in an economic activity¹



39.2 per cent of children (24,673,485) are in child labour



22.9 per cent of children (14,390,353) are involved in hazardous work



¹ Work within the SNA production boundary: With reference to Resolution IV of the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), 2018, forms of work within the SNA production boundary include “own-use production of goods, employment, unpaid trainee work, volunteer work in market and non-market units (i.e. government and non-profit institutions serving households) and volunteer work in households producing goods”.

► Key household and community factors and their relevance to child labour

► Education level of household head



Children from households with more educated household heads are less likely to be in child labour: **43.2 per cent** of children from households where the head has reached primary or lower education are in child labour whereas only **28.4 per cent** of children from households where the head has a tertiary education are in child labour.

► Sex of the household head



Children from female headed households are more likely to be in child labour than children living in male headed households: **42.5 per cent** of children from female headed households are in child labour compared to **38.7 per cent** of children from male headed households.

► Household income poverty

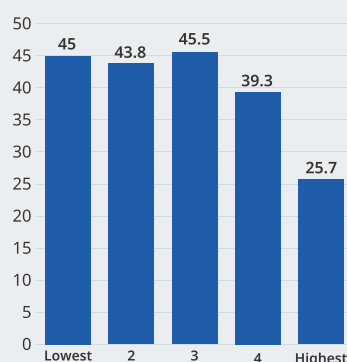


Children from the wealthiest quintile of households are less likely to be in child labour than children from households in the bottom four quintiles.

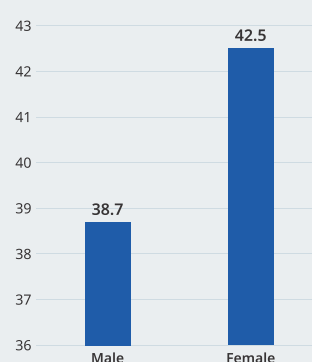
Child labour and household characteristics

(% of children aged 5-17 years old in child labour, by household wealth quintile, and sex and education of household head)

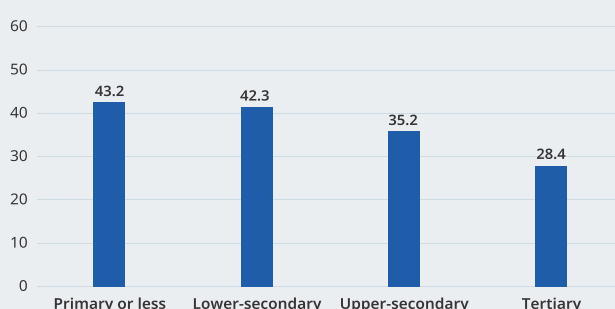
Household wealth quintile



Sex of household head



Education level of household head



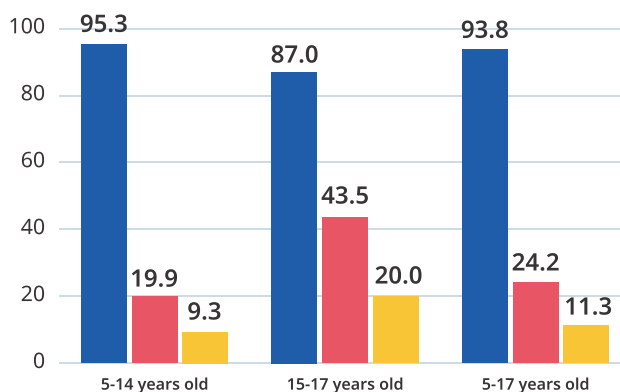
► Child labour and forms of work²

Percentage distribution of children aged 5-17 years old in child labour, by forms of work, age group, sex and residence

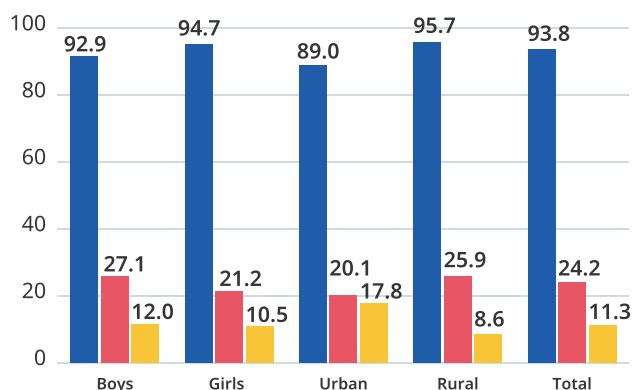
In the 5-17 age group, nearly 94 per cent of children in child labour are involved in own-use production of goods (including collecting firewood and fetching water), 24 per cent are in employment and 11 per cent perform unpaid trainee work. Children aged 5-14 years old in child labour are less likely to be in employment and more likely to be engaged in own-use production of goods than children aged 15-17 years old in child labour. Almost 96 per cent of children in child labour who live in rural areas are engaged in own-use production of goods and nearly 26 per cent are in employment compared to 89 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively, of children in child labour who live in urban areas.



By age group



By sex and residence



■ Unpaid trainee ■ Employment ■ Own-use production

² ILO, Amending the 18th ICLS Resolution. **Persons in own-use production of goods** are all persons of working age who, during a short reference period, performed any activity to produce goods for their own final use for a cumulative total of at least one hour. **For own final use** is interpreted as production where the intended destination of the output is mainly for own final use (in the form of capital formation, or final consumption by household members, or by family members living in other households).

Persons in employment are defined as all those above a specified age who, during a short reference period, were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit.

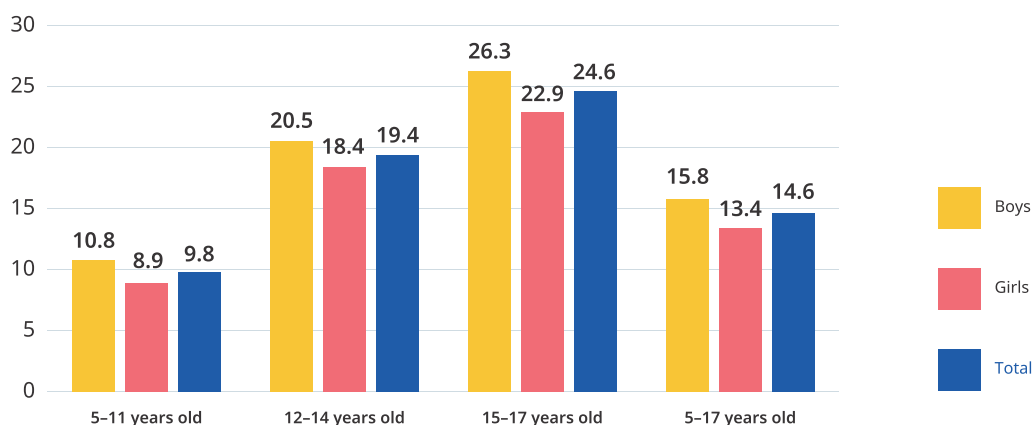
Persons in unpaid trainee work are defined as all those of working age who, during a short reference period, performed any unpaid activity to produce goods or provide services for others, in order to acquire workplace experience or skills in a trade or profession.

► Time intensity of child labour

Average weekly working hours of children aged 5-17 years old in child labour, by age group and sex

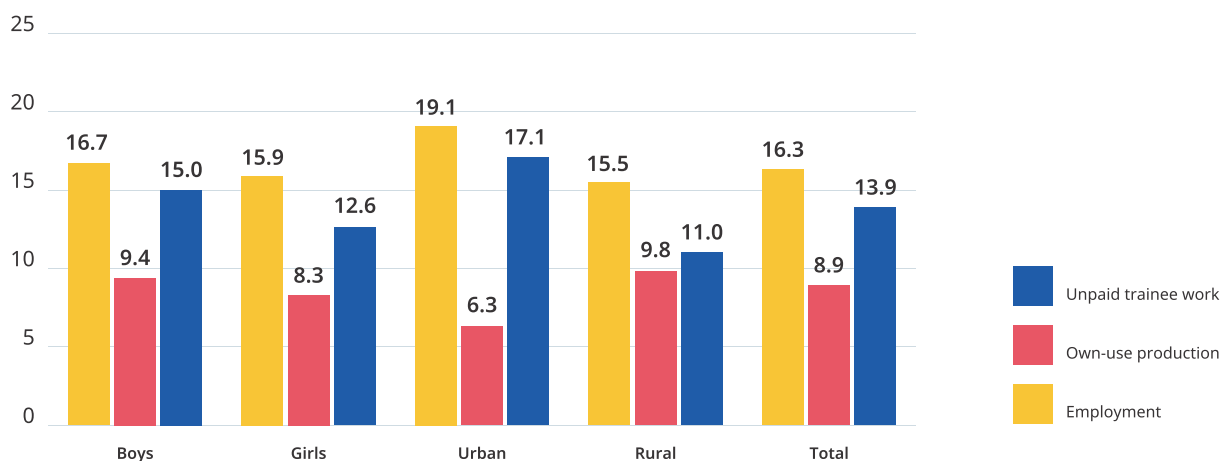
In the 5-17 age group, children in child labour spend an average of 14.6 hours per week working. Older children in child labour spend on average more time per week at work than younger children. Children aged 15-17 years old in child labour spend an average of 24.6 hours per week working compared to 19.4 hours for children aged 12-14 years old and 9.8 hours for children aged 5-11 years old.

Children in child labour who live in rural areas spend 2.3 more hours working on average than children in child labour who live in urban areas. Boys in child labour spend more time working per week on average than girls in child labour. However, it should be noted that these estimates do not include time spent performing household chores.



Average weekly working hours of children aged 5-17 years old in each form of work, by sex and residence

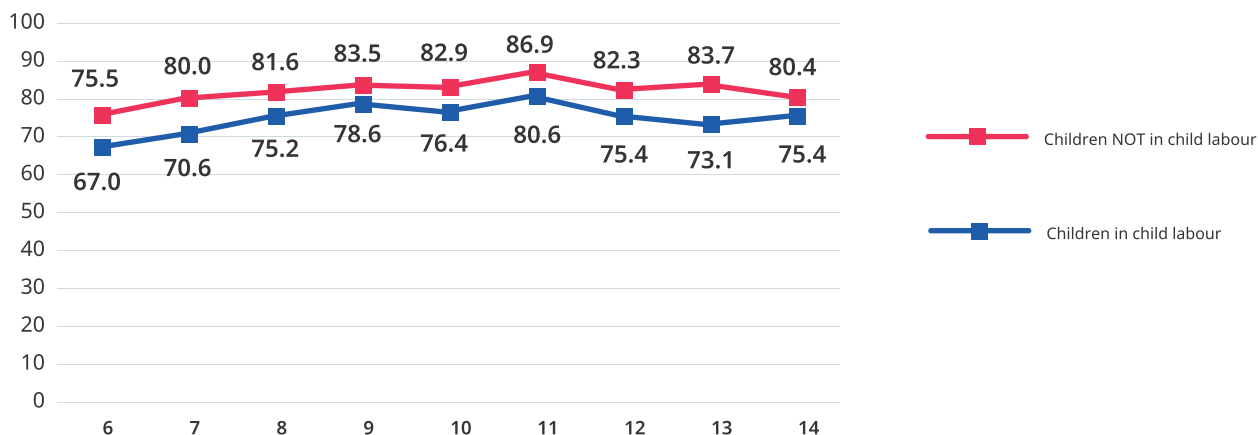
Employment is the most time intensive form of work on average for children in child labour with children spending on average 16 hours per week. Time intensity in employment and in unpaid trainee work is substantially higher in urban areas than the national average.



► Child labour and school attendance

Percentage of children aged 6-14 years old attending school, by child labour status and age

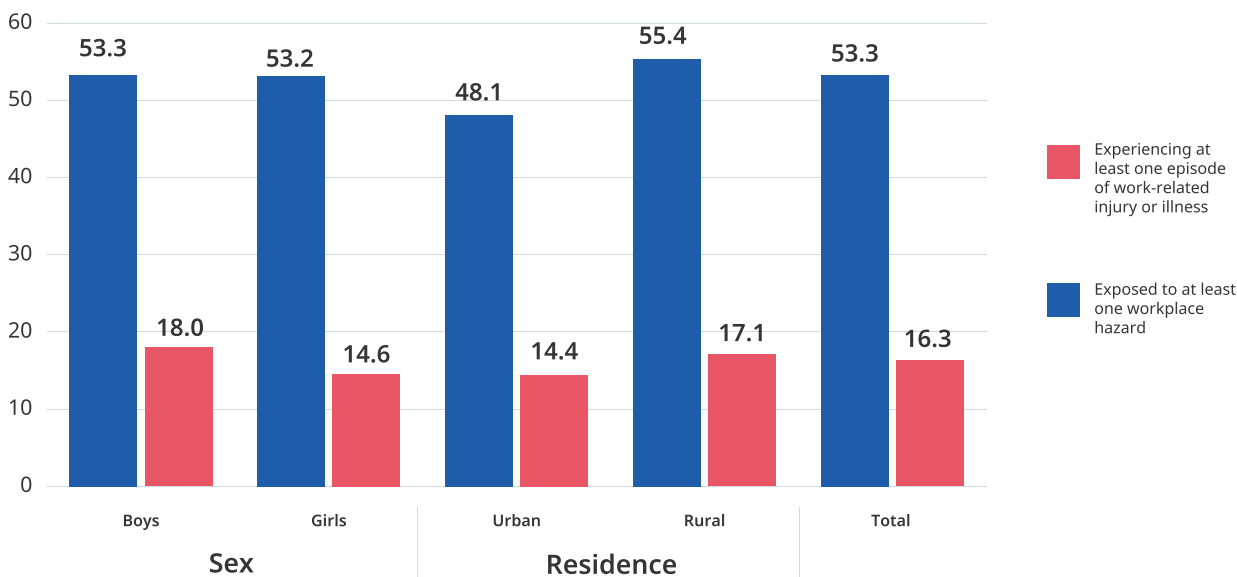
Children in child labour are less likely to attend school than those not in child labour.



► Child labour and health

Percentage of children aged 5-17 years old exposed to at least one workplace hazard and experiencing at least one episode of work-related injury or illness, by sex and residence

In the 5-17 age group, 53.3 per cent of children in child labour have been exposed to at least one workplace hazard. Children in child labour who live in rural areas are more likely to be exposed to workplace hazards than those who live in urban areas. 16.3 per cent of children in child labour have experienced a work-related injury. Boys in child labour are more likely to have experienced a work-related injury than girls in child labour.



► Children involvement in household chores

Percentage of children aged 5-17 years old involved in household chores, by age group, sex, residence and child labour status

Girls are more likely to be engaged in household chores than boys: 62.2 per cent of girls performing household chores compared to 50.8 per cent of boys. Children are often engaged in household chores in addition to work in economic activities: 73.1 per cent of children are both in child labour and household chores.

Individual background variables		Age group			
		5-11 years old	12-14 years old	15-17 years old	Total 5-17 years old
Sex	Boys	41.1	61.9	66.3	50.8
	Girls	51.1	76.9	79.3	62.2
Residence	Urban	47.2	71.5	75.7	58.5
	Rural	45.6	67.9	70.5	55.1
Child labour status	In child labour	66.5	81.7	85.2	73.1
	NOT in child labour	32.2	62.0	65.1	45.6
Total		46.2	69.3	72.6	56.4

Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch
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