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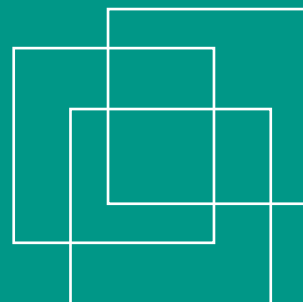


International  
Labour  
Organization

# **VIET NAM NATIONAL CHILD LABOUR SURVEY 2012**

## **Main findings**

Hanoi, March 2014



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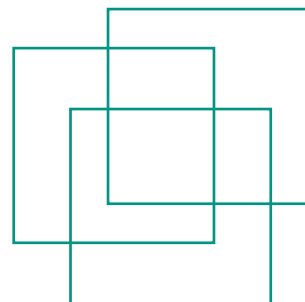
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## **Main findings**

Hanoi, March 2014



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# Abbreviations

CL	Child Labour
CRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
EA	Economic Activities
GSO	General Statistics Office
ILO	International Labour Organization
ILSSA	Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
PC	People's Committee
VND	Vietnamese dong

# Contents

<b>Abbreviations</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>List of tables and figures</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>Preface</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Main findings</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Chapter 1. Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
Section 1. National legislation and policies on child care and protection, and Child labour	4
Section 2. National child labour survey 2012	6
<b>Chapter 2. General characteristics of children aged 5-17</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1. Population of children aged 5-17	10
2.2. Children's participation in education	11
2.3. Children engaged in household chores	14
2.4. Children engaged in economic activities	15
<b>Chapter 3.</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Children engaged in economic activities</b>	<b>16</b>
3.1. Size and distribution of children engaged in economic activities	16
3.2. School attendance of children engaged in economic activities	17
3.3. Sectoral composition of children engaged in economic activities	18
3.4. Types of work performed by children engaged in economic activities	19
3.5. Working conditions of children engaged economic activities	20
3.6. Work status and positions of children engaged economic activities	20
3.7. Ages that children start work	21
3.8. Work venues of children engaged in economic activities	21
3.9. Weekly working hours of children engaged in economic activities	22
3.10. Income of households with working children	23
3.11. Child labour	24
<b>Chapter 4. Child labour</b>	<b>25</b>
4.1. Size and distribution of child labour	25
4.2. School attendance of child labourers	26
4.3. Sectoral composition of child labour	26
4.4. Type of work performed by child labourers	27
4.5. Ages that children start work of the child labour group	28
4.6. Weekly working hours of child labourers	29
4.7. Working venues of child labourers	30
4.8. Income of households with child labourers	31
4.9. Health and work safety issues	31
4.10. Children in hazardous-at-risk work	34
4.11. Children working excessive hours	35
<b>Conclusions and recommendations</b>	<b>39</b>
Conclusions	39
Recommendations	39
References	40
Appendix	41

# List of tables and figures

## TABLES

Table 1. Minimum ages of employment under ILO Convention No.138	1
Table 2.1. Child population by age group and gender	10
Table 2.2a. Children attending school by age groups	11
Table 2.2b. Children not attending school by causes and age groups	12
Table 2.3. Children doing household chores by working hours and age groups	15
Table 2.4. Children engaged in EA (percent)	15
Table 3.1. Size and distribution of children engaged in EA by gender and age groups	16
Table 3.2a. Children engaged in EA by gender and school attendance status	17
Table 3.2b. Causes of children's engagement in EA	18
Table 3.3. Children engaged in EA by economic sectors	18
Table 3.4. Children engaged in EA by type of work (percent)	19
Table 3.5. Work conditions of children engaged in EA	20
Table 3.6. Children engaged in EA by work status	21
Table 3.7. Ages that children start work	22
Table 3.8. Children engaged in EA by work venues	23
Table 3.9. Children engaged in EA by number of working hours/week (percent)	30
Table 3.10. Households with working children (By income and age group)	23
Table 3.11. CL overview	24
Table 4.1a. Size and distribution of CL	25
Table 4.1b. CL by age group and by gender (percent)	25
Table 4.2. CL by school attendance status and gender	26
Table 4.3. Child labour by economic sector and age group	26
Table 4.4. Child labour by type of work and age group	27
Table 4.5. Ages that children start work	28
Table 4.6. CL by working hour and age group	29
Table 4.7. Child labour by working venue and age group	30
Table 4.8. Average monthly income of households with child labourers	31
Table 4.9a. Health and work safety issues in child labour	32
Table 4.9.b. Adverse health impacts of working on CL	33
Table 4.10.1. Children in hazardous-at-risk work by age group and gender	34
Table 4.10.2. Children in hazardous-at-risk work by school attendance status	34
Table 4.11.1. Children working more than 42 hours/week by region and gender	35

Table 4.11.2. Children working more than 42 hours/week by school attendance status	35
Table 4.11.3 Child labourers working more than 42 hours/week by economic sector	36
Table 4.11.4a. Type of work of children working excessive hours	37
Table 4.11.4b. Working venues of children working more than 42 hours/week	38

## GRAPHS

Graph 1. Distribution of child population aged 5-17 years in Viet Nam by status of participation in EA	3
Graph 2. Distribution of children engaged in EA, by school enrolment status	13

## FIGURES

Figure 1. Time utilisation of children who do not attend school	14
Figure 2. Children's household chores by type of work (percent)	14



# Preface

Viet Nam was the first country in Asia and the second nation in the world to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC). Child protection, care and education have always been a key priority for the Party, the State, families and society in Viet Nam. These priorities have been institutionalized in Viet Nam's Constitution, national legislation and national programmes on child protection, care and education. In short, Vietnamese society and its leaders stand as one in believing that the children of today are the world of tomorrow.

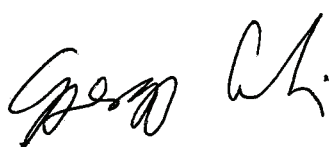
More than two decades of economic reforms starting from 1986, as part of the Doi Moi (economic renovation process) aiming to transform its centrally-planned economy to a socialist-oriented market one, have yielded tremendous socio-economic development. Such rapid development has also translated into some remarkable achievements in child protection, care and education. The nation's legal system and policies have been fine-tuned, State management has been enhanced, greater resources have been allocated to children, children's healthcare and nutrition have been considerably improved, school enrolment and completion rates have climbed and the commitment to building a secure and healthy environment for children is being honoured. In other words, the rights of children in Viet Nam have become increasingly respected.

However, children's development in Viet Nam has been adversely affected by disparities in economic development and a widening gap in living conditions between different regions and communities. In addition, the changing roles and values in traditional families and in certain social perceptions and norms have also impacted on children. Meanwhile, the number of children in special circumstances, including early working children, has risen.

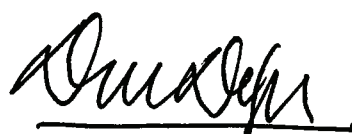
It should be noted, however, that the concept of child labour (CL) does not encompass all working children. Given that Viet Nam's economy is characterized by the major role played by households and underdeveloped labour forces, children of suitable age groups can perform certain work as long as it does not have a negative impact on their health, education and general development. Yet, many children have been engaged in excessive work or in hazardous-at-risk jobs that deprive them of education and adversely affect their health and physical development. To address these challenges, State policies are needed to prevent, intervene and support children to build an enabling environment for their comprehensive development.

To establish a national CL database and contribute to the global target of eliminating the worst forms of CL by 2016, Viet Nam's General Statistics Office (GSO), with technical support from the International Labour Organization (ILO) through its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), conducted a nationwide survey on child labour.

"The Viet Nam National Child Labour Survey 2012" prepared by Viet Nam's Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs (ILSSA) - an affiliate of the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), is developed from the data set provided by the General Statistics Office (GSO) with special technical assistance from ILO expert, Mr. Bijoy Raychaudhuri, a Senior Statistician and a SIMPOC (*Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour*) Coordinator based in ILO-IPEC Geneva. MOLISA is grateful for the inputs provided by different ministries, organizations and individuals to finalize this report.



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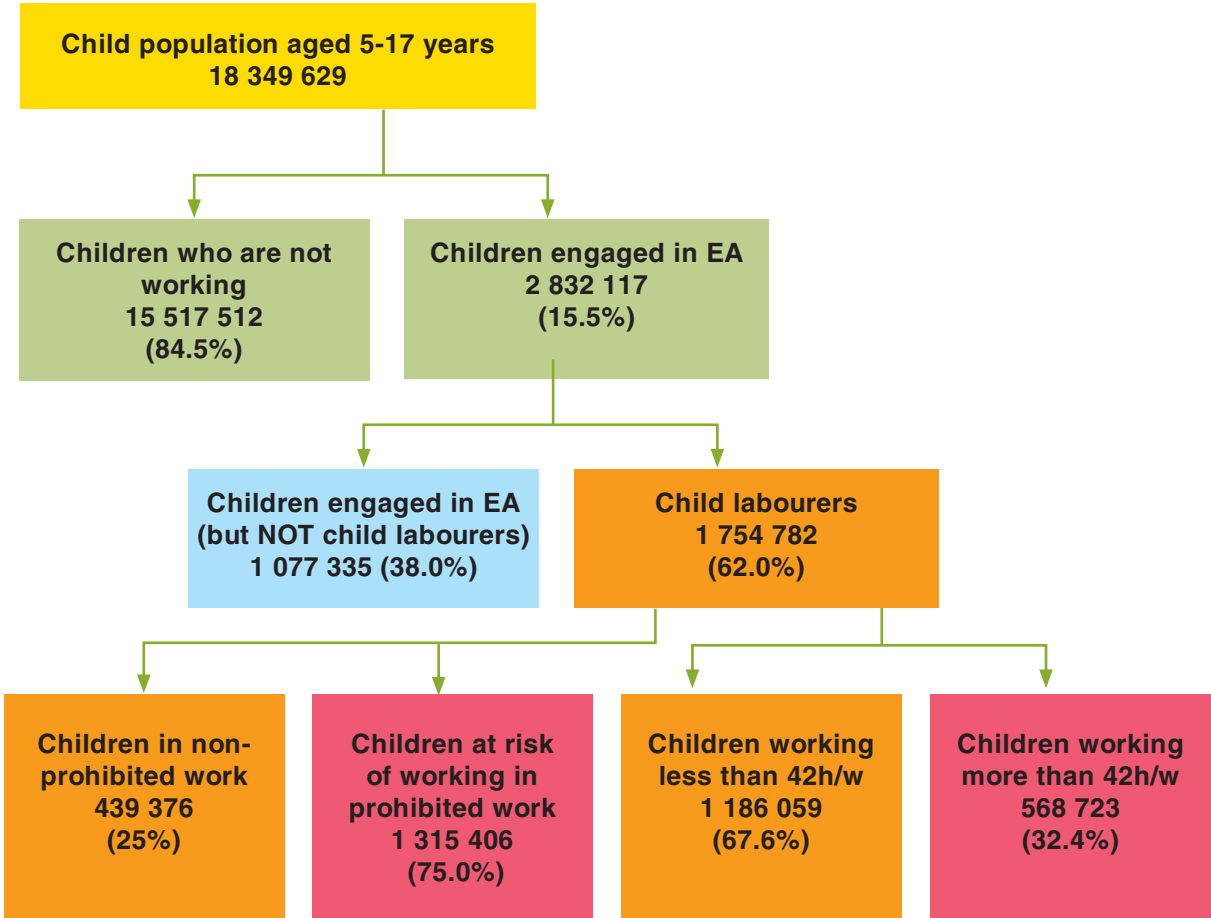
# Main findings

1. As of 2012, there were more than 18.3 million children in the 5-17 age group (child population) in Viet Nam, with boys making up 52.3per cent and girls 47.7per cent. The child population accounts for 20.7per cent of the national population.
2. Regarding age groups, 52.8per cent of children are aged 5-11, 22.5per cent are aged 12-14 and 24.7per cent are aged 15-17 years.
3. Viet Nam has made considerable achievements in universal education thanks to the Law on Education and various support programmes for children living in special circumstances. As a result, the majority of Vietnamese children have access to schooling. Statistically, 93.4per cent of five-year-old children go to kindergartens, while 90.3per cent of children aged 6-17 go to school or receive formal vocational training. However, nearly 10per cent of those in the 6-17 age group do not attend school, 4.7per cent of whom will never attend school.
4. More than half of children do 5-20 hours of household chores per week. Generally, children in rural areas tend to engage in household chores more than those in cities, girls work more than boys and the number of working hours increases with age.
5. Out of Viet Nam's child population of 18.3 million, one-sixth (2.83 million) are currently engaged in some forms of economic activities (EA), 42.6per cent of whom are girls. Nearly 86per cent of these working children live in rural areas and two-thirds belong to the 15-17 age group. The slow rate of economic development in some parts of Viet Nam means children as young as 12-years-old can be involved in EA. However, their engagement in EA affects their schooling. Specifically, about 41.6per cent of working children do not attend school (more than 2per cent of whom never attend school). A number of children work relatively long hours, as 27.4per cent of such children on average work more than 40 hours per week. In detail, more than 70per cent work in the agricultural sector and 74per cent do unpaid household work. Of the 120 types of EA children are engaged in, 15 EA attract more than 82per cent of working children - crop cultivation and animal husbandry. Regarding work venues, the majority of work is done at home and on paddy fields, while less work is observed in construction sites, hotels and restaurants, production establishments, offices, the street or stone quarries. Payment for working children is relatively high with 38per cent on average earning more than VND4.5 million per month. Regarding reasons for working, about one-third of working children have to work and a smaller number choose to work and learn a trade, especially if working children are motivated by high payment.
6. Some 1.75 million working children are categorized as "child labourers", accounting for 9.6per cent of the national child population or 62per cent of children engaged in EA. Bringing child labourers further into the spotlight, 40.2per cent are girls, nearly 85per cent of these children live in the rural areas and 60per cent belong to the 15-17 age group. Some children start work as young as 12-years-old and nearly 55per cent do not attend school (5per cent of whom will never attend school). Regarding the composition of sectors, about 67per cent work in agriculture while 15.7per cent in construction/manufacturing and 16.7per cent in services. Regarding the secondary economic sector, these children work in 111 EA in all three economic sectors, but the majority (81per cent) are engaged in 17 EA that are in open-air workplaces that demand great mobility and expose children to activities with high accident risks, extreme temperatures and toxic environments which can inflict injuries and damage children's physical development. Regarding payment, 38.2per cent of the households with child labourers earn an average monthly salary of VND4.5 million (62.1per cent of these children belong to the 15-17 age group).
7. Of the children found working in 97 specific activities, more than 80per cent are engaged in just 17 activities, with 11 in the agricultural sector, three in construction/manufacturing and three in services. Common workplaces are plantation fields/farms/gardens, at home or mobile venues. Importantly, children's health and physical development is likely to be adversely affected by these forms of employment.
8. Out of 1.75 million child labourers, nearly 569,000 (32.4per cent) work an average of more than

42 hours per week. These long work hours severely limit schooling, with 96.2per cent of these children not attending school.

9. Of the 1.75 million child labourers, about 1.315 million (i.e. 75per cent, 46.5per cent and 7.2per cent of child labourers, working children and the 5-17 age group, respectively) are identified as children who are AT RISK of engagement in activities prohibited for adolescent workers or in hazardous working environments as outlined in Circular No.09/TT-LB, dated 13 April 1995.

**Graph 1. Distribution of child population aged 5-17 years in Viet Nam by status of participation in EA**



# Chapter 1. Introduction

## Section 1. National legislation and policies on child care and protection, and Child labour

### 1.1 Guidelines from the Communist Party of Viet Nam on Child Care and Protection

“Child care, education and protection have always been of a strategic priority, greatly contributing to the future human resources for the national cause of industrialization and modernization as well as integration into the world. Investment in our children, therefore, is the investment in our future. It is the Party, authorities and organizations at all levels and the society as a whole who have to adhere to this principle”<sup>1</sup>. This statement reflects the consistent policies and actions of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and the State in child care, education and protection.

The first Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in 1946 acknowledged the guarantee of children’s rights, as stipulated in Article 14 “Children are cared and protected”. This principle of child care and protection was also enshrined in the Vietnamese Constitution in 1959, 1980 and the 1992. Under the 2013 Constitution, Article 37 states that “Children shall be protected, cared for and educated by the State, family and society; children may participate in child-related issues. Harassing, persecuting, maltreating, abandoning or abusing children, exploiting child labour or other acts that violate children’s rights are prohibited”.

The Party’s guidelines on child care and protection have remained a highly significant part of the nation’s human development priorities over time. The Platforms for National Construction in the Transitional Period to Socialism in 1991 (the 7th Party’s Congress) and in 2011 (the 11th Party’s Congress), underlined that: “The people are the centre of the national development strategy; respect and protect the human rights, incorporate human rights as part of the rights and interests of the nation, the people and the right to be the owner the country; implement appropriate and just social policies, ensuring the equality in the rights and duties of the citizens; support the elderly and disabled solitary, workers with the loss of working ability and orphans; ensure gender equality and child protection, care and education.”

Guidelines enshrined in Party documents and the Constitution have played a decisive role in child care and protection achievements in past years, having laid the foundation for national legal framework and policies regulating the protection, care and education of children as well as directing authorities in the formulation and implementation of plans and programmes to further protect children.

### 1.2. Legislation, polices and programmes on child care and protection

National child care and protection legislation has been greatly enhanced in recent times, building on Viet Nam’s achievement as the first Asian country and the second nation in the world to ratify the CRC on 20 February 1990. Since then, the Vietnamese Government has proactively incorporated related international laws into its national legal documents and accelerated the implementation of policies protecting children’s rights. As of 2012, Viet Nam’s national child protection and care legislation is in step with international law and responsive to emerging social patterns, creating a comprehensive legal corridor to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation, particularly those categorized under the law as children needing special protection.

Viet Nam’s Law on Child Protection, Care and Education, passed by the National Assembly in 1991 and revised in 2004, outlines the key principles, roles and responsibilities of child protection institutions as part of a comprehensive legal framework that recognizes the development of children as being the future of the nation. This law contains a chapter on children requiring special protection, which underlines the necessity of such regulations in protecting children’s physical and mental development as well as their recovery from abuses. These clauses are representative of efforts to support the recovery and reintegration of these children back into their families and society.

1. Directive No.20/CT-TW on 5 November 2012 by the Politburo on the Strengthening of the role of the Party in the cause of child care, education and protection in the new era

The issue of child protection and care is also reflected in other examples of significant legislation. The 1995 Civil Code (revised in 2005) emphasizes the principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status and religion, underlined by recognition of the rights of the individual. The 1999 Penal Code specifies seven crimes relating to child molestation, while the Civil Procedure Code (revised in 2004) details the appeal regulations and procedures of women- and children-related cases. The Law on the Marriage and the Family (revised in 2000) encourages gender equality in marriage and equal treatment between boys and girls and between legitimate and illegitimate children. The 2007 Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control underlines that domestic violence (including that against children) is illegal, while the Military Service Law (passed in 1981 and amended in 2005) stipulates that the legal age of conscription is 18 years.

### 1.3. The Law and policies on Child labour and Programmes to prevent Child labour

#### *The Law and policies on Child labour*

Addressing CL has always been a focus for the Party, State and society. In 1947, the then President Ho Chi Minh signed Decree No.29-SL on 12 March regulating children- and CL-related issues. Specifically, Article 12 prohibits the teaching of a trade to children under the age of 12, Article 106 forbids the employment of women and children for night work and Article 131 bans the employment of girls aged under 15 years to work as a songstress or dancer.

Of note, the Vietnamese Government has ratified two fundamental ILO Conventions on CL, namely Convention 138 on the minimum age of admission to employment and work (1973) and Convention 182 on the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of CL (1999). Subsequently, Viet Nam has issued numerous legal documents engaging CL, with the Labour Code (1994) considered the most comprehensive legal document addressing the employment of children and adolescent workers.

The amended 2007 Labour Code stipulates a complete ban on the employment of children under 15 years of age (excluding the list of work approved by MOLISA) and includes articles regulating employers of adolescent workers<sup>2</sup>.

#### *National programmes to prevent Child labour*

Since the early 1990s, Viet Nam has developed a number of child care and protection programmes regulating the issue of child labour, including:

- The National Plan of Action for Children for 1991-2000;
- The National Plan of Action for Children for 2001-2010 (Decision No.23/2001/QD-TTg on 26/2/2001);
- The National Plan of Action for the Protection of Children Living in Special Circumstances for 1999-2002 (Decision No.134/1999 on 31/5/1999) focuses on the protection of street children, children working in hazardous environments or those whose lives, health and dignity are threatened;
- National Programme of Action for Preventing the Issues of Street Children, Sexually Abused Children and Children Working in Hazardous Environments for 2004-2010. Its target is to reduce the number of street children and children working in hazardous environments by 90% and reintegrate 70% of those rescued back into their families;

---

<sup>2</sup> Specifically:

- i. *The Labour Code 2007 (Article 120) requires employers of junior workers to prepare a dossier of the latter's work and health check reports. For certain activities listed by MOLISA, employers are not allowed to ask such workers to work more than seven hours per day or 42 hours per week, work overtime, and/or work at night.*
- ii. *Under Joint Circular No.09/TT-LB on 13 April 1995 by MOLISA and Ministry of Health, the employment of adolescent workers is banned in 13 harmful working conditions and 81 specific EA.*
- iii. *Circular No.21/1999/TT-BLDTBXH on 11 September 1999 stipulates a list of work that can be performed by children.*

The National Plan of Action for the Protection of Children for 2011-2015 (Decision No.267/QĐ-TTg on 22/02/2011) minimizes and supports children living in special circumstances including CL.

Chương trình phòng ngừa trẻ em đường phố, lạm dụng tình dục trẻ em và trẻ em làm việc nặng nhọc, độc hại, nguy hiểm giai đoạn 2004 - 2010 với mục tiêu giảm 90% số lượng trẻ em lang thang kiếm sống, trẻ em phải làm việc trong điều kiện việc nặng nhọc, độc hại, nguy hiểm; trong đó 70% số trẻ em này được hỗ trợ tái hòa nhập gia đình.

Chương trình quốc gia bảo vệ trẻ em giai đoạn 2011 - 2015 (Quyết định số 267/QĐ-TTg ngày 22 tháng 02 năm 2011) tập trung vào giảm thiểu và trợ giúp trẻ em có hoàn cảnh đặc biệt, trong đó có vấn đề lao động trẻ em.

## Section 2. National child labour survey 2012

### 2.1. Brief introduction to the survey

The GSO, at the request of the Bureau of Child Protection and Care with technical support from the ILO in Viet Nam, conducted a national survey on CL to build a national CL database and work towards the targeted elimination of the worst forms of CL.

The survey's goal is to collect data and paint an accurate picture of child workers and CL across the country, specifically:

- To identify the scale, distribution and characteristics of child workers and CL in Viet Nam
- To study the causes and consequences of CL.

The nationwide survey's respondents are households with children in the 5-17 age group, with questions designed to gain information about household members, household characteristics and accommodation arrangements. The respondents are heads of households or children aged 5-17 with permission to participate from their parents or guardians.

The information gained from the survey covers:

- i) General characteristics of household members aged 5-17
- ii) Education levels of household members aged 5-17
- iii) Economic activities of household members aged 5-17
- iv) Health and safety standards for working children (aged 5-17)
- v) Household chores of children aged 5-17
- vi) Household particulars.

The Viet Nam National Child Labour Survey 2012 is incorporated in the GSO's annual survey on work and employment implemented during March, April and May with a sample of 50,640 households nationwide (i.e. about 16,880 households/month)<sup>3</sup>. Data from 41,459 children in the 5-17 age group was collected and all statistical analysis conducted by the GSO.

### 2.2. Concepts of children and Child labour

#### a) Children

The CRC defines a child as “any human being under the age of eighteen, unless the age of majority is attained earlier under a state's own domestic legislation”<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> The Annual Survey on Work and Employment 2012 covers six socio-economic regions and two cities - Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City - which are the most populated and developed in Viet Nam

<sup>4</sup> Article 1, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention was approved on 20 November 1989 and came into effect on 2 September 1990. Some 191 countries have ratified this Convention.



Viet Nam Law on the Protection, Care and Education of Children defines a child as “a Vietnamese citizens aged under 16 years”.<sup>5</sup>

Under Viet Nam’s Labour Code, adolescent workers are people under 18 years old<sup>6</sup>.

**b) Children engaged in economics activities**

Refers to a child engaged in activities of economic production, trading and services that are either for consumption or sale. These activities can be paid or unpaid, part-time or full time, occasional or regular, legal or illegal and at least one hour on any day during the reference week<sup>7</sup>.

Engagement in household chores or chores at school done by the child is excluded from the definition of economic activity (work).

**c) Child labour**

Until now, a consistent concept of CL has not existed. The common definition of CL is, however, classified according to guidelines under ILO international conventions.

- The concept of CL under ILO Convention No.138

The ILO’s Convention No.138 defines different minimum ages of employment, including the general minimum age, the minimum age applied to hazardous work and the minimum age applied to light work, specifically:

**Table 1. Minimum ages of employment under ILO Convention No.138**

Minimum age of employment	Minimum age applied to every country	Minimum age-exception for developing countries
General minimum age (Article 2)	Not under 15 years	Not under 14 years
Minimum age applied to hazardous work (Article 3)	Not under 18 years	Not under 16 years
Minimum age applied to light work (Article 7)		Their moral and safety should be ensured 13-15 years

**The concept of CL under Viet Nam’s national legislation**

There is no common understanding of CL in Viet Nam. However, the provisions in the Labour Code 2007 are basically in accordance with international legislation on CL.

**Article 119:** An underage employee is one under 18 years old

**Article 120:** The admission to work of children under 15 years of age shall be prohibited, except in certain categories of occupations and work as prescribed by the MOLISA.

**Article 121:**

1. An employer is only permitted to employ junior orkers in occupations suitable to the health of such workers that ensure their physical, spiritual and personal development.
2. The employment of junior workers is prohibited in heavy/dangerous work, work with exposure to toxic substances or work and/or a workplace which may badly influence their personality, as prescribed in the list issued by the MOLISA and Ministry of Health (MOH).

5 Article 1, Viet Nam’s Law on Child Protection, Care and Education, 2004

6 Article 161, Viet Nam’s Labour Code, 2012

7 Reference week is a period of seven days from the time of the survey and earlier.

## **Article 122:**

1. Junior workers' hours should not exceed seven hours per day or 42 hours per week.
2. An employer shall only be permitted to employ junior workers to work overtime or work at night in certain categories of occupations and work determined by the MOLISA.

### ***d) A child engaged hazardous work***

Under Article 3 (d) of ILO Convention No.182 hazardous work is defined as work, which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, likely to harm the health, safety or morals of a child. This category is detailed in Article 3, sub-paragraph (iv) of ILO Convention No.182 on the worst forms of CL.

### ***e) Worst forms of Child labour***

Under Article 3, ILO Convention No.182, the worst forms of CL include:

- (i) All forms of slavery and practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict
- (ii) The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances
- (iii) The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties
- (iv) Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of a child.

## **2.3. Child as defined by the Viet Nam National Child Labour Survey 2012**

### ***a) Children engaged in economic activities***

This includes children in the 5-17 age group engaged in activities of economic production, trading and services for consumption or sale that can be paid or unpaid, part-time or full time, occasional or regular, legal or illegal and at least one hour on any day during the reference week. Engagement in household chores is excluded.

### ***b) Child labourers***

Not all working children are identified as child labourers. Those engaged in light work for an accepted duration of time or in work excluded from the prohibition list are not child labourers. Only work classified as having a negative impact on the physical and psychological development and the dignity of children is defined as CL. Though there is no universally accepted interpretation of CL, countries worldwide generally categorise children performing work prohibited under national legislation, the worst forms of CL under ILO's Convention No.182 or in hazardous working conditions as child labourers.

Regarding working conditions, the number of working hours is one of the main criteria. Specifically, exceeding one hour/day (or five hours/week) is applied for the 5-11 age group. Similarly, exceeding four hours/day (or 24 hours/week) and seven hours/day (or 42 hours/week) are applied for the 12-14 and 15-17 age groups, respectively. Hence, in this survey, child labourers include those:

- a. From 5-11 years old: engaged in EA for one hour or more in any day in the reference week and for five hours or more in the reference week.
- b. From 12-14 years old: engaged in EA for four hours or more in any day in the reference week and for 24 hours or more in the reference week.
- c. From 15-17 years old: engaged in EA for seven hours or more in any day in the reference week and for 42 hours or more in the reference week.



- d. From 5-17 years old: engaged in work prohibited for junior employees in accordance with Joint Circular No.09/TL-LB dated 13 April 1995 by MOLISA and the MOH on hazardous working conditions and the list of work prohibited for employment of adolescent workers.

### ***c) Child labour in hazardous work***

Despite the survey seeking information about working conditions (criterion d) and especially hazardous working conditions as stipulated in Joint Circular No.09/TT/LB issued on 13 April 1995, the collected data was insufficient<sup>8</sup> to identify CL in hazardous work. Criterion (d) was instead used to distinguish CL in groups (a), (b) and (c) and divided into two main groups: children engaged in occupations AT RISK of falling into the list of prohibited work and children engaged in work not prohibited under Circular No.09.

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<sup>8</sup> For example: the survey identified children working in timber loading and carrying, but did not specify the working conditions for carrying or loading timber with a diameter of 35cm or more by hand, wooden containers or wooden slides.

# Chapter 2. General characteristics of children aged 5-17

## 2.1. Population of children aged 5-17

As estimated from the survey, the population of Viet Nam in 2012 was 88,687,810, with nearly 49.5per cent men and more than 50.5per cent women.

The size of the 5-17 age group is estimated to be 18,349,629 people, accounting for 20.7per cent of the national population, with boys making up 52.2per cent and girls 47.8per cent. This age bracket constitutes 18.4per cent of the urban population and 21.8per cent of the rural one.

Out of the 5-17 year age group, 52.8per cent are aged 5-11, 22.5per cent are aged 12-14 and 24.7per cent 15-17.

Compared to the national 2009 Population and Housing Census, the 2012 survey reveals a downward trend in the proportion of the 5-17 age group within the national population, with the decrease in girls more dramatic than in boys<sup>9</sup>.

Table 2.1. Child population by age group and gender				
Age group	Number of children	Rate (%)	Gender (%)	
			Male	Female
National				
<i>Total</i>	<i>88 687 810</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>49.47</i>	<i>50.53</i>
0 - 4	6 604 321	7.45	53.67	46.33
5 - 11	9 684 196	10.92	52.26	47.74
12 - 14	4 128 525	4.66	51.41	48.59
15 - 17	4 536 908	5.12	53.01	46.99
18 - 64	56 878 683	64.13	49.24	50.76
65+	6 855 177	7.73	39.94	60.06
Urban				
<i>Total</i>	<i>28 724 347</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>48.69</i>	<i>51.31</i>
0 - 4	2 069 437	7.20	53.96	46.04
5 - 11	2 850 019	9.92	52.64	47.36
12 - 14	1 132 634	3.94	51.28	48.72
15 - 17	1 308 059	4.55	50.48	49.52
18 - 64	19 233 157	66.96	48.00	52.00
65+	2 131 041	7.42	41.97	58.03
Rural				
<i>Total</i>	<i>59 963 462</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>49.85</i>	<i>50.15</i>
0 - 4	4 534 884	7.56	53.53	46.47
5 - 11	6 834 177	11.40	52.10	47.90
12 - 14	2 995 892	5.00	51.46	48.54
15 - 17	3 228 848	5.38	54.03	45.97
18 - 64	37 645 526	62.78	49.87	50.13
65+	4 724 136	7.88	39.03	60.97

<sup>9</sup> In 2009, children aged 5-17 accounted for 22.4% of the population, with girls comprising 48.6%.

## 2.2. Children's participation in education

### a) Children attending school

Viet Nam has notched up considerable achievements in education, in large part due to the Law on Education and policies supporting children with special needs.

Specifically, 90.5per cent of children aged 5-17 attend school, with 93.4per cent of children aged 5 attending pre-school and 90.3per cent of those aged 6-17 having access to formal education<sup>10</sup>.

Regarding gender, the enrolment rate of girls is higher than of boys in all levels of formal schools, regions and age groups.

Regarding the geographic spread, though a healthy school enrolment rate of children aged 6-11 is reported in all regions, there are gaps in attendance rates with the highest school enrolment rate in the Red River Delta (nearly 96per cent) and the lowest in the Central Highlands (87per cent).

Table 2.2a. Children attending school by age groups						
School enrolment	Total		By age group (%)			
	Number of children	Rate (%)	5 y/o	6-11	12-14	15-17
<b>National</b>	<b>18 349 629</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Attending school	16 610 257	90.5	93.4	98.3	92.6	73.5
Not attending school	1 716 767	9.4	6.0	1.6	7.3	26.5
Unreported	22 605	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.0
<b>Geographic region<sup>11</sup></b>						
<b>Region 1</b>	<b>2 475 288</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Attending school	2 205 448	89.1	96.6	97.3	91.9	69.1
Not attending school	266 102	10.8	2.8	2.6	8.0	30.9
Unreported	3 738	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.0
<b>Region 2</b>	<b>3 761 743</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Attending school	3 614 925	96.1	98.5	99.1	99.4	87.0
Not attending school	139 154	3.7	0.8	0.5	0.6	13.0
Unreported	7 664	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.0
<b>Region 3</b>	<b>4 312 962</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Attending school	3 953 445	91.7	95.5	98.9	94.4	76.4
Not attending school	353 249	8.2	3.5	1.0	5.5	23.5
Unreported	6 268	0.1	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
<b>Region 4</b>	<b>1 455 720</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Attending school	1 277 637	87.8	93.4	97.0	90.5	66.8
Not attending school	177 084	12.2	6.4	3.0	9.4	33.2
Unreported	998	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0

<sup>10</sup> Children attending school include those participating in basic education and vocational schools.

<sup>11</sup> **Region 1:** Northern Midlands and Mountainous region, **Region 2:** Red River Delta, **Region 3:** North Central and Central Coast, **Region 4:** Central Highlands, **Region 5:** South East and **Region 6:** Mekong Delta.

<b>Region 5</b>	<b>1 515 161</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Attending school	1 334 775	88.1	90.9	98.4	89.7	65.5
Not attending school	178 280	11.8	8.2	1.5	10.1	34.4
Unreported	2 106	0.1	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
<b>Region 6</b>	<b>4 828 755</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Attending school	4 224 027	87.5	86.3	98.1	87.4	66.2
Not attending school	602 898	12.5	13.5	1.9	12.5	33.8
Unreported	1 830	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0

## b) Children not attending school

At the time of the survey, 1,716,767 children aged 5-17 nationwide (or 9.6per cent of the relevant population) did not attend school. Aside from the pre-school group, the non-enrolment rate tends to increase with age. Specifically, the non-enrolment figures are 1.6per cent, 7.3per cent and 26.5per cent for 6-11, 12-14 and 15-17 age groups, respectively.

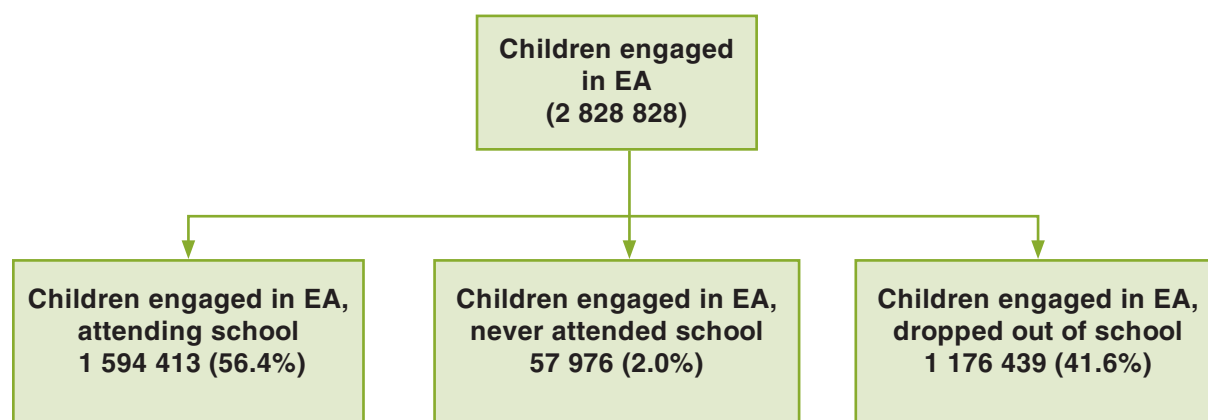
Regarding geographic regions, the Central Highlands (12.2per cent) has the highest non-enrolment rate, followed by the Mekong Delta (12.5per cent).

### *Causes*

Among those who do not attend school, about 38.3per cent are not interested in schooling, while 16.7per cent have to engage in a paid job or work in the household. In addition, money shortages for schooling (9.2per cent), disability/illness (5.8per cent) and family resistance (3.4per cent) also contribute to school non-enrolment.

<b>Table 2.2b. Children not attending school by causes and age groups</b>						
<b>Causes</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>By age group (%)</b>			
			<b>5</b>	<b>6 - 11</b>	<b>12 - 14</b>	<b>15 - 17</b>
Completed programme	7 805	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Too old for school	5 317	0.3	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.2
Disabled/illness	99 866	5.8	4.6	27.5	6.0	3.5
No school/school too remote	50 185	2.9	18.6	4.6	4.6	1.2
Unable to afford schooling	157 681	9.2	7.1	12.1	14.3	7.7
Family prevented schooling	59 089	3.4	26.9	9.2	3.9	1.1
Not interested in school	657 118	38.3	9.6	32.7	47.3	38.6
Education not valued	1 046	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
School unsafe	1 285	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0
Learnt a trade/apprentice	24 919	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.5	2.0
Worked for payment/in the household	286 618	16.7	0.0	2.4	13.5	20.2
Did household chores	74 450	4.3	0.0	2.2	5.4	4.6
Other	286 487	16.7	32.5	8.4	2.8	20.0
Unidentified reasons	4 899	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.9	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 716 767</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Graph 2. Distribution of children engaged in EA, by school enrolment status**



The causes for non-enrolment vary in different age groups, specifically:

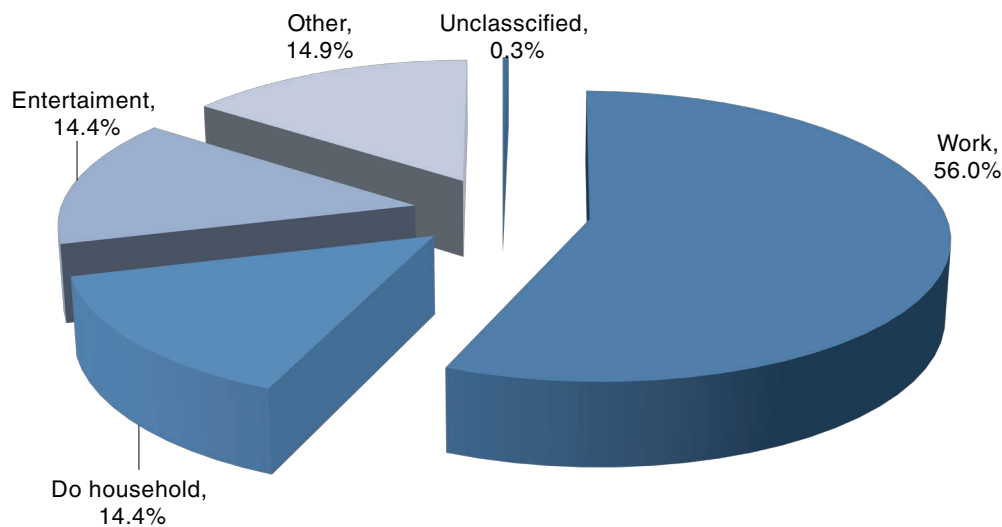
- For 5-year-old child category, the families being unwilling to send children to school and the non-availability of schools in the locality are the most common reasons.
- In the 6-11 age group, common causes include children's lack of interest in schooling (32.7per cent) and the lack of money for education (12.1per cent). Besides, 27.5per cent fail to attend school due to disability/illness.
- For the 12-14 age group, a lack of interest in schooling accounts for more than 61per cent of non-attendance. Noticeably, the motivation to work for payment (13.5per cent) emerges in the sample.
- In the 15-17 age bracket, no interest in schooling is the most common reason (38.6per cent), while more than 20per cent do not attend school because they want/have to work for payment.

### ***Time utilisation of children who do not attend school***

Children who fail to attend school are more prone to EA and CL. In general, the higher the school enrolment rate, the lower the CL rate. Hence, this survey set out to learn how children not attending school spend their time to gain insight into their level of engagement in EA and/or CL. It discovered that more than 80per cent of these children spend their time working or helping their family with household chores.

Generally, 70per cent of their time is spent on work or chores, while entertainment and other activities make up 30per cent. The differences in time utilisation among age groups is also striking, as children aged 5-11 spend less time on work, while those aged 12-14 spend 71per cent of their time on work and chores with a further jump to 75per cent for the 15-17 age group. These findings reveal that increased age results in increased workloads, with less time for entertainment. In general, girls spend more time working and less time playing than boys. However, there is no difference in time utilisation patterns between urban and rural areas.

Figure 1. Time utilisation of children who do not attend school



2.3. Children engaged in household chores

The survey estimates that 9956 thousand children aged 5-17 (more than half of the population of this age group) are engaged in household chores. Common household work includes babysitting, cleaning, cooking, laundry and caring for a sick household member.

Figure 2. Children’s household chores by type of work (per cent)



The majority of these children (63.8per cent) spend about 5-20 hours/week on household chores and 30.7per cent work less than five hours/week. However, about 4.6per cent spend 20-40 hours and approximately 1.7per cent spends more than 40 hours a week doing chores.

Children in rural areas tend to spend more time on chores than those in urban areas, as do girls and children of older age groups.

Table 2.3. Children doing household chores by working hours and age groups					
Number of hours (per week)	Number of children	Rate (%)	By age group (%)		
			5-11	12-14	15-17
<b>National</b>	<b>9 956 211</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
0 - < 5	3 056 413	30.70	44.58	27.09	21.33
5 - < 20	6 351 659	63.80	53.23	67.51	70.01
20 - < 40	461 651	4.64	1.60	4.91	7.18
> 40	21 154	0.21	0.02	0.10	0.50
<b>Children attending school</b>	<b>8 916 606</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
0 - < 5	2 830 624	31.75	44.71	27.62	21.31
5 - < 20	5 718 222	64.13	53.16	67.89	72.65
20 - < 40	320 870	3.60	1.54	4.04	5.49
> 40	3 608	0.04	0.00	0.07	0.06
<b>Children not attending school</b>	<b>1 039 605</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
0 - < 5	225 789	21.72	35.82	19.72	21.41
5 - < 20	633 437	60.93	57.32	62.32	60.76
20 - < 40	140 781	13.54	5.43	16.94	13.07
> 40	17 547	1.69	1.21	0.49	2.06

## 2.4. Children engaged in economic activities

In this survey, the EA group is defined as those aged 5-17 engaged in activities of economic production, trading and services for consumption or sale that can be paid or unpaid, part-time or full time, occasional or regular, legal or illegal and at least one hour on any day during the reference week.

The survey estimates that 2.83 million out of Viet Nam's 18.3 million child population are engaged in EA. Regarding location, the share of children in urban areas engaged in EA is 7.56per cent, while in rural areas it is 2.5 times higher at 18.62per cent.

Table 2.4. Children engaged in EA (per cent)					
Category	Total		Age group (%)		
	Number of children	Rate (%)	5 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17
<b>National</b>	<b>18 349 629</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children not engaged in EA	15 517 512	84.6	96.3	79.0	64.6
Children engaged in EA	2 832 117	15.4	3.7	21.0	35.4
<b>Urban</b>	<b>5 290 712</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children not engaged in EA	4 890 732	92.4	92.6	90.1	81.3
Children engaged in EA	399 980	7.6	1.5	9.9	18.7
<b>Rural</b>	<b>13 058 917</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children not engaged in EA	10 626 780	81.4	95.4	74.7	57.9
Children engaged in EA	2 432 137	18.6	4.6	25.3	42.1

As observed from the survey, only a small number of children in the 5-11 age group engage in EA (1.5per cent and 4.6per cent in urban and rural areas, respectively). However, one-in-five aged 12 or above or one-in-three aged 15 or above work in EA. Moreover, children in rural areas tend to work in EA at an earlier age and in a higher absolute number overall.

# Chapter 3.

## Children engaged in economic activities

### 3.1. Size and distribution of children engaged in economic activities

This survey reveals that an estimated 2.83 million children nationwide (i.e. 15.5per cent of the child population) engaged in EA, with the gender mix being boys (57.4per cent) and girls (42.6per cent).

Working children in rural areas are significant in terms of the large proportion in both the number of children in rural areas (18.6per cent) and in the population of working children nationwide. Specifically, 2.43 million child workers reside in rural areas, accounting for 85.8per cent of 2.83 million such workers nationwide. A reason for this could be the income gap between urban and rural areas and child workers needed to help increase household income. Furthermore, the rural economy’s focus on agriculture, craft work and household businesses offer children significant opportunities for participation.

In urban areas, more than 400,000 children engaged in EA, making up just 14.1per cent of working children aged 5-17, a figure that is in stark contrast to rural areas. (Children aged 5-17 in urban areas account for 28.8per cent of those nationwide).

Table 3.1. Size and distribution of children engaged in EA by gender and age groups					
Category	Number of children	Rate (%)	By age group (%)		
			5-11	12-14	15-17
<b>National</b>					
<i>Total</i>	<b>2 832 117</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>56.7</b>
Male	1 626 692	57.4	12.2	29.8	58.0
Female	1 205 425	42.6	13.3	31.8	54.9
<b>Urban</b>					
<i>Total</i>	<b>399 980</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>61,0</b>
Male	211 722	52.9	9.3	27.1	63.6
Female	188 258	47.1	13.0	28.9	58.2
<b>Rural</b>					
<i>Total</i>	<b>2 432 137</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>55.9</b>
Male	1 414 970	58.2	12.7	30.2	57.1
Female	1 017 167	41.8	13.3	32.4	54.3

Despite the low participation rate of children aged 5-11 (3.7per cent nationwide or 1.5per cent and 4.6per cent in urban and rural areas, respectively), its absolute number of almost 400,000 children poses potential challenges because these children are too young and are entitled to universal education under the Law on Education. Out of the working children in the 5-17 age group, about 870 thousand (30.4per cent) are aged 12-14 and 1.608 million (56.7per cent) aged 15-17.



## 3.2. School attendance of children engaged in economic activities

A study on the school enrolment of these children is of importance to identify the footprint EA leaves on children's schooling. If children can effectively combine schooling with work, EA could be considered voluntary or needed to help families. On the other hand, if children quit school to work, EA are regarded as compulsory work to meet the economic needs of the children or their families.

The survey estimates that about 1625 thousand, or 56.4per cent of working children, manage to attend school, reflecting a voluntary (or acceptable) basis for their work and schooling. However, 1204 thousand working children (or 43.6per cent) fail to attend school and this group's rate of school attendance is considerably lower than the national child population (56.4per cent versus 90.5per cent).

Out of 2.83 million working children, 1.18 million are school dropouts (41.6per cent) and about 567 thousand children (2per cent) never go to school. The latter percentage is higher than the 1.35per cent of school-aged children who never go to school nationwide.

Table 3.2a. Children engaged in EA by gender and school attendance status				
Category	Number of children	School attendance status (%)		
		Currently	Used to	Never
Male	1 624 684	53.6	44.3	2.0
Female	1 204 144	60.1	37.9	2.0
Unreported	3 289	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 832 117</b>	<b>56.4</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>2.0</b>

Regarding gender, girls tend to be better at combining work and study than boys with 60.1per cent of working girls attending school, versus 53.6per cent for boys. Boys outnumber girls in EA and have a higher dropout rate, which explains girls' higher rate of school attendance in all basic education levels.

### *Causes of children's engagement in economic activities*

Children work for different reasons. One-in-five children interviewed (22.9per cent) said they must work, one-in-four (26.5per cent) wanted to work and learn a trade, while one-in-six (15per cent) was not interested in/not good at schooling and wanted to work. Hence, about half of interviewed working children (49.4per cent) have labour-related reasons for such endeavours, i.e. wanting to work, having to work or learning a trade. A small proportion (5.5per cent) work because their families cannot afford schooling.

The drivers of EA are also differentiated by age.

Though only 4.6per cent of children aged 5-11 work, the reasons behind their engagement in EA vary as 23.1per cent have to work, while up to 34.1per cent want to work and/or learn a trade. Only a small proportion work because their families cannot afford or are not interested in/good at schooling (2per cent and 3.5per cent, respectively).

However, the last two reasons are stated more frequently in senior age groups. It seems from the age of 11 onwards (the age of the final primary school grade) children start wanting to work, to learn a trade and/or earn money to help their families, resulting in a higher rate of working children compared to the 5-11 age group. An analysis of household income can provide a better insight into the causes leading children to work.

Table 3.2b. Causes of children's engagement in EA					
Causes	Number of children	Rate (%)	By age group (%)		
			5 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17
Have to	649 554	22.9	23.1	30.1	19.0
Want to work/learn a trade	751 421	26.5	34.1	26.0	25.1
Unable to afford schooling	157 085	5.5	2.0	4.5	6.9
No interest in schooling	423 492	15.0	3.5	9.3	20.6
Other	841 259	29.7	37.2	29.8	28.0
Unreported	9 306	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 832 117</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 3.3. Sectoral composition of children engaged in economic activities

Working children are omnipresent in the three main economic sectors, but the vast majority (more than two million or 71.1per cent) are engaged in agriculture work, with 332 thousand (11.7per cent) in manufacturing/construction and 469 thousand (16.6per cent) in services.

Out of 2432 thousand working children in rural areas, up to 1 880 thousand (77.3per cent) work in agriculture. In urban areas, just 133 thousand children (33.3per cent of working children with urban residency status) perform agricultural work.

Regarding age groups, children below 14-years-old tend to engage in agricultural work, while children aged 15-17 are less visible in this sector because they have more work options.

In rural and urban areas, manufacturing and construction attracts three-quarters of working children aged 15-17. Much of such work is characterized by unsafe working conditions, long hours and low pay.

Table 3.3. Children engaged in EA by economic sectors							
Category	Total		By gender (%)		By age group (%)		
	Number of children	Rate (%)	Male	Female	5 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17
<b>National</b>							
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 832 117</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>42.6</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>56.7</b>
I. Agriculture	2 014 018	71.1	59.3	40.7	12.8	33.8	53.4
II. Manufacturing & Construction	332.218	11.7	55.5	44.5	8.5	16.0	75.5
III. Services	469 112	16.6	50.9	49.1	14.1	28.1	57.8
Unreported	16 770	0.6	49.9	50.1	34.4	20.0	45.6
<b>Urban</b>							
<b>Total</b>	<b>399 980</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>61.0</b>
I. Agriculture	133 293	33.3	58.9	41.1	8.7	32.7	58.6
II. Manufacturing & Construction	97 815	24.5	56.7	43.3	7.5	18.0	74.5
III. Services	165 548	41.4	46.5	53.5	14.7	30.0	55.2
Unreported	3 324	0.8	24.0	76.0	20.6	24.3	55.1

Rural							
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 432 137</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>55.9</b>
I. Agriculture	1 880 725	77.3	59.4	40.6	13.1	33.8	53.0
II. Manufacturing & Construction	234 403	9.6	55.0	45.0	8.8	15.2	76.0
III. Services	303 563	12.5	53.3	46.7	13.7	27.1	59.2
Unreported	13 446	0.6	56.3	43.7	37.8	19.0	43.2

In manufacturing-construction and services, boys are more frequently found working than girls, with 55.5per cent and 50.9per cent versus 44.5per cent and 49.5per cent, respectively.

### 3.4. Types of work performed by children engaged in economic activities

The survey identified 120 EA performed by children, 14 of which attract nearly 80per cent of working children nationwide.

As highlighted in point 3.3, the majority of children work in the agricultural sector, reflected in the list of work engaged by children. Of the 14 activities mostly performed by children, nine are in this sector attracting more than 75per cent of working children, one is in manufacturing/construction and the other four are in services, attracting around 25per cent of working children.

Table 3.4. Children engaged in EA by type of work (per cent)						
Code	Type of work	Total		By age group (%)		
		Number of children	Rate (%)	5-11	12 - 14	15 - 17
11	Annual crop cultivation	759 796	26.8	12.5	22.8	32.2
12	Perennial plantation	189 888	6.7	5.5	7.7	6.5
13	Industrial plant propagation and tending	82 833	2.9	1.2	2.9	3.3
14	Animal husbandry	407 927	14.4	24.9	21.9	8.0
15	Combination of cultivation and animal husbandry	341 481	12.1	20.8	13.6	9.3
16	Agricultural service activities	19 220	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.9
22	Logging, exploitation of timber and other forest products	69 462	2.5	3.1	3.6	1.7
23	Small forestry products collection	26 923	1.0	1.8	1.6	0.4
31	Aquatic exploitation	59 961	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.1
32	Aquafarming	40 225	1.4	0.1	1.1	1.9
141	Garment (except outfits made from animal skin and fur)	47 343	1.7	1.2	0.5	2.4
478	Vending food, beverage or tobacco in specialized stores	47 628	1.7	1.9	0.8	2.1
561	Restaurant, mobile catering	90 029	3.2	4.0	2.7	3.3
563	Beverage services	63 818	2.3	3.0	2.6	1.9
<b>Total of 14 types of work above</b>		<b>2 246 534 5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>54.2</b>
<b>Total number of children engaged in EA</b>		<b>2 832 117</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>56.6</b>

### 3.5. Working conditions of children engaged economic activities

The survey was designed to identify hazardous work performed by children. Data was collected and contrasted with the list of jobs prohibited for junior workers under Circular No 09/TT-LB<sup>12</sup>. The questionnaires, however, provided insufficient evidence for the classification of children in hazardous work or engaged in banned jobs. Hence, the data analysis will be used to warn of possible risks for working children.

Out of 2.83 million children engaged in EA, 1.31 million (accounting for 46.4per cent) work in conditions at risk of being listed as prohibited employment under Circular No.09 (hereafter called hazardous-at-risk work). Boys outnumber girls with nearly 799 thousand.

Generally, working children in rural areas are more likely to fall into this group than in urban areas (46.9per cent versus 43.6per cent).

As discussed in Point 3.6, 74.2per cent of children engaged in EA operate in households and 18.2per cent are paid workers. Therefore, heads of households and employers have an important role to play in allocating work for children to ensure compliance with Circular No.09.

Table 3.5. Work conditions of children engaged in EA				
Work conditions	Number of children	Rate (%)	Gender	
			Male	Female
National				
Total	2 832 117	100.0	57.4	42.6
Not listed in Circular No.09	1 516 711	53.6	54.6	45.4
At risk to be listed in Circular No.09	1 315 406	46.4	60.7	39.3
Urban area				
Total	399 980	100	52.9	47.1
Not listed in Circular No.09	225 759	56.4	48.6	51.4
At risk to be listed in Circular No.09	174 221	43.6	58.5	41.5
Rural area				
Total	2 432 137	100	58.2	41.8
Not listed in Circular No.09	1 290 952	53.1	55.6	44.4
At risk to be listed in Circular No.09	1 141 184	46.9	61.1	38.9

### 3.6. Work status and positions of children engaged economic activities

As observed from the survey, the majority of working children are unpaid family workers (2.1 million out of 2.83 million children or 74.2per cent). Specifically, 88per cent of working children aged 5-11, 83per cent of those 12-14 and 66per cent aged 15-17 are family workers. In other words, though these children must work, it remains within the household.

However, 513thousand (18per cent of children engaged in EA) are paid workers, but only an insignificant proportion of children in the 5-11 and 12-14 age groups (3.7per cent and 9.2per cent) are found in this employment. Only when children grow older (15-17 years of age) do we see a considerable rate (26per cent) leave the household and work for another employer. This form of employment should receive proper attention since these children are more prone to labour exploitation and abuses.

<sup>12</sup> See Appendix, Circular No.09/TT-LB on 13 April 1995 jointly issued by MOLISA and the MOH on hazardous working environments and employment prohibited for junior workers.

Table 3.6. Children engaged in EA by work status								
Work status	Number of children	Rate (%)	By age group (%)					
			5 - 11		12 - 14		15 - 17	
			Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Employers	4 922	0.2		0.0	1 236	0.1	3 686	0.2
Self-employment	210 306	7.4	28 831	8.0	69 076	8.0	112 398	7.0
Unpaid family workers	2 100 316	74.2	316 321	88.2	718 463	82.7	1 065 533	66.4
Wage worker	513 858	18.1	13 354	3.7	80 005	9.2	420 499	26.2
Unreported	2 715	0.1		0.0		0.1	2 715	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 832 117</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>358 506</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>868 780</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 604 831</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Of note, about 210 thousand children (7.4per cent) are considered self-employed and the ratio is similar in different age groups.

## 3.7 Ages that children start work

Children typically start working from the age of 12 or above. Of the 2.83 million children engaged in EA, about 64.5per cent began working aged 12 or above. However, more than 10per cent of children engaged in EA actually started working when less than 10-years-old and even more strikingly over 3per cent of children began when 5-7 years old.

Table 3.7. Ages that children start work						
Category	Number of children	Rate (%)	By gender			
			Male		Female	
			No.	(%)	No.	(%)
5-7	87 300	3.1	49 166	3.0	38 134	3.2
8-9	212 082	7.5	122 026	7.5	90 055	7.5
10-11	511 035	18.0	265 182	16.3	245 853	20.4
12-13	817 107	28.9	462 951	28.5	354 156	29.4
14-17	1.009 383	35.6	621 556	38.2	387 826	32.2
Unreported	195 211	6.9	105 811	6,5	89 400	7.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 832 117</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 626 692</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 205 425</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 3.8. Work venues of children engaged in economic activities

Work venues vary greatly and children can be found working at home, in fields, business establishments, on the street, at hotels and restaurants, on construction sites, at stone quarries and offices, while some children have fixed places of work.

More than 1 042 million children work on paddy fields/farms, comprising almost 37per cent of working children. They are also the most common work places for children more than 11 years old, but nearly one-third of children aged 5-11 work there as helpers or assistants.

Working from home is also popular and a venue for 856 thousand children (more than 30per cent of children engaged in EA). While it is a common workplace for children aged under 11 (49per cent), this tendency to work at home, however, reduces with age.

Alarminglly, about 933 thousand children work in places highly exposed to exploitation and abuses. Of these vulnerable children, 11.6per cent do not have fixed workplaces, nearly 3.9per cent work in factories/manufacturing establishments, more than 2.3per cent operate at clients' residences, 1.47per cent at restaurants/bars/hotels and almost 2.45per cent work on the street or in wet markets.

Those who work at high accident-risk places like construction sites, manufacturing establishments and stone quarries, or venues like restaurants, bars and hotels are normally in the 15-17 age group.

**Table 3.8. Children engaged in EA by work venues**

Work venue	Number of children	Rate (%)	By age groups (%)		
			5-11	12 - 14	15 - 17
Home	856 613	30.25	48.42	36.08	23.03
Clients' residence	65 098	2.30	0.22	1.06	3.43
Office	18 777	0.66	0.00	0.16	1.08
Manufacturing establishments	109 372	3.86	1.06	1.32	5.86
Field/farm	1 042 121	36.80	28.84	39.39	37.17
Construction site	15 719	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.98
Mine/stone quarry	191	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Bar/restaurant/hotel	41 713	1.47	0.00	0.00	2.60
Mobile/unfixed	328 507	11.60	17.10	15.21	8.41
Street/wet market	69 252	2.45	0.83	1.51	3.31
River/lake/swamp	27 568	0.97	0.19	1.10	1.08
Others	254 149	8.97	3.34	4.17	12.83
Unreported	3 036	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 832 117</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 3.9. Weekly working hours of children engaged in economic activities

Excessive work hours adversely affect the health and development of children. As such, the number of work hours is an important indicator to help identify the severity of CL (further discussed in Chapter 4).

This survey shows that working children in the 5-11 and 12-14 age groups mostly work less than 24 hours/week, while those aged 15-17 clock in 5-42 hour weeks. However, an estimated 569 thousand children face more than 42-hour working weeks, with the proportion of boys outweighing girls (21.5per cent versus 18.2per cent, respectively).

Possibly due to the high rate of engagement in the services sector with subsequent long periods with clients/customers, children turn in 42 hour plus weeks in urban areas (32.2per cent) outnumber those in rural areas (18.1per cent).

As to be expected, working hours increase with age. Younger children aged 5-11 (90per cent) work less than 24 hours/week, but there are cases of some (10per cent) working more than 24 hours and 1.4per cent clocking in upwards of 42 hours/week.

Children in the 12-14 age bracket work relatively longer hours, with 23per cent logging 25-hour weeks and nearly 6per cent facing 42 hour weeks. Children aged 15-17 generally work even more hours, often excessively, with almost 32per cent regularly doing 42 plus hours per week.

Table 3.9. Children engaged in EA by number of working hours/week (%)						
Working hours per week	Total	Gender		Age group		
		Male	Female	5-11	12-14	15-17
<b>National</b>	100,0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 - < 5	9.9	8.8	11.3	29.7	13.0	3.7
6 - < 24	47.7	46.1	49.9	61.0	63.9	35.9
25 - < 42	22.0	23.3	20.3	7.9	16.7	28.1
> 42	20.1	21.5	18.2	1.4	5.9	31.9
Unreported	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.5	0.3
<b>Urban</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 - < 5	9.6	7.6	11.8	34.8	13.0	3.4
6 - < 24	40.1	36.6	43.9	51.1	57.5	30.1
25 - < 42	18.0	20.6	15.1	5.6	18.1	20.2
> 42	32.2	35.1	29.0	8.4	11.3	46.0
Unreported	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
<b>Rural</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 - < 5	9.9	9.0	11.2	29.0	13.0	3.7
6 - < 24	49.0	47.5	51.0	62.4	64.9	37.0
25 - < 42	22.7	23.7	21.3	8.2	16.5	29.5
> 42	18.1	19.5	16.2	0.4	5.1	29.4
Unreported	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.5	0.3

### 3.10. Income of households with working children

As reflected in this study, the income of households with working children is relatively high. More than 50per cent of these households earn VND2.5-4.5 million/month and 38per cent have a monthly income exceeding VND4.5 million. However, nearly 22per cent earn less than VND2.5 million/month (likely to be under the poverty line). Escaping poverty can be a driver for these children to work with extra sources of income encouraging families to consent to their child's engagement in EA.

The earnings of the households with working children also vary by location and age. Generally, households in urban areas with older age working children have a higher income than those in rural areas and with younger aged children.

Table 3.10. Households with working children (By income and age group)					
Average income/ month (thousand VND)	Number of children	Rate (%)	Age group		
			5 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17
≤ 500	20 624	0.7	20.0	34.8	45.2
≤ 1.500	199 197	7.0	20.6	34.8	44.6
≤ 2.500	439 891	15.5	18.7	32.9	48.5
≤ 3.500	515 655	18.2	13.3	32.1	54.6
≤ 4.500	476 142	16.8	12.2	30.3	57.5
> 4.500	1 088 755	38.4	9.4	31.0	59.6
Unreported	91 853	3.2	2.0	0.6	97.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 832 117</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>56.7</b>



### 3.11. Child labour

It is worth noting that not all working children are identified as child labourers. Only work classified as exerting a negative impact on the physical and psychological development and the dignity of children is defined as child labour.<sup>13</sup>

The survey indicates that about 1754 thousand children aged 5-17 in Viet Nam are considered child labourers, accounting for 62per cent of working children and 9.6per cent of the child population.

In urban areas, child labourers account for 66.3per cent of working children against 61.2per cent in rural areas,

Child labourers account for 5per cent of the total child population in urban area, but more than double 11.4per cent in rural areas.

Table 3.11. Child labour overview			
Children	Total	Residency	
		Urban	Rural
1. Child population (aged 5-17)	18 349 629	5 290 712	13 058 917
<i>Number of working children</i>	<i>2 832 117</i>	<i>399 980</i>	<i>2 432 137</i>
Male	1 626 692	211 722	1 414 970
Female	2 832 117	399 980	2 432 137
<i>Number of child labourers</i>	<i>1 754 782</i>	<i>265 225</i>	<i>1 489 558</i>
Male	1 048 973	146 485	902 487
Female	1 754 782	265 225	1 489 558
2. Proportion (%)			
Child labourers/child population	9.6	5.0	11.4
Child labourers/working children	62.0	66.3	61.2

CL shall be further discussed in the following chapter.

<sup>13</sup> Refers to criteria used to identify child labour in Chapter II (2.3).



# Chapter 4. Child labour

## 4.1. Size and distribution of child labour

Of Viet Nam’s 1.75 million child labourers, an overwhelming 85per cent live in rural areas and 15per cent in urban areas. Compared with the distribution of children engaged in EA (85.8per cent and 14.2per cent, respectively), CL appears to have a much stronger “rural” dimension.

Regarding gender, 60per cent of child labourers are boys and 40per cent are girls. Compared to the ratio of children engaged in EA (57.4per cent and 42.6per cent, respectively), the share of male child labourers is slightly higher and females slightly lower.

Table 4.1a. Size and distribution of CL				
Area	Number of children	Rate (%)	By gender (%)	
			Male	Female
Total	1 754 783	100.0	59.78	40.22
Urban	265 225	15.1	59.78	40.22
Rural	1 489 558	84.9	59.78	40.22

Unsurprisingly, the largest number of child labourers is in the 15-17 age group (58per cent), followed by the 12-14 age group (almost 27per cent) and alarmingly nearly 15per cent in the 5-11 age bracket.

Compared to the age distribution of children in EA, there is an increased percentage of child labourers aged 5-11 (15.5per cent). This means a child aged 5-11 working more than one hour/day or five hours/week in the reference week is considered a child labourer.

Table 4.1b. CL by age group and by gender (per cent)			
Age group	Total	By gender	
		Male	Female
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
5-11	15.5	15.1	16.1
12-14	26.7	25.9	27.9
15-17	57.8	58.9	56.1
Urban	100.0	100.0	100.0
5-11	11.4	9.8	13.3
12-14	23.8	22.7	25.1
15-17	64.8	67.5	61.5
Rural	100.0	100.0	100.0
5-11	16.2	16.0	16.6
12-14	27.2	26.5	28.5
15-17	56.5	57.5	54.9

Regarding location, children in rural areas tend to gravitate towards EA at a younger age than those in urban areas, thus the CL rates in the 5-11 and 12-14 age groups in rural areas are higher.

## 4.2. School attendance of child labourers

Out of the 1.75 million child labourers, 45.2per cent managed to attend school, 52per cent had dropped out and 2.8per cent had never attended school. Similar to patterns of children engaged in EA, the proportion of girls who attend school is higher than of boys.

Table 4.2. CL by school attendance status and gender				
Gender	Number of children	By school attendance status (%)		
		Currently	Used to	Never
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 754 782</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Male	1 047 182	42.9	54.4	2.7
Female	704 666	48.6	48.5	2.9
Unreported	2 934	-	-	-

Of the six regions, the South East has the lowest rate of school attendance by child labourers (17per cent) and a high rate of child labourers who never attend school (5per cent), which is much higher than the national rate of 2.8per cent.

## 4.3. Sectoral composition of child labour

The vast majority of child labourers are in the agricultural sector with 1.18 million children accounting for 67per cent of child labourers. The manufacturing-construction and services sectors attract 276 thousand (15.8per cent) and 293 thousand (16.6per cent) children, respectively.

In rural areas, a giant 74per cent of child labourers are in the agricultural sector, while there is an even spread in urban areas with 38.3per cent in services, 32.5per cent in manufacturing-construction and 28.5per cent in agriculture.

Table 4.3. Child labour by sector and age group					
Sector	Number of children	Rate (%)	By age group (%)		
			5-11	12-14	15-17
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 754 782</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
I. Agriculture	1 176 149	67.1	74.0	77.6	60.3
II. Manufacturing/ construction	276 166	15.8	7.5	7.5	21.7
III. Services	292 947	16.6	17.9	14.5	17.4
Unreported	9 520	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.6
<b>Urban</b>	<b>265 225</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.00</b>
I. Agriculture	75 721	28.5	31.3	35.6	25.5
II. Manufacturing/ construction	86 097	32.4	13.9	22.9	39.2
III. Services	101 431	38.3	53.3	40.5	34.8
Unreported	1 976	0.8	1.4	0.9	0.5
<b>Rural</b>	<b>1 488 068</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
I. Agriculture	1 100 503	73.9	79.4	84.3	67.4
II. Manufacturing/ construction	19 026	1.4	0.7	0.5	1.8
III. Services	191 515	12.8	13.4	10.4	14.0
Unreported	177 024	11.9	6.5	4.8	16.8

Participation by sector changes with children's ages. Children younger than 15 years tend to work in agriculture (75per cent), but this percentage drops to 60per cent in the 15-17 age bracket as some of this group moves to the manufacturing-construction sector.

## 4.4. Type of work performed by child labourers

Child labourers are engaged in different types of work in all three economic sectors. The survey identified 111 specific types of children's work, with 18 types attracting almost 1.45 million children (82.37per cent of child labourers). Of these 18 types of work, 11 are in agriculture, three in manufacturing-construction and three in services.

Table 4.4. Child labour by type of work and age group								
Code	Type of work	No of children	Rate (%)	By age group (%)			Gender (%)	
				5-11	12-14	15-17	Boys	Girls
11	Annual crop cultivation	485 781	27.68	8.68	25.03	66.29	58.12	41.88
14	Animal husbandry	210 569	12.00	38.55	38.19	23.26	65.30	34.70
15	Combination of cultivation and animal husbandry	149 512	8.52	21.79	33.09	45.13	51.75	48.25
12	Perennial plantation	100 648	5.74	16.29	31.77	51.94	60.63	39.37
561	Restaurant and mobile catering services	61 126	3.48	15.32	23.30	61.38	35.24	64.76
22	Logging, exploitation of timber and other forest products	58 079	3.31	18.08	41.57	40.36	62.41	37.59
13	Industrial plant propagation and tending	54 124	3.08	8.04	30.77	61.18	61.87	38.13
410	House construction	51 641	2.94	0.00	9.84	90.16	98.86	1.14
31	Aqua exploitation	49 390	2.81	14.07	32.78	53.15	90.15	9.85
141	Textile and garment (excluding fur clothing)	41 240	2.35	7.22	6.71	86.06	20.88	79.12
563	Beverages	39 122	2.23	16.66	35.27	48.06	38.71	61.29
478	Retail and vending	24 821	1.41	16.64	10.49	72.87	47.93	52.07
310	Making furniture	24 377	1.39	0.00	15.48	84.52	72.98	27.02
32	Aqua farming	24 101	1.37	0.00	33.70	66.30	84.80	15.20
472	Vending food, alcohol and tobacco	21 343	1.22	25.15	12.79	62.06	65.59	34.41
23	Small forestry products collection	16 870	0.96	37.15	47.45	15.41	61.80	38.20
16	Agricultural service activities	16 867	0.96	5.97	23.62	70.40	88.91	11.09
102	Aqua processing and manufacturing	15 720	0.90	1.31	44.93	53.76	47.05	52.95
Total of 18 types of work above		1 445 332	82.37	82.37	15.91	28.55	55.54	59.90
Total of child labourers		1 754 782	100.0	100.0	15.51	26.72	57.77	59.78

In agriculture, child labour focuses on annual plant cultivation (28per cent), husbandry (12per cent), cultivation and animal husbandry (8.52per cent), perennial planting (5.74per cent) as well as forest product exploitation and plant propagation. In the manufacturing-construction segment children work in construction (3per cent), garment and textile (2.35per cent), while catering (3.48per cent), retail and vending (1.41per cent) are popular areas of services work.

Regarding age, 230,000 children aged 5-11 (16.1per cent of child labourers) participate in the 17 most common types of work, a higher rate compared with the share of this age group in the total number of child labourers (15.5per cent). More than 405,000 children in the 12-14 age bracket (28.4per cent) engage in these 17 types of work, also a higher rate compared with the share of this age group in the total number of child labourers (26.7per cent). Respective figures in the 15-17 age group are 794,000 55.6per cent and 57.8per cent, reflecting this age group’s higher participation rate in all types of work.

Regarding gender, the ratio of boys to girls participating in these 17 types of work is similar to the general CL ratio.

Out of total 1.75 million child labourers in Viet Nam, 1.31 million (75per cent) participate in hazardous-at-risk work prohibited by Circular No.09. This issue will be further reviewed in point 4.10.

## 4.5. Ages that children start work of the child labour group

As can be seen from Table 4.5, a small number of children start work at an early age of 5-7 (2.6per cent) and the majority starts at 12-13 (25.1per cent) and 14-17 (39.1per cent). Of note, about 11per cent start work when they are aged less than 10.

Table 4.5. Ages that children start work						
Age	Number of children	Rate (%)	Gender			
			Male		Female	
			No.	(%)	No.	(%)
5-7	45 110	2.6	26 797	2.6	18 313	2.6
8-9	150 861	8.6	97 344	9.3	53 517	7.6
10-11	317 817	18.1	164 012	15.6	153 805	21.8
12-13	440 703	25.1	258 055	24.6	182 648	25.9
14-17	685 590	39.1	441 140	42.1	244 450	34.6
Unreported	114 701	6.5	61 625	5.9	53 077	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,754,782</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,048,973</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>705,810</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 4.6. Weekly working hours of child labourers

About 67 per cent of child labourers work less than 42 hours per week, however as many as 569,000 (32.4 per cent) exceed 42 hours of weekly work. Most child labourers aged 15-17 fall into the latter group, with half on average working above 42 hours/week. However, 5,000 children aged 5-11 and 12-14 exceed the 42 hour mark. These findings mean this group needs special attention to address these long work hours that exhaust children and have a negative impact on their physical and psychological well-being.

Another interesting finding is boys and child labourers in urban areas work especially longer hours.

Regarding age, the majority of children aged 5-11 (88 per cent) work less than 24 hours/week, aged 12-14 (89 per cent) less than 42 hours/week, but half of child labourers aged 15-17 exceed 42 hours/week.

Table 4.6. Child labour by working hour and age group						
Working hour per week	Number of children	By gender		By age group (per cent)		
		Male	Female	5 -11	12-14	15-17
<b>National</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 - < 5	4.2	3.9	4.8	7.5	7.1	2.1
6 - < 24	40.3	38.7	42.7	80.4	51.1	24.6
25 - < 42	22.9	24.1	21.1	10.3	30.9	22.5
> 42	32.4	33.3	31.1	1.8	10.9	50.6
Unreported	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2
<b>Urban</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 - < 5	3.0	3.0	3.0	5.2	6.5	1.3
6 - < 24	29.9	24.5	36.5	74.4	41.2	17.9
25 - < 42	18.5	21.6	14.6	8.2	32.1	15.3
> 42	48.6	50.7	45.9	12.3	20.1	65.4
Unreported	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
<b>Rural</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 - < 5	4.5	4.0	5.1	7.7	7.1	2.2
6 - < 24	42.2	41.0	44.0	81.1	52.7	25.9
25 - < 42	23.7	24.4	22.5	10.6	30.7	24.0
> 42	29.5	30.5	28.0	0.5	9.5	47.6
Unreported	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.3

As stated earlier, long work hours have a serious impact on children's school attendance rates and this will be further examined in this report.

## 4.7. Working venues of child labourers

Concerning work venues, 37.5per cent of child labourers are located on farms/plantations/gardens, 23per cent work at home and 12.4per cent do not have a fixed working venue.

By age, more younger children tend to work at home or in unfixed places than older ones, while more senior aged children work in factories/workshops and restaurants/hotels than younger ones.

Table 4.7. Child labour by working venue and age group								
Working venue	Number of children	Rate (%)	By age group					
			5-11		12-14		15-17	
			No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Home	402 365	22.9	109 932	40.4	133 699	28.5	158 734	15.7
Client's residence	61 005	3.5	790	0.3	8 333	1.8	51 882	5.1
Office	18 379	1.0		0.0	1 380	0.3	17 000	1.7
Manufacturing establishment	106 200	6.1	3 785	1.4	11 474	2.4	90 941	9.0
Field/farm	658 805	37.5	87 796	32.3	193 578	41.3	377 431	37.2
Construction site	15 719	0.9		0.0		0.0	15 719	1.6
Mine/stone quarry	191	0.0		0.0		0.0	191	0.0
Bar/restaurant/hotel	38 869	2.2		0.0		0.0	38 869	3.8
Mobile/Unfixed	217 429	12.4	57 326	21.1	75 880	16.2	84 222	8.3
Street/wet market	48 965	2.8	2 636	1.0	7 951	1.7	38 379	3.8
River/lake/swamp	27 568	1.6	673	0.2	9 515	2.0	17 380	1.7
Others	158 213	9.0	9 295	3.4	27 042	5.8	121 876	12.0
Unreported	1 074	0.1		0.0		0.0	1 074	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 754 782</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>272 231</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>468 852</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 013 699</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 4.8. Income of households with child labourers

Households with child labourers typically earn VND2.5 - <4.5 million per month and 38.2per cent exceed VND4.5 million per month. However, a chunk of households (24per cent) earn less than VND2.5 million a month (below the poverty line).

The average income of a family with child labourer(s) in urban areas is higher than rural areas, with nearly 65per cent of urban households pulling in more than VND4.5 million a month, while less than 34per cent of such families in rural areas earn as much.

Of those households raking in VND4.5 million per month, 15per cent have child labourers aged 5-11 years, 26.7per cent aged 12-14 years and 62.1per cent aged 15-17 years.

Compared with the income of families with children engaged in EA, those with CL earn a higher income on average, but the gap is insignificant. Hence, there is great scope for support programmes to assist working children and help prevent them becoming child labourers.

Table 4.8. Average monthly income of households with child labourers (thousand VND/month)					
Income (thousand VND)	Number of children	Rate (%)	By age group (%)		
			5 -11	12-14	15-17
≤ 500	18 338	1.0	22.5	34.1	43.4
≤ 1 500	137 535	7.8	25.2	33.4	41.5
≤ 2 500	276 197	15.7	22.3	29.7	48.0
≤ 3 500	310 740	17.7	15.9	27.0	57.1
≤ 4 500	284 117	16.2	15.0	26.0	59.0
> 4 500	670 993	38.2	11.6	26.3	62.1
Unreported	56 862	3.2	3.3	0.3	96.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 754 782</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>57.8</b>

## 4.9. Health and work safety issues

This survey’s questionnaire was designed to also gather information about health and work safety issues faced by CL, who are especially vulnerable to such risks.

Of the surveyed CL having suffered accidents or injuries while working, insect bites affected 27.5per cent, abrasions (19per cent), fatigue (13per cent), fractures (4per cent) and respiratory problems (2per cent) (Table 4.9a).

Issues	Number of children	Rate affected (%)	By age group					
			5-11		12-14		15-17	
			No.	(%) affected	No.	(%) affected	No.	(%) affected
Abrasion or open wound	329 500	18.8	47 676	17.5	90 449	19.3	191 374	18.9
Fracture	6 324	0.4	2 488	0.9	1 218	0.3	2 618	0.3
Luxation/sprain	74 133	4.2	10 766	4.0	19 154	4.1	44 213	4.4
Burned/scraped/scratched	26 801	1.5	5 089	1.9	4 920	1.0	16 792	1.7
Respiratory problems	33 513	1.9	5 380	2.0	7 743	1.7	20 390	2.0
Eye problems	34 635	2.0	5 004	1.8	5 436	1.2	24 194	2.4
Skin problems	63 508	3.6	5 476	2.0	10 815	2.3	47 217	4.7
Stomach, digestion problems	48 836	2.8	5 894	2.2	8 671	1.8	34 271	3.4
Coughing	132 737	7.6	20 428	7.5	22 454	4.8	89 855	8.9
Exhaustion, fatigue	231 310	13.2	27 293	10.0	49 043	10.5	154 974	15.3
Bitten by snakes	22 016	1.3	2 562	0.9	4 697	1.0	14 757	1.5
Bitten by insects	483 134	27.5	112 694	41.4	114 124	24.3	256 316	25.3
Others	7 290	0.4	1 203	0.4	2 764	0.6	3 322	0.3

Working also poses other dangers to children's physical development. This is evidenced by 38per cent of surveyed child labourers being affected by smoke, dust and rubbish, more than 29per cent forced to work with tools/equipment that could potentially harm them, almost 21per cent work in environments with extreme temperatures and almost 10per cent face environments containing hazardous chemicals (Table 4.9.b)



Table 4.9.b. Adverse health impacts of working on Child labour									
Adverse health impacts	Total		By age group						
			5 - 11		12 - 14		15 - 17		
	Number of children	Rate (%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	
Smoke, dust and rubbish	670 427	38.2	72 871	26.8	196 333	41.9	401 223	39.6	
Fire, combustion gas	148 424	8.5	10 510	3.9	42 947	9.2	94 968	9.4	
Noise, vibrations	195 769	11.2	4 215	1.5	36 244	7.7	155 310	15.3	
Too hot or too cold	363 604	20.7	32 194	11.8	104 210	22.2	227 199	22.4	
Dangerous tools, devices	511 516	29.1	36 800	13.5	156 090	33.3	318 626	31.4	
Working underground	3 952	0.2		0.0	154	0.0	3 798	0.4	
Working at high altitude	47 979	2.7	6 932	2.5	9 401	2.0	31 646	3.1	
Working underwater	129 895	7.4	11 995	4.4	40 351	8.6	77 549	7.7	
Working in environments that are too dark	29 742	1.7	5 522	2.0	9 355	2.0	14 866	1.5	
Stuffy	45 269	2.6	4 943	1.8	10 595	2.3	29 731	2.9	
Hazardous chemicals	168 204	9.6	5 110	1.9	38 699	8.3	124 394	12.3	
Explosives	57 917	3.3	3 251	1.2	11 047	2.4	43 619	4.3	
Drugs	2 902	0.2	0	0.0	1 875	0.4	1 027	0.1	
Weapons	191	0.0	0	0.0		0.0	191	0.0	
Others	6 537	0.4	693	0.3	3 700	0.8	2 145	0.2	

## 4.10. Children in hazardous-at-risk work

### 4.10.1 Size

As shown in this survey, 1315 thousand children (75per cent of child labourers) do work verging on that banned for junior workers and/or in environments negatively affecting children's development. The data collected in this survey, however, was insufficient to identify if working children contravene the banned list of employment defined in the Inter-ministerial Circular No.9/TT-LB. Hence, these working children are classified as only AT RISK of doing hazardous work. Further study into this group of working children is needed.

Table 4.10.1. Children in hazardous-at-risk work by age group and gender					
Area/ Gender	Number of children	Rate (%)	By age group (%)		
			5-11	12-14	15-17
<b>National</b>					
Total	1 315 406	100.0	9.7	29.3	61.0
Male	798 688	60.7	9.4	28.2	62.4
Female	516 718	39.3	10.2	31.0	58.8
<b>Urban</b>					
Total	174 221	100.0	6.2	27.4	66.4
Male	101 978	58.5	5.7	24.9	69.4
Female	72 244	41.5	6.9	30.9	62.2
<b>Rural</b>					
Total	1 141 184	100.0	10.3	29.6	60.2
Male	696 710	61.1	10.0	28.6	61.4
Female	444 475	38.9	10.7	31.0	58.3

### 4.10.2. School attendance status

Of children in hazardous-at-risk work, 48.1per cent attend school, 49.3per cent had quit school and 2.4per cent had never gone to school. This group's school attendance rate is lower than that of working children in general, while more boys in hazardous-at-risk work do not go to school compared to girls.

Table 4.10.2 Children in hazardous-at-risk work by school attendance status						
School attendance status	Number of children	Rate (%)	By gender			
			Male		Female	
			Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Attending school	632 544	48.11	358 726	44.9	273 817	53.0
Not attending school	648 873	49.3	419 490	52.5	229 382	44.4
Never attended school	31 529	2.4	18 680	2.3	12 848	2.5
Unreported	2 461	0.2	1 791	0.2	670	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 315 406</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>798 688</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>516 718</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 4.11. Children working excessive hours

### 4.11.1. Size

Some 569 thousand out of 1.75 million child labourers clocked more than 42 hours in the reference week (hereinafter called CL42). “CL42” is largely concentrated in rural areas with 439 thousand CLs. Overall, 512 thousand “CL42” is aged 15-17. Alarming, almost 5,000 members of “CL42” are aged 5-11 years. This group needs particular attention and support as such excessive work at a young age will seriously affect development and education.

The gender breakdown of “CL42” is boys (61.5per cent) and girls (38.5per cent).

Table 4.11.1. Children working more than 42 hours/week by region and gender					
Area/ Gender	Number of children	Rate (%)	By age group (%)		
			5-11	12-14	15-17
<b>National</b>					
Total	568 723	100.0	0.9	9.0	90.1
Male	349 527	61.5	0.6	10.0	89.4
Female	219 196	38.5	1.4	7.4	91.3
<b>Urban</b>					
Total	128 788	100.0	2.9	9.8	87.3
Male	74 247	57.7	1.7	8.9	89.5
Female	54 541	42.3	4.6	11.2	84.3
<b>Rural</b>					
Total	439 935	100.0	0.3	8.7	91.0
Male	275 280	62.6	0.3	10.3	89.4
Female	164 655	37.4	0.3	6.1	93.6

### 4.11.2. School attendance status

Almost all of “CL42” do not attend school and there are negligible differences between children in urban and rural areas or boys and girls. The survey identified that 96.2per cent of “CL42” does not attend school, of which 3per cent never attended school.

Table 4.11.2. Children working more than 42 hours/week by school attendance status						
School attendance	Number of children	Rate (%)	By gender			
			Male		Female	
			Number	(%)	Number	(%)
<b>National</b>	568 723	100.0	349 527	100.0	219 196	100.0
Attending school	1 502	0.3	53	0.0	1 449	0.7
Not attending school	547 334	96.2	339 321	97.1	208 013	94.9
Never attending school	18 948	3.3	9 934	2.8	9 014	4.1
Unreported	940	0.2	219	0.1	721	0.3
<b>Urban</b>	128 788	100.0	74 247	100.0	54 541	100.0
Attending school	726	0.6	53	0.1	673	1.2
Not attending school	121 352	94.2	70 772	95.3	50 580	92.7
Never attending school	6 558	5.1	3 422	4.6	3 135	5.7
Unreported	153	0.1		0.0	153	0.3

<b>Rural</b>	400 247	100.0	246 112	100.0	154 136	100.0
Attending school	776	0.2		0	776	0.5
Not attending school	389 125	97.2	241 579	98.2	147 547	95.7
Never attending school	9 559	2.4	4 313	1.8	5 245	3.4
Unreported	787	0.2	219	0.1	568	0.4

### 4.11.3. Economic working sector

Compared to average child labourers, the “CL42” group is relatively evenly distributed across agriculture (42.8per cent), manufacturing-construction (32.5per cent) and services (24per cent).

In urban areas, “CL42” is mainly in manufacturing-construction and services, accounting for 46.3per cent and 38.8per cent, respectively. In rural areas, almost 50per cent of “CL42” work in agriculture.

Table 4.11.3 Child labourers working more than 42 hours/week by economic sector					
Sector	Number of children	Rate (%)	By age group (%)		
			5-11	12-14	15-17
<b>National</b>	<b>568 723</b>	<b>100.0</b>	0.9	9.0	90.1
Agriculture	243 230	42.8	0.6	10.4	88.9
Manufacturing-Construction	184 691	32.5	1.5	6.5	92.0
Services	137 779	24.2	0.5	10.0	89.5
Unreported	3 024	0.5	0.0	0.0	100.0
<b>Urban</b>	<b>128 788</b>	<b>100.0</b>	2.9	9.8	87.3
Agriculture	18 821	14.6	1.6	7.9	90.5
Manufacturing-Construction	59 683	46.3	4.5	8.0	87.5
Services	50 005	38.8	1.4	12.8	85.7
Unreported	280	0.2	0.0	0.0	100.0
<b>Rural</b>	<b>439 935</b>	<b>100.0</b>	0.3	8.7	91.0
Agriculture	224 408	51.0	0.5	10.6	88.8
Manufacturing-Construction	125 008	28.4	0.0	5.8	94.2
Services	87 774	20.0	0.0	8.4	91.6
Unreported	2 744	0.6	0.0	0.0	100.0

Younger children tend to work in agriculture and services, while older ones focus on the manufacturing-construction sector.

### 4.11.4. Type or work and working venue of children working excessive hours

“CL42” engages in similar jobs to child labourers, but is more concentrated in 26 major activities (82per cent of CL42). In general, members of “CL42” aged 5-11 are just engaged in annual crop cultivation, animal husbandry, embroidery and restaurant work, while the 12-14 and 15-17 age brackets engage in the vast majority of the 26 activities (23/26 and 26/26, respectively).

Table 4.11.4a. Type of work of children working excessive hours						
Code	Type	Number of children	Rate (%)	By age group (%)		
				5-11	12-14	15-17
11	Annual crop cultivation	137 310	24.1	0.7	6.7	92.6
12	Perennial plantations	19 990	3.5	0.0	8.8	91.2
13	Industrial plant propagation and tending	14 369	2.5	0.0	9.1	90.9
14	Animal husbandry	18 016	3.2	2.9	30.0	67.1
15	Combination of cultivation and animal husbandry	10 876	1.9	0.0	1.2	98.8
16	Agricultural service activities	6 110	1.1	0.0	14.8	85.2
22	Logging, exploitation of timber and other forest products	6 428	1.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
31	Aqua exploitation	19 629	3.5	0.0	15.2	84.8
32	Aqua farming	5 691	1.0	0.0	61.1	38.9
102	Aqua processing and manufacturing	11 591	2.0	0.0	35.4	64.6
103	Vegetable processing and manufacturing	5 977	1.1	0.0	2.7	97.3
141	Textile and garments (excluding fur clothing)	35 063	6.2	4.6	2.8	92.6
152	Footwear production	9 756	1.7	0.0	2.2	97.8
239	Manufacturing of unclassified non-metallic mineral products	7 843	1.4	0.0	0.0	100.0
310	Wooden furniture production	13 670	2.4	0.0	0.0	100.0
410	Construction	38 839	6.8	0.0	7.4	92.6
454	Sale, maintenance and repair of motorcycles, spare parts and accessories	7 742	1.4	0.0	33.5	66.5
472	Retail of food, beverage and tobacco	9 468	1.7	0.0	8.9	91.1
477	Retail of other goods	7 408	1.3	0.0	1.6	98.4
478	Market and mobile vendors	13 203	2.3	0.0	0.4	99.6
479	Other forms of retail	5 477	1.0	0.0	20.0	80.0
561	Restaurant and mobile catering service	24 217	4.3	2.9	5.7	91.4
563	D63 catering	17 594	3.1	0.0	16.4	83.6
920	Entertainment and lottery	5 521	1.0	0.0	16.4	83.6
963	Other personal service activities not elsewhere classified	8 285	1.5	0.0	0.0	100.0

Of the 569 thousand members of “CL42”, 151 thousand (26.6per cent) work on plantations/farms/ gardens, while 15.6per cent work in factories/workshops and 7per cent at home.

Regarding age groups, younger children tend to work at home or have unfixed working venues, while older ones are more common in factories/workshops or restaurants.

Table 4.11.4b. Working venues of children working more than 42 hours/week									
No	Working venue	Number of children	Rate (%)	By age group (%)					
				5-11		12-14		15-17	
				Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
1	Home	38 505	6.8	378	7.7	5 678	11.1	32 449	6.3
2	Home delivery	39 361	6.9		0.0	4 122	8.1	35 238	6.9
3	Office	15 724	2.8		0.0	580	1.1	15 144	3.0
4	Manufacturing establishment	88 934	15.6	2 705	55.0	7 249	14.2	78 980	15.4
5	Plantation/farm/garden	151 440	26.6	1 071	21.8	15 395	30.1	134 974	26.3
6	Construction site	11 397	2.0		0.0		0.0	11 397	2.2
7	Stone quarry	191	0.0		0.0		0.0	191	0.0
8	Restaurant/hotel	34 029	6.0		0.0		0.0	34 029	6.6
9	Unfixed	38 327	6.7	436	8.9	7 848	15.3	30 044	5.9
10	Street/market	28 974	5.1		0.0	2 755	5.4	26 219	5.1
11	River/pond/swamp	5 663	1.0		0.0		0.0	5 663	1.1
12	Others	115 721	20.3	329	6.7	7 534	14.7	107 858	21.0
13	Unreported	459	0.1		0.0		0.0	459	0.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>568 723</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4 918</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>51 162</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>512 643</b>	<b>100.0</b>

# Conclusions and recommendations

## Conclusions

1. Out of 2.83 million children engaged in EA (9.6per cent of the national child population), 1.75 million are classified as child labourers and one-third must work more than 42 hours/week. The data underlines the need for the CL issue to be more comprehensively addressed.
2. Almost 85per cent of CL cases are reported in rural areas where a high rate of working children is also observed (18.62per cent against 7.56per cent in urban areas). These findings underline that CL prevention measures should especially focus on rural areas.
3. The rate of boys engaged in EA (in all forms) is higher than that of girls.
4. Most working children belong to the 15-17 age bracket, but 15per cent are aged 5-11. All possible forms of forced or compulsory labour must be eliminated in this latter group.
5. Children's engagement in EA negatively affects their participation in education, as the rate of children who stop attending school rises in step with the level of working engagement. Specifically, the overall rate of non-attendance at school for working children (41.6per cent), rises to almost 55per cent for CL and a revealing 96.4per cent for children working more than 42 hours/week.
6. More than two-thirds of child labourers are unpaid family workers and contribute to household income. This means prevention and/or intervention measures should target households and the parents of children.
7. More than two-thirds of child labourers work in agriculture, which is labour-intensive but produces less surplus value than manufacturing and services. As a result, agricultural and rural economic restructuring will play an important part in reducing the prevalence of CL.

## Recommendations

1. Child labour, despite significant progress in addressing it, still remains a serious issue for Viet Nam. To further help policy-makers tackle the issue, this report makes the following recommendations:
2. Continue to review the number of child labourers in employment AT RISK of falling into the list of prohibited work for junior workers and/or in environments negatively affecting the children's development.
3. Continue to improve national legislation and policies focusing on child care, protection and CL as well as ensure these documents are in accordance with related international laws and the current situation in Viet Nam. Sanctions and penalties for CL violations should be strengthened.
4. Efforts to address CL should be mainstreamed into socio-economic development policies in rural areas (encompassing rural development and modernisation, commodity economic development, education and training, hunger reduction and poverty eradication) to eliminate CL.
5. Family plays a key role in the employment of the children. As a result, households should be the centre of outreach efforts to raise awareness of working children issues. Educational assistance should also help households with substitute incomes when children resume schooling. Though hazardous work must be eliminated, children can still help their families with housework for certain number of working hours.
6. National programmes on child protection need to be developed and implemented to offer protection from different dimensions, especially preventing, intervening and supporting working children in manufacturing and services, in urban areas and those less than 11 years old. Furthermore, social bonds between children, families, schools and social workers should be strengthened.
7. Leadership offered by authorities and media campaigns must be strengthened to fight CL with full engagement from State offices, socio-political organizations, the community and individuals.

# References

## *Viet Nam's Legislation and Policies*

1. The Party's Secretariat Directive No38-CT/TW on 30 May 1994, the Politburo Directive No55-CT/TW on 26 August 2000 on the strengthening of the Party's leadership at local levels on child protection, care and education.
2. Labour Code 2007
3. Civil Code 2005
4. Penal Code 1999
5. Civil Procedure Code 2004
6. The Law on Child Protection, Care and Education 2004
7. The Law on Marriage and Family 2000
8. The Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control 2007
9. Military Service Law 2005
10. National Plan of Action for Children for 1991-2000
11. National Plan of Action for Children for 2001-2010 (Decision No 23/2001/QD-TTg on 26/2/2001)
12. National Plan of Action for the Protection of Children Living in Special Circumstances for 1999-2002 (Decision No.134/1999 on 31/5/1999)
13. National Programme of Action for Preventing the Issues of Street Children, Sexually Abused Children and Children Working in Hazardous Environments for 2004-2010
14. National Plan of Action for Children for 2011-2015 (Decision No.267/QD-TTg on 22/2/2011)
15. MOLISA and MOH, Joint Circular No.09/TT-LB on 13 April 1995 stipulating harmful working conditions and jobs where the employment of junior workers is banned
16. MOLISA, Circular No.21/1999/TT-BLDTBXH on 11 September 1999 on employing children not 15 years of age.

## *International Law*

17. United Nations, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1990
18. ILO, Convention No.138 and Recommendation No.146 on the minimum age of admission to employment, 1973
19. ILO, Convention No.182 and Recommendation No.190 on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the worst forms of CL, 1999
20. ILO, Resolution II on statistics of CL, 5 December 2008
21. ILO, Convention No.189 and Recommendation No.201 on decent work for domestic workers, 2011



## Appendix

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, WAR  
INVALIDS AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS-  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

Independence - Freedom - Happiness

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No: 09-TT/LB

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Ha Noi, day 13 month 4 year 1995

**INTER-MINISTERIAL CIRCULAR No.9/TTLB ON THE 13TH OF APRIL 1995 DEFINING THE  
HARMFUL WORKING CONDITIONS AND JOBS WHERE THE EMPLOYMENT OF JUNIOR  
WORKERS IS BANNED**

*Pursuant to Article 121 of the Labour Code on 23 June 1994;*

*To ensure a comprehensive development of the physical and intellectual power and the character of junior workers and labour safety for them, the MOLISA and the MOH hereby define the harmful working conditions and jobs where the employment of junior workers is banned.*

**A. THE ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED AND THE SCOPE OF REGULATION**

The following enterprises, agencies and organizations are banned from employing junior workers in the jobs with harmful conditions and in the types of job stipulated in this Circular:

- State-owned enterprises
- Enterprises in other economic sectors, those organizations and individuals that hire labour

Foreign-invested enterprises, the enterprises in the export processing zones and industrial parks, the foreign agencies and organizations or international organizations based in Viet Nam which hire Vietnamese labour

- The administrative, business and service units in administrative and public service offices, mass organizations, and other political and social organizations, the people's armed forces, and the people's police.

**B. THE HARMFUL WORKING CONDITIONS WHERE THE EMPLOYMENT OF JUNIOR LA-  
BOUR IS BANNED:**

1. Extra-heavy labour (consuming more than 4 kcal/minute, heartbeat 120/minute)
2. Compressed working posture, lack of oxygen
3. Direct contact with the chemicals that may cause genetic change, affect the transformation of cells, cause cancer, cause long-term harm to the reproductive organs (testicular and ovarian deficiency), cause occupational diseases, and other harmful effects
4. Contact with the factors that may cause contagious diseases
5. Contact with radioactive substances (including X-ray equipment)
6. Contact with an electric field which is stronger than the permissible level
7. In an environment with more vibration and noise than the permissible level
8. The temperature in the workshop rises above 40°C in summer and above 35°C in winter, or heat radiation is too high

9. Where atmospheric pressure is higher or lower than normal
10. Underground
11. At dangerously high altitudes
12. At work places which are not suitable to the nerves and psychology of minors
13. At the places that may affect the formation of personality.

### **C. LIST OF JOBS WHERE THE EMPLOYMENT OF JUNIOR WORKERS IS BANNED**

1. The list of jobs where the employment of junior workers is banned (See supplement) issued attached to this Circular.
2. The ministries, branches or units which have working conditions or jobs (not yet included in the list attached to this Circular) would report it to the MOLISA and the MOH to add it to the list.

### **D. ORGANIZATION OF IMPLEMENTATION**

1. The Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs Services and the Medical Services of the provinces and cities directly under the Central Government shall have to cooperate with the Workers' Unions of the same level to increase inspection of the implementation of this Circular at the grassroots units.
2. The State Inspector on Labour Safety and the State Inspector on Labour Hygiene shall have to closely inspect those units which employ junior workers in order to detect and handle violations in accordance with law.
3. The enterprises, public offices, organizations and individuals shall have to base themselves on the harmful working conditions and the jobs stipulated in this Circular to immediately take the following measures:
  - a/ Review the jobs which junior workers are doing, and re-arrange them to suit their health. Two months at the latest after this Circular is issued, they should not let junior workers work in the working conditions and do the jobs stipulated in this Circular.
  - b/ Keep a record with full names, dates of birth, and the jobs junior workers are doing; check the health of applicants before recruiting them; conducting periodical health checkups.

This Circular takes effect from the date of its signing.

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

**Vice Minister**

**Le Duy Dong**

**MINISTRY OF LABOUR, INVALIDS AND  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

**Vice Minister**

**Le Ngoc Trong**

## LIST OF WORK BANNING THE EMPLOYMENT OF JUNIOR WORKERS

*(Attached to Circular No.09 on 13 April 1995 of the Ministries of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs and Health)*

1. Directly heating, pouring and transporting molten metal, removing moulds, and cleaning products cast in foundries:
  - Arc furnace (of any capacity)
  - Fixed steel furnace.
  - Tipper steel furnace.
  - Blast furnace.
  - Pig iron furnace.
2. Rolling hot metal.
3. Directly heating non-ferrous metals (copper, lead, tin, mercury, zinc, silver).
4. Igniting and pouring out coke from a furnace.
5. Igniting the boiler in a steam engine.
6. Welding in a closed container, welding at an altitude of more than 5 meters above the ground.
7. Digging pits.
8. Digging a tunnel and doing other work in a tunnel, or working in pits more than 5 meters deep.
9. Breaking and removing rock on a mountain.
10. Installing a drill rig.
11. Working on an offshore drill rig.
12. Making exploratory drills for an oil and gas well.
13. Making exploratory drills, drilling holes to lay and explode mines.
14. Using hand-operated pressure machines with an atmospheric pressure of 4 degrees upwards (such as drilling and hammering machines and similar machines which cause unusual vibrations for the human body).
15. Driving motor-vehicles.
16. Operating horizontal cranes, cranes, trolley cranes, and electric pulleys (except hand-operated pulleys).
17. Hooking or tying weights to horizontal cranes, cranes, trolley cranes, and electric pulleys.
18. Operating lifts for passengers and freights, or special lifts for freights operating forklifts.
19. Driving construction machines (excavators, bulldozers, caterpillars)
20. Driving tractors.
21. Operating dredgers.
22. Operating steam boilers.
23. Operating machines for starching cloth and cotton yarns.
24. Rolling and pressing large pieces of hard leather.
25. Surveying waterways.
26. Pouring concrete underwater.
27. Diving.
28. Working in an underwater container.
29. Working in an aircraft.
30. Repairing electric cable lines in a tunnel or on an open-air post, and high-voltage transmission lines, installing high-voltage electric pylons.
31. Installing or repairing underground cable lines and open-air cable lines of the electric communication lines.

32. Directly digging up a tree root more than 40cm in diameter.
33. Felling vertical tree trunks from 35cm in diameter upwards, sawing, cutting or trimming branches high above the ground.
34. Transporting, moving and loading logs from 35cm in diameter upwards by hand, by wooden chutes or wooden slides.
35. Operating a raft on a river with many cascades.
36. Salvaging sunken logs, pulling logs in the dockyard, pulling logs ashore.
37. Sawing a log by hand by two persons (banned to female minors only).
38. Working in a scaffold or on a beam more than 5m above the ground, and similar work.
39. Fixing, dismantling or changing a scaffold (except working as assistant on the ground or on the floor).
40. Collecting salangane nests, collecting bat manure.
41. Working on an ocean-going ship.
42. Keeping guard on a ship, keeping watch of a ship in the dockyard or on a river bank.
43. Working alone on a railway track; in a mountain cave; in underground projects; or in a place where the worker cannot see farther than 400m; or in places very difficult to access.
44. Moving, connecting or disconnecting carriages in a locomotive workshop, on a railway track.
45. Cutting logs with a disc saw or a circular saw.
46. Feeding materials into stone-grinding machine and operating a stone-grinding machine.
47. Operating planing machines in carpentry.
48. Handling steam, pressure or power-operated machines for forging, hammering, pressing, and cutting metals.
49. Assembling, repairing, and cleaning moulds of forging, hammering, pressing and cutting machines (either steam, pressure, power or hand-operated).
50. Building a ship (wooden or steel ships), carrying or fixing a weight of 20kg or more.
51. Carrying weights heavier than the following limits:

Classification	On-and-off work (kg)	Continuous work (kg)
From 15 years (180 months) to under 16 years (192 months)	Female: 12 Male: 15	8 10
From 16 years (192 months) to under 18 years (216 months)	Female: 25 Male: 30	15 20

52. Operating or doing duty at low-voltage, medium-voltage, and high-voltage stations.
53. Checking, repairing, and handling electric circuits with a voltage of over 700v in a direct current; of over 220v in an alternating current and things to maintain such electric circuits.
54. Igniting a petrol-fired machine which consumes more than 400 liters/hour.
55. Manufacturing, using and transporting dangerous products: explosives, inflammable substances, oxidized substances, gas, gunpowder, ammunition, and artillery pieces which may cause explosion or fire.
56. Operating systems for producing and loading acetylene, oxygen, hydrogen, chlorine, and liquefied gases.
57. Operating a refrigerating system (for making ice or freezing).
58. Working in place polluted by earth and rock dust or powder, cement dust, coal dust, animal fur, and other dust surpassing the permissible level.
59. Repairing furnaces, containers, closed towers, and pipes in chemical production.
60. Working at tobacco-fermenting ovens and cigarettes-drying ovens.
61. Igniting glass-melting furnace; blowing glass products with the mouth.
62. Covering the inside of liquor containers with layers of paraffin wax.

63. Working in contact with petrol in caves and tunnels: delivering or taking delivery of petrol, maintaining and operating petrol pumping and counting machines.
64. Screening lead ores.
65. Rolling, spinning and hammering lead products, galvanizing products with lead.
66. Sulfurizing, shaping or removing large rubber products such as fuel containers and tanks, car tyres...
67. Working in contact with organic solvents such as soaking sleepers, spreading emulsion on photographic paper, printing flowers on polyethylene sheets, and printing labels on polyethylene paper, rolling and pressing phenol, operating phenol boilers.
68. Dredging underground sewers, working in dirty water.
69. Working in crematoria and slaughter houses.
70. Making an autopsy, shrouding and burying a dead person, exhuming and moving remains of a dead person to another place.
71. Working in a prison or in a mental hospital.
72. Serving at cocktails, dancing floors, or in entertainment business.
73. Directly raising ferocious beasts or poisonous animals.
74. Working in contact with radiation, X-ray and other harmful rays.
75. Working at broadcasting stations such as radio and television stations, radar stations, ground-satellite telecommunications stations... which have a magnetic field surpassing the permissible level.
76. Working in direct contact with chemicals causing gene mutation:
  - 5 Flour uracyl
  - Benzene
77. Working in direct contact with a number of chemicals which may cause long-term damage to the reproductive organs (testicular or ovary deficiency):
  - Estrogen
  - Cysretionic acid
  - Carbaryl
  - Dibromide cholralpropane (DBCP)
  - Toluenediamine and dinitrotoluene
  - Polychlorine biphenyl (PCBs)
  - Polybromidebiphenyl (PBBs).
78. Working in direct contact (including manufacture, packaging, preparing, spraying, store disinfecting) with insecticide, weed killer, mosquito killer, termite killer, moth killer, rat killer containing organic chloral and some other chemicals liable to cause cancer such as:
  - 1,4 Butanediol, dimethalsulfate
  - 4 aminobiphenyl
  - Asbestos of amosite, crysotyl, crocidolite types
  - Arsenic, arsenate calcium
  - Dioxin
  - Dichloromethyl-ether
  - Insoluble chromate salts
  - Coal tar, coal tar vapour
  - Cyclophosphamide
  - Diethylsilboestol
  - 2, Naphthylamine
  - N,N-di (chloroethyl). 2. Naphthylamine
  - Thori dioxide
  - Theosulfane
  - Vinyl chloral, vinyl chloride

- 4, amino, 10 - methyl folic acid
- Mercury, methyl mercury compound, chloride methyl mercury
- Nitrogen pentoxide.
- 2, 3, 7, 8 tetrachloral dibenzene furan
- 3- alaphenyl beta-acetyetyl
- Acetisalisilic acid
- Asparagine
- Benomyl
- Boric acid
- Caffeine
- Dimethyl sulfide
- Direct blue - I
- Formamide
- Hydrocortisone, hydro-cortisone acetate
- Iodine (metal)
- Lead, acetate lead, nitrate lead (contact with petrol, paint, leaden printing ink, manufacture of batteries, lead welding).
- Mercaptopurine
- Kali bromide, kali iodide
- Prophylthiouracyl
- Ribavirin
- Arsenate sodium, arsenite sodium, iodide sodium, salicylate sodium
- Tetramethyl thiuram-disulfide
- Tramecinolone acetate
- Triton WR - 1339
- Trypan blue
- Valproic acid
- Vincristine sulfate
- Vinazol gas

79. Working in permanent contact (without safe protection from toxic gas and dust) with the following chemicals:

- Carbon oxide: such as operating coal gas generating furnace, discharging slag.
- Dyes of aniline, cytidine, toluidine, auramine extracts
- Cyanure based compounds
- Phosphorus and its compounds P2O5, P2S5, PCl3, H3P
- Trinitrotoluene (TNT)
- Manganese dioxide (MnO2)
- Photogen (COCl2)
- Disulfide carbon (CS2)
- Nitrogen oxide and nitric oxide
- Chloral and chlorhydric acid
- Sulfuric anhydride and sulfuric acid
- Calcium carbide (CaC2) such as in operating calcium carbide furnace, discharging slag

80. Working in direct contact with addictive substances and their by-products such as manufacturing pharmaceuticals containing morphine, ephedrine, aldrin and dieldrin.

81. Daily working in contact with anesthetics, at an intensive care unit, at contagious disease departments of medical stations, at blood transfusion centers, at vaccine production establishments, taking part in stamping out epidemic hotbeds, working at short-wave and ultrasonic wave therapy centers.



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