



**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

# **LIST OF HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR IN NIGERIA**

**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PRODUCTIVITY**

**2013**



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## Acronyms

CLP	Child Labour Policy
CLU	Child Labour Unit
CRA	Child Rights Act
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FGDs	Focal Group Discussions
HAV	Hand- Arm- Vibration
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
LGA	Local Government Area
MDAs	Ministries Departments and Agencies
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSCCL	National Steering Committee on Child Labour
SIMPOC	Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour
SME	Small-Medium-Enterprise
WBV	Whole-Body Vibration



## Foreword

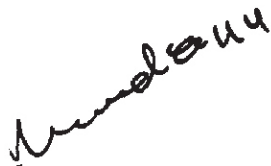
Child labour has assumed alarming proportion thus requiring global and national strategies to address. Child labour by its nature undermines the rights of children to good living and above all denies them the opportunity to acquire basic education necessary for productive adult life. Child labour has manifested in various forms with daring consequences on the health, safety and morals of children

It was in realization of these consequences that it became expedient as a country to have a List of Hazardous Child Labour. This is done in keeping with the provisions of ILO Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age and ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour which Nigeria had ratified.

The identification process was undertaken by a Sub- Technical Committee set up by the National Steering Committee whose membership was drawn from the social partners namely Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Trade Union Congress (TUC), Nigeria Employers Consultative Association (NECA) as well as line Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) with technical and financial support provided by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United States Department of Labor (USDOL).

This Hazardous Child List is therefore the outcome of the combined efforts and commitment of all these stakeholders which have now produced for us a reference list for the prohibition of child labour in those sectors

I am optimistic that this effort will further strengthen our response towards eliminating child labour and should enjoy the support of all and sundry in Nigeria.



Chief Emeka Wogu, CON  
Honourable Minister  
Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity  
Nigeria.

## Acknowledgements

The Hazardous Child Labour Framework is a product of a wide range of consultations and inputs from different stakeholders on Child Labour and other related matters across the country. The coordination of the process was made possible by a Technical Sub-Committee set up by the National Steering Committee on Child Labour with technical support from the International Labour Organization (ILO).

This Policy Framework would not have been possible without the consent of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan GCFR, to whom we owe our sincere appreciation. The unrelenting effort of the Honourable Minister of Labour and Productivity, Chief Emeka Wogu, CON in ensuring that the Policy is brought to fruition cannot go unnoticed.

My special thanks goes to the International Labour Organization (ILO) country office in Nigeria for providing the technical, logistic and financial supports which have contributed immensely to the compilation of the List of Hazardous Child Labour in line with international standard.

I also wish to acknowledge with thanks the various contributions made by all the participating Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), State Controllers of Labour, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Trade Union Congress (TUC), Nigeria Employers Consultative Association (NECA) and all other stakeholders.

Finally, I wish to appreciate the effort of my staff in the Inspectorate and Social Security Departments, all individuals and organizations who worked tirelessly in various ways to ensure the compilation of the List of Hazardous Child Labour.



Dr. O. C. Illoh  
Permanent Secretary,  
Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity  
Nigeria

## Background

The National Steering Committee on Child Labour inaugurated the technical sub-committee for the determination of the National Hazardous Child Labour list for Nigeria on December, 2012. The objective of the list is to identify and determine the most extreme hazardous conditions (processes, tools, equipment, environment, etc) to which children are exposed in various occupations in Nigeria to facilitate maximum protection that will take into account the best interest of the child. A child is defined as a person under the age of eighteen (18) years.

Nigeria ratified, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1999. In 2002, Nigeria ratified the ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour which require member countries to determine, after tripartite consultation, the types of work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to jeopardize the health, safety or morals of children'

The Federal Executive Council approved the National Policy on Child Labour in September, 2013. The National Hazardous Child Labour List derives from the National Policy on Child Labour and provides the framework for maximum protection of the child from extremely hazardous labour conditions.

### Aim of the study

The overall goal of this study is to prepare a List of Hazardous Child Labour for Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are to:

- Undertake stakeholder consultation
- Identify hazards/risk involved in each occupation/activity
- Conduct focal group discussion with the children identified in specific occupation/activities
- Prepare the validation report for the National Hazardous Child labour list

### Method

In developing the methodology for the conduct of the development of Nigeria's hazardous child labour list, a comprehensive review of the guidelines advocated by the ILO was adapted to suit the Nigerian situation.

**Table 1: Summary of the ILO guidelines**

Identified steps	Activities
<b>Step 1 – Create a structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Determine who will manage the process</li> <li>▪ Involve employers and workers plus others with special expertise</li> </ul>
<b>Step 2 – Collect existing and new standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review international standards</li> <li>▪ Take stock of current laws and regulations</li> <li>▪ Gather information on risks, hazards, and locations</li> </ul>
<b>Step 3 – Compile the list of hazardous work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify criteria for selecting items for the list</li> <li>▪ Determine hazardous occupations, activities, and conditions</li> <li>▪ Decide how to protect youth who are old enough to work legally</li> </ul>
<b>Step 4 – Formalize the list</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consult social partners</li> <li>▪ Have the “competent authority” give the list legal force</li> </ul>
<b>Step 5 – Promote and use the list</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use the list for awareness-raising</li> <li>▪ Set a timetable for action</li> </ul>
<b>Step 6 – Review the list periodically</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Update the list and laws</li> </ul>

The members of the technical sub-committee are:

- Ministries with mandates on welfare of children and the elimination of child labour - Ministries of Labour & Productivity, Education, Health, Women Affairs, Agriculture, and Mines & Steel Development
- Employers' organisations
- Workers' organisations.
- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) active in the field of child labour

The technical sub-committee held three meetings and thereafter, forwarded a preliminary risk assessment template for uniform collection of information on hazardous work from relevant stakeholders including Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs), social partners and NGOs. Analysis of the returns identified Twenty-six (26) hazardous trades/activities under ten (10) sectors of the economy for intense study. The table below summarizes the methodology adopted during the fieldwork.

**Table 2: Summary of adopted study methodology**

	Objective	Approach
1.	Provide expert advice on occupational health risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Desk review of relevant documents.</li> </ul>
2.	Facilitate stakeholder consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conducted planning meeting with ILO technical adviser</li> <li>▪ Conducted core stakeholders' meeting with Head of Child Labour Unit (CLU), Head of technical sub-committee and ILO technical adviser.</li> <li>▪ Conducted consultative meeting with NSC Sub-committee for the identification of Hazardous work. .</li> <li>▪ Conducted survey planning and strategy meeting with NSC (technical sub-committee) – developed survey protocol and tools were reviewed and adopted at this meeting.</li> <li>▪ Conducted state-level tripartite stakeholder meetings in the selected survey states.</li> </ul>
3.	Identify hazards involved in each occupation/activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conducted meeting of State steering committees or important stakeholders in the state in the respective survey states.</li> <li>▪ Conducted Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) (with identified child workers, representative of each sector to be surveyed).</li> <li>▪ Conducted fieldwork survey and risk assessment.</li> <li>▪ Conducted Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) (with MDAs and relevant stakeholders).</li> </ul>
4.	Study the approximate number of children involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Desk review of relevant documents</li> <li>▪ Conducted KIIs (with relevant MDAs and employer organizations at the national and state levels).</li> </ul>
5.	Determine the action already taken by the authorities or others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Desk review of the National Child Rights Act and the process involved in its development, as well as the measures taken by the NSSCL, CLU and International Agencies till date in eradicating WFCL (especially HFCL).</li> <li>▪ Conducted KIIs (with relevant MDAs, employer organizations and International Agencies).</li> <li>▪ Conducted FGDs (with identified child workers, representative of each sector to be surveyed).</li> </ul>
6.	Report development and validation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Developed draft survey report</li> <li>▪ Draft report review by NSC Technical Sub-committee</li> <li>▪ Validation of second draft survey report by the NSC</li> <li>▪ Development and submission of final survey report.</li> </ul>

### Survey Team

In order to effectively cover the selected survey states in a timely manner in view of the time available for the fieldwork component of the survey, the decision was made with the approval of the technical sub-committee of the NSSCL to have two (2) field teams with each team covering three (3) survey states respectively. The field teams consisted of:

- Representative of the technical sub-committee of the NSSCL
- Representative of the CLU of the Federal Ministry of Labour & Productivity
- Representative of ILO
- Survey occupational health and safety consultant
- State Controllers' of Labour
- Representatives of relevant line ministries at the state level.
- Trade Union, employer and worker associations at the state level

The survey protocol and tools were reviewed at a workshop of the NSSCL technical sub-committee.

The fieldwork component of the survey was conducted from the 17th of November – 30th of November, 2013.

The following activities were implemented in the selected states:

- State tripartite stakeholder meetings – with the field team above joined by Civil Society Organisations working in the area of eradication of child labour within the different states.
- Conduct of KIIs with identified stakeholders as highlighted in Table 7 above.
- Conduct of workplace surveys using the developed risk assessment template and FGDs with identified child labourers in different sectors within the state.
- Conduct of de-briefing meetings with representatives of the various state governments.

The states covered are Lagos, Oyo (Ibadan), Ondo, Ebonyi, Kano, and the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja). Data collection techniques used includes desk reviews, direct key informant interviews, and focal group discussions.

## Findings

### Agriculture

For the purpose of this survey the term agriculture covers activities carried out in agricultural undertakings including crop production, forestry activities, the primary processing of agricultural products as well as the use and maintenance of machinery, equipment, appliances, tools, and agricultural installations, including any process, storage, operation or transportation in an agricultural undertaking, which are directly related to agricultural production.

The sub-sectors studied in detail during this survey are cocoa farming and rice farming and milling. Agriculture is widely practiced nation-wide, though plantation agriculture in the form cocoa farming is predominantly practiced in the South-Western region of the country. This sector was studied in detail during the survey in Akure town in Ondo state (South-West Nigeria) and Afikpo community in Ebonyi state (South-East Nigeria) for cocoa and rice farming and milling respectively.

The tools/equipment/materials observed to be used in the conduct of the tasks studied under these sub-sectors are summarized in the Table below.

**Table 3: List of equipments/tools and materials used in agricultural activities**

Cocoa farming		Rice farming and milling	
<b>Land preparation</b>	Cutlass, Axe, Chain saw	<b>Planting</b>	Cutlass, Earth Chisel
<b>Planting</b>	Cutlass, Hoe, Earth Chisel	<b>Harvesting</b>	Sickle; cutlass, knives
<b>Farm maintenance</b>	Cutlass, Hoe, Knapsack , Motorized mist blower Sprayer, Insecticides( Scorpion, Karate, harvestrin), herbicides (Sarosate, weed off, clear weed, gramozone and uproot), fungicides (heap D, Ridomil and Rocobre sacbx)	<b>Threshing</b>	Manual process (no tool involved)
<b>Harvesting</b>	Long cutlass, Pluckers; so -so or go-to-hell	<b>Parboiling</b>	Big metal pots, source of heat (open wood fire)
<b>Post-harvest</b>	Small cutlass, breaking mallet, Baskets, sacks	<b>Drying</b>	Raffia mats, baskets,
		<b>Milling</b>	Rice mills, bakets,
		<b>Bagging</b>	Jute sacks, bowls, needle and thread

The age group observed to be involved in activities under this sector is 8 – 16 years, with a predominant male distribution. Children involvements in these activities were observed to span across all the listed activities, particularly during planting and harvesting. They were observed to spend an average of 4-5 hours each day on the farms especially during the planting and harvesting seasons with an increased level of school absenteeism observed in some instances particularly during planting season when children are predominantly involved.

### Mining and Quarrying

For the purpose of this survey, the scope of mining activities was limited to the prevalent forms of mining in the country – quarrying, and artisanal and small scale mining., which refers to mining by individuals, groups, families, or cooperatives with minimal or no mechanization, often in the informal (illegal sector) of the market.

The forms of mining covered within the scope of this survey are granite mining (quarrying), and artisanal mining (gold and other heavy metals).

Quarrying activities and artisanal mining are practiced in most states of the federation, with the latter predominantly practiced in the North-Eastern and North-Western regions of the country. Quarrying activities was studied in detail in Umuochara community in Ebonyi state (South-East Nigeria) where it is locally referred to as “Oba ego” – meaning “where cash changes hand”, whilst artisanal mining was researched from available well documented resources conducted by the Federal Ministry of Mines on artisanal mining activities in Yar Galma community in Bukkuyum LGA, and Dareta community in Aka LGA of Zamfara state (North-East Nigeria).<sup>2</sup>

The tools/equipments/materials observed to be used in the conduct of the tasks and activities under these forms of artisanal mining are summarized in the Table below.

**Table 4: List of tools/equipment/materials used in studied mining activities.**

Granite mining & quarrying		Gold mining	
<b>Site preparation</b>	Mechanized process (with heavy duty equipments); explosives (dynamite)	Crushing and amalgamating	Manual process involving the use of the hands; milling machine and Mercury
<b>Digging or hand picking of ore</b>	Manual process; head pans; diggers	Sieving	Sieves; baskets or metal containers
<b>Carrying or transporting of stones</b>	Head pans	Washing and sorting	Water;
<b>Stone crushing</b>	Head pans; mechanized crushers		

The observed age group involved in quarrying activities during the survey visit is 11-15 years with a predominant male distribution. Majority of the children were observed to be involved in all the above listed activities under this sub-sector with the exception of site preparation. The

<sup>2</sup>Report of a technical study on child labour in artisanal and small scale mining in Nigeria for Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project (SMMRP), 2011



average hours of involvement of the child labourer in this sub-sector is 4-6 hours over a 6-day working week. Similarly, it was observed that majority of the child workers identified in this sector dropped out of school after completion of primary level education.

The age group of children observed from the research conducted on study of artisanal mining is 6-16 years, with an almost equal distribution observed amongst both sexes.<sup>2</sup> The available educational system was found to be inadequate, with the vast majority of the female children in Dareta community found not to be enrolled in the only available school, whilst Yar Galma community was observed to lack the services of a formal basic school. Children were also observed to be involved across all activities of the sub-sector, hence exposed significantly to the inherent hazards of the process.<sup>2</sup>

### Textile

The aspect of the textile industry that was covered in the survey was the informal sector or traditional tie & dye industry, which by its nature is not mechanized and utilizes manual processes in its operations. This sector is commonly practiced in Kano state (North-West, Nigeria) and Ogun state (South-West, Nigeria). It was studied in detail in Kano state during the survey exercise.

The tools/equipment or materials observed to be in use in this sector are:

- Digging & preparation of the pit – Diggers, shovel and buckets
- Mixing of the dye – Turner/steering stick, calabash and basket

Children involvement in this sector was observed to be minimal and restricted to transfer of skills and expertise from parents to their children, in other to preserve the practice as children were observed to regularly attend school and only involved in the activity between 2-3 hours a day. This involvement could be classified as child work in this context. However, the observed range of these children is 7-15 years with a predominant male distribution. Notwithstanding, the conduct of the activities within this sector is associated with some hazards that is worthy of mention as summarized in the relevant Table under the section on risk assessment findings.

### Traditional Tannery

Traditional tannery involves the harvesting and preparation of leather for the purpose of making finished leather products. For the purpose of this survey, the informal or traditional tannery industry was chosen to be studied in light of the preliminary findings from analysis of initial responses.

This sector is predominantly practiced in the northern part of Nigeria, and was studied in detail in Kano state (North-Western, Nigeria).

It is imperative to mention that the survey observed that the mechanization and/or industrialization of the leather industry have had a major impact on the informal/traditional leather industry in the survey state. The major impact of this industrialization is the transition of the traditional tannery industry from a process focused industry to a supply focused industry, with otherwise traditional practitioners of this activity making this transition. As a result of this

transition, the survey observed that the involvement of children in these activities is not visibly evident.

However, the inherent hazards of this process needs to be highlighted in other to create awareness within the consciousness of citizenry. These hazards are summarized in the relevant Table under the section on risk assessment findings.

### Child Domestic Work

According to article 1 of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention 189, 2011, the term domestic work means work performed in or for a household or households; and the term domestic worker means any person (in this case children) engaged in domestic work within an employment relationship.

Children in domestic work phenomenon is quite common across Nigeria, with children being lured away from rural areas to urban areas under the guise of getting a better standard of living and the chance of getting educated. This often is not the case as these children are subjected to work under inhumane conditions. Child domestic work was studied in detail during the course of this survey in the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja).

Child domestic workers were interacted with through collaborative efforts with the FCT's Department of Education in conjunction with the guidance counseling unit of an identified school within the metropolis with a sizeable population of child domestic workers.

The age group of the domestic workers ranged from 11-16 years, with equal distribution amongst both sexes. The educational level of the children was between Junior Secondary School levels 1-3. The survey observed that the children were involved in activities such as heavy domestic chores, involvement in street and commercial trading, coupled with having to trek long distances thro and fro from school and to places where they engage in street trading activities (in the excess of 1 hour each way). The average hours spent outside of house chores on street trading and other activities is 3-4 hours on school days and averagely 12 hours during weekends and holidays.

### Environment

For the purpose of this study the environmental sector was restricted to economic activities emanating from works carried out in the environment. The sub-sector that was studied under this sector was scavenging works. Scavenging works is commonly encountered in major cities and urban centers all over the country, with this work commonly practiced by young children on the major streets and every nook and cranny of these cities and centers. This activity was studied in detail in Kano state, Nigeria during the course of this survey.

The conduct of this activity is predominantly a manual process, with the use of some rudimentary tools such as – jute bags and push-carts.

The predominant age group of children observed to be involved in this activity is 11-15 years, with all the children being boys. These children were observed to work averagely for about 4-5

<sup>3</sup>Article 1, ILO Domestic Workers Convention 189, 2011

hours a day during school terms, and 10 hours during weekends and holiday periods. The majorities of this category of children attend afternoon schools; and carry out this activity during the early hours of the day during school terms, though a minority number of these children were observed not to have had any form of education.

### Commerce

Commerce within the scope of this survey is described as outdoor activities engaged in by children for the purpose of making money, particularly conducted on the streets and its immediate environment. This form of child labour is widespread across the country, and represents the focal entry point of most children into the world of hazardous child labour not only in Nigeria, but in most developing countries globally. This activity was studied in all the survey states during the conduct of the fieldwork component of this survey.

The ages of children in this sector were observed to be diverse, depending on the location in which it is studied. In the area of street hawking, involvement of children were observed to start as early as 5 years with the involvement of boys observed to be more prevalent. These children were observed to be involved in the sale of diverse products ranging from sachet water, locally referred to as “pure water”, to other edibles and consumables along busy traffic routes, particularly during rush hours. The work hours observed to be put in by these children is 6-8 hours/day with majority of these children either not going to school or recording a high rate of absenteeism from school.

The same picture obtained in portering, outdoor shop work activities and street corner services, with the additional observations of an advanced age group involvement, usually from 10yrs for these categories of activities.

### Culture and Tradition

This sector covers the aspects of hazardous child labour that are encouraged or promoted by misapplication of cultural and traditional beliefs. For the purpose of this survey, the aspects that were considered are street begging – comprising of actual child begging by a child, and the leading of blind beggars by children.

These activities occur across the country but are prevalent across the northern part of the country where particularly the misapplication of the Almajiri culture or system has contributed significantly to this phenomenon particularly in the North-West and North-Eastern regions of the country. These activities were studied in detail in Kano (North-West, Nigeria) and Abuja (North-Central, Nigeria) during the course of this survey.

The involvement of children in begging start in some instances from an early age (at times infancy), where mothers of such children solicit for arms with these children, or in some bizarre circumstances where these children are rented out to women by their mothers or guardians for this purpose. The typical age observed during the survey is 5-15 years, with a prevalence of boys doing the actual begging on the streets whilst girls were observed to be predominantly involved in the aspect of leading blind beggars in soliciting for alms on major streets of urban centers across the country.

These children are subjected to working for 6-8 hours per day under conditions that are at best inhuman and are exposed to hazards during the conduct of their work. Their exposure to education was observed to be minimal (with the few that had been exposed, having only completed some levels of primary education), with a vast majority of them not having had any exposure to formal education.

### Construction

The term construction under the purview of this study covers the production of building materials, building, including excavation and the construction, structural alteration, renovation, repair, maintenance (including cleaning and painting) and demolition of all types of buildings or structures. The task/activities covered under this survey were centered on associated vocational task/activities connected with construction works. In light of the preliminary observations of the survey, the informal construction industry was the focus of the survey.

This industry is widespread across the country, especially in sub-urban communities of rapidly expanding cities. It was however studied in detail in the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja) North-Central Nigeria.

Children's involvement in the construction industry was observed to be majorly in the task of brick making, carrying and stacking of bricks and other construction materials. This involvement in most instances is combined with school attendance, often accounting for between 3-4 hours after school hours and longer during weekends and holiday periods, with the introduction of children into this sector observed to begin as early as 8 years.

### Transport

For the purpose of this survey, the activities that were studied revolved round tasks/activities that have been previously well documented to have the involvement of children in its practice. This sector is an integral part of the economic fibre of the community and a readily accessible portal for children's entry into the world of hazardous child labour.

This sector though visibly prevalent across states and regions in Nigeria, was studied in detail in Lagos and Oyo states (South-West, Nigeria).

The involvement of children in this sector often occurs at an early age when they are vulnerable to unhealthy influences and peer pressure. The gender distribution of the observed children is skewed towards boys, with girls involved in providing ancillary services such as the sale of food and alcoholic drinks. Their hours of involvement is 6-8 hours in a day, often for 6 – 7 days in a week spanning odd hours of the day – early hours of the morning and late into the night.

### Factories

This sector of the economy encompasses activities/tasks involved in the manufacturing, packaging and processing of products and goods. Large segments of this sector are found in the formal sector and hence to some extent from the findings of the survey are unionized, subsequently having some restriction to the admittance of children into employment within such organizations. However, a sizeable portion of this sector, particularly the small – medium – enterprises (SMEs) pose a significant risk to the involvement of children in hazardous child



labour practices within the confines of their operations.

This sector is predominant in major cities of the country such as Lagos, Kano, Kaduna, Ogun, and Port Harcourt (Rivers state). It was however studied in detail in Lagos state during the course of the survey.

### Existing Environment

The existing intervention mechanisms or measures observed to be employed by stakeholders during the conduct of this survey were observed to be diverse in nature and scope.

On the part of apparatus of government (relevant line ministries, particularly that of Women Affairs and Social Development), the predominant measure adopted in the area of prevention was observed to be in the form of community sensitization and awareness of the citizenry concerning the harms of child labour – an innovative approach worthy of mention was observed in Ebonyi state where the office of the state's first lady through her “Save Ebonyi Children – stop child trafficking” initiative organized enlightenment meetings in communities across all the Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the state during the annual August meeting, which is an event respected and peculiar to communities in the South-Eastern region of the country. In respect to the removal of children from hazardous child labour activities, the use of monitoring and inspection system is generally adopted in most of the states surveyed – an approach worthy of mention was observed in Kano state (North-West, Nigeria), where the state government recently approved a law prohibiting street begging in the state. It further went ahead to constitute a committee saddled with the responsibility of coordinating the activities of the agencies of government responsible for enforcing this new law.

The provision of accessible, qualitative and appropriate educational facilities is considered an integral means of preventing entry of children into the world of hazardous child labour. This is corroborated by the provision of the Universal Basic Education Act, 1999, which makes the provision of free and qualitative education (primary level education – junior secondary school) compulsory by government at all levels. However, the study observed in most states of the country that education at these levels is not entirely free, with students still observed to be responsible for buying text books and paying for levies (such as examination fees). Worthy of commendation is the effort of the Kano state government, who has in place a free education programme – encompassing free tuition, free school uniforms, free school meals and free text books for the basic education level; and the girl child initiative (for girls in senior secondary schools); another innovation worthy of mention is the establishment of street schools for children involved in street trading and portering in the Bodija market area in Ibadan, Oyo state – this school affords the children an opportunity to learn for a period of about 3 hours in a day.

Likewise, concerning the aspect of rehabilitation and provision of basic social services to rescued children, the use of rehabilitation centres was the favoured modality in place. It was however observed during the course of the survey, that these centers even when present were sub-optimized and poorly funded. It was also observed that the provision in some instances of social empowerment schemes for parents and guardians to discourage them from allowing their children's involvement in hazardous child labour practices are being utilized by some governments, particularly in the Northern part of the country in light of the burden of this phenomenon in this geographic area.

The interventions in place on the part of trade unions and worker associations, focused primarily on the conduct of sensitization programmes in conjunction with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) for their affiliates and members respectively.

## Outcomes/Results (National Hazardous Child Labour List)

The risk assessment findings of the fieldwork component of the survey is presented along the line of individual sectors as earlier set out in the methodology section of this report.

**Table 5: Summary of risk assessment findings in the agricultural sector**

Sub-type	Daily tasks & activities carried out	Hazards	Health impacts
Agriculture (eg Cocoa farming)	Land preparation - land clearing; felling & chopping of trees; burning; de-stumping; pegs cutting; lining; soil tilling & pegging	Thorns; bending; long hours; insects and animal ; biological toxins; smoke and exposures; exposure to extreme weather conditions; dust; accidental falling trees	Back and muscle injury; lacerations; blisters; exhaustion; infections; respiratory disorders and injuries from insects and animal bites (with occasional fatality from snake bites)
	Planting - preparation of seedlings; carrying of seedlings; planting of seedlings;	Heavy loads; bending; long hours; awkward postures; exposure to soil pathogens; animals; exposure to extreme weather conditions	Joint and bone deformities; blistered hands and feet; laceration; back injury; muscle injury; sunstroke and other heat stress disorders
	Farm maintenance - weeding & thinning; sanitation & pruning; water spraying; spraying/application of pesticides; fertilizer application	Toxic chemicals; bending; long hours; insects and animals; heavy loads, exposure to parasites and micro-organisms; exposure to extreme weather conditions; sharp tools	Rashes and other forms of dermatitis; allergic reactions; breathing difficulties; eye irritations; chemical poisoning; liver damage; nerve and neurological disorders; cancers; reproductive health disorders such as male and female infertility; Sunstroke and other heat stresses; back and muscular injury; blistered hands and feet; respiratory disorders
	Harvesting – plucking/heaping of products e.g cocoa; gathering; pod breaking; scooping of cocoa beans; fermentation	Falling objects ; slippery surfaces; sharp objects and tools; insects (bees); odour	Cuts and lacerations; fatal or non-fatal injuries, including broken bones, skull fractures and head injuries
	Post-harvest - carrying of farm products e.g cocoa (beans to drying area; drying & sorting of beans; carrying of dry beans to sale; bagging	Thorns; bending; long hours; insects and animals; biological toxins; sharp tools and objects; and exposures to extreme weather conditions.	Back and muscle injury; lacerations; blisters; exhaustion; sunstroke; puncture wounds and other heat stresses

Sub-type	Daily tasks & activities carried	Hazards	Health impacts
Agriculture (e.g. Rice farming & Milling)	Planting of rice seeds	Thorns; bending; long hours; exposure to nematodes and soil pathogens; biological toxins; sharp tools and objects; animals and reptiles; and	Back and muscle injury; lacerations; blisters; exhaustion; sub-cutaneous skin infection; heat stress disorders; allergic reaction; morbidity or fatality from animal/reptile bites
	Harvesting of rice husk	Thorns; bending; long hours; exposure to nematodes; biological toxins; and exposure to extreme weather conditions	Back and muscle injury; lacerations; blisters; exhaustion; subcutaneous skin infection (swelling) from nematode infestations.
	<b>Threshing of rice husks</b>	Bending; exposure to extreme weather conditions; dusts; exposure to pests insects, parasites	Back and muscle injury; lacerations; breathing difficulties; occupational health respiratory disorders; blisters; exhaustion; allergic reactions
	<b>Parboiling of rice paddy</b>	Exposure to excessive heat	Thermal stresses; skin burns (thermal)
	Drying of rice paddy	Exposure to extreme weather conditions; bending	Sunstroke and other thermal stresses; dehydration; and back and muscle injury
	Milling of rice paddy	Dust, noise, vibration; entrapment	Breathing difficulties; occupational respiratory disorders; crushed /mangled upper limbs; noise-induced hearing loss; HAV & WBV disorders;
	Bagging of milled rice	Heavy loads; sharp objects (needles)	Joint and bone deformities; blistered hands and feet; laceration; back and muscle injury and puncture wounds.



**Table 6: Summary of risk assessment findings of the mining sector**

Sub-type	Daily tasks & activities carried out	Hazards	Health impacts
<b>Quarrying</b>	Site preparation - clearing of over burden and rock blasting	Explosion; collision; entrapment; dust, vibration	Injury and fatality from collision, and missiles from explosion; noise-induced hearing loss; respiratory disorders
	Digging; breaking; chiseling; heating; cracking; crushing; hammering; excavating	Heavy tools; heavy loads; repetitive movements; dangerous heights; open holes; falling and flying objects; noise, dust	Joint and bone deformities; blistered hands and feet; lacerations; back injury; head trauma; breathing difficulties; sunstroke and other thermal stresses; dehydration; ocular injury from flying objects; entrapment
	Carrying or transporting of rocks, stones, stone dusts and sands	Heavy loads; dangerous heights and drowning	Joint and bone deformities; blistered hands and feet; lacerations; back injury; head trauma; fractures and dislocations; breathing difficulties; sunstroke and other thermal stresses; dehydration; fatality from drowning
	Cooking & cleaning; babysitting; hawking of goods	Physical and verbal abuse; unsafe stoves; explosive fuels; slips and falls	Physical abuse; sexual abuse; burns; injuries from slips and falls; psychological trauma
<b>Subtype</b> <b>Artisanal mining (Gold and other metals )</b>	<b>Daily task/activities</b> Digging and tunneling, Crushing, milling, slushing and amalgamating; sieving, washing and sorting	<b>Hazards</b> Lead, mercury; and other heavy metals; dust; repetitive movements; bending; squatting or kneeling; alcohol, illicit drugs and tobacco	<b>Health impacts</b> Neurological damage; genito-urinary disorders; lung disorders; musculoskeletal disorders; fatigue; immune deficiency; drug and alcohol addiction; physical and psychological abuse.

**Table 7: Summary of risk assessment findings in the textile sector**

Sub-type	Daily tasks & activities carried out	Hazards	Health impacts
Traditional tie & dye (informal sector)	Digging & preparation of the pit	Awkward postures; chemicals; exposure to extreme weather conditions and repetitive movements	Finger deformities and premature arthritis; neck, shoulder and other muscle discomfort; allergic skin reactions
	Mixing of dye mixture		
	Tie & dyeing of fabrics		

**Table 8: Summary of risk assessment findings of the traditional tannery sector**

Sub-type	Daily tasks & activities carried out	Hazards	Health impacts
Processing of animal skin	Removal of hair from hides and skin	Harmful dyes, solvents and other chemicals; fumes; sharp tools; hot water	Chemical poisoning; lung damage; asthma; bronchitis; skin rashes; bladder cancer; anthrax poisoning; burns
	Tanning		
	Sewing of leather		
	Cleaning of leather		

**Table 9: Summary of risk assessment findings in child domestic work**

Sub-type	Daily Tasks & activities	Hazards	Health impacts
Domestic house services (house-boys/house-girls)	Household chores and errands	Long hours; Sharp blades; hot pans; stoves and other tools in poor repair; heavy loads, long distance trekking, Inadequate food and shelter; no privacy; physical, verbal and sexual abuse; humiliating or degrading treatment; Isolation; separation from family and peers	Cuts; burns; rashes and other forms of dermatitis; allergies; back and other muscle pain; injury from traffic accident or urban violence; harassment; Exhaustion; hunger; depression; behavioral disorders; suicidal tendencies; bruises and injuries incurred from abuse; disrupted psychological, social and intellectual development

**Table 10: Summary of risk assessment findings in scavenging works**

Sub-type	Hazards	Health impacts
Scavenging trash & recycling collection	Sharp objects; contaminated objects; moving traffic & vehicle; exhaust; bending; heavy loads; long hours; attacks from animals and bandits	Infectious diseases such as tetanus; joint and bone deformities; blistered hands and feet; lacerations; back injury; muscle injury; breathing difficulties; sunstroke and other thermal stresses; dehydration; injury or death from moving vehicle; injuries from animal bites and physical attacks

**Table 11: Summary of risk assessment findings in the commerce sector**

Sub-type	Hazards	Health impacts
Street work	Heavy loads; exposure to moving traffic and vehicles; exposure to extreme weather conditions; street crime; long hours; long distance from home; poor access to food; exposure to violence, illicit drugs and adult language and situations, tobacco, alcohol, sexual exploitation, and exposure to child trafficking	Musculoskeletal problems; injuries from traffic accident or urban violence; addiction; physical, psychological and sexual abuse; sexually transmitted diseases; nutritional deficiencies; depression; exploitation

**Table 12: Summary of risk assessment findings of street begging**

Sub-type	Hazards	Health impacts
<b>Begging (street begging and leading of beggars)</b>	Exposure to extreme weather conditions; exposure to traffic and moving vehicles; long hours; separation from peers and families; exposure to child trafficking	Exhaustion; disrupted psychological, social, and intellectual development; Sunstroke and other heat stresses; injury or death from moving vehicles; physical and psychological abuse; exploitation

**Table 13: Summary of risk assessment findings of the construction sector**

Tasks/activities	Hazards	Health impacts
<b>All aspects of construction works</b>	Heavy loads; dangerous heights; falling objects; sharp objects; power tools; electricity; noise; vibration; moving vehicles; loud machines; exposure to extreme weather; remote locations; confined space	Joint and bone deformities; blistered hands and feet; lacerations; puncture wounds from nails; back injury; muscle injury; head trauma; broken bones from falls; electrocution; noise-induced hearing loss; sunstroke and other thermal stresses; dehydration; breathing difficulties; entrapment

**Table 14: Summary of risk assessment findings in the transport sector**

Task/activities	Identified hazards	Health impacts
<b>All aspects of transport (Bus conducting, commercial motorcycle riding, bus park touting, roadside vehicle repairs)</b>	Exposure to traffic and moving vehicles; long hours; exposure to extreme weather conditions; street crimes; exposure to violence, illicit drugs, tobacco, alcohol; poor judgment; physical, psychological and sexual abuse; heavy loads; exposure to child trafficking	Sunstroke and other heat stresses; bruises and injuries from abuse and traffic accident; drug and alcohol addiction; disrupted social and intellectual development; musculoskeletal disorders; exploitation

**Table 15: Summary of risk assessment findings in the manufacturing sector**

Task/activities	Identified hazards	Health impacts
<p><b>All aspects of manufacturing (Loading &amp; carrying of raw materials and/or finished goods; handling of chemicals; operation of mechanized equipments)</b></p>	<p>Heavy loads; exposure to irritants; long hours; bending; awkward postures; toxic chemicals; noise; vibration; fire; machinery; extreme temperatures; electricity</p>	<p>Back and muscle injury; dermatitis; exhaustion; lacerations and blisters; joint and bone deformities; Rashes and other forms of dermatitis; allergic reactions; breathing difficulties; eye irritations; chemical poisoning; liver damage; nerve and neurological disorders; cancers; reproductive health disorders such as male and female infertility; Noise-induced hearing loss; HAV &amp; WBV disorders; injuries and fractures; occasional fatality (death); crush injuries; electrocution</p>

## Survey Limitations

The engaged tripartite stakeholders' demonstrated an average understanding of child labour issues, with majority unable to differentiate between child labour and child work, and not conversant with the components of worst forms and hazardous forms of child labour.

The vast majority of the engaged stakeholders were also not familiar with the relevant ILO conventions speaking to the eradication of the worst forms of child labour and Minimum Age of Admission into Work- Conventions 182 and 138 respectively. Subsequently the obligations of ratifying countries towards demonstrating compliance with the guidelines contained in these conventions are not thoroughly understood by majority of the engaged tripartite stakeholders. Similarly, the generality of engaged stakeholders do not have knowledge of any government's policy regarding minimum age of admission into work, but however opined that the minimum age of admission into work should be 18 years

The exact or estimated burden of this phenomenon could also not be accurately ascertained during the course of this survey. This can be chiefly attributed to the dearth of data collection systems and structures across all levels and tiers of governance, and also partly attributable to the clandestine nature of child labour and the attendant difficulty in assessing this phenomenon in the society. This is however not peculiar to Nigeria but to most developing countries and some of the nations classified as developed nations. The closest data available on prevalence and distribution of child labour in Nigeria is the SIMPOC survey conducted in 2000 with the support of UNICEF. This seemingly lack of data has been observed to make planning and intervention difficult to implement and monitor in these thematic area.

The study will also have benefited from inclusion of other states of the Federation in its conduct. This will have afforded the survey team the opportunity of further studying more sub-sectors of the economy during the conduct of the survey.

## Recommendations

In other to fully implement the provisions contained in the available legal instruments on the eradication of the worst forms of child labour, it is imperative to consider the adoption of the following recommendations:

- The urgent need to prohibit the involvement of children in the identified tasks/activities should be accorded priority.
- Adequate measures geared towards the promotion of the use of the list should be properly instituted
- In other to keep abreast with current innovations and developments in the world of work which will also take into cognizance the socio-cultural contextual realities of different regions of the country, it is recommended that the National and State Steering Committees on Child Labour be maintained and empowered to review periodically (every 6 months or yearly) the hazardous child labour list in other to add or modify as need arises.
- It is also imperative to conduct massive sensitization and enlightenment of the newly approved Policy on Child Labour and National Action Plan across the country. This will afford policy makers at all tiers of government and other stakeholders the opportunity to have a better understanding of this thematic area and help galvanize support for interventions geared towards eradication of the worst forms of child labour.
- The need for allocation of budget streams (across all tiers of government) for child labour interventions is likewise strongly recommended. This will help provide the needed financial muscle required for the effective implementation of interventions.
- The need for the establishment of an effective and responsive social welfare system should be urgently considered by all tiers of government. This will help act as a bridge and a safety net for parents and the citizenry, and will help relieve the pressure brought to bear on children to participate in hazardous child labour.
- Governments across all tiers should strongly consider the provision of free basic education in all its ramifications to its citizens as this will to a large extent prevent entry into and also help sustain the removal of children from the worst forms of child labour.
- It is strongly recommended that rehabilitating infrastructures and systems should be strengthened across all tiers of government, and stronger collaboration should be forged with CSOs involved in this thematic area in other to maximize the lean resources available.
- The provision of affordable and accessible healthcare services should also be accorded priority, as this will help to partly reduce the number of OVCs within the community, and subsequently reduce the number of children involved in the worst forms of child labour, particularly the hazardous sub-set.
- It is strongly recommended that in the implementation of the National Action Plan, a baseline survey assessment should be strongly considered prior to commencement of the implementation of the plan.



## Appendix

### Outcome of focus Group Discussions

The overwhelming generality of the child workers identified during the course of this study were of the opinion that children should not be allowed or forced to engage in any form of work for the purpose of economic empowerment. They opined that engagement of children in “paid” work is detrimental to the child's development, general wellbeing, and more importantly prevents the child from going to school.

The permissible age of admission of children into the world of work varied amongst the child workers engaged depending on the group in question, while majority of children involved in cocoa farming were of the opinion that children should be allowed to work as from the age of 8 years, those in other sectors were divided between 14, 16 and 18 years. An exception was observed from a child domestic worker who said that:

“Children should not be allowed to work until they have attained the age of 20 years”.

The drivers of hazardous child labour as identified by engaged child workers are:

- The major driver identified by the children is poverty. This was described as a consequence of financial incapacitation on the part of their parents/guardians (extended family relatives), this they said informed the need for them to be forced or coerced into the world of child labour in order to be able to contribute to the economic empowerment of their families, and also take care of their needs, as those still attending school take part in these activities in order to raise money to support their education (monies for examination fees (majorly), transportation and feeding).
- Another closely related driver identified was the issue of the loss of one or both parents by some of these children. These occurrences leave them at the mercy of uncaring and unsupportive extended family members, who often times compel these children to be involved in hazardous child labour practices, particularly street work and child domestic work.
- Another group of interesting drivers identified by some of the children was the effect or influence in some instances of peer pressure; early exposure to art of making money with the resultant effect of greed; lack of effective parental supervision and control; and strangely “satan” as opined by one of the children.

In further exploring this phenomenon, enquiries regarding the possibility of not partaking in these activities were sought from the engaged children, with the vast majority of them of the opinion that the proffering of solutions to the above identified drivers, particularly concerning the provision of “free” – encompassing free tuition, textbooks, uniforms and feeding, will to a large extent facilitate and sustain their exit from these activities. It is however worthy of note to mention that a minority of these children were of the opinion that the provision of the above will not guarantee cessation of their involvement in these activities, as summarized by one child scavenger in Kano who said:



“Provision of free education will not make me leave this work, as I still have the responsibility of providing for myself”

During the course of the survey, an attempt was made to make a comparison between the “earning power” of these children against the efforts and number of hours invested per day, coupled with the attendant hazards these children are exposed to during the conduct of these activities. It was observed that a child worker involved in artisanal mining gets to share two thousand naira (N2, 000) with about 5-6 other people for carrying stones from the pit up to the surface enough to fill a tipper lorry, this amounts to an estimated earnings of three hundred (300) naira to four hundred (400) naira per day (approximately \$2-\$2.5 per day) working in this sector. Similarly, the same picture obtains in rice farming, where a child will earn in the region of twenty (20) naira for threshing a heap of rice husks, being able to thresh about 10 heaps in a day in conjunction with others, resulting in combined earnings of two hundred (200) per day (approximately \$1.3 per day). Majority of these child workers reported giving the earned monies to their parents or guardians, with an interesting response gotten from a scavenger in Kano, who said:

“I divide the money I earn into three parts, I give a third to my mother, keep a third for my upkeep, and keep the last third with my grandmother for safekeeping towards supporting my education”

The generality of the children are conscious of the fact that their work environment and conditions are not safe. They reported experiencing the occurrence of muscular pains, injuries, illnesses, and road traffic accidents during the conduct of these activities. A particular touching story was that related by a child domestic worker in the FCT who said:

“One day when I was selling pure water in traffic, a friend of mine involved in the same work was knocked down by a passing vehicle while trying to cross the road and she died on the spot”.

The majority of the child workers interacted with during the survey revealed feeling somewhat inferior to other children in school or when they have cause to interact with them socially because of the evident disparity in class and social standing, resulting in a measure of low self-esteem. However, it is interesting to mention the response of an eleven (11) year old child domestic worker who said:

“I don't feel inferior, I think I am better than other children in my class because I am more hardworking and know the value of hard-work unlike them”



**International  
Labour  
Organization**

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