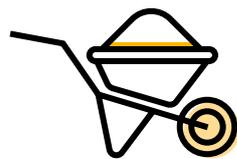




GOAL

08

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



1 in 14

children 5-17 years was
engaged in harmful child
labour in 2009

Decent work and economic growth



WHAT THIS GOAL IS ABOUT

Sustainable Development Goal 8 seeks to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. To achieve economic growth, it is important to develop a strong and productive workforce and to offer men and women opportunities for decent work and employment. As part of striving towards inclusive economic growth, it is critical to protect children from engaging in harmful child labour.

Globally, 5.7 per cent of people of working age were unemployed in 2015, with youth and women more likely to be unemployed. Indonesia's unemployment data mirrors the global situation, with an unemployment rate of 6.0 per cent that increases to 6.7 per cent for women. Furthermore, around a quarter of Indonesia's youth are not in education, employment or training. Globally, 43 per cent of employment was 'vulnerable employment'. People in vulnerable employment work for themselves without hired employees or are family workers, often working in poor conditions and with little security. In Indonesia, vulnerable employment makes up 31 per cent of total employment; this rate has halved since 1997, which is a promising sign of economic growth.¹⁶

Harmful child labour undermines economic growth, and has been linked to increases in adult unemployment. Harmful child labour is also a violation of children's rights, and can hinder their education, health and protection.

Not only does harmful child labour pose a direct threat to children today, but it stifles their future potential: it is associated with lower educational attainment and with future jobs that fall outside the criteria for 'decent work'. In Indonesia, young people who were previously child labourers are almost twice as likely to be in unpaid family work as other youths. Accordingly, Goal 8 includes a target to ensure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour and to end child labour in all its forms by 2025.

Indonesia has a strong legal framework to protect children from harmful child labour. The country has also developed a Roadmap Towards a Child Labour-Free Indonesia by 2022. In 2015, the national child labour programme helped to remove 16,000 children from work, with many of them returning to school.¹⁷ Ongoing financial and human resources are needed to ensure that laws are fully implemented and that Indonesia's Roadmap is fully achieved.

Table 8.A

| Priority targets for children | Selected indicators to measure progress | Type of indicator | Baseline value | Data source |
|---|---|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms | Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age | Global indicator | 7% | SAKERNAS 2009 |

STATUS OF PRIORITY INDICATORS FOR CHILDREN

As in other parts of the world, many children in Indonesia engage in unpaid and paid work that does not expose them to harm. These children are defined as ‘working children’. However, children defined in the category of ‘child labour’ are either too young to be working at all and/or their work involves activities that could impede their physical, mental, social and/or educational development. The ‘worst forms of child labour’ expose children to work that puts them at a high risk of exploitation, abuse, injury, and in the most severe cases even death.

Up-to-date information on the prevalence of child labour that is consistent with the global indicator definition is lacking. The latest available figures are from the Indonesia Child Labour Survey, which was implemented as a subsample of the 2009 SAKERNAS. Across Indonesia, 7.7 per cent of boys and 6.0 per cent of girls aged 5–17 years were engaged in harmful child labour in 2009, making a total of 6.9 per cent of children. Child labour rates increase as children grow older, ranging from 3.9 per cent among 5–12 year-olds to 13 per cent among 15–17 year-olds. Gender differences emerge as children grow older, with boys more likely to be engaged in child labour in the 15–17 year-old age bracket. That said, girls tend to work in less visible forms of child labour such as domestic service, which may be under-represented in the data. Child labour is more common in rural settings at all ages. These child

labour figures are low estimates (see explanation further in this chapter), but they do suggest that Indonesia is performing better than the child labour regional average for East Asia and the Pacific of 10 per cent.¹⁸

Hazardous work is common among child labourers at all ages, and almost half of all child labourers aged 5–14 years were exposed to at least one hazardous condition through their work. This is an important feature of child labour in Indonesia, as it means that the nature of children’s work, and not just the time they spend working, poses a risk of harm for many children.

It bears noting that the baseline figures presented in this report are low estimates of harmful child labour, as the 2009 Indonesia Child Labour Survey did not collect information on all types of hazardous work or all of the worst forms of child labour. The Indonesia National Labour Force Survey found a great deal of variation across provinces in rates of working children aged 10–14 years, but no sub-national data has been published on those working children who meet the child labour criteria. Regular updated data that captures all dimensions of children’s work and enables a more nuanced calculation of child labour rates will help to track progress against this goal to ensure that Indonesia is on track to achieve its national Roadmap Towards a Child Labour-Free Indonesia by 2022.

Figure 8.A

Framework for the classification of child labour in Indonesia according to Indonesian labour law and the International Labour Organization, 2012

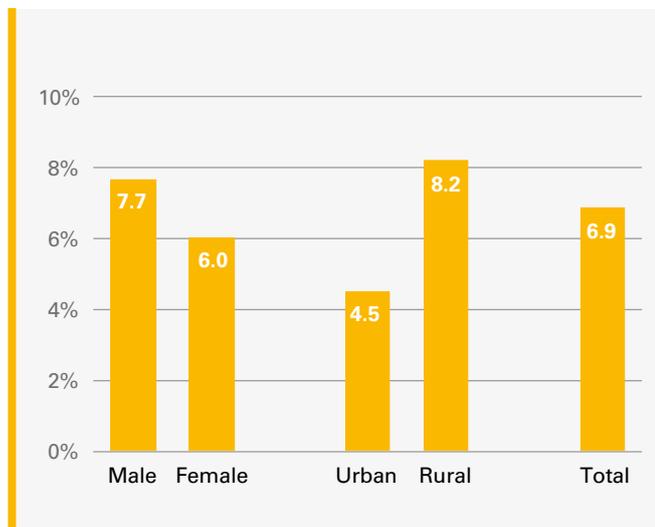
| Age group of children | Light work | Regular work | Worst forms of child labour | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| | Up to 14 hours a week | 15–40 hours a week | Hazardous work (includes work in excess of 40 hours a week and work that is harmful to the health, safety and morality of the child) | Worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work (includes children trafficked for work; forced and bonded child labour; commercial sexual exploitation of children; and use of children for illicit activities and armed conflict) |

Source: Understanding Children's Work Programme 2012

Figure 8.B

Harmful child labour is more prevalent in rural areas compared with urban areas

Percentage of children aged 5–17 engaged in child labour, by selected characteristics, 2009

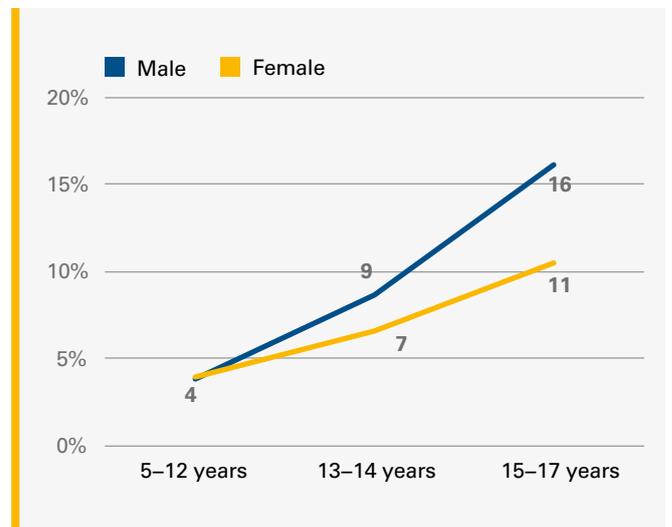


Source: Indonesia Child Labour Survey 2009

Figure 8.C

Children's engagement in harmful child labour increases as they grow older

Percentage of children aged 5–17 engaged in child labour, by selected characteristics, 2009

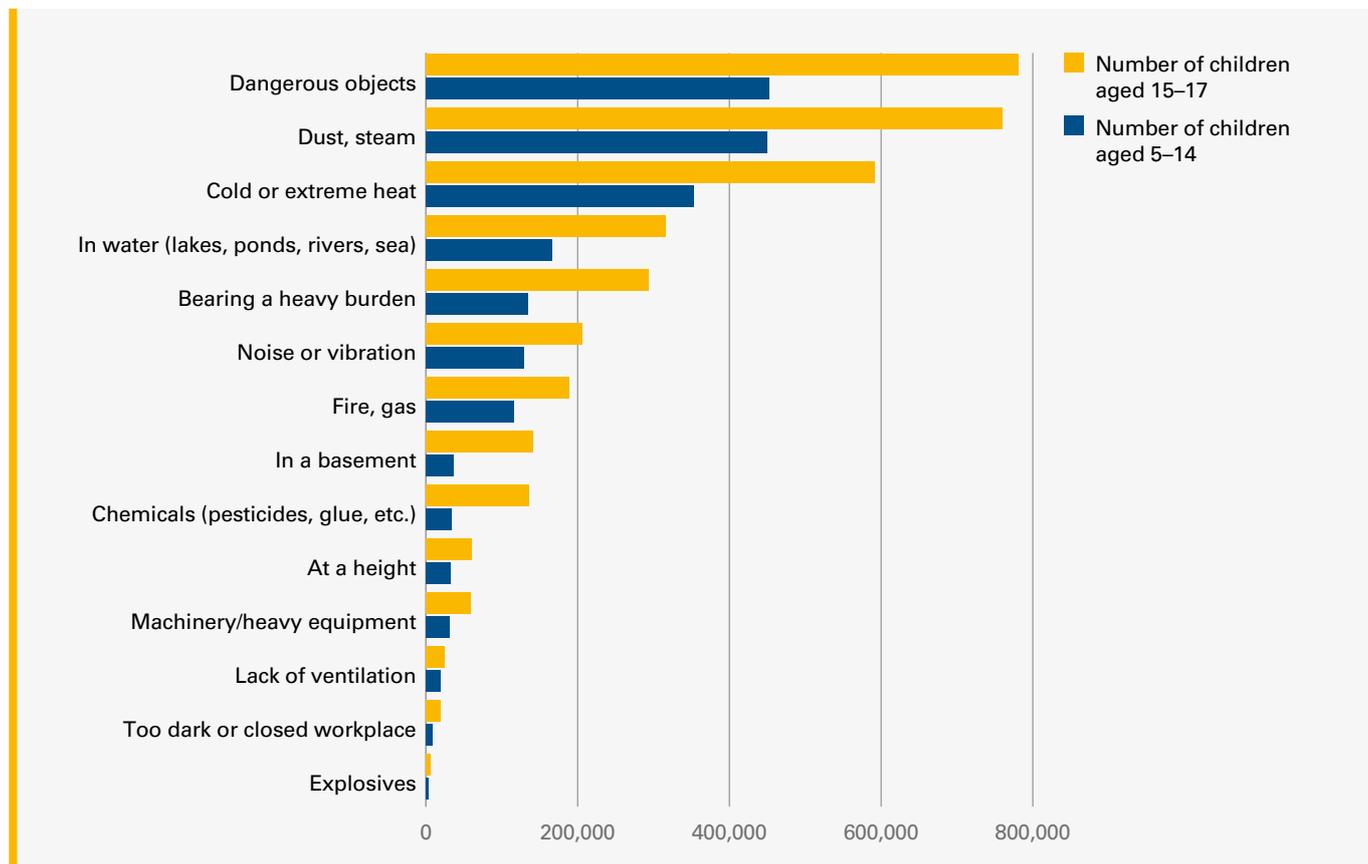


Source: Indonesia Child Labour Survey 2009

Figure 8.D

Child labourers are often exposed to a range of work hazards

Number of child labourers exposed to specific work hazards, by age, 2009



Note: The Indonesia Child Labour Survey 2009 did not include all forms of hazardous work – the data only records physical hazards, not moral hazards.

Source: Indonesia Child Labour Survey 2009



WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS TOWARDS GOAL 8?

- Fast-track financing and implementation of the National Action Plan for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (2002–2022) and the Roadmap Towards a Child Labour-Free Indonesia in 2022.
- Incorporate a standard child labour module into the SAKERNAS that collects comprehensive data on child labour among 5–17 year-olds, including hazardous work and the worst forms of child labour.

