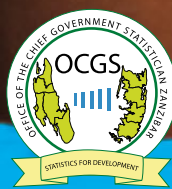


SUMMARY BRIEF

Child Work and Child Labour in the United Republic of Tanzania

EVIDENCE FROM THE INTEGRATED LABOUR
FORCE SURVEY (2014–2021)



unicef 
for every child

SUMMARY BRIEF

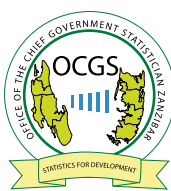
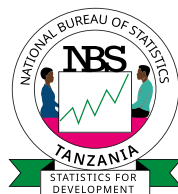
Child Work and Child Labour in the United Republic of Tanzania

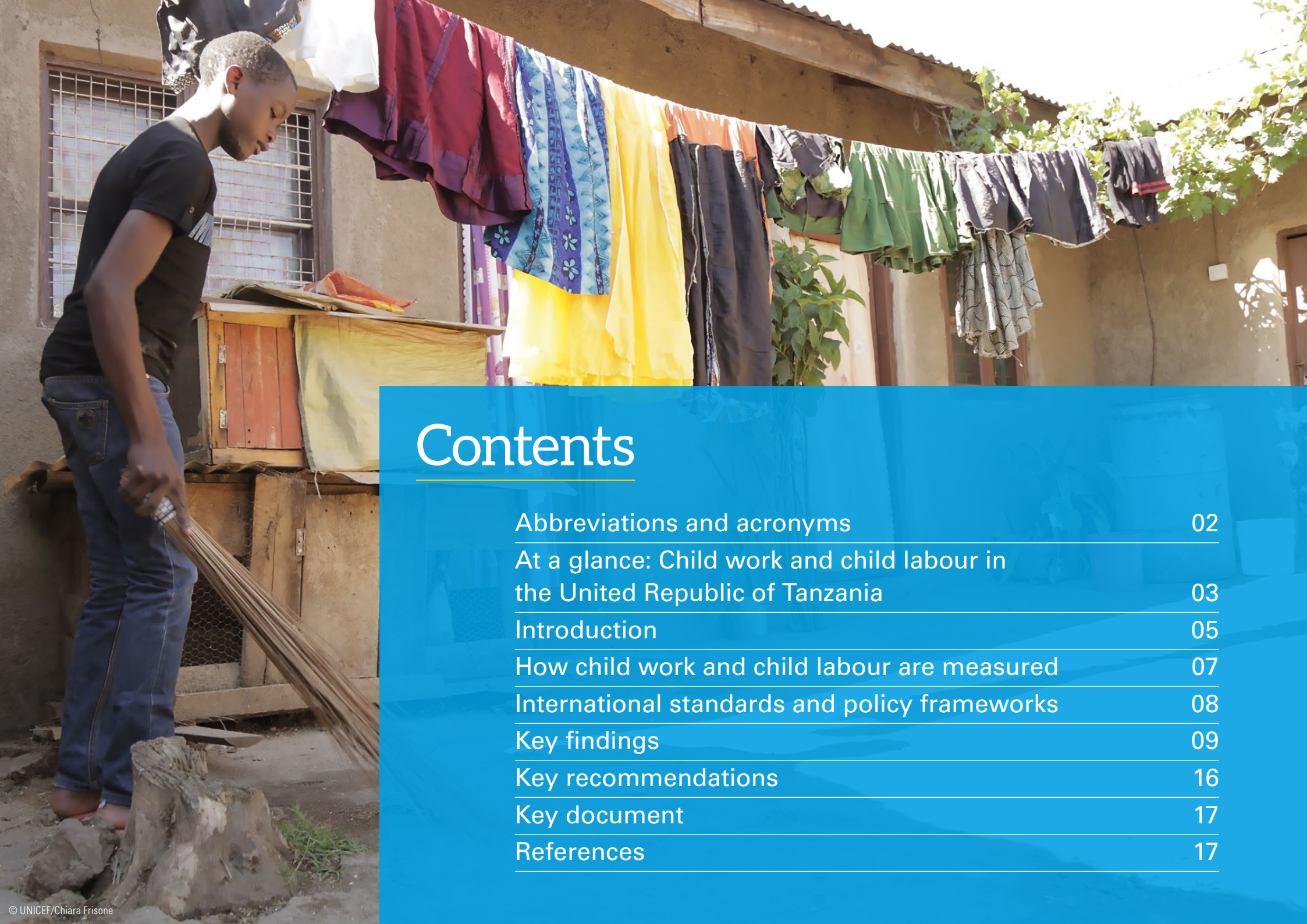
EVIDENCE FROM THE INTEGRATED LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (2014–2021)

© National Bureau of Statistics, Office of the Chief Government Statistician Zanzibar and United Nations Children's Fund
Dodoma, November 2024

Cover photograph: © UNICEF/Shehzad Noorani

Editing and layout: Handmade Communications





Contents

Abbreviations and acronyms	02
At a glance: Child work and child labour in the United Republic of Tanzania	03
Introduction	05
How child work and child labour are measured	07
International standards and policy frameworks	08
Key findings	09
Key recommendations	16
Key document	17
References	17

Abbreviations and acronyms

ILFS	Integrated Labour Force Survey
ILO	International Labour Organization
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
OCGS	Office of the Chief Government Statistician Zanzibar
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
URT	United Republic of Tanzania






At a glance: Child work and child labour in the United Republic of Tanzania


PROGRESS BETWEEN 2014 AND 2021

Child work	Child labour	Hazardous child labour
Mainland Tanzania: from 34.9% to 25.8% Zanzibar: from 9.9% to 7.6%	Mainland Tanzania: from 34.8% to 25.5% Zanzibar: from 9.5% to 7.5%	Mainland Tanzania: from 34.3% to 24.8% Zanzibar: from 9.1% to 7.4%

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA IN 2021

Child work	Child labour	Hazardous child labour
 25.3% almost 5.1 million children	 25.0% just over 5 million children	 24.3% almost 4.9 million children

CHILD LABOUR

22.5 hours worked per week	 84.1% of child labour occurs in the agricultural sector
-----------------------------------	--

Child labour prevalence:



29.6%

Rural areas



4.7%

Dar es Salaam



13.8%

Other urban areas

Age:

14.6% 5–11 years

34.8% 12–14 years

46.4% 15–17 years

Gender:



Boys:
27.1%

vs



Girls:
22.9%

HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR

Among children in hazardous child labour, **82.8% work in hazardous occupations** (mostly in agriculture); **75.5% work under hazardous circumstances** (e.g., carrying heavy loads, being exposed to dust, fumes and gasses, or working at night) and **19.5% work long hours**



Introduction

This brief summarizes the findings of *Child Work and Child Labour in the United Republic of Tanzania: Evidence from the Integrated Labour Force Survey (2014–2021)*, a report based on the latest data set of the Integrated Labour Force Survey (ILFS) 2020/21. This is the first integrated assessment of child work and child labour in URT to present findings for URT as a whole, Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar. It also shows changes over time using 2014 ILFS data on which the previous child labour assessments for Mainland Tanzania (ILO and NBS, 2016) and Zanzibar (OCGS, 2016) were based.

The findings can be used to track the government's efforts and progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal targets 8.7 on ending child labour in all its forms and 16.2 on ending abuse, exploitation and trafficking of children.

> SDG TARGET 8.7



End child labour
in all its forms

> SDG TARGET 16.2



End modern slavery,
trafficking and
child labour



Key concepts



Child work: Engagement of children aged 5–17 years in any activity to produce goods or provide services for use by others or for their own use for at least one hour a week.



Child labour: Engagement of children in prohibited work and types of work that are socially and morally undesirable as guided by national legislation. Child labour comprises (1) the worst forms of child labour, including hazardous child labour, and (2) work below the minimum age.



Hazardous child labour: Engagement of children in designated hazardous occupations or work under hazardous conditions (e.g., long hours, exposure to dangerous machinery and hazardous substances and carrying heavy loads).



How child work and child labour are measured

DATA

The report is based on two rounds of ILFS data that were collected between 2014 and 2020/21. The ILFS includes a child work module that was administered to children aged 5–17 years with questions on children's engagement in economic and non-economic activities, school attendance, hours worked and health and safety aspects of the work environment.

METHODOLOGY

The analysis consists of a descriptive analysis of the proportion of children in child work, child labour and hazardous child labour, complemented by information such as the average number of hours worked, common sectors of employment, components driving child labour, and so forth, to create a comprehensive account of child work and child labour statistics in URT. All results were also disaggregated for Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.



International standards and policy frameworks

FRAMEWORKS

International standards such as the International Labour Organization Conventions 138 on Minimum Age and 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, as well as key national frameworks such as the Law of the Child Act (2009, revised in 2019) and the Employment and Labour Relations Act (2004, revised in 2019) in Mainland Tanzania and the Children's Act No. 6 (2011) and Employment Act No. 11 (2005) in Zanzibar were used as the main guiding frameworks for policy and programming on child work and child labour.



National frameworks

MAINLAND TANZANIA

- **Law of the Child Act (2009, revised in 2019):**
“A person shall not employ or engage a child in any activity that may be harmful to his health, education, mental, physical or moral development.”
- **Employment and Labour Relations Act (2004, revised in 2019)**

ZANZIBAR

- **Children's Act No. 6 (2011):**
“No person shall employ a child (i.e., person under the age of 17 years) in any type of work except domestic work”, whereby the domestic work should not affect the child's ability to attend education and have sufficient time to rest.
- **Employment Act No. 11 (2005)**

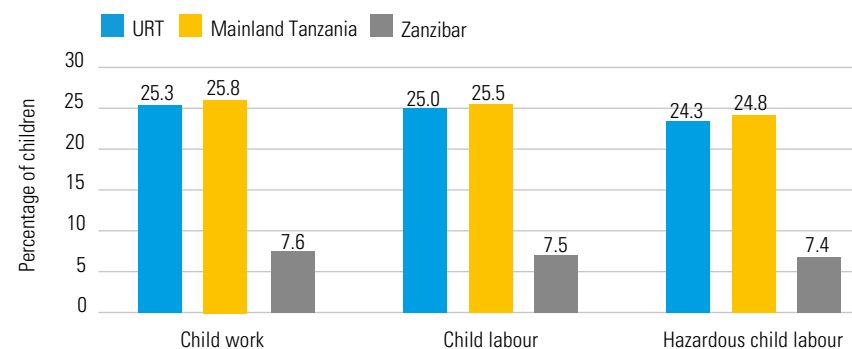


Key findings

SUMMARY

In 2021, about 1 in 4 children aged 5–17 years were engaged in child work and child labour. Almost 5.1 million or 25.3 per cent of children aged 5–17 years were engaged in child work in URT: 25.8 per cent in Mainland Tanzania and 7.6 per cent in Zanzibar. In URT, 25.0 per cent of children aged 5–17 years (just over 5 million) were engaged in child labour: 25.5 per cent in Mainland Tanzania and 7.5 per cent in Zanzibar (see Figure 1). Nearly all children who work are also involved in child labour, and a significant proportion are also employed in hazardous child labour. This means that most children who work face potential harmful effects on their well-being and future potential.

Figure 1: Child work, child labour and hazardous child labour across URT among children aged 5–17 years



Source: Authors' calculations based on 2020/21 ILFS data

CHILD WORK

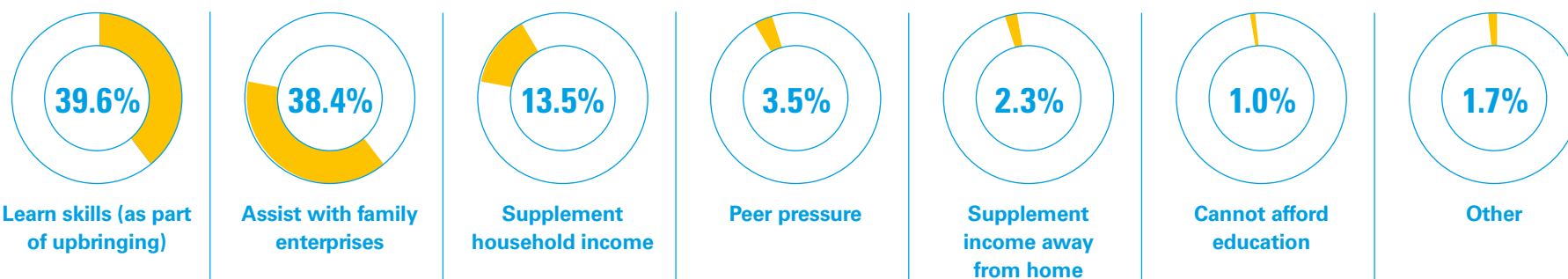
The almost 5.1 million working children in URT are employed on average for 20.0 hours a week (20.0 hours in Mainland Tanzania and 20.8 hours in Zanzibar). The main reasons children say that they work are (1) so that they can learn and develop important skills, as part of their upbringing, (2) to assist with family enterprises and (3) to supplement household income (see Figure 2).

The considerable overlap between child work and child labour in both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar suggests that nearly 98 per cent of children who work do so under child labour circumstances (see Figure 3). This overlap is mostly due to children working in hazardous occupations (e.g., agriculture) or in hazardous environments (e.g., carrying heavy loads and being exposed to dangerous machinery or tools).



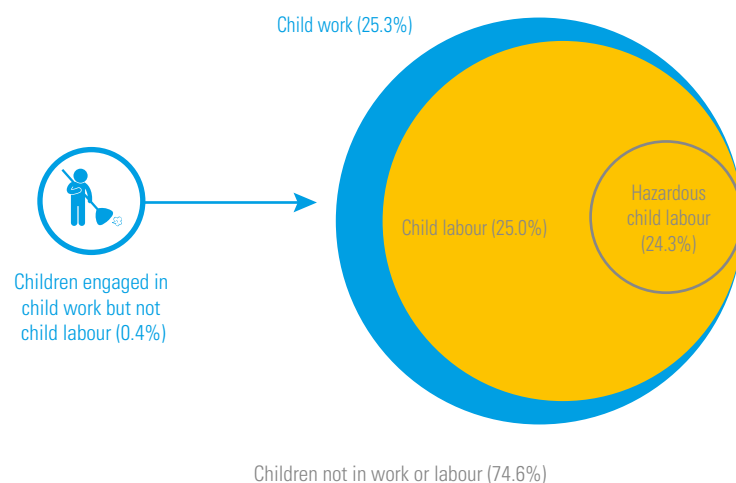
© UNICEF/Chiara Frisone

Figure 2: Reasons for working reported by children



Source: Authors' calculations based on 2020/21 ILFS data

Figure 3: Relationship between child work and child labour



Source: Authors' calculations based on 2020/21 ILFS data

Just over 5 million children (25.0 per cent) are engaged in child labour, of which 4.9 million work in hazardous child labour.

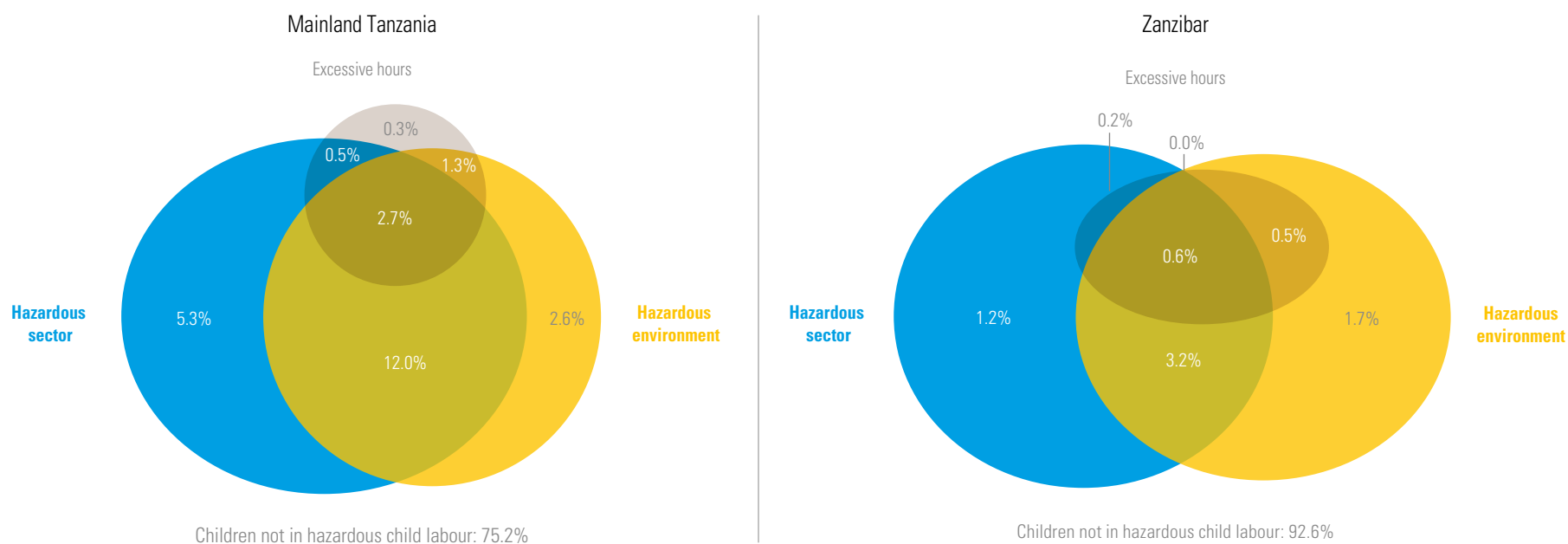
CHILD LABOUR

In URT, 25.0 per cent of children aged 5–17 are engaged in child labour, while 75.0 per cent are either not working at all or working in non-harmful child work (about 15.1 million children). Child labourers are most likely to work in unpaid agricultural work (84.1 per cent); indeed, child labour is higher in rural areas (29.6 per cent vs 4.7 per cent in Dar es Salaam and 13.8 per cent in other urban areas). The prevalence of child labour tends to rise as children grow older, from 14.6 per cent of 5–11-year-olds to 46.4 per cent of 15–17-year-olds. Child labour is higher for boys than girls (27.1 per cent vs 22.9 per cent) whereas girls are more likely than boys to be involved in unpaid household chores (86.7 per cent vs 81.8 per cent). Children engaged in labour work on average 22.5 hours a week.

HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR

The majority of children who are in child labour are also engaged in hazardous child labour (24.3 per cent of children aged 5–17 years or 4.9 million children). Only 2.8 per cent who are engaged in child labour do not work in hazardous occupations or environments (e.g., working below the minimum age). Hazardous occupations (e.g., agriculture) as well as hazardous conditions (e.g., working at night, carrying heavy loads or working in environments with dust, fumes, smoke or gasses) are the main components contributing to hazardous child labour. They also show considerable overlap for both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, suggesting that children are exposed to multiple risks at a time (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: Overlap between hazardous child labour components



Source: Authors' calculations based on 2020/21 ILFS data

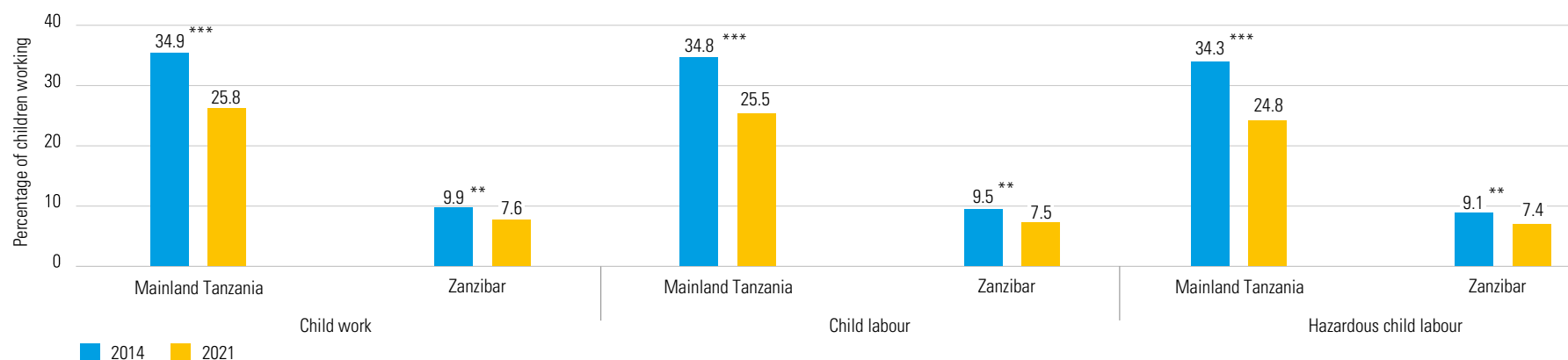
Note: For presentation purposes, the circles are not proportionate to the overall percentage.

CHANGES OVER TIME

Between 2014 and 2021, there was an overall decline in child work, child labour and hazardous child labour of about 9–10 percentage points in Mainland Tanzania and around 1–3 percentage points in Zanzibar (see Figure 5). The proportion of children engaged in child work decreased from 34.9 per cent to 25.8 per cent in Mainland Tanzania and from 9.9 per cent to 7.6 per cent in Zanzibar. For child labour, the magnitude of the change was similar, with a decline of 9.3 percentage points in Mainland Tanzania (from 34.8 per cent) and 2.0 percentage points in Zanzibar (from 9.5 per cent).

Between 2014 and 2021, **child labour decreased by 9.1 percentage points** in Mainland Tanzania and **by 2.3 percentage points** in Zanzibar.

Figure 5: Child work and child labour across URT for children aged 5–17 years, over time



Source: Authors' calculations based on 2014 ILFS and 2020/21 ILFS data

Note: Statistically significant differences between 2014 and 2020/21 are indicated as: *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$.

EDUCATION, CHILD WORK AND CHILD LABOUR

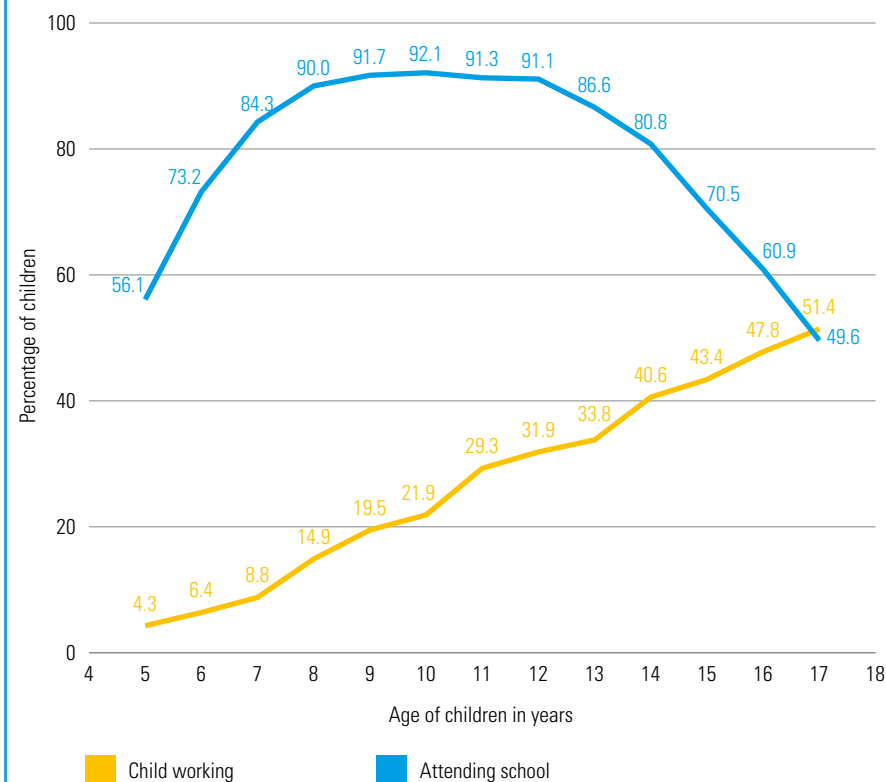
School attendance varies by age, increasing from 56.1 per cent of children aged 5 to 92.1 per cent of children aged 10. Rates of school attendance decrease after age 10 to 49.6 per cent of 17-year-olds. The proportion of children who work increases gradually by age, starting at 4.3 per cent of 5-year-olds to 51.4 per cent of 17-year-olds. At the same point where education starts to decrease (10–11 years), the sharpest increase in child work is observed (see Figure 6).

Of children aged 5–17 years, 25.3 per cent work and 79.3 per cent attend school. The majority of children who attend school are not working (64.0 per cent), 10.0 per cent of children work and are not in school while 15.3 per cent work and also attend school. Children who combine work and school may still be at risk of having their education affected by work: working children reported risks of injuries and poor health (26.2 per cent), effects on grades (8.5 per cent) and abuse (physical, emotional and sexual – less than 2 per cent).

“*Child labour may interfere with children’s schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend, making them leave school prematurely or making them combine school with excessive long and heavy work.*”

– ILO

Figure 6: School attendance and child work in URT



Source: Authors' calculations based on 2020/21 ILFS data

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH CHILD LABOUR

Regression analysis highlighted individual and household characteristics most commonly associated with child labour. While the analysis is not causal, meaning it is not the characteristic that has led children to be in child labour, it showed that children attending school, children with a birth certificate, girls, children aged 5–11 years and children living in wealthier households were less likely to be engaged in child labour. Older children, boys, immigrant children, children in rural areas and children living in poorer households were found in child labour more often.

© UNICEF/Shehzad Noorani



Factors associated with child labour



Lower chances of child labour

- Attending school
- Having a birth certificate
- Being a girl
- Being a younger child (5–11 years)
- Living in a wealthier household



Higher chances of child labour

- Being an older child (15–17 years and 12–14 years)
- Being a boy
- Living in a rural area
- Living in a household that is of the poorest wealth quintile



Key recommendations

While the analysis focused on updating estimates of child work and child labour, the key stakeholders who participated in the research process also offered several salient policy recommendations:

- **Reduce financial constraints:** Household poverty is considered one of the key reasons for child labour. Reducing financial constraints on households should be a key component of a successfully integrated policy response.
- **Raise awareness among community leaders, caregivers and children:** Stakeholders from the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities); President's Office (Labour, Economic Affairs and Investment); Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups; Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children; international organizations and civil society organizations all mentioned the importance of awareness-raising among community leaders, caregivers and children. Information awareness campaigns should include several actors in the community, such as children, caregivers and community leaders.
- **Adopt an integrated approach:** An integrated approach to eliminating child labour is needed whereby poverty alleviation programmes are combined with child labour awareness and informational campaigns.
- **Focus on industry as a role player:** Some stakeholders remarked on the role of industry and how certifications and inspections may help to

increase employment standards and eliminate child labour from sectors that commonly face child labour issues.

In addition, there were three recommendations on data availability and improving measurement of child work and child labour in the future:

- **Worst forms of child labour:** Statistical analysis of the worst forms of child labour was not possible for this report due to the sensitivity of the questions and the hard-to-reach target population. Ensuring the inclusion of information on the worst forms of child labour through additional analysis such as in-depth qualitative research or a targeted survey is recommended.
- **Hazardous household chores:** For the current report, it was not possible to include data on the hazardous conditions of unpaid household services. It is recommended that in future surveys, questions about hazardous conditions be asked by type of activity, including unpaid work.
- **Agricultural work:** The majority of children are engaged in child labour work in crop-related agricultural jobs. The ILFS has limited further information on the types of crops children work with. Further information on the type of crop may help to assess heterogeneity of agricultural jobs.



Key document

For additional information, please refer to the main report:
National Bureau of Statistics, Office of the Chief Government Statistician Zanzibar and United Nations Children's Fund (2024). *Child Work and Child Labour in the United Republic of Tanzania: Evidence from the Integrated Labour Force Survey (2014–2021)*. Dodoma: NBS, OCGS and UNICEF.

References

- International Labour Organization and National Bureau of Statistics (2016). *Tanzania National Child Labour Survey 2014: Analytical report*. Geneva: ILO. Available at: <https://webapps.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-abidjan/---ilo-dar_es_salaam/documents/publication/wcms_502726.pdf>.
- National Bureau of Statistics (2022). *Integrated Labour Force Survey 2020/21: Analytical report*. Dodoma, Tanzania: NBS. Available at: <<https://www.nbs.go.tz/index.php/en/census-surveys/labour-statistics/791-2020-21-integrated-labour-force-survey-ilfs-analytical-report>>.
- National Bureau of Statistics et al. (2008). *Child Work and Child Labour in Tanzania: The Integrated Labour Force Survey, 2006*. URT. Available at: <https://www.nbs.go.tz/nbs/takwimu/labour/2006_Child_Labour_Report.pdf>.
- Office of the Chief Government Statistician Zanzibar (2016). *Zanzibar Child Labour Survey 2014: General report*.



UNICEF Tanzania
P.O. Box 4076
Dar es Salaam
United Republic of Tanzania

Telephone: +255 22 219 6600
E-mail: daressalaam@unicef.org

 <https://www.unicef.org/tanzania/>

 @UNICEFTanzania

 @UNICEFTanzania

 @uniceftz

 **YouTube** <http://www.youtube.com/user/UNICEFtanzania>