

# GENDER AND CHILD LABOUR

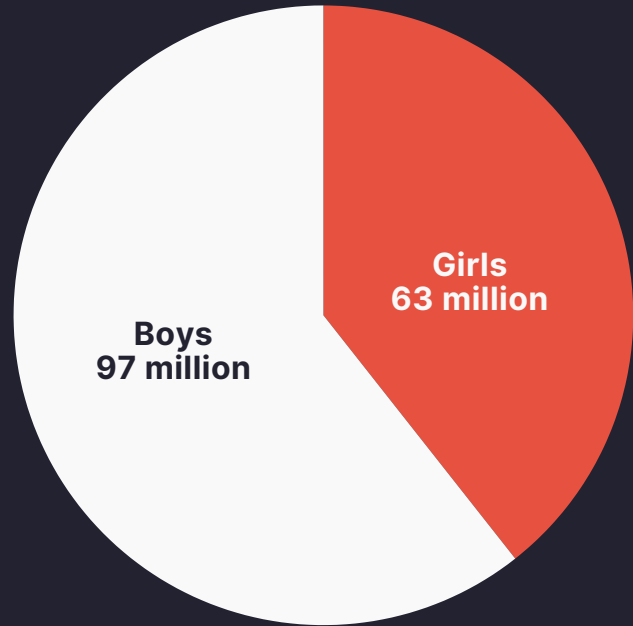


**1 in 10**

**children worldwide is in  
child labour**

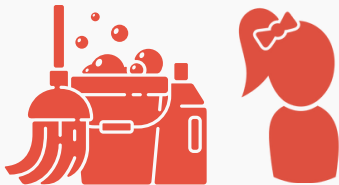
ILO estimates 160 million children all around the globe are in child labour.

Of the total amount of children who are engaged in child labour, approximately **half are in hazardous work**, and **2/3 are in agriculture**. Nearly all are in the Global South.



## FOOD FOR THOUGHTS

The data suggests boys are overrepresented in child labour. However, the data does not reflect reality. **Domestic work**, where girls are overrepresented, is not included in the definition of child labour.



The gender divide reflects the way in which child labour figures have historically been calculated, rather than boys greater involvement in child labour

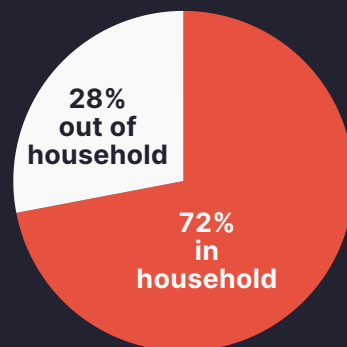
It is a **gender bias** consider that domestic work is not child labour: not including domestic household tasks in the definition of child labour is the result of **historically considering domestic work, traditionally assigned to women, not productive and not paid**.



### RISK FACTORS of child labour:

Age, poverty/social class, home background, racialisation, geographical position (rural areas), access to education

The majority of child labour occurs within the household, typically on family farms or in family microenterprises.





## Gender plays a critical role in shaping risk to the children being exploited

GIRLS	BOYS
More likely to work without any pay, behind close doors	More likely to be at risk of child labour, especially in hazardous work
Domestic household tasks	At risk to work paid labour
More vulnerable to <b>sexual exploitation</b>	Work in sectors that require <b>physical strength</b>
More likely to work on the service sector	More likely to work in agriculture



## Gender norms at play in child labour

### Gender roles in the type of work pursued

1

women tend to the home and bear children, as from a young age girls take on care responsibilities and do domestic work, while men support and provide for their families with income and security, as boys they are sent first to work outside the home.

2

### Unequal distribution of care work

In comparison to boys their age, girls worldwide spend 160 million more hours per day providing unpaid care and doing household chores.

3

### Expectation that men/boys economically support the family and girls to be maintenance agents

There is overall a greater acceptance of child work for boys. As a result, male child workers are typically employed outside for income-generating activities, frequently in hazardous working conditions.

4

### Gender norms of SEC apply to sexual exploitation through prostitution

A sizable number of children are engaged in some of the worst types of child labour, such as sexual services, and the entertainment industry. Girls are an attractive source to most commonly male predators because they are believed to be easier to abuse. Although boys are also victimized by specific sex markets, **young girls who are poor** remain to be the majority of victims.