

Promoting Child Protection

Child Protection represents

Interventions targeted at...

children in need of special protection measures, i.e. in circumstances of **extreme hazard** or **high risk** and who are **victims** of, or belong to, groups which are especially vulnerable to various kinds of **abuse, exploitation, violence** and **abandonment**.

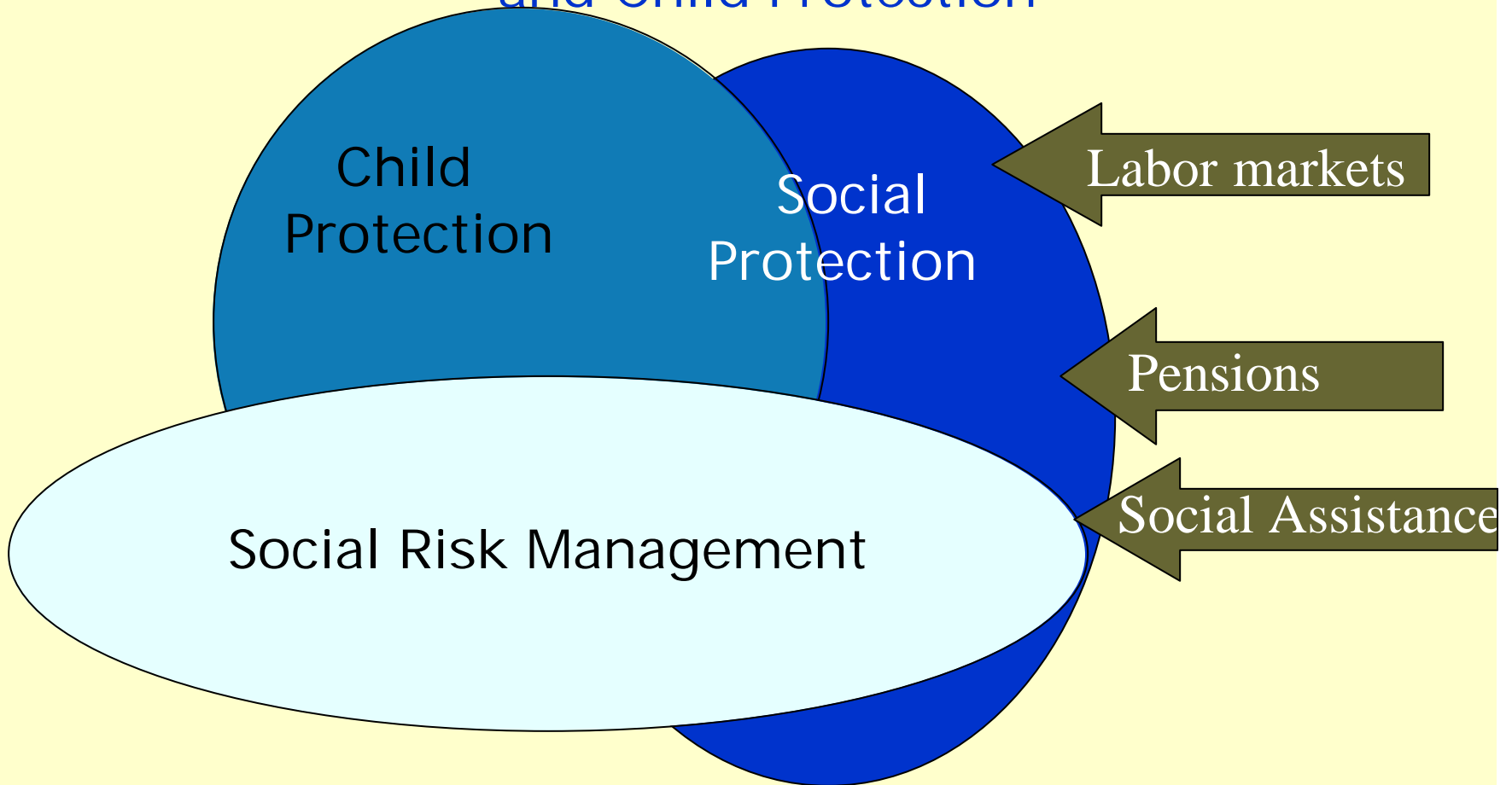
Vulnerable Groups include children who are

- affected by **armed conflict** or by other situations of emergency;
- engaged in **hazardous** or **exploitative labor**; including those who are **trafficked**;
- living and/or working on the **streets**;
- addicted to **substance abuse**;
- deprived of parental protection due to **AIDS**;
- subjected to **sexual exploitation, abuse and neglect**; and
- living with **disabilities**.

Child Protection

- **helps** children develop into socially well-adjusted and productive citizens;
- **contributes** to democratic stability and economic growth;
- **assists** individuals, households, and communities to better manage income risks to ensure that the most vulnerable community members, the children, are not put at risk.

Overlaps of Social Protection, Social Risk Management, and Child Protection



Social Protection: public measures to provide income security for individuals.
Social Risk Management: assisting individuals, households, and communities better manage risk.

Perspectives on Child Protection.

Economic

“Assisting individuals, households, and communities better manage risk, and providing support to the critically poor.”

The World Bank

Regulatory

“Standards & principles & rights at work.”

ILO

Rights/Attitudes

“In the Best Interests of the Child”

UNICEF

Social Risk Management

Child Protection

Child rights

Why Child Protection?

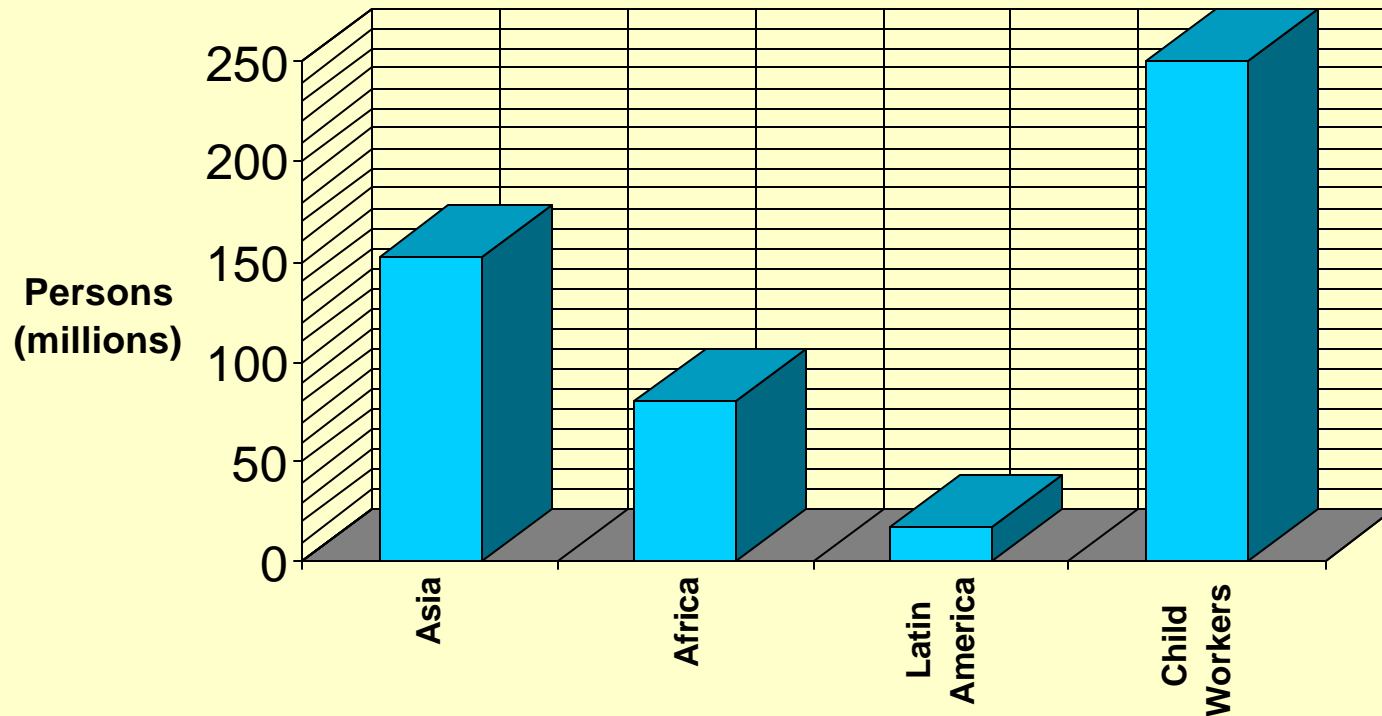
Because children are

- human resources for the future;
- more vulnerable than adults;
- exposed to specific risk factors because they are children (e.g. harmful traditional practices);
- future “well-adjusted, productive adults”;
- more likely to suffer as a result of a realized risk.

International Conventions and Child Labor

- **(ILO Convention 138, 1973).**
- **“Children prematurely leading adult lives, normally working long hours for low wages under conditions damaging to their health and to their physical and mental development, sometimes separated from their families, frequently deprived of meaningful training opportunities that could open up for them a better future.”**
- **(UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989).**
“The child has the right to be protected from work that threatens his or her health, education or development. The State shall set minimum ages for employment and regulate working conditions.”
- **(ILO Convention 182, on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, 1999)**
“The worst forms of CL include hazardous labor, child prostitution and pornography, and trafficking, slavery and debt bondage, and the forced recruitment of child soldiers.”

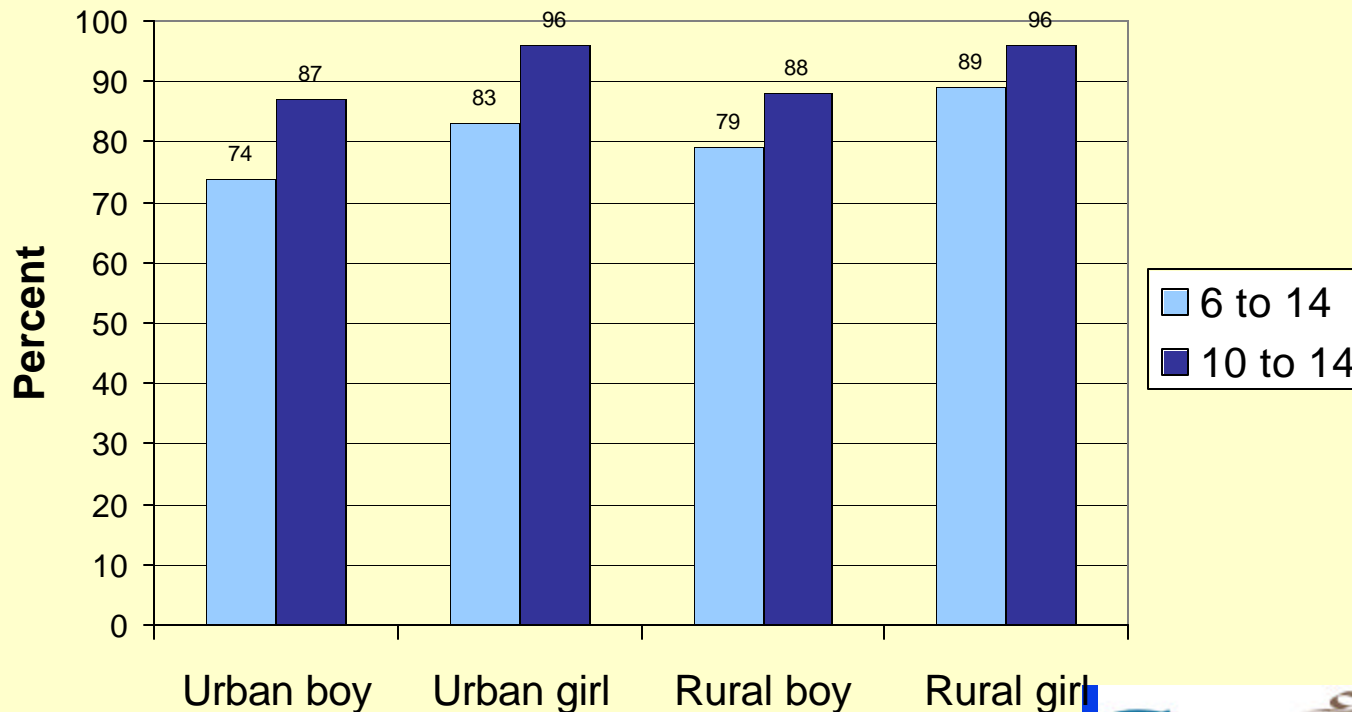
Child Labor



- An estimated 250 million children are working worldwide.
- Almost half work full-time (120 million)
- Africa has the highest incidence (40%) and increasing alarmingly
- Asia highest absolute number of child workers

In Africa, the question is often not if children work, but rather **how much** they work and **what kind** of work they do.

In sample of 4209 children in Benin 81% of 6-14 year olds and 91% of 10-14 year olds undertook some kind of work activity on the day of the survey.



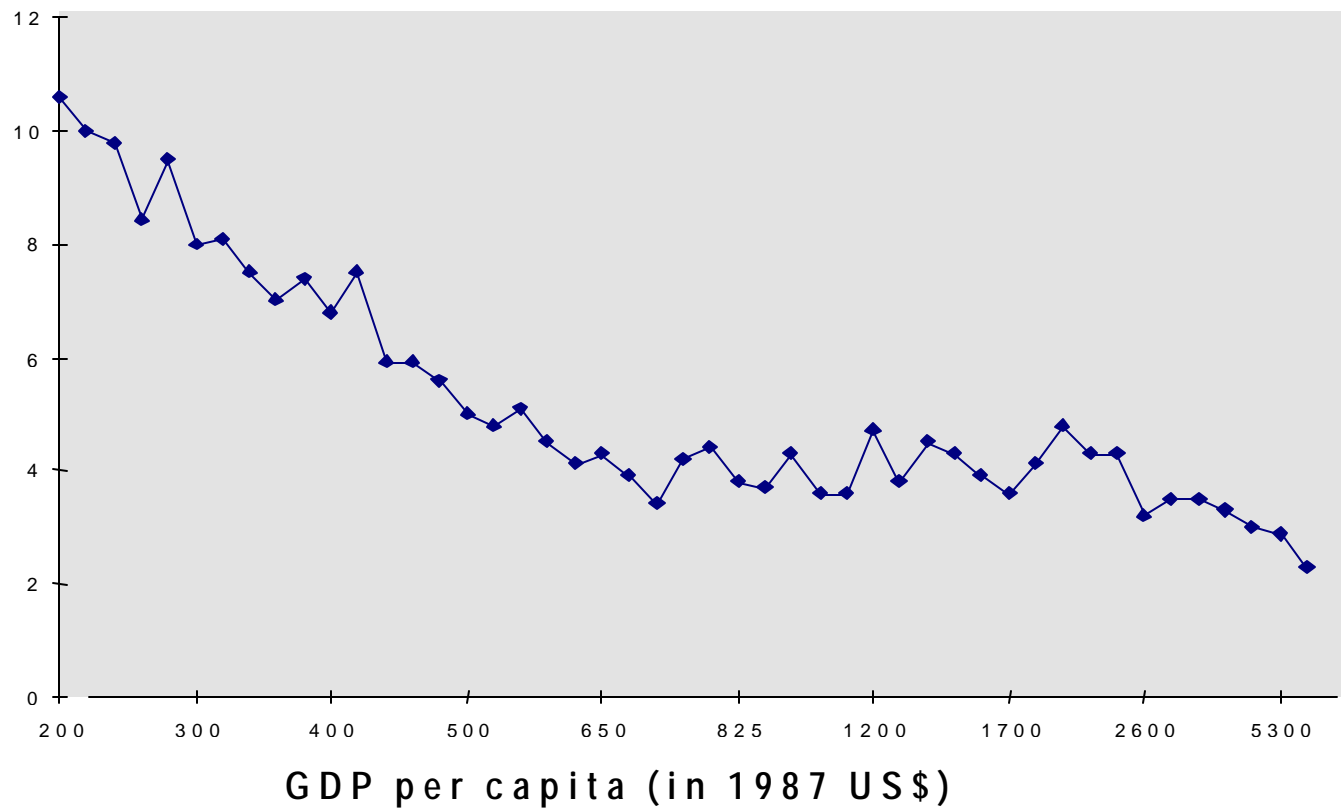
Child Labor

“Poverty is the greatest single force which creates the flow of children into the workplace ...”

(International Labour Organization, 1996
“Child Labour: What Can be Done?”)

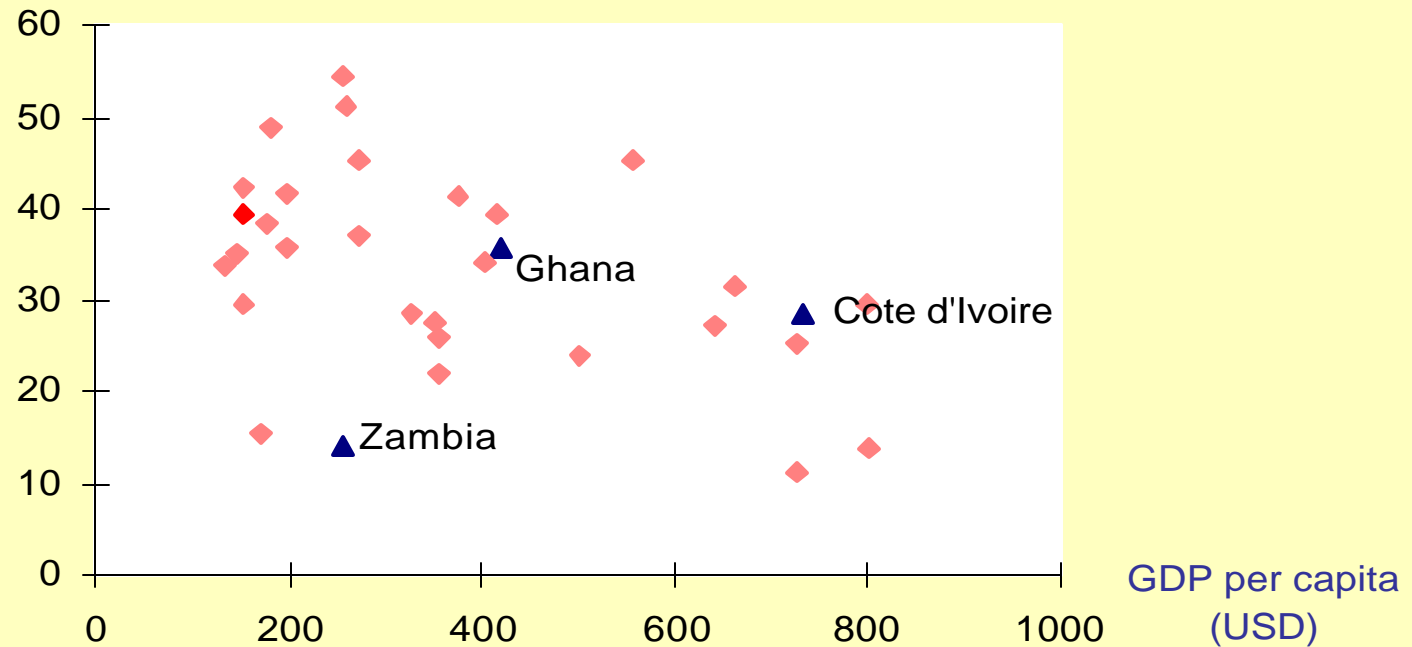
Income Matters

The Percentage of Child Workers in the Labor Force Declines with Rise in GDP Per Capita



Child labor in low-income African countries

Child labor force
(10-14 years)



Determinants **Child Labor** include

- Composition of households
- Education level of head of household
- Traditions: religious/sociological context.
- Parental attitudes towards children: (economic rationality does not necessarily guide decisions at the household level).
- Access to quality schooling.
- Cost of schooling (including opportunity costs).

Harmful child labor practices are products of the very same sources that produce other forms of abuse and neglect; namely parental and social attitudes to children.

The World Bank Approach to preventing Child Labor

- Reduce poverty;
- Increase access to quality Early Childhood and Basic Education;
- Raise public awareness;
- Provide support services for working children;
- Support implementation of child labor legislation at a national level;
- Help eliminate child labor through international measures.

Child Labor Initiatives:

- **Brazil** - The Child Labor Eradication Project
- **Yemen** - The Child Development Project
- **Egypt** - Children at Risk Initiative Project
- **Indonesia** - Back-to-School Program
- **Romania** - The Child Labor Welfare Reform Project
- **India** - The District Primary Education Project
- **Benin** - The Benin Child Protection Fund



The Global Child Labor Program Approach

- **Integration** of child labor concerns into poverty reduction programs
- **Risk** Management and Preventive Strategies
- **Emphasis** on implementation and impact
- **Partnerships** are essential, ILO, UNICEF, NGOs, etc.

A Joint ILO, UNICEF & World Bank Project for Developing New Strategies for Understanding Children's Work* and Its Impact.

- **improve** child labor research, data collection (at both micro and macro level) and analysis;
- **promote** capacity building;
- **conduct** impact assessments of interventions against child labor.

* See UCW website: www.ucw-project.org



Child Protection: Policy Recommendations

1. **Manage risk** to reduce vulnerability;
2. **Provide** social safety nets such as subsidies, and opportunities such as access to credit;
3. **Improve** basic services such as water, health, transport, and access to quality early childhood care and basic education;
4. **Support** services for working children in most critical situations;
5. **Raise** public awareness about child development measures and child rights.

Policy Recommendations (2)

6. **Eliminate** abusive child labor through national & international partnerships;
7. **Reform laws** with credible enforcement, protecting children from economic exploitation/trafficking;
8. **Target** support to families who take in orphans and children in need (eg grants, scholarships).
9. **Promote** UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, African Charter for the Rights and Welfare of the Child, strengthening awareness of “good” traditional family values and norms regulating child placement.

A Note on AIDS

An estimated 21.8 million people have died from AIDS. At the end of 2000, 23.3 million Africans were estimated to be living with the disease, 3.8 million of whom were infected with HIV during the year, and a total of 13.2 million children under the age of 14 were estimated to be orphaned by it worldwide.

In today's Africa, the answer is NOT to abandon the child fostering/placement traditions. In the case of AIDS, the extended family fostering networks need to be preserved and improved/strengthened.

Annex

Why Child Protection? and also because

- **General** protection measures are not always appropriate: protection measures seldom address intra-household factors or risk distribution. These factors determine child's exposure to risk and therefore his/her future well-being;
- **Child Protection** generates high economic returns, ultimately reducing social costs, increasing social equity, and the efficacy of other development interventions.

Child Labor

“By child labor we will mean labor performed by children who are too young in the sense that by doing it they unduly reduce their present economic welfare or their future income earning capabilities, either by shrinking their future external choice sets or through reducing their own future individual productive capabilities.”

(Jens Christopher Andvig)

The Changing Percentage of Child Workers (%)

	1980 - 1985	1985 - 1990
World	-8.3	-2.6
Africa	-2.8	15.3
Americas	10.0	4.1
Asia	-10.4	-7.2
<i>East Asia</i>	<i>-15.8</i>	<i>-32.9</i>
<i>Southeast Asia</i>	<i>-6.7</i>	<i>-8.1</i>
<i>South Asia</i>	<i>-1.8</i>	<i>39.4</i>

Child labor... while often harmful, is not always so, especially where the alternative is deeper poverty for children and their families. Missteps in trying to stamp it out can only make matters worse..." World Bank 1997.