

# » Working Children



## Protecting children against injurious work

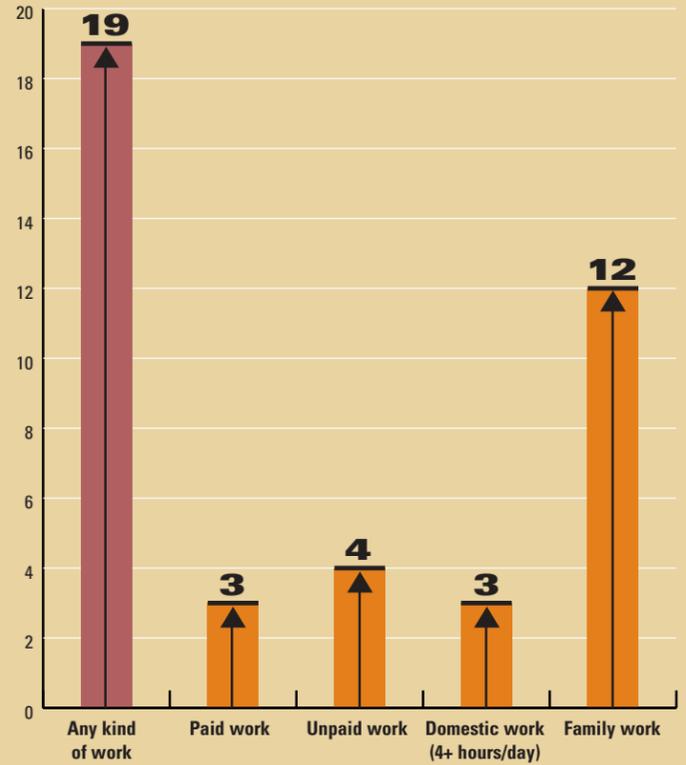
Millions of children work to help their families in ways that are neither harmful nor exploitative. But millions more are put to work in ways that drain childhood of all joy – and crush the right to normal physical and mental development.

The end-decade multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS) for the first time enabled 49 countries to report on working children. These data are still being reviewed and analysed. Preliminary analyses show that in more than 30 countries covering 35 per cent of the developing world, 19 per cent of 5- to 14-year-olds are working. About 21 per cent of children in this age group living in rural areas work, compared to 13 per cent of those in urban areas. Two thirds of those working do so for a family farm or business.

More detailed analysis is on-going on the impact of work on children's right to education. (See also pages 10 and 11.)

## Two thirds do family work\*

Percentage of children aged 5-14 engaged in paid or unpaid work, who did domestic work for four or more hours or who worked for a family farm or business



# » Birth Registration

## Right to a name and a nationality

It is the right of all children to be registered immediately after birth. This is the first step in guaranteeing all of their rights, including health care, education, social support and protection against exploitation. Birth registration also helps a State plan for its citizens.

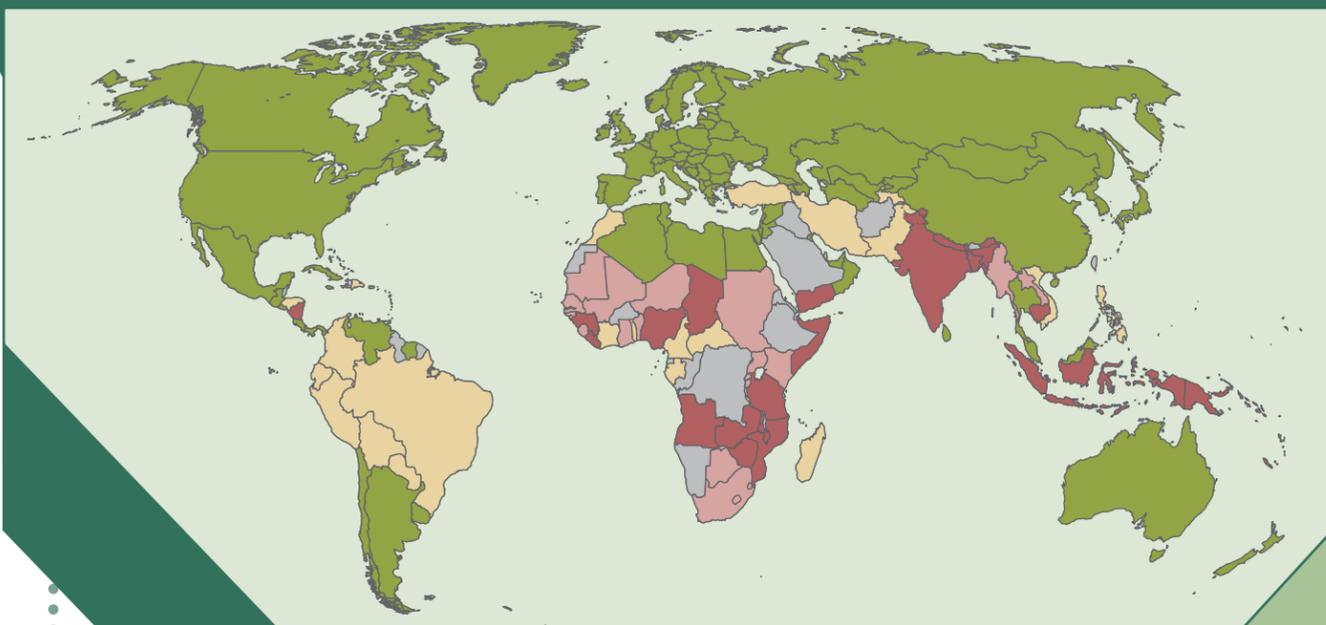
Yet, by the end of the decade, more than two fifths of the 132 million babies born every year were unregistered.

Household surveys carried out in the last two years enabled nearly one quarter of developing countries to improve their reporting on birth registration.

The wide rural and urban disparities in birth registration must be reduced to ensure equal protection of rights. Guinea-Bissau is an example of a least developed country that has managed to redress this imbalance through additional registration efforts in rural areas.



## Levels of birth registration, 2000 estimates



- 90% or more registered
- 70 - 89% registered
- 40 - 69% registered
- 39% or less registered
- No data or no birth registration system

## Over 50 million births not registered

Percentage of annual births not registered by region, 2000



Source for graphs and map: UNICEF, 2001.