



MENA child
protection initiative



Understanding Children's Work
An Inter-Agency Research Cooperation Project

Child labour in Sana'a: **A preliminary overview**

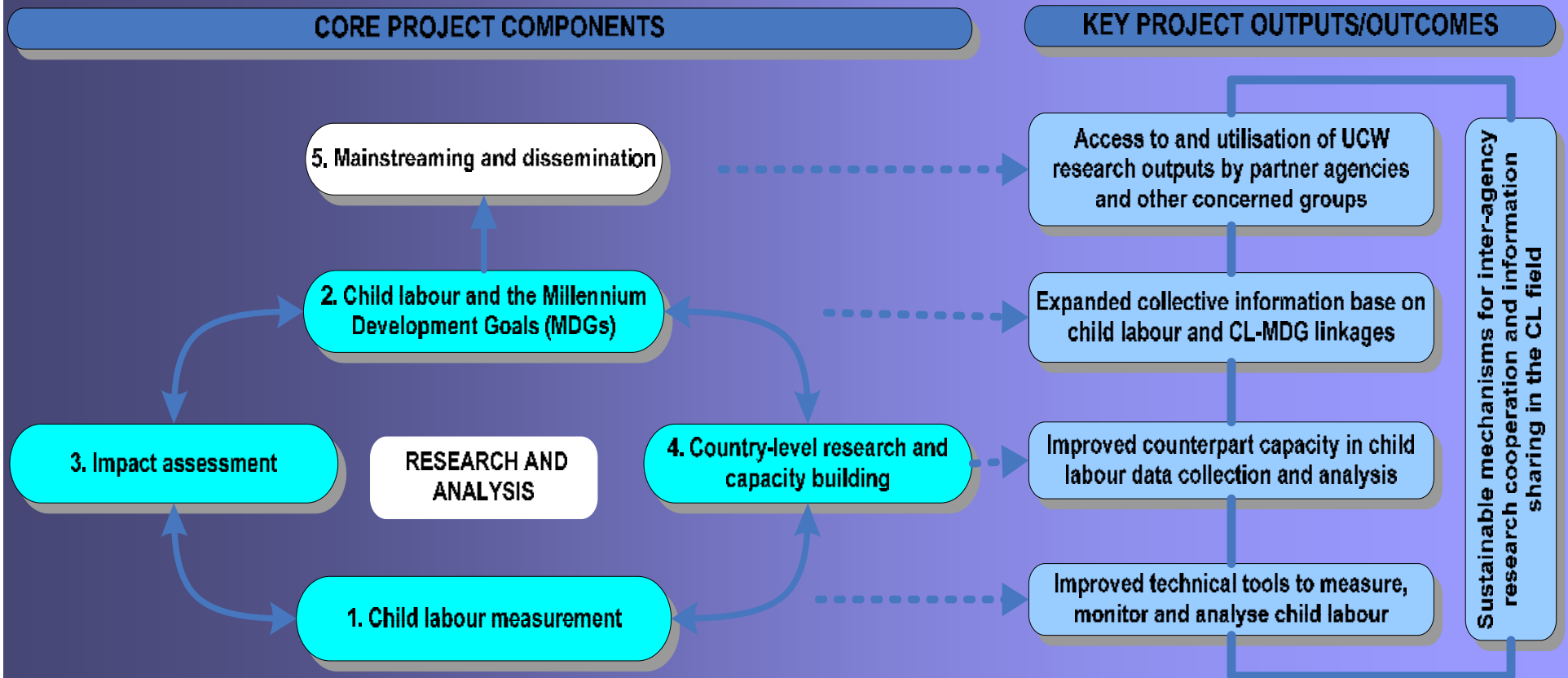
4 December 2006, Rabat

PROJECT BACKGROUND

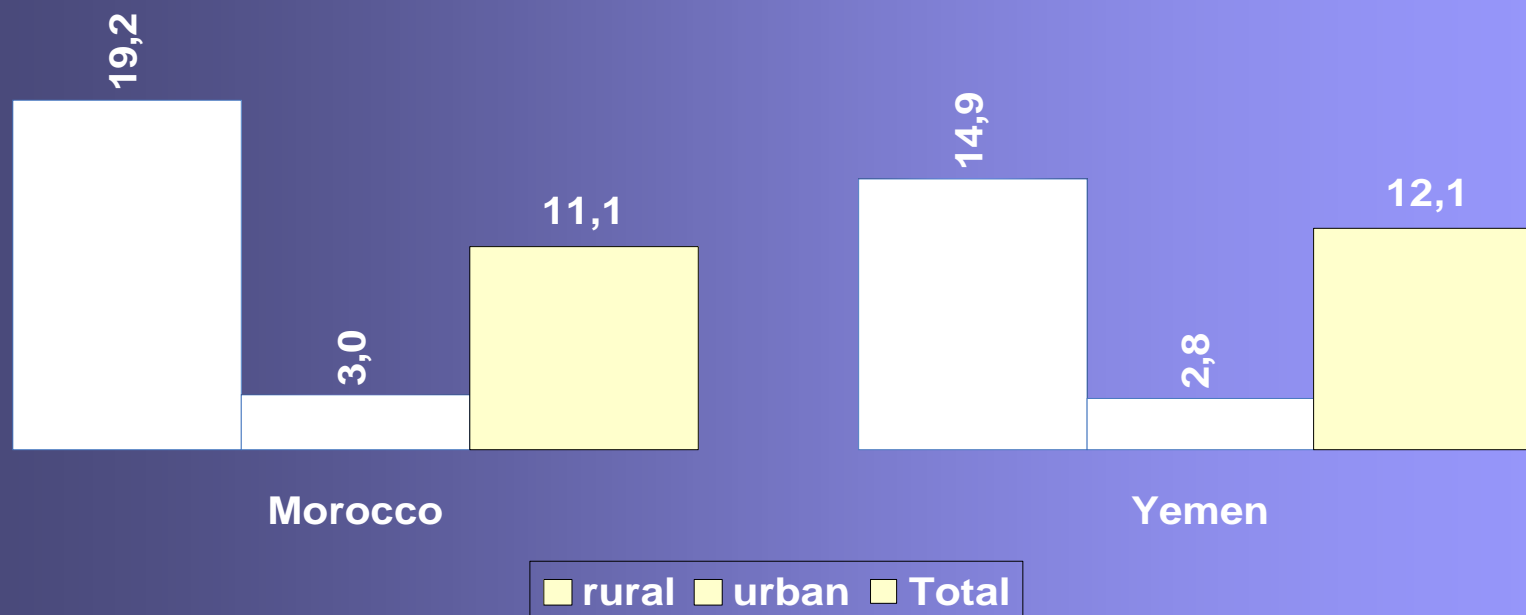


- Guided by recommendations made in the 1997 Oslo Agenda for Action
- involves the three main international actors in the area of child labour (ILO, UNICEF and World Bank)
- Financed by contributions from donor countries and by core agency resources

PROJECT COMPONENTS



EXTENT AND NATURE OF CHILDREN'S WORK IN MENA REGION



Child labour in Sana'a: A preliminary overview

1. Extent of children's work
2. Characteristics of children's work
3. Worst forms of child labour
4. Understanding why children work
5. Policy Options

Section 1.

A PROFILE OF CHILDREN'S WORK

Numbers of economically active children in Sana'a appear to be small but not negligible ...

Table 1. CHILD ACTIVITY STATUS, BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1999 REFERENCE YEAR

Activity status	Children aged 7-14 years					
	Male		Female		Total	
	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Only involved in economic activity	1.0	2,015	0.2	408	0.6	2,423
Only attending school	82.9	159,903	79.9	156,077	81.4	315,980
Involved in economic activity <u>and</u> attending school	2.2	4,194	0.4	778	1.3	4,973
Neither involved in economic activity nor attending school	13.9	26,736	19.5	38,143	16.7	64,879
Total eco. active	2.2	6,209	0.6	1,186	1.9	7,395
Total attending school	85.1	164,097	80.3	156,855	82.7	320,953

Source: UCW calculations based on *National Poverty Survey, 1999*.

Around 2,500 working children (one-third of total) do not attend school

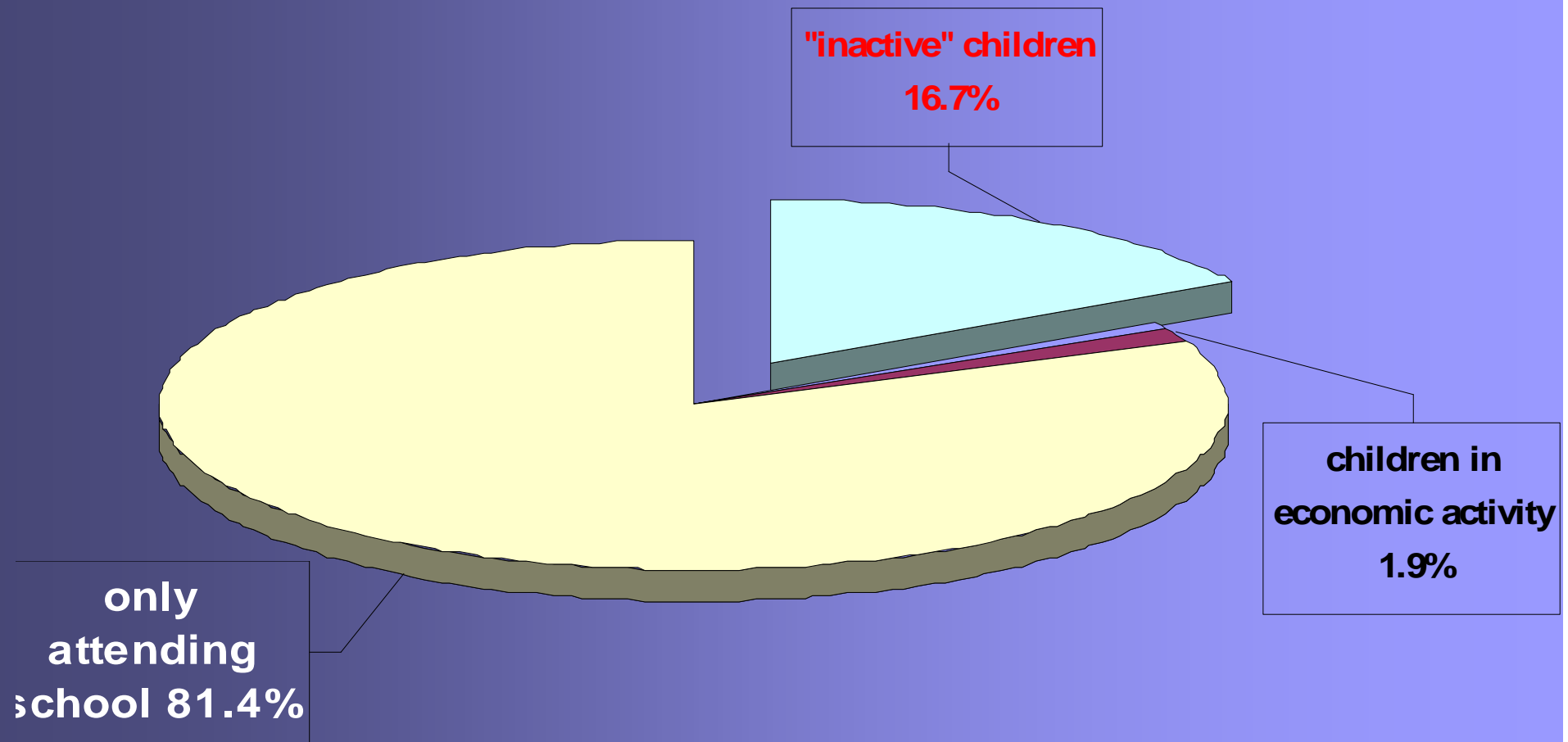
An estimated 7,395 7-14 year-olds (1.9 percent of this age group) are in economic activity

But the estimate of 7,395 economically active children in Sana'a constitutes only a preliminary result

Why?

1. Refers to 1999 reference year
2. Survey instrument (not a child labour survey *per se*)
3. Estimate does not include household chores
4. Estimate does not include « unconditional worst forms »
5. Question of large proportion of « inactive » children...

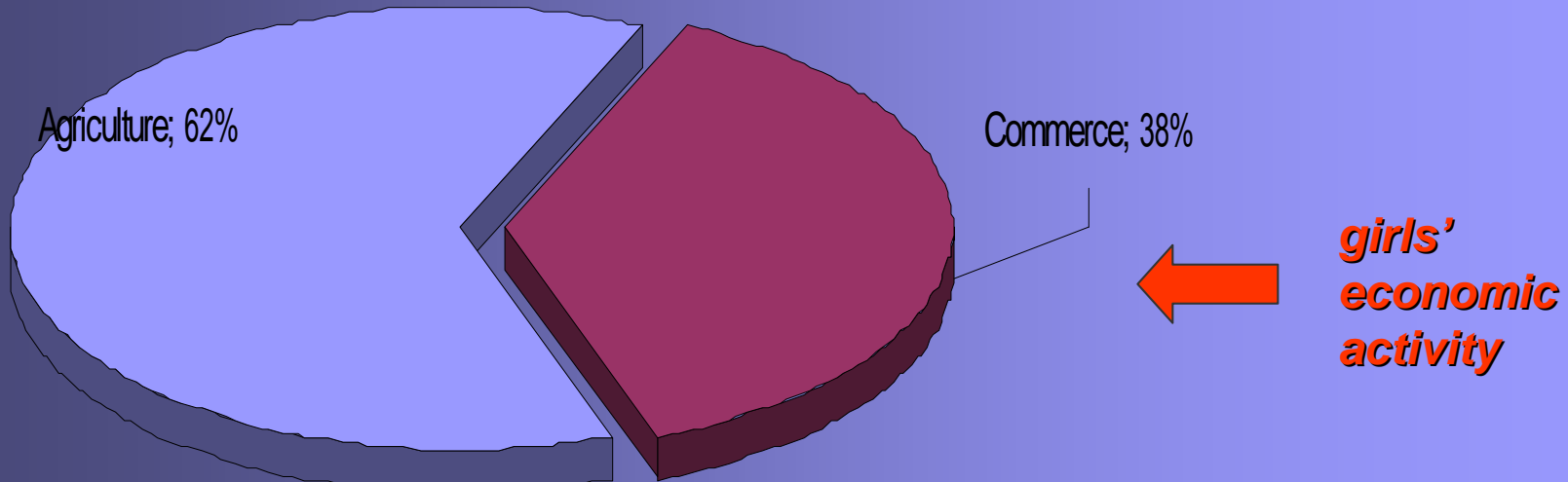
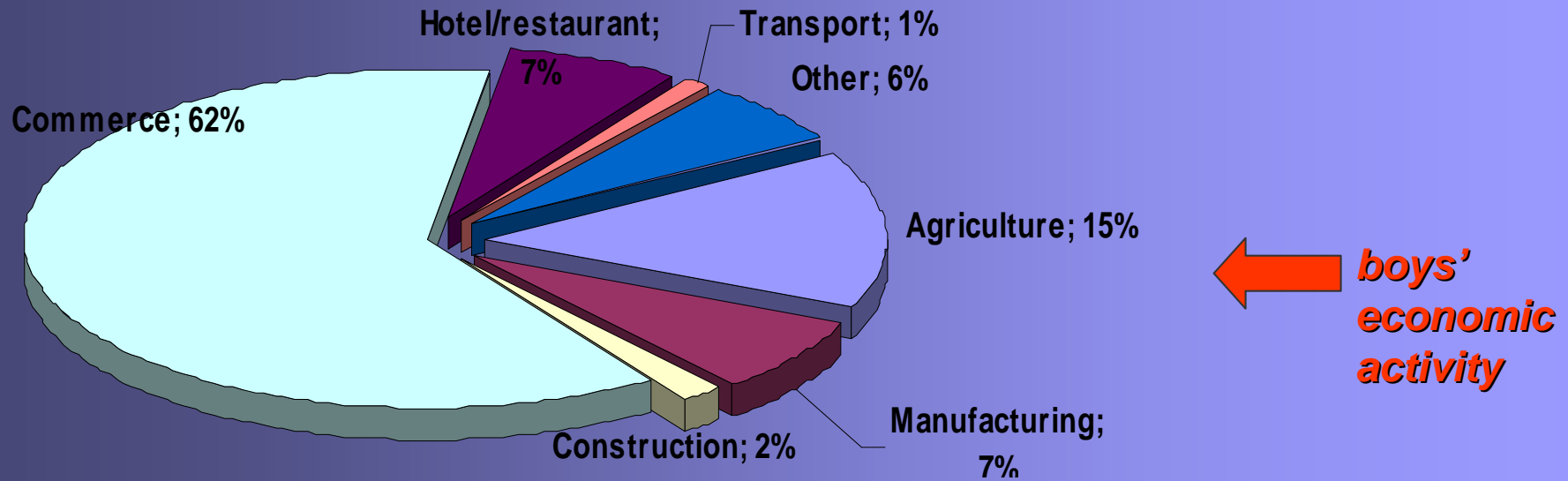
Category of « inactive » children likely reflects to a large extent unreported forms of work...



Section 2.

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN'S WORK IN SANA'A

- There appears to be considerable specialisation in work activities by sex



- **The family is the most common work setting for both boys and girls**

Modality of employment, children aged 10-14 years, by sex

Employment Modality	Female	Male	Total
Employee	0,0	25,3	21,5
self-employed	20,0	9,9	11,5
Employer	8,3	3,0	3,8
works within family	71,7	60,1	61,9
unpaid job (trainee or apprentice)	0,0	1,7	1,4
Total	100	100	100

Source: UCW calculations based on *National Poverty Survey*, 1999.

Working children in Sana'a put in very long hours, greatly restricting their time for study and leisure

- Non-student working children logged an average of over 45 hours per week in 1999
 - student working children put in an average of almost 33 hour per week during the same reference year.
 - worth remembering that these estimates from NPS 1999 do not include any additional time spent performing household chores.
 - even six year-old working children put in a 25 - hour workweek on average.
-

Other evidence suggests work is frequently hazardous to children's health and/or safety:

- ☞ *agriculture*: chemicals from use of pesticides, lengthy exposure to extreme cold and heat, handling heavy agricultural equipment and carrying heavy loads;
- ☞ *construction*: chemical toxins, handling paints;
- ☞ *car repair workshops*: respiratory problems from inhaling fumes, physical injuries, burns, electrocution;
- ☞ *machine welding*: lead poisoning, extreme heat; and
- ☞ *restaurants*: abuse.

- Data on school attendance suggests working children are disadvantaged in terms of their ability to go to school

School attendance, children aged 6-14 years, by work status and sex

Activity	Female	Male	Total
Working children	68,8	66,7	68,4
Non-working children	85,6	80,4	83,0

Source: UCW calculations based on *National Poverty Survey*, 1999.

Section 3.

« WORST » FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR

Street children constitute the most vulnerable component of the child population in Sana'a:

- ☞ street children are beyond the scope of household surveys such as NPS 1999;
- ☞ total numbers are not known but non-negligible;
- ☞ group is heterogeneous (some live on the street and some just work there; some all year, some seasonal);
- ☞ whatever the exact number, recent evidence suggests that street children face harsh conditions...

According to an *Enfants du monde* baseline survey:

- one-half live away from their parents, some with relatives others in hotel rooms or in stores;
- 43 percent spend more than 10 hours on the street each day;
- one-half suffer regularly from hunger and a similar proportion must procure their own food;
- 60 percent indicate often feeling “sad”, “worried and “nervous”; and
- two-thirds express their dislike of street life, with violence being the main reason cited.

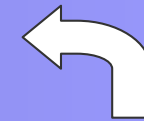
- 82 percent indicated being enrolled in school, though cases of irregular attendance were identified
- selling is by far the most common activity, accounting for 287 of the 347 children. “Begging” accounted for only three children.
- there appear to be substantial seasonal changes in the size and make-up of the street children population.

Section 4.

UNDERSTANDING WHY CHILDREN WORK

Marginal effects after bivariate probit regression

Variable	Only in economic activity		Only attending school	
	dy/dx	z	dy/dx	z
Female	-0.0025	-0.99	-0.0877	-3.85
age	-0.0028	-1.04	0.4118	21.48
Age squared	0.0002	1.27	-0.0185	-19.97
Household size	0.0006	1.73	-0.0148	-5.04
Education level of the HH head	-0.0041	-2.20	0.0348	2.67
Education level of the spouse of the HH head	-0.0012	-1.02	0.0407	4.00
No. of siblings aged 0-5 years	-0.0005	-0.95	-0.0023	-0.39
No. of adults aged 65 years or over	-0.0013	-1.00	0.0064	0.56
Ln of expenditure	-0.0052	-1.08	0.2605	6.19
HH head employed in public sector	-0.0015	-0.94	0.0310	2.39
HH head employed in private sector	0.0047	2.49	-0.0124	-0.96
HH head in mixed sector	0.0016	0.22	0.0413	0.91
HH access to public water network	-0.0021	-1.09	0.0516	2.44
Female-water	-0.0017	-0.69	0.0420	2.00
Female-child 0-5	-0.0019	-1.77	0.0052	0.74



Multivariate analysis used to identify the influence of various individual, household and community characteristics of HH decisions relating to children's work

Key determinants of children's work in Sana'a:

- **Gender:** being a girl reduces for likelihood of benefiting from schooling by eight percentage points; also more likely to be "inactive"; little effect on work.
- **Age:** The analysis shows that the probability of a child working increases with age (opp. cost or lack of access to post-primary schooling).
- **Household size.** Children from large families are less likely to attend school and more likely to remain "inactive" at home, though the effect is relatively small in both cases.
- **Parents' educational status.** Educational status negatively related to work (weak effect), positively related to education (strong effect)
- **Household income.** Strong positive relationship with school attendance, no significant relationship with work.
- **Water availability:** Access to a public water network has an important effect on schooling (five percentage points).

Data gaps:

- Updated and reliable baseline estimate as policy target
- Qualitative data on the reality of children's workplaces
- Household chores
- "Inactive children"
- Impact of work on school and health; working students
- Street children and other unconditional worst forms
- Distinction between "street work" and children working on the street
- "Mapping" of actors involved in issues related to child labour in Sana'a
- Identifying programmatic gaps and good practices

Section 5.

ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS ELMINATING CHILD LABOUR: A DISCUSSION OF POLICY OPTIONS

Identifying an appropriate policy mix: general considerations

- Integrated package of measures spanning a number of sectors
- Targeted at not only child labourers, but those at risk of CL and those affected by previous exposure to CL

