**Child Labor in South Asia**

• There are 16.7 million (5-17 year old) children in child labor in South Asia, according to conservative estimates3, and of these 10.3 million are in the 5-14 year age range.

• The young, 5-11 year-old children, make up about one-fifth of all child laborers in South Asia.

• Substantial variation in child labor estimates exists across the South Asian countries. In absolute terms, child labor for the 5-17 years age range is highest in India (5.8 million), followed by Bangladesh (5.0 million), Pakistan (3.4 million) and Nepal (2.0 million).

• In relative terms, children in Nepal face the highest risk of being in child labor than elsewhere in South Asia, with over one-quarter (26 per cent) of all 5-17 year-olds engaged in child labor.

**Children in employment**

Children in employment is a broader measure than child labor; it includes some child labor. Children’s involvement in employment is common in many of the South Asian countries.

• Estimates put Bangladesh at 3.5 million 7-14 year-olds in employment, followed by India (3.3 million) and Nepal (2.1 million).

 • In relative terms, Nepal has an especially high percentage of 7-14 year-olds (36 per cent), followed by Bangladesh (12 per cent) and Sri Lanka (11 per cent). Pakistan’s available national statistics show 13 per cent (2.5 million) in employment for the age range 10-14 years.

• Involvement in employment increases as children get older, from below 4 per cent for 7 year-olds in all countries where data are available (with the notable high exception of Bhutan) to variations of over 20 per cent by the time they turn 17 years.

• A substantial share of employment of 15-17 year-olds is hazardous in nature – 75 per cent in Bangladesh, 72 per cent in Sri Lanka, 41 per cent in Pakistan, 30 per cent in Nepal, 20 per cent in India and 6 per cent in Bhutan.

**Education and children’s employment**

• Each of the seven countries has a significant share of children who are reported “inactive”, i.e. neither in employment nor in school.

• Children in employment are generally less likely to attend school than their non-working peers.

• Work has a negative effect on the education of the substantial numbers of children who combine school and work.

• Out-of-school children constitute a formidable challenge in the South Asia region. A total of 24.1 million in the 7-14 years age group in three countries are out of school: India (12.3 million), in Pakistan (7.3 million) and in Bangladesh (4.5 million).

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_

Using the highlighted figures in the “Child Labor in South Asia” section, create a chart (below) showing the percentage of child labor in each country of South Asia. You will need to use your math skills to figure out the percentages. For the remainder, include the information on your chart as “*Other South Asian Countries”*. You must write the name of the country and the number of children (ex. 5.8 million) in the proper area. Make sure to title your chart. You must also color each area a separate color. Answer the question at the bottom of the page after completing the chart.

Why is using “absolute terms” misleading when talking about the number of children involved in child labor in South Asia?

Using the highlighted figures in the “Education and children’s employment” section, create a chart (below) showing the percentage of children out of school in the three countries listed. You must write the name of the country and the number of children (ex. 12.3 million) in the proper area. Title your chart. You must also color each area a separate color. When done, answer the question underneath the chart.

Why are so many children ages 7-14 out of school in these countries. List several possible reasons.

Using the highlighted figures in the “Children in employment” section, create a bar graph (below) showing the percentage of 15-17 year olds involved in hazardous employment in the six South Asian countries listed. You must write the name of the country along the x-axis and the percentages along the y-axis. Draw and color (separate colors) a bar for each country. Make sure to title your chart. Answer the question at the bottom of the page after completing the chart.



What do you think is the percentage of U.S. teenagers, ages 15-17, involved in hazardous employment? Explain your reasoning.