

Assessing Children's Workplaces:

Tools and Techniques from the
Field



Assessing Children's Workplaces

- This session will:
 - Present a case study describing working conditions for a young worker
 - Introduce and apply a set of tools for hazard assessment
 - Share monitoring and documentation techniques

Assessing Children's Workplaces

Tools: developed in Egypt on PPIC-Work Project

The goals of the PPIC-Work project are to improve:

- the working conditions and
- the learning opportunities

of children working in micro- and small enterprises

Premise: many children must work to help support their families. Workplaces should be as safe as possible.



Safety and Children's Work

3 categories of children's work:

- Benign
- Some hazards but mitigation possible
- Inherently hazardous

Children's work in microenterprises – usually in second category

A Tale of Two Participants



- Basma and Iptessam – two sisters, aged 10 and 12
- Work in their family business - a grocery store, selling vegetables
- Typical of PPIC-Work children: combining work and school

Tool 1: Categories of Hazards

Accident	Accidents with tools, vehicles, machines, slipping
Chemical	Dust, fibres, exhaust
Physical	Noise, vibration, cold, heat
Ergonomic	Lifting, carrying, repetitive
Working Conditions	Long hours, lack of security, poor sanitation
Biological	Contact with animal or plant waste
Psychological	Abuse, humiliation, lack of learning opportunities

Basma and Iptessam: The Working Day



The Working Day



How many hazards
can you identify?





Other workplace hazards



Pick Work
PPIC  **W**

MEDA 



Pick Work
PPIC  **W**

MEDA 

Tool 2: Hazard Scoring

Where do you start fixing the problem?

What hazards should you focus on first?

The hazard ranking tool assesses risks in two ways:

- **PROBABILITY**: How likely is the hazard to occur ?
- **SEVERITY**: How serious would the hazard be if it occurred?

The Hazard Scoring Tool

<i>Severity</i> <i>Probability</i>	Serious	Moderate	Minor
High Probability			
Medium Probability			
Low Probability			

Think back to the photos....

Use the Hazard Ranking Table to decide which of the hazards are most serious and which are most frequent.

Case Study: Finding a Resolution

Basma and Iptessam's family decides to take a loan to improve their business.

How could you advise the family on using the loan to reduce the girls' risk?

Case Study: Resolution

The family decided to take a larger loan from their MFI. This allowed them to contract a wholesaler, who delivered vegetables directly to their store. They were able to order larger quantities of produce than the girls had been able to carry, and the demand was high enough in their region that they could sell more vegetables.

Case Study: Resolution (continued)

The loan eliminated the need for the girls to go to market in the morning, so the hazards associated with carrying heavy loads through traffic were completely eliminated. Fortunately, there was still a demand for the girls to work in the store, so they didn't lose their job. (This can sometimes happen, especially in non-family businesses.)