



Jobs for former child soldiers (Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi)



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BACKGROUND

While there are several reasons why children join armed forces and groups, poor living conditions are increasingly recognized as being at the heart of the problem. Children's testimonies often refer to their enrolment as a strategy to ensure immediate survival and to earn a living. This clearly shows that effective prevention and reintegration are dependent on addressing the economic dimensions of child recruitment. Work, or the absence of it, is at the heart of enrolment and prevention, and makes or breaks the release of children from armed forces and groups.

The IPEC implemented Projects in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) aiming to support former child soldiers and children at risk of recruitment in accessing decent work. The economic empowerment of children, followed by extended employment support, proved to be an effective strategy to achieve successful and sustainable integration into the labour market.

ACTION

The project conducted rapid assessments to identify attractive jobs as well as relevant service providers in the localities where children were being reintegrated. Children were exposed to existing trades and occupations through job fairs and organized guided tours of workplaces. They were then assisted in choosing a professional project that matched their aspirations and capacities with the economic reality. The project provided vocational skills training as well as basic education and life skills training in view of increasing the employability of children.

Due to the lack of wage employment opportunities in the conflict-affected project area, children were supported in starting a business, either individually or in groups. The project provided them with the necessary materials, helped in identifying and renting a suitable workplace and assisted in legal, regulatory and administrative procedures. When possible, access to micro-health insurance schemes was facilitated, thereby improving health coverage for beneficiaries and their dependants. Children benefited from entrepreneurship training based on the ILO "Start and Improve Your Business" (SIYB) package as well as financial literacy training. All businesses opened accounts at micro-finance institutions and regularly deposited savings. The most successful ones had access to micro-credit to expand or diversify their activities. Most importantly, children benefited from long-term, regular and professional follow-up from the project's implementing agencies.

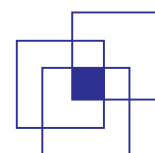
In the eyes of the community, the project targeted war-affected children without making the distinction (except for internal monitoring purposes) between former child soldiers and other vulnerable children in the community. All received the same services.

ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The variety of services provided to beneficiaries has contributed to the creation of productive jobs that deliver a fair income; security in the workplace and social protection for families; better prospects for personal development and social integration; freedom for children to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives; and equality of opportunity and treatment for all girls and boys – in other words, decent work. By helping former child soldiers to become productive members of their communities, the project also contributed to their social reintegration.

The inclusive approach proved to be an effective way for reaching the girl child soldiers who did not have to uncover their past association with armed forces/groups and also contributed to reconciliation within the

Good practice





Murhula is a former child soldier from Bukavu, the capital of South Kivu, in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. He was released from the Mai Mai in 2001. Murhula participated in a job fair and a guided tour to different workplaces organized by the IPEC Project. He visited the workshop of a master craftsman, who produces guitars, and was attracted to this occupation. Murhula became an apprentice in the same workshop and learned how to make electric and acoustic guitars. At the end of his apprenticeship, he stayed in the workshop and is now a business partner of the master craftsman who trained him. His activity is lucrative; he sells several guitars a week, in particular to church choirs.

community. Several cooperatives had former child soldiers (sometimes from different factions) and other vulnerable children working side by side.

SUSTAINABILITY

Decent jobs are key both to prevent recruitment and to ensure sustainable reintegration of former child soldiers. IPEC is building on this good practice and, more generally, on the experience and knowledge acquired through field projects targeting child soldiers. It pursues a multi-pronged strategy aiming at upgrading the economic components of release and reintegration programmes for children worldwide. The key elements of this good practice have been developed and documented in a strategic framework and in an operational guide (see References) that are being used as a basis for training at country level. The good practice is also being used to update and develop inter-agency standards on reintegration of children and youth formerly associated with armed forces and groups.

LESSONS LEARNED

Economic (re)integration of children is a long and complex process that requires sufficient funding. This should be built into the project design. The time frame for the follow-up of businesses should not be less than one year. The implementing agency needs to recruit and train field staff that can provide regular and professional coaching to new businesses.

Considering the nature of the services provided to beneficiaries, it is preferable to select implementing agencies that are specialized in the provision of vocational training and/or business development services and to train them to deal with this specific target group.

The implementing agency should manage with particular attention the assessment of local employment opportunities and the vocational orientation phase. The latter determines, to a large extent, the success or failure of reintegration.

NECESSARY CONDITIONS

The replication of the good practice relies on the availability of various service providers in the project area (micro-finance institutions, micro-health insurance schemes and business development service providers). The reality of certain post-conflict environments in which children are being reintegrated determines the limits.

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Child labour monitoring system (Tanzania)



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BACKGROUND

Before the beginning of the IPEC Project in Urambo district, Tabora region in Tanzania, there was no child labour monitoring system (CLMS) in the district. As part of the Project's initial activities in 2004, CLMS was introduced for the purpose of identifying and providing victims of child labour with educational services. The IPEC Project, in collaboration with the tripartite partners, created a structure for monitoring child labour by forming the first Village Child Labour Committee (VCLC), District Child Labour Sub-committee (DCLSC), District Child Labour Coordinator, National Child Labour Coordinator (NCLC) and the National Inter-sectoral Coordination Committee (NISCC), which was represented by various key actors from different ministries.

ACTION

Action took place at both the local and national levels. At the local level, key actors in local government districts were made aware of CLMS, data collectors were trained and key additional indicators were identified in order to integrate CLMS into the local government database.

VCLC members in Urambo district were involved in quarterly observation of tobacco farms with a view of identifying boys and girls involved in child labour on tobacco farms. After identification, children were removed from labour by the VCLC, in collaboration with implementing agencies and the district council, and referred to vocational centres in Urambo district and Tabora region for appropriate skills training. Copies of the information on working children were also submitted to the District Child Labour Coordinator's office for documentation and analysis.

In terms of the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP), some elements of the mainstreaming of the NAP are on-going through various child labour interventions in 16 districts out of the 128 districts. These elements include the allocation of resources for child labour interventions at district level, putting in place district vulnerability database systems to incorporate CLMS into district development plans, adoption of by-laws covering elimination of child labour and establishment of DCLCs and their representation in the District Council Management Teams.

ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The government and stakeholders have developed and adopted a National Action Plan (NAP) and a child labour monitoring system (CLMS) for the elimination of worst forms of child labour that require collective effort from government, employers' and workers' organizations and civil society and require the strengthening of community responses.

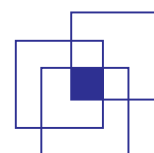
Currently the Urambo district has started allocating budget for supporting the access of vulnerable children to secondary schools and vocational training centres, though more funds are necessary.

SUSTAINABILITY

The CLMS programme through the IPEC Project has been completed and the Urambo District Council has been requested to expand the CLMS programme to all wards, however the district does not have the sufficient resources. CLMS has also been piloted in 16 other districts through the IPEC Time-Bound Programme and observed to be working well.

There is a potential for quickly integrating CLMS into local governance institutions in the country because

Good practice





Hon. Samwel Sita, MP-Urambo East & Speaker for Tanzania.



72 bicycles ready to be distributed to the VCLC in Urambo district for the child labour monitoring system programmes in the villages.

of the ongoing local government reform programme. Decentralisation is taking hold with the “Decentralisation by Devolution” policy. From 2008 to the present (2010) there has been a deliberate effort by the government to accelerate the decentralization process, which means setting aside resources for institutional capacity building for local government operations.

In Tanzania the elimination of child labour is currently the third priority of the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) and is also featured in both the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction (MKUKUTA) and the Strategy for Poverty Reduction (MKUZA). Any future national initiative will be included under Pillar III and will work within existing government structures and processes. Technical support will come from the ILO Dar es Salaam Office. The main counterpart for the Project will be the child labour units in the Ministry of Labour on the mainland and the Ministry of Labour in Zanzibar. Progress regarding the Project will be reported to the National Inter-Sectoral Coordination Committee (NISCC), which is the government’s national child labour coordination body.

LESSONS LEARNED

Some of the Village Child Labour Committees (VCLCs) members are not very effective in participating in the monitoring of child labour activities in their respective areas, because they are not given incentives. The demand for incentives is high from some of the VCLCs. This is a key determinant for participation of the VCLCs in the child labour monitoring system (CLMS) programme. Therefore, any future initiatives need to define alternative ways to provide the necessary capacity building, training, skills, tools and equipment for data collection for mainstreaming and scaling-up CLMS.

The District Child Labour Coordinator was supposed to compile a district report for submission to the National Child Labour Coordinator based at the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Development for the production of a biannual country report for the NISCC for further follow-up; but reports were not submitted regularly because of the poor linkage between the district and the national level.

Several components of the NAP have yet to be mainstreamed at either the district or national levels. As a result, the Ministries of Labour need to increasingly mainstreaming the NAP into the policies of other ministries and solicit resource allocations from individual ministries such as the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Finance.

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Combating child labour through HIV/AIDS programming with a focus on social protection (Uganda)

BACKGROUND

The HIV/AIDS pandemic adds a new and tragic dimension to the problem of child labour in many countries around the world. Millions of children have already been orphaned by the death of one or both parents from HIV/AIDS, and millions more continue to be. HIV and child labour form a vicious circle: when a parent is HIV positive, and extended family support is unavailable or insufficient, orphans and children living with sick parents may drop out of school to take care of a sick relative, to engage in early marriages, or to supplement the household income to feed their siblings and themselves, and hence can fall victim to child labour. As a result of HIV, there are an increasing number of child-headed households, women-headed households, and migration of children to urban centres. Many boys and girls affected by HIV enter into child labour and in turn, put themselves at high risk of contracting the virus by engaging in risky behaviours.

Therefore, this good practice highlights how child labour can be addressed from another angle (HIV/AIDS) and how social protection is a key component for appropriate action towards the elimination of child labour induced by HIV/AIDS.

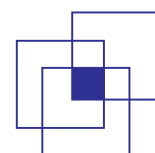
The target group was children working and at-risk, whose families were affected by HIV, as well as adult heads of households.

The practice was carried out under the IPEC Project “Combating and preventing HIV/AIDS-induced child labour in Sub-saharan Africa: Pilot action in Uganda and Zambia between 2005 and 2008.”

ACTION

Social protection is vital in helping vulnerable families, such as those affected by HIV/AIDS, maintain a minimum quality of life; it ensures a stable income to keep children in school as well as meeting the health and nutritional needs of the recipients. Social protection includes all public and private initiatives that provide income or consumption transfers to the poor families that protect them against risks to their livelihoods and enhance the rights and social status of the marginalized, with the overall objective of reducing their economic and social vulnerability. The Project promoted social protection for targeted groups mainly through the promotion of income generating activities (IGAs), the creation of savings schemes and referral to existing social protection agencies. For the ILO, access to social protection means that people and families have security in the face of vulnerabilities and contingencies, that they have access to health care and that they are able to live their lives and carry out their work in safety. In this Project, the expectations included the following:

Good practice





An elderly grandmother with orphans of her children; the grandmother is an income generating activities (IGAs) beneficiary under the Project. The girl standing next to her is 16 and is attending a tailoring course.

- To enhance the ability of children, households and communities to cope with and recover from the vulnerability and hazards of HIV/AIDS and child labour.
- To prevent more children from entering into HIV/AIDS-induced child labour, which aggravates poverty and keeps them in the vicious cycle of vulnerability and exploitation.
- To improve income levels of beneficiaries so they can meet basic household needs.
- To keep and support children withdrawn from child labour in schools.

The goal of this intervention is to address vulnerabilities of children affected by HIV-induced child labour and their families through capacity building and the promotion of linkages and networking with communities.

ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

All the implementing agencies started with a social mapping exercise in the target areas that revealed the level of vulnerability of the target communities. A social mapping exercise is necessary to identify existing social protection measures and schemes in given localities that can serve as linkages for the beneficiary families. The mapping provided the list of service providers in the area, namely health care providers, microfinance institutions and educational institutions.

The mapping also identified the various micro-credit and banking institutions where the beneficiaries could deposit their savings as well as the stakeholders who could be helpful in implementing the Project.

Income generating activities (IGAs) were offered based on the poverty levels of women and child headed households. The specific criteria used to identify IGA beneficiaries was designed with community members and community child labour committees.

The implementing agencies conducted visits to the homes of the selected beneficiaries to verify the family status and assess their suitability to benefit from the project. The selected families had to agree to receive the grant in form of services and goods. The beneficiaries were also required to commit themselves to attend meetings and training convened by the implementing agency. Specific income generating activities (IGAs) to be supported were identified taking into account their ability to generate income, and the capacity of households to carry out the activities with the available resources. The selected beneficiaries were trained in the following basic business skills and management so as to benefit from IGAs: how to start a business; how to improve a business; how to manage a business; how to make a business plan; record keeping; marketing skills; entrepreneurship skills and savings mobilization.

SUSTAINABILITY

The Project's experiences implementing social protection measures with regard to IGAs and savings schemes have proved very successful and provide lessons for wider utilization when working with vulnerable groups, such as those affected by HIV/AIDS. In particular, national programmes such as the Government's Prosperity for All would benefit from the Project's approaches and processes. The practice addresses the causes of child labour by focusing on alleviating poverty by raising household incomes and offering a full package of services and social protection measures to the beneficiaries. Women are actively involved as they are one of the main target beneficiaries, since women-headed households (including those headed by grandmothers) are usually among the poorest families affected by HIV. The interventions are sustainable as the parents are earning an income and are referred to structures that provide them with services and income in the long-run.

LESSONS LEARNED

- The IGAs beneficiaries who were already in business are doing better than those who were starting for the first time. The IGAs inputs are limited and they benefit those who need to expand their capital base.
- The very elderly grandparents are faced with enormous challenges since they are being made to run around in businesses when they are already frail and are themselves in need of care.
- The elderly care givers require social welfare benefits or cash transfers instead of being involved in IGAs.
- Women have generally done better than men.
- Conducting market surveys before initiating IGAs enhances their success.
- Proper monitoring of market trends and responding appropriately is vital for the growth of the IGAs.
- Exchange visits to successful IGAs models motivates and increases opportunities for learning.
- Training in management of IGAs, is not a one time off activity but the training must be continuous and accompanied with monitoring by technical personnel.

A care giver and income generating activities beneficiary

Salome is a care giver and an income generating activity (IGA) beneficiary. She is a widow with 3 children. She is also responsible for her late brother's 9 orphans and her grandmother. She lives in Chawama, Lusaka with her 3 children and the daughter of her late brother. Her children are attending school and the daughter of her late brother is receiving vocational skills training from Chawama Youth Project. Her late brother's 8 sons live with their great grandmother in Kapiri Mposhi, since Salome cannot afford to maintain all of them in Lusaka. Before he died, her late brother requested her not to let his only daughter remain in Kapiri Mposhi since he feared that she might end up in commercial sexual exploitation, which is very common in that area. Before receiving IGA support, Salome was already in the business of knitting school sweaters although with very little capital and marginal profits. From the implementing agency, she received basic training in business planning, record keeping, marketing, entrepreneurship, saving and mobilization. In addition, the implementing agency provided inputs to the knitting business, and her profits and savings have increased. She is able to meet the basic needs of her family in Lusaka and also to provide financial and material support to her grand mother and nephews in Kapiri Mposhi. This gives her peace of mind.

“ One of the biggest causes of child labour is poverty, and the only way to address that is through improved livelihoods. ”

Quote of an evaluation interviewee.

NECESSARY CONDITIONS

- A social mapping exercise to identify social protection measures and schemes already operating in given localities.
- Specific criteria designed with community members to identify households to be supported with IGAs.
- Constant follow up and support from the implementing agencies.
- The IGA must originate from the people.
- A market for the goods and services.
- Commitment and openness of the community to the Project.
- Good supervisory guidelines in place (i.e. who takes charge, bank accounts, signatories).

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Going the distance to stop **child trafficking:** Local vigilance committees (West Africa)

BACKGROUND

Child trafficking represents one of the worst forms of exploitation and violation of children's rights in West Africa. For example, for years, two regions of Mali have been a major source of children trafficked for agricultural labour on cocoa and palm oil plantations and to work in mines in Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. Kolondieba (Mali) is located just 65 km north of the Mali-Côte d'Ivoire border and less than 200 kilometres from Burkina Faso to the east. The town of Koutiala, also near the Burkina Faso border, is on the main north-south road leading to Côte d'Ivoire. Girls are trafficked into cities in Mali, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to serve as domestic workers, porters in markets and vendors. They are often sexually exploited. It has been common practice for traffickers to approach children or their parents in the region and entice them to travel south by promising steady wages and a better life.

Since July 2001, nine countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Togo) have joined together to fight child trafficking through the IPEC Project "Combating the trafficking in children for labour exploitation in West and Central Africa" (LUTRENA).

While the problem of child trafficking had been noted and addressed at the highest levels of government, the challenge was to stop it at its source. With this being said, one of the most important strategies of LUTRENA Project has been the creation of local vigilance committees (LVCs).

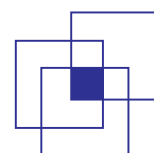
ACTION

Local vigilance committees (LVCs) are composed of community volunteers. Their chief role is to mobilize the community to take action against trafficking, monitor the well-being of children and migrant behaviour, identify and intercept children at risk of becoming victims of trafficking and coordinate the offering of direct assistance services to children in need. LVCs are an effective and appropriate structure to curb trafficking by working with the children most at risk of being trafficked and their families. These watchdog groups, composed of citizens and civil servants, are found in Benin, Burkina Faso, Togo, Mali, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire.

LVCs play a primary role in preventing trafficking, identifying and tracking traffickers and repatriating trafficked children. As volunteers, they monitor borders and control cross-border movement of children. Strategies used by LVCs include:

1. **Community-based child monitoring:** LVCs survey the movement of children, keep records, and report possible cases of child trading or child trafficking to authorities. They do this through:

Good practice



- Identification and interception of victims of child trafficking;
 - Family accompaniment;
 - Reintegration of victims of trafficking;
 - Identification of and interaction with traffickers.
2. **Institutional presence:** Badges, bicycles, T-shirts, and other identifying mechanisms alert traffickers to the presence of LVCs and build confidence among village residents.
 3. **Public information events:** LVCs hold regular community-wide, awareness-raising sessions where videos are shown and discussions are held explaining trafficking, exploitative child labour, and the new anti-trafficking laws in their countries.

ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

To curb the dangerous migration of under-age workers, the LUTRENA Project selected child protection and community development non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with a proven track record and a long history of experience in the target area to organize the LVCs. Today, 26 LVCs with 222 members are strategically located in communities around Kolondieba and Koutiala. After intensive and ongoing training, these committees have been instrumental in organizing activities that keep children in their homes and in their villages. Since 2005, they have repatriated 430 children and more than 3,500 children have been re-enrolled in public school or vocational centres after being taken away from their homes for exploitative work. The LVC has worked with school boards, teachers, journalists, parent and teacher associations, as well as government officials to monitor children and attempt to provide meaningful options for them and their families. By bringing needy families into contact with NGOs, the LVC has helped more than a thousand families to access assistance in order to start up small income-generating enterprises.

Through the efforts of the LVC and the LUTRENA Project implementing agency, Jekataanie, 250 children fraudulently recruited and destined to work on plantations in Côte d'Ivoire were intercepted and integrated into vocational training. This training was arranged with master a craftsman through efforts made by the local committee. The teacher is paid a stipend and children receive training in welding, mechanics, agriculture, textile dying, tailoring and sewing or market gardening.

SUSTAINABILITY

As a result of the creation and presence of the LVCs, innovative, result-oriented steps have been taken towards creating sustainable anti-trafficking programmes in at-risk communities. In Ghana, the Human Trafficking Act of 2005 provides for a special fund to support training for people connected with rescue operations. In Côte d'Ivoire, the local government has demonstrated an



Local vigilance committee members in Tamale area, Ghana.

STEPS TO CREATING A LOCAL VIGILANCE COMMITTEE

1. Meet with government authorities

Initially, the implementing agency has to explain the programme to local government authorities (prefect and sub-prefect) in the region and the department, town mayors, the heads of the gendarmerie, police and customs, and other government agents such as social workers and teachers. Youth associations were also approached.

2. Receive the blessing of the traditional chief

The traditional chief is the gatekeeper to a village. In West Africa, the blessing of the traditional chief is a determining factor in the success of most village-based projects. The implementing agency has to approach the chief and to hold explanatory meetings with him, elders and other influential residents about the issues surrounding exploitative child labour.

3. Launch an awareness-raising campaign using publicity, training programmes and working with the media

The implementing agency begins by placing posters that depict children being recruited for exploitative labour, and post them in target villages where the populations are largely illiterate. To encourage children to remain in school, they print an anti-trafficking logo on school bags and T-shirts, and distribute them along with pocket-size brochures about child trafficking to at-risk children in the target villages. Next, members of the media, heads of youth organizations and leaders of transport unions in the area receive similar training on child trafficking and its consequences, specifically focusing on economic, social and geographic factors that make the phenomenon so prevalent in the region.

4. Provide intensive training to committee members

A training module designed by the implementing agency with LUTRENA technical assistance is first given to local vigilance committee team members, who were charged with educating their own populations. The module focuses on several themes including: the duties and responsibilities of a member of the LVC; child protection and trafficking issues such as the fundamental needs of children; the importance of education; child labour; recruitment and displacement; dangers and risks of child exploitation. It also introduces the legal framework in the fight against child trafficking in the country. By the end of the training programmes, participants are well versed in the broad issues related to child trafficking, and understand how it applies to their local situation. A follow-up training to LVC team members provides communication skills and animation methodologies for these young animators, who face the challenge of raising awareness in mobilizing their communities. After receiving training, the LVC develops a comprehensive work plan. Acting on that plan, they hold regular programmes with films and discussions in their towns and villages. They explain their

purpose, asking that people contact them if they know of anyone coming into the village to recruit child workers.

5. Local vigilance committee membership

Typically, the local vigilance committee (LVC) is composed of a Cabinet with officers (President, Secretary-General or Vice President, Treasurer) and 4 or 5 other active members, often representing a women's group and a youth association. There are also representatives from the foreign migrant community and 2 or 3 honorary members. The active members meet regularly and discuss and plan strategies, frequently working with the implementing agency that helped to establish them. Beyond their regular meetings, they meet when emergency circumstances demand the treatment and management of a child who has been intercepted or rescued from trafficking. While LVCs share common goals across LUTRENA Project countries, their structure is unique to their milieu. Working with implementing agencies, LUTRENA ensures that the structure is responsive to the local culture.

6. Badges, books and bicycles – a symbol of community empowerment

With government approval, and even encouragement, LUTRENA has issued identification badges to members of LVCs in Togo, Côte d'Ivoire and Benin. Encased in protective plastic, the badges differ somewhat from country to country. In most LUTRENA countries, LVCs are provided with one or two bicycles. The bicycles are considered an appropriate form of transport. They can be stored easily, need minimal maintenance and do not require fuel. They are used to circulate in the village to distribute materials and messages to other members, or to provide transportation to a member who is making an anti-trafficking presentation, for example.

7. Record keeping

All LVCs are conscientious about keeping records, realizing that the information they record will provide information about the incidence of the trafficking of their children. Across the region, the LVCs collect the same minimum information about a child who is retrieved, using registers and forms. The forms document particulars about the child and include a photograph if available. The data collected has been very helpful in understanding what places a child in a precarious situation – divorced parents, death or abandonment by one or both parents, position as eldest (or youngest) of many siblings, illiterate parents, for example. The child's school level is recorded, and the experience of trafficking, including the name of adults involved, if known. Finally, LVCs record the follow-up details – needs and aspirations of the child and through what programme the child has been reinserted.

Working with LVCs in Côte d'Ivoire

Although an important destination country, Côte d'Ivoire also has serious internal and cross-border trafficking problems. Youngsters in rural villages fall prey to the same promises as their peers to the north in Mali and Burkina Faso. They are induced to climb into rickety wooden dugout canoes and head upstream towards plantations in Côte d'Ivoire, or across the border in Ghana.

Apart from trafficking related to the civil conflict, the phenomenon is the result of poverty, illiteracy and ignorance. Frequently, parents who believe they are following a time-honored tradition or who have been convinced that they are acting in the interest of either their own family economy or the welfare of the child, contribute to child trafficking in the country.

In the coastal departments of San Pedro, Grand Bassam and Aboisso (considered a gateway to Ghana), children leave their rural villages in search of work, money and excitement. Heeding the promises of recruiters from the major Côte d'Ivoire cities, as well as Nigeria and Ghana, young men and young women agree to go, only to find a different and precarious reality from which they cannot easily retreat. LUTRENA Project selected the NGO African Emergency Assistance (ASA) as an implementing agency to direct activities in the south and southwest of the country, where large numbers of children are annually trafficked internally or across borders. Since 2001, ASA has been using a practical and culturally sensitive approach to fight child trafficking by establishing and working with LVCs in Côte d'Ivoire.

eagerness to support the work of the LVCs to the best of its ability. In the south and southwest regions of Mali, at least two mayors have budgeted for anti-trafficking and child recuperation and rehabilitation activities.

NECESSARY CONDITIONS

While the LVCs appear to be independent and autonomous units, they are linked to the national institutional framework fighting against child trafficking and exploitative child labour. The link needs to be a continuous and two-way exchange of information. While administrative documents exist which outline the purpose and mission of LVCs and to whom they report to, in order to sustain their efforts, LVCs need public recognition for the work they do, both in the community and at the national level. Their efforts save the lives of the children in their communities, but it must be acknowledged that they are contributing to the social and economic future and the political stability of their countries as well.

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Communities and the private sector join hands to address child labour (Zambia)



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BACKGROUND

Livingstone District has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in Zambia (estimated at 31.5%). Children are the most affected by HIV/AIDS. Many children are left to fend for themselves, often due to the death of their parents from AIDS. A major consequence of this is that children are forced into child labour at the expense of going to school. It has also been observed that extended families can be overwhelmed by the sheer number of orphans to be cared for. All of these factors increase the general poverty levels in the community, making it difficult to break the cycle of poverty and HIV/AIDS.

Given this background, the Livingstone Anglican Children's Project (LACP), in its child labour action programme begun in November 2009, has embarked on strengthening district, community and project structures to address child labour. This has bolstered community participation in the programme. LACP has also launched innovative initiatives to support care givers through private partnerships, and the introduction of driving skills as a new training area for children withdrawn from child labour.

ACTION

Realising that no community programme can succeed without the use of community members, LACP strengthened its own structure and created and encouraged the development of the community child labour committees. After putting the structures in place, training was conducted to support them in their role.

During the training sessions, it was discussed among the participants how to best save resources in order to sustain the programme. The beneficiaries agreed on the idea of depositing money in the bank on a regular basis, and all walked home from the training session in order to use their transportation allowance to open the bank accounts.

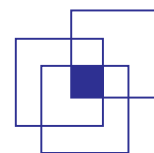
LACP approached a local bank to request a special savings facility to be accorded to the adult beneficiaries of the programme. A letter was also sent to the bank, informing them about the vision of the group and explaining that the bank's current financial services offered were not accessible for small businesses. Through discussion regarding corporate social responsibility and through commendable negotiation, an agreement was made for a savings scheme for the target beneficiaries of the income generating activities group.

ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The structures created and those strengthened have facilitated community participation in the programme, and through them the message of the importance of children's education is being spread in the communities. The affected local communities actively participate in the programme activities; they were involved in the identification of beneficiaries, conducted community awareness programmes, and participate in the ongoing programme-update meetings.

A suitable financial product was also created for the target beneficiaries. The banks agreed to offer savings accounts with no ledger fees and, for all accounts opened through LACP, to pay for the photos needed to open one. The savings scheme with a local bank is an innovative measure for supporting family and community livelihoods.

Good practice



SUSTAINABILITY

Based on the involvement and engagement of the local communities and authorities, there is evident ownership of the process and an interest in longer-term benefits for the beneficiaries.

The opportunity explored with the private sector (i.e. the bank) to indirectly support children's education and welfare is praiseworthy. This is an important intervention for both prevention and withdrawal of children from child labour and is a good example of working with local institutions to support child labour programmes. Considering the challenge of maintaining support for children's education without external assistance, the savings scheme was a valuable development that will go a long way in contributing to the sustainability of the project and supporting children's education after the conclusion of the action programme.

LESSONS LEARNED

Meaningful involvement of communities is always important, not only when there is a particular event related to a programme. In this way, the communities themselves are part and parcel of the programme, and it will be easier for them to continue with the initiative after external support has been withdrawn. District and community child labour committees that make community members leaders in the process of intervention are especially helpful.

Negotiation skills are vital when dealing with the corporate world. They would like to see how the issue benefits them even as they meet the needs of the community.

Both the community and corporate world would like to know clear and realistic goals of what you are doing in order for them to support the initiative. Ideas with unclear goals are not easily supported.

NECESSARY CONDITIONS

The need to be ample consultation with the participating communities and an effort to involve them right from the programme planning stage. If you are making decisions that affect people or need their input and participation, they should be involved both in the process and in the decision making. In this way, collaboration can be established or strengthened to ensure ownership of initiatives and sustainable results. Involving people with passion for the goals and objectives can also go a long way towards a successful and sustainable project. The stakeholders need to realize that what you want to achieve is meaningful.

Sharing information with key partners is another important strategy. It creates an understanding of the issue of child labour. It also contributes to the identification of means of assistance, which facilitate resource mobilisation and extended partnerships.

Corporations need to understand both the positive (increased economic growth and future business) and negative (damage to their corporate image, danger of an uneducated society) effects of supporting the initiative.

Developing a good relationship with the private sector is essential (in the case of LACP, holding an account with the same bank opened the door to the creation of a savings scheme for the beneficiaries).

A good track record is the key in working with disadvantaged communities. Communities sometimes feel that organisations make promises that do not materialise and as a result are suspicious of people coming from outside the community. LACP has developed good community structures and the community has a history of successful interventions.

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Good practice on data collection (Global)

BACKGROUND

IPEC, through its Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC), assists countries in the collection, documentation, processing and analysis of child labour relevant data. The data, however, does not include specific information on forced and bonded child labour. In 2005, ILO's Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL) published the first global estimate of the number of persons in forced labour. Of the minimum estimated 12.3 million victims, 40-50 percent are thought to be children and youth under 18 years. Growing international concern about forced labour and human trafficking has prompted ILO Member States to work closely with the Office in order to obtain reliable information on:

- the extent of forced labour of adults and children at national level;
- the forms that it takes (including the means of coercion and type of exploitation), and
- the profile of victims.

ACTION

As a first step, ILO developed indicators of trafficking for forced labour by applying the Delphi methodology. The Delphi methodology allowed selected experts to express their opinion on what these key indicators should be, and also to react to the opinions of the others.

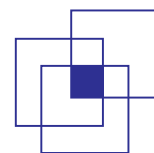
This research was implemented in 2008 in the context of a joint European Commission-ILO Project, under the supervision of a steering committee composed of experts from the European Commission, International Labour Office, International Organisation for Migration (IOM), University of Tilburg, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

As a next step, ILO identified a number of countries which were interested in testing the methodology and carrying out national surveys. In each country, a methodology was developed to adapt the Delphi indicators to the national context. Workshops were held to discuss the research and sampling methods which could be used. The surveys were implemented in close collaboration with national statistical offices.

ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- National workshops to design national sets of indicators of forced labour were held in Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Nepal, Niger, Ecuador, Guatemala, Bangladesh, and Paraguay.
- Questionnaires and sampling methods were designed in close collaboration with national statistical offices, and staff members were trained on the use of the methodology.
- The following surveys were implemented:
 - 3 surveys for assessing forced labour among migrant workers;
 - 2 surveys for assessing traditional forms of forced labour of both adults and children;

Good practice



- special modules were added to existing surveys to assess forced labour of children and/or adults in 3 countries;
- 3 surveys for assessing forced labour only of children.

SUSTAINABILITY

An important aspect was to involve national statistical offices in order to ensure sustainability. Staff members were trained on the use of the methodology and supported by national consultants. Wherever they existed, national commissions (on child labour, forced labour or human trafficking) participated in the whole process, including the design and follow-up of the survey. National stakeholders were also involved in the development and use of forced labour indicators. Close collaboration with policy makers was essential to ensure acceptance of results and their subsequent use in decision making.

LESSONS LEARNED

It was understood from the outset that forced labour is difficult to measure because of its frequently hidden nature. Most victims never complain, either because they do not recognize themselves as victims or because they have no access to organisations that could help them. We have learned that it is possible to survey forced labour, including of children, by using methodologies that capture information on specific indicators. It was essential to carefully prepare the ground, in particular to build consensus on a set of indicators and to carefully define the target population.

NECESSARY CONDITIONS

The most important condition is to secure political support for carrying out the surveys. Forced labour is a sensitive issue in most countries. There are significant gaps between the estimated number of victims of forced labour and those identified by law enforcement authorities. Therefore, it is necessary to involve all stakeholders in the design of the survey in order to target the most prevalent forms of forced labour, to ensure the correct use of indicators and to survey the right areas in each country. It is also paramount to work with senior statisticians given the complex nature of the subject. Capacity building of national stakeholders is a necessary condition to ensure the successful implementation of surveys.

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