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# Taste of life: How a soap opera brings **trafficking awareness home** **(Cambodia)**

## BACKGROUND

Classroom awareness-raising has its place in terms of reaching young people to provide them with information and warning messages on the threats of human trafficking. However, considering the numbers of young people who drop out of secondary school and at-risk youth who are too old for school, it is missing a huge segment of the vulnerable population. Even awareness-raising in village meetings has its limitations, especially if messages are not passed along. So how can warnings and information assistance be reliably delivered to large numbers of young people in a developing country?

Fifty-two percent of the rural population owns a TV in Cambodia and eighty-five percent of the overall population has media access, therefore, mass media would be an effective channel for relaying messages. After reading about the success in weaving social messaging on the dangers of HIV infection into a popular and original Cambodian soap opera called “Taste of Life”, the PEC Mekong Subregional Project to combat trafficking in children and women (TICW), approached the producers. The producers – working for the BBC World Service Trust – were very keen to take on a new theme, i.e. human trafficking.

The BBC World Service Trust is the independent international charity of the British Broadcasting Corporation and innovatively uses media to advance development worldwide. The Trust has been working in Cambodia since 2003 and has been producing the “Taste of Life” telenovella as part of a multimedia package that includes TV and radio public service announcements, three weekly radio phone-in programmes and accompanying print materials. The messages in the programmes were created in collaboration with many partners from government ministries, UN agencies and relevant NGOs.

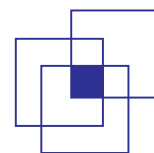
## ACTION

With input from TICW Project, the Trust, in order to test its potential, touched on human trafficking situations in two episodes of the first season storyline. The drama, which used Cambodian actors, relied on real-life stories documented by the ILO and others to create the trafficking stories and dramatically portray the link between migration, trickery and exploitation. The episodes were followed up with audience surveys and proved memorable.

Based on that small but successful collaboration, the TICW Project staff agreed to fund a longer and more detailed storyline to run in the second season of “Taste of Life”. Again in close cooperation with the TICW Project staff, the Trust created a detailed storyline about the relationship between a woman trafficker and Cambodian street children whom she tries to recruit for the purposes of labour and sexual exploitation in Cambodia. The trafficking storyline ran for 21 of a total 100 episodes from late 2005 to March 2006. The first and second series were broadcasted for free on two of Cambodia’s national TV stations, shown at primetime and with repeats on both channels. Both series have been re-run by the two TV stations. Messages were rolled across the bottom of the TV screen during the soap opera’s broadcast, largely posed in the form of a question, and viewers could send a text message response using their mobile telephone.

The Trust conducted audience research for its storylines and each episode was pre-tested to evaluate the impact of the messages and to determine if the viewers liked the “right” characters. The Trust conducted audience

**Good practice**



“The beauty of a drama, you have more chance of reaching more people. Viewers follow characters for months and they identify with them and their situations... Viewers also liked the “real society” aspect of the Taste of Life dramas.”

Explained Charles Hamilton of the BBC Trust.

surveys, face-to-face interviews, questionnaires and telephone surveys and created four “audience panels” that answered questions regarding selected episodes. For the sampling frame, five provinces with a high risk of trafficking incidence were chosen. Purposive sampling was used to gain an urban/rural balance, select villages and choose respondents.

The Trust, in collaboration with TICW Project, then embraced cinema to reinforce the trafficking messages. Minutes of the telenovella were re-cut at a relatively low cost. To give the film a fresh look, some new characters and scenes were added. The new film called “In the dark”, featured many of the same stars in the soap opera but added a new element – a young boy who was very nearly trafficked across the border to Thailand to work on a fishing boat. The same “evil” character – a woman trafficker, who in this case was acting as an agent and who had escaped punishment in the TV soap opera – finally meets justice when she is arrested for trafficking. The choice of a young boy to play the character of a potential victim reinforced the fact that trafficking is as much about exploiting people in abusive labour situations as it is about forced or coerced prostitution.

Upon general release, admittance to the cinema was free. After the closing credits, the audience members were approached while exiting (and offered incentives to participate) and asked a series of questions. They also were asked if they would provide their phone number for further interviews. A second follow-up survey was conducted four weeks after viewing the film to determine lasting impressions. “In the dark” was re-released for television in early 2008.

The multimedia campaign surrounding the “Taste of Life” telenovella and the “In the dark” film, included TV and radio public service spots with trafficking-awareness messages and 200 radio phone-in programmes on the leading FM radio station. The Trust also developed a comic book named “Popular Magazine”, which replayed the telenovella storyline and reiterated the key messages. It was distributed throughout the country, including to school libraries.

## ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The second-season programme had a declared audience reach of more than 4 million households, and follow-up research found significant recall among viewers regarding both the characters and the trafficking messages.

The feature film “In the dark” reached some 4,471 viewers in the cinemas: 69% of them between the ages of 11 and 20. Of 200 survey respondents, some 59% of them liked the film “very much”; women favoured it more than men; the strongest messages recalled were about trafficking. According to the viewers’ responses, the film was widely understood to be warning audiences not to be easily fooled by traffickers, and the depiction of “real society” issues and how to handle them were also understood.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Television producers are very open to unsolicited approaches by civil society advocates, such as the UN agencies or NGOs, because they can provide fresh story ideas.
- Making stories based on real-life testimonials helps bring authentication to dramas.
- A popular TV drama about real society is a good foundation for a film about trafficking.
- It is difficult to touch on issues that might seem critical of a neighbouring country or government.
- Although producing a TV series can be expensive, when free air time and repeated airings are factored in, it proves to be cost-effective in the end.

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# The Spring Rain Campaign: Promoting safe migration using the Railway Network (China)

## BACKGROUND

The Project “Prevent Trafficking in Girls and Young Women for Labour Exploitation within China” (CP-TING) (2004-2008) is a partnership between the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the All-China Women’s Federation (ACWF), and involves close collaboration with government and non-government organizations.

More than 150 million migrants are moving from rural to urban areas in search of work in China and a growing number are young women. Migration of rural surplus labour to urban areas helps to restructure the rural economy, accelerate the pace of urbanization, and increase rural incomes. However, there is also a downside. A growing number of migrants are young women with lower levels of skills and education than young men. Because they tend to migrate through informal channels, they are more vulnerable to being trafficked. Based on the conviction that the most effective long-term solution to human trafficking is to prevent girls and young women from becoming victimized in the first place, CP-TING Project’s objective is to reduce the vulnerability of the target group by promoting education (for girls at risk under 16 years of age), and safe migration into decent work (for young women at risk aged 16 to 24).

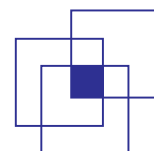
Each year after the Spring Festival, tens of millions of young women migrants flood into China’s towns and cities in search of work. In Guangdong province alone, the number of passengers travelling reached new heights in 2007: 12.3 million train journeys and 17.5 million bus journeys. A significant proportion of these girls and young women are insufficiently prepared for migration and employment and are at serious risk of being trafficked into labour exploitation. This is, therefore, an opportune time to step-up safe-migration awareness raising, particularly on the railways – a key battleground in anti-trafficking work. Where transit workers are aware of trafficking and are trained to recognize it and address it, the crime can be greatly reduced.

In addition to promoting safe migration, secondary objectives of this initiative were to open the door to collaboration with the national-level Ministry of Railways, to enhance their crucial role in preventing trafficking for labour exploitation, and to establish linkages between the project’s sending and receiving provinces.

## ACTION

During the Spring Festival peak travel period, CP-TING Project operated a large-scale campaign at 22 rail stations. The target group for awareness-raising was the young migrants moving through stations. The 2007 “Spring Rain Campaign” employed a comprehensive communication strategy and mobilized volunteers and railway staff to provide assistance and information to the target group – young women migrants. Local leaders spoke at rail stations,

Good practice





In five provinces, over 2,500 railway staff, government officials and volunteers were actively involved in providing information and assistance. Nearly 1 million promotional materials were distributed. Substantial media coverage reached out to an even wider audience.

and the media highlighted the issue of trafficking to a wider audience. The activities organized across China were based around a common theme, with common slogans and logos designed at the national level. Within this overall strategy, local sites had sufficient space to develop more specific activities, outputs and locally developed materials – as considered appropriate to their region.

An effective information, education and communication (IEC) strategy was developed for the railways network. Migrants were targeted with a range of informative and user-friendly publicity materials to raise their awareness of the threat of trafficking and measures that could be taken to reduce that threat. To ensure that the Spring Rain materials were retained, they were designed to be functional and durable – e.g. playing cards, bags, calendars and fans. The playing cards provide messages relating to self-protection in cities, safe migration for decent work, rights at work, women's rights, HIV/AIDS, self-defence and social skills. A two-minute flash animation was also produced to screen on trains and in the station waiting rooms. Narrated by a cartoon phoenix named “Fei Fei”, it describes how a girl named Xiao Wei avoided the risks involved in migration to find a decent job in the city. Banners were on display in and around the train stations; audio announcements were broadcast regularly; and safe migration messages continually flashed on information boards.

## ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In five provinces, over 2,500 railway staff, government officials and volunteers were actively involved in providing information and assistance. Nearly 1 million promotional materials were distributed. Substantial media coverage reached out to an even wider audience. For example, Anhui TV screened a show highlighting a different aspect of trafficking prevention each day; Anhui Countryside Radio discussed the campaign on the air, and set up a hot line for consultation, and a special column called “Xiao Yu, Xiao Wei teach you how to prevent trafficking” was featured in the Hefei Evening News. Feature articles were also produced that described trafficking risks and highlighted relevant government policies.

Feedback collected from young women migrants was very positive – they found the materials informative and user-friendly. Having a combination of local materials developed by each participating site supplemented with agreed upon national campaign messages and products proved to be a good strategy.

A clearer understanding was gained regarding the needs and attitudes of women migrants. By engaging in face-to-face consultations with girls and young women, many of the local leaders had an opportunity to collect first-hand knowledge about the migration experience of the target group. A focus group discussion with migrant girls and women in Huizhou city revealed that much of the information on formal migration channels, employment agencies



and labour contracts was new to them, particularly to first time migrants. The feedback provided by volunteers regarding the migrants' queries helps to lead to more tailored and targeted information materials and volunteer training in future campaigns.

Young women migrants were linked with decent work opportunities. For example, in one province (Guangdong) the contact details of nine nonprofit employment agencies in five cities were printed in the publicity materials. In the 12 days of the Spring Rain Campaign, 61,553 migrant women visited eight of the recruitment agencies and 22,572 (37%) successfully found employment. The figures for the ninth agency were calculated as part of the job fair in Huizhou city, where more than 3,000 migrant women found decent work.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

Every spring in China, campaigns continue to be organized at transportation hubs to educate the some 9 million migrants who move to cities for work every year. Because the planning and execution of the 2007 campaign was carried out with responsible stakeholders from the design to evaluation, important stakeholders remain engaged and committed to carrying out future campaigns within the scope of their work. The messages and the materials of the campaign have been mainstreamed into the work of the local government in a number of cities. The Ministry of Railways clearly recognizes the imperative of keeping passengers safe. Labour agencies and employers see the opportunity to hold job fairs at rail stations to promote decent work opportunities. Trade unions during the same period organize labour-sending arrangements, which include transportation for young migrants.

In order to ensure sustainability, some external budgetary support and organisational initiative are likely to be necessary to jump-start the campaigns. In the longer-term, the capacity of the railways network should be enhanced to deliver safe-migration messages as part of their core work in a year-round campaign, with certain peaks for the Spring Festival and other holidays.

The Spring Rain Campaign has been shared with other countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, India and Zambia. Art work from the campaign and safe migration messages was made available to similar campaigns organized in Asia.

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

Migrant women and girls are often reluctant to approach volunteers to pick up promotional materials and ask for help. This may reflect the fact that migrant women and girls see themselves as having low social status and see the volunteers as authority figures. Hiring migrant girls or mobilizing them as volunteers to distribute the material among their peers would seem to be a promising means of addressing this obstacle.

In order to attract young women migrants, it is important that the safe migration messaging is branded in a way that girls and young women can recognize and trust. The campaign needs to develop simple and recognizable logos and slogans in consultation with the target group. "Xiao Wei" brochures prepared by CP-TING Project were colourful, clear and contained plain-language messaging appropriate to young women.

Because of the various stakeholders involved in large scale campaigns, time is needed to forge more value-added linkages between provinces. Spring Rain activities that followed in 2008, while smaller in scale, were based on inter-provincial cooperation for implementation.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Security and the All-China Federation of Trade Unions host compatible events during the same period. It is useful to jointly share good practices and lessons learned, and examine the scope for integrating key messages and communication methods.

## **NECESSARY CONDITIONS**

Evaluation needs to move beyond reporting activities and outputs to measuring results and documenting lessons learned. Evaluation must be prioritized in the planning stage. The capacity for gathering feedback must be enhanced, and addressed well in advance of the intervention.

## **REFERENCES**

- A Summary of the Spring Rain Campaign 2007 available at CP-TING Project Web site ([www.preventtraffickingchina.org](http://www.preventtraffickingchina.org)) and CD-Rom.
- Safe-Migration Playing Cards.
- Xiao Wei goes to the city (a girl's guide to safe migration).
- Flash animation.
- Guide to Dealing with the Media for Staff and Key Partners of the CP-TING Project.

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# Cooperating out of child labour (Karnataka, India)



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## BACKGROUND

The IPEC Karnataka child labour Project employs a holistic approach to eliminate and prevent child labour. The Project works at four levels (community, block, district and state). At the community level the Project emphasizes the “family approach”, which means improvement of the families’ socio-economic conditions. This allows and encourages the families to send their children to school instead of to work. Under this approach, various interventions have organized self-help groups for women. These groups would provide improved access to resources, participatory development and self-sustaining social change coupled with additional income generation through skills training. Work at the community level also consisted of training parents and at-risk adolescents in income-generation skills and entrepreneurship. The Project also aimed to prevent the exploitation of workers by middlemen. This innovative action was undertaken through the formation of a labour cooperative society, with the involvement of the trade union partners. This society was registered as “Bidar District Services of Labour Multipurpose Co-operative Society Ltd”, in Bidar in 2008.

## ACTION

The implementing agency under the Project organized approximately 1,000 workers (the majority of which were parents and siblings of rehabilitated child workers) and registered them as members of the Bidar District Services of Labour Multipurpose Co-operative Society. This society was founded for the purpose of providing decent employment and has its own service rules and bylaws.

The cooperative society replaced the labour contractor who used to exploit the workers by not paying fair wages. The workers’ cooperative society approached the employers directly and took on contracts to supply the workers. This created transparency in appointments and the entire contract amount collected from the employer reached the workers. Furthermore, it provided members with provident fund benefits as well as health insurance through the Ministry of Labour’s newly-introduced scheme. Presently, around 384 members have obtained jobs through this cooperative society, 252 of them women. Moreover, an orientation training programme is being conducted by the cooperative for its members on the different kinds of work environments and the soft skills needed for the jobs.

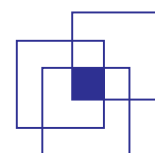
This experiment not only opened doors for the trade union to enter the hitherto untouched informal economy, but also opened avenues for decent work for exploited contract workers.

## ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For the first year, the administrative and managerial expenses were 100% subsidized by the Project fund, and for the second year the subsidy was reduced to 50%. From the third year on, the society has to become self-reliant by generating funds by charging a small entrance fee for becoming a member and through small service charges collected from the employers.

Currently all the workers who have become members of this cooperative are earning wages of up to Rs. 3,000 and are also part of the social security schemes. The cooperative has helped to streamline the process and ensure that minimum wages are paid to the workers. The employers now know that if they do not give the workers their due, including mandatory social security benefits, then they can be penalized. This cooperative has provided a forum for marginalized groups within society, who were exploited in terms of wages paid and inhuman working conditions, to get a fair deal.

Good practice





Amina, a Muslim widow with four young children aged 4, 8, 9 and 11, could not make ends meet without the income of her three working children. She was a contract worker in a hospital doing sweeping and cleaning. Prescribed legal minimum wages for such contract workers is Rs.2200 per month with provident fund facility. The hospital was passing on the benefits to the contractor, but the contractor gave her only Rs.1,200. In addition, she had to work for 12 hours a day, seven days a week. Her three children worked in the nearby garage and roadside Dhaba and earned Rs.300 each. With their collective earnings the family could hardly make ends meet. This was not the predicament of just Amina, but rather of many contract workers, as the protection of labour laws has not reached them. However, becoming a member of the labour cooperative changed Amina's life. Getting proper wages ensured that she and her family had enough to eat and now she sends her three children to school.

## SUSTAINABILITY

The democratic structure of the cooperative has given its members a sense of ownership and accountability. As the benefits of the cooperative reach the registered members, more people seeking employment are motivated to join, contributing to the sustainability of this practice. The cooperative conducts an orientation training programme for its members that leads to raised awareness of workers rights. Additionally, it helps to educate workers about the soft skills needed for employment. Better earning opportunities (through fair wages and social security) have led to improved living conditions. If replicated, this good practice will further the interests of workers from all sectors, especially agriculture, domestic labour and unskilled jobs by providing them access to a forum where their needs can be vocalized and met.

There are around 600 women members, most of them unskilled. Membership in the cooperative has given them a voice as well as provided them with information on minimum wages, provident funds, health issues, family welfare and not least of all, sending their children to school and not to work - thus contributing to the sustainable development of the community.

To demonstrate its long-term efficacy, the cooperative will have to be managed by experienced personnel who are well-versed in tendering policies, government regulations and market demand. The cooperative should also be linked to training providers so that its members can improve both their technical skills and their employability.

## LESSONS LEARNED

This intervention needs support from the system in the form of initial resources, such as individuals trained in the management of the complex commercial and administrative affairs of the society. It needs policy support from the government, as the tendering and procurement laws are often manipulated by the contractors rendering the cooperative society unable to compete with them in the market. The Project is researching these issues and is in dialogue with the appropriate authorities for suitable policy changes regarding this matter.

Geographical location has a bearing on the employment avenues available. Bidar lacks large-scale industries, companies or establishments that need a steady supply of guards or unskilled labour. Sometimes people are not willing to relocate to places away from their hometown.

## NECESSARY CONDITIONS

In order for cooperatives to be as effective as possible, the authorities should enforce labour legislation, and those contractors who exploit the workers should be blacklisted from taking contracts. This would allow more members of the workers' cooperative to benefit. Necessary action should also be taken by the authorities to educate the employers to select such contractors who are transparent in their dealings, so that there is a level playing field for workers' cooperatives.

A labour cooperative could be a good solution for a situation in which the parents and siblings of child workers need a forum that will protect their interests and save them from exploitation.

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# From bondage to schools in brick kilns (Tamil Nadu, India)



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## BACKGROUND

“Promoting Decent Work in Brick Kilns”, a pilot project in Kanchipuram District of Tamil Nadu in India, has been operational since July 2008. The Project was jointly initiated by the Ministry of Labour and Employment of the Government of India and the ILO, and is implemented in collaboration with the Department of Labour and Employment of the Government of Tamil Nadu. The partners of the project include the Joint Action Forum of Trade Unions (JAFTU), the Chengalpattu Area Brick Manufacturers Association (CABMA) and government agencies. The ultimate beneficiaries are 12,000 men and women workers and their children, of which over 90% are migrants coming from other parts of Tamil Nadu.

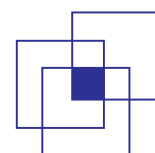
The project aims to reduce brick workers’ vulnerability to bonded labour, and was designed in response to needs expressed by the various stakeholders. Most of the workers come from families that have worked in brick kilns in different parts of the State and are not aware of their rights or the welfare measures the State and Central governments offer them. The vicious cycle of debt begins when these workers take loans at exorbitant rates of interest from moneylenders in and around their villages in order to meet their financial needs for ceremonies and health care. Lack of income generating assets, adequate local employment opportunities and access to micro-credit from formal financial institutions compels them to borrow from moneylenders. In order to repay these loans, families resort to securing huge advances from labour agents by pledging their labour for the next season of brick production.

The workers who have taken advances migrate to the brick kilns in January each year, to live and work until July. They work as family units for long hours to repay the advance. The wages are often lower than the prescribed minimum.

A rapid appraisal study, commissioned by the ILO, and a number of consultative meetings with the stakeholders revealed that more than 80% of the children who migrate with their parents to brick kilns did not go to school for the following reasons:

- Lack of interest among parents and children in education;
- Parents receive a larger advance from the employers by counting their children as working members in the family. The advance obligates the families to engage the children in order to produce more bricks to repay the advance;
- Distance of regular schools from brick kilns and lack of transit schools nearby;

Good practice



- Some children have to take care of younger siblings (which enables the mother to work without interruption);
- Day care centres run by the government are located too far away from the brick kilns;
- Employers are concerned with productivity and the recovery of the advance; whether the bricks are produced by adults or children does not directly concern them.

The Project adopts a multi-pronged strategy to address all the issues concerning vulnerability of workers, including withdrawal of children from work and ensuring their right to education.

## **ACTION**

Enthused by the support from the ILO, the Employers' Association (CABMA) took up the challenge of combating child labour. CABMA partnered with the ILO to carry out a number of activities promoting the welfare of workers and improving workplace facilities. CABMA has a membership of 37 employers who own 50 Brick Kilns in which approximately 12,000 workers are engaged.

In February 2009, CABMA requested technical support from the ILO to collect data on out-of-school children in brick kilns. A survey was designed in consultation with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) – a central government scheme on Education for All – and local literacy volunteers were trained in data collection. About 600 out-of-school children, aged 6-14, were identified in the 50 brick kilns.

The ILO Project team arranged for a consultation meeting of the employers and SSA officials to discuss the child labour issues and to explore solutions regarding the education of these children. In response, 174 children were enrolled in the regular schools, and SSA came forward to open 20 centres in the brick kiln areas to educate the rest of the children. A team comprised of SSA educators, Village Education Committee (VEC) members, local government school teachers and the field staff of CABMA met the parents in brick kilns and motivated them to send their children to schools.

SSA provided Rs.1,000 per month for the salary of literacy volunteers, and the ILO provided an additional Rs.1,000 per month. CABMA contributed by providing a space in which to conduct the classes and by meeting the midday meal expenses.

CABMA also conducted evening classes in 32 brick kilns to provide supplementary education to 962 children for five months. In total, Rs.384,770 (approximately \$8,300 US) was contributed by the Employers' Association in 2009 towards the education of children.

The World Day Against Child Labour was observed by the SSA and Employers Association with the support of the ILO on 12 June 2009. A Children's rally, workshop and talent competitions were conducted in order to engage the children. Trade unions, Employer Association representatives, elected local representatives and Education Department officials also participated.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The survey conducted was an eye opener for the Employers Association, local schools, VEC and SSA to understand the situation of migrant children.

Through 20 SSA centres, 424 children were educated for three months and were issued transfer certificates which would enable them to enroll in regular schools when they return to their home communities in July. SSA provided free uniforms, educational materials and school bags to the children. As a follow up, 400 children were enrolled in regular schools through the facilitation of worker educators, recruiting agents, trade union volunteers and SSA officials in source areas.

During the current work season, 32 Bridge Course Centres, in which 841 children (440 boys and 401 girls) are studying, are being run in the brick kilns by the SSA. Of these, about 87% are children from Scheduled Caste families, 12% belong to backward classes and 1% belong to scheduled tribe families. Some 155 children were enrolled in regular schools near the brick kilns in February 2010.

Inspired by the success of the pilot experience, SSA is considering replicating the approach in brick kilns throughout Tamil Nadu, which are approximately 3,000 in number.

The ILO Project team shared their experiences, sparking the interest of stakeholders in Andhra Pradesh, who now wish to replicate the approach in brick kilns, quarries and stone crushers operating in their state. This new project is currently under preparation.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

Workplace committees constituted under the Project in the brick kilns have now taken up the responsibility of motivating the parents to send the children to schools. This year, all the children who are attending the SSA centres will get transfer certificates at the end of the work season (July/August 2010), and they will be enrolled in regular schools in their home communities with the support of concerned District SSA Offices, workplace committee members and the trade unions.

Significant changes in the attitude of the employers and parents have been observed. Employers have provided classrooms for the bridge-education centres and have met part of the volunteers' honorarium (Rs.1000 per month), which was previously paid by the ILO. All the expenses are now shared by the employers and the SSA.

The SSA has agreed to continue running these centres in the coming years using their own funds, along with some funding support from the Employers' Association.

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

- Targeting the economic sectors that engage child labour and involvement of all stakeholders including the employers and the recruiters is essential to success;

- Intensive awareness-raising and motivation of stakeholder groups is necessary;
- Collective action and contribution by the Employers' Association, local government school teachers, village education committees, SSA and enforcement officials is required in both source and destination areas for the successful reduction of child labour.

## **NECESSARY CONDITIONS**

- Law enforcement and sensitization of employers and recruiting agents should go hand in hand.
- Convergence of existing schemes and pooling of resources from the employers is essential to ensure sustainability.
- Advocacy to modify the rules of government schemes, such as SSA, is necessary to reach out to hitherto unreached poor migrant children.

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# Eliminating child labour in the jermal fishing industry (Indonesia)

## BACKGROUND

Jermal platforms are constructed for fishing and are typically found between 6 to 19 miles (10 to 30 kilometres) and can be up to 37 miles (60 kilometres) from land in North Sumatra, Indonesia. The working conditions are extremely poor with risk of fatal or life-threatening accidents, including bites from sea snakes, net and equipment injuries. There is also a risk of drowning. The living environment in terms of hygiene, basic necessities and facilities on the platforms is very poor. Children are exposed to three months of isolation from their families and place of origin, which can have negative psychological effects. They are also vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse.

The IPEC Project “Fishing and footwear sectors programme to combat hazardous child labour”, in collaboration with the Provincial Government of North Sumatra, worked to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in this sector from December 1999 to July 2004. The Project had three objectives:

1. To establish a sustainable mechanism to withdraw and prevent children from hazardous child labour in jermal fishing;
2. To strengthen the capacity of national and community level agencies and organizations to plan, initiate, implement and evaluate action to prevent and progressively eliminate child labour; and
3. To remove all children involved in hazardous work from jermal fishing; to prevent children at risk from entering such work; and to improve the income-earning capacity of adult family members, particularly women, through social protection schemes.

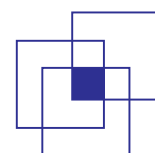
Resources to continue these successful activities were then allocated by the provincial budget from 2004 to 2009.

## ACTION

To address the problems and to achieve the objectives, the Project action strategies were:

- Strong focus on prevention;
- Systematic removal of working children from hazardous work;
- Attitudinal and behavioural changes through awareness-raising;
- Capacity building and networking;
- Deepening the participation of stakeholders and transferral of ownership;
- Focused direct assistance.

Good practice





“...a strong sense of awareness against child labour has been created among the concerned children, parents and within the often remote villages. The activities of the projects have broken this silence and created a broad alliance against the use of child labour in the hazardous practices. There is visible evidence of the change of attitude and behaviour among the concerned groups of people...”

These were implemented through four sub-programmes: (1) Research and documentation, (2) Child labour monitoring, (3) Social protection, and (4) Capacity building and awareness-raising.

## ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In collaboration with social partners and with broader stakeholders the Project had achieved the following:

***Changes in attitudes and behaviours at the community level through awareness-raising:*** An external evaluation concludes that “...a strong sense of awareness against child labour has been created among the concerned children, parents and within the often remote villages. The activities of the Project have broken this silence and created a broad alliance against the use of child labour in the hazardous practices. There is visible evidence of the change of attitude and behaviour among the concerned groups of people...” This has been done by the Project in collaboration with local NGOs through intensive interaction and work with families and their respective communities. This provided a broad and grassroots awareness of the negative effects of child labour and generated visible behavioural and attitudinal changes. Some of the highlights under the Project included focussed group discussions with formal and informal leaders on the village level as well as with the parents of working and at-risk children and an extensive radio campaign through local radio stations.

***Improved capacity and forged partnerships:*** The Project was successful in generating support from all key-stakeholders including relevant government departments, workers’ and employers’ organisations, business associations, academic institutions, media, teachers, NGOs, the local community, and the working children and their families. One component of the Project focused on building capacity of relevant stakeholders so that they could better address the child labour issue. Training on the design, management and evaluation of action programmes as well on technical knowledge on child labour issues were conducted for key partners, including training on fundamental monitoring principles and training on ILO Conventions No. 138 and No. 182. Regular stakeholder meetings proved to be an excellent way to ensure ownership of the project by the implementing agencies. The Project also regularly invited journalists to “Coffee mornings” featuring interesting discussion topics that attracted media attention at the local as well as national level.

***Establishment of child labour monitoring mechanism:*** The Project facilitated the establishment of child labour monitoring team called “Integrated Monitoring Team” (IMT). The IMT consisted of representatives from a number of government and non-government agencies, including the Social, Manpower (labour inspectorate), Health, and Fishery Bureaus at the provincial and regency levels. The Navy and a number of NGOs were also represented in the IMT. The IMT conducted regular monitoring and withdrawal mission at both the jermal and home villages.

The main role of the IMT was to ensure that children were removed from hazardous work, that the workplaces remained child labour free, and that children stayed out of other forms of hazardous work after removal. These objectives were ensured through the active monitoring of jermal platforms, social protection sites, families and the children themselves. The databases

developed under the Project contain regularly updated information on children at risk and their families, working children, as well as other beneficiaries.

***Enabling policy environment for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in North Sumatra:*** The Project advocated for an enabling policy environment in North Sumatra for the elimination of child labour in jermal fishing. With technical assistance from the Project, North Sumatra was the first province in Indonesia to establish “Provincial Action Committees” under a Provincial Decree on 7 October 2002. The Provincial Action Committees perform and execute their mandates to eliminate the worst forms of child labour based on their Provincial Action Plan. North Sumatra Province also passed the North Sumatra Provincial Decree no. 5/2004 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

***Decrease in the number of children in hazardous work:*** The first monitoring round in 1999 of all jermals (157) found a total of 185 children working during the time of the visit. The last monitoring round of all jermals, conducted in February 2004, found only 22 children. The team also noted that the number of operational jermals continued to decrease, and by the end of project there were only 68 jermals in 3 coastal regencies (Deli Serdang, Asahan and Labuhan Batu).

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

The enabling policy environment triggered initiatives at the provincial and regency level by the executive and legislative branches of the government and were supported by civil society. Such examples included the development of various action committees in 10 districts/municipalities in North Sumatra Province. Like the Provincial Action Committee, the district/municipal level committees perform and execute their mandates to eliminate worst forms of child labour based on their District/Municipality Action Plans.

Until 2004, the IMT operated with funds from the IPEC jermal Project component. Starting in 2004, the implementation of monitoring activities has been included in the operating budget (APBD) of North Sumatra province as well as that of several regencies in the province where efforts to eliminate child labour have become a part of the regency programme. The integration of child labour monitoring into the budget was proposed by the Labour Departments of several regencies and was accepted by BAPPEDA, the provincial planning agency. This was in large part thanks to the participation of BAPPEDA in workshops and other project activities from the beginning, which enabled the agency to learn about the importance of child labour monitoring. The Provincial Action Committee on the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour is currently discussing the possibility to expand the mandate of the IMT to cover monitoring other types of worst forms of child labour in North Sumatra.

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

This Project has demonstrated how child labour monitoring can be applied by local partners. Clearly, there are two main advantages of establishing an IMT consisting of organisations from the provinces and regencies where the jermal are located. Firstly, these organisations are very familiar with the local situation and will continue to be present in North Sumatra. Secondly, the IMT that visits the jermal includes labour inspectors who have the authority to halt the work on the jermal if it violates the labour law.

Based on the lesson learned on child labour monitoring, currently the ILO Project “Education and Skills Training for Youth Employment” (ILO-EAST) for child labour prevention and

elimination in the Eastern provinces of Indonesia are replicating the IPEC model for child labour monitoring systems (CLMS) in three provinces, namely South Sulawesi, Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) and Papua. Integrating the CLMS model within the local Action Plan for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in the above areas has shown positive outcomes, particularly in the form of improved awareness of stakeholders, increasing their commitment to combat child labour and their access to up-to-date information on the existence of child labour and the working sectors in which children are found. Schools, health departments, social affairs offices and religious institutions have committed to providing appropriate social services. It is expected that working children identified by the monitoring team will be removed from the workplace and referred to the relevant social services, especially the ones with regular funding from the National and Provincial Development Budgets (APBN and APBD) such as formal schools (including One Roof Schools and Open Junior High Schools) and the local education authorities, the social affairs and health department. The goal was to reintegrate the children into the school system by the end of 2010.

The media could play a very effective role in contributing to an increased public and political awareness on the existence of hazardous forms of child labour.

## NECESSARY CONDITIONS

The knowledge of the hazards involved in jermal fishing was relatively high at the beginning of the Project as a result of extensive campaigning at the national and local level by local NGOs, and it was therefore relatively easy for the Project to gain momentum. The collaboration between the local government and the ILO was very good. The modalities for cooperation between the two parties were outlined in a Letter of Agreement that was signed in April 2000 and renewed in April 2003.

Political commitment is a necessary condition for mainstreaming the issue of child labour into development planning and securing matching funds for its implementation. The provincial government proved its commitment to eliminate child labour on jermals by providing an impressive counterpart budget equalling almost US\$ 150,000 for 2000-2004.

## REFERENCES

- IPEC: *Integrated and Community-Based Teams Child Labour Monitoring Team: Experiences and Lessons Learned from the Fishing and Footwear Projects in Indonesia* (unpublished, available in soft copy).

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Arum Ratnawati, Chief Technical Adviser, IPEC Jakarta, Indonesia ([arum@ilo.org](mailto:arum@ilo.org)).

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# Are you listening?

## How the views of young people can impact government policies (Mekong Subregion)

### BACKGROUND

Over recent years, children and youth across the Mekong Subregion have been working alongside adults to combat trafficking in their communities. They have helped with research and data collection, project design and implementation as well as with more traditional awareness-raising and advocacy activities. However, at the policy level, decision makers rarely have had a chance to hear the views of these children and youth first-hand. These young people, among the most vulnerable to trafficking, quite often have a different perspective about what works, what does not work and what could or should be done in the development of anti-trafficking policies and programme activities.

The Mekong Youth Forum on Human Trafficking addresses these challenges by advocating for and collaborating with at-risk children and young people to collectively articulate their unique perspectives on the causes and consequences of human trafficking to policy makers, as well as the public and to promote new ways to prevent and combat the abuses.

### ACTION

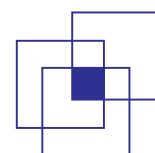
In 2003, the IPEC Mekong Subregional Project to combat trafficking in children and women (TICW) teamed with Save the Children UK's Cross-Border Anti-Trafficking Project (SCUK) to pursue an advocacy initiative called "Voices of Children". The primary activity was to organize a series of provincial and national children's forums that would ultimately lead to a Mekong Children's Forum on Human Trafficking. The first forum in October 2004 resulted in a final declaration with more than 40 recommendations to governments and civil society groups in the Mekong Subregion.

A second subregional consultation was held in 2007, and re-branded as the Mekong Youth Forum. This consultation emphasised the need to institutionalize dialogue between young people and members of leading government committees involved with anti-trafficking efforts, including the national task forces for the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT).

A series of national forums in Cambodia, China (Yunnan and Guangxi provinces), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand (northern provinces) and Viet Nam preceded each of the two subregional forums. Myanmar was added to the initiative in 2007 and similar forums were organized for young people drawn from SCUK project areas in the country.

The TICW and SCUK Teams first worked on a process of capacity building for children's participation. They then organized, in collaboration with other international and national

Good practice



“ I am glad to have the direct dialogue with government officials and to take pictures with them. But most importantly, I now recognize that I am very important in the process of sharing information about human trafficking.”

“ I never thought that I would have a chance to talk to senior officials, who were very nice. It is also the first time for me to recognize that I am valuable and that we are appreciated by others. I feel that I am doing an important job as a representative of my friends.”

“ I am also proud of myself because I didn't think I would be able to participate at such high level. I never expected this much,” added a third participant. “This is the first time that I feel very free to share my opinions.”

“ I understand more about the situation of child protection and child trafficking in the Mekong region.”

Voices of child participants

partners, the forums for sharing children's views and experiences to assess progress of national actions in addressing trafficking. These country meetings each engaged 20 to 150 children who were involved in ongoing anti-trafficking programmes.

Each country prepared their delegates with information in advance of the forums about what they could expect as far as activities and the outcome objectives. At the forums, the young people prepared advocacy statements that summarized their exposure to and experiences in human trafficking, their analysis of national actions in addressing trafficking and their recommendations for government and civil society at large in each of their respective countries.

As in 2004, five young people from each of these national forums were chosen by their peers to attend the subregional forum in Bangkok. The subregional forum included activities for sharing experiences, an informal session to ask questions of influential individuals who worked in government or UN agencies, and then a more formal meeting with high-ranking government officials from all five (six) countries.

The 30 representatives from the national forums met in the week-long subregional gathering in Bangkok to produce an “agenda for action” – a final statement and recommendations in six areas:

- Participation of young people and accountability of policy makers to young people;
- Victim protection;
- Education (access to quality education and as an alternative to premature migration and child labour);
- Mainstreaming of prevention methods at the family and community level;
- Nationality and citizenship, and
- Migration.

The 2007 forum organizers ensured that a systematic policy-level advocacy campaign was executed well in advance of the Senior Officials and Inter-Ministerial Meeting. The forum was scheduled so that the officials attending would have time to return to their countries with the young peoples' recommendations and report back to their COMMIT task force colleagues. This also left the forum organizers time to lobby key influential figures.

The subregional processes were each documented in audio-visual formats made available to the media. The media strategy for the 2007 forum also included sending broadcasters a television news package (through the Asia Broadcast Union) consisting of a 30-second television public service announcement, a survivor's story (filmed discretely to mask the person's



identity), footage from the forum as well as interview clips (vox-pops) from the participants. A news conference followed both the 2004 and 2007 forums and presented pre-selected young people who had agreed to be interviewed in the presence of their chaperones.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Government ministers from all six Greater Mekong Subregion countries, meeting in Beijing in December 2007, added the following promise to their second COMMIT joint declaration: “[We] pledge to a genuine collaborative approach that actively seeks and sustains the involvement of civil society groups; victim support agencies, international organisations, and trafficked persons in the implementation of anti-trafficking programmes including the design, development, monitoring and evaluation of such programmes.”
- Hundreds of children and youth participated in the national forums in their countries; 25 young people attended the subregional forum in 2004 and 30 attended in 2007.
- After returning to their home communities, many participants became effective advocates on trafficking issues.
- A set of recommendations was defined and developed by children and young people, reflecting their re-assessment of policies and programmes addressing trafficking at the subregional level. In 2007, they took the additional step of prioritizing their recommendations and narrowing their list down to 14 points to better assist government officials in their considerations.
- In Thailand and Viet Nam recommendations from the national children and youth forums are being taken into consideration by high-level government officials.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

In 2007, and following up on their pledge to the participants in the first subregional forum, the TICW Project and SCUK re-united to work towards fulfilling their promises for more advocacy for children’s consultation. World Vision and the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion (UNIAP) joined the initiative to plan for a second round of forums.

Because research has shown that teens and young adults are at the greatest risk of being trafficked, the 2007 initiative broadened its focus to include both children and youth participants (up to age 19). Through young people’s participation, the “Voices of Children” initiative aimed to affect positive policy and attitudinal changes. The forum enabled children and youth to consult with peers and influential adults.

The recommendations and documentation of the participants’ perspectives and experiences serve as key advocacy materials that have been distributed with other forums and organizations to help them refine and better target their programmes regarding the needs of children and youth in the subregion. The material has also been used to guide future advocacy, capacity building and development of partnerships with children.

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

- Documentation of the children’s and young people’s assessment of policies, programmes and activities addressing human trafficking can act as a template for others seeking to advocate effectively for direct consultation of vulnerable groups – not just children – in a variety of areas and causes.
- Timing of a participatory event is critical for strategic purposes. One of the main

objectives of the Mekong Youth Forum was to encourage senior government officials to advocate for the systematic inclusion of child participation and consultation in their anti-trafficking work plans, but the timing of the first forum and the dialogues with officials were scheduled too close to the date of the ministerial meeting and the outcomes were, therefore, not included in their first Joint Declaration. The second subregional forum learned from this, and was strategically scheduled.

- The “human touch” component cannot be underestimated. The senior managers of the organizing groups continued to build personal relationships with key influential figures within the COMMIT process as well as those who advised the governments and their task forces. The direct advocacy of these key figures helped ensure that participation through consultation was enshrined in the Second Joint Declaration of the COMMIT Ministers at Beijing.
- Media attention, carefully timed with the run-up to the forum regionally and in each country, helped place the issue of child participation on the agenda of policy makers.

## **NECESSARY CONDITIONS**

- Working with children requires special care and attention to different kinds of detail not associated with an adult meeting, therefore, the best interest of each child must always be placed above all other considerations and objectives.
- In order to make the forums child-friendly, the organizers tried to keep the number of adults at all the forums to a minimum to make the children as comfortable as possible, and for security purposes. Access was granted only to the organizers, facilitators, translators, chaperones and several pre-identified observers, all of whom were introduced to the youth delegates at the beginning of each forum. Everyone received a badge with their name, photograph, and a description of their role, which they were required to wear at all times.
- The involvement of government officials is key. In Thailand and Cambodia it was very clear that the advocacy was championed by senior government officials as well as respected advisors to the COMMIT process. This turn of events was critical to the success of enshrining youth participation in the second COMMIT joint declaration of December 2007.

## **REFERENCES**

- Recommendations of the 2004 and 2007 forums are available at: [www.mekongchildrensforum.com](http://www.mekongchildrensforum.com) and [www.mekongyouthforum.com](http://www.mekongyouthforum.com).

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# Area-based integrated interventions against the worst forms of child labour (Mongolia)

## BACKGROUND

Mongolia is a country with a small population living in a vast territory, yet more than half of the population lives in urban areas. The majority of the urban population lives in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city, due to intensified migration during recent decades. The country's political and economic transition started in early 1990s and has not been without social costs, such as unemployment, poverty, school dropout and the emergence of child labour. The country's economy has been growing since 1995 and many social indicators have improved, yet the ability to substantially reduce poverty still remains the most important challenge. One out of three persons in Mongolia is poor, and the impact of recent economic crises and the harsh winter climate affecting rural livelihoods have already added to this challenge.

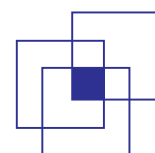
Approximately 11 percent of Mongolian children aged 5-17 are economically active. Child labour in Mongolia is predominantly a rural phenomenon and includes children working in small-scale informal mining. Among children who are working in urban areas, child labour is found in the informal sector.

The IPEC Time-Bound Programme Support Project (TBP-SP) in Mongolia, based on earlier experiences with implementation and documentation, has set an objective to replicate the area-based integrated and sustainable interventions in selected areas. The project strategy is to ensure long-term and effective solutions to child labour through building commitment, ownership and partnership at the local level supported by an enabling environment that has set the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a priority.

For this purpose, the "area-based integrated interventions model against the worst forms of child labour" (ABIIM-WFCL) was drafted in January 2006 by the support project and was discussed among constituents. It was endorsed by the National Steering Committee (NSC) on Child Labour as a framework of necessary and agreed upon actions in selected project areas (see page 3). The model was then used to inform the local actors in selected areas in order to ensure common understanding, vision and partnership. Constituents and stakeholders at the local level also endorsed the framework in each location during local consultative workshops. As a result, each target area has developed its own action plan, adopted by the local Parliament, to eliminate the worst forms of child labour.

The model emphasizes ownership, consultation, collaboration, action and learning. It targets all worst forms of child labour with due regard to local context. Throughout the implementation of the project, partners were provided with opportunities to reflect on the

Good practice



model in regards to the achievements made in each component of the model. Additionally, they were able to analyze the strengths and weaknesses and share good practices through annual experience-sharing workshops.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The experience of the area-based integrated interventions to tackle the worst forms of child labour was reviewed in January 2010 with the active engagement of all partners at the national and provincial level. As a result of the review, slight adjustments to the title and content of the model were suggested by partners. The partners unanimously agreed that the model has served its purpose very successfully and highly recommended that the model be replicated nationwide. This recommendation was strongly shared by the social-partner participants as well.

It was also clearly observed by the project team that the process of promoting the model (by the project and by implementing partners) has had a significant effect in terms of building the local capacity.

In addition, a national consultant was hired to document the implementation of ABIIM-WFCL in selected areas and the good practices of partners, providing an independent perspective. The national consultant concluded that the ABIIM-WFCL has been very successful. In particular:

- It supported the process of mainstreaming the child labour issue into local policies, actions and the job description of local officials;
- It promoted the planning and implementation of actions in a consultative manner with due consideration of the local context (an important feature for successful local governance in the context of a quite centralized and vertical governance system);
- It encouraged partnership with many different actors, significantly strengthening tripartite social partnership in some areas;
- It promoted initiatives by local organizations, individuals and professionals combating the worst forms of child labour and provided insight into what is most and least effective;
- It supported actions that respect children's rights.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

IPEC Project is now preparing to submit the proposal on replicating the framework nationwide to the Council of the Minister for Social Welfare and Labour, among other proposals aiming to improve the national legislation, policy and programmes with regard to eliminating the worst forms of child labour. The results of piloting the framework were presented to the National Steering Committee on 15 April 2010, which recommended presenting the proposal to the Minister's Council for official decision on replication.

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

- Extensive consultations engaging social partners and civil society before designing interventions is critical, with the added value of putting visions into a consolidated framework.

## Support to the proposed National sub-programme on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour: Time-Bound measures 2005-2009

**Project's strategic objective B:** Develop an area based integrated interventions model at the local level targeting boys and girls at risk or engaged in the worst forms of child labour (WFCL) for prevention, withdrawal and rehabilitation that could be replicated at a larger scale.

**Proposed draft:** Area based integrated interventions model for the elimination of WFCL.

### PRINCIPLES OF ACTIONS

Actions against the WFCL shall be:

1. Comprehensive and integrated
2. Linked with existing policy, structure and finance
3. Paying attention to creating conditions for prevention of child labour
4. Giving priority on the elimination of WFCL
5. Based on tripartite partnership and collaboration
6. Linked with implementation of the state policy on informal employment
7. Respectful to child rights and privacy

### COMPONENTS OF THE MODEL

1. Policy coordination, implementation and capacity building
2. Public awareness and attitude
3. Knowledge/data base and research
4. Child labour monitoring
5. Direct actions to withdraw children from WFCL
6. Law enforcement
7. Social partnership and collaboration

### STRATEGIES OF THE COMPONENTS

#### 1. Policy coordination, implementation, capacity building

- Identify policy, strategies and plan activities on elimination of child labour at aimag level and consider the specifics of the area.
- Establish a tri-partite coordination, evaluation and monitoring mechanism at aimag level.
- Mainstream child labour concerns into health, education and social welfare sector strategies and poverty reduction development goals.
- Improve capacity of workers to implement policy and strategies and increase their role and participation.

#### 2. Awareness and attitude

- Set a practice of organizing awareness raising campaigns and a series of activities on WFCL.
- Set a practice of observing World Day Against Child Labour each year on 12 June within framework of national goals and agenda with special consideration of the local context.
- Develop and implement strategy aimed at raising awareness and changing attitudes of target groups.
- Form advocacy support groups and build their capacity.
- Increase involvement of social partners in awareness-raising activities.
- Increase involvement of local media.

#### 3. Knowledge/database and research

- Work towards integrated child labour data into national level data collection mechanism, identify and develop child labour indicators.
- Study certain forms of child labour for the purpose of improving knowledge base at local level on a regular basis.

- Use findings of research and study in improving the policy and actions and advocate the findings to the public.

#### 4. Child labour monitoring

- Enlist the sectors with high risks and exploitation of child labour top in priority and introduce and practice child labour monitoring.
- Ensure access to social services for children, based on child labour monitoring results.
- Use data collected through child labour monitoring in national level monitoring system.

#### 5. Direct actions to withdraw children from WFCL

- In planning direct actions, ensure the usage of available data and integration of target groups and public.
- Give priority to children engaged in WFCL and remove and rehabilitate working children, based on the proper assessment of their needs.
- Identify children at risk of WFCL and provide prevention services.
- Improve working conditions (labour contract, wage, protection) of children engaged in employment other than prohibited jobs listed for minors.
- Pay attention on children of employment age in preparing to enter into labour market.
- Increase the scale of social service for working children and their families (promotion of social welfare and employment, poverty reduction, health, education, civil registration, administrative services at grassroots level).
- Decrease child labour and increase household income by supporting employment opportunities for adult family members.

#### 6. Law enforcement

- Strengthen capacity of employees of organizations enforcing child labour related legislations and enhance collaboration and networking of local organizations implementing and enforcing law.
- Advocate laws and regulations on child labour to the public.
- Include the incidences of cases on violation of child labour laws and regulations in related reports produced by local stakeholders, support the advocacy and dissemination of good practices of addressing or correcting violations.

#### 7. Social partnership and collaboration

- Increase role and participation of employers and trade unions in implementation of local activities.
- Support and promote collaboration of local government, employers and trade unions in combating WFCL.
- Collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), mobilize and use their capacity.
- Enhance capacity of representatives of employers and workers organizations, private sector enterprises and NGOs.



- Keeping an eye on its implementation by the partners themselves has provided an important learning platform.
- Timely support from the Project on technical areas is important, such as community-level child labour monitoring.
- Sharing experiences, most and least successful, shall be the critical part of promoting the process.

## **NECESSARY CONDITIONS**

- Consultation and agreement at the national level at the onset;
- Prioritization of consultations at the local level as well;
- Planning and providing, in a timely manner, capacity building and training of partners in different technical issues based on the assessment of their needs;
- Provision of opportunities for partners to learn from each other and encouragement of local initiatives;
- Provision of support to ensure self-evaluation by partners, documentation of their good practices and identification of areas for improvement.

## **REFERENCES**

- A report of the national consultant will soon be available in English.

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N. Mongolmaa, National Programme Manager, IPEC Mongolia ([mongolmaa@ipecmon.mn](mailto:mongolmaa@ipecmon.mn)).

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# Sustainable prevention of child labour through community-based child labour monitoring committees (Nepal)

## BACKGROUND

The IPEC Project “Sustainable Elimination of Child Bonded Labour (SECBL) is implementing in eight districts in western and eastern Nepal. The SECBL Project used community-based Child Labour Monitoring Committees (CLMCs) at village level in order to prevent child labour as well as to withdraw and offer referrals to working children identified by the community. The practice was to extend the scope of the monitoring beyond the target group (in this case child bonded labour in agriculture) to all forms of child labour. The practice was initiated in 2008, and institutional building and other capacity building support is still being provided in order to complete the process by June 2010.

## ACTION

Before the SECBL Project, there was no labour inspection mechanism in the rural areas of Nepal. With full participation of various stakeholders in the designated village community, a need to monitor each household for child labour was realized. This motivated stakeholders to keep their village child labour free. After providing training and conceptual clarity on the system, a committee comprised of 7-11 members (including women, marginalised persons and teachers) was formed and trained on child rights, the negative effects of child labour, legal provision under the existing laws and international labour standards. This led them to identify potential centres to which children could be referred depending upon the circumstances. The committees monitored the households in their villages and identified children at risk of falling victim to child labour as well as working children.

## ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

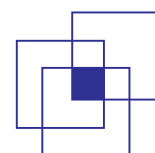
As a result of the full involvement of stakeholders and training of committees, efforts to prevent children from entering into child labour and actions to withdraw children already engaged in child labour were taken immediately. One of the CLMCs has withdrawn 67 children from situations of child labour, prevented 58 children from entering into child labour, and provided referrals to 32 children to date.

The practice involves community members from various social classes, ethnicity and religious groups. It builds ownership among those involved by bringing tangible results that develop the committees' confidence and is sustainable beyond the completion of the Project. This has been informally evaluated by NGOs, community leaders and the Project. This practice will eliminate all forms of child labour from the village.

## SUSTAINABILITY

The practice is sustainable in terms of ownership and effect, as it covers manageable geographical areas and develops a sense of “My village” that motivates stakeholders to eliminate child labour in the village. The local government in many districts has provided resources to these committees in order to sustain these efforts and their positive effects.

Good practice



“The former working children are heading monitoring processes that have created an environment in preventing and withdrawing children from exploitative labour.”

One of the village leaders at Mongragadhi in Bardia district.

The practice involves key partnerships that contribute to its sustainability. It is linked with teachers, health professionals and Village Development Committees (VDCs) in ensuring the provision of services such as education, health and protection. It has addressed the causes of the problem, particularly those dealing with poverty, and strengthened at the village level the provision of public services that directly impact the reduction of child labour in the community. The members of unions and employers organizations have also supported the committees in the prevention of child labour and the withdrawal of working children. The women members and girls from the community, including teachers, are actively involved in the identification and withdrawal of working children and the prevention of child labour through education. The local forest-users' group has also supported this community in the elimination of child labour by extending various supportive measures, including financial aid, to improve services in the villages. It has also promoted social dialogue with the employers in the communities.

## LESSONS LEARNED

It is beneficial to encourage the participation of women, men, youth and children's clubs during the initial period in order to build ownership of the mechanism. Supporting the committee in the identification of potential resources within the community will help ensuring the Project's sustainability.

The practice mentioned above is very useful where there is no effective and efficient labour inspection system to prevent children from engaging in child labour, particularly in the informal economy.

## NECESSARY CONDITIONS

In rural parts of the country, it is especially important that the community members have been exposed to issues regarding the rights of the child, the ill effects of child labour and have a common understanding of the importance of education. It is essential that the education programmes continue in the villages. The promotion of child labour monitoring under the overall perspective of child protection in order to generate support from different societies is vital. It is necessary to develop clarity on the criteria for withdrawal and prevention of child labour, as well as the conditions under which a child is known as a child worker.

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# Addressing poverty to eliminate child labour in post-crisis settings (Pakistan)



International  
Labour  
Organization

## BACKGROUND

The earthquake that ripped across Northern Pakistan on 8th October 2005 caused extensive damage to human lives and livelihoods. The earthquake damaged and destroyed houses, household assets, agricultural stock, livestock and poultry. Water sources were blocked, irrigation channels severed, and community infrastructure such as roads, hospitals and schools crumbled down. Markets collapsed and market infrastructure suffered greatly. A drastic fall in incomes coupled with inflated commodity prices resulted in the situation becoming desperate for the poor.

The large number of families and children affected by the earthquake became highly vulnerable. Many school-going children were left without schools, teachers and teaching supplies. The destruction of the educational facilities and resources, and thus safe shelter, left children exposed to serious risks of abuse and exploitation, including the worst forms of child labour. The loss of families' livelihoods and assets resulted in numerous short and long-term consequences for children. A large number of the households affected by the earthquake were already living below the poverty line before the disaster. Child labour prevalence increased from 5% to 13% after the earthquake.

## ACTION

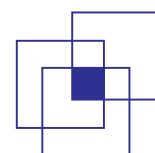
The IPEC Project "Pakistan Earthquake Child Labour Response" (PECLR) aimed to provide non-formal education (NFE) to children in the worst forms of child labour and initiated skills training programmes for mothers of working children studying in the rehabilitation centres established under the Project. It was important to equip families of working children with marketable skills for economic recovery and ultimately the elimination of child labour. Community members and families of working children were involved in the selection of the trades in which they would be trained.

The families, especially mothers and children, received skills trainings in dress making, embroidery and tailoring. Successful trainees were given certificates on completion. The trainings were held by seven union councils in Tehsil Balakot (the Project intervention area). The selection of trades was done through a consultation process involving members of the Committee for Management of Rehabilitation Centres and family members of working children.

## ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

One of the batches of adult trainees won a bid from the Kaghan Memorial Trust for stitching uniforms for its students. The Project and implementing agency encouraged and facilitated the group's application. This particular group was trained for another three months by an experienced trainer. All the members of the batch were the mothers of working children studying in Rehabilitation Centres under the PECLR Project.

Good practice





Marketable trades.

In total, 125 families were linked with the Kaghan Memorial Trust, Sehar Foundation and Badban. These organizations were running micro-finance programmes in the PECLR Project intervention areas.

In itself, winning a bid is a good example of potential sustainability. To further promote this, an emphasis was placed on the conversion of different committees and networks at the local level into community-based organizations (CBOs) that could design project proposals, apply for funding and implement programmes on their own. The role of CBOs at community level has increased significantly during the last few years. They are now independent bodies operating at the grassroots level to design and implement programmes according to the local needs. In some areas, the Committees for

Management of Rehabilitation Centres (CMRCs) are very active and interested in rehabilitation centres management. The PECLR Project intends to strengthen these CMRCs through capacity building activities and prepare them to register themselves as a CBO. The Project is trying through implementing partners to register them as CBOs with the social welfare department. The Project will contact social welfare departments to facilitate registration.

## LESSONS LEARNED

A sound social mobilization campaign leads to sustainability. Given the urgency of delivery of project components in the post-earthquake response, not much time was spent on social mobilization. Intervention was over a short span of time. Despite this, positive results were still evident.

It is suggested that interventions allocate sufficient time and resources (both human and financial) in order to obtain the best results.

The PECLR Project was started as an emergency response in an extremely difficult climate/terrain at high elevations in the Himalayan mountain range - where it was the only project addressing the need of working children in the area. Coordinated efforts were not possible with other interventions.

The people of the area lacked information on seeking support from various sources. The first step was to identify families of working children, then to include them in a skills training programme. Evaluations conducted after the skill training revealed that participants lacked knowledge on how to utilize and benefit from the skills they had learned. In response, the Project lobbied different social safety nets and micro finance institutes working in the area to include families of working children in their programmes. Awareness sessions on available source and process on seeking financial assistance were also held with the beneficiaries. A resource kit is being designed on available resources, methods for obtaining financial assistance and modes of payment and repayment.

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International  
Labour  
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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.

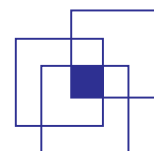
This research was implemented in 2008 in the context of a joint European Commission-ILO Project, under the supervision of a steering committee composed of experts from the European Commission, International Labour Office, International Organisation for Migration (IOM), University of Tilburg, United Nations 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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