



International  
Labour  
Organization

# **SCREAM: Mobilizing public action (Paraguay)**

## **BACKGROUND**

The gradual implementation of the SCREAM methodology, as a preventative strategy that raises awareness among teachers and students, converts the Paraguayan experience into an interesting example of the progressive mainstreaming of the issue of the worst forms of child labour (WFCL) into a country's educational institutions.

In a phased process, in each academic year from 2005 to 2009, actions were developed to promote a change in social and cultural attitudes towards child domestic labour (CDL) and the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), as an indispensable requirement for their prevention and progressive elimination.

The application of the SCREAM methodology, appropriate to the conditions in the country and focused on the themes of CDL and CSEC, as a preventative strategy that raises awareness among teachers and students in Paraguay, was implemented through a phased approach that represents a very interesting example of the progressive mainstreaming of the issue of the worst forms of child labour, particularly CDL and CSEC, into the educational institutions of a country.

## **ACTION**

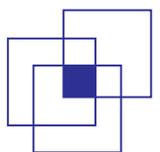
The sequence of actions for the implementation of the SCREAM methodology included interviews of supervisors, technicians and directors of education, who contributed to the understanding of the focus issues and the visualization of the methodology as a system to address them.

In addition, training workshops for teachers, in which they could experience each of the modules and then apply them with their students; follow-up meetings with the technical supervisors and teachers to share experiences and learning; evaluation meetings with directors; monitoring visits to the institutions involved in the project; the elaboration of reports by the teachers; the publication and distribution of the final activities report; and the participation of students in the media and debates were conducted.

The teachers' work with the students effectively promoted the rights of boys, girls and adolescents, by raising awareness and knowledge on the child labour problem.

Participating students contacted key community stakeholders (such as mayors, hospital managers, directors of educational facilities, entrepreneurs, social communicators and the media); conducted surveys of teachers, students and parents; organized meetings on child labour in educational institutions; developed awareness

**Good practice**



“ We realize that people are not very concerned with this, are practically used to seeing children in the streets, mistreating them, and saying ugly things, but, in reality, the children are invisible to the people. ”

Lorena, 16 years old.

raising campaigns on the radio; published articles in local newspapers and created murals; and organized discussions on the issue in each district where the project was organized. Additionally, the technicians trained the teachers and, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, monitored their performance.

Currently the Ministry of Education has a dynamic team working on the SCREAM methodology. It has a multiplier effect since they train the teachers in various departments and conduct the support and monitoring together with supervising technicians and directors.

Year	Beneficiaries	Geographic coverage
2005	633 students y 30 teachers	Department of Cordillera (Caacupé y Tobatí)
2006	2,700 students y 65 teachers	Departament of Cordillera (Arroyos y Esteros, San Bernardino, Atyra y Tobatí)
2007	12,500 students y 300 teachers	5 Departments: Alto Paraná, Guairá, Canindeyú, Itapúa and San Pedro
2008	17,875 students, 818 teachers and a dynamic team of the Ministry of Education formed	6 Departments: Cordillera, Alto Paraná, Guairá, Canindeyú, Itapúa and San Pedro
2009	21,279 students, 551 teachers, 380 educational institutions and a dynamic team of the Ministry of Education strengthened	6 Departments: Cordillera, Alto Paraná, Guairá, Canindeyú, Itapúa and San Pedro (57 districts)

## ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

According to Lorena, a 16 year old, this methodology has helped them to recognize the problem that previously went unnoticed but should be everyone’s concern: “We realize that people are not very concerned with this, are practically used to seeing children in the streets, mistreating them, and saying ugly things, but, in reality, the children are invisible to the people.”

In addition to the level of awareness achieved among teenagers, the active participation of teachers, parents and the community at large has been achieved. Even though they do not have a specific measurement tool, the effects of these activities are evident in the media, the increase of complaints of rights violations brought to the Municipal Councils of Childhood and Adolescence, and even in the removal or reduction of working hours for some children in districts participating in the initiative.

The methodology has been adapted to local realities, allowing children to develop the activities based on their own experiences and situations.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

Since the methodology has been developed within the school and involves actors (teachers, technicians, supervisors, etc.) at different levels from local to national, it makes the mobilization of the educational community regarding child labour, especially CDL and CSEC, possible.

The fact that the project is currently being implemented by the Ministry of Education would allow, with moderate investment to increase the number of trainers, its expansion throughout the country as well as its sustainability. A plan for the training of trainers, with technical supervision from the Ministry of Education, was elaborated and the Dynamic Team for the SCREAM Methodology was formed.

The development of this experience grabbed the public's attention; child labour began to be debated within the community, children started to interact with local authorities and mobilization and coordination were generated, thus forming the basis for its continuity.

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

- Involve government entities from the beginning of the pilot experience, giving them ownership and supervision, with technical assistance support.
- Work of a preventative nature in public education should be based on the adoption of a gradual approach in the implementation of actions.
- Practical experiences of mobilization by teachers and students: including the debate, media interviews, the survey, networking among technicians, directors and teachers, etc. The SCREAM Methodology Manual that is given to the school and to each teacher.
- An important aspect to highlight is the printing of the manual; it took place in Paraguay, thus reducing the costs.

## **NECESSARY CONDITIONS**

A necessary condition for developing initiatives such as this is to link the application of the methodology to the Ministry of Education, in order to raise awareness among authorities about child labour and the effectiveness of the application of the methodology in the fight against this scourge.

A concrete "pilot" experience is also necessary. It should focus on schools where children in situations of child labour have been identified.

The steps undertaken in Paraguay were:

**Step 1:** Contracted technicians applied the approach at all levels, from the training of the teachers to the application of the modules with the children, always accompanied

by local agencies of the Ministry of Education.

**Step 2:** Technicians trained teachers alone and monitored the application of the methodology by individual teachers in their schools in conjunction with the Ministry of Education.

**Step 3:** Departmental supervisors, directors and teachers were trained in the application of the methodology, and the Ministry of Education monitored (and will continue to do so) the performance and application of SCREAM in each of the schools.

As shown, the strategy was to always involve the Ministry of Education, to create a pilot in order to gain information on its potential, to test the pilot at the departmental level and then to expand it to the national level.

## REFERENCES

- *Buenas prácticas y lecciones aprendidas: Tejiendo Redes contra la explotación de niños, niñas y adolescentes – Chile, Colombia, Paraguay y Perú* (<http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do?type=document&id=7631>).
- *Paquete didáctico SCREAM* (<http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/Scream/lang--es/index.htm>).

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