

# Global Task Force on Child Labour and Education For All



## WELCOME

The Global Task Force is an inter agency initiative designed to effectively link work on child labour and education for all. The creation of the Task Force was welcomed by the November 2005 Education For All High Level Group meeting in Beijing, which acknowledged that child labour is a major obstacle to achieving EFA. The High Level Group endorsed the proposed role for the GTF in advocacy, coordination and research on the child labour and education for all linkage.

The core members of the GTF are the **ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank, UNDP, Education International and the Global March against Child Labour**. A number of donor countries and developing countries with particular interest in efforts to tackle child labour and promote education, are also participating in the work of the Task Force. This bulletin provides an update on the work of the Task Force, new research and other initiatives on child labour and education.

## EFA High Level Group reaffirms need for action on child labour

The EFA High Level Group met in Cairo during November 2006. The communiqué issued from the meeting stated “The multiple economic, social and cultural and educational issues behind child labour call for context specific solutions—we commit ourselves to

working transparently with communities and providing resources to eliminate child labour and ensure equitable access to quality learning opportunities”.

### International education assessments identify the challenge of child labour

During the past year, both major international assessments of education development identified the challenge that child labour presents to attainment of education targets.

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2006 stated that “High rates of poverty in rural areas limit educational opportunities because of demands for children’s labour, low levels of parental education and lack of access to good quality schooling.”

Meanwhile the Education For All Global Monitoring Report 2007 states that Education For All requires an inclusive approach that emphasizes the need to reach groups that might not otherwise have access to education and learning. It calls for policies aimed at “reaching the unreached”, including policies to overcome the need for child labour and to tackle exclusion.

To view the MDG report visit:

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>

To view the EFA Global Monitoring Report visit:

<http://www.efareport.unesco.org/>

## Global Task Force takes work forward

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A meeting of the Global Task Force on Child Labour and Education For All was held in Cairo on November 14 2006. The meeting was attended by all the core members of the Task Force, ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank, Education International and the Global March against Child Labour. Representatives of the Governments of Norway and Brazil also participated in the meeting, which discussed a number of initiatives to take forward the work of the Task Force. A short summary of this work is provided below.

### Linking child labour with EFA and development frameworks

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A number of national level initiatives are being initiated in selected countries to seek to mainstream child labour into EFA and other development frameworks, with a particular focus on current or likely Fast Track Initiative countries. Countries initially identified are Mali, Zambia, Albania and Pakistan. In these countries inter agency discussions will review work on child labour and Education For All and identify ways of extending inter agency cooperation on related work.

### Child domestic labour and education for all

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Child domestic labour in third-party households represents a major barrier to access and completion of quality basic education, especially in the poorest countries. A substantial number of out-of-school girls are involved in domestic labour. Girls' involvement in domestic labour entails strong potential for exploitation and abuse and it is often accompanied by harsh working conditions and deprivation of rights.

This joint initiative will:

- support development – in selected countries – of an education and protection program that addresses CDL in national education plans and sector reforms.
- strengthen partnerships and collaborative mechanisms.
- develop an effective communication strategy at national and global levels that promotes a conducive environment for success.

### New training resource being developed

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To support work related to the child labour and education for all linkage, a training manual is being developed, aimed primarily at education policy makers. This will be available for use by agencies either within their own activities or as a resource for use on joint agency programmes.

### Research on child labour and education for all

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Strengthening the knowledge base on child labour and its impact on education achievement is an important step in ensuring that the need to tackle child labour is reflected in national policies and frameworks. Child labour affects both the ability to attend school, and to benefit from schooling.

The next meeting of the GTF will be considering a paper prepared by the *Understanding Childrens Work (UCW)* project which reviews current knowledge on child labour and education linkages and which identifies areas which could form the basis for new research in this area.

## OTHER NEWS

### European Commission Acts on child labour

The Commission on European Union Development Policy now explicitly recognises the need to tackle the issue of child labour, and particularly the worst forms of child labour. The *European Consensus on Development* refers to the need to address the issue of the worst forms of child labour and a number of other EC statements have also drawn attention to the issue.

### ECOWAS policy identifies child labour challenge

An ECOWAS Child Experts meeting held in Abuja, Nigeria February 12-14 2007, agreed a new policy and Plan of Action which includes a call for elimination of child labour, especially the worst forms, within the shortest possible time. The Plan refers to the constraints that child labour can place on educational attainment and calls for strategic alliances against child labour.

### Gordon Brown calls for end to child labour and ensuring access to school

In a recent newspaper article, the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown wrote, "This year marks the 200th anniversary of Britain voting to end the slave trade. There could be no better commemoration than to abolish all child labour, and ensure that all young children go to school".

The UK's Department for International Development recently launched a new publication "Breaking the chains: Eliminating slavery, ending poverty" which looks at continuing forms of slavery including children in worst forms of child labour, and links with poverty and lack of education access.

Visit <http://www.dfid.gov.uk>

### Global report charts child labour trends

The ILO's 2006 Global report on child labour indicated that the global number of child labourers fell by 11% in the past four years, with the steepest decline among children in the worst forms of child labour. The report forms the basis for a Global Action Plan with a target of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016.

Visit <http://www.ilo.org/ipec>

### New study on child labour

A new study produced as a background paper to the World Bank's World Development Report concluded roughly 1 in 5 children work, though there are significant differences in economic activity rates across regions, with one child in three working in Africa.

"Child labour across the developing world : Patterns and correlations", in *Policy Research Working Paper*, No. WPS 4119. World Bank, February 2007.

Visit <http://econ.worldbank.org>

### Teachers against child labour

The Global Union Federation, Education International, used the January 2007 issue of its journal to carry a special report on child labour. General Secretary Fred Van Leeuwen wrote "As an organisation that is fundamentally concerned with the protection of children and the creation of societies in which every child's rights are respected, EI is committed to helping prevent and ultimately eliminate the scourge of child labour".

Visit <http://www.ei-ie.org/childlabour/en/>

## Getting girls out of work and into school

UNESCO Bangkok, working together with the UN Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI) and the ILO, has recently produced a policy brief which summarises the causes and consequences of girls child labour on their education opportunities. It describes instruments and good practices to reduce girls' labour, thus assisting policy makers and practitioners to better understand and address the issues for getting girls out of work and into school.

Visit <http://www.unescobkk.org/>

## April 24-30 Global Action Week

The Education for All Week is a worldwide advocacy campaign organized each year at the end of April to celebrate the anniversary of the World Education Forum held in 2000 in Dakar. It aims to mobilize governments and the international community to keep their promise to achieve Education for All by 2015. The theme for this year is education as a human right with a focus on the whole EFA Agenda.

Visit <http://www.unesco.org>

Visit <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/>

## New Web page on MDGs

UNDP has recently launched a Web page "*Applied Research on the Millennium Development Goals*". You will be able to find there recent research publications focusing on MDGs.

Visit <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org>

**JUNE 12**

## World Day Against Child Labour

World Day against Child Labour is aimed at mobilizing people around the world against child labour and its worst forms. This year the event is focussed on the problem of child labour in agriculture. The ILO has estimated that close to 70% of the world's working children are involved in agriculture, often working in difficult and hazardous conditions. The problem of child labour in agriculture is directly linked to poverty and inadequate education provision in rural areas. The recent EFA Global Monitoring Report indicated 82% of out of school children live in rural areas. For information on the World day

Visit <http://www.ilo.org/childlabour>

A recently established **12 to 12 Community Portal** aims to assist in building up sustainable and global impact in the build up to each World Day. It provides a forum to share information on activities on child labour, with sections designated for different participants.

Visit <http://www.12to12.org>

## Mailing list and further information

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this bulletin please contact [quinn@ilo.org](mailto:quinn@ilo.org)

## GTF contacts in member organisations

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