

Learning from Experience: Distilling and Disseminating Lessons on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL)

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(GLO/05/51/USA)

To strengthen the role of ILO as a catalyst and facilitator of knowledge on how to address child labour, IPEC's approach in this project is (a) to develop an efficient means of drawing information from the project where it has been developed, (b) to analyze and synthesize knowledge in a set of priority areas, and (c) to actively promote the access and use of the results of this analysis in field-level action and as a catalyst for policy development.

The project strategy is based on the premise that efficiency and practicality are prime considerations in child labour knowledge management. It is action oriented, considering that most of IPEC's constituents are from developing nations with few resources or time to spend in exploring knowledge for its own sake. Thus, the goal of this project is to produce and package information in a way that it can have the maximum effect on child labour work worldwide.

The project strategy also takes into consideration the fact that, although new information needs to be gathered, a substantial body of knowledge has already been collected (e.g. on child trafficking, agriculture, education, etc.) as well as tools already developed and used (rapid assessments, child labour monitoring, tracking and tracer methods; good practices methodology, TBP MAP Kit).

Strategic components:

1. Identification, gathering and documenting knowledge (**Getting the information in**)
2. Analyzing, validating, synthesizing, packaging (**Processing the information**)
3. Disseminating and supporting application of knowledge (**Getting the information out**)

Development objective:

To contribute to the prevention and elimination of child labour through strengthening the knowledge base on effective action for addressing the WFCL and strengthening the position of ILO/IPEC as global facilitator of such knowledge.

1. **Immediate objectives: (To be achieved by the end of the project)**
2. Information on types of child labour and methods for addressing them is identified from IPEC and non-IPEC experiences, compiled, and documented. (*information in*)
3. Knowledge is produced on **how to** prevent and eliminate child labour through comparison, analysis, and packaging information from the field work, evaluations and impact assessment, documented good practices and research. (*information analyzed and packaged*)

4. IPEC staff and other partners and agencies' capacity to address child labour is improved through access to and use of knowledge and good practice (*information out*)

Main Project Outputs:

(Objective 1)

Enhanced work flows and organisational process for capturing and documenting knowledge (management of the identification, collection and storage of information)

Existing work flows and process will be reviewed, revised and enforced according to guidelines on the knowledge management in IPEC (part of consolidated strategy on knowledge to be produced by end of this project). The guidelines are to ensure that information and knowledge is captured and documented as required.

This will complement the work done under the IPEC Database Project ¹by focussing particularly on:

- **Development of Set of Guidelines for information management**
- **Training of responsible staff to enter relevant data;** access for selected partners through Extranet;
- **Inclusion and harmonization of the field websites with the HQ websites,** including linking project and field web sites as part of the comprehensive IPEC web site;
- **Links to external database relevant to child labour;**
- **Additions to the statistical product and programme databases.**

(Objective 2)

Knowledge Products: this is the production of specific child labour related publications and tools. As this is not related to knowledge management or a knowledge strategy, details have not been provided but they are available upon request.

(Objective 3)

Means of dissemination and for support to use of knowledge

A range of mechanisms will be used to disseminate the knowledge products and to support the use of the knowledge:

- **Translation, publication and dissemination of key knowledge products**
Key knowledge products are translated, published and disseminated through a variety of means.

¹ The IDP project developed and established the 'physical' infrastructure of the IPEC Database and Web, but did not entail the 'software', such as training and linking it to other databases.

➤ **Training activities**

Knowledge is disseminated and special assistance given in its application through courses, group coaching², peer-to-peer training³ and self-study, problem-solving; participation in relevant knowledge-sharing opportunities such as conferences, national workshops, ICLP regional conferences etc.

➤ **Networks**

Existing international and regional networks, supported by national and international web links and meetings, will be used as a vehicle to actively integrate child labour as a consideration in their work, and to disseminate lessons learned to their audiences.⁴ ILO's own communication networks (e.g. DCOMM regional field officers) will be used as a vehicle to reach these other networks as well, including the contacts to the international media (CNN, BBC etc.).

➤ **Electronic newsletter**

Web-based, this would alert readers to new knowledge products and activities, as well as to increase the speed of sharing knowledge among practitioners in and outside IPEC, including for instance USDOL Education Initiative grantees. The electronic newsletters, which are placed together with 'virtual forum' and web-based networking will both be stand alone documents distributed on their own as well as an integral part of the IPEC Web site.

➤ **Virtual Discussion Fora**

This is an interactive 'space' on the web, which is 'pro-actively' moderated by a specialist (IPEC staff). The user group is individualized and can be narrowly or more widely defined. This will depend on the purpose of the forum. Based on an established expected outcome (to be worked out during the prep phase) a group of people will initially be invited to participate (e.g. all IPEC and HQ staff or based on a theme, all individuals in the partner organisations actively engaged in e.g. education and agriculture) and they will, be given a password. This will facilitate free interaction among information-producers and information-users. Existing

² Coaches are either IPEC present or past staff. Normally they will not be outside specialists (due to costs). Group coaching will involve bringing together several staff who are working on a particular topic—e.g. setting up a CLM system—and a specialist works with them as a group.

³ Identification of 'peers' is done by the responsible IPEC staff person or team (annex 1). The list of people will contain both academics and practitioners (approximately 3 for each topic area) who are experts in that field. The majority are known to us already through our past work with them in projects or on publications or through the Research Network. They will not be compensated for minor review tasks, but IPEC can not and should not expect to get free advisory services from well established professionals if major tasks are involved.

⁴ The proposed networks are either already existing networks where IPEC can play a more active role through the capacity of this project or specifically created, much more simple networks in the sense that they are more IPEC networks or networks of the technical specialists. In the latter case the technical specialist can serve as the facilitator of the network, constantly prompting and sharing knowledge. Relevant lessons from the Research Network will of course be considered, but that was very important a network created outside IPEC with IPEC only playing an initial catalytic role and not with ongoing direct active involvement and facilitation. The Research Network serves the researchers only, the knowledge networks are key IPEC venues for capturing and dissemination of knowledge.

VDFs show that traditional organisational hierarchies break down more easily and ideas flow more freely.

➤ **Content Areas on the IPEC Web site**

Fully updated "content areas" on the web for specific types of child labour and other specific knowledge areas and with standardised structure will provide an easy to access and use presentation of material in line with resource kits. This will include direct updating by technical specialists through building on the re-configuration of the web using the ILO content management system. This will ensure a much shorter time from production of knowledge to dissemination.