

**Closing Remarks by Mr Gerry Finnegan,
ILO Representative for Malawi, Mozambique & Zambia
at the International Workshop on
“Building national capacity in child labour data
collection and analysis”,
organized by Understanding Children’s Work (UCW)
project of the ILO, UNICEF & World Bank, 7 March 2008**

In December 2007, the Zambia Decent Work Country Programme was launched. The priorities for this DWCP, as identified and agreed with the Government (MLSS), and employers’ and workers’ organizations in association with the ILO, are as follows:

- I. Job creation for women, young people and people with disabilities;
- II. Prevention and mitigation of HIV & AIDS in the workplace;
- III. Ending the worst forms of child labour (WFC).

In addition to the priority areas, the DWCP gives specific emphasis to developing labour market information (LMI) approaches that can capture relevant information relating to these three priorities.

It is in this context that the ILO gives a lot of emphasis on strengthening Zambia’s capacity to produce data for monitoring the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP), the National Employment and Labour Market Policy (NELMP) and the Millennium Development goals (MDGs), as well as the implementation of the DWCP. How can we ever know if we are achieving our objectives and effectively tackling our priorities if we are unable to enumerate, quantify and measure changes and improvements, unable to carry out analysis, and unable to identify clear impacts and outcomes arising from our combined efforts.

Country-level research activities are a core component of the overall UCW project. They are designed to provide a common analytical understanding of child labour in specific national contexts, and to inform the child labour-related policies and

programmes of government and the three agencies (ILO, UNICEF & World Bank).

In this age of technology there is a great need to keep up with the latest developments in statistics and to respond to emerging users' needs. This training therefore helps to address the ever-increasing demand for capacity building in official statistics in Zambia. This is particularly important, given the Central Statistics Office's impressive and ambitious 5-Year Plan.

As indicated earlier, counterpart training is an important activity within the UCW project, as well as for the ILO and the United Nations System. In the course of developing the country reviews and other joint research, technical counterparts from national statistical offices (such as the CSO) are provided with hands-on training in areas such as:

- definition and construction of child labour indicators;
- extraction of child labour data from larger survey datasets using statistical software;
- construction of descriptive tables; and
- econometric techniques for analyzing child labour determinants.

Counterparts from countries such as Zambia that are participating in the UCW project are also included in regional training events on child labour.

It is important for Zambia – and the CSO and MLSS in particular – to retain and train statisticians on an ongoing basis. Good, reliable statistics provide a significant contribution to national development as they form the basis for informed decisions and national planning.

I am aware that many of the CSO staff have already been trained extensively on SIMPOC methodologies, and they have used these methodologies for a number of studies and surveys (including the 2005/06 LFS).

It is my hope that this Child Labour Data Collection and Analysis training has helped you to better understand the

issues surrounding child labour, and that you now feel equipped with the necessary analytical skills that can be applied in the ongoing Labour Force Survey (2008), in particular for the child labour module of the LFS.

The hands-on regression analysis training where the teaching was with real data, will not only enable the CSO to produce richer, more in-depth child labour analysis. It will also strengthen the capacity of the CSO and MLSS to integrate the child labour module, developed for the 2005 Labour Force Survey (LFS), into future LFSs and into other relevant surveys.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the UCW project, a joint project between the ILO, UNICEF and World Bank on child labour. In particular, I thank Mr Lorenzo Guarcello, who has taken time off from his busy schedule to lead this very intensive training programme.

Thank you, also, to the CSO for providing the venue and computers for the training.

I would particularly like to express my gratitude to you, the participants coming mainly from CSO and MLSS, as this training would not have been possible or even partially successful without your commitment and enthusiasm.

It now gives me great pleasure to present certificates for this very useful training on Regression Analysis for colleagues from both CSO and MLSS.