

Manual for psychosocial needs and skills for teachers and community groups supporting working and at risk children affected by HIV/AIDS in Zambia

**ILO- IPEC
January 2008, Lusaka**

Combating and preventing HIV/AIDS-induced child labour in Sub-Saharan Africa: pilot actions in Uganda and Zambia

The manual is a user's guide for teachers and community workers that are supporting HIV/AIDS at risk and working children. The manual has been developed after the results of a needs assessment among children, social workers and institutions that are working with HIV/AIDS affected children and analysis of an inventory list of psychosocial materials conducted. The assessment found out that various materials and tools were available for use by teachers and community groups but these were not easy to read, were very academic, not child focused and sometimes were not readily available for use by teachers and community groups. Moreover, the available materials did not specifically address the psychosocial needs of HIV/AIDS affected at risk or working children. As way of addressing these emerging and complex needs for this group of children, a simple and easy to use guide has been developed by the project.

The manual mainly focuses on providing a friendly environment for child participation through learning and playing as an innovative way for addressing the special psychosocial and training needs for HIV/AIDS affected and infected working and at risk children. The guide which makes use of the SCREAM special module on HIV, AIDS and child labour explains in a simple manner the effects of HIV/AIDS and child labour on the child, the community and the dare situation that such children who in many cases have lost one or both parents find themselves in and the many unmet needs which if not addressed would make it extremely difficult for such children to fit well in education systems and society at large.

The manual also helps users (teachers and community workers) to understand the complex linkages between HIV/AIDS, child labour, gender, and education and prepares the users to understand the social and psychosocial needs for children and the need for a broader community and agency response to mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS induced child labour.

The manual therefore is a very important resource for teachers and community groups that are working with HIV/AIDS affected and infected children and those organisations whose efforts are directed at alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable groups in Zambia.