

## **Broad protection to prevent trafficking – roles of different types of organizations**

### **Governments:**

- Governments are responsible for developing policies and programmes to promote social development and poverty reduction at a national level.
- They are responsible for policies, laws and actions to promote free basic education for all. These government actions are fundamental to establishing a 'protective environment' for children, because they have a direct impact on the level of vulnerability of children and families.
- Governments are primarily responsible for policies and actions that promote Decent Work, including through a national Decent Work Country Plan.
- Included in Decent Work strategies should be initiatives to promote youth employment and to eliminate child labour.
- Governments are responsible for providing and/or regulating and monitoring job counselling and careers guidance services.
- At all times, governments have a responsibility to take into account the need to address problems of exclusion, discrimination and inequality, including in their own efforts to develop and implement legislation and provide government services.
- In these areas in particular, governments can show leadership. National campaigns promoting any or all of the issues relevant to protecting children from trafficking are an element of many governments' leadership initiatives.

### **Workers:**

- Organizing young people of working age that are at risk of trafficking can contribute to reducing their risk of trafficking. In line with the ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No.87) , it is crucial that young people who have reached the minimum age for work or employment are given right of access to join trade unions, make their voices heard, and participate in collective bargaining processes. Empowering young people in the workplace sends a clear signal about the universality of labour rights.
- The same is true of organizing and empowering migrant workers. The International Trade Union Confederation now promotes portable trade union membership for migrant workers who cross borders, and this may contribute to providing protection if trade unions are active at both source and destination.

- Workers' organizations have an important role to play, alongside employers, in promoting youth employment, and vocational training and educational opportunities for young workers.
- Workers' organizations are able to develop workplace awareness-raising campaigns, including those that address areas such as the rights of migrant workers, inclusion and discrimination. Information campaigns on child trafficking and child labour help workers to understand the issue better and be alert to exploitation and trafficking, and training for union officials in these areas is particularly important.

### **Employers:**

- Employers have a vital role to play in sending clear messages about the importance of protecting children from exploitation and trafficking. This can be done in a number of ways, including in a company's Mission Statement, and in marketing and advertising materials.
- Employers' associations can contribute to promoting the importance of child protection messages, as well as messages about the rights of migrant workers, treatment of young workers, gender equality and anti-discriminatory practices. These messages should feature in communications with clients as well as suppliers.
- To back up these publicized values, employers' associations can promote among members approaches that combat discrimination, such as the integration of migrant workers, support services such as NFE for young workers, and ancillary services such as career guidance.
- Employers are also well equipped to provide education and skills training in the sectors in which they operate, for example by contributing to courses offered in local vocational institutions or through NGOs.

### **NGOs and international agencies:**

- NGOs, international agencies and other organizations working in the areas of child rights, child welfare or child labour, have a long tradition of implementing a wide range of child protection actions. It is equally important, though, that all agencies have an internal child protection policy that covers issues such as discrimination and exclusion in their own structures and work.
- Gender sensitivities, issues of exclusion and discrimination (on various grounds such as ethnicity, impairment, sex etc) should be mainstreamed into policies and programmes at all levels.
- Children's agencies are able to offer a range of initiatives in the fields of education, NFE and vocational and skills training. These may be run through and in collaboration with schools and training centres or as stand-alone

initiatives, perhaps in conjunction with other projects such as removal of children from child labour, for example.

- Agencies run programmes to help children who do attend school to access school necessities such as uniforms, stationery or insurance fees, where these are an obstacle to the child's full participation in otherwise free education. Under the Education for All banner, agencies collaborate in other programming. Obviously, since there is a broad body of experience in these areas, learning from good practices that have already been tried and tested is important.
- Children's organizations may be able to contribute to job counselling, careers guidance and placement services where these are not provided by government or schools.
- Independent advice to children approaching the minimum working age is a crucial element in protecting them from trafficking, especially in areas where unregulated recruitment agencies operate. Through partnerships with local businesses and sponsors in the corporate sector, children's organizations may be able to place children of working age in decent work.
- Children and young people of working age need to know their rights as workers and understand notions of exploitation and trafficking, for their own protection. They also need to know what to do and where to report if they are approached by recruiters with offers that seem attractive. Children's organizations are well equipped both to inform and educate on labour and children's rights, and to contribute – with government, employers' or workers' organizations – to putting in place reporting processes and support services that children can turn to.
- More general programming in the areas of awareness raising, capacity building and behaviour change are also regularly run by children's organizations. The key to the success of such programmes lies in the careful targeting and preparation of messages.