



PROJECT OVERVIEW

INDONESIA

The Regional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children for Labour and Sexual Exploitation TICSA II operates in Indonesia as a part of ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC).

Child trafficking in Indonesia

Indonesia is mainly a country of origin and transit for labour migration and human trafficking, with both occurring internally and across borders. Although there are no official government statistics for the number of children who have been trafficked, a large number of boys and girls work in the informal economy where workplaces are not regulated, such as garment production, commercial sex, footwear production, off-shore fishing and domestic labour. Such a large presence suggests the likelihood that some young people have been trafficked into that situation. Some street children are forced into begging and exploited by organized criminals. Others are used in the sale and production of illicit drugs. An unknown number of children, mainly in Banda Aceh, have been forced into armed conflict by rebel groups.

Root causes and vulnerabilities

In addition to demand from employers seeking to maximize profits with cheap labour, the trafficking of children in Indonesia prevails due to several factors that increase young people's vulnerability, including:

- Rural poverty
- Lack of access to quality education
- Gender inequality in the labour market and distribution of resources



Boys in the off-shore fishing industry, Indonesia (Photo: ILO)

ILO-TICSA Regional Project overview

Development objective: To contribute to the reduction of trafficking in children for exploitive labour in south and south-east Asia

Coverage: Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand.

Main areas of work:

- Prevention of child trafficking through direct assistance to children, families and communities;
- Protection of child survivors of trafficking through rehabilitation & reintegration assistance, including development of child-friendly guidelines for caregivers;
- Policy development and capacity building of within governments, employers' and workers' organizations and NGO partners;
- Improvement of the knowledge base on trafficking (research and documentation).

Duration: TICSA phase II (2003–2006)

Budget: US\$ 3.0 million (+1.5 million under the ILO Time-Bound Programme in Nepal)

Donor: US Department of Labour

- Family expectations toward daughters' household income contribution
- Lack of enforcement of relevant laws
- Increasing materialism and consumerism in rural areas (migration “pull” factors)

Girls are highly vulnerable in particular as gender imbalances often result in daughters being deprived of education opportunities and pressured to contribute to household income at a young age. They thus make themselves available for employment, including jobs that would require them to migrate to cities where they have no safety net. Also, many girls are pressured to marry at an early age. Quite often this marriage ends in divorce. Divorced girls have difficulties finding a place in the community and their family and resort to migration, which puts them in a channel where they are vulnerable to being trafficked. Some resort to prostitution to cope with their life difficulties.

The country's archipelago geography makes it difficult to monitor the safe migration of young people into acceptable forms of employment. Indonesia's metropolitan areas, tourist spots and border/port cities are common destinations where a number of child victims of trafficking have been found and include Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Medan and Bali. ILO-IPEC estimates that 35 per cent of the young persons in prostitution are concentrated in Central Java and East Java provinces and Yogyakarta Special Region.¹

The overseas destinations for trafficked Indonesian children and youth are Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Gulf States and Hong Kong. Traffickers commonly abuse the available cultural performance visa for travel to Japan and Gulf States and some traffickers take advantage of the country's weak adoption laws.

National responses and commitments

Though human trafficking is hardly a new phenomenon, only in recent years has the Government acknowledged the problem and committed to eliminating it as well as the worst forms of child labour. Several national plans of action have been implemented with support from various international agencies. Relevant policies and legal instruments include the following:

- Child Protection Law, 2002 (Law No. 23/2002)
- Manpower Act, 2003, with special provisions on child labour
- National Agenda for Action (NAA) on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Presidential Decree No. 87/2002)
- National Plan of Action on Trafficking of Women and Children by Presidential Decree (No. 88/2002)
- National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 2002
- Guideline for the Rehabilitation Service System for Victims of Trafficking (Ministry of Social Welfare, 2004)

Indonesia has ratified a number of relevant international instruments, including:

- UN CRC: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
- ILO C. No. 182: Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999)
- ILO C. No. 29: Forced Labour Convention (1930)
- ILO C. No. 138: Minimum Age convention (1973)
- ILO C. No. 105: Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (1957)

¹ Child Trafficking for Prostitution in Central Java, Yogyakarta and East Java: A Rapid Assessment, ILO-IPEC, 2004

The ILO TICSA Project Response

In 2000, ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC) began the TICSA regional project in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The project expanded in 2003 to include Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand. TICSA have concentrated on expanding the knowledge base of the trafficking situation within the country; building the capacity of government, workers' and employers' organizations and NGOs in the design of anti-trafficking programmes, policy and programme advocacy, and providing direct services to vulnerable children and child victims of trafficking.

ILO-IPEC provides technical assistance to the Government for the implementation of its national plan of action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, which includes TICSA activities. Other ILO projects with anti-trafficking components include the Time-Bound Programme on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Indonesia, the Child Domestic Labour Project and the Forced Labour Project. More specifically, the ILO TICSA project in Indonesia entails the following:

Prevention of child trafficking

Prevention efforts aim to mobilize multilevel support from local governments, community-based groups and the private sector to invest in children's education and improve the quality of that education. TICSA prevention activities cover a range of anti-trafficking efforts, including

- Target improvement in children's school attendance in a high-risk sending area
- Provision of non-formal and remedial education to girls
- Development of teacher training kits and training for 100 teachers in Indramayu
- Skills training, income-generation activities and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable children (six-month course in Bandung)
- Awareness and advocacy campaigns at the grassroots level, including a radio programme and radio broadcast training for 30 children
- Raising policy makers' awareness in districts adjacent to the high-risk sending area



Skills training for young girls, Indonesia (Photo: ILO)

Rehabilitation and reintegration

The TICSA rehabilitation and reintegration component works to improve the quality of care and services provided for child victims of trafficking. The rehabilitation and reintegration activities include:

- Helping to develop a multidisciplinary model of rehabilitation for victims of child trafficking
- Promoting inter-agency collaboration between the Government and NGOs
- Training counsellors in rehabilitation centres to improve the quality of services
- Skills-building workshop for partners, focusing on institutional and community-based child care and reintegration

Policy development and capacity building of partners

- ▶ Helping the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Women's Empowerment to set up a system of rehabilitation and recovery of child victims of trafficking.
- ▶ Localizing IPEC tools for intervention (ILO Practical Guide for Organizations: Promoting Gender Equality in Action Against Child Labour and Trafficking was translated into Indonesian to promote the integration of gender concerns into anti-trafficking efforts).
- ▶ Providing a training workshop for partner agencies working with the TICSA project, focusing on gender issues.
- ▶ Helping the Ministry of Social Welfare developing a training manual on the psychosocial counselling for trafficked youth, 2005.
- ▶ Achieving policy commitments to address trafficking issues at the district and national levels.

Partner organizations: National Task Force on Child Trafficking, YKAI (Yayasan Kesejahteraan Anak Indonesia or The Indonesian Child Welfare Foundation), JARAK, Ministry of Social Welfare, University of Indonesia

Improvement of the knowledge base on child trafficking (research)

A number of studies have been conducted to broaden the knowledge base on trafficking and to help support interventions:

- ▶ An ILO rapid assessment of child trafficking for prostitution in Central Java, Yogyakarta and East Java, 2004
- ▶ A quick assessment of the socio-cultural dynamics of child trafficking in Indramayu district
- ▶ A regional research endeavour on the demand side of trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation, 2005
- ▶ Review of the legal framework to combat child trafficking, as part of the regional research on the demand for child labourers, 2005

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