

ENHANCE*Project Newsletter



International
Labour
Organization

*Enhancing National Capacity to Prevent and Reduce Child Labour In Vietnam

Eleventh Edition, August 2022

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CAPACITY BUILDING

Forum organized on international commitments related to child labour prevention and elimination

In Hanoi on 27 May, ENHANCE collaborated with the International Cooperation Department (ICD) at MOLISA to organize a forum on international commitments related to child labour prevention and elimination. The event brought together key national stakeholders to share experiences, challenges, good practices and lessons learned related to tackling child labour in the context of COVID-19. 120 participants attended the event, including representatives from MOLISA, the Directorate of Vocational Education and Training, the Institute of Labour and Social Affairs, vocational training institutes, industry associations, the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Viet Nam Cooperative Alliance, enterprises and cooperative representatives, ILO and FAO.

The event was divided into three sessions as follows: the impacts of COVID-19 on children and trade-related commitments in the context of global supply chains; the promotion of compliance with labour standards related to child labour prevention and elimination; and critical solutions and ways forward. Presentations and panel discussions focused on compliance with trade related obligations on child labour among enterprises; child labour prevention in the fishery sector; child labour prevention in agriculture and among cooperatives; and collaborative solutions and interventions to prevent child labour including capacity building, social protection, and vocational training and guidance. During the third session, regional ILO specialist, Bharati Pflug, gave a presentation highlighting the critical role of social protection in child labour prevention and reduction, and shared the findings of a joint ILO-UNICEF report on the topic.



Documentation of good practices, emerging strategies and lessons learned finalized

To support the development of interventions for the extended implementation period and share key successes and lessons learned, the project has collaborated with a consultant to identify and document a selection of seven good practices and accompanying lessons learned. Additionally, three emerging strategies with potential for further development have been documented, with an emphasis on lessons learned, next steps and solutions to overcome challenges during the extension phase. The assessment was undertaken through a participatory, consultative approach, based on a mix of methodologies. Following the first round of fieldwork undertaken in Project provinces between August- September 2020, a second round of interviews was conducted in April - May 2022 to update the existing report. Following several rounds of comments and revisions, the report has been finalized. In parallel, video documentation was undertaken to provide a visual accompaniment to the report.

Building capacity on understanding child labour and monitoring the National Programme of Action on child labour prevention and reduction (NPA)

In June 2022, in Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang and Quang Ninh, three training courses lasting three days each were provided for provincial DOLISA staff. The first two days of training provided knowledge on child labour prevention and reduction using the Understanding Child Labour (UCL) training package developed with project support. On the third day, participants were trained on monitoring and supervising the NPA nationwide using the updated M&E framework, developed with support from ILO and UNICEF. Participants were comprised of provincial and district level DOLISA officials from 63 provinces (Provincial and district DOLISA), with a total of 99 officials in attendance. The trainers introduced and provided guidance on the data collection forms, including a form to collect data from villages, and participants were given opportunities for group discussion and case studies to practice skills on child labour identification, as well as practice filling in M&E data forms.



Joint efforts to tackle child labour in the garment and footwear sectors

The ENHANCE Project is collaborating with the ILO Better Work Viet Nam (BWV) programme to develop advisory sessions for visits to garment and footwear factories on child labour prevention, including strengthening risk assessment, age verification management systems, and monitoring and remediation services for children identified as engaged in child labour. Following the advisory sessions, ENHANCE supported the piloting of the consulting tools, and the provision of coaching for participating factories.

The draft package of tools was pre-tested for BWV factories in Tay Ninh and Binh Duong (in the South), and Bac Giang and Ninh Binh (in the North) in February 2022. After the pre-tests, a knowledge transfer workshop was conducted on 21 March 2022 with the attendance of nearly 40 BWV enterprise advisors to present the tools and collect feedback and recommendations to finalize the set of documents. Around 95 per cent of the BWV enterprise advisors confirmed that they will be able to apply the toolkits in their work with factories. It was also proposed that further support to enterprises would be very useful, particularly in the context of labour resource shortages.

Enhancing the capacity of labour Inspectors to detect child labour

To ensure the consistency of training materials for child labour inspectors in relation to the Labour Code 2019 and related circulars on minor employees, ENHANCE is supporting capacity building for the MOLISA Inspectorate (MI) on implementing child labour inspection across the country. Specifically, support is being provided to update the training materials, tools and checklists on child labour inspection in informal sectors; to pilot the implementation of procedures at district and commune level in target provinces; and to provide training to improve the implementation of inspection. Draft checklists have been developed and shared with ENHANCE for comments, and two consultation meetings were conducted to provide inputs to the procedures and checklists. In March 2022, MI provided training and conducted a pilot among production and business establishments in Ha Noi, Hai Duong and Ninh Binh provinces, in the stone carving, garment and confectionary sectors.

In total, 90 establishments took part in the pilot inspection process. Questionnaires showed that 2/90 surveyed establishments were employing minor workers, while inspections revealed that none of the 15 inspected establishments was employing minor workers. A summary workshop on the pilot of the procedures and checklists was organized on 22 March 2022 to document lessons learned and update and finalize the procedures. Over 30 participants attended, including MI, MOLISA departments, Hanoi DOLISA, Ninh Binh DOLISA, Hai Duong DOLISA, and representatives from pilot districts and communes. The training and pilot process provided participants with the chance to provide inputs to improve the tools. Based on identified challenges and lessons learned from the process, MI has revised and finalized the set of documents, which are expected to significantly enhance capacity to monitor and detect child labour nationwide.

AWARENESS RAISING AND EVENTS

Workshop on child labour and social protection commemorates World Day Against Child Labour

In Hanoi, on 15 June 2022, the Project collaborated with the Ministry of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to organize a workshop highlighting the crucial role of social protection in combatting child labour. The event was organized to coincide with World Day Against Child Labour 2022, marked annually across the globe on 12 June. This year's World Day was aligned with the launch of a joint ILO-UNICEF report, which calls for increased investment in social protection systems and schemes to establish solid social protection floors and protect children from child labour. This urgent call to action was discussed during the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in May 2022, echoing the Resolutions and conclusions of the 109th session of the International Labour Conference which took place in June 2021.



The workshop was an opportunity to share the outcomes of the conference and bring together the child labour community in Viet Nam to discuss strategies to prioritize social protection in the implementation of the second NPA for the 2021-2025 period. Attended by approximately 75 delegates from relevant ministries and departments, the US embassy, UN agencies and NGOs, the event included presentations on Viet Nam's roadmap towards SDG Target 8.7, the outcomes and messages of the 5th Global Conference on Child Labour Elimination, and recommendations on addressing child labour through the social security system in Viet Nam. Experts also provided recommendations on poverty reduction, child labour prevention in agriculture, and the role of education and training in tackling child labour. Crucially, the event aimed to mobilize coordination among relevant agencies and units to implement the NPA successfully.

Ongoing awareness raising events at schools and communities in Hanoi and An Giang

In May, 11 SCREAM (Supporting Child's Rights through Education Arts and the Media) events were organized in 11 targeted communes of four project districts of Hanoi. 3,713 students at 11 secondary schools participated in the events, in addition to local leaders, teachers and mass organizations such as the Fatherland Front, the Youth Union, the Women's Union and the Farmers' Union. Activities included a quiz on ILO conventions and Vietnamese legislation related to child labour, a role play and painting competitions. In addition, throughout May and June, four SCREAM events were organized in communities of four project districts in Hanoi to raise awareness among children, their parents, and community members. These events attracted the participation of 398 parents and 280 children. As the first SCREAM events to be organized in the communities, the events had a positive impact on participants, especially among children at risk of child labour and their parents.

Similarly, in An Giang province, eight SCREAM events were organized in schools and 15 events were organized in communities of four project districts throughout May, with the participation of approximately 2000 children, their parents, and community members. Moreover, a SCREAM training session for 12 Child's Rights Clubs at secondary schools in An Giang was organized over the course of two days in May to strengthen communication capacity in the use of SCREAM communication methods. 48 students and their club managers attended the training, which taught participants how to successfully conduct a communication session on child labour using the SCREAM methodology. These trained children will go on to take a leading role in facilitating communication campaigns on child labour in their respective schools, highlighting the important role of children as agents of change in their communities.



Project review workshop: Partners come together to review progress to date and strategize for the extension phase

In Da Nang on 6-7 July, a project review workshop was held bringing together around 100 participants, including service providers and implementers from project provinces, tripartite partners, representatives from relevant government ministries and departments, ILO, UNICEF and Save the Children. The two-day workshop facilitated productive group discussions on successes, challenges, lessons learned and good practices amassed by the project to date. The event was also an opportunity to discuss solutions, strategies and priorities for the project over the next two years, as well as for the NPA for the 2021- 2025 period, and beyond. The workshop was highly participatory, with an emphasis on collaborative group work, panel discussions and Q&A sessions. Inputs from participants will inform the development and implementation of the upcoming phase of the project, which has been extended until 30 June 2024. During the event, the final documentation of good practices, emerging strategies and lessons learned was disseminated to participants, alongside a range of other knowledge products and awareness raising documents developed by the project.



DIRECT INTERVENTIONS

Continued efforts to improve vocational training curriculums and career counselling

Following the development of guidelines on vocational training curriculum development in line with market demands, in collaboration with the Directorate of Vocational Education and Training (DVET), the document has been piloted by two vocational training institutes. In Ho Chi Minh City, HCMC Vocational Training College was able to adopt an online and offline blended mode to implement a training course on air conditioner installation and maintenance, developed in line with the guidelines.



Due to the impacts of COVID-19, An Giang Economic and Technical College was unable to implement the course on Pangasius aquaculture techniques, which was also developed in line with the guidelines. To address this, Hoa Binh College of Economics and Technology in the North was selected to take part in the pilot programme and has since developed and implemented a training course on poultry farming and disease prevention techniques. Both training courses were completed by March 2022, for a total of 43 trainees. Following completion, an evaluation workshop was organized on 16 June to assess the results of the pilot programmes and the two sets of guidelines. The workshop was an opportunity to discuss the way forward towards finalizing the guidelines for further dissemination and roll out nationwide through the DVET system.

44 participants attended the workshop comprised of representatives of DVET, DOLISAs, participating vocational training institutions, and interested enterprises. Most of the participants expressed that the guidelines were practical and responsive to the needs of businesses and markets. However, DVET has proposed further piloting before rolling out the guidelines nationwide, as the pilot of the training programmes coincided with the peak of the COVID-19 epidemic, leading to limitations during training. Once finalised, the guidelines will be used to improve vocational curriculums and career counselling across the country.

Children in Hanoi provided with life skills training

In Hanoi from 14- 22 May, four life skills training courses were organized by Hanoi DOLISA in collaboration with district-level DOLISAs of four districts, with the participation of 115 profiled children from primary and secondary schools in 11 communes. The aim was to improve knowledge and raise awareness among beneficiary children on abuse and exploitation (including child labour, and hazardous child labour) as well as preventive measures. During the sessions, children were provided with basic knowledge and skills to identify and protect themselves against acts of abuse and exploitation and knowledge on how to notify authorities about cases of child abuse and exploitation, including child labour.



Livelihood support progresses in Hanoi and An Giang

The provincial coordination mechanism for child labour prevention and elimination has been strengthened in the three project provinces. In coordination with local partners and related agencies and organizations, DOLISAs continue to take a leading and coordinating role in planning and implementing project activities, which have been mainstreamed into Provincial Plans of Action on child labour. Hanoi DOLISA held two virtual meetings, with the participation of 34 attendees, consisting of labour officials in four targeted districts, and child protection officers of 11 communes, during which each of the four project districts reported on the results of activities performed in their respective locality, and discussed difficulties, solutions and implementation plans.

In Hanoi, the project has been collaborating with VIRI to develop sustainable production and business models in Duong Lieu commune, providing support to five production facilities to develop online marketing tools and supporting production facilities to build websites/facebook pages to promote products and sell them online. Two websites have been created for Huu Tu vermicelli production facility and Quyen An husbandry, which are

operated by the production facilities with support from VIRI. In addition, five facebook pages have been developed to market and promote businesses run by five production groups.

Supporting vulnerable children in Ho Chi Minh City to transition to secondary school

Saigon Children's Charity (SCC) has identified the educational needs of 27 children who completed primary education at Thien An school in HCMC and transitioned to lower secondary school at Tran Quoc Toan school. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the consultation process was undertaken remotely to learn about the current study conditions of beneficiary children. Based on the results of the assessment, it was determined that 25 out of 27 children were in need of various school supplies such as a study desk and chair, anti-glare lights, and a bookshelf. The goal is to improve the children's study areas, and to help improve the quality of their learning. The project will directly purchase the education materials and collaborate with HCMC DOLISA and SCC to facilitate delivery and hand-over to the targeted children.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Finalize the M&E indicators and support DCA and related departments to implement and supervise the NPA
- Initiate assessments on child labour in high-risk sectors
- Finalize Q&A handbook on International Conventions and the Labour Law in relation to minor workers.
- Continue updating information and profiling children affected by COVID-19 for the provision of immediate post-COVID-19 support.
- Publish manual on child labour prevention for cooperatives and the informal sector for distribution to VCA across 63 provinces.

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** Funding is provided by the United States Department of Labor under cooperative agreement number IL-26682-14-75-K-11. This material does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the United States Government. 100 percentage of the total costs of the project or program is financed with Federal funds, for a total of 10 million dollars.*