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## Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Day (PCAN)

- 19th November 2015

**'It's Your Turn to Make a Difference – Stop Child Sexual Abuse'** is this year's theme for national celebrations.

Commemorated annually in synergy with the anniversary of the International Day for the Rights of the Child, on 20<sup>th</sup> November, this year's celebration will raise awareness on abuse, especially sexual abuse, against children and preventative measures for this.

Led by the Department of Social Welfare (DoSW) in conjunction with its social partners in the National Coordinating Committee on Children (NCCC) activities will include a march through Suva City, essay and drawing competitions in schools around Fiji as well as workshops, media campaigns and talkback shows leading up to the 19th of November.

For further information, please call the DoSW on Ph: **3315 585**

## Skills training makes an impact in the Pacific

A training workshop on developing *Skills and Livelihood Programmes for Older Children in Child Labour or At-Risk in the Pacific* has had an extremely positive impact on programme delivery for children in the Pacific. Participants at the workshop noted the different approach adopted by the training being 'client oriented' and designing programmes based on market assessment and research.

Homes of Hope Director Mark Roche, a Fiji participant at the workshop was enthusiastic about the possibilities for their organization going forward. *"This training has come at the right time for us as we're not at the stage for reforms. This will allow us to apply the lessons learnt in the design of our training programme which were not carried out before. We'll re-look at all of our programmes and re-structure them according to what we've learnt here. Learning the different approaches taken by the organizations that presented, it has been a great learning experience for us. I believe it will be challenging but also very rewarding!"*

One of the objectives of the workshop was to provide participants with a greater understanding of the issues that require attention in the planning and delivery of skills and livelihoods training programmes for older out of school in or at risk of child labour and this was achieved through knowledge sharing between participating countries and best practice stories shared at the forum.

Regional participants noted that the training had been beneficial to their organizations and were looking forward to implementing the lessons learnt from the workshop in

their own countries. *"We've been able to network and learn new ideas that we were not aware of before through all the presentations which have been excellent. We can't wait to get started and we also hope that these trainings can be conducted in other countries to have an even greater impact."*

With specific focus on older children in child labour or at risk, the workshop was able to improve participants knowledge of conducting pre-training assessments, vocational orientation, of designing and planning various training options and post-training support for the target group. Participants were also able to identify avenues to strengthen skills and livelihood programmes for children and youth training programmes in individual country contexts.

The workshop was facilitated by the EU funded Fiji TACKLE project in collaboration with the ILO's International Training Centre and introduced participants to the core content of a new resource material on skills and livelihoods for older children. Participants from seven Pacific Island Countries (Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) included government officials, workers and employers organizations and NGOs involved in providing training programmes to children and youths in their own countries. Presentations from Youth@Work Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, FRIEND Fiji, FCOSS and the Integrated Human Resource Development Programme (IHRDP) helped provide participants with different approaches to developing programmes for children and youth.



Participants and chief guests at the Skills and Livelihoods Training Workshop in Nadi, July 2015



# SYOB training builds on experience

Teachers from the western division in Fiji gave up part of their holidays for a refresher course on the Start Your Own Business (SYOB) programme which is being implemented in vocational centres in Fiji. The one week course in August encouraged participants to utilize resources around them to motivate students to become entrepreneurs.

SYOB Training Officer at the MOE, Mr. Harry Smith noted the enthusiasm of the participants as a reassuring factor. *"Its important for the trainers to develop ideas and be creative in their approach. Teaching SYOB can be challenging but it can also be very rewarding to see the students graduate and start their own businesses and become successful. For the trainers as well, some of them have also started their own small businesses as a result of the training and this is great because they can use these as concrete examples and advise students of best practices and what has worked."*

*Another approach for us is to use the local businesses to inspire students. We encourage the teachers to invite guest speakers to come and share their experiences, both the success and the failures, with the students to give them a realistic picture of what it takes to have*

*your own business. From this they can see that there are options available for them and although there are challenges, having your own business and being your own boss can also be very rewarding."*

One of the key tools to teaching SYOB is motivating students to become entrepreneurs and not simply look for paid employment once they graduate. To this end, the workshop analyzed the ways in which business ideas could be generated as well as conducting SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threat) analysis to determine whether the proper environment existed to enable small businesses to develop.

MOE monitoring visits (in September) conducted after the training noted the change of approach taken by teachers after the workshop with lessons learnt being implemented in the classroom and the positive impact that this has had on students.

With schools having started the programmes, teachers and students were also involved in setting up the bank accounts to start their savings schemes. Schools have also contacted micro finance institutions such as the Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) and are working closely with the agency on microfinance schemes and programmes for young people.



Participants and Trainers from the SYOB Training in Lautoka, August 2015

## FTUC expands trade unions knowledge on child labour

The Fiji Trades Union Congress (FTUC) in collaboration with ILO TACKLE conducted two workshops in the Central and Western division for union members to enhance their knowledge on child labour. Participants were updated on the current national and international legislations and their application to the Fiji context.

FTUC National Treasurer Mr. Agni Deo Singh in opening the workshop in Lautoka emphasized the need for unions to work with all stakeholders to eliminate child labour. *"this (child labour) is a serious problem for us, not just the unions but for our community as a whole and we need to ensure that we work in collaboration with government and NGOs to eliminate child labour. One way of ensuring this is to ensure that adult workers have decent jobs with decent remuneration so that children don't have to work to supplement family income."*

The outcomes of the workshops included participants being informed of the current monitoring and referral systems in place to address cases of child labour in Fiji. These referral systems were emphasized

by presentations from the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations as well as from the Ministry of Education which showed how different government departments were able to work together to resolve child labour cases.

Part of the workshops also included the development of a booklet for trade unions on child labour and participants acknowledged the need for such a resource.

*"We need more awareness in the communities on what child labour is and we need to be able to take this*

*information to the community as well as to our colleagues in the workplace to ensure and this will help us do that. It is also important for us to start discussing these issues openly and involving minority groups in our discussions"* said Federated Airline Staff Association representative Mr. Michael Tafuna'i.

At the conclusion of the workshops, union reps were empowered to become agents of change and volunteered to become child labour focal points within their areas. Participants also developed individualized awareness programmes for themselves and their unions to be implemented after the workshop.



Teachers taking part in WDACL activities at the FTUC Child Labour Workshop in Suva, June 2015



# World Day Against Child Labour, 12 June 2015

On the 12th of June, 2015 people from around the Pacific joined the world in celebrating the World Day Against Child Labour. In Fiji, activities were organized through the Ministry of Education for schools from around the country with oratory competitions, dramas, drawings and painting competition as well as poems being written on the theme, **'NO to Child Labour, YES to Quality Education!'**.

Awareness material sent out by the Ministry of Education reached 908 Primary and Secondary schools involving 208,000 students. Creative talents of children were brought to the fore through poems, drawings and paintings that depicted their understanding of child labour. Schools dedicated half days and some schools also dedicated the whole day to raise awareness on child labour.

Nabua Primary School in Suva organized a march through their community with school children walking and raising awareness on child labour in their community. Events organized after the march also involved parents and speakers from the Police and Department of Social Welfare to advocate on the dangers of child labour. Such actions were held throughout the country in various schools and these are shown in the pictures following.

Various competitions were run in schools as well as a national competition organized by the TACKLE project for poetry and word search puzzles. The Ministry for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations (MEPIR) also held a workshop on child labour involving teachers and students from the greater Suva area. The workshop involved creating awareness on child labour and also creating plans for action that can be taken at school levels to combat child labour. Workshops and awareness sessions were also conducted by Employers and Workers Organizations in Suva and Lautoka.

Talkback shows organized in the vernacular languages featured on popular radio shows on *Aina* as well as *Naivakakeli* through the Fiji Broadcasting Cooperation (FBC) stations and involved stakeholders who work directly on child labour issues. Some of the activities conducted in schools are highlighted below.

## Poems by students

### No to child labour, yes to quality education

*They silently make their way  
to the landfill of misery and toil.  
Where they shed blood and tears  
and are left in turmoil.*

*Fragile bodies, malnourished and tiny,  
work for many hours  
and don't receive anything shiny.  
In a building called SCHOOL  
where they're supposed to be,  
are left working with heavy tools  
effortlessly.*

*Saying no to child labour  
and yes to quality education,  
is the way for our future generation!*  
**By Andreantha. 111 - SJSS**

### Child Labour

*Child labour is inhumane  
Child labour is plain insane  
Child labour is never the best*

*So give them a break and let them rest  
Show them the route to education  
Lead them not to exploitation  
It is a shame and a disgrace*

*To have 'KIDS' work in a workplace  
Child labour? Quit this trend now!  
Its better a PEN than a hammer in the  
hand.*

**By Amelia Tuvou – 5H - SJSS**



Saint Josephs Secondary School Students artwork



Students from Sigatoka Methodist School display their artwork

## WDACL School Activities in Fiji 2015



Naroko Primary School speeches WDACL 2015



Nataka Public School drama for the WDACL 2015



Nadroga Sangam School WDACL Poster display



Nadi Primary students perform an action song



Maigania Muslim Primary School competition winners



Labasa College students display their posters



## NO to Child Labour, YES to Quality Education!

### WDACL School Activities in Fiji - 2015



Nabua Primary School Students march to raise awareness



Students of Batiri Primary School perform an item for WDACL



Lami Primary School take part in WDACL activities 2015



Tavua Primary school students take part in a Drama



Tamavua Primary School says no to child labour

## World Day Activities in the Region

In Samoa World Day Against Child Labour activities were organized and carried out by members of the Samoa Working Group on Child Labour. The Ministry of Commerce Industry and Trade carried out awareness activities through staff development while awareness raising activities were organized with schools through the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture as well as conducting district consultations with Senior Colleges on child labour.

Radio Talk Shows were organized by the Ministry for Women, Community and Social Development on child labour which also involved the Consular for Street Vendors and Community in Samoa. The Samoa Workers Congress Organized television talkback shows throughout the week and the Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an information booth which also promoted a child labour publication for employers.

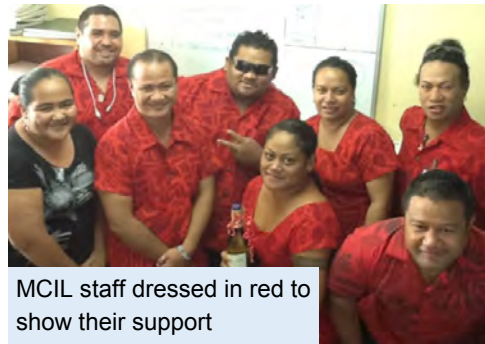
With the theme to dress red and support the WDACL, businesses, government ministries and the general public displayed banners and placards in support of the day while newspaper articles highlighted child labour issues in Samoa throughout the week.

In Papua New Guinea WDACL was celebrated concurrently with the PNG National Labour Day. Head Teachers and Head Boys/Girls from 63 schools (both primary and secondary) from various Districts were invited for a workshop on child labour which was conducted by Department of Labour and Industrial Relations Child Labour Unit and also involved ILO Tripartite Partners. They were also provided with tools (including flyers, flash drives and T-shirts) to raise awareness in their areas. Employers and workers organizations also planned activities in their sectors and businesses to commemorate the WDACL.

Photos of child labour activities from Samoa are shown below.



MESC and ILO staff support WDACL activities



MCIL staff dressed in red to show their support



SCCI staff at the information booth



Tomas Peni (ILO Samoa National Coordinator) and Tili Afamasaga from (Samoa Workers Congress) are interviewed on TV in Samoa for WDACL activities, 2015.



# MEDIA SPOTLIGHT IN SAMOA

The plight of street vendors in Apia, Samoa has been highlighted in the media in recent months and draws attention especially to young children working on the streets. Media articles have also discussed the issues and circumstances that lead these children into these activities. The article from the *Samoa Observer* and other newspapers highlight stories of children below the ages of 14 working on the streets selling goods and also begging when the opportunity arises. The reports indicate that children started doing these activities from as young as 5 years old and work with their families to earn an income.

The journalists also note that the children attend school for only two days a week and in some instances, not at all. They also have dreams and aspirations such as becoming a pastor or a police officer but are not sure if this will happen for them.

**A 10-year-old working day and night to help his family**

**Tired, thirsty and hungry**

"I want to become a pastor in the future so that I can have all that food and money to feed my family" - Ioane

**Ioane F. Faleolu**

A 12-year-old boy has a sad story to tell. Ioane\* is sitting in front of a prominent supermarket at Vaitale. With the dust in his eyes and being exposed to the

number of children taking to the streets as bread winners for their families in Samoa. For Ioane, it's not something he enjoys. "I'd rather be out there playing with the other children," he said, "but my parents tell me to come or else we don't eat."

**Ioane F. Faleolu**

10 year old Ioane sitting at night.

**Sunday Samoa**

SUNDAY 18 AUGUST 2015

www.samoasundaynews.com

**GIRLS BRAVE STREETS FOR SURVIVAL**

**THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS GATHER FOR 2015 CHAMP OF CHAMPS**

**ALL BLACKS CRUSH WALLARIES TO RETAIN POSSESSION OF BLEDISLOE CUP**

**20 DAYS TO GO**

**'My mother taught me' - child vendor**

**Ioane F. Faleolu**

Ioane\* should have been at school. Instead, on 11th August, she was working on the streets of Apia to help her family.

The girl with the short curly hair could not be more than 12 years old. "I'm not going to school today," she wrote in a letter to her mother.

"No, there's no school today because the teacher is attending to family matters," she wrote.

Ioane\* lives in a village in Samoa. The family is poor and her mother has no other means of income. She has to work on the streets to help her family.

"I have done this... because it's money," she wrote. "I don't want to go to school. I don't want to go to school. I don't want to go to school."

Ioane\* is the eldest of four children. She has two brothers and one sister. She is the only one who works on the streets.

Ioane\* is the eldest of four children. She has two brothers and one sister. She is the only one who works on the streets.

## Youth in training to become peer mentors

The Homes of Hope (Fiji) in conjunction with the ILO TACKLE Project held the annual Peer Mentor Training Camp at the Nadave Training Centre in Nausori on the 17th and 18th September, 2015.

This year's focus was to develop peer mentors in communities with which Homes of Hope (HoH) works. Youths from various communities around the greater Suva area came together to learn different skill sets and share ideas and experiences on best ways to help one another as well as other children and youth in their communities.

TACKLE project Coordinator Marie Fatiaki conducted the first day of the workshop and provided direction for participants on what would be required of them as mentors. With particular attention given to children who have gone through sexual abuse in their homes or communities, the mentoring programme will look to provide support and encouragement to these children who don't have adults to help them.

Participants at the workshop identified three target areas that they believed children needed assistance with, these included school dropouts, high school students and those involved in Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). Programmes suggested by participants included creating safe havens for children to talk and provide regular support to children in need.

HoH Director Lynnne Roche was enthusiastic about the way forward for the new mentors in training, *"its been a really good camp and we can see the changes that this workshop has already brought about. The young people who have gone through the training are eager to help other children and youths in their communities who may be in similar situations and that's a great outcome! We need to be able to provide support to children who are victims of abuse, especially sexual abuse and the mentoring programme is a great way of doing that."*

The Peer Mentor Training has been part of the European Union funded project *"Creating Safety Nets for Children in Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Fiji"* with technical support provided by the ILO/EU funded TACKLE Project. Through the 4 year Project, Homes of Hope has managed to target over 100 children in commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking in Fiji, and provided counselling support, education reintegration and employment training.



Participants at the Peer Mentor training camp in Nadave



# Gallery



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Captions: (1) Students and teachers of Tamavua Primary School hold up their red card to child labour during the World Day Against Child Labour celebrations 2015. (2 - 4) Participants at the FTUC/ILO Dialogue on Child Labour in Lautoka 2015. (5 - 6) Teachers during group discussions at the FTUC/ILO Dialogue on Child Labour in Suva 2015. (7-8) Participants at the Sub-regional Skills and Livelihoods Training Workshop, 2015. (9) Giselle Mitton from the ITC-ILO discusses options with participants during the Sub-regional Skills and Livelihoods Training Workshop in Nadi.

All photos © ILO

## Child Labour Courses at the ILO International Training Centre, Turin in 2015

- Laws, policies and reporting tools: supporting the fight against child labour; 02 Nov 2015 - 06 Nov 2015
- Harvesting a future without child labour: eliminating harmful practices in agriculture; 30 Nov 2015 - 04 Dec 2015
- *Review the full calendar at <http://www.itcilo.org/calendar>*

## Coming Up!

- Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Day - 19 November, 2015
- Universal Children's Day - 20 November, 2015
- Human Rights Day - 10 December, 2015
- Divisional Training on Child Labour - Fiji

### For further information, please contact

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