



Evaluation Summaries

CAR Capacity Building Project: Regional programme on the worst forms of child labour and combating the worst forms of child labour in Central Asia through education and youth employment (EYE Project)

Quick Facts

Countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Mode of Evaluation: Independent final

Date of Evaluation: January 2008

Technical Area: Child Labour

Evaluation Management: ILO-IPEC's Design, Evaluation and Documentation Section (DED)

Evaluation Team: Alexey Kuzmin (team leader), Jamila Assanova, Erkina Ubysheva, Farrukh Turiyev, Regina Safarova,

Project Start: September 2004

Project End: December 2007

Project Code: RER/04/54/USA, RER/05/05/FRG

Donor: United States Department of Labor (US\$ 2,500,000), Federal Republic of Germany

Keywords: Child Labour, youth employment

Background & Context

Summary of the project purpose, logic and structure

The "Capacity-Building Project: Regional Program on the Worst Forms of Child Labor (PROACT)" was funded by the US Department of Labor. Its overall strategy was to build the capacity of national institutions and organizations to prevent

WFCL and to protect, withdraw, rehabilitate and reintegrate children found in WFCL.

The PROACT Project has two immediate objectives: Objective 1. By the end of the project, governments, workers', and employers' organisations, NGOs and other partners will have the technical skills and organisational capacity to formulate and implement policies, programs and other initiatives to facilitate prevention, protection, withdrawal, rehabilitation and reintegration of children engaged in the WFCL.

Objective 2: By the end of the project, knowledge and experience on child labor will have been jointly generated and shared at sub-regional level and knowledge generation and sharing mechanisms are in place.

A second project, entitled "Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Central Asia through Education and Youth Employment (EYE)," was funded by the Federal Republic of Germany. The EYE Project was developed as a response to the strong correlation that exists between child labor and youth employment. Its overall strategy was to build the capacity of national institutions and organizations to integrate appropriate education, training, and youth employment measures and initiatives into their programs combating WFCL.

The EYE Project has three immediate objectives: Objective 1: Awareness and capacity of major stakeholders in the participating countries in place

to mainstream child labor and youth employment issues into relevant national policy frameworks.

Objective 2: Target groups have access to viable alternatives to child labor through the promotion of education, vocational and skills training and youth employment.

Objective 3: Knowledge base in place and networking at sub-regional level on-going to generate synergy and contribute to building capacity within central areas of fighting child labor through activities related to youth-employment.

Purpose, scope and clients of the evaluation

This evaluation was conducted to address the ILO's key questions related to the projects' relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability as defined in ILO Guidelines for the Preparation of Independent Evaluations of ILO Programmes and Projects.

In accordance with the results-based framework approach used by ILO-IPEC for identifying results at the global, strategic and project levels, the evaluation focused on two matters: 1) identifying and analysing project results by objectively answering the ILO's key questions, and, 2) systematically documenting the achievement of the projects' Immediate Objectives using data specified in the projects' logical framework.

Methodology of evaluation

The evaluation was conducted by a team of five people, four of whom were local evaluation consultants, each based in one of the CA countries where the PROACT and EYE Projects were implemented. The team leader was based in Moscow, Russia. The team leader facilitated development of evaluation methods and tools, conducted a desk study, and compiled and integrated the work of the team members.

The other members of the team conducted fieldwork in their respective countries and prepared the internal reports that were the basis for the final evaluation report.

Main Findings & Conclusions

PROACT and EYE Project Models

The PROACT (or WFCL) Project and the EYE Project were designed as two parts of one program

funded from two different sources. The project models coincided to a great extent and included similar development objectives and overlapping immediate objectives.

The projects succeeded in developing capacity in the sub-region both by creating an enabling environment for combating WFCL and by building the capacity of organizations involved in this work. The most successful project component was knowledge generation and information dissemination at the country level. Projects supported high quality research that provided unique and useful data. WFCL has been included in the work plans of partners such as educational and training institutions.

Information provided by the projects increased key partners' understanding of child labor issues in several ways. Partners now understand what WFCL is and that the problem really exists, that more regular and systematic research efforts are needed, that it is of strategic importance and requires urgent action, that the issues of child labor are country specific, and that there is positive experience combating WFCL in the world but no recipes that guarantee 100% success.

The PROACT and EYE projects succeeded in upstreaming the issues of child labor, WFCL and youth employment in the sub-region. Today legislation in all four countries is in line with international conventions forbidding child labor and WFCL. Enforcement of laws on child labor is still an issue in all four countries. The projects successfully adapted to the changing political atmosphere in the region and actively involved government partners in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. More work is needed to actively involve government partners in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The PROACT Project design was relevant to variations in the implementing environment of the project countries and sufficiently flexible to adapt to political and other changes. The EYE

Project identified existing problems with youth employment and proposed creative and practical solutions, but there is not enough evidence to make judgments about its relevance.

Beginning activities with mini-programs and building to larger action programs proved to be an effective strategy. Mini-programs and action programs were coordinated in a professional and friendly manner though some administrative procedures require special attention and may need modification.

Although the projects contributed to the creation of an enabling environment and to developing the capacity of local partners, their capacity is not yet sufficiently high to guarantee sustainability in any of the countries. When the project is over, there will be a higher probability of follow-up with child labor-related activities in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan than in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

There is still a great need for capacity development in the sub-region. Today the sub-regional component of the projects is becoming very important and relevant, and the parties involved could benefit substantially from networking, sharing experience, knowledge generation and other joint activities at the sub-regional level.

Recommendations & Lessons Learned

Main recommendations and follow-up

- Further work is needed to raise awareness in the sub-region and should be planned with careful regard for the significant differences among the four countries.
- Design-phase planning for interventions aimed at withdrawal and rehabilitation of children involved in WFCL should include a comprehensive and realistic assessment of possible related risks. Each project of this kind should involve scrupulous self-evaluation and lessons learned should inform future planning.
- As withdrawal of children involved in WFCL is a burning issue it is important to support further development, especially implementation of legislation aimed at protecting children from WFCL, while more complex, systematic approaches are piloted and disseminated in the sub-region.
- Both projects should consider country differences in future planning. The remaining need to up-stream strategies for dealing with WFCL requires that unique goals and objectives be created for each country.
- Special attention should be paid to Uzbekistan, with ILO/IPEC being consistent in implementing their agenda with sensitivity to each national context.
- Involve professional education and training institutions and invite professional trainers to conduct high quality training workshops. WFCL experts could be used at the design stage and during the training as resource persons. This recommendation could be particularly important for Kyrgyzstan where the full potential of highly qualified local training organizations has not yet been fully used.
- Make training materials available at the sub-regional and international levels. The project website could become a natural place for disseminating such resources.
- Facilitate networking among the education and training institutions at the country and subregional levels.
- Take country differences into account in future planning to increase the effectiveness of IPEC's interventions. For example, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan will need more awareness building work while Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are ready for action-oriented projects.
- The projects should support child labor-related research if and when possible use diverse channels to disseminate information.
- Put special emphasis on the use of the Internet and electronic publications.
- Include systematic research on WFCL in future plans.
- Make sure that research results are available at the country and sub-regional levels.
- Continue information dissemination and awareness-building activities.
- The project monitoring system should be further developed so that it can measure prevention, withdrawal and rehabilitation outcomes. Such a system should include clearly defined indicators to be used by all four countries.
- For the present, prevention should be emphasized in all four countries. A period of capacity building is needed so that future pilot projects aimed at withdrawal and rehabilitation can be designed thoughtfully, assessed carefully, and evaluated honestly. Most likely such activities could be piloted in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan where the environment is more supportive.
- Put an emphasis on a sub-regional component that includes networking, communication, information sharing, and knowledge generation in the next stage of the project.
- Consider a more comprehensive approach to capacity development.

- Continue capacity development and awareness building work in each of the countries with consideration for the unique environments and needs.
- IPEC should seek country specific interventions that consider national contexts and differences starting with the planning and design of country specific goals, objectives, results and strategies.
- Develop phase-out a strategy and discuss it with key partners.