



# Evaluation Summaries

## National programme on the elimination of child labour in Nigeria

### Quick Facts

**Countries:** *Nigeria*

**Final Evaluation:** *Jan 2005*

**Mode of Evaluation:** *independent*

**Technical Area:** *Child Labour*

**Evaluation Management:** *IPEC*

**Evaluation Team:** *Ibrahim A. Kolo (team leader) with M.T. Mustapha & Godwin Ashituabe*

**Project Code:** *NIR/99/05/060*

**Donor:** *United States*

**Keywords:** *Child Labour*

### Extract from the executive summary of the full report

This report is basically a qualitative analytical rendition of an independent final evaluation of the Federal Government of Nigeria/ International Labour Organization (ILO) National Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (NPECL) under the International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), including nine Action Programmes as part of the National Programme which were funded between August 2001 to June 2003. The NPECL is basically categorisable (in terms of the objectives and expected outcomes) into: (1) Awareness raising and (2) Direct Action for community and civil society initiatives in Child Labour eradication.

Specifically, the awareness raising projects were undertaken by the National Program office and included capacity building in the Child Labour Unit of Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity; National

Awareness and Mobilization Campaign against Child Labour among key trade unions in the country; facilitation of the incorporation of Child Labour issues in Nigeria's Tertiary Education Social Sciences Curriculum; the Design and Establishment of Data base Framework for Monitoring (ex) child workers; and production of a prototype blueprint for mainstreaming Child Labour concerns into Teacher Education Programmes in Nigeria. The Direct Action Projects included withdrawal, rehabilitation and possible reintegration of children head loaders, prostitutes, domestic workers, scavengers, street hawkers and bus conductors in three major Nigerian cities. For all the projects, nine partners ranging from one government establishment to three consultancy outfits and five NGO's were the implementing agencies.

Using researcher developed and pilot tested data sourcing instruments and procedures (Interviews, Focus Group Discussions and Inventories), data were sourced from the implementing agencies at Abuja, Ibadan, Lagos, Kaduna and Minna. The focus of the evaluation was essentially to determine the relevance of the projects implementation design utilized, verification of procedures stipulated, achievements and effects of the projects put in place, impact created and indicators of sustainability. The main analytical framework used for data collection and analysis is the qualitative approach as a result of which major findings were as follows:

(1) The National Policy on Child Labour has not been produced and the envisaged policy level sensitization and awareness for confronting Child Labour has not been attained.

(2) The ILO/IPEC project of capacity building with the Federal Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity (FMEL&P) is yet to be completed. The major component of establishing a resource center for Child Labour information is far from being accomplished as a functional unit. The Child Labour Unit, however, appears to have gained from interactive sessions organized under the auspices of the project.

(3) The project on withdrawal of street children and prostitutes in Ibadan has created awareness (among stakeholders in the target area and population) that children in such distress situations can be helped, but the enormity of work (given the situation on ground) and expected resource mobilization to stem the tide of the problem still leaves much to be desired.

(4) The project on withdrawal and re-integration of children in prostitution and domestic work handled by the Women Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON) in Lagos generated awareness among stakeholders like brothel owners, pimps and middle- persons who are very resistant to any attempts to help them.

(5) The Human Development Initiative (HDI) handled project also generated strong interest among stakeholders (especially the affected children and parents) regarding withdrawal of children from commuter bus work and enrolling in school. This however evidences the need for serious follow-up intervention measures if initial effectiveness and impact is to be sustained.

(6) The withdrawal and rehabilitation of children scavengers and street hawkers in Kaduna (handled by the Human Development Foundation of Nigeria – HDFN and the Family Craft Centre- FCC) evidences ways of penetrating and involving local communities and stakeholders in any efforts for such children victims. The need for sustained intervention and follow – up work is also manifested.

### **General Problems Observed**

In the course of this evaluation, a number of general problems were observed as they affected the implementation of both National and Action Programme components.

(1) The intricate and rather cumbersome funding procedure by IPEC had a drawback effect on projects implementation as evidenced by delays in the release of tranches to implementing agencies. This accounted for why certain components of most projects were either haphazardly done or in some cases not implemented at all.

(2) Similarly, there was a perceived insufficiency of funds and lack of will by some partners to generate extra sources of funding to augment. This limited the effectiveness, impact and sustainability of projects.

(3) There was a delay in the commencement of both the National the Action Programme segments due mainly to lack of human and financial capacity of the implementing agencies. Training provided by the National Programme Office to enhance the capacities of the agencies was helpful in ameliorating the problem.

### **Lessons Learned**

Based on the outcome of this evaluation, the following were the lessons learned:

(1) The NGO's involved in the Direct Action Programmes demonstrated greater capacity, experience, knowledge, commitment and facilities than governmental institutions/ establishments in the execution of Projects under the National Programme.

(2) Accommodation facilities (temporary shelter) provided to ex-child workers during rehabilitation in a few cases facilitated the achievement of the objectives of the programme by reducing the incidence of relapse on the part of the withdrawees.

(3) Furthermore, experiences from the Direct Action Projects indicate that the ex-child workers showed more interest in the acquisition of vocational skills than in formal regular schooling and therefore fewer cases of withdrawal from vocational training/ apprenticeship engagements, were recorded than for those reintegrated into formal schooling.

### **Best Practices**

The following were identified as best practices which contributed positively to the attainment of the objectives of the Action Programme.

(1) The involvement of District Heads/Traditional rulers and community leaders in the mobilization of their communities for participation in identification of under aged working children enhanced the support and cooperation of parents of ex-child workers, and the vocational master trainers in the implementation of the Action Programme in Kaduna metropolis.

(2) Collaborating partners in the projects which took along key stakeholders and networking partners tended to achieve more in terms of target objectives.

(3) Partners who sought to maximize funds and sought extra sources of funds were able to cope better with demands. Partners that initiated extra (especially post intervention) measures during and after projects implementation enhanced sustainability.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the outcomes of this evaluation the following recommendations were made:

More work is required to achieve the required National Policy level consciousness and commitment to Child Labour eradication in Nigeria.

Funding should be adequate and timely disbursement of funds is necessary to enable implementing agencies to work within the specified project duration. There is a need to work out a less bureaucratic entangling approach to the release of funds and accounting as well as the effective monitoring of Implementing Agencies to detect any problems in order to assist in correcting them. The time frame for future Direct Action projects involving withdrawal, rehabilitation and reintegration should be extended to at least three years to give more time for effective rehabilitation and reintegration. Vocational skills acquisition requires at least 3 years in order to have any meaningful impact. Furthermore, provision of

temporary shelter or for the withdrawn children should be integrated into the programme design for effective monitoring and rehabilitation. The children withdrawn and rehabilitated need continuous support after the termination of the programme to complete their schooling and vocational training.

State and Local Governments need to be further sensitised and be more involved in the planning and execution of Direct Action Programmes to enable them take over the ownership of the projects for sustainability.

### **Conclusions**

The FGN/ILO/IPEC National Programme to eliminate Child Labour in Nigeria is a viable project. The objectives of the programme were found desirable, readily achievable and were significantly but not wholly achieved due mainly to untimely disbursement of funds, short programme life span and lack of the required capacity on the part of implementing partners.

The benefits derived by the ex-child workers and their parents from the programme are worth the time and resource inputs into the programme. Enhanced awareness of the issues and problems of Child Labour has been created in targeted communities largely due to the activities embarked upon under the Direct Action Programmes.