



## **PNG TACKLE PROJECT**

**BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (2-3 JULY 2013)**

### **Summary of KRA3 – Action Programmes in Papua New Guinea:**

#### **Introduction:**

Papua New Guinea conveys its sincere appreciation and acknowledgement to the EU for its financial support in the implementation of the TACKLE Project in the country. The Project has to a large extent been responsible for the increase in media coverage on the issue of child labour, and has been seen as a trigger of intervention into both the political and bureaucratic circles to get the issue of child labour to all the levels of coverage, which includes the legislation and policy, awareness and promotions, strengthened institutional capacities as well as the direct programmes that benefit the children and withdraw them from the worst forms of child labour.

#### **The Project – achievements and challenges:**

Papua New Guinea's delivery of the TACKLE Project has been challenging, as expected, due to a few factors, which include:

1. High-turnover of Project Coordinators impacted largely on the implementation of the Project.
2. Geographical setting and distance from ILO H/Q also impacted on the timely implementation of activities
3. Connectivity and networking - Department of Education did not fully commit itself to the implementation of the Project (despite the fact that it was one of the signatories of the Partnership Protocol Agreement).

*There were mixed results, as a consequence of the above attributes.*

## **Against the odds:**

However, despite these difficulties, support from the Department of Labour and Industrial Relations and ILO social partners, as well as the commitment of the ILO and the national stakeholders has enabled significant results under the four (4) KRAs to be achieved.

More promising of late, is the willingness and perseverance of the ILO and the Department of Labour and Industrial Relations to work closely with the stakeholders (including the two social partners) to maintain the momentum in progressing and completing the planned activities of the TACKLE Project.

Amongst these achievements are the two Direct Action Programmes.

## **KRA3 - Direct Action Programmes**

### **Mercy Works – Mount Hagen: (2009 – present)**

#### **Focus: children working in the markets**

Whilst this Action Programme was reported in the Project's Mid-Term review, its activities and extensions have again been featured again in the End of Project Evaluation. This Programme focused on managing and removing children from hazardous works in the Mt. Hagen Market and providing them with opportunities get back to their families and even establish themselves away from working in the market.

A lot of these children live in the settlements and make their living off the market by unloading bags of garden food for sale on a six day/week with their working hours starting at 7 am when the market opens till 5 pm when the market closes. Some of them are orphans; others come from broken families, whilst others are deliberately left behind by their families when they move back to their provinces. They then resort to working in the markets by charging US\$1.00 per bag that they carry.

Initiatives of the Project include:

- Partnership between Mercy Works, the Department of Police, Department of Community Development to work closely with the children who work in the markets.
- Assist these children in opening their Bank Accounts, so they learn to save and eventually move away from work in the markets.

- Provide shelter, counselling, food, life skills training to those children who are in need.
- Put some of these children into selected schools.
- Produced a DVD on child labour to create awareness of the issue.

**YWCA – Port Moresby: (late 2012 to 2013 – currently implementing)  
Focus: Creating awareness on child labour in the settlements of Port Moresby**

Progressed over a 6 month period, YWCA implemented this Action Programme in two settlements in Port Moresby. Despite the challenges they have faced in working in the settlements, which are fairly volatile most times, the action programme has resulted in:

1. Establishing child labour committees locals from within the communities to champion the activities of the Programme and create awareness;
2. Creating awareness on the issues of child labour in the most simplest sense, given the high illiteracy rates that are prevalent in these settlements;
3. Involving children from these two settlements in advocating on national radio through a programme- “Tokstret” on Kundu 2 TV and NBC Radio (local Government owned radio and TV station).
4. Empowering children through SCREAM (Supporting Children through Education, Arts and the Media) and life skills training, which was followed with establishing Child Rights Clubs and providing further training for these children on painting/screen printing and drama skills
5. Children from these settlements have also been involved in major national events, the most recent one being the “National Haus Krai” Programme to advocate on the eliminating violence against women and girls.

An important point to note is that the involvement and exposure of children in this action programme has targeted a change in mind-set; encouraging children to think positive and open up to opportunities that support and nurture them in the right direction, the right environment and with the right frame of mind.

**Additional Activity – Provincial Child Labour Committees**

Another important and successful outcome of the Project, which warrants attention, has been the successful Child Labour Road-shows conducted in 6 provinces of the country in the past 3 months. An outcome of the first phase of the Road-show was the request from the stakeholders in the province for the TACKLE project to help them set-up their Provincial Child Labour Committees as a local government measure to address child labour issues at the local level.

To date, two provincial CL Committees for the Western Highlands and Eastern Highlands Provinces have been established with the next four (4) to be established in the next two weeks.

The Committees are now organizing their work programmes and schedules for implementation of child labour actions at the provincial and local levels.

This is a significant achievement for PNG as it represents the first steps to establishing and operating a national child labour monitoring system in PNG.

### **National Call (Into the Future.....):**

For Papua New Guinea, the progress made towards addressing child labour is gaining momentum. The media has jumped on the band-wagon to raise awareness on the issue to the mass population. This is complimenting the work that the ILO and the Department is doing through the setting up of the Provincial Child Labour Committees, as well as the organization and networking with partners both at the public and private domains.

We know that these significant steps forward comes as the Project is winding down, but the progress made so far indicates the level of willingness for all stakeholders in PNG to work together to address the issues of child labour, as well as an appreciation of the fact that yes indeed, child labour is present and is becoming a major developmental issue.

With the momentum and expectations that this Project has brought about, the government of Papua New Guinea greatly recommends that the EU and the ILO consider a second phase of the TACKLE Project. The PNG government also recommends that the EU and ILO consider implementing the proposed Phase 2 TACKLE project through a decentralised, regional approach. We firmly believe that the concept of establishing regional child labour hubs that can coordinate and provide technical support to implementing countries will benefit the regions of the ACP. In the spirit of south to south cooperation, PNG and Fiji have implemented some TACKLE activities using this model of sub-regional coordination and recognise the value of a regional approach as an opportunity to effectively expand and replicate the sharing of child labour knowledge and technical expertise in our country, as well as in the region.