



International
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Newsletter

International Programme on the Elimination
of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC) in Tajikistan



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The first National Action Plan on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour for 2013-2020 currently developed in Tajikistan

Drafting a national policy (NP) and a national action plan (NAP) that will contribute to the progressive elimination of the worst forms of child labour (WFCL) in Tajikistan reflects the importance attached to child labour issue at national level and determination in fulfilling national and international commitments. ILO-IPEC provides technical and financial support for drafting the first National Action Plan on Prevention and Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) in Tajikistan for 2013-2020 based on wide consultations with the key stakeholders at central and local levels through an Action Programme implemented by the Information Research Center “SocService” (NGO) based on a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, National Working Group on the Elimination of Child Labour (NWGECL) and the Commission on Child’s Rights.

The drafting process is managed by a Tripartite Working Group (TWG), including the key governmental institutions, social partners, NGOs, and international organizations, that works under coordination of the NWGECL. A background document on child labour in Tajikistan has been prepared based on a desk review and wide consultations to support the formulation process of the NAP. It includes the priority actions for 2013-2020 for prevention and elimination of child labour in Tajikistan.



The first drafts of the NP and NAP have been discussed in four consultative meetings with key stakeholders at central and local level. The TWG is currently preparing the second drafts based on the inputs received during the consultative meetings and from ILO-IPEC.

The capacity of 35 members of the National Working Group on the Elimination of Child Labour and the Commission on Child’s Rights to support the drafting process and implementation of the National Action Plan has been built in a orientation workshop on child labour, including Child Labour Monitoring basic concepts, held in August 2011, in coordination with ILO-IPEC Tajikistan and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

The role and responsibilities of the National Working Group on the Elimination of Child Labour redefined

The role and responsibilities of the National Working Group on the Elimination of Child Labour (NWGECL) established in 2007 through a Decree of the Prime Ministry of Tajikistan have been redefined in order to ensure a proper coordination of the activities addressing

child labour at national level, including establishment and piloting of the Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS). This has been done through a consultative process with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, ILO-IPEC, members of the NWGECL and the key

persons involved in piloting the CLMS at local level. It has been agreed to rename the group the Coordination Council on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour because it coordinates all the activities at national level related to the elimination of the worst forms of child labour based on the provisions of the ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182.

“We need to transform the Working Group into Coordination Council on the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour. We also need to expand its composition, involving all relevant ministries and departments, because the elimination of child labour requires a comprehensive approach.”

Timur Tabarov, Vice Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan

The Terms of Reference prepared regulates the composition of the group that has been expanded to 35 members of the key ministries, social partners, NGOs working on child protection, including elimination of child labour. ILO-IPEC has an advisory function. A mechanism for rotating the membership has been put in place to allow the change of the group composition as the needs of the programme change. The roles and responsibilities include provision of policy guidance



Photo: ILO

for activities aimed at eliminating child labour in the country, integrating IPEC activities in other national efforts to combat child labour, advice on priority areas for IPEC activities, support, periodically review and evaluate IPEC activities in the country, and ensure the achievement by the Government and responsible agencies of the objectives and targets set by ILO programmes in the area of child labour. The final Terms of Reference and the proposed list of members of the Coordination Council have been submitted to the Prime Minister for approval on 20 December 2011 and it is expected to be approved in February 2012. The Commission on Child's Rights under the Executive Office of the President closely supervise the approval process and follow-up with the Prime Minister.

Child Labour Monitoring System established and currently piloted in four micro-districts of Dushanbe Municipality and five municipalities of Isfara district/ Sougd region in Tajikistan

Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS) is used in many countries by ILO-IPEC as an effective tool to combat child labour through joint identification of child labourers and children at risk of entering child labour, assessment of the hazards and risks they are exposed to, referral to relevant services or viable alternatives, verification that children have been withdrawn from work and tracking to make sure that the root causes of children's involvement in child labour have been elim-



Photo: ILO

inated. It is based on a coordinated multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach through a national/local framework which involves the key institutions that work effectively in partnership for the prevention and elimination of child labour.

ILO-IPEC is currently providing technical and financial assistance to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection through the National Center of Adult Education (NCAE) to implement the Action Programme for establishing and piloting a Child Labour Monitoring System in agriculture and urban informal sector. The project aims at reinforcing the CLMS established 2010 and expand it to other areas: Firdavsi, Shohmansur, Sino and Somon micro-districts of Dushanbe Municipality and Navgilem, Khonabad, Kulkent, Shahrak, Chilgazi municipalities in Isfara district/Sougd region.

The CLMS institutional framework has been established through the National Working Group on the Elimination of Child Labour (NWGECL) by concluding an agreement between its member institutions to set up and support the CLMS piloting, issuance of Ministerial Decisions for pilot testing of CLMS for the local authorities and concluding agreements for each pilot area to institutionalize the CLMS. Two CLMS Committees, including the key stakeholders in Dushanbe Municipality, Isfara district/Sougd region, have been established under Children's Rights Departments to supervise and provide technical guid-



ance during the monitoring process and make referral decisions for children at risk or involved in WFCL identified. Four Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) composed of 18 monitors have been established to conduct the monitoring, including identification and tracking of children. 94 members of the NWGECL, CLMS Committees in Dushanbe Municipality and Isfara district, four MDTs and teachers have been trained on child labour, CLMS, non-formal education and SCREAM (Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media) in 9 workshops organized in September-December 2011.

CLMS piloting has started in September and includes monitoring of the worksites and schools on a regular basis. The Multi-Disciplinary Teams identified 21 children (18 girls and 3 boys) involved in WFCL and 69 children at risk of entering WFCL (36 girls and 33 boys), assessed their needs, prepared Individual Plans of Intervention and provided/referred children

"I had to work because our family is poor. I used to sell round cakes. When I saw my classmates I was ashamed that I had to hide from them. But I had to work because my mother is ill and my father doesn't live with us. The Project helped me with professional training and I will even get an official certificate as a baker. I will be able to work at home and plan to open a mini-bakery. I will not need to stay on the street in all weather, to hide from my classmates and, most important, I will get a profession to feed myself and my mother."

Sabrina, 15 years

to a school-based package of services that include: non-formal education, vocational training, (re)integration in formal education, pre-vocational training, psychological counselling, extra-curricular activities and awareness raising sessions, job placement for

children who completed vocational training, provision of a monthly food basket for families provided that children attend school individual counselling, group meetings and referral of parents to social and employment services.

Union of Employers of Tajikistan mobilized to address child labour

In order to intensify the fight to eliminate child labour in agriculture by the social partners, ILO-IPEC provides technical and financial assistance to the Union of Employers of Tajikistan in developing a Code of Conduct to eliminate hazardous child labour (HCL) in agriculture. 114 Farmers' Associations with 6,911 members are affiliated to the Union of Employers. The first draft of the Code was discussed with 100 leaders of Farmers' Associations and farm managers in Soughd, Khatlon and Badakhshan regions and Rudaki district in five round tables held in October–November 2011 to collect inputs and increase participants' awareness on HCL in agriculture. The Chairman of the Union of Employers, Mr. Azizbek Sharipov, stated that adopting a Code of Conduct to eliminate hazardous child labour would allow the Farmers' Associations and their members to show their commitment in addressing child labour in a consistent manner. By signing the Code of Conduct, the Farmers' Associa-

tions will commit themselves not to use child labour and take action in removing children from hazardous work in agriculture. The Code is currently finalized and will be shared with ILO specialists for inputs and comments.



Photo: ILO

“Employers’ Code of Conduct on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in agriculture is our first experience to address this problem in Tajikistan. We still face many difficulties especially in raising awareness of employers, but we are moving in a right direction.”

Azizbek Sharipov, Chairman, Union of Employers of the Republic of Tajikistan

The roles and responsibilities of the Child Labour Resource Centre of the Union of Employers of Tajikistan, set up in 2009 with ILO-IPEC technical and financial support, have been reviewed and redefined in consultation with 15 Heads of Farmers' Associations of Tajikistan and the central office of the Union of Employers. The final document has been approved by the NWGECL and the Union of Employers. The Centre will collect and disseminate information on hazardous child labour in agriculture in Tajikistan, organize awareness raising activities, trainings and seminars targeting the members of the Union of Employers.

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