



International  
Labour  
Organization

# Newsletter

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



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## From commitment to action: *Child Labour Units established within the Federation of Trade Unions and the Confederation of Employers in Kyrgyzstan*

The Federation of Trade Unions (FTU) and the National Confederation of Employers of Kyrgyzstan (NCEK) have set up, equipped and institutionalized Child Labour Units (CLUs) with ILO-IPEC technical and financial support. The two CLUs are located in the premises of FTU and NCEK, each including one CLU Specialist. The Federation of Trade Unions has included the CLU Specialist in its list of permanent staff as a Chief Specialist on Child Labour through the Order № 95 issued by the Head of the FTU on 2 November 2011. The National Confederation of the Employers in Kyrgyzstan has mainstreamed the responsibilities of the CLU Specialist into the job description of a permanent staff of the NCEK, who has also been appointed as a member of NCEK

***“Both organizations (the Federation of Trade Unions and the National Confederation of the Employers of Kyrgyzstan) have showed strengthen commitment to the Government to address child labour concerns by mainstreaming it into their agenda.”***

Gulzat Asanbaeva, Child labour specialist in the Ministry of Social Development.

Small and Large Boards through the Decision of the NCEK Small Board from 29 August 2011.

The Child Labour Units act as national focal points on child labour for the trade unions/employers, by coordinating and monitoring the national response of trade unions/employers for the elimination of child labour in Kyrgyzstan. The CLU Specialists have established documentation points on child labour issue within FTU and NCEK based on the relevant ILO-IPEC materials and other publications and brochures on child labour.

***“Establishment and institutionalization of the CLU have increased the institutional capacity of the National Confederation of the Employers. We were provided with a practical tool and mechanism to coordinate and develop joint programmes / activities with social partners on addressing child labour.”***

Alybek Kadyrov, Head of the National Confederation of Employers of Kyrgyzstan



Dordoi wholesale market, a Child Labour Monitoring System pilot area

## South-South cooperation *between teachers' trade unions in Albania and Kyrgyzstan in establishing Child Labour Free Zones*

The Trade Unions of Education and Science Workers of Kyrgyzstan (TUESWK) have taken a first initiative to address child labour by supporting establishment of a Child Labour Free Zone (an area where all children are systematically withdrawn from work and are (re)integrated into formal, full-time schools) in Chuy region (Ysykatinskiy and Moskovskiy rayons), with ILO-IPEC technical and financial assistance. The project is an effective response to local needs by developing a multi-sectoral approach, strengthening coordination and implementation capacities of social partners and provision of a comprehensive package of services to withdraw and prevent children from entering worst forms of child labour (WFCL), with a focus on work at marketplaces and seasonal agriculture.

tion and Science of Albania (TUFESA). In order to share the successful experience of the trade unions in Albania in combating child labour and establishing of child labour free zones, the General Secretary of TUFESA, Mr. Stavri Liko, visited Kyrgyzstan to present the Albanian experience in two workshops for 50 school teachers and principals, representatives of the local government and education specialists from the Regional Department of Education and members of TUESWK Rayon Committees from the pilot areas, in August 2011. Participants have been trained to deliver quality, relevant education programmes more responsive to the needs of working children and children at risk of entering WFCL, in order to reduce the school dropout, attract working children to school, support them to stay in school and complete their studies.

This is the replication of a project implemented in Albania in 2010 by the Trade Union Federation of Educa-

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A “Training Manual for Teachers on Non-Formal Education (NFE)” has been adapted to the national context based on a similar manual produced in Albania in 2006, under ILO-IPEC guidance. The NFE Manual was approved by the Kyrgyz Academy of Education and the Ministry of Education and Science in August 2011 and together with the ILO-IPEC SCREAM (Supporting Children’s Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media) package was used as a resource material during the trainings.

By the end of December, the trained specialists have identified 140 children, out of which 40 children working at marketplaces and in seasonal agriculture and 100 children at risk of entering WFCL. Children have been provided with a school-

**“We have been greatly inspired with the experience of the Trade Union Federation of Education and Science of Albania in addressing child labour concerns. It was very useful to discuss and identify all potential challenges and opportunities at the very beginning of our work in establishing child labour free zones in Kyrgyzstan.”**

Bakhtygul Tynybekova, Head of Ysykatinkiy Rayon Committee of TUESWK



Stavri Liko (Albania) conducted two workshops for teachers around the theme of child labour free zones

based package of services that include: non-formal education, (re)integration into formal education, school supplies, monthly food basket, extra-curricular, awareness raising and recreational activities, family counselling, etc. As a result of the services provided, 25 children have been withdrawn from hazardous work at marketplace and agriculture and 100 children have been prevented from entering WFCL.

## Combating child labour through Education in the framework One UN Programme in Kyrgyzstan

ILO-IPEC Kyrgyzstan is involved in the joint United Nations Country Team (UNCT) activities to address the impact of energy and food insecurities, as well as the global economic crisis on the most vulnerable groups. In 2009, Kyrgyzstan was selected by the UN Regional Directors Team as one of the two new countries eligible to develop a One UN Programme for 2010-2011 funded under the Expanded Delivering as One Funding Window (DaO). A two-year strategy was formulated to support the Government in providing sustainable assistance to vulnerable groups to mitigate the effects of the above-mentioned multiple crises.

As part of the One UN Programme, ILO-IPEC Kyrgyzstan successfully applied for funding under the DaO Funding Window and is currently implementing the project “Combating Child Labour through Education in Kyrgyzstan: Capacity building and educational opportunities for school drop-outs”, with a budget of US\$ 99,000. This project was developed in cooperation with the Ministry

**“The funds that allocated under the DaO for the project on “Combating Child Labour through Education” will, undoubtedly, complement and strengthen the efforts of the Ministry of Education in addressing drop out problem in Kyrgyzstan and ensure the sustainability of launched interventions.”**

Damira Kudaibergenova, Head of the Department on preschool and school education.



Informal education class in School No. 43, Bishkek

of Education and Science and it is designed to operate during January-December 2012 to: a/ support development of a curriculum for a non-formal/transitional education programme (catch-up classes) for children with breaks in schooling or who dropped out from secondary education, b/ build the capacity of education specialists to deliver the non-formal/transitional education programme in Kyrgyzstan and of the key stakeholders to mainstream child labour into education sector plans in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, c/ raise the awareness of the public on child labour and importance of education, and d/ knowledge

sharing (lessons learned and good practices). The project is closely linked and designed to complement the ongoing project “Combating Child Labour in Central Asia – Commitment becomes Action (PROACT CAR Phase III)” by addressing child labour through education.

Mainstreaming child labour concerns into the agenda of the UN system in Kyrgyzstan has proved to be of critical importance by bringing additional resources to address child labour at country level, ensuring coordination and avoiding duplication of the activities with other UN agencies.

## Resource persons from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan trained on **Child Labour Monitoring**

A four-day training workshop on Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS) for 15 resource persons from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan was held in September, in Issykkul, Kyrgyzstan. The training addressed the need to strengthen the skills and knowledge of the resource persons to deliver capacity building activities on CLMS for the key stakeholders at national and local levels in their respective countries.

Participants have been equipped with basic knowledge on CLM concept, core steps and key issues in developing and operating a CLMS, considered different CLMS sector specific approaches, reviewed the country specific experiences on CLM, identified the challenges, opportunities, weaknesses and strengths of their CLM systems, designed country specific CLM systems and drafted a plan on how to develop it. As a follow-up of the training seminar, the trainees from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan acted as trainers and delivered trainings to the key stakeholders

on CLMS within projects technically and financially supported by ILO-IPEC.



Representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan took part in the training workshop on Child Labour Monitoring System (September 2011, Issykkul)

## Child Labour Monitoring System established and currently piloted in three rayons of Bishkek Municipality, Issykkul and Chui regions in Kyrgyzstan

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 eliminated. 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.

Since September, the Public Association “SBDC Consult”, in cooperation with Ministry of Social Protection and with ILO-IPEC technical and financial support, has been piloting a Child Labour Monitoring System in Sverdlovskiy rayon/Bishkek Municipality, Aksuiskiy rayon/Issykkul region and Sokulukskiy rayon/Chuy region. Ministry of Social Protection issued the Ministerial Decision № 3/350 from 02 August 2011 on pilot testing the

CLMS for local authorities in the target areas. At rayon level, three Local Action Committees (LACs) including 30 key stakeholders have been established to supervise, provide technical guidance during the monitoring process and make referral decisions for children at risk/involved in worst forms of child labour (WFCL) identified. Six Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) composed of 24 monitors have been established to carry out the monitoring, including identification and tracking of children. 159 members of three LACs, six 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 7 workshops organized in September–November 2011.

By the end of December, 118 children have been identified in the three pilot areas, out of which 45 working children and 73 children at risk to be involved in hazardous work in agriculture and urban informal sector, including work at marketplaces. Children have been provided with to a school-based package of services that include: non-

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formal education, (re)integration into formal education, school supplies, monthly food basket, extra-curricular, awareness raising and recreational activities, family counselling, etc. On the New Year's Eve, rayon administrations in cooperation with pilot schools organized

New Year parties for children included in the project. As a result of the services provided, 28 children have been withdrawn from hazardous child labour in agriculture and urban informal sector and 73 children have been prevented to enter WFCL.

## Minister of Social Protection visited CLMS pilot area: Dordoi wholesale market

The Minister of Social Protection, Ms. Aigul Ryskulova, visited Dordoi wholesale market, a Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS) pilot area, on 30 November 2011. During the visit, representatives of the Ministry of Social Protection, local authorities, social partners, NGOs and media discussed with working children and found out about the working conditions and other problems children face during their daily life. The Minister informed media about piloting of the CLMS in three rayons of Bishkek Municipality, Issykkul and Chui regions in Kyrgyzstan, as a tool for prevention, withdrawal and rehabilitation of working children based on effective partnership of key institutions. "There is an urgent need to combine the efforts of the governmental bodies, parents, social workers and teachers and take joint measures in tackling child labour", stated the Minister.



Social Protection Minister Aigul Ryskulova visited a CLMS pilot area - Dordoi wholesale market

## ILO-IPEC and USAID cooperate in prevention and elimination of child labour through education

ILO-IPEC has established close linkages with USAID Quality Learning Project "Sapattuu Bilim" for provision of catch up classes to children at risk / involved in WFCL with the aim to prevent children at risk from dropping out of school and prepare children who have dropped out for (re)integration in school.

USAID Quality Learning Project, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, have developed a curriculum of accelerated learning (catch up) classes for children with breaks in primary school education based on children's needs identified by a survey in the new settlements in Bishkek city. Piloting of the curriculum was approved by the

Kyrgyz Academy of Science and the Ministry of Education and Science through the Ministerial Order № 791/1-2011 "On piloting catch-up classes for school drop outs and children with breaks in schooling".

The curriculum is currently piloted within two projects implemented by the Public Association "SBDC Consult" and the Trade Unions of Education and Science Workers of Kyrgyzstan (TUESWK) with ILO-IPEC technical and financial support. It includes literacy/numeracy courses and a simplified version of the national primary education curriculum enriched with interactive tools from the "Training Manual for Teachers on Non-Formal Education" produced by TUESWK within an ILO-IPEC project. By the end of December 2011, 125 teachers, school principals and education specialists have been trained on the application of the curriculum and 80 children at risk / involved in WFCL aged 6-14 years were provided with non-formal education classes. After the piloting, the curriculum will be finalized and submitted to the Kyrgyz Academy of Science and the Ministry of Education and Science for approval and further use at national level.

**"The synergy of USAID Quality Learning Project "Sapattuu Bilim" and ILO-IPEC project is a good evidence of effective and efficient coordination and cooperation of international organizations."**

Saule Hamzina, Country Director of USAID  
Quality Learning Project "Sapattuu Bilim"

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