



Children formerly associated with armed forces and groups

“HOW-TO” GUIDE ON ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION



International
Labour
Organization

Why and for whom the “How-to” guide was developed

Many of the children released from armed forces and armed groups are young persons for whom going back to school is not an option. Their needs and aspirations are instead to acquire new skills in view of earning a livelihood. Providing these older children (above the minimum age for work) with long-lasting employment opportunities does not only help them meet their needs and achieve personal goals but it also contributes to peace, stability and growth within their communities. Extending the support to working age vulnerable children in the war-affected community is also an effective way to prevent their enrolment in armed forces or groups.

It is therefore important that release and reintegration programmes for children formerly associated with armed forces and groups and other vulnerable children include a sound economic reintegration component. This is a challenge, considering that reintegration programmes for children are implemented by child protection agencies with limited experience in economic reintegration.

The purpose of the “How-to” guide is to build the capacity of these agencies to implement prevention and reintegration programmes for children with an economic component.

Accordingly, the “How-to” guide aims to be practical, comprehensive, and easy to use for non-specialists, but technically meaningful, and adaptable to the diversity of post-conflict situations.

The “How-to” guide is in line with the existing set of policies and guidelines on release and reintegration of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups, especially the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards (2006), the Paris Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (2007) and the UN Policy for Post-Conflict Employment Creation, Income Generation and Reintegration (2009).

These policies and guidelines have partly standardized

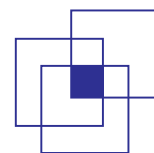
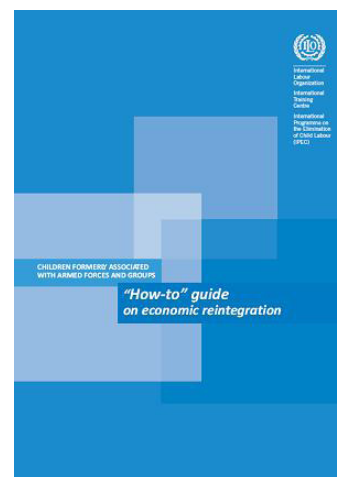
“what” has to be done. The “How-to” guide aims at providing guidance on “how” to do it when confronted with the task in the field.

The content of the “How-to” guide

The “How-to” guide is based on knowledge developed by ILO technical units and on lessons learned from field experiences of ILO technical cooperation projects on the economic reintegration of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups.

The “How-to” guide is based on the ILO Decent Work paradigm. Providing decent work to working-age children formerly associated with armed forces and groups is rather ambitious and achieving it in a (post) conflict environment is even more challenging. However, this guide takes the firm position that decent work for these children and young persons is not a luxury and that the decent work paradigm must be fully integrated into release and reintegration programmes from their outset. It therefore embraces all aspects of decent work and includes tools aiming at:

- ensuring that fundamental rights are respected (no child labour, no forced labour, no discrimination);
- promoting a productive activity that generates adequate income (provision of training to improve technical, entrepreneurship skills, facilitating access to financial services, facilitating integration into the social and economic environment);
- ensuring social protection (facilitating access to health care, ensuring occupational safety and health, addressing HIV and AIDS);
- ensuring voice and representation (participation in associations that help make their voice heard).



How the “How-to” guide is organized

The content of the “How-to” guide is organized in ten modules which deal with the main sectoral components of economic reintegration. Each module is composed of an introductory background section, entitled “What to consider” that briefly summarizes which elements have to be considered in the specific field, followed by a “What to do, how to do it?” section, which provides guidance on the concrete steps that can realistically be taken for the effective reintegration of children. Some modules are completed by selected tools, including checklists, step-by-

step instructions, model terms of reference, specimen of statutes, illustrative best practice examples, etc. that can be used by the implementing agencies and adapted to their specific needs.

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The “How-to” guide is being used as a basis for training at country level jointly organized by the ILO’s International Training Centre (ITC) and International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). Specific didactic tools and methodology have been developed for the training. Participants represent organizations that implement, or plan to implement, economic reintegration programmes for children formerly associated with armed forces and groups and other vulnerable children. The ILO, in collaboration with UNICEF conducted two training courses in 2009 (Southern Sudan and Northern Sudan) and three in 2010 (Nepal, Chad and Democratic Republic of the Congo).

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