Emerging good practice on involving children through the SCREAM programme
(Malawi)

BACKGROUND
Practices that facilitate children’s participation in decisions and activities that concern them are an integral part of the necessary actions to ensure that changes are locally owned and led within the local context. Children should be involved to find out what they think about child labour in order to encourage their participation in responses to it and enhance their personal development. They must exercise their right to self-expression and the attendant programmes must aim at building their confidence and skills. SCREAM, or Supporting Children’s Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media, is an education and social mobilization initiative developed by ILO-IPEC to help educators worldwide, in both formal and non-formal education settings, to cultivate young people’s understanding of the causes and consequences of child labour. The programme uses visual, literary and performing arts and provides young people with a range of tools for self-expression while supporting their personal and social development.

ACTION
In line with ILO-IPEC’s SCREAM initiative, the SNAP Malawi Project was designed to provide support in the form of Information Education Communication (IEC) material on child labour as well as drama tool kits (drums, the scream package etc). This was based on the lesson learnt from the previous programmes that child participation in child labour prevention activities through community-based multimedia approaches (poems, community radio, essay competitions, drama, sports), is very effective. As such, the SNAP Malawi Project adapted the ILO-IPEC SCREAM pack to the local context and translated it into Chichewa. Much like the LIFESKILLS curricula has been incorporated into primary school education, the idea was that the SCREAM pack would eventually be integrated into the Complementary Basic
Education modules and that the government would integrate the SCREAM training modules into national curricula.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS
• The translation into the local language (Chichewa) and adaptation of all the modules of the SCREAM pack have been finalized and field-tested through the partner NGOs in all four project districts;
• Teachers from all the multi-purposed learning centres and programme managers were involved in the review and adaptability process;
• Training of master trainers for SCREAM (AYISE, CICOD and YECE);
• Soft and hard copies of the manuals have been distributed to all the implementing agencies;
• As has initiated the process of making SCREAM a part of the curriculum in the non-formal schools and vocational training centres; and
• The project secured USD 58,465 under the UNDAF II for the child labour interventions with possibility to include training in the formal schools on SCREAM.

LESSONS LEARNED
• While child representation is often conspicuously absent on coordination and advisory bodies at both the district and community levels (project mid-term evaluation), the SCREAM initiative ensures the direct involvement of children;
• The involvement of teachers in discussions and SCREAM training provide avenues for mainstreaming a favourable environment for children and developing understanding of education officials on the problem of child labour and how to address it; and
• As a platform for children’s voice to offer solutions to child labour issues, SCREAM needs follow-up on a continuous basis.

REFERENCES