Catalogue on the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Indonesia
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FOREWORD

On 17 June 1999, a global consensus was reached to tackle and eliminate the worst forms of child labour. A new international human rights instrument, the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention – No. 182, was adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva. The Convention targets such practices as child slavery, forced labour, trafficking, debt bondage, serfdom, prostitution, pornography, and various forms of hazardous and exploitative work. It calls for immediate and effective measures to secure their prohibition and elimination.

The Indonesian Parliament has ratified this Convention by Law (no.1/2000) in March 2000. Ratification means that the Indonesian Government must take immediate and effective action to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labour for all those under 18 years of age. The first step is to identify which types of work in the country are harmful and need to be targeted.

The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) is specifically designed to help nations build their capacity to combat child labour with effective, proven methods. IPEC has been active in Indonesia since 1992 and has gained a lot of experience with Action Programmes targeted at progressively eliminating child labour, with a priority on hazardous labour. IPEC now gives priority to the worst forms of child labour, as described in the Convention.

IPEC has worked with many different partners and built up a network of NGOs working on child labour issues. It has also trained labour inspectors, involved community and religious leaders to motivate parents to send their children to school and provided social protection programmes. IPEC has conducted many studies, rapid assessments, baseline surveys and action researches on different forms of child labour.

This Catalogue provides an overview of the worst forms of child labour in Indonesia. It briefly details the evils of the worst forms of child labour, describes what interventions have taken place and states what is needed in the future. This catalogue does not undertake to be exhaustive, and it will need to be updated. Since Indonesia will not be able to eliminate the worst forms of child labour without substantial financial assistance, it needs the help of the International Donor Community. The catalogue is designed for national and international organization, which are interested in contributing to the elimination of the worst abuses of child labour. For more information about each form of child labour described in this catalogue, please contact the IPEC Office in Jakarta.

Director
ILO Area Office
Jakarta
Children in Agriculture

Problem

Children working in plantations is nothing new, especially in an agricultural country like Indonesia. Since early age, they have been involved with such work to enhance the family income by increasing daily agricultural production. Only a small number of children actually working are registered as employees. The traditional culture favors child labour, which is seen as positive for a child's development. Such unregulated and exploitative child labour encourages the ignorance of parents and children on the importance of education. For children enticed by and encouraged to enter the labour market, education after primary school is seen unnecessary; moreover, secondary schools are difficult to reach. Families in the plantations are often completely dependent on their employers, since they live on the employers' land.

Tasks

The tasks on the plantations vary, depending on the type of plantation, whether coffee, tea, tobacco, sugar, and rubber. Generally children are involved in cutting grass, spraying agrochemical like herbicides and pesticides, cultivating, picking, sorting and carrying heavy loads. In rubber plantations the children have to make incisions on the rubber tree to obtain the latex. In the tobacco plantations, children are seen filling the pollybags, and doing the sujen (stringing tobacco leaves together to aid drying).

Hazards

Each child's working hours usually are over 8 hours a day and frequently reach to 12-14 hours a day. To get better result and also to reach the target, they have to start to work very early in the morning at 4:00 AM. They do strenuous work under extreme weather conditions with unsafe machinery and must use tools that are designed for adults. Children regularly come in contact with dangerous pesticides and herbicides. They lack basic facilities and age prematurely by working with adults.

Ill-effects

Inadequate protection from chemicals, extreme heat and heavy loads are beyond what a child's body can handle. Common adverse health consequences are chemical poisoning (chronic and acute), physical injuries, spine problems and illness. They are known to take on adult bad habits (e.g. smoking) as a result of working in adult environment.

Previous and Current Interventions

Acknowledging the issue, since 1994, IPEC together with an NGO, Paramitra, as the implementing agency has run a community project, which aims at helping children, aged 12-15 years who work in coffee, tea, tobacco and rubber plantations, mainly state-owned, in the district area of Jember, East Java. The project works closely with the local most influential Pesantren (Moslem boarding school), Madinatul Ulum, and the religious leaders. Interventions include:

Capacity building for pesantren leaders and assistants, informal leaders and social workers.
**Awareness raising**, using the local prominent religious leaders' (the Kyai) influence by raising the issue of children's rights in religious meetings. This was very effective, because the community consists of strict Muslims, and they listen to the Kyai. A radio program and quarterly newsletter have also been tools to inform the community about the use of education and the rights of the children, the current situation on plantations, stories of working children, papers on child labour and news on political or legal developments.

**Direct action**, with funding of the Japanese embassy, a building for school and vocational activities was built right next to the Pesantren Madinatul Ulum. Children were provided with non-formal education and vocational training like sewing, silk-screening and business on rice (mina padi) under IPEC.

To make the program more sustainable, currently the government, as owner of state-owned plantations, is approached to discuss the matter, more religious leaders are trained, and involvement of trade unions will be encouraged.

**Interventions Needed**

The program just covered a small geographical area. Since nearly 70% of all working children are employed in agriculture, many of them work in the plantations all over Indonesia. A large time-bound program is needed, which would:

- **Research** and document the situation for the country and identify geographical areas.
- Raise national awareness by TV and radio.
- **Involve the government** to ensure their cooperation for at least state-owned plantations.
- Assist in drafting **special legislation** for the protection of plantation workers.
- **Strengthen the trade unions** to have their assistance in discouraging child labour.
- **Cooperating with the Ministry of Education** to ensure better access to schools in rural areas.

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**Resources sought**

USD 2.2 million/3 years
Children in Armed Conflict

Problem

There are at least four areas of armed conflicts reported in Indonesia such as Aceh, Ambon, West Kalimantan and West Papua. There is no official data on children’s involvement in armed conflicts. However, the ILO received information from NGOs that children in Aceh are forced to work in the military camps of the Indonesian Army. The media also reports that the Acehnese rebels movement, known as Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM), is using children as soldiers. In Ambon, on the Maluku Island, children are reported to be joining the fighting itself. It is not clear if they have been forced to do so. It is more likely that they join their families in the fighting. Media reports that some of the members of a fighting troop in Ambon are children under age, while another troop contains about 2000 to 4000 children, whose commander is 13 years old.

Task

In Aceh, children are observed to render all kinds of services to soldiers, ranging from serving as courier and cleaning to torturing captives, and spying. In Ambon, the children join the fighting and killing of other people.

Hazards

The hazards that children in armed conflict have to face are risks of traumatization, dehumanization, being drugged, being injured and being killed.

Ill-effects

The involvement of children in armed conflict places them at great risk of injury up to death. For those who survive, their mental and physical condition verge on the unrecognizable, and reintegration into their communities is very difficult.

Previous and Current Interventions

In Aceh, one NGO has reported to run some rehabilitation facilities for children freed from military camps. Other interventions facilities are non-existent or unknown.

Interventions Needed

> Awareness raising and alarming the public and responsible officials.
> Direct action by trauma centers and recovery programs.
> Capacity building of partners to deal with children traumatized.
> Research and documentation to assess the extent and magnitude of the problem.
> Establishing a taskforce with all stakeholders and other international organization such as War Child, UNICEF, etc.

Resources sought

USD 200,000/2 years/phase 1
Children in Chemical Industry

Problem

Not much is known about the situation in Indonesia of children working with chemical agents, either by breathing them, touching them or being in a potential explosive working environment. One of the examples of children working with chemical agent is the bleach and detergent industry in Tangerang, West Java. Many very young children from 5 years old are working with the chemical agent: "chloride" or commonly known as "blau". Most such children have never been to school.

Tasks

Most children are working in homes, helping with packaging and drying the bleach. The children are seen packing the bleach blocks, touching them with bare hands, wrapping the blocks into the paper and putting them into boxes.

Hazards

The children touch and breath the chemical substances of bleau all day, which may have detrimental effect to their physical and psychological development. Additionally, the children have to work long hours in a monotonous way and sit in a fixed position for long periods of time.

A child packing the blau into the box

Ill-effects

Children suffer from lower back pains, dizziness, blurred vision, skin irritation, breathing difficulty and fatigue.

Previous and Current Interventions

A local NGO has been implementing an IPEC's program, whose objective is to remove and mainstream the children into the government education program. The intervention includes:
Capacity building, local teachers are trained to implement new non-formal education packages in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Awareness raising amongst the parents, informal leaders on the value of education, the minimum age under the law and occupational health and safety through regular meetings, enabling some children be sent to formal school and others to be allowed to work less hours so that they may attend literacy classes. Direct action, which provides literacy classes, discussion groups and formal school. Moreover, the children are also provided with food supplements and health services. Parents are compensated of the foregone earning by income generating activities.

**Interventions Needed**

- Mapping and documenting of chemical industries employing child labour.
- Awareness raising on dangers of using and working with chemicals should be provided in schools, in communities and by employers.
- Research needs to be done into the hazard of certain chemicals in cooperation with the safety and health department.
- Capacity building of especially the occupational safety and health inspectors and NGOs.
- Direct action in cooperation with the legal authority with removal powers and NGOs or relevant agencies to provide alternatives.

**Resources sought**

USD 200,000/2 years
Children in Clay-pottery, Roof-tiles and Bricks making

Problem

The involvement of children working in these industries are found in small-medium scale industry. Roof-tiles and bricks industry usually can be found in Central Java and also in Purwakarta and Cikarang, West Java. As for clay pottery industry, it can be found in Lombok, North Sulawesi and Yogyakarta. There is no accurate estimate of the number of children involved in these industries. However, in 1995, a research ever conducted by Haryadi and Tjandraningsih on clay pottery in West and Central Java. The research finds that most of working children start helping their parents, from age 5 upwards as part time workers. But when the children reach age 12, they tend to stop going to school since they become employed as full time workers. The money that the children earn will be given to the parents or relatives where they live with, as a part of their contribution.

Tasks

Children involved in making the bricks and roof-tiles manually, molding the pottery, drying process, and loading.

Hazards

Children are exposed to unsafe and unsanitary working condition, heavy loads, lack of potable water, and contact with clay. For the clay pottery industry, children are exposed to use of chemical agents such as glue and oil.

Ill-effects

The excessive burden retards or deforms the normal physical growth and development of children, lack of potable water and contact with clay contributes to the propagation of infection.

Previous and Current Intervention

No interventions have taken place, though the involvement of children in these industries are brought up briefly in some researches, such as: “Child Workers in Indonesia” by White and Tjandraningsih and “Qualitative Research of Working Children in East Java” by UNICEF.

Interventions Needed

- Further study needs to be done to assess the situation of children involved in these types of industry.
- Awareness raising on the importance of education and the risk of child labour, more specifically the risk of carrying heavy loads and using chemicals.
- Cooperate with employers to improve social conditions and create a child labour free environment.
- Capacity building of local NGOs and trade unions.

Resources sought

USD 150,000/2 years
Children in Construction Work

Problem

In big cities, all over Indonesia, we can see children involved in almost all types of construction work. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, in 1998, the number of children aged 10-14 involved in construction and transport sector is 1.3 per cent of total working children in Indonesia or about 114,719 children. Meanwhile, for children aged 15-19 years, it reaches to 294,954. In 1999, the number of children involved in construction work is increasing since the statistic shows that children aged 15-19 years reach 215,865 for construction sector alone. Data on children aged 10-14 involved in construction is not publicized.

Tasks

Children mostly are seen digging earth, carrying loads, breaking stones or rocks, doing metal work and working in high places.

Hazards

The working children are inadequately protected and run the risks of accidents, such as being struck by falling objects, stepping on sharp objects, falling from heights, being exposed to dust, heat and noise and heavy lifting.

Ill-effects

The children suffer from health impairments from noise, vibration and exposure to harmful substances, incapacitation through accidents and injury, such as from falls.

Previous and Current Intervention

Until now, no intervention has been made and the government's program on the occupational safety and health is considered not successful.

Interventions needed

- Research and documentation to assess the extent and magnitude of the problem.
- Awareness raising of safety and hazards for the public at large, but more specifically the workers and employers using their respective organization.
- Workplace monitoring, involving labour inspectors.
- Direct action by removing young workers or improving the working conditions for young workers between 15-18 years old; providing schooling and vocational training; and implementing an income compensation program.
- Law and policy development and developing strict regulation for children between 15-18 years old in construction work.

Resources sought

USD 1.2 million/3 years

The Worst Forms of Child Labour in Indonesia- ILO/IPEC
Child Domestic Worker

Problem

Information is scarce about this 'invisible' child work force- invisible because each child is separately employed and works in the seclusion of private house, unlike children in a factory or on the street. They do not exist as a group and are difficult to reach and count. Even so, according to Indonesian National Bureau of Statistic, the number of child domestic workers in Indonesia between 10-18 years is 310,378 which is around 23% of all domestic workers, comprising 21,648 boys (7%) and 288,730 girls (93%). The actual figure is estimated much higher than that, since the half of the total number of households in Indonesia are assumed to have a domestic helper, particularly in big cities (such as Jakarta, Surabaya, and Denpasar). If this is true, the number of children under 18 working as domestic workers maybe over a million. Most people do not view employment of children as domestic workers as a problem. On the surface child domestic workers may not seem to be one of the worst jobs, but in fact the situation is often deplorable. Child domestic workers are situated at the bottom of social scale and lack the respect of society. Their wages are often below the official minimum wage. Since they work in a private residential setting, they are largely beyond the security of labour inspectors, and they receive little protection from the abuses they suffer.

Tasks

Child domestic workers are seen by most employers as perfect substitutes for adult workers, and their tasks are exactly the same as those of adult workers. They do washing, ironing, mopping floors, cleaning bathrooms, gardening and preparing and serving meals. Many child domestic workers also have to look after the employer's children (company for children is one of the reasons for employing child domestic workers), and male domestic workers are found to be more involved in outside jobs such as helping employers with their deliveries, looking after the employer's car, etc.

Hazards

Child domestic workers have no opportunity to go to school, since they have to work more than 12 hours a day with no leave days, except one day a year after the fasting month. Since they are living in the isolated working places (households), they run the risk of being sexually and physically abused as well. Most of them are also working in irregular working hours without regular intervals.
Ill-effects

The consequences that child domestic workers have to face are poor physical and emotional health due to demanding and demeaning nature of work, the lack of basic facilities, risk of physical injuries, psychological trauma as result of harassment and abuse, emotional distress due to the poor living and working condition, ill treatment by their employers, and isolation from the family.

Previous and Current Interventions

Some limited interventions have taken place, including:

- **A preliminary situation analysis** by the Anti Slavery International (ASI), in collaboration with IPEC in 1995.
- **Rapid assessment** which was recently done by IPEC on September/October 2000.
- **A small project** run by a local NGO in Yogyakarta, which provides research and information, awareness raising on the working condition of child domestic workers in some areas in Yogyakarta and direct services for child domestic workers.
- **The model used by IPEC Philippines** can be used for replication.

Interventions Needed

Since the problem is assumed to be very large, action is needed to:

- **Research** and **documentation** to have a clearer picture of the real number of Child Domestic Workers.
- **Raise the public awareness** to see the issue as a problem.
- **Assist in drafting a regulation** for Child Domestic Worker.
- **Direct action** by establishing drop-in centers, hotline, providing legal and social services.
- **Build capacity** of potential partners.

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Resources sought

USD 1 million/2years/ phase 1

The Worst Forms of Child Labour in Indonesia-ILO/IPEC
Children in Export-Oriented Manufacturing (Rattan, Garment and Textile)

Problem

Industries such as garment, textile and rattan, which in the second half 1996 return to near full capacity after having been heavily affected by the economic crisis. Those industries do not seek manpower with specific skills, therefore it is easy for children to obtain employment in these industries. Although no data is available, it is assumed that the number of the children in these industries increases. Employers usually hire children because they can reduce their expenses by hiring such cheap labour.

Tasks

The main tasks of children working in the textile industry are weaving, printing, knitting and loom operating. In the garment industry, the tasks are divided by gender. Girls doing the ironing and wrapping, while boys doing the cutting. In the rattan industry (which hires boys mainly), children are utilized to sandpaper, grant and tie the knots. Finishing jobs in these export oriented industries are performed in a monotonous way, sitting on the floor for long hours and without being protected from fumes and dusts emanating, knitting and cutting devices.

Hazards

Besides long working hours, children who work in the medium scale rattan industries, usually work in closed quarters. The air does not circulate well, the quarters are usually damp and hot. The activities performed in such quarters generate substantial noises. For the small and medium sized garment and textile industry, the working environments are also damp and hot. Closed quarters are made by crowding in excessive equipment and materials, leaving inadequate space for a human work environment.

Ill-effects

Children suffer discomfort by noises, smoke and high room temperature. They suffer chronic fatigue because of the long working hours, and the monotonous way of working cause children muscular pains. Children also suffer pricks and cuts from knitting and cutting devices.

Previous and Current Intervention

A study was conducted by ILO/IPEC collaboration with The Demographic Institute Faculty of Economics, University of Indonesia in 1996. The study describes how poor the working
environment of the children is in these industries located in Jakarta and Bandung (West Java).

**Interventions needed**

- **Research and documentation** of the problem, extent and geographical areas.
- **Cooperation with employers** (via employers' association) to create better social conditions, and a child labour free industry, which may provide the industry with an enhanced marketing image for better export marketing.
- **Awareness raising** of the problem with parents, children and public at large.
- **Direct action** to provide children and families with alternatives to work.

**Resources sought**

USD 1.5 million/3 years

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*Children working in the garment industry*
Children in the production of Fireworks

**Problem**

Known areas where this type of employment occurs so far, are only Rembang and Parung (West Java), usually in home-industries scale. However, it may occur in other areas in Indonesia as well. As such other home industries, it is difficult to know the number of children involved. This type of employment is considered notorious for its extremely hazardous and exploitative condition of work.

**Tasks**

Children involved in repetitive task such as dyeing outer papers, stuffing fire crackers with cracker powder manually, and packing the final product.

**Hazards**

Children are exposed to hazardous chemical substances and constant risk of fire and explosions.

**Ill-effects**

The children suffer from synergistic effects of chemical intoxication, burns, death and fatigue.

**Previous and Current Intervention**

Until now, no intervention has been made in addressing the issue.

**Interventions Needed**

- Mapping and documenting of fireworks (home) industries employing child labour.
- Awareness raising at the local community and district level on dangers working in such industry should be provided.
- Enhancing the capacity of government, particularly the occupational safety and health inspectors and NGOs.
- Direct action by removing the children from the industry; providing scholarship and vocational training; and implementing an income compensation program.

**Resources sought**

USD 200,000/2 years
Children in Fishery

Problem
This sector activities can be classified by two regions: those are working in the fishing boats (in the sea) and those are working in the fishing industry such as working in canning factory. Fishery productions are important for Indonesia’s national income. According to the Monthly Statistical Bulletin published by The Indonesian National Bureau of Statistic, in November 1999, Indonesia succeeded in exporting 252 thousand-ton (clean weight) in fish. The number shows that fishery business provides a living to many people all over Indonesia, the fishermen particularly. The traditional value which sees children working at an early age as a positive thing and the parents’ ignorance on the importance of education makes this a difficult target group.

Tasks
Children, mostly boys, are employed in setting dragnet in the water, usually at night without any safety devices. Girls do the shellfish gathering, unshelling shellfish, shrimps and crabs and fish salting. All those tasks are carried out on the floor for long hours without any protections for their young and sensitive skin.

Hazards
In doing their work, the children are exposed to life-threatening danger such as being bitten by poisonous sea snake, attacked by wild fish, drowned due to bad weather, burnt by “petromax” (kerosene pressure lanterns), entangled in nets, left in the sea by accident, get injured by the shells and knives, and irritated skin.

Ill-effects
Children are reported to suffer from headaches, ringing ears, eye irritation, nausea, coughing, muscle pains, skin irritation and open injuries.

Previous and Current Intervention
ILO/IPEC has run two small action programs with children in fishery, both implemented by NGOs, including a religious organization. The first program run for 3 years and included interventions such as:
Capacity building for social workers for tutoring 200 working children in Bandelarjo, Central Java. Direct action by providing 150 children with a pre-vocational training in sewing, hair cutting and silk-screening and 40% of the dropped-out children were sent back to school. Awareness raising, especially for the parents of the children on the importance of education for their children through a series meetings and home visits.

The other program is implemented by a religious organization. IPEC assisted them for 5 years, after which the organization is considered capable of running such programs by themselves. The
Interventions were similar. Both programs faced the difficulty of keeping the children in school, particularly when the boats go out to sea for several weeks. It is also reported that an NGO in South Sulawesi deals with the working children in the fishing industry in Makasar.

**Interventions needed**

- **Research and documentation** to assess magnitude and extent of the problem.
- **Awareness raising** through schools and religious organizations.
- **Prevent dropouts** by increasing the quality and relevance of education.
- **Direct action** by providing scholarship, medical services, vocational training, and skills training to attract the children.

- **Capacity building of government and NGOs** to provide occupational safety and health advisory services to fishermen.
- **Income-generation activities compensation.**

**Resources sought**

USD 1 million/3 years

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*Children manually setting up the fishnet in the middle of the sea*
Children in Footwear Industry

**Problem**

Footwear production in Indonesia is mainly a home-based industry and the processes of manufacturing are carried out in the houses, small and large workshops (*bengkels*) and some factories (*pabrikas*). Child labour is mostly found in the homes and the workshops. In Java the footwear industry is known to exist near Bogor and in several villages around Bandung. In the beginning of 1999 more than 1000 children were found in the *bengkels* around Bandung. Many parents consider working is useful to avoid their children’s involvement in drugs, crime, etc. Existing education is not perceived as relevant.

**Tasks**

Repetitive tasks are involved, such as cutting leather or plastic with sharp objects or machines, pasting soles, sticking decorative trimmings to the shoe, making holes in the material, sorting shoes, packing them in boxes, cutting threads and sewing the shoes or accessories. No protection is provided or used.

**Hazards**

The hazards that the children are facing include: long working hours, inhalation of combustible chemicals like glue and packaging materials in poorly ventilated and congested surroundings. Such a work environment exposes children to great danger, particularly in the presence of poorly maintained electric appliances and equipment, and by unventilated cigarette smoke. Some workshops were found to be near home kitchens with natural gas tanks. Cuts and infections from using sharp objects are also a hazard.

**Ill-effects**

Working with glue results in dizziness and respiratory difficulties such as asthma, allergic reactions, headaches or even tuberculosis. Frequent fevers reported as well. Long working hours cause chronic fatigue. Other problems like eyestrain, muscular pains related to the neck, shoulder and upper and lower back, are caused by the monotonous working. The children also...
suffer from injuries including pricks from needles, cuts on the hands from scissors and knives and hurting their hands and fingers with a hammer.

**Previous and Current Intervention**

The present ILO/IPEC program in addressing the issue is one of first comprehensive and integrated, time-bound sector and area specific project. The target group is clear and limited, and the problem is addressed from all sides, including:

- **Research and documentation**, under which all bengkels and children in the villages were identified and mapped.

- **Workplace monitoring and social protection** of viable and sustainable alternatives and the removal from work of 700 children in systematic manner and preventing another from entering workforce.

- **Strengthening the capacity of national and local partners** to plan, initiate, implement and evaluate action to prevent and progressively eliminate child labour.

**Interventions needed**

- Keep **strengthening the owners/operators of footwear workshops and the skilled workers groups** through their associations.

- **Monitoring activity** by local community.

- **Income generation activities**.

- **Skill training activities** for children and their families.

**Resources Sought**

USD 600,000-800,000/ 2years/ phase 2
Children in Hat Industry

**Problem**

This type of employment we know exists in Bandung. However, it may occur in other areas in Indonesia. While many home industries in the Bandung region have laid off child workers, some continue to prosper in particular niche markets, and they are aided by low costs partly afforded by employing the children. One such case is the manufacturing of hats in a peri-urban village on the outskirts of the city. Despite the monetary crisis, the industry has continued to flourish in the village called Margasaish, seemingly because the producers have been able to compete on the basis of cost and product differentiation. They even experience an increase in the demand for certain styles of hats. Close to 1000 workers in all, including family labour, are employed in the industry in Margasaish, including around 100-200 under-age children, some of which are recruited from outside the village. These exploited children earn much less than adults in more skilled work. In March 1999 men averaged 10,000 rupees per day (just under $1) while boys of 13-15 earned closer to 5,000 rupees per day.

**Tasks**

The under 15 year old boys do the screen-printing of a picture or emblem on the front pieces of the hats, and they also help with the packing if the order is a large one.

**Hazards**

The working conditions are cramped and the lighting is generally poor. One local producer located at the end of the village enlarged the scale of his business and now employs more than 70 workers. The producer partitioned a shed into sections with very poor lighting conditions and no flooring. Another way to keep the production cost low is by employing a much greater percentage of children in household units.

**Ill-effects**

Working in such a poor working environment, the children suffer from eyestrain and also suffer muscular pains resulting from the impact of repetition motions on the neck, shoulder and upper and lower back regions of their young bodies.

**Previous and Current Intervention**

The children in this industry were highlighted in a research paper by Chris Manning titled "The Economic Crisis and Child Labour in Indonesia" which was supported by ILO in July 1999. Yet, as of the date of this writing, no interventions by appropriate authorities have taken place.

**Interventions Needed**

- Further study needs to be done to assess the situation of children involved in this type of industry.
- Awareness raising on the importance of education and the risk of child labour.
- Cooperate with employers to improve social conditions and create a child labour free environment.
- Capacity building of local NGOs.

**Resources sought**

USD 150,000/3 years

The Worst Forms of Child Labour in Indonesia-ILO/IPEC
Children Working in Jermal Operation

Problem
Jermals are fishing rigs constructed on woods stilts in the sea floor. The jermals are usually situated in depth of 50-70 feet about 4-16 miles from shore. They are typically found along the eastern coast of four North Sumatran districts: Langkat, Labuhan Batu, Asahan and Deli Serdang. According to the latest air survey of ILO/IPEC monitoring staffs in Medan, there are 140 jermals and 28 mini jermals (tangkul) in operation in those areas. The estimation of children working in those jermals and mini jermals is about 504 children. But this number can change, since the children are recruited annually, as workers are generally contracted for 3 months and recruitment is done 4 times year. Most of them are younger than 18 years and all are boys.

Tasks
The children’s tasks include manually lifting fishing nets every 2 hours, selecting the catch, dropping the nets back, boiling the fish, salting, drying and placing it in baskets.

Hazards
The children have to work a 12-13 hour day from 4:00 AM to 11:30 PM, this includes several breaks which total about 6 hours. However, when fishing is good working hours are extended until 1:00 AM.

Besides irregular long working hours, other hazards that the children have to face are falling into the sea, being drowned (most of the children are not able to swim), being bitten by deadly striped sea snakes or unwanted fish accidentally trapped into the nets, being injured by the net lifting equipment, and being isolated for 3 or 4 months on sea.

Ill-effects
Negative living behaviour and irreparable psychological damage. Some children become alcoholics and drug addicts, and some are verbally or sexually abused by foreman. The most common health complaints are skin irritation caused by the unsanitary living environment on jermals, namely a lack of clean water for showering. Coughs, headaches and rausea are caused by long night working hours changing weather and strong winds.

Previous and Current Intervention
The shocking condition of working children on jermal platforms attracted action by local NGOs. Legal action once taken, without success, but lengthy efforts to publicize this shocking problem have recently finally attracted considerable media attention and increased the pressure to immediately and effectively eradicate the child labour on jermal platforms. The present ILO/IPEC
program in addressing the issue is one of first comprehensive and integrated time-bound sector and area specific project. The target group is clear and limited, and the problem is approached from all sides, including:

- **Research and documentation**, under which jermals and children in the villages were identified.
- **Workplace monitoring and social protection** of viable and sustainable alternatives and the removal from work of 1900 children in systematic manner and preventing others from entering workforce.
- **Strengthening the capacity of national and local partners** to plan, initiate, implement and evaluate action to prevent and progressively eliminate child labour.

### Interventions Needed

- Stabilize the existing integrated monitoring system of jermals in cooperation with labour inspectorate.
- Provide income generation.
- Skill enhancement activities for rural villages which provide children for working on jermals.

### Resources sought

USD 700,000-800,000/2 years

*The Worst Forms of Child Labour in Indonesia-ILO/IPEC*
Children in “Kretek” (Hand-rolled cigarette) Industry

Problem
The involvement of children working in this kind of industry mostly are found in the areas where cigarette/kretek is being produced, mostly are in Java, such as Malang, Kudus, Kediri, Surabaya and Trenggalek in a small or home scale industry, but it may occur in other areas in Indonesia as well. Children are employed with underpaid wage.

Task
Repetitive tasks are involved such as manually rolling the cigarette and packing them in the box. The more cigarettes are rolled, the higher the pay.

Hazards
The hazards that children working in this industry are long working hours and monotonous way of working.

Ill-effects
Long working hours cause children to drop out from school because of lack of time and fatigue. The monotonous way of working causes children muscular pain.

Previous and Current Intervention
Since 1992 until 1997, supported by IPEC, an NGO, LPKP Malang (Institute for Social Development Studies) had taken some interventions in addressing the issue, which are: Capacity building to implement community-based action programs for working children and in transferring LPKP know-how and skills to other organizations. Direct action by providing children with informal education, vocational training, and health education services. Awareness raising of the importance of education and health for children through leaflets and bulletin.

Interventions needed
- Research and documentation to assess magnitude and extent of problem.
- Cooperation with employers to hire adults.
- Prevention and awareness raising at schools, with parents and community.
- Direct action to withdraw children, provide them with schooling, vocational training and skills training.
- Income-compensation by income generation.

Resources sought
USD 300,000/3 years
Children in Mines

Problem

There are many types of mine that can be found in Indonesia such as gold and coal. Though the involvement of children working in mines is known to exist, but yet it remains largely undocumented. One of the examples of children working in mines is the gold mining in Central Kalimantan. There are two types of gold mines: quarrying (in the river or on the surface) and in the ground. Based on ILO/IPEC recent rapid assessment estimates, about 2,671 children are working in gold mines in Central Kalimantan alone. Many children are employed in illegal mining in large or small scale.

Tasks

In river mines, the children’s tasks include: controlling the crane, and separating the gold sediment from dirt or other substances by using mercury. Tasks that children have to perform in ground mines include: digging the ground, breaking up the granites, and using mercury to separate the gold from other substances.

Hazards

Children have to work a 10-12 hour day during the dry season. But when the rainy season comes, the working hours are shorter, about 6 hours a day and sometimes there is no work. The children work under poor conditions; no clear water available, direct exposure to the sun (in the river mines); and no safety equipment. The use of mercury with bare hands is known to cause skin problems and brain damages.

Ill-effects

Many children suffer from cold and malaria by standing in the water during the rainy season and diarrhea during the dry season. Children working at the river mines tend to suffer from cramps and spasm, because they often have to remain in the water for long periods time. The touching of mercury with bare hands causes skin inflammation and long term brain damages.

Previous and Current Intervention

A rapid assessment has recently been done in December 1999 in the province of Central Kalimantan. No action program has been directed at children working in this sector.

Interventions needed

➢ Awareness raising on importance of education and hazards faced by children to the parents, children and community.
➢ Provincial seminars/workshop to sensitize all stakeholders in the site.
➢ Direct action to remove children and the provision of education and vocational training as alternative to such exploitative labour.
➢ Capacity building of local NGOs and local government to deal with child labour issues.
➢ Income generation activities.

Resources sought

USD 2.2 million/3years

The Worst Forms of Child Labour in Indonesia-ILO/IPEC
Children in Mosquito-coils Industry

**Problem**

Mosquito coils production is mainly a medium scale or home industry. As most other home or medium scale industries, we can find the involvement of children in this industry. Unfortunately, there is no accurate estimate of the number of children involved in this business. Children only receive about 70,000 to 100,000 rupees (USD 8-10) per month. This salary is attractive enough to induce children to enter the business, though they are facing certain risks such as blistered hands. The employers tell most children that getting blistered is only temporary. Their hands, they are told, will adapt to the heat and become stronger. Children's hands do indeed become progressively stronger in bearing the heat, but that does not mean they are free from other hazards of their tasks. Children, particularly girls, are powerless to defend themselves from inappropriate treatments by their supervisors.

**Ill-effects**

Blistered hands, skin irritation, respiratory problems and traumatization by sexual abuse.

**Previous and Current Interventions**

No interventions have taken place, though these horrible working conditions are widely publicized in media reports.

**Interventions Needed**

- **Research and documentation** to assess the extent and magnitude of the problem and the geographical areas of occurrence.
- **Awareness raising** efforts directed to the community, to parents and particular to the government to promote awareness that this industry is too hazardous for the employment of children without major appropriate improvements in their working conditions.
- **Occupational safety and health advisory** services to workers and employers.
- **Direct action** by providing scholarships and prevocational training.

**Resources sought**

USD 150,000/2 years
Children in Off-shore Work, with focus on Pearl Sea Diving

Problem

The involvement of children in sea pearl diving work is scattered throughout the country, but it occurs mainly in Maluku Island, South-East and South Sulawesi and other small islands in the eastern part of Indonesia. In former times, divers searched for pearls that formed inside the shells of some oysters or snails. As there was only a small possibility to find them, and as more and more cultivation industries were established, the divers then started looking not only for pearl-oysters or snails, they also dive for sea cucumbers, sea-weeds, and other sea products and sell them to the local industries.

Tasks

The children's task is deep-sea diving to find sea objects that can be sold.

Hazards

The children work under extreme heat for more than 6 hours a day and dive to a depth of 15-20 feet with poor equipment. The children are endangered by attacks by poisonous fish such as jellyfish, sharks and sea snakes and also exposed to injury by sharp objects, such as coral reefs and "duri babi" (echinoida) whose thorns are fragile and easily stick in the children's feet if they accidentally stepped on it.

Ill-effects

The child divers are vulnerable to the following work related health problems: skin irritation caused by the sea water or sunburn, conjunctivitis caused by sun rays, chronic bronchitis, sinusitis caused by high atmospheric pressure, lung disease, cramps, headaches, seeing stars, breathing problems, coughs, ringing ears, eye irritation, cold, severe body pains, typhoid and "caisson" (divers) disease.

Previous and Current Intervention

So far, the intervention that has occurred regarding this issue is a limited study by ILO/IPEC in collaboration with Atma Jaya University.

Interventions needed

- Further study needs to be done into the magnitude, extent and causes of the problem, and the geographical areas in which they occur.
- Awareness raising efforts on the importance of education and occupational safety and health needs of child workers directed to the industry and the community.
- Capacity building of government, NGOs and trade unions.
- Direct action to remove children from the industry and provide alternatives. Generation of income for the family to compensate.

Resources sought

USD 1.2 million/3years

The Worst Forms of Child Labour in Indonesia-ILO/IPEC
Children in Prostitution

Problem

The commercial sexual exploitation of children is one of the most brutal forms of violence against children. There are indications that the problem is on the rise not only worldwide, but also in Indonesia. Official sources assess the number of the sex workers at 73,990. However, other sources estimate that Indonesia is home to at least 650,000 prostitutes of which about 30 per cent is under 18 years old. The prostitution of children tends to be closely linked with exploitation in pornography. Being forced to take part in pornography often leads to the exploitation of children for prostitution. In Bali, children are often exploited for pornography by pedophiles. Prostitution occurs in all big cities in Indonesia.

Tasks

The children's task is providing sexual services to their clients.

Hazards

In providing such sexual services, children are faced with hazards, such as being under forced working conditions and hence exposed to physical violence and sexual abuse, total loss of freedom risk of contracting sexually transmitted disease, including AIDS, emotional and psychological trauma, and being introduced to drugs.

Ill-effects

Child prostitutes suffer from illness and even death from sexually transmitted disease, such as AIDS, emotional trauma and distortion of values, due to ill treatment and abuse by those profiting from prostitution, danger of becoming a victim of sexual and physical violence, risk of pregnancy at young age, and drug addiction.

Previous and Current Interventions

Few NGOs work with child prostitutes, and none of them have programs for prevention or removal. Most services focus solely on health and reproduction information. A study in 1998 on "The Prostituted Child: Case Study in Jakarta, West Java and East Java" by ILO/IPEC collaborating with Kusuma Buana Foundation, University of Atma Jaya Center Research and University of Airlangga, has been published. A follow up in the form of a seminar was organized, but no concrete action has yet been undertaken. ILO/IPEC, however, has a plan to publish a book on child prostitution in Indonesia.

Interventions Needed

- Situation analysis and mapping of extent and magnitude of child prostitution in Indonesia.
- Assessment of legal and policy framework and its implementation.
- Capacity building, seminars on law enforcement and the provision of social services to child victims of prostitution in Indonesia.
- Community awareness raising on child prostitution in Indonesia.
- Preventing early drop-outs from school in a pilot project district with a high percentage of child prostitutes (such as Indramayu).

Resources sought

USD 1,2 million / 3 years
Child Scavengers

Tasks

The child scavenger main tasks are collecting, sorting, cleaning and selling reusable materials from garbage heaps.

Hazards

When the children are working at dumpsites, they have to deal with numerous hazards, such as burns from explosion by combustion of refuse, cuts from glass and metal, exposure to dangerous and toxic household and hospital substances, smoke and fume inhalation, danger of being run over by trucks and bulldozers (particularly at night), temptation to eat rotten food, risk of becoming a victim of violence at the hands of drunks and gangs, etc.

Ill-effects

The children suffer from occupational diseases such as tetanus caused by rusty, sharp and hard objects, anemia, trichuriasis, respiratory problems, chemical poisoning, food poisoning and becoming permanently handicapped or even dying because of being hit by moving vehicles, such as bulldozers and trucks.

Previous and Current Interventions

Since 1992, together with Yayasan Dinamika Indonesia, ILO/IPEC intensified efforts to remove children from scavenging and assist the child scavengers. Interventions include:
Capacity building, of an organization which consists of community groups, religious leaders, youth leaders and ethnic leaders to act together against child labour at dumpsites. Training of teachers and social workers to be able to handle children’s problems by giving children guidance and counseling. In such a program, more assistance and cooperation should be sought from the government.

Direct action, some child scavengers were provided with informal education. Others were enrolled in the formal schooling system, and some were given opportunities for vocational training. In collaboration with a local medical school and a government clinic, NGOs, and the Women’s Association of Manpower Ministry, children received a medical check-up and food supplements.

Awareness raising, by using religious leaders and their congregations in making the community aware of child labour issues through religious meetings. Home visits to parents by social workers to socialize and convince them of the importance of education and dangers to children of working at dumpsites.

Interventions Needed

The program in Bekasi is successful and has become self-sustainable. The program can easily find other funding for such a workable and successful program. Also many lessons have been learnt from the program, which could be replicated in other cities in Indonesia. However, the final solution will be found in awareness raising to motivate the necessary social action to eventually reach the goal of no children and thus families, any longer working at or living near dumpsites. Such a program, more assistance and cooperation should be sought from the government, because a different way of waste management is needed. Achieving such goal is not feasible overnight and is also outside the scope IPEC’s mandate. For the coming years, programs to alleviate bad working conditions at dumpsites and to find or create alternative jobs for young workers are needed. The program should be expanded to other cities and replicated.

Resources sought

USD 500,000/3 years
Children in Stone Quarries

**Problem**

The information about children working in stone quarries in Indonesia is scarce, though their involvement is known to exist. One area that we can find children working in stone quarries is in Welo Regency of Kendal, Central Java, however, it may occur in other areas in Indonesia. All of them are boys aged 11-15 years old. For economic reasons, some of them can not continue their education after finishing their primary school. Thus, by working in stone quarries is the easiest way for them to earn some money.

**Tasks**

Children's tasks in stone quarries include immersing oneself in the water to find big stones and lift them into the rubber drums, then pull them ashore. They also break the stone into smaller pieces with a hammer without hand and eye protection.

**Hazards**

The children have to work for 8 hours a day from 8:00 AM to 16:00 PM. They work under poor condition; no clear water available, directly exposed to the sun, no safety equipment and heavy lifting.

**Ill-effects**

The children suffer from skin irritation, cramps and spasm because they often have to remain in the water. Heavy lifting cause children muscular pains. The children also suffer from injuries by hurting their hands and finger with a hammer.

**Previous and Current Intervention**

In addressing the issue, IPEC assisted a local religious organization for 5 years. The interventions include:

- **Capacity building** by giving training for informal education tutors.
- **Direct action** by providing informal education, pre-vocational skills; integrating children into formal school and also medical services.
- **Awareness raising** of the importance of education through magazine, radio and leaflets.

**Interventions needed**

- Research and documentation to assess geographical areas and magnitude of the problem.
- Awareness raising through community and religious organizations.
- Direct action by providing scholarship, medical services, vocational training, and skills training to attract the children.
- Capacity building of government and local NGOs.
- Income-generation activities as compensation.

**Resources sought**

USD 300,000/3 years
Street Children

**Problem**

Children hawking daily newspapers, magazines, cigarettes, candy, “aqua” (mineral water) and other convenient goods is a familiar scene in Indonesia, especially in the big cities. They mostly can be found serving the poor segment of the urban population on the streets and at the intersections, or other public places. The street hawkers generally work in clusters and operate under the supervision of retail agents, whose function as suppliers which are usually called “bosses” or “employers”, although the children do not receive any regular payments from them. The time to hawk is unlimited for those children. They may operate selling the goods from early in the morning until late afternoon, or from late afternoon until midnight. On average, the children spent 10 hours a day. Some even have to work for 14 hours a day. For those who are still enrolled in school, they mostly spend 5 hours a day. The children work seven days a week from Monday to Sunday.

**Ill-effects**

Child hawkers frequently suffer from coughing, itchiness and dizziness. Other health complaints are colds, ringing ears, bone and joint pain, breathing problem, muscle pain and diarrhea. Some children have symptoms of chronic respiratory inflammation. Many health problems are cause by exposure to pollutants. Others are physical abuse, traumaization and anti social behaviour such as fighting, drinking, drugs, and gambling.

**Previous and Current Interventions**

Actually, most initiatives on child labour by organizations, other than IPEC, have concentrated on this target group. Many interventions have been done by NGOs (National and International including ILO/IPEC); by private sector; by bilateral technical cooperation; by foreign embassies; International donors and the government itself. Although this child labour group is relatively small compared to other child labour groups, child street hawkers are highly visible, and their plight is clearly unacceptable and problematic. Generally, there are 6 kinds of services that have been provided in Indonesia in addressing the needs and wellbeing of child street hawkers, which are:

**Tasks**

The children’s task is hawking.

**Hazards**

Long working hours, slipping or falling down from the public transportation, being arrested at random by the local authority, being grazed or hit by moving vehicles, and slipping into the drain and being exposed to traffic pollution are just some of the horrible working conditions that those children have to face everyday. Their social working environment exposes these children to physical violence, sexual abuse, and anti social behaviour.
1. Special Children’s home, where street children given formal and non-formal education, mental and social guidance, and health care before being referred to appropriate services.
2. Open House for Street Children.
3. Social Organization for Street Children provide basic necessities and guidance for self-reliant living, for those street children below the age of 14 and facilitates re-integration in the family activities include.
4. Family Helper Project or Youth Development Project and Street Children, so that they do not create problems for themselves or for others.
5. Education and Advocacy for Street Children, provides informal education for working children and street children. Many institutions are involved in implementing this service such as Department of Education and Culture, Department of Social Affairs, Department of Information, Department of Religion and private sectors.
6. Mobile Vans which provide books to read for the children on the street.

**Interventions Needed**

- Most programs are providing direct action to the children, but none of them is looking at the causes and prevention.
- A comprehensive study is needed to categorize the street children and the causes of being on the street.
- Awareness raising campaigns in the villages and schools to prevent children from coming to the cities.
- Coordination of all actions is needed.
- Pilot project with direct action for prevention and supporting families with children at risk.

**Resources sought**

USD 1 million/5 years
Child Trafficking

Problem

Children are increasingly being bought and sold inside and across national borders by organized networks. Their vulnerability to be exploited is even greater when they arrive in another country. Their lives are completely at the mercy of the employers and foreign authorities, and all contact with their families is severed. Although information about child trafficking in Indonesia is scarce, there is enough evidence to show that this intolerable form of exploitation of children is happening to Indonesian children. It is shocking to note that National and International networks exist to transport children under 18 from one place to another by using violence, threat, deception or debt bondage. Factors which contribute to the existence of trafficking are:

- Early marriages and early divorces, still common in Indonesia.
- Early labour participation and early drop-out from school.
- Lack of birth registration and falsification of Ids.
- Social conflict and wars.
- Lack of legal protection.

Purposes of trafficking in Indonesia based on a review of available evidence are:

1. Prostitution and pornography.
2. Exploitative labour such as fishing platforms (jermal), work on plantations, work in construction, factory work.
3. Domestic services.
4. Organized begging directed by profiteers.
5. Trafficking in drugs.

Hazards and Ill-effects

Hazards and ill effects for children being trafficked for sexual or labour exploitation, organized begging and drug sale and distribution are even more severe than the usual exploitation. Most children are recruited by deception and often they are not free to leave, are enslaved by debt, and often permanently lose contact with their families. Their work sometimes is invisible and hidden, and the children are very isolated. Such trafficking is usually directed by criminal organizations, which make interventions very complicated and difficult.

Previous and Current Interventions

Recently ILO/IPEC, in collaboration with Department of Social Welfare, University of Indonesia, did a preliminary study on the situation of trafficking of women and children in Indonesia. In other countries, IPEC has gained some experience with trafficking programs. Especially the program in the Mekong Delta (Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam) is an example of such a program.

Interventions Needed

- In depth research to determine the nature and magnitude of the problem.
- Government assistance and involvement in developing a policy and mechanism at the national and district levels for eliminating child trafficking.
- Awareness raising to inform and alarm communities and policymakers.
- Direct action and immediate assistance to children rescued from trafficking and to their families.
- Capacity building for organizations responsible for combating trafficking.

Resources sought

USD 2.2 million/3 years
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