

Supporting Child Rights through Education, Arts, and Media (SCREAM) implementation in Egypt

Good practices



Responds to the following criteria

- ▶ Relevant
- ▶ Replicable
- ▶ Sustainable



Main stakeholders

- ▶ Ministry of Social Solidarity
- ▶ Non- Governmental Organizations
- ▶ Ministry of Education and Technical Education
- ▶ Dual Education Department
- ▶ National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
- ▶ Ministry of Endowments and Banque Misr.

► Description

In Egypt, child labour undermines children's rights, health, and overall well-being, while at the same time diminishing the quality of human capital, thereby impeding economic growth and obstructing the attainment of national goals such as educational advancement, economic development, poverty reduction, and the elimination of social marginalization. This issue also compromises Egypt's efforts to achieve its commitments vis-a-vis the sustainable development goals.

Individuals engaged in child labour from a young age are likely to continue this cycle with their children due to entrenched poverty and limited educational opportunities.

In response, the ACCEL Africa project implemented the ILO "Supporting Child Rights through Education, Arts, and Media" (SCREAM) Programme, a critical intervention aimed at withdrawing or preventing boys and girls from engaging in child labour and reintegrating them into the educational system as part of an integrated approach to empower the whole family to ensure a sustainable withdrawal of child labour. This initiative has empowered

over 3,000 children at risk or already engaged in child labour and reached more than 2,200 parents with financial literacy and inclusion sessions as well as awareness sessions on the negative impacts of child labour on individuals, families, society, and the country as a whole. The programme educates children about their rights, including the right to be free from economic exploitation, enabling them to advocate for themselves and seek help.

A significant step in the SCREAM programme was adapting the module to the Egyptian context and updating it to address the current challenges faced by children as it was developed and launched in 2002, specifically to cater to children working in agriculture. This adaptation process ensured that the programme was culturally relevant and responsive to the local environment. To further enhance the programme's effectiveness and sustainability, the project selected the Sohag Women and Children Development Association NGO as the implementing partner due to its strong presence and expertise in the target areas. The NGO Facilitators were capacitated with a Training of Trainers (TOT) model to effectively deliver the adapted SCREAM

► Description (Cont.)

training children engaged in the cotton supply chain and ensuring knowledge through their activities among their various programmes, even beyond the project end date. In addition, the NGO supported the establishment of community committees responsible for following up on children's school attendance.

The implementation phase of the programme involved intensive SCREAM training for children across 12 sessions, incorporating educational activities, games, drama, arts, and multimedia to foster a supportive environment for advocacy and change. These activities were designed to raise children's awareness about their rights and mobilize their communities to change social attitudes towards child labour and it represented a safe space for children to express themselves freely and be rehabilitated.

The project introduced an innovative approach to enhance its effectiveness in combating child labour through organizing graduation ceremonies as celebratory events, for each 100 children after completing their training, to mark the educational progress of children, where they presented their creative works through drawings, theatre, puppet shows, and receiving their certificates along with school supplies with their parents' presence. These ceremonies also incorporated educational sessions for parents, facilitated by partnerships with local banks and social governmental service providers, emphasizing the hazards of child labour and the importance of education as well as facilitating access to finance for parents.

In parallel, in the framework of the partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS), the project conducted a comprehensive needs assessment of all Combating Child Labour Centers CCLCs across Egypt. This assessment led to a deeper understanding of the centres' conditions and resulted in the issuance of Decree 767 for 2022 by the Ministry, with the technical assistance of ACCEL Africa Project, which amended the bylaws of Child Labour Centers to enhance their organizational and administrative structures. Building on this foundational improvement, SCREAM training was extended to these centres in targeted governorates, ensuring that the initiative's reach was broadened, and its impact maximised and institutionally sustained.

This strategic approach not only addressed immediate educational needs but also cultivated a sustainable environment that actively discourages child labour and supports the development of healthy, educated future generations in Egypt. Following these achievements, the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS) sought to further enrich the Wa'y (Awareness) programme by incorporating a booklet on Child Labour and the importance of children staying in schools. This addition aimed to educate families about both the legal implications and the broader social consequences of child labour. By concentrating on the community environment surrounding the affected children, the enhanced Wa'y programme promoted a more comprehensive understanding and a unified commitment to combat child labour practices, exemplifying good practice and innovation in the project's execution.



► Process



Adapting SCREAM module to the Egyptian context

During the preparatory phase, the SCREAM module was tailored to cater specifically to children working in agriculture in Egypt. This adaptation process involved modifying and developing the module to ensure it was appropriate and effective for the target group of children.



Selection of an implementing partner

On the implementation phase, the focus was on ensuring the program's long-term sustainability. The project partnered with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS), which supports children and families in Egypt through various programs and policies providing social protection, economic support, and educational opportunities. The project issued a request for proposals to select an NGO under MOSS supervision with a strong presence, expertise, and extensive coverage in the target areas. The "Sohag Women and Children Development Association NGO" was competitively selected as the project's implementing partner for the SCREAM program, meeting the criteria to reach the targeted beneficiaries.



Capacity building for Facilitators

Facilitators from the NGO were selected for a Training of Trainers (TOT) to effectively share their knowledge and use the SCREAM module with the targeted beneficiaries in the governorates. Facilitators were chosen based on their performance during the training, demonstrating their ability to deliver the SCREAM training effectively. The NGO selected children engaged in or at risk of child labour in the cotton supply chain, based on criteria developed by the project. Children whose parents had successfully completed the GetAhead training with the project were also targeted to ensure a comprehensive intervention and sustainable withdrawal from child labour.



SCREAM training implementation

During the implementation phase, children participated in a 12-session intensified SCREAM training program, which encouraged them to share their experiences and raise awareness about child labour. The sessions promoted awareness of children's rights, focusing on child labour, and aimed to mobilize communities to change social attitudes. The training covered children's rights, relevant conventions, the legal age for training and employment, and acceptable occupations for children above 15 years of age. Educational activities included games, drama, arts, and multimedia to help children express themselves and learn about the social and economic factors contributing to child labour. By the end of the sessions, children became more confident in expressing their thoughts and opinions, and their perceptions towards work, education, and childhood were positively challenged and changed.



Graduation ceremonies

The project adopted an innovative approach to strengthen the SCREAM program's effectiveness in tackling child labour by organizing graduation ceremonies for each group of 100 children who completed the program. These events celebrated the children's educational achievements and increased parents' awareness of combating child labour.

► Process

Intervention with children during the graduation ceremonies: During the ceremonies, children showcased their drawings, performed live theatre and puppet shows prepared during the training, and received appreciation certificates, school bags, and supplies to support their education.

Intervention with parents during the graduation ceremonies: The ACCEL Africa Project implemented targeted interventions with parents during the graduation ceremonies and through parallel interventions, such as GETAhead. Parents were introduced to national and local child referral mechanisms, including Child Protection Committees and the children's helpline supported by the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM). Sessions conducted by religious leaders provided guidance on family reunification and positive parenting techniques. Additionally, parents were introduced to various local public services documented in the "Public Service Guidebook" developed by the ACCEL Africa Project. The Ministry of Education promoted the Technical Dual Education System, and MOSS highlighted conditional cash transfer programs like "Takaful" and national programs that improve family income while reducing school dropouts. MOSS also presented the Wa'y "Awareness" module on eliminating child labour, developed with the ILO ACCEL Africa Project.

In collaboration with Banque Misr, the project conducted financial literacy sessions, distributed prepaid Meeza cards, and assisted parents in opening bank accounts or securing microcredit loans to enhance their income-generating activities. This initiative led to the opening of 8,267 bank accounts, the distribution of 17,923 prepaid cards, and the initiation or improvement of over 1,000 income-generating micro-projects, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to building economic stability and supporting educational and social interventions against child labour.



SCREAM training with MOSS Combating Child Labour Centers (CLCs)

The ACCEL Africa project, in partnership with MOSS, enhanced the effectiveness of the Combating Child Labour Centers (CCLCs) across Egypt. A comprehensive needs assessment of all CLCs provided critical insights into their operational conditions. Based on the findings, Decree 767 for 2022 was issued by MOSS to improve the organizational and administrative structures of the CCLCs.

► Process

Additionally, the project collaborated with MOSS CCLCs to implement SCREAM training. While MOSS served as the primary provider of the training, the ILO played a pivotal role in piloting the process by capacitating CCLC's facilitators to effectively deliver the SCREAM training.

In this framework, 242 children (168 boys, 74 girls) have completed their SCREAM training and 192 parents (6 males and 185 females) have attended the last day of training and received awareness on the phenomenon of child labour and ways to avoid engaging their children in it.

Achieving different outcomes through innovative approaches

The project, in collaboration with MOSS, produced a documentary film featuring boys and girls describing their experiences with child labor and how they benefited from the SCREAM program. This documentary serves as a powerful tool to raise awareness and educate broader audiences about the challenges and solutions related to child labor in Egypt. [You can watch the documentary here.](#)



► Enabling Factors

► Partnership and collaboration with key stakeholders

The involvement of the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MOETE), the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), and Banque Misr was crucial. This collaboration ensured a coordinated approach, leveraging the strengths and resources of each stakeholder to create a comprehensive and sustainable intervention.

► Capacity building and training of trainers (TOT)

Providing extensive training for facilitators from the selected NGO and MOSS CCLCs ensured that they were well-equipped to deliver the adapted SCREAM training effectively. This capacity-building initiative ensured the program's quality and sustainability, as these trained facilitators could continue to educate and empower children beyond the project's lifespan.

► Adaptation of the SCREAM module to local context

Adapting the SCREAM module to address the specific needs and challenges faced by children working in agriculture in Egypt was essential. This customization made the program culturally relevant and responsive, enhancing its effectiveness and acceptance among the target groups.

► Comprehensive support for families and financial empowerment

Integrating financial literacy sessions, access to microcredit loans, and financial inclusion initiatives for parents played a crucial role in addressing the root causes of child labour. By empowering families economically, the project helped create a stable environment that reduces the likelihood of children engaging in labour. This multifaceted approach ensured the intervention's sustainability by tackling both the symptoms and causes of child labour.

Replication in other countries

To replicate the SCREAM training programme in other countries, countries need to adapt the programme to the local context and relevant supply chain, engage stakeholders, provide capacity building for facilitators, raise community awareness, target interventions towards children and their families, encourage creative expression, monitor, and evaluate the programme's impact, and foster knowledge sharing and collaboration. By this, the SCREAM programme can effectively empower children, raise awareness about child labour, and contribute to its eradication.

