



International
Labour
Organization

Mapping of duty bearers and stakeholders for partnerships and social mobilisation for the elimination of child labour in Sri Lanka

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International
Programme on
the Elimination
of Child
Labour (IPEC)

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The elimination of child labour has received increasing attention in recent years as an issue of critical importance in ensuring the right of children to a mentally, physically, emotionally and socially healthy life in their childhood and in their adult years. At international level, norms have been set and a framework provided for national policy and legislation by landmark Conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and in particular its sections 32, 34 and 35, the ILO Conventions No. 138 on the Minimum Age of Employment (1973) and No.182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999), and the UN Protocol for Prevention, Suppression and Punishment for Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2000).

Sri Lanka ratified some of the ILO Conventions over the years and introduced labour legislation such as the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act of 1956. The acceptance of child labour as a strategy for family survival in low income communities and ad hoc legislation and 'exceptions' leading to confusion and sometimes to contradictory policies have been a major barrier to the reduction of child labour in the country. A stronger official stance against child labour is predicated with the revisions to the Penal Code in 1995 and 1998, the ratification of ILO Convention No.138 on the minimum age of employment in and ILO Convention no.182 on the worst forms of child labour and the amendments to the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act in 2006. Controversy continues over the decision by Sri Lanka to enforce 14 years as the minimum age of employment while compulsory education regulations have been introduced in 1998 for the 5-14 age group. The ban on employment under 14 years tends to be diluted also by the permissive attitude to family labour irrespective of age. The most recent initiative to prohibit participation in identified 'worst' forms of labour under 18 years is salutary in its specificity and will hopefully give a clear focus to policies and programmes to eliminate the exploitation of the labour of children (as defined by the UN Convention) under 18 years.

The ILO Convention No. 182 identified the worst forms of child labour that should be prohibited for persons under 18 years as

- a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- b) The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography, or for pornographic performances;
- c) The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;
- d) Work which, by its nature or circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of the children

In accordance with the provisions of the Convention, the National Steering Committee in Sri Lanka recommended a list of hazardous forms of child labour appropriate to the local context, which were then adopted by the National Labour Advisory Council.

These encompass

- any form of slaughter; work connected with or use of pesticides, lead, zinc metallurgy, hazardous or harmful chemicals, ionising radiation: tannery, manufacture of dangerous objects as in the fireworks industry; transport, sale and use of explosives, armed combat and production of weapons /knives /guns;

- work connected with heavy manual work in construction and demolition sites, lifting, carrying or moving any load, transportation of passengers and heavy goods, cleaning or repair of machinery in motion. mining, quarries and underground work, gem mining, smelting of metals, manufacture of glass, brass foundries, metal/rock stone crushing, sand mining, the limestone industry, garment and textile industries including batik ,brick manufacture, rubber manufacture, road construction and land reclamation, work in tree climbing, felling of trees, working at unguarded heights above two metres, dangerous performances including acrobatics, garbage collection and disposal, conservancy, and scavenging;
- agricultural work including plantation labour, exposure to bio hazardous substances including infective agents, labour inside forests, fishing,
- work on vessels or craft, shipping, water transport; diving, work in ports or harbours;
- work in day and night clubs, bars and casinos, night work between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.; work in hotels, eating houses, restaurants and shops; tourist related activities; call centres and telemarketing; alcohol production, transportation and sale; tobacco production, making of beedi, cigars and such other items; all such work that expose children to sexual and illegal activities.
- child domestic workers.

Legal interventions alone have not reduced child labour of any type at any age. Social awareness and action are necessary to explore the ramifications of child labour that trap children in less visible forms of employment in the amorphous informal sector or in the underworld. Many state institutions and non governmental organisations have been engaged on programmes to prevent and eventually eliminate all forms of child labour. ILO's creation of its IPEC Programme (International Programme on the Elimination of Child labour) has made available to institutions and organisations resources that are being used increasingly for advocacy, research and action programmes. ILO-IPEC's official link with the state has facilitated action at policy, implementation and action levels. Nevertheless, as in other issues, a synergy of efforts is necessary to change attitudes and to motivate action. Sri Lanka's experience with social mobilisation since the mid twentieth century has shown that collective effort facilitates successful outcomes of strategies and programmes. While institutions and organisations will always need the space for individual initiatives, networking to expedite action with a specific focus is likely to be a rewarding experience in terms of pace of achievement.

1.2 Objectives and scope

The objectives of this review of agencies engaged in child labour related activities are to

- i. identify existing and potential partners working in the area of child labour,
- ii. provide an overview of the programmes of these state, international/regional and local agencies,
- iii. identify areas for joint action and for potential partnerships

The methods used have been to examine and gather information on the status quo including current programmes and activities from the available literature and from interviews with key personnel in agencies implementing programmes. Focus group discussions were not a feasible or productive approach within the time limits of the exercise. The problem encountered was the absence of information on all agencies or organisations engaged in such programmes, particularly those implementing small programmes at local level. The lack of a comprehensive inventory of non governmental and community based organisations was a constraint to access to information.

The information presented pertains to

- State agencies mandated to implement policies and programmes to eliminate child labour
- UN and other international and bilateral organisations
- International non governmental organisations
- Local non governmental organisations

Section 2 will endeavour to meet objectives (i) and (ii) and Section 3 will explore avenues for collaboration.

2. Institutions and Organisations

2.1 State agencies

2.1.1 Ministry of Labour and Foreign Relations

The Ministry is responsible for overall policy on labour related issues. It is, for instance, the authority that recommends to government the ratification of ILO Conventions and the introduction of labour legislation and amendments to existing legislation. The Ministry has formulated with assistance from ILO and after a consultative process, a Plan of Action to eliminate the worst forms of labour. The Department of Labour which functions under the Commissioner of Labour has several Divisions, some of which have child labour related functions.

The Women and Children's Division under a Deputy Commissioner

- works towards preventing child labour
- implements employment related laws
- investigates complaints regarding the illegal employment of children
- and files cases against employers in Courts
- conducts programmes such as seminars, workshops, distribution of information and advocacy material, to create awareness among labour officers and the public regarding the need to prevent child labour.

The Division has an Assistant Commissioner in each district who is a member of the District Child Protection Committee which functions under the NCPA, District Labour Offices, and around 200 Labour officers. A capacity building programme has been carried out under the ILO/IPEC programme to facilitate the implementation of programmes. A District Co-ordinating Committee was appointed in 2000. A perusal of the administrative reports of the Department from 2000 to 2006 indicates that it has received 100-300 complaints a year against violations of child labour legislation, and after inquiry has filed cases against 10-20% of them. Labour inspections are also carried out of employment establishments that use child labour or use children in hazardous employment in order to bring employers who employ children to court.

Awareness programmes are also conducted through TV and Radio and the Press. The Division has published a 'Handbook on Laws pertaining to the prevention of Child Labour in Sri Lanka' in 2005 with ILO/IPEC support. The Handbook provides information on Conventions 138 and 182 and on laws, on the agencies that implements laws, and on cases that have been filed in courts.

The Division operates under constraints as it needs the co-operation of the police, and legal and medical personnel to take effective action. It attempts to work currently through teams of District Labour and Probation officers and local Police personnel to facilitate action on complaints. The resources available to the Division in the form of facilities such as transport appear to be inadequate to carry out extensive programmes or investigative inquiries of hidden employment.

The Human Resources Development Division and the Industrial Relations Division also have a role, the latter in inspecting workplaces and monitoring occupational health and safety measures.

The Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau established in 1985 to manage the area of employment overseas has an important role in preventing trafficking of children under 18 years for employment overseas. The recent evidence of migrant domestic workers under 18 years employed in Saudi Arabia using forged passports came to light after the death penalty for murder was imposed on a young housemaid. The Bureau's role is therefore becomes crucial, particularly in monitoring the activities of legal and illegal employment agencies.

2.1.2 Department of National Planning

This Department which functions under the Ministry of Finance is responsible for preparing national plans. In this capacity it co-ordinated the National Plan of Action for Children 2006-2008. One component of the Plan prepared by a team that worked with the Ministry of Labour was on 'Combating Child Labour' as an issue of high priority. Its proposals pertain to eliminating under age employment, labour that has a negative effect on the well being of children and worst or hazardous forms of labour.

Some of the awareness programmes conducted by the Women and Children's division in the Department of Labour stem from the National Plan. The implementation of the relevant components of the National Plan need to be monitored regularly to ensure successful outcomes.

2.1.3 National Child Protection Authority

Concerns regarding the increasing evidence of child abuse led to the establishment of a nodal agency, the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) under the Executive President, by Act no.50 of 1998. The NCPA works in close co-operation with state and non governmental organisations, and adopting a multi disciplinary approach, has organised District Child Protection Committees consisting of representatives from different fields. NCPA's functions are to

- i. advise the government on formulating national policies to prevent child abuse, protect children and rehabilitate victims of abuse. As child labour, both employment under 14 years and hazardous forms of employment at all ages to 18 years are forms of child abuse, working children came within the ambit of its activities,
- ii. recommend legislative and administrative reforms,
- iii. create awareness of child rights and the implications of child abuse.
- iv. monitor progress of investigations and criminal proceedings,
- v. promote child protection activities at provincial and district levels,
- vi. accept complaints regarding child labour and refer them to relevant authorities,
- vii. develop a data base and conduct relevant research,
- viii. propose action to be taken regarding children involved in armed conflict.

NCPA had as one of its priorities the prevention of trafficking children for exploitative employment:

- With ILO/IPEC support, an anti-trafficking Unit was established and its officers trained for professional surveillance of child traffickers. In the context of increasing Internet related abuse of children, a Cyber Watch Unit was used to track paedophiles from overseas resulting in legal action against them.
- A national Task Force was created comprising government and non governmental key persons to develop a National Plan of Action 'to combat the trafficking of children in Sri Lanka for exploitative employment'. The Plan proposed four areas of intervention – legal reform and law enforcement, institutional strengthening and relevant research, prevention of trafficking and rescue, rehabilitation and integration of child victims. A Task Force from different fields has been appointed to monitor progress.
- Rehabilitation Centres for trafficked children were opened in collaboration with the Department of Probation and Child Care in Moratuwa and Negombo.
- Awareness creation programmes were carried out using multi media and stickers, calendars, diaries, posters, cartoons and VCDs were used successfully to create an impact.
- A study on Youth Domestic Workers (14-18 years) was followed by proposals for legal amendments and the formulation of a Code of Conduct.
- Psycho social support was offered to children in families affected by the tsunami.
- A biannual Newsletter titled 'Combat' discusses issues pertaining to child labour and abuse. Vol. 6, December 2004, for instance, raises the issue of child soldiers as a flagrant violation of the rights of children and international Conventions and national laws.
- Vigilance was exercised in preventing the trafficking of children abroad in the aftermath of the tsunami.

NCPA programmes have had a significant impact and have pointed the way to successful action in combating all forms of child labour. The investigative activities of its staff at local level and efforts to empower local communities have borne fruit.

2.1.4 Ministry of Foreign Affairs

As the Ministry taking the lead role in relations with other countries, it is in a position to intervene in trafficking of Sri Lankan children overseas. UN Conventions and Protocols are ratified by the Ministry, and as the channel through which country reporting is facilitated, representatives of the Ministry have a role in steering committees.

2.1.5 The Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice and its Departments such as the domain of the Attorney General and that of the Legal Draftsman are consulted by the Ministry of Labour and Foreign Relations before the presentation of labour legislation to Parliament. The Judicial Services Commission oversees the dispensation of justice and punishment of offenders while the Legal Aid Commission supports the victims of abuse. Consequently awareness programmes are necessarily conducted to promote attitudinal change and to heighten the sensitivity of the judiciary to child labour related issues..

The Court has powers to order protection and care of children under 18 years who have been brought before the Courts, such as attending an approved or certified school, handing over to the care of the

mother/ father/ guardian under a formal bond, placing them under the supervision of a Probation officer or any other person appointed by the Court for a period not exceeding three years.

2.1.6 The Police

The officials of the Departments of Labour and Probation and Child Care are often frustrated by their inability to prevent child labour or to punish offenders without the collaboration of the police. At district and local levels police personnel are a visible presence. The Women and Children's Bureau/Desk at headquarters is the nerve centre that receives complaints and takes action on child labour and child abuse concerns as the police have a dedicated special help telephone line for receipt of information and complaints regarding child labour and all forms of child abuse. The Special Women and Children's Police Desks located in 34 police stations were intended to provide easy access for victims seek support and justice. An earlier study noted that they were under resourced and not equipped to perform the tasks that were envisaged for them. They remain an important link in law enforcement and need to be child friendly.

2.1.7 Ministry of Social Welfare

The Ministry of Social Welfare has overall responsibility for programmes for the protection and welfare of children.

The Department of Probation and Child Care is the institution within the Ministry that has been assigned this specific task. The Department has important functions in this respect, to prevent children from engaging in employment and clearly in exploitative and harmful forms of employment, support legal action against employers of children,

- i. provide protection and care of children rescued from child labour,
- ii. withdraw child workers from employment, and in the case of older children, from hazardous work, re-unite them with their families and reintegrate them in society,
- iii. make optimal efforts to rehabilitate children who are subject to psych-social trauma as a consequence of abuse and exploitation in the workplace.

The Department has district based officers who receive complaints of violations of labour laws and exploitation and abuse and have necessarily to collaborate with police personnel and labour officers to ensure legal and remedial action. The main Colombo office maintains records of complaints and action taken including court cases, which are presented in their annual reports. The Department also works with the Child Rights Promotion Officers appointed in 1999 and located in Divisional Secretariat Offices. Its officers are represented on the Monitoring Child Rights Committees in the Divisional Secretariat offices. Awareness programmes are conducted at local level on child rights and on the illegality of all forms of child labour.

The Department provides protection and care to children referred to courts by placing them in state institutions affiliated to the Department or in Children's Homes organised by non governmental organisations and attempts to re-unite them with families and to rehabilitate victims of abuse. Several studies made of these institutions have highlighted the lack of facilities in these institutions, exposure to the influence of adult criminals in transport to courts, lack of empathy in the tendency to treat victims as offenders and long periods of residence without action that deny children their fundamental rights particularly in state detention and correction centres. Probation and Child Care is a devolved subject but it has been observed that Provincial Councils give low priority to Children's Homes and to rehabilitation.

Earlier reports refer to efforts made in the 1980s by the Department to provide institutional care for 'street children' in the Koggala Home for street children, the Minuwangoda Home for boys, the

Residential Home for girls in Ingiriya, and the Day Care Centre in Havelock Town which appear to have ceased to function.

The most recent initiative taken in collaboration with the NCPA and supported by ILO/IPEC is the establishment of the National Centre at Paratha, Moratuwa, under the purview of the department. This Centre offers training and counselling as a part of the process of rehabilitation of child victims of exploitative employment and abuse. It is envisaged that they will be reintegrated with their families or placed in foster care.

2.1.8 Department of Census and Statistics

The Department is the chief national data gathering institution. Its Census and regular Labour Force surveys provide statistics pertaining to the numbers in the 5-14 age group and in the 15-19 age group in the work force. It is possible to estimate the minimum number of children who can be categorised as child labour from these reports. These large surveys, however, rely on the responses of householders whose credibility with regard to information on working children is doubtful. The Department also carries out special surveys on important areas for policy intervention such as the Child Activity Survey in 1999. It may be possible to support more focussed surveys on child labour such as the survey of the hundred most disadvantaged Divisions carried out by the Department or perhaps on institutions that employ child labour that is currently invisible in official statistics.

2.1.9 Central Bank

The Central Bank conducts regular socio-economic surveys and publishes data on working children which correspond generally with the national statistics provided by the Department of Census and Statistics. It may be possible to elicit more information on child labour through these surveys.

2.1.10 Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Education which is responsible for policy making in education, introduced compulsory education regulations for the 5-14 age group with effect from January 1998 and appointed Attendance and Monitoring Committees at Grama Niladhari Unit and Divisional levels respectively, to monitor the enforcement of these regulations. Regrettably these committees were inactive and ceased to function after 2000. They have been re-activated, however, under the Education Sector Wide Education Programme Framework implemented since 2005, which articulated commitment to free education and to enforcement of the compulsory education regulations as well as to extending education opportunities to vulnerable groups such as working children, street children and children with disabilities.

The Non Formal Education Division of the Ministry which had earlier been responsible for the enforcement of compulsory education with the assistance of the Committees, has been re-assigned this responsibility. Its 2006 report indicated that some of the Committees are active and that the Division has exceeded its target in enrolling out of school children in schools. Since school attendance reduces the chances of being absorbed at least into full time employment during the compulsory years of education, this Division has a crucial role to play in the elimination of child labour.

The Division has also set up six centres for street children, including in Colombo and Kataragama, to attract them to non formal education and to assist in their withdrawal from the child workforce. The non formal centres promote re-entry into the formal education system and provide vocational training for employment. The Division's Community Learning Centres also provide vocational training for children beyond the compulsory school age. Such training is likely to equip children for skilled and more remunerative jobs and to reduce the numbers trapped in exploitative and harmful employment.

Proposals have been made by the National Education Commission in 2003 and in the National Plan of Action for Children (2004) to extend compulsory education to 16 years. Advocacy to expedite the

introduction of this policy will work towards preventing at least a proportion of older children from being deployed in the worst forms of labour.

2.1.11 Ministry of Vocational Training

This Ministry has a network of vocational training centres in all districts that offer free, full time, part time and apprenticeship skills training to school leavers and drop outs. These opportunities offer a chance to older children who have dropped out of school after at least eight years of education to acquire skills at no cost that can facilitate entry to skilled employment, without being deployed in unskilled domestic labour, hard manual labour, commercial sex work and other forms of hazardous and exploitative labour. Both state and non state agencies engaged in programmes to eliminate child labour could utilise these opportunities.

2.1.12 Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health has units that can collaborate in the elimination of child labour.

- the Family Health Bureau and the Medical Officers of Health have Family health Workers/Midwives at local level who work closely with families and who can provide both information and support in identifying and assisting child labour victims, in meeting their basic health needs and in rehabilitating them.
- the Health Education Bureau in its information and advocacy role has the resources to create awareness of child rights and the implications of child labour and the worst forms of child labour on the health and well being of children.
- medical personnel in the hospitals and health units under the Ministry can be made aware of the need to identify child labour victims who have been physically, emotionally and sexually abused, to collaborate with the Department of Probation and Child Care to take legal action against employers who violate labour laws and abuse children and to assist in the rehabilitation of these children.

2.1.13 Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment

The Department of Child Development in the Ministry was formerly under the Ministry of Social Services . The Children's Secretariat which had a history of moving from ministry to ministry was responsible for programmes for the welfare of children. The Ministry of Social Services organised programmes for vulnerable groups of children and this responsibility has now been transferred to the new Ministry. While child labour is the responsibility of the Department of Labour, the vulnerable groups of children who are the pool for child labour come within the ambit of the Department of Child Development besides the fact that the welfare of the girl child is a prerequisite to the empowerment of women. Hence the collaboration of the Ministry would be useful in combating child labour. The Ministry is also responsible for preparing the national report to the UN Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and child labour would be a very important theme in the report.

2.1.14 Ministry of Samurdhi

The Ministry of Samurdhi works with the most economically disadvantaged families in the country to which working children tend to belong. Samurdhi officers located in Divisions have close relationships with such families. They are already involved in identifying out of school children and their assistance would be valuable also in investigating hidden employment and anti-social, illegal and hazardous forms of employment that are not captured by household surveys.

2.1.15 Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT)

The Plantation Human Development Trust was established in 1993 pursuant to the transfer of the management of clusters of estates to the new structure of Plantation Management Companies. The Board of the PHDT brought together the state, private companies and trade unions as it had representatives of the Ministry of Estate Infrastructure and Livestock Development, Ministry of Plantation Industries, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Plantation management Companies and Trade Unions. Its objective is to promote integrated sustainable development, reduce poverty and improve the quality of life in the plantation sector. Its activities have been in the areas of housing, health care, child care, sanitation, education, recreation, mobility, communication and infrastructure.

Child labour became a focus of activity for the first time in 2004 with the implementation of an action programme with ILO/IPEC support ‘to prevent the employment of child domestic workers from the plantation sector through education, vocational skills training and economic empowerment measures’. The rationale for the programme was obviously the increasing visibility of plantation labour families as a major source of supply of child domestic workers chiefly in urban centres. The project was located in estates in seven districts’

The components of the programme were

- the establishment of non formal education centres which offered remedial/catch up courses for children under 14 years,
- vocational training for children from 14 to 18 years who were vulnerable to be taken by agents for domestic work. They were provided skills training in plantation related skills such as mechanised tea plucking and pruning of tea bushes who were assured of employment on the estates and in other skills that offered alternative employment to domestic labour. Some of them received ‘Start Your Business’ training to conduct small enterprises.
- micro-credit and savings programme, particularly for mothers and older siblings so that resources would be available for families to spend on the education of their children and to obviate the need for income from child labour.
- awareness raising programmes on child labour issues through street pageants, videos and art competitions. Programmes were conducted by the Department of Labour on the worst forms of child labour. Chief Executive officers in the Plantation companies and parents were also sensitised on child labour issues.
- an Education Task Force was appointed with district level branches to monitor the implementation of compulsory education regulations and a National Action Plan prepared for education and skills training in the plantation sector,
- a Child Labour Monitoring mechanism was created with representatives of relevant agencies and a tracking system has been developed.

The project ended in early 2006 and sustainability was an issue but it has been claimed that the project has had an impact on families and employees and that some Managers of Plantation Companies have accepted it as a part of corporate social responsibility.

2.1.16 Sri Lanka Tourist Board

In the context of the publicity given to the incidence of child sex tourism particularly in coastal tourist centres and to its deleterious effects, the Tourist Board has taken the initiative, with the support of UNICEF, to develop in 2006 an ‘Action Plan to Combat Child Sex Tourism in Sri Lanka’ which is

claimed to be the first such plan in South Asia. Its goal is to eradicate child sex tourism(CST) in Sri Lanka through six programmes.

- Formulating and facilitating implementation of new policies, laws and regulations to combat CST
- Building stronger collaboration with law enforcement authorities, other relevant authorities and NGOs working in high risk areas
- Fostering effective partnerships with the private tourist sector and other sectors to prevent CST
- Creating awareness, knowledge and understanding among parents, communities and children and empowering them with life skills
- Publicising Tourist Industry's Zero Tolerance Policy regarding CST and relevant laws and penalties to reach all tourists
- Developing the management capacity of the Tourist Board to manage, monitor and evaluate the programmes.

The Action Plan is reported to be in operation. A CST Combating Unit has been established at the Tourist board and a Media Unit has been planned.

It is no doubt the first major initiative taken by the Tourist authorities to make a frontal attack on a problem that has received the attention of the media , researchers and activists for many years.

2.2 UN Agencies

2.2.1 ILO – IPEC

Juxtaposed with its standards setting and regulatory activities embodied in International Conventions, ILO embarked in 1992 on direct intervention in the area of child labour with the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour(IPEC). The objectives of IPEC were to:

- i. contribute substantially in the long term to the elimination of child labour in selected countries;
- ii. enhance the capability of Member States to design and implement programmes effectively to protect working children and to combat child labour;
- iii. increase the awareness of Member States and the international community to the dimensions and consequences of child labour and national obligations under international law.

Specifically, in the context of limited resources, IPEC has concentrated on abusive forms of child labour such as bonded labour, hazardous occupations and specially vulnerable groups. The Programme Steering Committee in the ILO, Geneva, comprises representatives of donors, participating countries, workers' and employers' groups in the Governing Body of ILO and the UN agencies concerned with child labour. Each participating country has appointed a National Steering Committee of representatives of Ministries concerned with child labour, workers' and employers' organisations and NGOs working in the field of child labour. IPEC has identified four areas of action:

- capacity building of governmental and non governmental organisations concerned with child labour;

- law and policy support;
- awareness raising;
- direct action with child workers.

IPEC organised a National Workshop in Colombo in September 1996 and drafted an action plan for eliminating child labour. Sri Lanka became a participating country in IPEC and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government in November 1996 and a National Steering Committee was appointed in March 1997 which approved the national programme.

Over the last decade IPEC has supported the formulation of laws and policies, advocacy programmes, research studies, capacity building and action programmes in collaboration with state agencies, INGOs and NGOs. Support has been provided to studies and action programmes on different facets of child labour such as domestic labour, commercial sex work and factory labour in the urban, rural and estate sectors. In addition to the Plan developed in 1996, ILO-IPEC has supported the development of an Action Plan by NCPA to combat trafficking and a Policy Frame and National Action Plan for the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in 2003.

2.2.2 UNICEF

UNICEF's mandate is the protection of the rights of children and the promotion of the development and welfare of children in all facets of life. UNICEF, Colombo has engaged in advocacy for child rights at policy, administrative and community levels and has supported studies on out of school children who are the inevitable pool for the supply of child labour. In 2006, UNICEF supported the preparation by the Sri Lanka Tourist Board of an Action Plan to combat child sex tourism. A study on Children's Homes has examined the environment in which child victims of child labour and abuse sent to them by Courts or the Department of Probation and Child Care live and work, in order to expedite reforms to improve the quality of life in the Homes..

UNICEF has been active in the North and East promoting research and action pertaining to both internally displaced persons and child soldiers. UNICEF was the implementing agency in the proposed establishment of transit centres for child soldiers who were expected to be released by the LTTE.

2.2.3 UNHCR

UNHCR collaborates with UNICEF, and state agencies, NGOs and international NGOs working in the area of child labour and abuse with regard to the protection of children of all ages affected by armed conflict.

2.3 Bilateral agencies

No evidence was available regarding any involvement by bilateral agencies such as CIDA, NORAD, SIDA, DIFID, DANIDA, and JICA in programmes and activities relating to Child Labour.

2.4 Employment related agencies / organisations

2.4.1 Employers' Federation of Ceylon (EFC)

The Employers' Federation is the overarching organisation that has representatives of employers' organisations including Chambers of Commerce and/ or Industries and Companies.

It is concerned about child labour as a violation of labour legislation and is engaged in programmes to combat child labour.

- EFC is a member of the National Steering Committee on Child Labour which functions under the aegis of the Ministry of Labour Relations and oversees ILO-IPEC supported programmes on child labour issues.
- EFC participates in meetings at the Ministry of Labour Relations when formulating policies on child labour.
- EFC conducts training programmes for their member companies on child labour and child labour laws.
- The member companies of EFC which are in the plantation sector conduct action programmes to eliminate child labour with the assistance of ILO-IPEC.
- EFC is of the view that there is no overt child labour in the formal sector. While it is aware that there are child labour issues in the informal sector, EFC has no authority to investigate such issues.

2.4.2 Ethical Trading Initiative, UK, (ETI)

ETI, UK is a group of companies, Trade Unions and NGOs which are concerned that firms in countries exporting products to ETI member companies or are subcontracted by UK firms to produce or assemble products, conform to international labour standards. ETI has developed a nine point Base Code of standards, analogous to standards in ILO Conventions, which is used in assessing whether firms conform to the provisions of the Code.

ETI established links over the last few years with the relevant Companies and with Trade Unions in Sri Lanka to assess the extent to which these companies conform to the Base Code. ETI has worked with the Department of Labour to assess working conditions in factories and with the Centre for Women's Research, (Cenwor), Colombo to carry out worker audits to assess from the responses and experiences of workers the extent to which these companies conform to the Base Code.

One of the standards imposed by the Base Code is that children under the stipulated minimum age are not employed by these companies. Worker audits undertaken by Cenwor in around ten factories so far has not surfaced evidence of child labour. Information was received, however, that the employers of a rural garment factory had planned to recruit girls from 15 years of age but had been forced by the opposition in the community to change its recruitment policy to the minimum age of 18 years. It is likely therefore that there are other defaulters in the context that the garment industry has been listed as a worst form of labour in Sri Lanka. It is possible for the Department of Labour, which is a partner in this exercise, to ensure that worst forms of labour come within the ambit of the term 'child labour' in the ETI Base Code.

2.4.4 Trade Unions

Traditionally Trade Unions in Sri Lanka have been overly concerned with wages and other working conditions of employees in the formal sector and gender issues and problems of child workers have been of marginal interest. Advocacy by women's organisations and the ILO-IPEC programme appear to have fostered perceptions of gender and child labour as crosscutting issues in trade union activities. At the international level, an ILO-IPEC interregional Workshop on Child Domestic Labour and Trade Unions in 2006 reflected increasing awareness of the salience of this theme within the framework of trade union activity. A draft manual on child domestic labour and a tentative proposal for an ILO Convention on Child Labour are relevant to the Sri Lankan context.

Trade Unions in Sri Lanka are represented on the National Steering Committee on Child Labour, and a National Trade Union Forum to eliminate Child labour (NATFEC), with the National Workers' Congress as convenor, is reported to network on issues such as identifying and monitoring child

labour. Trade Unions that are actively involved in programmes to eliminate child labour and abuse are the Ceylon Workers' Congress and the Lanka Jathika Estate Workers, Union that operate only in the plantation sector and the National Workers' Congress. Other Trade Unions only conduct awareness programmes (see Maitrix at end of paper).

The **Ceylon Workers' Congress (CWC)** is the largest trade Union in the plantation sector with around 600,000 members. While the issue of child labour in the plantation labour force does not appear to have been a Trade Union issue until ILO Convention no.138 was ratified and relevant legislation introduced, the increasing publicity given to the plantation community as a major source of supply of child domestic labour and initiatives by ILO-IPEC have galvanised activity to take remedial action. The child labour related activities that have been initiated are:

- commissioning baseline surveys and studies on non schooling in the plantations,
- implementing programmes to get children back to school in the context of the high incidence of dropping out of school
- organising Children's Clubs with ILO-IPEC assistance and using social mobilisers to conduct programmes geared to prevent child labour
- conducting awareness programmes for mothers and for families of migrant women domestic workers to ensure that children do not drop out of school and be sent or trafficked for employment outside the plantations,
- training social mobilisers who eventually function as CWC Coordinators
- organising community development programmes, community centres, tuition classes , job information on alternatives to domestic labour, and income generating avenues to strengthen family resources to support education and preclude the need for child labour,
- monitor the situation pertaining to child labour by checking school attendance and interacting with parents.

National Workers' Congress

The National Workers' Congress (NWC) is a non political, multi-sectoral trade union established in 1958. It worked initially in the plantation sector but it has since extended its activities and operates at national level with a membership of approximately 80,000 and branch offices in several districts. It is currently the only trade union that works in both formal and informal sectors. NWC is a member of the National Steering Committee on Child Labour and works closely with ILO. It is affiliated to the World Confederation of Labour and its regional body, the Brotherhood of Asian Trade Unions.

NWCs focus is largely on prevention of child labour as reflected in its programmes.

- The Darusetha Programme organised nine non formal education centres for children from 5 to 15 years selected in consultation with school principals. The centres target school dropouts, child workers and vulnerable groups of children in disadvantaged families – children in plantation families, fishing communities, children of overseas migrant workers, street children and factory workers.
- Vocational training programmes are provided at four centres for children from 14 to 18 years among other groups. A mobile vocational training unit is also in operation and career guidance is offered to older children .

- Awareness programmes are conducted on ILO Conventions, labour laws, child labour and child abuse, and trafficking
- Child Protection Societies were established with ILO-IPEC support in selected Divisions
- Capacity building programmes have been conducted for state and NGO partners by social mobilisers to promote prevention of child labour.
- Micro credit was made available to families to strengthen the family resource base.
- An anti trafficking programme was conducted in the aftermath of the tsunami.
- Child labour Monitoring Units were established in the south in divisional secretariats with representation from all relevant agencies.
- A two year programme was organised with ILO-IPEC support to eliminate child domestic labour from 12 estates. Child protection societies monitored the situation of children and micro-credit, vocational training and awareness programmes were organised for parents to discourage sending children for employment.

NWC deserves credit for working with child workers or potential child workers in the informal sector as this sector has been traditionally ignored by trade unions and marginalised by the state sector.

Lanka Jathika Estate Workers Union (LJEWU)

The LJEWU is the second largest Plantation Workers' Union and was established in 1958 to improve the socio-economic conditions of plantation workers. It operates in tea, rubber and coconut estates in six of the nine provinces in the country through Committees at regional, district and estate levels and has conference hall facilities in Galle, Badulla and Hatton. The Union has conducted baseline/ needs assessment Surveys on 15 estates and presented the data at a workshop. Awareness programmes are conducted on child labour to sensitise parents but such issues are incorporated in other programmes on living conditions to ensure participation. A poster campaign was conducted through the school network and two pre-schools have been established in two estates.

2.5 International NGOs

Save the Children, Sri Lanka has incorporated Save the Children, UK and Redd Barna, Norway in a single institution. In the 1980s Redd Barna was very active in conducting a Centre and programmes for street children. Save the Childre, UK was also active in this field and supported the Sarvodaya centre in Borella, Colombo and the YMCA Centre in Kandy for street children, which now operate as independent institutions. In recent years Save the Children has supported studies on children affected by armed conflict and displacement and on Children's Homes.

2.5.1 World University Service, Canada (WUSC)

WUSC has been working in Sri Lanka since 1989 and has concentrated chiefly on vocational training and has sought to promote the participation of girls and women in non traditional vocational training through its programme Project for Rehabilitation through education and training (PRET) . The programme is conducted through the country and particularly in the south, east and north. These programmes have been utilised to provide training for children in displaced communities. Its network of programmes offers potential to combat child labour by enrolling out of school children in vocational training programmes.

2.5.2 FORUT

Forut is a Norwegian/Swedish Development Agency founded in 1981 to carry out development activities in the developing world. It adopts an integrated approach to development and focuses on mobilising people at grass roots level by organising small groups and empowering them. Among its activities are child focus activities including rights oriented programmes. FORUT has played an active part in recent years in rehabilitation programmes in conflict affected districts – Jaffna, Vanni, Vavuniya, Puttalam and Anuradhapura and in estates in Matale and in community development in the south. It has two centres – Kiltech and Computec and a mobile training programme in the Vanni. Its training programme could play a significant role in offering alternatives to child labour.

2.6 Non Governmental Organisations

2.6.1 PEACE (Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere)

PEACE was established in 1991 by a committed group of persons who were motivated by the high incidence of child sex tourism and abuse of children in Sri Lanka. Its goal is to eliminate child prostitution, child pornography and trafficking of children and to ensure children their fundamental rights free from all forms of sexual exploitation. Since child sex tourism flourishes on the commercial sex activities of children, the majority of whom are boys who are engaged in sexual services to foreign and local men and women and are vulnerable to abuse and trafficking by paedophiles, PEACE is an active agent in working towards the elimination of one of the worst forms of child labour under ILO Convention no.182.

PEACE has undertaken multi-faceted programmes, engaging in

- some of the earliest needs based research studies on commercial sexual exploitation of children. The publications of these investigative studies have contributed to raising awareness of state agencies and the public regarding what was largely a little known anti social and harmful activity;
- its advocacy campaigns within and outside the country gave visibility to the violation of child rights, labour laws, and sexual exploitation of child labour. PEACE alerted state authorities, other NGOs, and the public and their activities contributed to legal reforms, and to structural initiatives such as the Police Children's and Women's Desks and the National Child Protection Authority;
- as activists PEACE pursued legal action in courts to ensure that penalties are imposed on perpetrators of child abuse;
- PEACE is also a founding member of an international activist organisation, ECPAT (End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism).

2.6.2 Women's Development Centre, Kandy

The Women's Development Centre has given priority since its inception to safeguard the rights of women and children, to combat gender based violence and to support victims of violence and exploitation. The Centre works closely with state agencies, courts and local organisations in engaging in these activities.

Child labour is inevitably a concern and an integrated approach has been adopted as seen in the implementation of an ILO-IPEC project to eliminate child labour.

The programme implemented in 24 schools in Kandy and Anuradhapura had several components.

Prevention of resort to the sale of labour of children in resourceless families by was promoted by

- strengthening the capacity and resources of families by encouraging income generating activities, savings and credit groups, and conducting awareness programmes
- providing educational materials, organising tuition classes, establishing counselling units in schools and training teachers as counsellors, conducting awareness programmes for children and establishing Children's Resource Centres and children's societies.

Specific action programmes were

- training women's groups to record instances of child labour
- conducting advocacy programmes and making state officials aware of the incidence of child labour in communities
- establishing a watch group
- establishing two homes for child victims.

2.6.3 Lawyers for Human Rights and Development (LHRD)

LHRD is an activist organisation that has over the years engaged in advocacy and on rights and legal issues. Child labour comes within its mandate and it has implemented two pronged programmes.

- Extensive programmes to orient police personnel in police stations on child labour issues.
- Orientation of Child Rights Promotion officers on child labour.
- Appearing in the Juvenile Court on behalf of victims of child labour, providing legal aid and ensuring that perpetrators are punished and compensation paid to children.
- Referring complaints of labour conflicts, commercial child sex work and trafficking of children to the relevant authorities.

2.6.4 Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA)

CPA was formed in 1996 to strengthen institutions and capacity building in civil society for good governance and conflict transformation and to make inputs into public policy debates through research and advocacy. Among its research programmes have been critiques of legislation including labour legislation and child labour issues such as domestic labour and exploitation in manufacturing industries. It has a research arm – Social Indicator.

2.6.5 Marga Institute

Marga was established nearly four decades ago as an institute for development research. It has engaged in wide ranging research areas over the years. In recent years it has undertaken research in the form of case studies and community studies on child abuse. Child domestic labour and commercial child sex work have figured prominently among research issues and policy inputs based on findings have been identified.

2.6.6 Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR)

CENWOR was established in 1984 as an independent, non profit NGO by women researchers and activists to engage in policy and action oriented research, information, advocacy, networking and action on issues pertaining to women and their families. Both gender based violence and child abuse comes within the purview of its programmes. CENWOR has undertaken research on the multi-faceted aspects of the economic and sexual exploitation of women and children. Over the last five years CENWOR has been involved with ILO assistance, in research on child labour and commercial child sex work and has carried out a tracer study and an action programme to prevent child labour.

Its study on non schooling and child labour in the urban, rural and estate sectors was followed by an action programme in a remote rural location in the most disadvantaged district in the country to prevent child labour.

Its components were

- vocational training for out of school children,
- non formal education programme for out of school children,
- both as a potential alternative to child labour
- extra classes for students who need assistance to prevent dropping out of school
- establishing two pre schools to enable children who drop out of school to care for young siblings to continue schooling
- awareness programmes for parents, teachers and state officials on child labour issues and child rights.

The CENWOR study on commercial sex work encompassed women and child (boys and girls) sex workers, and clients, employers, and agents.

2.6.7 Lanka Jathika Sarvodaya Sangamaya

As the largest NGO in Sri Lanka, Sarvodaya implements extensive programmes island wide, and one of its important 'target' groups are children.. It has a strong legal unit that undertakes advocacy and training programmes on child rights including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and on Child Labour.

Around 20 years ago Sarvodaya established a drop in centre in Colombo for street children, a centre that has survived to the present. Its extensive network of village based societies offers potential for investigative research, advocacy and action.

2.6.8 Don Bosco Technical Institute

The Don Bosco Technical Centre was first established in Colombo in 1956 and moved to Negombo in 1962. Currently it offers courses in carpentry, arc welding, mechanics, motor mechanics, electronics, outboard motor.- repair, air conditioning, computing and printing. In addition to the facilities for vocational training, there are also evening tuition classes; a Drop in Centre located close to the beach for vulnerable beach children who are taught life skills and can stay overnight if they wish, and a Home for children. I 1991 the Institute rehabilitated around 600 youth and ex child soldiers from the north and east.

Over the years centres have been replicated in other locations.

The **Don Bosco Children and Youth Centre in Nochchiyagama, in the Anuradhapura district** was expected to meet the needs of children from communities displaced by the ethnic conflict in the north. It conducts vocational training programmes such as in motor mechanics, construction, computing, sewing for school leavers and out of school children to prevent their absorption in child labour, and evening remedial classes in mathematics, science and English for school going children to improve their school performance and prevent them from dropping out of school.

A centre was also planned in Mannar district on the Nochchiyagama model to provide vocational training and remedial education for child victims of labour exploitation and former child soldiers. A similar centre and hostel was established in Galle in the aftermath of the tsunami, replicating the vocational training and remedial education programmes.

2.6.9 Women in Need (WIN)

Women in Need has not taken action on complaints of child labour but have referred them to the relevant authorities and agencies.

2.7 Community Based Organisations (CBOs)

Sri Lanka is said to have over 3000 NGOs and CBOs although a comprehensive inventory has never been made. Some of them have been engaged in child labour related programmes with the assistance of ILO-IPEC and other donors. ALL of them have the potential to make a significant contribution to elimination child labour in their communities. A few CBOs who have been involved in combating child according to the available information are identified in this paper to indicate their potential but they represent only a proportion of CBOs who have been active but about whom little information is readily available.

2.7.1 Women's Saving Effort, Wilpotha

The Women's Saving Effort, Wilpotha was established in 1978 as a non profit organisation in order to, inter alia, ameliorate the living conditions of impoverished rural women, protect and address the needs of vulnerable children, build strong self supporting family units, and use natural resources of the area for income generation. It has been both innovative and committed in the implementation of programmes.

With ILO-IPEC assistance it undertook direct action and institution building to prevent the entry of children in the fishing community into child labour. Small scale grants were given to poor women and a revolving fund was established for other families if recipients agreed to send their children to school. Awareness programmes were conducted for children and adults on child labour and other relevant issues.

2.7.2 Centre for Women's Development Rehabilitation, Batticaloa and

2.7.3 Centre for Women's Development Rehabilitation, Killinochchi

These were established to provide skills training, awareness raising and capacity building at grass roots level to promote community based rehabilitation in the conflict affected north and east. A special project was to prevent and eliminate child labour through the provision of vocational training programmes.

2.7.4 Eastern Self Reliant Community Awakening Organisations, Batticaloa

This organisation introduced with the support of Save the Children, Norway, an innovative non institutional approach to deal with the needs of vulnerable groups of children in displaced families to provide counselling and community based support to reunite them eventually with their families.

2.7.5 Kinnya Vision, Trincomalee

Established integrated community centres in the post tsunami environment providing awareness raising, social mobilisation, vocational training, counselling and guidance and a data base for follow up.

2.7.6 Community Concern Society, Dehiwala

The organisation was located in the beach area between Dehiwala and Mount Lavinia. It had as objective empowering children for a future free from child labour. With assistance from ILO-IPEC, the organisation provided training programmes on child labour for children, teachers, and local officials. Police personnel and NGO leaders in the community. A Youth Club was organised and vocational training and remedial education provided.

2.7.7 ESCAPE (Eradicating Sexual Child Abuse, Prostitution and Exploitation)

ESCAPE was established in 1995 as a project and then as a Division of LEADS (Lanka Evangelical Alliance Development Service) to create awareness on commercial sex exploitation of children. Since 2004 it was funded by Save the Children, Sri Lanka. It conducts training programmes for children, parents and caregivers, teachers, Police and Probation Officers and religious organisations on the prevention of exploitation of children and their protection. ESCAPE also provides psychological, therapeutic and counselling services, a Legal Unit for action programmes and a Residential Home.

3. Coordination, Collaboration and Mobilisation¹

While Sri Lanka has ratified the core Conventions and introduced or amended labour legislation, albeit some ambiguities and conflictual provisions, the state alone cannot achieve the objective of eliminating child labour. A synergy of efforts is necessary created by the effective collaboration of state agencies, employment related organisations such as trade unions and civil society or non governmental organisations and the community, all supported by donor agencies.

Inquiries have ascertained that there is enormous potential for joint efforts and networking but that there are attitudinal and structural barriers, inevitable perhaps in systems that have evolved over time. Space for intervention is seen in the identification of the nature and incidence of child labour, prevention and protection strategies, legal and social action and monitoring.

3.1 At the national level there is an effective National Steering Committee and several National Plans of Action - for children, child labour, and for specific forms of child labour such as worst forms of child labour, trafficking and sex tourism and suggested codes of conduct. Locating them in a holistic conceptual framework could facilitate streamlining the coordination, implementation and monitoring of these plans and preventing compartmentalisation of participating agencies.

3.2 It was shown earlier that over a dozen major state agencies have direct or indirect responsibility for the elimination of child labour. Clearly there is an underlying element of interdependence and need for coordination. Efforts have been made in this direction in recent years but they have been disjointed and the potential has yet to be maximised. The nodal agency, the National Child Protection Authority need the cooperation of other state agencies working in the area of child labour at national and local level. The Departments of Labour and Probation and Child Care are dependent on the collaboration of the police and legal and medical personnel for effective action. The Police are reported to give priority to child abuse at the expense of labour rights. The Sri Lanka Tourist Board has developed its own plan of action.

In a context of devolution and decentralisation Ministries/Departments have officers at District levels – Assistant Commissioners of Labour and Labour officers, Probation Officers- and Child Rights Promotion Officers and Samurdhi officers at Divisional level. Some coordinating structures have been

developed in recent years such as the District Child Promotion Committees and a District Coordinating Committee to which reference has been made. A Monitoring Child Rights Committee functions at Divisional level. There does not appear to be any machinery at Provincial level, accounting perhaps for the claim that such issues are given low priority by provincial administrations.

It is time perhaps to review the role of these committees, evaluate their performance and establish coordinating structures that make optimal use of the state's infrastructure and resources and complement them with inputs by the non governmental sector:

- Provincial officers of the relevant departments could form a Unit to report progress to the line Ministries and the NCPA.
- The District Child Promotion Committees have been a useful initiative and need to be strengthened with representatives from NGOs working for and with children.
- At the same time the administrative unit that has the potential for a close interaction with the community and households is the Divisional Secretariat Division. It is at this level that it is feasible to explore the ramifications of hidden employment and to identify perpetrators for court action. The Monitoring Child Rights Committee needs to be strengthened and to be expanded as a coordinating and monitoring mechanism to represent all agencies working at that level. This would include not only Labour Officers and Probation Officers but also the representatives of the Ministry of Education in its Divisional offices, particularly the Non formal Education Division, who have a key role in enforcing compulsory education legislation and thereby preventing child labour under 15 years. The Ministry of Health has its Family Health Workers/Midwives who have in depth knowledge regarding problems in households and families and can assist in locating victims of child labour and in their rehabilitation. Personnel from the Women and Children's Police Desks, or where they are not found, from the police station in the Division. An important initiative would be to include representatives of active Community Based Organisations in the area as they have a stake in the welfare of children in the community and are knowledgeable about developments in families and in the community.

This Divisional Committee needs to be entrusted with specific tasks such as:

- identifying instances of child labour cum abuse,
- creating awareness of child labour issues and mobilising communities to be pro-active in preventing child labour,
- protecting children who are vulnerable to be exploited,
- supporting the rehabilitation of victims, and monitoring the situation. It would be useful to borrow the strategy of a Children's Watch and a tracking system used by some non state organisations.

3.3 Some agencies have established specific monitoring units to meet their special needs. Examples are the Anti Trafficking Unit of the NCPA, the Monitoring Unit of the Plantation Human Development Trust Fund on domestic labour, the Child Sex Tourism Combating Unit of the Sri Lanka Tourist Board, the Compulsory Education Committees at Divisional and Grama Niladari levels of the Ministry of Education and the National Trade Union Forum to Eliminate Child Labour. Such initiatives should be strengthened and replicated with donor support. For instance, an obvious lacuna exists in the issue of monitoring State and NGO Children's Centres or Homes. There is need for a formal monitoring unit with representatives of the relevant state agencies and Interested NGOs as no action has followed the series of evaluation reports that gather dust on the shelves of donor and state agencies. Another area for monitoring would be small industries and informal sector micro enterprises

including artisan workshops, garages and restaurants as there is a dearth of information on working conditions.

3.4 Awareness raising carried out by many state and non state agencies is only the first level of social mobilisation. Sri Lanka's long experience in this area has indicated that interactive participation within a group formation facilitates social mobilisation. Many NGOs and CBOs have experience in mobilising group perceptions and action on issues. NGOs ,and even to a greater CBOs lack resources to meet the costs of such programmes. Hence donor agencies need to support these organisations to organise social mobilisation programmes.

3.5 Donor agencies could support the creation of CBO networks / coalitions at divisional levels which would be engaged in

- identifying instances of child labour and worst forms of child labour;
- organising prevention programmes with schools and vocational centres, setting up children's clubs or societies and conducting participatory creative activities to create awareness on child rights;
- mobilising adults in the community to protect children from being recruited or trapped for economic and sexual exploitation;
- assisting in the rehabilitation of child victims by ensuring their acceptance in the community;
- and establishing a children's watch to track the progress of children in vulnerable families.

3.6 In view of the lacunae in information and difficulty in accessing research studies, it is suggested that an annotated bibliography be prepared and that all studies and reports including those of action programmes be made available for reference in a central library such as the UN Library.

Organisations dealing with Child Labour

	Type of Institution	Name	Address
1	I. State	Department of labour – Women & Children’s Affairs Division	Department of Women’s Affairs, 177, Nawala Road, Colombo 5
2		Ministry of Social Welfare	Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla
3		Department of Probation and Childcare	150A Nawala Road, Nugegoda.
4		National Child Protection Authority (NCPA)	330 Thalawathugoda Road, Madiwela, Battaramulla.
5		District Child Protection Committees (DCPC)	C/0, National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) 330 Thalawathugoda Road, Madiwela, Battaramulla.
6		Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE)	Habitat for Humanity/CCS, 22 Station Road, Dehiwala
7		Police Department (Children & Women’s Desk)	White Way Building, 25 Sir Baron Jayatilleke Mawatha, Colombo 1
9		Ministry of Finance & Planning	Secretariat Building, Colombo 1
10		Ministry of Justice	Ministry of Justice, Superior Courts Complex, Colombo 12
11		Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Republic Building, Colombo 1
12		Attorney General’s Department	Ministry of Justice, Superior Courts Complex, Colombo 12
14		Legal Aid Commission	Hulftsdorf, St Sebastian Hill, Colombo 12
15		Ministry of Education	Ministry of Education & Higher Education, Isurupaya, Battaramulla
16		Ministry of Vocational Training	Nipunatha Piyasa Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 5
		Ministry of Health	Suwasiripaya, No. 385 Rev Baddegama Wimalawansa Colombo 10
17		Ministry of Samurdhi	7A Reid Avenue, Colombo 7
18		Ministry of Child Development and Women’s Empowerment	177 Nawala Road, Nawala
19		Ministry of Local Government	330 Union Place, Colombo 2.
20		Department of Census and Statistics	15/12 Maitland Crescent, Colombo 7
21		Central Bank of Sri Lanka	30 Jandhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 1
22		Sri Lanka Tourist Board	80 Galle Road, Colombo 3
1	II. Employers’ Organisations	Employers’ Federation of Ceylon	385, J3 Old Kotte Road, Rajagiriya

	Type of Institution	Name	Address
2		Plantation Housing & development Trust	427/14 Robert Gunawardena Mawatha, Battaramulla
3		National Workers Congress	NWC Head Office, 10 Council Lane, Dehiwala
4		Ceylon Workers Congress	CWC Head Office, Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 3
5		Lanka Jathika Estate Workers Union	LJEWU Head Office, Rajagiriya Road, Rajagiriya.
6		Chamber of Commerce	Navam Mawatha, Colombo 2
7		National Association of Trade Unions for the Elimination of Child labour	232/1 Thimbrigasyaya Road, Colombo 5
8		Public Services United Nurses Union	530, Thimbrigasya Road, Colombo 5.
9		Confederation of Public Servants Independent Union	33, Opposite Maha Vidyalaya, Galigamuwa
10		Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya	416 Kotte Road, Pitakotte
11		Progress Union	665/8 Kekuna Uyana, Biyagama
12		Sri Lanka Nidahas Sevaka Sangamaya	301 T B Jayah Mawatha, Colombo 10
13		All Ceylon Teachers' Union	127/1 Centre Road, Colombo 15
1	III. UN Agencies	ILO – IPEC	131/4 Thimbrigasyaya Road, Colombo 5
2		United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	5 Githanjalee Place, Colombo 3.
3		UNHCR	97 Rosmead Place, Colombo 7
4		World Health Organisation	226 Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07.
1	IV. Bilateral agencies	No information available	
1	V. INGOs	Save the Children	58A Horton Place, Colombo 7
2		WUSC	42 Skeleton Road, Colombo 4
3		SWISS CONTACT	2814 De Fonseka Road, Colombo 5
4		FORUT	98/4 Havelock Road, Colombo 5
1	VI. NGOs	Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA)	Flower Road, Colombo 7
2		Marga Institute (MARGA)	Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwela
3		Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR)	225/4 Kirula Road Colombo 5
4		Social Indicators	105 5th Lane, Colombo 3
5		PEACE	166 Thimbrigasyaya Road, Colombo 5
6		DON Bosco, Negombo	22 Don Bosco Mawatha, Ettukala

	Type of Institution	Name	Address
			Negombo
7		DON Bosco Nochchiyagama	St. Sebastians Church, Nochchiyagama
8		Lawyers Human Rights Division (LHRD)	225, Kotte Road, Colombo 8
9		Lanka Jathika Sarvodaya Sangamaya	98 Rawatawatte Road, Moratuwa
10		Women's Development Centre	61 Mulgampola Road, Kandy
11		Women-in-Need	No.122 Kotta Road, Colombo 8
12		Consortium for Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)	10 Kynsey Terrace, Colombo 8
13		Women's Savings Effort	Women's Savings Effort, Wilpotha
14		World View Sri Lanka	36 Nawala Road, Nugegoda
15		Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)	Bristol Street, Fort Colombo 1
16		Community Concern Society	15,4A Aponso Avenue, Dehiwala
17		Centre for Women's Development Rehabilitation	Lotus Road, Batticaloa
18		Centre for Women's Development Rehabilitation	Jaffna Road, Killinochchi
19		Eastern Self Reliant Community Awakening Organisations	6/3 Vitharaniyam Square, Batticaloa
20		Kinnya Vision	48, Town Council Road, Kinnya, Trincomalee
21		ESCAPE	22/2 Station Road, Dehiwala. 10350