



International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour International Labour Office

UKRAINE

AT A GLANCE
June 2002

The Memorandum of Understanding between the International Labour Organization (ILO), represented by the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), and the Ukrainian Government was signed in June of 2002. This document has set up a foundation for cooperation between the Government of Ukraine and the ILO with the goal to prevent and progressively eliminate child labour in Ukraine, as well as to increase awareness at the national level of the consequential problems and solutions pertaining to the issue of child labour.



*The 1st All-Ukrainian Children Congress:
children declaring their rights*

The basic ILO conventions concerning child labour issues have been ratified by Ukraine, which include the ILO Convention 138 on the Minimum Age for Employment, ratified in March 1979 and the ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour - in October 2000. These conventions, with accompanying recommendations, provide a formidable legal framework for combating child labour.

Priority Areas for IPEC - Ukraine

- to promote policy development initiatives;
- to prevent an increase in child labour;
- to build the capacity of involved government and non-governmental agencies;
- to conduct qualitative research to assess the extent and nature of the forms of child labour targeted by the programme;
- to initiate monitoring activities of child labour;
- to implement direct action activities; and
- to raise public awareness of the issue of child labour and the hazards of premature employment.

The unique and complex nature of the phenomenon of child labour in Ukraine requires an integrated approach in order to achieve a broad and sustainable impact. At this time, it is important to test interventions for the prevention of child labour, with emphasis on the withdrawal and rehabilitation of children involved in such activities. This is to be achieved by using the experience gained in other countries to provide alternatives for working children. In order to maximize IPEC's impact, direct action programmes are being developed in the selected regions, targeting the worst forms of child labour - including child prostitution, working street children and children employed in rural areas.

IPEC – Ukraine Action Programmes

Based on the strategic objectives of the country program, the main action programmes developed are as follows:

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES:

The National Steering Committee (NSC)

Established under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, it is comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, the State Committee on Family and Youth Affairs, the State Statistics Committee, Workers' and Employers' organizations, NGOs as well as Youth Government associations. The Child Labour Unit (CLU) has been set up as well. Representatives from UNICEF and the United States Embassy are committee observers. The Chief State Labour Inspector has been appointed to act as the NSC Chairperson.



First gathering of the National Steering Committee (NSC) on Child Labour

Enhancing the capacity of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) and the State Committee on Family and Youth Affairs (SCFYA) For the enforcement of child labour policies, monitoring and further analyses of the situation and trends in child labour. In the framework of the current action programme, the issue of working children in Ukraine has been addressed on the following two levels: (i) **institutional capacity building** of the MLSP and the SCFYA through training of trainers, to set up a Local Training Team, and through targeted training programmes for labour inspectors and staff of the Social Inspection Unit; and (ii) **local community**

involvement through training of community leaders, school inspectors, administrators, and teachers (Vinnytsia, Kherson, Donetsk and Kyiv oblasts). Within the scope of this action programme, the MLSP organized and held a five-day Training of Trainers seminar (May 13-17, 2002) on the design, monitoring and evaluation of action programmes, where areas for intervention regarding specific target groups were defined. Two three-day seminars for labour and social inspectors have also been carried out. A national workshop for community leaders has been scheduled and is currently in the pipeline.



Initial training of the NSC members on child labour issues

Enhancing the capacity of trade union organizations to combat the worst forms of child labour. Forty representatives from eight Ukrainian National trade union organizations have been sensitised on the issue of child labour through training. The Trade Union's National Framework for actions against child labour has also been drafted.

RESEARCH

Qualitative research conducted by the Centre of Social Expertise and Prognosis, Institute of Sociology (National Academy of Sciences, Ukraine) A baseline study of the target groups in the selected regions has identified the following groups of children through sampling four regions for the country's program: Donetsk and Kyiv oblasts - street children; Vinnytsia oblast - rural children; Kyiv and Kherson oblasts - children in the sex-trade. The purpose of the research was to obtain data on the core specifics of the

situation, including the magnitude of the problem, additional information on the worst forms of children's employment, such as prostitution, paid illegal activities, and under-aged labour. Data for this study was attained from children and their parents/guardians or co-living relatives. As a follow-up, a monitoring/tracking system (database of 1,397 former working children) has been set up to allow monitoring, evaluation and gathering of systematic feedback on former working children. The results of the poll will be published; the database will also be available for the implementing agencies.



Children
working in
agriculture
~
a boy
piling up
hay with
pitchfork
(Vinnytsia
oblast)

An in-depth analysis of the findings of the National Report on Child Labour and other relevant sources to identify policy implications. The recommendations on policy implications and application of international experiences and good practices to the Ukrainian environment have been finalized and are being published.

A legal framework for child labour analysis. This activity has been carried out, with aim at studying the current legislation, drafting legislative initiatives and policy-making recommendations in order to facilitate the approximation of the Ukrainian legislation to international regulations on child. The study will be published in both Ukrainian and English and distributed among deputies of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament of Ukraine), Government members and other relevant authorities. The findings of the study will be presented at the NSC meeting and advocated

in the Cabinet of Ministers and Verkhovna Rada.

PREVENTION/EDUCATION

Ministry of Education and Science (the Research and Methodical Centre for Practical Psychology and Social Work) Curriculum, teaching methodology, and training materials for working children are being reviewed, tested and adopted in order to improve the quality of education in various institutions catering to the needs of working children and their families. These methodologies take into account the specific psycho-social and psychological characteristics, level of knowledge and living circumstances of working children. As a result of this action programme, **110** education staff members, including professionals from the Ministry of Education and Science, universities and teachers' in-service training institutions, research workers, school principals, teachers and counsellors from selected schools will have been trained to effectively address the needs of working children and their families. Community leaders/volunteers, school inspectors, principals, teachers and parents from selected schools will have a heightened awareness concerning working children's psycho-social and physiological needs, hazards of premature employment, value of education and vocational training.

AWARENESS RAISING ON CHILD LABOUR ISSUES

"Podilsk Centre on Human Rights,"

A Ukrainian NGO has started a programme entitled, "A strategy and a set of awareness-raising activities in the selected Ukrainian villages" aiming at children's developmental needs, dangers of early employment and legal provisions on child protection.

"Children's rights in the focus of the Ukrainian mass media,"

A series of National workshops for mass media representatives has been organized by the "Compass Club" Youth Public

Organization and is supported by UNICEF. Child labour issues have been included into the workshop agenda. As a follow-up of these workshops, the media has started to actively promote awareness on child labour issues.

Working
Street
Children
in Donetsk
~
washing
cars



The 1st All-Ukrainian (National) Children's Congress. Initiated and held by the CARITAS-SPES Ukraine (Roman Catholic Church) on June 1st, 2002, the goal was to develop an alternative Declaration on Children's Rights. Composed by children themselves, the Declaration is to be handed to the President and representatives of international organizations. The participants were informed on the risks of early employment, employment in hazardous conditions, as well as on the worst forms of child labour. As a follow-up, children declared that "they want to have enough workplaces for their parents", "want to have access to education", and "no longer want to be forced to work".



The 1st
All-Ukrainian
Children
Congress:
children
composing the
Declaration on
Children's
Rights

The press conference devoted to the World Day Against Child Labour. Initiated and held by the Ministry of Labour with the support of IPEC-Ukraine on June 11th, 2002. The participants, top-level officials from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Education and Science, and State Committee on Family and Youth Affairs, presented the activities performed by their respective institutions to implement the provisions of the ILO Convention No.182.

Additionally, the results of the Baseline Survey were disseminated. Media coverage was remarkable, nine TV channels, seven news media, eight radio channels, including BBC and Radio "Liberty"/"Free Europe", reported on the event. The First National Radio Channel has also initiated the broadcast of a series of programs on the hazards of early employment.

"Child Labour Briefing Materials: Problem and Response,"

As a result of the programme instituted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine, the book "Child Labour Briefing Materials: Problem and Response," has been translated and published. The goal of this publication is to contribute to the mainstreaming of issues surrounding working children into national policies by providing key policy-makers and governmental specialists with comprehensive information regarding good practice and procedures in combating child labour.

Other books and informational materials have also been published in Ukrainian: "Action against child labour", "Preventing and Combating Child Labour: a Manual for Labour Inspectors", a booklet on objectives and strategies of the ILO-IPEC in Ukraine, accompanied by the ILO Convention No. 182.

Strategic Framework for the Future

Long-term Objectives

The long-term objective of the IPEC Programme in Ukraine is to contribute to the prevention and progressive elimination of child labour in the country, focusing on the worst forms of child labour as defined in the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (No. 182).

The long-term objectives for IPEC in Ukraine include the following:

- Mainstreaming successful approaches into national programmes/projects and budgets;

- Achieving sustainability of the IPEC impact in Ukraine;
- Forging a viable and broad-based social alliance to prevent and combat child labour in Ukraine;
- Improving the knowledge base through quality and participatory research;
- Conducting workplace monitoring and providing child workers with social protection ;
- Advocating on children's rights and raising awareness among the population on child labour as exploitation; and
- Participating in the worldwide movement against child labour.

Medium and Short-term Objectives

- Mainstreaming working children into formal education and providing families with economic alternatives;
- Consolidating efforts through the collaboration and coordination of governmental and nongovernmental institutions;
- Promoting understanding of the problem by policy makers on the national and regional levels;
- Expanding the capacity of trade unions to unite workers involved in informal sectors of the economy as well as increase employers' awareness and commitment to improve the situation;
- Increasing the commitment of families to keep their children in school;
- Changing children's outlook with a focus on educational values and professional careers;
- Including child labour awareness raising into the school curriculum and mobilizing educational services through strengthening

formal and transitional education/training systems;

- Training stakeholders, particularly teachers' unions, to institute interventions aimed at raising awareness among parents and teachers, communities and the greater society to the educational and development rights of the child;
- Launching integrated multi-sectoral projects that target children working in rural areas, street children and children involved in prostitution and pornography; and
- Mobilizing local communities and other stakeholders in order to develop program ownership and strengthen community impact, thereby intensifying a preventative action against child labour, especially its worst forms.

Future Action Programmes

According to the outlined objectives and based on extensive discussion and consultation with all partner agencies, the following Action Programmes are to be implemented in the near future.

Within the framework of three action programmes, direct action on children working in rural areas, sexual service, and on the street will be implemented by NGOs in close collaboration and networking with the State Committee on Family and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Education and Science, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Union of Lessees and Entrepreneurs of Ukraine, Trade Union of Agricultural Workers, etc.

The main objective of the direct action programmes is to develop and field test mechanisms on preventing and progressively eliminating child labour in rural and urban areas, and in the sex industry, relevant to the Ukrainian situation. The main strategies include prevention, withdrawal, rehabilitation and reintegration of working children into schools through a set of educational, vocational, counselling and health services.

Awareness-raising will also be part of the strategy.

The Action Programme proposed by the **“Intellectual’na perspektyva / Intellectual Perspective” Charity Fund** focuses on direct support provided to a minimum of 600 working children and their families in the rural areas of Vinnytsia oblast.

The Action Programme proposed by the **“Education of Ukraine” Ukrainian National Charity Fund** would deliver direct support to a minimum of 500 street children and their families in Donetsk and Kyiv oblasts.

The Action Programme proposed by the Regional NGO Centre of the **“Successful Women”** concentrates on the direct support of a minimum of 100 child prostitutes (girls and boys) in Kherson and Kyiv oblasts.

Awareness-raising during these direct actions is to be carried out by the **All-Ukrainian Committee on the Defence of Children’s rights** through the public campaign “Child Labour by Child’s Eyes”. In addition, the completion of the **TV-Project** – a documentary on child prostitution (30 min.) – is foreseen.



A girl selling flowers on the street (Kyiv)

Contact Information

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy,
8/10 Esplanadna Street, room 808,
01023 Kyiv, Ukraine

phone: (+38 044) 220-87-48
phone/fax: (+38 044) 226-29-38

E-mail:

ipec_petrashchuk@mlsp.ukrpack.net,
ipec_minenko@mlsp.ukrpack.net