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PRESS RELEASE

ILO PARTNERS WITH ICEED TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOUR THROUGH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND VOCATION SKILLS TRAINING FOR YOUTH

Lilongwe, March 10, 2022 – The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Impact Centre for Economic Empowerment and Development (ICEED) have signed a new partnership valued at Mk376 million (circa. USD\$450,000) to accelerate the fight against child labour in Malawi by implementing a technical vocational skills training program for youths of legal working age (14 -17 years and above) and economic empowerment activities for workers in the lower tiers of the tea and coffee supply chains. The partnership provides for technical and financial support to ICEED.

This partnership has been established under the regional ILO Accelerating action for the elimination of child labour in supply chains in Africa (ACCEL Africa) project, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands, which aims at accelerating the elimination of child labour in global supply chains in Africa. The project in Malawi is implemented in the districts of Chitipa, Mzimba, Ntchisi, Thyolo and Mulanje districts across tea and coffee supply chains.

“The partnership will see ILO support ICEED as a local non-profit organization to implement innovative solutions that address the root causes of child labour by enrolling at least 300 at risk youth of 14 years and above in accredited vocation skills centers, for a school to work transition opportunities. This will support government efforts of improving the availability of skilled and productive labour force amongst youth. It will also enable ICEED to support 500 men and women to improve household income by

enhancing and diversifying their livelihoods through income generating activities”, said Mr. George Okutho, the Director of the ILO Country Office for Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique.

“We are delighted for this partnership that we will help address child labour in the coffee and tea supply chains in Malawi. In this Action Programme, ICEED will collaborate with the ILO Tripartite partners, coffee cooperatives, tea associations and other social partners to address child labour in these supply chains using an Integrated Area Based Approach (IABA).” Said Madalitso Chidumu, Executive Director for ICEED in Malawi.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 countries to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men. Malawi has been a member of the ILO since 1965.

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A metal and fabrication female graduate during internship" at Kabichi Skill Development Center, Malawi