

International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) - Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce Child Labour (CLEAR)



The Challenge



According to the 2011 Survey on Children conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) and commissioned by the ILO, there are almost 3 million children working in hazardous work in the country, 62 per cent of which are in agriculture.

The Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL) is the official national programme to eliminate child labour and is being implemented through the convergence of different government agencies, non-government organizations, trade unions and employers' associations. The PPACL's goal is to reduce by 75 per cent all worst forms of child labour in the country by 2015.

To achieve this goal, there are still some areas at the level of national policies and programmes that need to be addressed. In the 2012 *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor Report* of the US Department of Labor (USDOL), it was recommended that action be taken by the Philippines in the following areas: (a) Laws and Regulations, e.g., gap between minimum age for work and age of compulsory schooling; (b) Coordination and Enforcement, e.g., enforcement of child labour laws and how this relates with the anti-trafficking efforts; (c) Social Programmes, e.g., enhancing existing social protection programmes to address child labour.

The Response

The International Labour Organization Country Office in the Philippines (ILO CO-Manila) through the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) has been implementing various programmes on child labour. The most recent one, "Towards a Child Labour-free Philippines: Building on Past Gains and Addressing Challenges", was funded by the USDOL and ran from 2010 to 2013. The Project was able to strengthen the child labour movement through the: (a) enhancement of its knowledge management capacity; (b) strengthening of existing multi-agency structures at the national and local levels; (c) developing models of community-based convergence approaches in withdrawing and protecting children; and (d) improving the policy environment and creating models of legislation and programming against child labour at the LGU level.

To continue the momentum and further support the Philippine government in ensuring that the PPACL goals are achieved, a Project funded again by the USDOL will be implemented from 2014-2015. Called Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce Child Labour (CLEAR), it aims to enhance the capacity of the Philippines to reduce child labour by supporting its actions addressing the recommendations contained in the *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor Report* mentioned above.

CLEAR will be a great supplement to the newly-launched convergence programme against child labour of the Philippines using a HELP-ME strategy which stands for Health, Education and Training, Prevention, Prosecution and Protection and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Key Statistics

From the 2011 Survey on Children:

- 5.4 million children are working—some in allowable work but most are in child labour.
- 2.9 million children are in child labour, doing work that is harmful to their health, morals and safety.

From USDOL 2012 Report:

- The following goods from the Philippines to be made with child labour: fashion accessories, gold, hogs, pornography, pyrotechnics, rice, rubber, sugarcane, tobacco, bananas, coconuts and corn.

Key Outputs

The objectives of the CLEAR Project are the following:

- improvements in legislation addressing child labour issues;
- improvements in monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies related to the worst forms of child labour (WFCL);
- adoption and implementation of national plans of action on child labour;
- enhanced implementation of national and local policies and programs aimed at reduction and prevention of the WFCL; and
- improvements in policies and social programmes to increase access to basic education, vocational training, social protection services, employment creation and poverty reduction initiatives for populations particularly vulnerable to the WFCL.

Programme Approach

1. Laws and Regulations

- Plan to address gap between schooling age and minimum age for work is developed and discussed among policy-makers and the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC).
- Policy recommendations to strengthen protection of minors of legal working age under the national domestic work law (RA 10361) is submitted to relevant policy bodies and Congress

2. Coordination and Enforcement

- Joint guidelines on the reporting of child trafficking produced and implemented by NCLC and IACAT.
- Recommendations and guidelines on improving the labour inspection system's responsiveness to child labour cases are adopted by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

3. Policies and Social Programmes

- Education Roadmap against child labour is developed and implemented by key government agencies.
- Impact of conditional cash transfer programmes on CCT is analyzed and recommendations presented to relevant agencies.
- Child labour is integrated into the social protection programmes and the Social Protection Floor.
- Sector-specific approaches in eliminating child labour in agriculture and domestic service are developed and incorporated in the implementation of the National Convergence Programme.



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Components

Donor: US Department of Labor

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Partners: Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), National Child Labor Committee (NCLC), Inter Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Education (DepEd), Decent Work for Domestic Helpers Technical Working Group

Project Scope: National



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