

Fiji National Child Labour Forum



Davui Hall, Shangri-La Fijian Resort
25th to 27th February 2013



Information Brief

1. TACKLE Background

The overall goal of the Tackling Child Labour through Education (TACKLE) programme is to contribute towards poverty reduction in the least developed countries by providing equitable access to basic education and skills development to the most disadvantaged section of the society. Launched in 2008, TACKLE is coordinated by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 11 countries in the Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (Fiji and PNG), and funded by the European Union (EU) in agreement with the Committee of Ambassadors of the ACP Group of States.

The TACKLE Project objective is to strengthen the capacity of the national and local authorities in the formulation, implementation and enforcement of policies to fight child labour, which is an obstacle to poverty alleviation and access to basic education, in coordination with social partners and civil society. TACKLE works through four strategic areas: improving the legal framework; strengthening institutional capacity to implement child labour strategies; developing effective demonstration models targeting child labour; and enhancing the knowledge base and networks on child labour and education.

2. Background to Fiji National Child Labour Forums

The first Fiji National Child Labour Forum from 10th to 12th December 2008 in Nadi, comprised of a group of committed multi-sectoral stakeholders including Government, Trade Unions, Employers, NGOs, Media and Academia, and aimed to contribute to developing local and national actions to eliminate child labour. As part of the forum deliberations, participants developed visions of the ideal situation should child labour be tackled effectively and subsequent actions that could be taken to move Fiji towards realizing this vision, such as conducting comprehensive research on child labour, including establishing a coordinating research group and conducting training on child labour research methods; increasing knowledge and awareness of conventions and details of child labour, including development of awareness materials; ensuring comprehensive, harmonized legislation and definitions; building capacity to improve/ establish enforcement, monitoring and policing; establishing inter-agency collaboration and coordination and enabling processes and mechanisms; improving communication and advocacy; and implementing community empowerment and parenting programmes.

As a result of the success of Fiji's first National Child Labour Forum in terms of improving understanding of child labour, building collaborative networks and promoting ownership of the TACKLE project in Fiji, it was agreed by all concerned that a National Child Labour Forum be convened annually to review progress and plan for further action to combat child labour.

3. Fiji National Child Labour Forum 2013

The major objectives of the National Child Labour Forum 2013 are to:

- Launch the Child Labour DVD
- Evaluate the progress of efforts to tackle child labour through education in Fiji, particularly the impact of actions supported through the TACKLE programme
- Review the draft National Action Plan to eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) that was formulated in 2012, and develop an exit strategy for TACKLE

The forum will give stakeholders the opportunity to discuss progress against proposed actions, share lessons learnt and ensure these are factored into the NAP, evaluate TACKLE impact and outcomes, and develop an exit strategy for TACKLE.