

IPEC's partners

The struggle against child labour must be rooted in each society's own culture, institutions and aspirations. Children and their families are the first line of defence against child labour.

As in other ILO-IPEC countries, the Ministry of Labour is actively involved in the programmes and cooperation is being sought with other ministries concerned. Provincial governments are also active partners in the programme.

The cooperation of employers is crucial in the combat against child labour. Workers' organisations have become active partners. A wide range of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are major partners in combating child labour.

The programme will be working with many other partners in the fight against child labour, among them the media and the judiciary, health institutions, universities and parliamentarians.

Support is given to partner organisations to develop and implement measures which aim at preventing child labour, withdrawing children from hazardous work and providing alternatives, and improving the working conditions as transitional measures towards the elimination of child labour.



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Combating Child Labour in Pakistan



ILO-IPEC

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION
International Programme on the Elimination of
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ILO and Child Labour

The ILO is unique among international organisations in that it brings together, on an equal footing, governments, workers and employers in a common endeavour to improve social protection and conditions of life and work throughout the world. Created together with the League of Nations by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, the ILO became in 1946 the first specialised agency associated with the United Nations.

- ◆ The Preamble to its Constitution commits the ILO to the protection of children as one of the essential elements in the pursuit of social justice and universal peace.
- ◆ Shortly after its foundation, the ILO adopted its first Convention on child labour. A number of Minimum Age Conventions followed, applying to specific sectors and occupations. The two Conventions on forced labour - No. 29 of 1930, and No.105 of 1957 - which have been widely ratified, continue to be instrumental in the fight against all forms of child labour. More recently, comprehensive standards have been laid out in the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.138) and its accompanying Recommendation (No. 146). A Convention on child labour, which would focus on the most hazardous and exploitative forms of such labour, is expected to be discussed and considered for adoption by the International Labour Conference in 1998 and 1999.

Action combating Child Labour

The ILO has launched a vigorous offensive against child labour. In 1992 this effort received new impetus with the creation of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), made possible by a contribution of the German Government. Belgium has supported the programme since 1992 and now donors, including Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the United States also provide resources. The Programme is now operational in more than 20 countries.

Given the enormity and the complexity of the child labour issue it is unrealistic to believe that this problem, which has existed for such a long time, can be eliminated overnight. While the achievement of this ultimate goal is being pursued, ILO-IPEC places priority on halting the most intolerable forms of child labour. Therefore, the

priority target groups include:

- ◆ children working under forced labour conditions and in bondage;
- ◆ children in hazardous working conditions and occupations; and
- ◆ children who are particularly vulnerable, i.e. very young working children (under 12 years of age) and working girls.

Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the ILO in June 1994 on a national programme for the progressive elimination of child labour within the framework of IPEC.

The aim of the cooperation is to promote conditions to enable the Government progressively to prohibit, restrict and regulate child labour with a view to its ultimate elimination through . . .

a phased and multi-sectoral strategy:

IPEC strategy in Pakistan involves:

- motivating ILO constituents and other social partners to create alliances;
- carrying out a situation analysis to find out the nature and magnitude of child labour problems;
- assisting partners in devising national policies to address specific child labour problems;
- strengthening organisations and setting up institutional mechanisms;
- creating awareness at all levels;
- promoting development and application of protective legislation;
- supporting direct action with child workers and their communities to demonstrate the possibility of preventing children at risk from entering the workforce prematurely and withdrawing children from exploitative and hazardous work;
- reproducing and expanding successful projects in order to integrate their strong points into regular programmes and budgets of the social partners; and
- * integrating child labour issues into social and economic development policies, programmes and budgets.