

<i>Project code</i>	RAF/03/M54/UKM
<i>Project title</i>	Action Programme Against Forced Labour and Trafficking in West Africa (ILO-PATWA)
<i>Responsible department</i>	DECLARATION
<i>Type of evaluation</i>	Independent mid-term evaluation (Nigeria and Ghana)

ABSTRACT

Background & Context

The ILO established the Special Action Programme to combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL) in 2001 to Spearhead ILO activities against forced labour, including trafficking. It is a broad-based technical cooperation programme working at the request of member states and in close collaboration with workers and employers, civil society and other international organizations.

The SAP-FL approach involves five thematic elements designed to improve efforts to combat forced labour and trafficking: better understanding of the problem; heightened global awareness; stronger legal and policy frameworks; stronger institutional structures; and special projects to help workers in forced labour situations. Each project contains a research component designed to improve the information available on forced labour and trafficking and to understand better how to tackle the problem.

The Action Programme Against Forced Labour and Trafficking in West Africa (ILO-PATWA) is a part of SAP-FL Technical cooperation to assist member States in the implementation of ILO Elimination of all forms of forced labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29). PATWA project was set up to address both the demand and supply side of forced labour and trafficking in the West African countries of Ghana and Nigeria and in the Netherlands as a destination country. Its main aim is to address the broader structural dimensions of human trafficking and its link to poverty by building on the ILO's International Project for the Elimination of Child trafficking (IPEC) programme and research and data gathering activities undertaken by both DECLARATION Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL) and the Migrant Workers' Branch (MIGRANT).

The scope of this evaluation is to examine the validity of the project design and to assess project progress as a whole. The main purpose of the review is:

- a) to examine the validity of the logic and approach defined in the project document and identify possible needs for modification of the outputs and activities and indicators;
- b) to assess project implementation to date;
- c) to evaluate current management performance;
- d) to evaluate the project's sustainability and prepare the ground for the next phase of the project.

The report reviewed project documents, progress reports and outputs for the period of April 2004 to July 2005.

Main Findings

This review has revealed that the ILO-PATWA project objectives, outputs and activities are relevant to the situation on the ground, requiring a sustainable, cooperative, and collaborative strategy: to improve the knowledge base on forced labour and human trafficking in Nigeria and Ghana; to mainstream issues of forced labour and human trafficking into the national development and poverty reduction strategies, legal and social policy frameworks and ensuring that concrete actions are taken to address them; and to develop appropriate community-based interventions to combat these, with a focus on prevention, protection and rehabilitation.

The outputs produced so far are satisfactory, and they appear to justify the costs put. There is sufficient evidence that the project team followed strictly the ILO accounting regulations and procedures in the disbursement of funds allocated to specific activities, maintained a good account of list of EPAS and tracking sheets with clear indications of approved dates.

However, policy framework, knowledge base and awareness raising planned activities have not been carried out: research on domestic worker recruitment, flyers for distribution at transit hubs and posters for offices, police stations, etc; workshops on national plans of action; regularity of meetings of media consultative group; recommendations for links with PRSP (NEEDS and SEEDS); training of labour inspectors on identification of forced labour cases, etc.

From the interviews conducted, email communications received and staff meeting with the project stakeholders, project team and concerned ILO staff, there is evidence of renewed or greater interest and commitment on the part of the immigration, police and other law enforcement agencies as well as NGOs in both Ghana and Nigeria on the need for their agencies to be “properly mainstreamed” in the project in order to enable them play a greater role.

On project future, domestic workers’ issues require at least a two year focus, otherwise it cannot effectively be carried out for any meaningful impact to be made. The project’s time frame is too short and the allocation of twenty thousand U.S. dollars is not enough under the current phase. There is a need for a second phase of this project in order to focus on development for prevention approaches that must go beyond awareness-raising. This is because the absence of systematic poverty eradication strategies and the lack of sustained efforts within prevention activities undermine the impact of the entire prevention arsenal.

There is also a need for further investment in the promotion of capacity building activities for the law enforcement agencies and the Judiciary to effectively address cases of trafficking; in recognizing the legal safeguards for victims of trafficking and forced labour and their rights to redress and compensation.

Recommendations & Lessons Learned

1. Encourage the submission of more qualitative proposals in the areas of awareness raising, prevention, rehabilitation and capacity building of stakeholders; and hasten the screening and approval process in order to ensure effective utilization of the remaining or outstanding budgetary allocation or funds that must be exhausted before March 2006;
2. Periodic meetings of PAC for feasibility and progress reporting;
3. More visibility and publicity should be given to the project in the media, particularly television and radio to ensure aggressive awareness campaign to address socio-cultural context of perceptions about trafficking and forced labour in the society;
4. Support NAPTIP's effort to get through the Final phase of the data bank's project in order to enhance its capacity for data management
5. Promote stronger relationship with the tripartite partners, the police, immigration service, prosecutors, Judges and legal advisers in terms of capacity building;
6. Promote aggressive and comprehensive youth interventions similar to the HIV/AIDS Success story/project;
7. Ensure effective mainstreaming of gender, HIV-AIDS and poverty in the project consistent with the clear objectives and outputs required through the planned activities;
8. Publicize the findings and recommendations of the baseline studies and of the legislative desk review, and publish the reports of all the knowledge base and policy frameworks outputs for wider dissemination to the public.
9. NGOs to be encouraged, supported and capacity enhanced to participate actively in the project because from the law enforcement perspectives, they help greatly in eliciting information from victims to the immigration and police force, especially first hand information on deportation/repatriation. Moreover, sustainability of NGO Coalition at both the national and sub-regional levels should be supported by ensuring their establishment, enhancing their capacity for better performance or effective participation in the project, and greater networking and collaboration.
10. Support the Anti-Trafficking Units of the Police and Immigration service to submit proposals relevant to their needs and objectives of the project for due considerations.
11. Strengthen the capacity of the media focal persons and engage editors of the media outfits in a continuous dialogue to allow relevant information to be published or aired.