



# Evaluation Summaries

## Mobilizing Action on the Protection of Domestic Workers from Forced Labour and Trafficking

### Quick Facts

**Countries:** Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong (China)

**Mid term Evaluation:** October 2005

**Mode of Evaluation:** Independent

**Technical Area:** InFocus Programme on Promoting the Declaration

**Evaluation Management:**

**Evaluation Team:** Anne Reerink, Lucita Lazo

**Project Start:** May 2004

**Project End:** August 2006

**Project Code:** RAS/03/52/UKM

**Donor:** The United Kingdom (1,700,000 US\$)

### Background & Context

The mid-term review of the ILO Project on Mobilising Action for the Protection of Domestic Workers from Forced Labour and Trafficking analysed the project's design, preparations, activities and achievements to date through discussions with project staff, implementing partners and PAC participants as well as analysis of project documents.

With regard to Indonesia and the destination countries (Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong), it found the project to have implemented a large number of activities that have contributed to substantial progress in meeting its immediate objective.

Concerning Indonesia and destination countries, the review notes a number of notable achievements by the project as well as some shortcomings and weaknesses. Among the achievements is considerable progress in building support among ILO constituents for national and local legislation and policies to protect domestic workers, and significant capacity building among NGOs that provide services for domestic and migrant workers and advocate on their behalf. New partnerships have also been forged with private recruitment agencies in Indonesia. The project has been successful in putting domestic work, trafficking and forced labour on the agenda of relevant government ministries and agencies, and in strengthening important coalitions and networks involved in policy advocacy. While legislation and policy to protect Indonesian domestic workers will probably not be realised during the life of the project, there is sufficient momentum as well as monitoring by NGOs to make passage of legislation likely to happen in the next five years.

For reasons related to staff limitations, the short duration of the project and concerns about sustainability, the project has not been able to implement activities related to direct interventions in the same way as proposed in the project document. Outputs related to trade union involvement have been fewer than proposed, due to the lack of interest of most Indonesian trade unions. While this could to some extent have been foreseen if sufficient consultations had been held prior to the project's launch in Indonesia, it is regrettable

that the project has not been able to focus more attention and resources on this problem. This is partially due to limited human and financial resources, but also a result of the project's strategic decision to focus on organisations eager to collaborate with the project. On a positive note, the project has made advances in creating linkages between trade unions and domestic workers in destination countries.

The review notes a number of important shortcomings with regard to the project's design, some of which are responsible for the delays in delivery of outputs, but concludes that on the whole, the project document presents a strong problem analysis and is well designed in terms of strategies, outputs and activities. The mid-term review also raises questions about the sustainability of project outputs. Several outputs related to direct interventions have been dropped due to concerns about sustainability in the absence of sufficient national resources and interest.

While the project has engaged in direct interventions for domestic workers by supporting relevant NGOs, it is likely that the outputs from these activities cannot be continued independently beyond the project's life and will require further donor support. Concerns about sustainability have been discussed extensively but a comprehensive and concrete solution has not yet been found. This issue will require more attention from technical officers involved in this field as well as from the donor community in general.

While the project will not achieve its unrealistic objective of eradicating the worst forms of abuse of domestic workers, it certainly has laid the foundations for effective future action that can offer concrete benefits for domestic workers in Indonesia and destination countries. The project's achievements are important in terms of bringing together the stakeholders at regional, national and local levels and putting domestic work, trafficking, and forced labour on the agenda of

government institutions, recruitment agencies and some trade union federations.

The review recommends that the project be extended or that a second phase be explored with the donor. The main reason for this recommendation is that the severity and the extent of the problems faced by domestic workers require a multi-pronged approach that is sustained over a period of at least five years. The duration of current project is too short to expect significant improvements, whether in legislative changes, in trade union involvement, or in the capacity for self-organisation among domestic workers. For the remaining six months of project implementation, it is recommended that the project in Indonesia focus on awareness raising and advocacy for policy and legislation.