

# ILO TECHNICAL COOPERATION – CHILD LABOUR

## Project Snapshot

<b>Armed Conflict</b>	<b>Prevention and reintegration of children involved in armed conflict: an inter-regional programme – Sri Lanka</b>	
	<b>Duration:</b> September 2003 – September 2009	
	<b>Donor &amp; Budget</b> USA, United States Department of Labor, Bureau for International Labor Affairs, Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking  \$ 7,000,000	<b>Objective</b> Reintegration of children involved in armed conflict in Central Africa (Burundi, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda), Colombia, Philippines, Sri Lanka.
	<b>Results and Outcomes in Sri Lanka</b>	

The direct services offered to children and families in support of acquiring decent work and achieving a sustainable income included not only vocational or skills training, but also non-formal education, legal assistance, counselling services, and health services. Incentives might also include nutritional support, uniforms, and books or other school supplies.

Of the 1490 children targeted to receive vocational training a total of 1380 had completed training, for an achievement rate of 90%. 64 Vocational training programmes ran from two to six months and covered over 20 skill areas. Children were provided with tool kits provided by the project aimed at supporting them either in their own employment or in group ventures. In order to support their reintegration into society, project beneficiaries also received training in topics, such as leadership and problem solving, through the LifeSkills training programme that was provided to them.

More girls than boys were involved, with girls representing 70%-80% of the total numbers of children placed for training as well as for completion of training.

UN level and attention by international Human Rights organisations such as Human Rights Watch has, therefore, raised awareness on the issue among the general public in Sri Lanka. The challenge though remains in translating awareness into action by the militant groups that are outside the realm of legislative accountability, especially in a situation of renewed conflict. However, the risk of post-training re-recruitment was deemed as low.

June 2014