



Evaluation Summaries

Combating and preventing HIV/AIDS-induced child labour in Sub-Saharan Africa – Pilot action in Uganda and Zambia

Quick Facts

Countries: *Zambia and Uganda*

Final Evaluation: *November 2008*

Mode of Evaluation: *independent*

Technical Area: *Child Labour*

Evaluation Management: *IPEC, ILO Dar-es-Salaam*

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Project Code: *RAF/04/57/USA*

Donor: *United States*

Keywords: *Child Labour, HIV/AIDS*

Extract from the Executive Summary

The Project Combating and preventing HIV/AIDS-induced child labour in Sub-Saharan Africa: pilot action in Uganda and Zambia has sought to develop well tested models for extension within the project countries and replication in new countries. The project was implemented from September, 2004 and is scheduled to end in December 2008. The project was evaluated by an independent international evaluator, one national evaluator in Uganda and one interpreter in Zambia in September and October, 2008.

The project works towards two objectives:

Immediate Objective One: Community based models for assisting HIV/AIDS orphans and girls and boys affected by HIV/AIDS in child labour or at risk of entering child labour, through education and social protection, will have been adopted by relevant national organizations in Uganda and Zambia, and will be available for replication in other countries in the sub-region.

Immediate Objective Two: Policy makers and programme planners in the field of HIV/AIDS and child labour in the sub-region will have mainstreamed tools, policy, recommendations and good practices for dealing with HIV/AIDS and child labour.

The outputs and activities stemming from these objectives include facilitating HIV/AIDS affected children and orphans to access schools, providing vocational training for girls and boys at risk, providing psycho-social rehabilitation and community based protection schemes.

As stated in the Terms of Reference, the primary goal of the evaluation process was to assess the achievements of the project toward reaching its targets and objectives as outlined in the project document. The evaluation considered all activities that were implemented over the life of the project, addressing issues of project design, implementation, lessons learned, replicability and recommendations for a future project.

The project has achieved all of the stated purpose and outputs proposed in the project document. The project demonstrated the importance and effectiveness of addressing the special issues of HIV induced child labour at all levels. The project's greatest strengths lie in modelling the ability to withdraw and prevent child labour among the most vulnerable children, the development of good tools and materials that demonstrate how to engage in this process and contributing to national policies on HIV induced child labour. The tools that were developed are of good quality.

The project was very relevant to the local situation given the high HIV prevalence rates in Uganda and Zambia and the impact on child labour in both countries. The project design was logical and coherent and generally took into account institutional arrangements, roles, capacity and commitment of stakeholders. At national level some capacities and policies that impact on child labour were already in place and provided a sufficiently supportive environment to implement the project. Gender aspects were considered in the project design by mainstreaming gender issues into the outputs. The inclusion of non-core countries in the project design was not entirely realistic. The development of new methods, testing them and developing tools for replication requires much time. Given the short time frame of the project it was difficult to ensure that non-core countries benefited substantially during the implementation period.

Implementing partners, government, employers and workers organizations recognized that mainstreaming HIV induced child labour into initiatives on child labour is possible. Doing so is seen as a good way to keep resources on both HIV and child labour focused on issues that are strongly related to child well-being, particularly with regards to education. Initial hesitance by tripartite partners during the first year was overcome and their input and recognition of the importance of addressing HIV induced child labour was evident at the time of the final evaluation.

The project was able to contribute to the development of policies, strategies and governance in Uganda and Zambia. The project has worked intensively to obtain district government support from project inception. The project contributed to the establishment of functioning child labour district committees in both countries. The involvement of district level officials as active partners was key to project success.

In Uganda and Zambia employers' and workers' organizations were associated with the project to raise awareness and mainstream child labour and HIV/AIDS issues into their programmes and activities. The employers' and workers' organizations developed policies and strategies as well as facilitated awareness raising on HIV induced child labour.

The capacities of the stakeholders to take action on HIV induced child labour were substantially strengthened. Government officials at national and district level, community child labour committees, teachers, and implementing partners have all benefited from capacity strengthening. Many tools were developed, particularly since the project mid-term evaluation. Training workshops were held with a wide range of stakeholders from government officials to child labour committees and implementing partner staff.

Most of the implementing partners worked hard to achieve project objectives and had a real impact on HIV induced child labour. The project has worked with other UN agencies such as UNICEF and UNAIDS as well as with international NGOs such as the International Rescue Committee. Most of this cooperation was centred on improving the national enabling environment although the project also shared tools that were developed with many other agencies.

The project was able to exceed its targets in terms of the number of children withdrawn and prevented from child labour. The number of children that was targeted for withdrawal or prevention through the project was 3,600

(1,600 for withdrawal and 2,000 for prevention).

The number of children withdrawn or prevented from child labour through the project at the time of the evaluation is 5,338 children. Out of these, 2,623 are boys and 2,715 are girls. At the time of the final evaluation, three months prior to the end of the project, a total of 1,076 children had completed vocational training. The vocational training component has been successful and sustainability for most children appears likely. Government schools have become receptive to integrating the highly vulnerable HIV affected children. Absenteeism has generally reduced. Stigma and discrimination against children reintegrating into school has been very limited. Mainstreaming HIV into the usual child labour projects extends attention from the individual child to their household as a whole. The child in the HIV Induced Child Labour project was supported to access education. Adding psychosocial support placed the child in his/her family and community context. The emphasis on the SCREAM methodology with the focus on relationships and how they influence the impact of HIV on the child contributes to extending the perception of the child as a being who is a part of a larger milieu. Adding IGA supports means the child and the family can also be assisted as a unit.

Development of community based social protection networks was a challenge because of the complexity of creating and supporting such networks. Child labour committees were formed in communities and at district level that functioned well at the time of the evaluation. Support to develop income generating activities and savings groups was a good investment overall with positive outcomes as compared to many similar projects in other parts of the world.

Savings groups are functioning and some are being linked to larger national savings cooperatives and other financial institutions. Psychosocial support methods were developed with promising results. The project has

substantially contributed to the knowledge base on addressing child labour with particular attention to HIV induced child labour. Materials on lessons learned, good practices, mainstreaming attention to HIV in child labour initiatives and other efforts have been disseminated.

Management of the project was difficult in the early stages but the ILO took concrete and successful steps to address them. All of the management issues were resolved after this ILO intervention and staff was dedicated and competent. In Uganda the project was able to build on the experience of IPEC efforts and the contacts that had been established. In Zambia the existence of other IPEC projects contributed to the development of the project throughout implementation. A program officer at Headquarters in Geneva who believed in the project despite the early challenges was also useful.

Sustainability with regard to project initiatives is good overall although ensuring that children will remain in education and out of child labour after the end of the project is somewhat uncertain. The project was successful in raising awareness on the link between HIV and child labour among stakeholders that is likely to be sustainable. The project effectively contributed to sustainability of its actions by ensuring that government policies and strategies include attention to HIV induced child labour. The project partners have acquired capacities on implementing child labour projects. Teachers, counsellors and media specialists have acquired capacities on awareness raising and/or providing psychosocial support that are likely to be sustainable. The project has developed the capacities of trainers who can sustainably continue to provide capacity strengthening using the tools developed by the project.

Summary of Recommendations

1. Provide technical support and monitoring when introducing the new model on mainstreaming HIV induced child labour in

additional countries. Extensive dissemination of tools and materials were developed in the project within the two project countries as well as new countries. Dissemination of tools and materials in new countries needs to be associated with capacity strengthening for implementers so that they can adapt the materials to local circumstances.

2. Further dissemination of the NCLP in Uganda and adoption of the NCLP in Zambia accompanied by advocacy on the implementation of recommendations on HIV induced child labour. In both countries the legislation on child labour and HIV issues needs to be harmonized, disseminated and enforcement capacities strengthened.

3. Coordination of existing government agencies working on HIV and child labour can be further improved to avoid duplication and overlapping of activities.

4. Advocacy to increase funding of HIV induced child labour components in projects on orphans and other vulnerable children and child labour projects could be increased.

5. Associate employers and workers organizations from inception as they have extensive networks and are able to reach relevant stakeholders.

6. Pedagogical training for teachers needs to include learning how to deal with and teach children of different ages and levels in their classrooms. Teachers also need to be trained on handling traumatized children and those who have lagged behind for various reasons including those with disabilities.

7. Additional types of vocational training need to be identified in accordance with local labour market needs.

8. There is a need for continued capacity strengthening as the project was only able to work in four districts in each country, special attention needs to be paid to capacity strengthening of labour officers and inspectors.

9. Training needs to be well coordinated to avoid duplication but still allow for refresher training and continued learning on new approaches.

10. Promote IGAs based on existing knowledge and skills of families where possible.

11. Consider assisting community child labour committees to start an IGA to assist in funding activities such as for transport to carry out follow up in households.

12. There is a need for a national child labour monitoring system in both countries and a practical monitoring tool for the Child Labour Committees to use.

13. It is important to fully analyse the capacities of implementing partners and their linkages to other stakeholders in the area. It is also necessary to consider that agencies can also change in terms of quality of delivery over time.

14. The key to sustainability and elimination of child labour, particularly HIV induced child labour, is addressing the poverty levels through improving and implementing well functioning social protection schemes and employment generation.

15. Country decent work initiatives, particularly if they include local economic development approaches, need to concentrate on areas of the country with high levels of HIV and child labour prevalence.

16. Ensuring that vulnerable families are aware of and able to access available government social protection schemes should be an important goal at district and community level.