



Evaluation Summary



International
Labour
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Office

National programme for the elimination of child labour in Lebanon - Final Evaluation

Quick Facts

Countries:	<i>Lebanon</i>
Final Evaluation:	<i>March 2004</i>
Evaluation Mode:	<i>Independent</i>
Administrative Office:	<i>IPEC</i>
Technical Office:	<i>IPEC</i>
Evaluation Manager:	<i>IPEC/DED</i>
Evaluation Consultant(s):	<i>Mahmoud Masri</i>
Project Code:	<i>LEB/00/51/FRA</i>
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Keywords:	<i>Child Labour</i>

Excerpt from the full report summary

1. Objective of the report

Based on the agreement between the ILO and the IPEC (National Program in Lebanon) on one hand and M. Mahmoud Al-Masri writer of the report on the other hand, the Terms of Reference for the evaluation report are as following:

- Short recap of the IPEC in Lebanon.
- Field Meetings and interviews with the program's partners in order to prepare the draft report.
- Organizing a workshop for the Lebanese partners to present the preliminary results in order to get feedback.

- Presenting the final draft of the evaluation report before the 31st of December 2003.

2. Short recap of the IPEC in Lebanon

The Agreement memorandum, between the Lebanese government and the ILO/IPEC, was signed beginning of November 2000 with funding from the French government. The National program contains many projects some of which are national others are local with the collaboration of:

- Official institutions (ministries of Labour, Interior, education and the muhafazats).
- Municipalities.
- Broad Civil society organizations (General Confederation of Labour and the Lebanese Industrialists Association, and specialized associations in Nabattieh, the North, and the Northern Cost of Metn).

2. General objectives

A- Awareness raising:

- Raising the general awareness concerning child Labour in Lebanon through campaigns focusing on the problem, its causing factors and its predicted impacts; and this action should also focus on all the actors (public institutions, NGOs, Civil Society, ILO and the National program) that could play a positive role in solving this issue.

B- Capacity building:

- Contributing, coordinating and participation in specialized seminars concerning child labour and how to fight this phenomenon through empowerment and capacity building of the diverse actors.
- Capacity building of the relevant ministries.
- Capacity building of the labour related organizations.
- Capacity building of municipalities.

Capacity building program for the ministry of Labour through:

- Training the Labour inspectors.
- Creating an anti-child labour unit.
- Geographical realm: national level.
- Start of the program: 15 September 2001.
- Length of the program: 15 months.
- Implementing party: labour ministry.

Capacity building program for the ministry of the interior and the municipalities concerning street-based child labour:

- Geographical realm: Beirut.
- Start of the program: 1 November 2001.
- Length of the program: 15 months.
- Implementing party: the ministry of the interior and the municipalities.

Prevention, rehabilitation and worst kinds of child labour eradication program in Bab Al-Tabaneh (Tripoli):

- Geographical realm: North Lebanon
- Start of the program: June 2002.
- Length of the program: 10 months.
- Implementing party: Municipality Federation of Al-Fayha' (Tripoli, Mina and Al-Badawi).

Prevention, rehabilitation and worst kinds of child labour eradication program in the Muhafazat of Nabattieh:

- Geographical realm: the Muhafazat of Nabattieh.
- Start of the program: 15 September 2001.
- Length of the program: 12 months.
- Implementing party: Ministry of education.

Capacity building program in certain regions:

- Geographical realm: Metn du Nord
- Start of the program: 30 November 2001.
- Length of the program: 15 months.
- Implementing party: Lebanese Industrialist Association.

Capacity building program for the General Confederation of Labour in preventing the worst kinds of child labour in Lebanon:

- Geographical realm: National Level.
- Start of the program: 30 November 2001.
- Length of the program: 17 months.
- Implementing party: General Confederation of Labour.

Prevention, rehabilitation and elimination of worst kinds of child labour in Sein Al-Feel and Burj Hamoud:

- Geographical realm: Southern eastern suburbs of Beirut.
- Start of the program: 15 September 2001.
- Length of the program: 12 months.
- Implementing party: Holy Cross aid association and the Coordination committee of the Sein Al-Feel and Burj Hamoud association.

C- Legal and legislative level:

- Change Lebanese legislation so it could be more in conformity to International agreement and to issue implementation directives to safeguard them.
- Contribute in expanding the role of civil society organizations by raising its awareness and its advocacy skills to pressure for the signing of the two special ILO conventions: 138/ pertaining to the specification of the lower age threshold for employment; 182/ pertaining to the eradication of the worst kind of child labour.
- Contribute in strengthening the law pertaining to the obligatory free primary education, which helps in limiting child labour.

D- Coordination:

- Creating structures of cooperation between Labour unions, employers associations, NGOs and public institutions.
- Creating structures of cooperation between ministries, central governments institutions in the regions, municipalities and civil society organizations.
- Creating structures of cooperation between the diverse specialized units in the pertaining ministries.

E- Studies and statistics:

- Encouraging research and studies on the child labour phenomenon
- Creating a database linked to the phenomenon of child labour; because of the lack of any statistics on the subject. The most recent study containing statistics on the subject dates from 1997 was done by the ministry of social affairs and the UNDP, on a 'wild' sample of 70 000 families representing approximately 10% of the population.

F- General policy:

- Participation in the development of public policies concerning child labour.
- Effort to guaranty the adoption of a national strategy, which will prioritize the issue and adopt a working plan.
- Initiating pioneering pilot projects that include public administration and civil society organizations in order for them to become a springboard for nation-wide projects.

radio media should be integrated in long-term campaign spots to raise the awareness of the general public, it should be visibly sponsored by the head of state and governmental figures in order to increase its media impact. The campaign spots should target also specific target groups like employers, teachers etc. Ministry of information should be integrated in this aspect of the program since it can best insure the media's cooperation.

- Creation of a social safety net, which requires new legislation and adequate funding: unemployment aid, Social family aid for families with numerous kids and aid for single-parent families. The ministry of Social affairs should push for these new legislations.
- Implementing the laws.
- Passing by the parliament of the signed international agreements (the government signs international agreements but for them to be put into effect the parliament has to ratify them)
- More capacity building of partners.

Conclusions/Recommendations

It is necessary that the program continue, which is the sentiment of all partners as well as the target group (working children). But certain extra efforts are needed, which they are the following:

- Making the national committee responsible for the supervision of the projects.
- Reinforcing cooperation in implementing the projects by creating structures of cooperation where all partners are represented and form an implementation team. Until now cooperation tended to be more limited to meetings where each side tending to work on its own afterwards.
- Pressuring for the inclusion of the informal sector and the agricultural sector within the scope of labour laws.
- Reinforcing municipality's prerogatives concerning this issue.
- Speed up the implementation of a national strategy
- More special rehabilitation centers (i.e. Beka region).
- Increasing raising awareness action, quantitatively and qualitatively. Television and