

# Project Brief



International  
Labour  
Organization

## Combating Child Labour in Central Asia – Commitment becomes Action PROACT CAR Phase III (RER/11/51P/FRG)

**Project duration:** January 2010 – December 2013

**Lead Office:** ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team and Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

**Donor:** Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

**Countries:** Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan



## BACKGROUND

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are among the countries in Central Asia seriously affected by the Worst Forms of Child Labour, such as: agriculture and informal economy, trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation, street work, illicit activities (begging, petty theft and drug peddling), domestic labour and hazardous work in agriculture (tobacco, cotton, rice). The prevalence of the WFCL in these countries has disastrous effects on the safety, health and well-being of children. Urgent action was and it is still needed to eliminate these practices.

ILO-IPEC programme launched the third phase of regional project “**Combating Child Labour in Central Asia – Commitment becomes Action, PROACT CAR Phase III**” in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan (January 2010 – December 2013), funded by the Federal Republic of Germany.

## PROJECT STRATEGY

In order to support the implementation of the ILO Global Action Plan that sets the internationally agreed goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016, the Decent Work Country Programmes in the respective countries and to build on progress made and lessons learned to date, the project is supporting the implementation of the National Action Plans on the worst forms of child labour in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan through the combination of policy-related interventions with service-oriented activities at the community level.

## PILLARS OF INTERVENTIONS

**Mainstreaming child labour issue into the national policy development frameworks and support the implementation of the National Action Plans on the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan**

- The Kyrgyz National Roadmap on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour by 2016 was adopted on 13 June 2011 in the framework of the State Programme of Actions of Social Partners on elimination the worst forms of child labour for 2008-2011.
- The National Action Plan on Prevention and Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Tajikistan for 2013-2020 is being designed.
- The mapping of the main national policy development framework in order to mainstream



Photo: ILO

## IPEC

The ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) was created in 1992 with the overall goal of the progressive elimination of child labour, IPEC has made significant progress in tackling the problem of child labour. It is working in nearly 90 countries and benefiting millions of children. IPEC has provided technical assistance on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour to Central Asian countries since 2005.

IPEC's work to eliminate child labour is an important facet of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda. Child labour not only prevents children from acquiring the skills and education they need for a better future, it also perpetuates poverty and affects national economies through losses in competitiveness, productivity and potential income. Withdrawing children from child labour, providing them with education and assisting their families with training and employment opportunities contribute directly to creating decent work for adults.

the child labour and youth employment issues is in the process.

- The list of hazardous work prohibited to children under 18 will be determined in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan based on a desk review and tripartite consultations.

## Enriching the knowledge base on child labour

- A Baseline Survey in Agriculture (cotton, tobacco and vegetables growing) in Almaty and South-Kazakhstan regions was conducted in 2011.

*“ILO-IPEC has been a great partner in our effort to best address the problem of child labour in Kazakhstan. We are currently planning to pilot Child Labour Monitoring System in a cotton-growing district of South-Kazakhstan.”, Galiya Jussupova, Department of Child Protection of South-Kazakhstan oblast*

- At the request of the Government of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, National Child Labour Surveys will be conducted within 2012-2013 with the support of ILO-IPEC Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC).

## Enhancing the capacity of ILO stakeholders to combat child labour

- Government officials from in line ministries (Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health) are trained on child labour issues;
- Workers' and Employers' organizations are trained on child labour issues, including Child Labour Monitoring System;
- Establishment and institutionalization of Child Labour Units within the Federation of Trade Union and the National Confederation of the Employers in Kyrgyzstan



Kyrgyz Social Protection Minister Aigul Ryskulova visited a CLMS pilot area – Dordoi wholesale market

- Thematic Regional Trainings on: Child Labour and Education; Child Labour and Trafficking, Child Labour Monitoring System conducted.

*“There is an urgent need to combine the efforts of the governmental bodies, parents, social workers and teachers and take joint measures in tackling child labour”, stated the Minister of Social Protection of Population of Kyrgyzstan, Ms. Aigul Ryskulova, during her visit to Dordoi wholesale market, a Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS) pilot area, on 30 November 2011.*

- IPEC training tools translated and adapted into Russian:
  - IPEC and Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) manual: Child Labour and Trade Unions;
  - Bureau for Employers' Activities (ACT/EMP): Guides for Employers on Eliminating Child Labour;
  - Education Package SCREAM – Supporting Children's Rights through Education, Arts and Media;
  - IPEC Child Labour Monitoring System Guidelines;

Nigina, Farzona and Muhammad live with their mother who works in a café washing dishes. Their father is in prison. Their mother couldn't afford the cost of sending children to school, and Nigina and Muhammad both worked to help support the family. Muhammad and his two sister all attended non-formal education classes at



Photo: ILO

the Child Labour Monitoring Sector at the National Center of Adult (NCAE) education of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. “My name is Muhammad, I worked in the market, carrying different freight in a trolley. I met with the monitors in the market and they identified my current situation, living and working condition, I told them about my living situation, which forced me to go to the street and work. The monitors found my two sisters, Nigina and Farzona who were working too to the CLM Sector of the NCAE. Attending the centre has really helped me and my sisters. We have all returned to school and I have stopped working in the market. Education is very important to me and my sisters.”

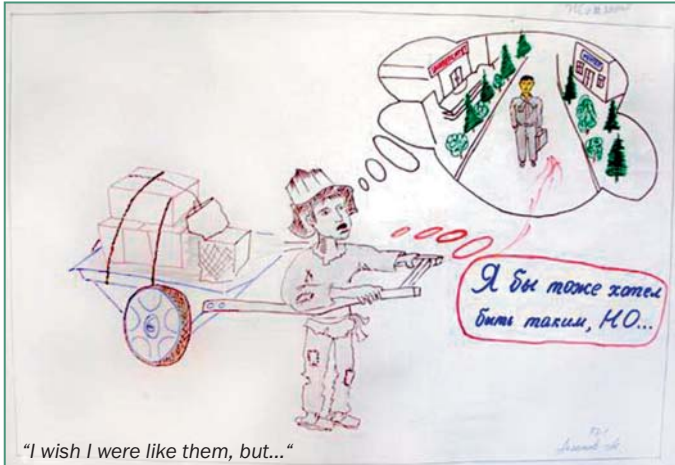


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- IPEC handbook on mainstreaming Child Labour issues at the Education Sector Plans
- IPEC Training Manual to Fight Trafficking in Children for Labour, Sexual and other Forms of Exploitation
- “Training Manual for Teachers on Non-Formal Education (NFE)” produced in Albania in 2006, under ILO-IPEC guidance

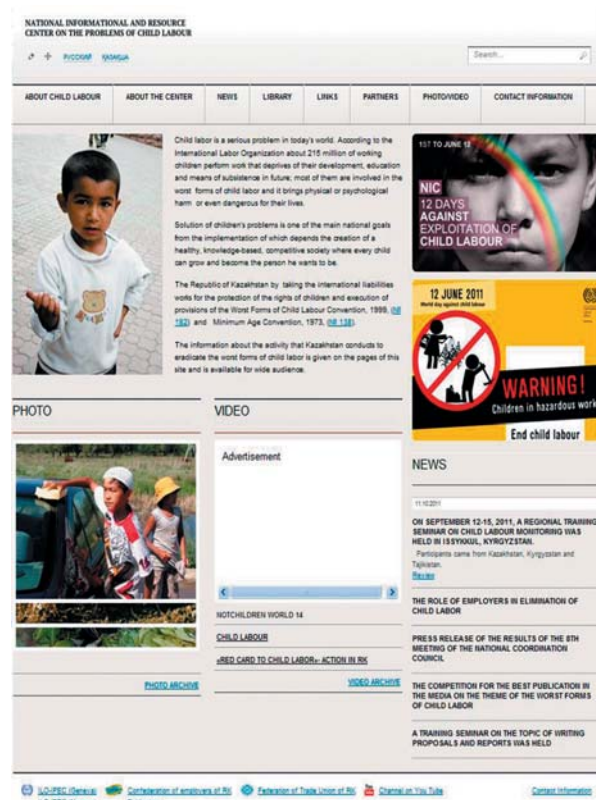
### Raising Awareness among policy-makers and public at large on child labour issues



Awareness raising activities are organized to mark the World Day against Child Labour which focuses attention on the extent of child labour as well as on the action and efforts needed to



The ILO-IPEC Fact Sheets “Activities for the Elimination of Child Labour in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan 2005-2010” were produced in order to raise awareness among the key stakeholders and public at large on child labour issue and the ILO-IPEC activities in the country.



This website was created with ILO-IPEC assistance, and it is hosted by the National Information Resource Center on Child Labour under the National Scientific Research Institute for Labour Protection of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan – [www.stopdetrud.kz](http://www.stopdetrud.kz)

eliminate it. Each year on 12 June, the World Day brings together government representatives, employer’s and worker’s representatives, children’s, parents, civil society to highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them.

### Providing direct services to working children and children at risk

An **Integrated area-based approach** is applied in the respective countries. This approach offers a coherent strategy for addressing all forms of child labour prevalent in a well-defined geographical area, from three perspectives: labour-based; rights-based and community livelihoods perspectives. It is implemented



Vera Bredihina, representative of the Trade Unions of Education and Science Workers of Kyrgyzstan participated in the Child Labour Monitoring System Workshop held in Issykkul in September 2011: “We conducted the child labour monitoring in Cholpon-Ata and visited most different places – cafes, markets and a car wash. If you ask me to formulate my impressions briefly, I can say that we once again convinced ourselves how pressing the problem of child labour is, as for only one hour we’ve met and interviewed ten working children. You would not believe that two of them - boys aged 12 and 14 - work as sellers in an alcohol beverage store.”

through the Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS) which aims at: identifying child labourers and children at risk to enter WFCL, referring them to services and tracking them to ensure that they have satisfactory alternatives. Working children and children at-risk to work are provided with formal and non-formal education, vocational training, life skills and recreational activities.

Child Labour Monitoring System is piloted in Tajikistan (Dushanbe Municipality and Isfara district/Sougd region) and Kyrgyzstan (three rayons of Bishkek Municipality, Issykkul and Chuy regions).

## PROJECT PARTNERS

### *ILO Constituents in the region*

In all three project countries, permanent bodies as Coordination Council on child labour issues in Kyrgyzstan, the National Coordination Councils on Elimination of WFCL in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan have been set up with the assistance of ILO-IPEC which consists of representatives from the government, workers' and employers organizations as well as relevant civil society and international organizations. The workers' organizations are represented by the national Federations of Trade Unions in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and the Federation of Independent Trade Unions in Tajikistan. The employers' organizations are represented by the national Confederations of Employers in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and the Union of Employers in Tajikistan.

The government in Kazakhstan is represented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Interior Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Culture and Information. The project also closely collaborates with National Commission on Affairs of Women and Family and Demographic Policy, National Center on Human Rights, General Prosecutor's Office.

In Kyrgyzstan the government is represented by the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Youth, Labour and Employment, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior. The project works in close cooperation with the Federation of Trade Unions, Trade Union of agro-workers of Kyrgyzstan, Trade Union of Education and Science Workers of Kyrgyzstan.

In Tajikistan the government is represented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Commission on Child rights under the President Office of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Strategic Research Centre under the President Office of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Combating

Human Trafficking. The project also cooperates with the National Committee of Workers' Unions of Trade, Consumer Cooperatives and Other Forms of Entrepreneurship.

These bodies play a fundamental role in determining the country specific strategy and approach to address child labour as well as in developing the project's workplan at the national level and its implementation.

### **Non-Governmental Organizations**

Non-Governmental Organizations are important cooperating partners in all the three countries, both with regard to direct action programmes aimed at withdrawing and preventing children from work, as well as for undertaking awareness raising activities.

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