"children have the right to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing hazardous work"
Launched in October 2001 in Geneva, the ECLT Foundation is a multi-sectorial initiative that groups 3

1. Building multi-stakeholder partnerships
2. Raising awareness on child labour
3. Improving access to education
4. Fostering dialogue between social partners
5. Integrating projects within the national framework of action against child labour
6. Building local capacity to ensure ownership and long-term sustainability
7. Improving the communities’ livelihoods and living conditions
8. Ensuring project accountability through monitoring, impact assessment and evaluation mechanisms
9. Co-operating closely with local authorities
10. Setting up vocational training for older children

The activities of the ECLT Foundation are driven by 10 guiding principles, which, in turn, are reflected in the projects. They all have in common the ultimate objective of reducing the use of child labour.

The objective of the ECLT Foundation (Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco-growing) is to contribute to the elimination of the use of child labour in the tobacco-growing sector in order to provide children with an upbringing that gives them the best chance of success in all aspects of life.
Launched in October 2001 in Geneva, the ECLT Foundation is a multi-sectorial initiative that supports:

- trade unions: the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers’ Associations (IUF)
- tobacco farmers’ associations: the International Tobacco Growers Association (ITGA)
- multinational tobacco manufacturing companies: Altabis, British American Tobacco, Gallaher, Imperial Tobacco, Japan Tobacco, Philip Morris International, Philip Morris USA, Scandinavian Tobacco
- and, as advisor to the Foundation Board, the UN’s International Labour Organisation (ILO), and more specifically its division that addresses child labour, the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

Independent research

There is a need to provide a detailed profile of child labour (quantitative and qualitative benchmark data) and conduct in-depth research to address it. The ECLT Foundation has built a partnership with the ILO to research on:

- the extent of child labour in tobacco-growing in Indonesia
- the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its impact on child labour in tobacco-growing in sub-Saharan Africa (Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda): how to provide support to vulnerable young orphans who have to fend for themselves while at high risk of being exploited?
- the reality of child labour in tobacco-growing and cigar manufacturing in the Dominican Republic.

The research results and recommendations, which will be made public on the ECLT Foundation website www.eclt.org, will help in designing new child labour programmes and improving the overall response.

Field projects

By supporting and funding different pilot projects in areas where child labour is prevalent, the ECLT Foundation acts concretely in favour of children and their communities. In the longer term, these projects will help to build best practice that will be shared among the projects’ partners and with organisations interested in addressing the issue.

The ECLT Foundation’s projects do not tackle child labour in isolation, rather they apply a comprehensive approach by integrating:

- prevention
- protection and rehabilitation of child labourers
- improvement of the communities’ living conditions and labour standards.

Since 2001, projects have been launched in Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and the Philippines. The ECLT Foundation’s activities will be expanded in the near future to other African, Latin American and Asian countries. The field projects’ partners are international and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), governments and the ILO.

The ECLT Foundation Board meets three times per year in Geneva or locally on a project site. Advised by the ILO, it defines the Foundation policy and reviews reports provided by the Foundation staff on current and future projects.

Launching in October 2001 in Geneva, that groups:

- multinational tobacco manufacturing companies: Altabis, British American Tobacco, Gallaher, Imperial Tobacco, Japan Tobacco, Philip Morris International, Philip Morris USA, Scandinavian Tobacco
- and, as advisor to the Foundation Board, the UN’s International Labour Organisation (ILO), and more specifically its division that addresses child labour, the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

Agriculture accounts for 70% of the 250 million child labourers world-wide.

Like other agricultural sectors, tobacco-growing is not exempt from the phenomenon of child labour, which sees children denied of their right to education, safety, health and wellbeing in short: child labourers are deprived of their basic human rights.

The challenge to eliminate child labour is particularly difficult in the least developed countries due to widespread poverty: the worsening economic and social conditions in which families live and the poor performance of the education system force small-holder farmers to involve their children in their own economic activities. Child labourers face many health, safety and occupational hazards by working long hours, being exposed to toxic agrochemicals and performing strenuous work.

The ECLT Foundation has developed a strategy within the legal framework of ILO Conventions 138 (minimum working age) and 182 (worst forms of child labour), which focuses on two complementary areas:

- carrying out independent research
- supporting field projects.

Independent research

There is a need to provide a detailed profile of child labour (quantitative and qualitative benchmark data) and conduct in-depth research to address it. The ECLT Foundation has built a partnership with the ILO to research on:

- the extent of child labour in tobacco-growing in Indonesia
- the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its impact on child labour in tobacco-growing in sub-Saharan Africa (Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda): how to provide support to vulnerable young orphans who have to fend for themselves while at high risk of being exploited?
- the reality of child labour in tobacco-growing and cigar manufacturing in the Dominican Republic.

The research results and recommendations, which will be made public on the ECLT Foundation website www.eclt.org, will help in designing new child labour programmes and improving the overall response.

Field projects

By supporting and funding different pilot projects in areas where child labour is prevalent, the ECLT Foundation acts concretely in favour of children and their communities. In the longer term, these projects will help to build best practice that will be shared among the projects’ partners and with organisations interested in addressing the issue.

The ECLT Foundation’s projects do not tackle child labour in isolation, rather they apply a comprehensive approach by integrating:

- prevention
- protection and rehabilitation of child labourers
- improvement of the communities’ living conditions and labour standards.

Since 2001, projects have been launched in Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and the Philippines. The ECLT Foundation’s activities will be expanded in the near future to other African, Latin American and Asian countries. The field projects’ partners are international and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), governments and the ILO.

The ECLT Foundation Board meets three times per year in Geneva or locally on a project site. Advised by the ILO, it defines the Foundation policy and reviews reports provided by the Foundation staff on current and future projects.
more than 40 awareness-raising sessions are being held with the active participation of 3,000 tobacco farmers, workers and tenants to sensitize them on child labour. Awareness-raising and advocacy help change social norms and cultural justifications of child labour from denial to action. These mobilisation campaigns (printed media, drama, songs and videos) are very effective in reaching the local communities, given that tobacco and cotton are the main cash crops grown in these areas. The information provided during these campaigns includes statistics and facts on the effects of child labour, and how child labour differs from traditional child helping or chores. Awareness-raising is a standard feature in all projects, as it is an effective way to reduce the number of child labourers.

Building multi-stakeholder partnerships

Raising awareness on child labour

A standard feature in all projects is the need for development campaigns at local levels employing traditional forms of culture and languages to deliver the message to the communities the importance of education and the health hazards related to child labour. Awareness-raising and advocacy help change social norms and cultural justifications of child labour from denial to action. These mobilisation campaigns (printed media, drama, songs and videos) are very effective in reaching the local communities, given that tobacco and cotton are the main cash crops grown in these areas. The information provided during these campaigns includes statistics and facts on the effects of child labour, and how child labour differs from traditional child helping or chores. Awareness-raising is a standard feature in all projects, as it is an effective way to reduce the number of child labourers.

Summary of the Malawi project (AECL)

• raise awareness on child labour with farmers, teachers, children, official and tribal representatives through discussion groups, drama performances, songs and recitals
• build local capacity and ensure sustainability by having local child labour and school committees set up to implement and monitor the project
• build a junior primary school
• Duration: 2003-2005
• Partner: the Association on the Elimination of Child Labour (AECL) as a partnership between employers’ and workers’ groups, government ministries and traditional authority groups

Social dialogue: the tobacco tenants’ union has teamed up with the tobacco growers’ and employers’ association to address the issue of child labour in the project area. Their representatives hold joint awareness-raising sessions with tobacco farmers, workers and tenants to sensitize them on child labour issues and to train them on basic book-keeping. This specific partnership has also enabled both local organisations to improve social dialogue and enhance mutual understanding on labour-related issues other than child labour.

Improving access to education

The education of children is a vital component in the fight against child labour. Extending and improving schooling for the poor – especially girls – is the most effective way to reduce the number of child labourers. It is therefore necessary to reach and educate rural communities about the alternatives to child labour, in particular the importance of education for all children. By taking this approach, working children, in particular the dominant group with whom they are to go to school. Where necessary and when possible, the ECLT Foundation builds or renovates school buildings and provides material support to improve conditions under which children are educated.

Fostering dialogue between social partners

Child labour contributes to the unemployment of adults. Therefore employers’ and workers’ organisations have a specific role to play by influencing their respective national and local authorities, so that they can change social norms and cultural justifications of child labour. Awareness-raising and advocacy help change social norms and cultural justifications of child labour from denial to action. These mobilisation campaigns (printed media, drama, songs and videos) are very effective in reaching the local communities, given that tobacco and cotton are the main cash crops grown in these areas. The information provided during these campaigns includes statistics and facts on the effects of child labour, and how child labour differs from traditional child helping or chores. Awareness-raising is a standard feature in all projects, as it is an effective way to reduce the number of child labourers.
Summary of the Tanzania project

- build capacity of communities and local partner agencies
- raise awareness and sensitize local communities on child labour
- withdraw child labourers and return them to formal education
- establish micro-credit schemes and develop income-generating activities for poor households, which enable farmers to meet their basic family needs and send their children to school
- train parents on the setting-up and management of savings and credit facilities
- provide extended support through good farming practices to increase productivity and quality of produce, which in turn contributes to reducing the poverty level of local households

Duration: 2003-2006

Coordinating partner: the ILO/IPEC Tanzania works with local NGOs, workers’ and employers’ organisations, and the tobacco industry

Project area: Urambo district
Amount: USD 558,000

Integrating projects within the national framework of action against child labour

It is important that all ECLT Foundation projects maintain strong links with the policies developed by governments and the ILO in the fight against child labour. This is particularly true regarding the effective elimination of the worst forms of child labour in commercial agriculture. The ECLT Foundation and its field partners benefit from lessons learnt through interventions in other agricultural sectors and in turn share their own best practice with all relevant organizations.

Principles in action: Tanzania project

Building local capacity to ensure ownership and long-term sustainability

By creating local partnerships and engaging the communities in the project planning and implementation, the ECLT Foundation and its partners ensure a participatory process, which facilitates the building of local capacity. This is essential for the long-term sustainability of the action.

The objective of this mobilisation is for communities to perceive the project as their own. Community-based monitoring is also an effective way of combating and preventing child labour.

National campaign against child labour: upon ratifying ILO Conventions 138 and 182, the Tanzanian government has approved a policy framework for the abolition of child labour. Together with the ILO, a time-bound project has been established with specific time frames set for each sectoral activity. Whereas the ILO has been developing different programmes to combat child labour in various commercial agriculture sectors, it has not addressed specifically the situation prevailing in the tobacco-growing region of Urambo. This is now remedied as the ECLT funded project is fully integrated in the overall Tanzanian government and ILO action against child labour.

Principles in action: Malawi project (TECS)

Local capacity-building: CRECOCOM, a Malawian NGO with significant experience in community mobilization, has held many sensitisation activities with the local communities. As a result, the latter have set up their own child labour and school committees. The local communities have launched their own initiatives by setting up kindergartens and a junior primary school outside the project framework and with no external funding: kindergartens allow school-age children to attend classes as they do not need to look after their younger siblings anymore. Furthermore, as a result of this community mobilisation, traditional authority leaders have publicly condemned the practice of child labour and issued orders banning it in their areas of jurisdiction. Capacity-building efforts combined with the communities’ sense of ownership increase the likelihood for the project to become sustainable.

© ECLT FOUNDATION

< CONTENTS
Improving the communities' livelihoods and living conditions

Poverty is undoubtedly a dominant factor in the use of child labour: families on or below the poverty line have no other options than to force their children to work to supplement their household’s meagre income.

The ECLT Foundation does not address child labour in isolation but as part of a comprehensive approach aimed at improving labour standards and fighting rural poverty. It builds on efforts to provide accessible education and develop poverty alleviation projects (through income-generating projects, micro-credits, etc.). The objective is to act concretely in the areas of food security, health, sanitation, crop diversification and yield in order to impact positively on the livelihoods of families. Improved living conditions, coupled with an intensive awareness-raising campaign on child labour, create the right environment to induce parents to send their children to school.

Esuring project accountability through monitoring, impact assessment and evaluation mechanisms

Monitoring and independent external evaluation are important and integral parts of each project supported by the ECLT Foundation. In order to assess objectively the impact of the activities, measurement indicators are established for each project and are followed up throughout its life cycle, until completion. Whereas quantitative indicators are easy to measure (e.g., percentage of children attending school, drop-out rates), qualitative ones are more difficult to set up (e.g., change of perception of parents on child labour) but are essential to ensure long-term sustainability of the action.

Each project needs to be documented properly with adequate financial and narrative periodic reporting. Mid-term evaluations are usually carried out to assess that the projects’ initial objectives are being met. The ECLT Foundation and its partners have a responsibility to follow-up on projects, beyond their completion.

Communities’ livelihoods and living conditions:

- in order to improve the communities’ livelihoods, an irrigation scheme has been developed by Total Land Care, a Malawian NGO. Under this scheme, farmers are provided with irrigation pumps in order to diversify their crops and increase their yield. As the pumps are sold (at a subsidised price) to the farmers, they take good care of them. The money is then invested in a local revolving fund which enables other farmers to borrow for purchasing pumps. As a result, 18 months into the project, food security has dramatically improved within the targeted communities.
- Child labour has been significantly reduced: school enrolment is up 32% and school drop-outs are down 64%.
- Children have more time available to attend school and study. As a result, 18 months into the project, food security has dramatically improved within the targeted communities.
- As a result, 18 months into the project, food security has dramatically improved within the targeted communities.
- As a result, 18 months into the project, food security has dramatically improved within the targeted communities.
- As a result, 18 months into the project, food security has dramatically improved within the targeted communities.
- As a result, 18 months into the project, food security has dramatically improved within the targeted communities.
- As a result, 18 months into the project, food security has dramatically improved within the targeted communities.
Co-operating closely with local authorities

The support and active participation of the local authorities are essential to the project’s success. Local representatives from the Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Labour, Social Affairs and other relevant district officials need to be associated closely to the project goals and subsequent implementation. This governmental participation ensures the sustainability of the project once the ECLT Foundation and its partner have completed it. This is particularly true regarding the handing-over of schools that have been built or renovated within the project framework.

Setting up vocational training for older children

The integration of former child labourers into the education system proves particularly challenging for older children (12 to 18 years old), many of whom have dropped out of school at a young age. They show limited interest for formal education and often refuse to share classrooms with younger pupils. It is therefore necessary to provide them with alternatives such as training programmes that focus on practical and marketable skills and offer immediate economic alternatives and incentives to make them attractive.