

ECLT Foundation

ECLT Foundation

Experiences Sharing & Learning Workshop
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Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

11th - 13th September 2006

Article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states: *"States Parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development..."*

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1.0 Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ILO	International Labour Organisation
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ECLT	Elimination of Child Labour in Tobacco Sector
CRs	Child Rights
CW	Child Work
NSGRP	National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty
PRSPs	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
CLCs	Child Labour Committees
CL	Child Labour

Summary Report of the Workshop

1. Introduction

A first-ever, meeting of ECLT partners was held in Tanzania, Dar es Salaam, in September 2006 with the objectives of:

- Sharing and learning from partner experiences,
- Establishing the status of implementation of CL activities, and
- Identifying commonalities and to map future strategic and project practise directions

The participants concluded the workshop on a third day, and overwhelmingly evaluated it as a big success in terms of experience exchange and learning.

At the opening of the meeting, the Director ECLT, presented a **background introduction to Child Labour**. The objective of the director's presentation was to develop a common understanding of the concepts and issues surrounding Child Labour.

The Director's presentation mainly focused on the following key messages:

- ➔ Child Labour should be understood amongst the partners as;
 - ILO 182: All forms of slavery or similar practices inc forced labour and military recruitment, prostitution or pornography, illicit activities and;
 - Work, which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.
- ➔ As to why children work, the following were key;
 - Poverty
 - Inaccessible, inadequate, or irrelevant education
 - Social norms
 - Compounding factors: HIV/Aids, discrimination, gender, caste/tribe
- ➔ The director emphasized "duty bearers" should be involved on CL issues and that it is as much a legal duty to respond to CL issues as a moral one. The "duty bearers" include government, employers, unions, fellow workers, communities, parents and guardians.
- ➔ To make the changes positive for the child;
 - Engage in integrated policy/intervention response, and partnership
 - Work towards inclusion of CL issues in policy papers of governments, donors, UN agencies, employers, even PRSPs etc
 - R190: extensively consult and involve children and their communities for sustainable and appropriate responses to CL
 - Give special consideration to particular vulnerable groups, e.g. child prostitutes, HIVAIDS orphans etc

The Director's presentation in summary, pointed to a grim future that leaves children more vulnerable as result of the HIV/AIDs scourge in the societies, and mainly in African societies. The consequences of HIV/AIDS pandemic is foreseen to;

- Having millions more of vulnerable children

- Increased poverty, lower levels of protection at community and national levels
- Increased state and community vulnerability to market movements

2.0 Key Successes

- All partners presented evidence of good relationships and outcomes at community level and indicated considerable synergies between integrated approaches and successful removal of children from child labour.
- Communities and families reached were generally small as might be anticipated from pilot programmes but the buy in of partners eg Government of Philippines who contributes over 40% of funding costs of the project from its own funds is significant.
- Most partners reported increased access to basic services as a result of ECLT programme interventions. In Malawi (TECS) shallow wells have been installed in project villages and 22,284 people now have access to safe water which represents 100% of affected villagers having access to safe water within 500 metres which has both significant health and labour saving consequences
- Programmes reported considerably improved access to credit although repayment rates varied with Kyrgystan leading with 100% repayment despite late issuing of credits by local agencies.
- HIV/Aids information also increased across programmes. In Zambia around 12000 people were reached directly and 18 HIV/Aids peer educators were trained as a result of ECLT funding.
- Access and retention to education, a key element of responses to child labour also improved considerably across ECLT programming areas which are traditionally highly rural with limited infrastructure and few quality controls. In Uganda drop out rates have reduced from 45% to 25% whilst in Malawi (AECL) the construction of a school locally in the project area has increased access to school by younger pupils who no longer have to walk so far to access their education.
- Capacity within local communities and amongst district and provincial actors, including government has been considerably strengthened. Nearly every programme reported the development and/or strengthening of local child labour and/or child protection committees which engaged substantively with the projects.
- Some partners presented on the compounded benefits of ECLT programming which has had significant impacts outside project areas. In Kyrgystan for example access to credit conditional upon the non use of child labour has spread into other sectors and attitudinal change work in Kyrgyzstan and Philippines has resulted in children demanding to go to school rather than be employed in fields.

2.1 Lessons Learnt

- 2.1.1. Partners came to the realisation that, the new focus upon capturing and measuring change in their work of CL elimination, will require an increased focus upon qualitative indicators to supplement the quantitative ones that were mainly presented by the partners. The following are examples of indicators discussed at the workshop that will guide the partners in measuring change. The indicators

have been categorised in project activity areas and in discussions ECLT secretariat agreed to a renewed focus upon increasing support to the institutional development of partners' capacity to address CL effectively.

Project Activity Areas and Related Indicators

➤ Support to educational & emotional development of the children

Related Indicators

- Number of withdrawn children against a baseline reference.
- Increased enrolment rates in schools.
- Children's attendance in school is stable in a specified academic calendar.
- There is evident improvement in performance of children in schools
- Increased secondary school enrolment (an attitude change indicator as it demonstrates level of commitment to education)
- Teachers and schools' management capacity is improved

➤ Building the capacity of the supportive environment of the children.

Related Indicators

At Family level:

- Household income is increased
- Improved financial stability at household level
- Favourable expenditure patterns in families in favour of children.
- Families' alternatives to increase income

At Community level:

- Committed CL committees exist, meet regularly and are effective.
- The CL issues being identified are integrated at local and district level decision-making.
- The communities contribute in cash or in kind to CL issues.
- There are new community-based initiatives addressing CL
- Nature and quality of decisions made in CLCs.
- Involvement of children, and the initiatives developed to address the needs raised by children and children lobbyists.
- Mechanisms put in place at community level for children voices to be heard
- Establishment of community based M&E systems

➤ Awareness raising, lobby and advocacy on CL and related issues. (related issues would include: HIV/AIDS/Legal and policy gaps/hazardous work/existing conventions CL and CRs etc)

Related Indicators

- There are new community-based initiatives addressing CL
- Working conditions/number of hours and tasks children do are publicised
- Research based awareness creation is undertaken. Implementation of research based strategies.
- There is budgetary allocation or other resources to the CL activities by local/national authorities and other stakeholders.

- There is increased preparedness in taking over CL project activities by local/national authorities.
- Local authorities provide more of institutional support.
- Personnel capacity to handle CL demands is enhanced amongst different actors.
- Issues are raised on CL with the local/national authorities

➡ Partnerships and linkages to strategic stakeholders.

Related Indicators

- An ECLT overall framework for monitoring is developed in collaboration with partners and applied in monitoring of CL interventions.
- Networking in learning and sharing of best practices is regularised amongst ECLT members.
- Financial policies, procedures and reporting formats are developed in consultation with partners and the partners apply them in managing their affairs.
- Formats and standardised policies/procedures are applied by partners. (Policies and procedures are context specific)
- Integration of CL programmes in other respective sectors/industries clusters
- Partners and stakeholders are committed to meetings on CL issues
- Effective project steering committees are in place
- There is integration of project activities in the Steering Committee members' projects
- Partners apply lessons learnt from exchange and mutual networking, in their CL activities
- There is direct contact and mutual consultation amongst partners on CL issues

Other Lessons Learnt

- 2.1.2. To sustain the CL initiatives, the partners were of consensus that there is need to advocate to influence policy and legal frameworks that will provide the protection of CRs in relation to international conventions.
- 2.1.3. Structures for CL that are entrenched within the community and local government councils are a necessary way to sustain the role of the community in providing Children labourers with a conducive environment within which their rights and development is supported.
- 2.1.4. The micro-credit schemes requires significant management time and effort if they have to bear results and create economically viable revolving funds. Planning and training for the implementation of micro businesses must be undertaken early, so as to prepare the members socially and in business orientation, prior to allowing them to venture into businesses.
- 2.1.5. Partners shared issues that cause or may cause CL to worsen. Unanimously, it was agreed that poverty, HIV/AIDS and conflict are also major causes of CL.
- 2.1.6. Existing policies (NSGRP, PRSP etc) hardly mention CL issues, and when they do, minimal or no resources are allocated. It was agreed at the meeting that this is clearly an area for future advocacy

- 2.1.7. ECLT's policy still focused on CL in tobacco sector, although both secretariat and partners agreed that other working alliances in other agricultural sectors like cocoa, tea, and sugar could help enhance lobbying for the implementation of the international conventions and specifically support protection of child labourers more widely locally.
- 2.1.8. Good and effective leadership at family and community level facilitates appropriate and effective institutionalisation of CL issues.
- 2.1.9. So far, the advocacy undertaken has not been premised upon the research-based evidence which is available. It was agreed that both evidence based research and advocacy activities should be expanded significantly.
- 2.1.10. Where there is no policy on CL issues, the use of local/community structures provides very useful entry points to work on CL.
- 2.1.11. The local Steering Committees of ECLT projects are not consistently active or effective and need to be revitalised.
- 2.1.12. Sustainability was interpreted as falling within the following parameters:
 - Activities continuing in one form or another at all levels
 - Localisation of different committees and community structures
 - Integration of project activities into regional and national structures
 - Integration of cross-cutting issues like HIV/AIDS and other issues that make CL to escalate
 - Communities taking up more of the responsibilities in managing CL activities.
- 2.1.13. Most of the indicators for measuring change are mainly at the community level, where the partners make various CL interventions. The interventions include and /or are closer to the child. This is an indication that the partners are not off-mark.
- 2.1.14. Poverty reduction projects have a very short span to have impact of reducing poverty in i.e. 3 years. To influence poverty reduction, long-term interventions are necessary.
- 2.1.15. Schools and teacher training institutions do not inculcate CL issues in their curriculum but it was agreed that this could be an area for future interventions.
- 2.1.16. There is insufficient emphasis in current programming on the improvement of the school infrastructure and teacher training, to accommodate and enhance the educational environment of appropriately withdrawn children. To date this has been an issue of resources but will be considered within new strategic planning.
- 2.1.17. There is a growing trend of trade unions shifting away from the traditional approach of only representing the formal employees. Trade union representation now also focus on the informal sector and are increasingly representing small scale producers in some countries.
- 2.1.18. The criteria for separating the CL from CW was summarised as, age, interference with education and, CL harmful and hazardous work.
- 2.1.19. Companies are required to comply with the international standards and legal frameworks. It is beyond moral obligation but also a legal requirement.
- 2.1.20. Trafficking was now a major issue and partners felt the need to explore the issue further.
- 2.1.21. There are different positions of stakeholders on what child labour is; e.g. trade unions' position is that child labour in tobacco sector has to be forbidden; while companies in different countries insist that some activities in tobacco are not

- harmful; governments position is rather more complex as they are parties to and bound by the ILO and UN conventions although they do not always enforce them.
- 2.1.22. Various micro-credit schemes projects presented had been rated as successful but lacked baseline data upon which the economic improvement achieved could be measured.

2.2 Best Practices Strategic Ways forward by and for Partners

- 2.2.1. To monitor effectiveness and impact of our work in combating CL, requires common, cost effective and sound M&E systems in place. Impact monitoring will best be measured by focusing on the **qualitative change** that we seek to achieve. M&E framework should be in place to measure the intended change prior to the commencement of the project and where this has not happened ECLT will support remedial work to support the identification of proxy indicators of change. M&E should be developed by participatory involvement of stakeholders who should include children. So far, partners' indicators are mainly quantitative.
- 2.2.2. . To sustain CL activities, partners should be committed to integrate them in the community and government structures. Some of the costs related to child support should be accommodated by the community/government as their responsibility, and as a sustainable approach to CL issues.
- 2.2.3. Cultural norms need to be taken into cognisance when trying to strategize on how to involve children in child labour programming. Attitudinal baselines need to be undertaken as part of initial poverty and community mapping
- 2.2.4. There is need to work towards integrated policy response and advocacy for CL issues, to strengthen the combat of CL.
- 2.2.5. Other factors that have direct effect on the worsening of the CL situation should be taken into account. Projects should tackle worsening poverty and HIV/AIDS situation.
- 2.2.6. Enhanced collaboration with other stakeholders is synergetic and therefore recommended. All 'duty bearers' should be brought into picture of CL issues.
- 2.2.7. Children should be involved at all levels when their issues form the agenda.
- 2.2.8. Board members of CL committees should be committed people, and whose presence is not motivated by allowances and payments in kind.
- 2.2.9. The financial management of partners projects, should be in compliance with local statutory obligations, and as agreed with the ECLT Foundation. An excellent presentation was provided by Innocent (SCF Zimbabwe) to demonstrate the type of financial controls that should be in place and are feasible and appropriate within a local context.
- 2.2.10. To mitigate fraud and misuse of resources, partners should have effective internal controls that are complementary to the external auditing.
- 2.2.11. Scaling up requires taking into account of the best practices harnessed and is subject to consultation with ECLT and availability of resources to scale up. Scaling up should not be at the expense of combating the CL issues.

2.3 Facilitator's Analysis and Conclusions

- 2.3.1. The partners formal and in informal sharing of experiences had mutual synergies. This synergy will enhance their work, and ensure that Child Rights are respected. Moreover, the partners resolved to be more committed that children are provided with an opportunity to grow in a responsible society that upholds the children's dignity.
- 2.3.2. It is advisable to support the child's educational environment as way of improving the impact of the educational support to the child.
- 2.3.3. The ECLT Foundation, in consultation with the partners, is making a keen effort to have in place standardised systems and procedures to harmonise the organisational effectiveness and communication between the Foundation and the partners. Partners input will be solicited in the development of the anticipated systems and procedures
- 2.3.4. ECLT will need to follow-up and enhance capacity of partners by training them on developing qualitative indicators. Cost effective and user-friendly M&E systems will require a concerted effort of both sides.
- 2.3.5. ECLT Foundation requires undertaking of a review/research of the various approaches in the partners' micro-business projects. The review should aim at getting the best practices that would ensure quick returns (increase in poverty reducing income), especially when we take into account the short duration of funding such projects.
- 2.3.6. ECLT and partners should undertake a research based advocacy approach to CL issues. Research is therefore a pre-requisite, and will provide evidence-based advocacy and lobbying in CL issues.
- 2.3.7. In case, there other donors financing a project's component, ECLT should be informed and possibly participate into the discussions. This should be done in the spirit of partnership openness and transparency. There is need to look at opportunity costs in as far the new funding partners could affect the Child, before accepting their financing.
- 2.3.8. Partners should be conscious on how they use resources vis-à-vis results/impact. The value of the investment should be worth the impact, especially by focusing on the child as the key target.
- 2.3.9. Actions to be undertaken by the respective partners have been suggested and partners should be committed to implementing them. In their commitment to the way forward, they will be enhancing and addressing of CL initiatives.
- 2.3.10. ECLT and partners will need to explore ways of establishing the baseline upon which the micro-economic projects could be measured. Most of the projects were reported as very successful yet baseline data of the economic situation of the beneficiaries was not available.
- 2.3.11. Partners' forum like this one, which was a first-ever, should be held in the future since it has immense value adding beyond the virtual networking through the web.
- 2.3.12. To all partners and stakeholders, it is worth ever noting that CL issues we are dealing with, are not on only binding us morally but also legally.