



Quick Facts

ECLT project in Malawi

Integrated Child Labour Elimination Project – ICLEP

National implementing partner

Creative Centre for Community Mobilization (CRECCOM) is the national coordinating partner. The Integrated Child Labour Project (ICLEP) provides a comprehensive approach that brings four NGOs into a funding and implementation partnership. Total Land Care is responsible for Food Security and Natural Resources Management; Nkhoma Synod focuses on Safe Water and Sanitation; Lifeline Malawi is addressing Health issues, and CRECCOM handles Education and awareness raising component.

Overall goal

The overall goal is to contribute to the elimination of child labour in tobacco growing areas by addressing the symptoms that drive child labour.

Objectives

The objectives of the project are:

- To improve access to quality education through community sensitisation and empowerment;
- To improve the livelihoods of families whose children are either involved in child labour or at risk of becoming involved in child labour.

Location

Katalima and Suza Education Zones in Dowa and Kasungu districts respectively. Both are in the central region of Malawi.

Duration

This project started in July 2006 and was scheduled to end in June 2010. It has now been extended until July 2011.

Major achievements between 2006 and 2009

Since 2006 child labour has been reduced significantly in the project areas. Amongst 6 to 11 year olds child labour has reduced from 57% in 2006 to 19% in 2009. Amongst 12 to 14 year child labour has reduced from 71% in 2006 to 19% in 2009. Also amongst 15 to 17 year olds child labour has reduced from 37% in 2006 to 12% in 2009.

Factors that have contributed to these decreases include:

- A reduction in distances needed to travel for health services;
- An improvement in health quality delivery;



- Heavy reduction in incidences of diseases;
- Overall 70% of the communities have adopted new technologies which have improved food security;
- Increased availability and quality of education has led to a decreased pupil dropout.

The project has directly withdrawn a total of 1,778 children from child labour (1,063 boys and 715 girls).

Education and awareness: Implementing NGO - CRECCOM

To provide access to quality education and provide a conducive learning environment six schools have been built, two are under construction, 13 school blocks have been renovated and another two are in progress. 18 school toilets and one school feeding kitchen have been constructed. At the community's own initiative a secondary school hall has been renovated. Twelve teachers' houses have been renovated and five new ones have also been built with support from the communities.

Courses have been designed and run with 600 key stakeholders to increase their understanding of child labour and to gain their support for implementation of the project. Recipients of training include: Child Labour Committee members, School Management Committee/PTA members, community leaders, Community Based Child Care Centre committee members and carers; farm and estate owners; tenants. Refresher meetings targeting the same groups have been conducted annually to review progress and develop plans to address issues that arise.

In 2007 and 2008, 119 teachers (86 males and 33 females) and 55 teachers, respectively were trained to help improve their teaching skills.

Child Labour Committees were set up with income generating activities so that they could monitor child labour situation and financially support withdrawn children. Schools are now raising funds for withdrawn children by rearing pigs, tailoring, blacksmithing and running bakeries. A total of 31 committees each with 10 members have been established, trained, and are operational.

Provision of bursaries to secondary school students: 50 students have been supported through secondary school with bursaries. These children's school fees are paid and school materials and other incidentals are covered.

Provision of school and cluster incentive packages: each of the targeted 31 primary schools receive an package of teaching, learning and sports materials to enhance the quality of education. Each school receives this package once and communities are mobilised to replenish the box annually.

Increased enrolment: The project managed to secure a 11.5% increase in enrolment to school in 2007. In 2008 this increased to 23% and in 2009 there was a further increase of 8%.

Water and Sanitation: Implementing NGO - Nkhoma Relief and Development

- 263 villages were supported and committee members trained to manage water points and sanitation facilities;
- 42 maintenance personnel were trained in shallow wells' maintenance and construction;
- 165 shallow wells were drilled to provide communities with portable, clean water, reducing illness;
- 9 new boreholes were sunk to reduce the distances children have to go to collect portable water;
- 14 defunct boreholes (not sunk by ICLEP but in the impact area) were rehabilitated;
- A total of 480 village health committee members have been trained in selected model villages;

Health: Implementing NGO - Lifeline Malawi

60 volunteers and 40 health and water committee members were trained to provide basic medical health care at outreach clinics. Ten outreach posts were established. In the second year of the project between June 2007 and June 2008 a total of 53,934 community members accessed clinical services. Between the same period between 2008 and 2009, 38,000 patients were attended to near their homes. The static clinic treated over 76,500 patients and provided voluntary counselling and testing for HIV to almost 9,000 clients.

Clinical services provided include antenatal, family planning, under five-clinic, HIV testing and counselling, and maternity services.

Food Security: Implementing NGO - Total Land Care

The project supported 495 villages in 2007. This increased to 833 villages in 2009 with a total of 21,130 villagers undertaking various initiatives to improve their food security.

167 treadle pumps have been installed and 46 hectares cultivated for maize, leafy vegetables, beans and wheat. Over 1.25 million tree seedlings have been grown, 1 million of which have been planted.

A total of five small scale dams have been constructed for irrigation. Field days, training sessions and demonstration meetings have been organised for villagers annually. Sessions included: soil and water conservation, nurseries, improved fallow, soil fertility and nitrogen fixing plants, nutrition and food preparation, food crop diversification, wood saving technologies (stoves) etc. To save wood, communities engage in energy saving technologies which saw over 2,000 mud stoves being constructed participating households.

Budget

US\$ 4,058,655 (From July 2006 to June 2010)

Community organised fundraising events and collections have brought in the equivalent of US\$2,417 towards the cost of the project. This represents a powerful symbol of community ownership of the project.

Steering Committee

Ministry of Labour, Limbe Leaf, Universal Leaf, Alliance One, British American Tobacco, Tobacco Association of Malawi (TAMA), Malawi Congress for Trade Unions (MCTU), Tobacco Tenants Allied Workers Union of Malawi (TOTAWUM), CRECCOM, ILO/IPEC.

Lessons learned

Communities have struggled to assist withdrawn children who have received no direct support from the project. In the next phase of the project, both immediate and long term direct assistance will be incorporated into project design to ensure that children will be able to support themselves. For example, the project will engage a government body that offers vocational training, so that withdrawn children, too old to go back to formal education, can be offered training to gain practical skills.

The project design overlooked HIV/AIDS as a driver of child labour. Because of this HIV/AIDS is not addressed adequately in partners' interventions. In the next project phase, the specific needs of children affected by HIV/AIDS will be addressed.

The project impact area has tenants who come from some districts in the southern part of Malawi. In the next phase, ICLEP will introduce interventions in such supply districts as a preventive measure.