

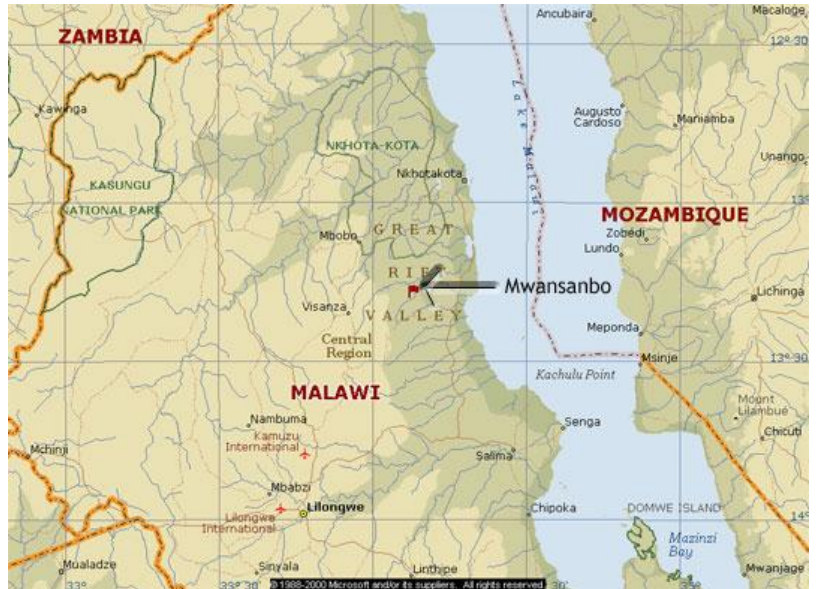


ECLT Foundation Programme in Malawi with the Association for the Elimination of Child Labour (AECL) 2002 - 2004

Description of the Programme

The coordination, implementation, monitoring and supervision of the programme is handled locally by AECL, an association composed of labour unions, Tobacco Association of Malawi (TAMA), representatives of relevant ministries, and traditional authorities.

This programme is supported by the ECLT Foundation and, exceptionally, is funded by Scandinavian Tobacco. All other programmes are funded collectively by ECLT Board Members.



It is being implemented in seven villages of the Mwansanbo area in the Nkhota-Kota district, which is located north-east of Lilongwe. These seven villages are located around three agricultural estates, and the main crop is tobacco.

The Programmes aims are as follows:

- To construct of a junior primary school;
- Raise awareness amongst parents, estate owners, local leaders, partners and general public on the consequences of child labour.

Budget

The overall Programme Budget is around £100,000 spread over 2 years. The breakdown is as follows:

Construction of junior primary school	£42,400
Awareness-raising	£19,500
Equipment and material	£17,000
Coordination and administrative support:	£21,000
Total over 2 years	£99,900

An external and independent audit firm is in charge of the accounting and will issue a financial report every twelve months. The ECLT Foundation will follow up and supervise the implementation of the Programme through regular visits on the field. An end-of-project evaluation will be jointly conducted by ECLT, AECL and a third party.

The projects' activities are planned to start in December 2002.



The Programme has four objectives, utilising different strategies for each:

1- Quality, accessible and affordable learning institutions for children

A junior primary school will be built, and will consist of four classes, an administration block, three teachers' houses, two pit latrines and safe drinking water (borehole). There will also be an analysis of the reasons behind child labour, and why children are forced into work instead of going to school. A village-based counselling programme for all children who drop-out of school to go work will be created.

2- Awareness-raising on the consequences of child labour and the importance of education (*local population, village headmen/headwomen*)

Sensitisation meetings will be held with the village leaders and general public of the seven villages, so that child labour practices can be identified and avoided by the general population. These meetings will be implemented using discussion groups, drama performances, songs and recitals. AECL will team up with the Tobacco Association of Malawi (TAMA), and the Tobacco Tenants' and Allied Workers' Union in Malawi (TOTAWUM), in order to inform the farmers of their rights by disseminating the Tenant Act, as well as teach farmers book keeping. This should in turn reduce the overpayment of goods that farmers purchase, and underpayment for crops they sell, which should help reduce the need to employ children.

3- Awareness-raising on the consequences of child labour and the importance of education (*estate owners, relevant ministries, neighbouring communities*)

In conjuncture with point 2, further sensitisation of the employers, local representatives of the relevant ministries and the neighbouring areas is essential. A committee will be formed to determine the trends on child labour in the area, conduct workshops to help estate owners and local representatives of the relevant ministries determine alternative strategies in order to sustain production without employing children. Awareness-raising will also be undertaken with estate workers and owners, labour unions and inspectors, local leaders and surrounding communities on the impact of child labour and the importance of education. All of the above actions will be implemented in the same way as for point 2, using discussion groups, drama performances, songs and recitals.

4- To monitor, evaluate, document and disseminate lessons learnt

All progress, problems and solutions will be documented and simultaneously shared with partners as the project progresses. This in turn can be used as reference material for future projects in Malawi. Methods and materials will be developed to be shared with media, policy makers, employees and employers. Constant support and training of all people involved in the various aspects of the project will be done in order to encourage quality improvement.

Experiences and lessons learnt will be shared between AECL and the ECLT Foundation's other project in Malawi with Together Ensuring Children's Security (TECS).

Please check back regularly as we will be reporting on the progress in the Programme implementation.

Geneva, 18 December 2002

