



ECLT Foundation Programme in Uganda 2003-2006

The Project for the Elimination of Child Labour from Tobacco Farms in Masindi District, UGANDA

Description of the programme

Programme background

A baseline survey was carried out in early 2002 in tobacco growing areas of Uganda. This survey was commissioned by British American Tobacco Uganda (BATU), and was published in June 2002 ([click here for study](#)).

The Masindi region was selected because 90% of families have tobacco as a main source of income. The average absenteeism level in primary schools is 25%, with up to 54% absenteeism during the tobacco-growing season.



Highlighted region where the programme will be implemented

The programme will be entirely funded by the ECLT Foundation.

Programme structure

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will coordinate all activities, work plans and finances for the programme. The executive members are:

Tobacco Growers' Association (UTGA)

Masindi district chairman

International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO/IPEC), Uganda

BATU

National Union of Plantation and Agricultural Workers Uganda, NUPAWU (IUF affiliate)

Other members are government ministries, trade unions, the Federation of Uganda Employers, and a project consultant, SODECO.

Implementing NGO; Budongo Community Development Organisation (BUCODO)

Project consultant, Dr Mutesasira from the Social Development Consultants (SODECO)

A renowned specialist in developmental and public health issues, Dr. Mutesasira will be in charge of monitoring the implementation of the various project components and report to the steering committee.

Mid-term and final external evaluations will be carried out by an independent consultant.

Programme details

A) Information, Education and Communication (IEC).

This campaign will focus mainly on the aspect of positive change of attitudes. The general objectives of the IEC programme will include:

- Sensitising the public about the harmful effects of child labour, and the benefits of allowing children to fully pursue education and skills development;
- Sensitising child employers, parents and civic leaders about laws relating to child labour, child rights, etc;
- Highlighting the availability of Universal Primary Education relatively at no cost for children from each household and in this way creating an alternative to child labour;
- Increasing access to Poverty Alleviation Programmes through awareness raising on the existing Poverty Alleviation Programmes available in Masindi district;
- Training farmers on how to better manage tobacco seasonal income through investment and savings;
- Advocating for the speedy formulation of policies and implementation of international instruments against child labour.

B) The Identification, Withdrawal and Placement for young children in primary school

Education systems contribute to the elimination of harmful child work. The goals of this component are to:

- Identify children of primary school age working on tobacco farms;
- Withdraw them and place them in government primary schools;
- Ensure retention of children of primary schooling age placed in government primary schools.

C) Skills development and training

It is understood that the intensive sensitisation campaigns on the dangers of child labour undertaken in the IEC Component of this project will result into, among other things, withdrawal of children from the tobacco farms. Among them are those who can no longer be absorbed into the Universal Primary Education due a number of reasons such as advanced age and lack of interest in formal education. It will therefore be necessary to provide viable and sustainable alternatives to enable them grow up normally and contribute to community development. The most viable alternative for the withdrawn child labourers given their age and socio-economic set up of the region is that they acquire skills in marketable trades that will enable them lead a meaningful life in future.

The overall objective of this project component is to equip former child labourers with basic vocational skills, which will enable them to secure gainful employment or lead successful independent lives. Specifically, through this project component, the following objectives will be met:

- Construct and equip a vocational institute on a site to be made available by the Masindi District Local Council;
- Receive, place and train children withdrawn from tobacco growing in various skills at the newly built Vocational school.

A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed with the Masindi District Local Council, stating that they will provide free land for construction and will take full responsibility for and running of the vocational school at the end of the project

The following skills will be taught at the vocational school:

- Agriculture based skills (crop and animal husbandry, crafts etc);
- Building and concrete practice;
- Carpentry and joinery;

- Metal fabrication
- Motor vehicle/cycle mechanics
- Bicycle repair
- Catering
- Tailoring
- Beauty saloon skills

These skills will be taught in modules ranging from three to six months duration. This will ensure that trainees with different levels of education will have access to the skills development centre and take up modules that are commensurate with their level of education. The graduated children will be followed up in the field to assess their performance training needs if any.

Budget

The overall programme budget is USD 516'560 spread over 3 years. The breakdown is as follows:

Awareness-raising, workshops, production of material	24%
Children back to school and vocational school	47%
NGO, Monitoring, Evaluations	29%
TOTAL	100%

The programme activities will start at the end of 2003 and finish at the end of 2006.

Geneva, 14 November 2003