



ECLT Foundation Programme in Uganda, 2010-2013

Community Empowerment for Elimination of Child Labour in Tobacco (COMEECA), UGANDA

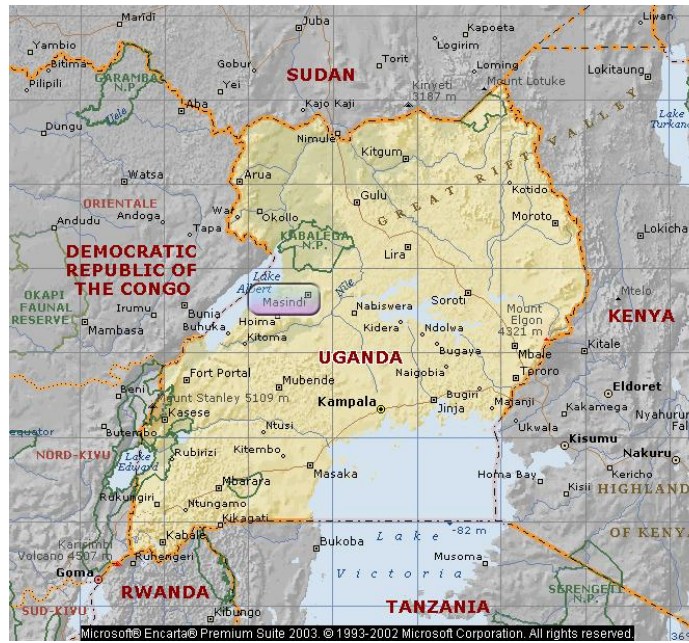
Description of the Programme

Programme background

The Masindi region was selected for an ECLT programme because 90% of families have tobacco as a main source of income.

A recent (2009) ECLT supported evaluation found that child labour is prevalent amongst tobacco families in the Masindi District. Half of tobacco farmers employ children in tobacco growing and over four in ten children missed school because of work.

The average absenteeism level in primary schools is 25%, with up to 54% absenteeism during the tobacco-growing season.



Highlighted regions where the programme will be implemented

The project will run in the previous ECLT project areas: Budongo, Kigumba, Kiryandongo, Mutunda and Pakanyi in Masindi District in Western Uganda. This is where the production of tobacco is prevalent, and therefore child labour is an issue. The five sub counties are also the most populated and agriculturally productive areas of the Masindi district.

Programme objectives

Overall goal

The overall development objective of the COMEECA Project is to reduce the number of children engaged in labour on tobacco farms. To do this the project has five specific objectives:

Children are withdrawn and rehabilitated

By the end of 2013, 10,000 new children will have been identified, withdrawn, rehabilitated and placed in primary and secondary schools or the Kyema vocational institute. At least 8,500 children will be placed and retained in schools to complete the education cycle.

The Village Child Labour Committees (VCLCs) will play an important role in identifying and withdrawing children and getting them placed in schools. They will also be involved in monitoring and home visits to offer counsel and guidance to parents and children.

Strengthened college provides income generating activities

The college will be strengthened by facilitating the establishment of the college business arm. The business arm will generate income and provide training in income generating activities to support former child labourers who have completed vocational training.

Policy wins secured through advocacy

The project will secure commitment from the district and government to implement child labour laws and to support the Kyema vocational institute to achieve its original goals.

Income generation activities will address poverty

The most vulnerable tobacco families will be supported with income generating activities, development, conservation and food security, to ensure children's welfare is improved.

Strengthened community based health service

The community based health service including family planning and reproductive health services (with a special focus on HIV/AIDS), will be strengthened.

Programme direct beneficiaries

By the end of the programme 10,000 new children will have been withdrawn from child labour and 8,500 children will have been placed and retained in schools.

20,000 children, family members and community leaders will be directly reached with child labour prevention messages. A far greater number will be reached through local media and the distribution of communication materials.

The children who will be withdrawn and placed in formal primary education and vocational skills at Kyema will directly benefit in the following ways:

- They will complete primary school education cycle which will increase their future career prospects and capacity to undertake meaningful socio-economic development activities;
- The children will be given the opportunity to advocate for their rights, especially for education and being free from the worst forms of child labour, through children and youth focused advocacy activities;
- The income of 5,000 households will be increased, benefiting about 20,000 individuals.

Programme structure

The highest decision making body for the project will be the National Project Action Committee (NAPAC) which will act as a steering committee. The NAPAC will be chaired by the Commissioner for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Department, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD).

The other members of NAPAC will be representatives from each of the following organisations and agencies:

- Department of Labour - MGLSD
- BATU
- Continental tobacco
- Uganda Leaf Tobacco
- ILO/IPEC
- Masindi district council
- ECLATU Trust
- Ministry of Education (BETVET) MOES
- Federation of Uganda Employers
- Uganda Teachers Union
- Uganda Tobacco Growers Association
- The Project Manager will be the Secretary of the NAPAC.

Programme approach

The project will work with communities and authorities in the tobacco growing areas at local, sub county and district level.

At community level

The project will work to build capacity and empower communities through the Village Child Labour Committees (VCLCs) to identify local solutions to address child labour in tobacco growing. Project partners will support VCLCs in this endeavour.

At sub county level

The project, through the child labour monitoring committee of the sub county council, will work with the sub county local government departments of Community Development services, production services and health services to address and monitor child labour in tobacco growing.

District level

The project, through the district child labour monitoring committee of the Masindi district council, shall work with the district local government departments including: District Community development services; district education services; district health services; district natural resource services; district production services.

Budget

The overall programme budget is US\$1,126,771 over four years.
This phase of the programme starts in January 2010 and ends in January 2013.

Further information on programme

For the latest documents on the programme visit the Uganda page in the Projects and Progress section on www.eclt.org.

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