



ECLT statement to mark the World Day Against Child Labour, 12th June 2011

Warning! Children in hazardous work - End child labour

The Elimination of Child Labour in Tobacco Growing (ECLT) Foundation joins with people across the world in marking the World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL) on 12th June 2011. We applaud the invaluable work that parents, teachers, communities, governments, companies, the UN and NGOs are doing to eradicate child labour. We especially welcome the efforts to stop children from undertaking hazardous work, the theme for this year's day of events.

But with 115 million children across the world thought to be in hazardous work – mostly in agriculture – much more still needs to be done. The ECLT is playing its part to end this scourge. With projects currently in Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia – and new ones very shortly in both Malawi and Tanzania – the ECLT focuses both on withdrawing children from child labour and on tackling its root causes, including hazardous work.

In Kyrgyzstan, the project has set up Mutual Aid Groups (MAGs) and a micro-credit fund, which allows farmers to invest more, but only on the condition that they do not employ children. In Malawi, the project is a coalition of four specialist NGOs, each with differing expertise. New school blocks are being built so that children have a proper learning environment. A health clinic helps to ensure that parents stay healthy so children do not have to become early breadwinners. The latest irrigation techniques mean that more crops are grown and food security enhanced. Families also now have access to clean water following the construction of new wells and boreholes.

In Uganda, the project is addressing national stakeholders' knowledge of child labour. This means that by the time of its completion, all stakeholders will be fully aware not only of their responsibilities as regards eliminating child labour but also of the means of achieving it.

In Zambia, the project is reducing the demand for child labour by raising awareness about child labour issues and strengthening the capacities of key stakeholders in the fight against child labour. Furthermore, the project is improving the economic conditions for households with children at risk by providing farming conservation kits.

The international community has targeted hazardous work for elimination by 2016. We urge others across the world to join the fight.