



CHILD LABOUR

PROGRAM FACT SHEET

*Supporting activities
to protect children
from Child Labour
throughout Kenya*

Background

The Department of Child Labour at ANPPCAN Head Office focuses on fighting child labour in Africa. In Kenya, its programs have been implemented in fourteen districts, namely, Bondo, Busia, Homa-Bay, Kericho, Kiambu, Malindi, Makuyu-Maragwa, Mombasa, Muranga, Mumias-Butere, Nairobi, Siaya Suba and Teso.

The strategies used in combating child labour include conducting research; advocacy on policy; team building through intersectoral linkages; capacity building; awareness raising; and providing direct support services to children and families at risk of joining child labour as well as withdrawing those already engaged in work. The department also identifies good practices in combating child labour and packages them for replication by institutions and community groups in Africa.

Objectives

- To contribute towards gradual elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Africa.
- To contribute towards gradual improvement of work-conditions for children in non-hazardous and conditional forms of child work in Africa.

Major Activities Implemented

Research: ANPPCAN has conducted research on child labour and related issues to bridge information gaps and advise policy and programs on child labour. Among the recent studies are: study on Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Kenya (2004); Study on Status of Provision of Education for All in Kenya in Relation to Child Labour (2005); study on Child Trafficking in Eastern and Horn of Africa (2006); Study on CSEC in Suba District.

Advocating for favourable Policy and Legislative Environment for protection of Children from Child Labour in Kenya: The department has directly contributed to the development of Education Policy and Sessional Paper No.1 of 2005 in Kenya, and supported the drafting of the Draft Child Labour Policy document in partnership with the Government and other stakeholders. This includes supporting the work of the National Steering Committee on Child Labour. The activities have also focused on advocacy for domestication of ILO C182, implementation of policy and legislations and education for all children.

Building Capacities of Communities and Child Protection Institutions to Protect Children from WFCL: involves training members of the District Child Labour Committees in community mobilization, ILO Convention 182 and 138 and Kenyan laws as well as in withdrawing children from work. So far, functional child labour committees have been created in all the 11 districts and the model has been replicated in over 40 districts by partners. Other structures supported include the Child Help Desks at village level. They have been supported to create awareness and collect data on child labour.

Providing Direct Services to Children at Risk of Dropping from School and those withdrawn from WFCL to remain in School: entails identifying the children at risk of dropping from school, those who have dropped from school and at risk or already involved in WFCL, and their families, to provide support

services. The support so far provided include school uniforms and learning materials; feeding programs; initiating income generating activities (IGAs) at school and among vulnerable families; supporting vocational training for children withdrawn.

Networking and Collaboration: entails working with other organisations eg the Global March Movement in implementing activities aimed at combating child labour in the country.

Other strategies used by the Department in the fight against child labour include sectoral approach in addressing the worst forms of child labour, mobilisation to reach broader consensus and training of child labour committees, leaders and service providers.

Identifying, documenting and disseminating good practices for replication: Booklets on good practices have been compiled and distributed. The good practices identified from Kenya have been replicated in Ghana, Liberia and Zambia.

Achievements of the Department

DCLCs have emerged as key structures in fighting child labour in the districts. They have been effective in creating awareness and mobilizing for action at the district level. They have effectively supported the implementation of IGAs in schools and carried out many awareness activities at the local level.

The level of awareness on child labour issues has gone up in the districts as indicated by increased participation by parents, teachers, pupils and communities in general in the activities aimed at its reduction. Increasingly, parents are willing to support IGAs in schools and to return their children to school.

Ownership of the project by the community is indicated by the demand by parents that the provincial administration through the chief should punish members of the community whom or whose animals destroy crops planted in school income projects.

Importantly, over 10,000 children have directly benefited from the income from IGAs in the form of school uniforms, examination fees, books, pens and other forms of direct support. Another 7,000 children have been supported directly by ANPPCAN to access education at primary level while many more have benefited from general school projects.

This in turn has seen reduction in levies charged to parents. The support has been in the form of uniforms, books, fees and meeting of other school maintenance requirements.

School performance in examinations has improved greatly in the project schools, for example in Makuyu zone, the education officer attributed improved performance to the IGAs. The zone has improved its performance to the all time best four out of a total of twelve zones in Maragua districts while the sister zone, Kamahuha, has always followed closely.

School governance and community participation in school management has improved. This is due to improved community confidence in school management and participation in school activities as the school heads have been more accountable.

Partners

British Commonwealth Office Anti-Slavery International Galen Films - USA

ILO - IPEC Mukul Shah Trust Global March Movement Against Child Labour