



International
Labour
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ENHANCE* Project Newsletter

Third Edition, June 2018

*Enhancing national capacity to prevent and reduce child labour in Viet Nam

Mid-term evaluation

As ENHANCE passes halfway mark through its life-cycle, a Mid-Term Evaluation is being conducted by an independent consultant team composed of one international and one national expert to assess whether and how the objectives set by our project are on track to be achieved. Specifically the ongoing evaluation process seeks to:

1. achieve project improvements;
2. promote accountability to the ILO, national key stakeholders and donor;
3. enhance learning within the ILO and key stakeholders.

The evaluation, conducted over the period from December 2017 to March 2018, has been planned to cover all the activities implemented by ILO under ENHANCE since its inception in January 2015 and will help guide the project team in planning implementation of future activities.

The evaluation addressed the overall ILO evaluation criteria: relevance and strategic fit of interventions; validity of interventions design; intervention progress and effectiveness; efficiency of resource use; effectiveness of management arrangements; and likelihood of sustainability of interventions. While taking these into consideration, inclusion and achievements relating cross-cutting priorities such as gender equality and non-discrimination, promotion of international labour standards, tripartite processes and constituent capacity development are also being analysed.

After drafting an inception report prior to fieldwork, consultants were involved in a wide-ranging series of meetings and consultation workshops successfully gathering key stakeholders between January and February 2018 in Hanoi, HCMC and An Giang. In total, 102 stakeholders' interviews, 03 validation workshops at provincial levels and 01 national workshop were conducted. During field visits, the evaluation team additionally met commune leaders and potential beneficiary households. The data

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collection process was completed in early February 2018. By using both qualitative and quantitative information collected respectively through field visits, interviews and focus groups and from project documents, the evaluation team will ultimately produce a final report incorporating inputs and comments from ILO and other key stakeholders.



Implementation agreements in the three project provinces

DOLISA

In line with the Provincial Action Plans (PAPs) to Prevent and Reduce Child Labour in Hanoi, HCMC and An Giang, the project has signed Implementation Agreements with DOLISAs in all three provinces to support effective and sustainable efforts of provincial governments in the fight against child labour. This successful collaboration allowed DOLISAs in 3 provinces to integrate the project activities into their provincial action plans on Child Labour, with four major pillars:

- communication and awareness raising on child labour and relevant laws and standards;
- capacity building of local authorities, specifically focusing on capacity building of child protection

and care system;

- pilot direct interventions for children and their families to prevent, remove and withdraw children from child labour;
- develop and pilot a community-based Child Labour Monitoring System.

In An Giang, the first 34 beneficiary children in Cho Moi District have already been provided with the first educational supports (uniforms). More will get supports very soon, once 1,600 children profiles will be completed and uploaded in DBMR system.

DOETs

With the overall aim of providing educational support to children aged from 5 to 17, who are either already engaged in or at risk of falling into child labour, ENHANCE is working very closely with DOETs to develop Implementation Agreements (IAs) to support direct educational operations in the project areas. One IA has been already signed in An Giang, whereas agreements with DOETs in Hanoi and HCMC have been drafted and will be signed by May 2018. All the agreements were developed on the base of Rapid Assessments on Educational Accessibility conducted in in the project's target provinces. Project interventions will contribute

to the successful implementation of national and provincial action plans for the prevention and elimination of child labour for the period 2016-2020. Specifically, the ILO will support the provincial DOET in:

- building capacity of educational authorities and raising awareness of students, teachers and parents about child labour prevention will be enhanced.
- implementing direct intervention models through education to prevent and reduce child labour in all project areas.



Consultation workshop on child labour legislation

On 21 March, the ILO in collaboration with MOLISA successfully organized a multi-stakeholders Consultation Workshop on Child Labour Legislation. The workshop, which included presentations by both experts from ILO Headquarters in Geneva and MOLISA Officials, deeply contributed to strengthen cooperation and mutual understanding on how to define legal and statistical criteria to identify, prevent and mitigate child labour in Viet Nam.

The Workshop provided insights on the efforts and progress being made in Viet Nam in implementing international standards into national legislation, as well as inputs and lessons learned from the fight against labour worldwide. The main purpose of the Consultation Workshop was to share experiences and expertise, as well as to engage in a constructive exchange, strengthening national capacity for the prevention and reduction of child labour.

In addition to presentations, the plenary session successfully involved all stakeholders in active participation and discussion on how relevant legal and statistical criteria and instruments could be effectively defined and used in Viet Nam to counter child labour in the formal and informal sector of the economy.

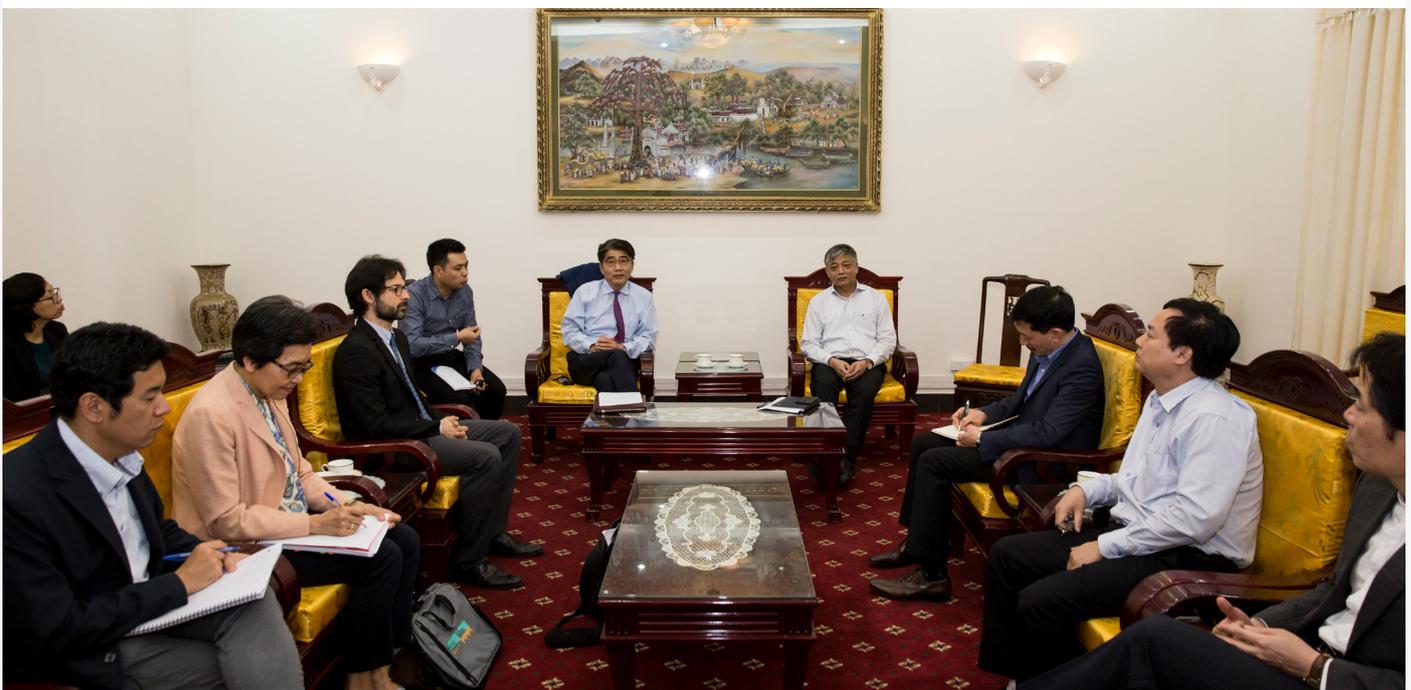
Recommendations from the workshop mainly addressed two issues.

First, from a legal perspective, special focus was given to further efforts to improve harmonization between the national law and ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age and Convention 182 on the Worst

Forms of Child Labour, both ratified by Viet Nam. Recognizing the significant progress made by the country over time in addressing child labour issues based on the ratified child labour conventions, the importance of using adequate statistical criteria to conduct the next National Child Labour survey and to improve the legislative and policy response to child labour in the context of regular reporting under the ratified ILO Conventions (namely C138 and 182) has been highlighted.

Secondly, the ILO highlighted the importance to address the informal sector when collecting statistical information about children engaged in economic activities, especially in view of the next National Child Labour Survey 2018. The importance of including the informal sector in statistical surveys is particularly relevant in tackling child labour. Just as in other countries, in Vietnam children are often involved in seasonal work and other activities which cannot be easily identified statistically. These include, among others, non-commercial agricultural work which, if performed for long hours, may affect the learning performance of children and their overall development.

MOLISA and the ILO agreed that the ongoing revision of the Labour Code and efforts in preparing the next National Child Labour Survey offer an excellent opportunity for Vietnam to define effective legal and statistical instruments, in order to figure out long-term solutions to mitigate and prevent child labour.



Study visit to the Philippines



Within the framework of ENHANCE's capacity building component, from 21 to 24 November 2017 a delegation of 27 national and international stakeholders from Viet Nam conducted a study visit to the Philippines. Participants included representatives from ILO ENHANCE, Government, Employers' Organization, as well as Workers' and Legislative Representatives.

The study visit was organized in collaboration with the ILO Country Office in the Philippines, the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE) and the National Child Labour Committee (NCLC), with the main objective of building capacity of ENHANCE project partners and key stakeholders in the prevention and elimination of child labour. The

visit was considered as a major learning experience for Viet Nam, where deep insights on experiences and good practices were gained.

Meetings were held with individual stakeholders and different members of the Philippine National Child Labour Committee (NCLC) on the various efforts to address the issue of child labour in the country both as individual organizations and collectively. In addition, delegates visited a child labour-free municipality and establishment to gain insights on the functioning and potential replication of these initiatives in Viet Nam.

Overall, the experience highlighted the importance and necessity of concerted efforts among all stakeholders from international organizations and the Government, as well as the private sector, employers, workers, NGOs and media. The consolidating a solid legal basis and policy framework to raise awareness on the importance of education and implementing direct interventions to prevent and mitigate child labour are confirmed as fundamental actions in Viet Nam. Further collaboration between partners at all levels will certainly build the capacity to take an integrated approach in supporting and protecting children countrywide.

Media assessment

As part of its awareness raising component, ENHANCE is planning to implement a mass media awareness campaign, addressing the general public both at a national level and in the three selected project areas - Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and An Giang. The assessment examines how the issue of child labour is represented in the Vietnamese mass media, and makes recommendations for how public awareness could be raised to gain public attention onto the issue. The overall aim is to identify features and goals for ENHANCE project's upcoming mass media awareness campaign.



Media messages subject to in-depth qualitative analysis

The assessment combined three data collection

methods, including: interviews with communications and media experts, a desk review of academic and project literature: and an analysis of 98 mass media messages from July 2015 to October 2016.

Main findings from the report show challenges due to very general content and lack of detail on how child labour and its causes and consequences are reported by the media. Information appears too broad in scope and mainly addressing the issue as a whole, without using real cases that could generate empathy and emotional connection leading to concrete awareness and action among the general public. Overall, child labour seem to be off the social media agenda and although there are efforts for awareness raising by television and the printed press, current messaging fails to engage the audience and needs to be improved. Recommendations call for a strategy which relies on effective partnerships among different stakeholders, delivering regular messaging based on actual cases of child labour and designed to reach different target audiences.

Find out more here: goo.gl/cwVy6t

Value chain analysis

Within the framework of ENHANCE's Direct Operations in Hanoi, a value chain strategy for the local handicraft sector will be implemented, creating sustainable employment opportunities for beneficiary households with limited financial capacity. The study aims at analyzing priority handicraft value chains with a large concentration of households with children engaged in working activities or at risk of falling into child labour. Through value chain approach, ENHANCE aims at building capacity among local authorities and associations to produce local policies in compliance with international standards, as well as improving household livelihoods and working conditions for labourers, while reinforcing their skills through technical assistance and building child labour-free enterprise models. Handicraft represents a major manufacturing sector in Hanoi, providing employment and income for small businesses and households that are part of the supply chain. In Hanoi there are about 1350 trade villages that create employment for around 800,000 labourers, with a production value of nearly 14,000 billion VND. In Viet Nam, the handicraft sector is prioritized by the central and local governments through multiple policies and programs in order to create better conditions for infrastructure development, production investment and trade promotion. In particular, Hanoi has programs and

policies dedicated to fostering employment and the development of trade villages, preserving traditional products, and increasing the contribution of trade villages to the socio-economic development of the area.

The research has been conducted in 4 districts and 9 communes. Following fieldwork research and consultation with local communities and government, 5 value chains were selected for the project-target communes: bamboo and rattan weaving; wooden furniture and wooden worship products; ceramic; agricultural products; leatherette.

All selected value chains show common features and challenges. To reinforce their favorable market opportunities ENHANCE will implement training and livelihood support activities targeted towards strengths and weaknesses highlighted by the analysis. The project will support selected small businesses and production households in promoting and adding value to their production activities, overcoming challenges posed by lack of information and relevant skills, as well as build capacity among local authorities so that they are fully enabled to provide a policy framework preserving traditional products and handicraft in Hanoi.

Find out more here: goo.gl/nhH1Dw

Public events in An Giang and Hanoi

After signing the first Implementation Agreements with DOLISAs to implement direct interventions in two project provinces, two public events launching the ENHANCE project have taken place in Hanoi and An Giang between November 2017 and January 2018. With the intent of raising the attention of both local authorities and the general public, the events successfully gathered a total of nearly 150 national and provincial participants including MOLISA, Provincial People's Committee, DOLISA, DOET, other relevant stakeholders including teachers, enterprise associations as well as more than 200 children and minors aged 12-17 including high risk groups attended the event. A representative from the US Embassy in Hanoi also participated in the launching event in Hanoi. Among others, official speeches by the provincial authorities, ENHANCE Chief Technical Advisor and youth representatives gave insights on current challenges and common objectives.

In addition to providing a forum for openly discussing overall progress and goals in the fight against child labour in the project provinces, both events included entertainment activities where children played a leading role. Quizzes and games related to child labour, as well as music and theatre performances bringing children on the stage, put them at the heart of the events and succeeded in raising awareness among the potential beneficiaries of the ENHANCE project.

The January event in Hanoi fell at a momentous time when the Mid-Term Evaluation for ENHANCE was being conducted. Evaluation consultants thus had the chance to attend the launch and observe the successful gathering and debate between participants, as well as children enjoying entertainment activities while learning about child labour. News about the events were also broadcasted in An Giang Television and Hanoi television.

DBMR system training and data collection

After different rounds of consultations with the Project Management Unit and representatives from the project's provinces, the project team has been working closely with selected consultants and IT company to develop a Direct Beneficiary Monitoring and Reporting (DBMR) electronic application. A DBMR operational guide has preliminarily been developed for a pilot training, held on 6-9 November 2017 in An Giang province. In March and April 2018, five DBMR courses were organized for DOLISA staff and local collaborators in Hanoi.

After trainings in the two provinces, the ENHANCE project and the PMU actively continue its collaboration to finalize the DBMR forms, incorporating further comments and inputs so that the profiling process was able to be initiated in early April 2018.

In An Giang province, 1690 beneficiary children

have been profiled and their data were uploaded in the electronic system. In the second week of May, the consolidated data will be transferred to the provincial DOLISA to facilitate the consultation process and design the direct support services to children and their families.

For the time being, collaborators are listing and profiling all potential beneficiary children in four districts of Hanoi. It's planned that the process will be completed next month and the data on the needs of children will be available by early July 2018.

In addition, two training days on DBMR will be conducted in Ho Chi Minh City by the end of May 2018. Therefore, the similar filing process will be initiated within the next two months and the provision of services to children will begin in early August this year.

E-learning course for labour inspectors

ENHANCE is happy to launch the Vietnamese version of the e-learning course "Eliminating Child Labour" for labour inspectors. Developed in collaboration with the ILO International Training Center, the 2-hour online course is composed of 4 different modules. The training will help to better understand what child labour is and the key role played by inspectors in identifying cases and working towards the elimination of child labour in Viet Nam.

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** Funding is provided by the United States Department of Labor under cooperative agreement number IL-26682-14-75-K-11. This material does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the United States Government. 100 percentage of the total costs of the project or program is financed with Federal funds, for a total of 8 million dollars.*

ILO-ENHANCE Upcoming Events and Programmes

- WDAFL 2018 campaign
- DBMR data collection and substantial initiation of direct support to Children
- KAP survey
- Rapid assessment to identify marketable vocational skills for targeted children, local vocational service providers, and capacity building needs of local vocational training institutions
- SCREAM training and relevant awareness raising activities in schools and communes
- Seminars in collaboration with Better Work Viet Nam, VCCI and VITAS
- Launch of online training programme on child labour for labour inspectors
- Workshops and trainings with business associations, representatives from garment, handicraft and fishery production enterprises