



International
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Newsletter

International Programme on the Elimination
of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC) in Kazakhstan



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Preliminary findings of the Baseline Survey on agriculture in Almaty and South-Kazakhstan oblasts confirm existence of hazardous child labour in agriculture

A baseline survey in agriculture (cotton, tobacco and vegetable cultivation) in Almaty and South-Kazakhstan oblasts is under way to be finalized by the Research Agency “Sange”, with ILO-IPEC technical and financial support. It combines quantitative and qualitative techniques by collecting a list of potential beneficiaries of future projects, assisting in developing relevant indicators for measuring the impact of future interventions and collecting the responses of children, parents, community and employers in order to understand their perspective and attitude (in-depth interviews, focus groups and observations). The sample group included 206 child labourers, 204 par-

“My daughter is in the 11th grade at school. She picked cotton for a week and earned 20,000 tenge. She bought herself winter clothes. Of course, this helps the family budget.”

From the interview during the Baseline Survey in South-Kazakhstan oblast

ents of child labourers and 20 employers. Data collection took place in October 2011.

The preliminary findings show that children are involved in hazardous child labour in agriculture and they work long hours (up to 10-13 hours a day). The use of child labour in tobacco has rapidly decreased in Almaty oblast due to the active involvement of tobacco purchasing company Philip Morris Kazakhstan in the elimination of child labour. However, children’s involvement in cotton and vegetable cultivation is still high. Vegetable cultivation employs predominantly children aged 15-17 years (47%). In cotton cultivation younger children aged 12-14 years (42%) are used besides those aged 15-17 years (40%). Girls are more involved in domestic work (cleaning and cooking), while boys work in vegetable growing. Gender disparity is not significant in cotton cultivation.

Children rarely wear protection equipment or are protected against unfavourable weather conditions, chemicals, hazardous machinery and tools. Access to drinking water, toilets, places to have meals and rest, and first aid equipment is limited. They are exposed to dirt, high temperatures, carrying heavy weights, working long hours with no time for rest.



Bites from insects and snakes were noted on some children. Children complained about headaches, fatigue and back aches or experienced sunburns. In case of work accidents, most children were treated by parents or adults working closely and medical treatment was limited.

Working children have a limited school attendance. From the age group 12-14 years, 15% of the children could not read and 11% could not write. 44% of child labourers in cotton growing did not regularly attend school during the cotton-picking season. The highest share of children (57%) not attending school during the cotton harvesting season is in the age group 15-17 years. Children do

“In our village girls do not work on vegetable fields. There is a difference between the work of boys and girls. For example, girls perform light work, such as picking and sorting. Boys do all the hard work.”

Focus Group Discussion, Baseline Survey in Almaty oblast



not have enough time to prepare their homework. 70% of children working in cotton do their homework late at night. Many children are also burdened with domestic work, which they do before doing their homework.

The final report will be ready by the end of February 2012 and it will support formulation of regional and national policies and the programmes on combating the worst forms of child labour (WFCL).

Guidance on Child Labour Monitoring in Kazakhstan and List of Light Work developed through a wide consultative process

CLM is used in many countries by ILO-IPEC as an effective tool to combat child labour through joint identification of child labourers and children at risk of entering child labour, assessment of the hazards and risks they are exposed to, referral to relevant services or viable alternatives, verification that children have been withdrawn from work and tracking to make sure that the root causes of children's involvement in child labour have been eliminated. It is based on a coordinated multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach through a national/local framework which involves



Photo: ILO



the key institutions that work effectively in partnership for prevention and elimination of child labour.

A Guidance on organizing and conducting Child Labour Monitoring in Kazakhstan that includes a step-by-step description of the Child Labour Monitoring (CLM) process has been developed by the Public Foundation “Asian-American Partnership”, with technical and financial assistance of ILO-IPEC. The Guidance is based on the ILO-IPEC Guidelines for Developing Child Labour Monitoring Processes that has been adapted to the national context. It defines the steps to be taken for developing and piloting a Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS) and the institu-



“During the seminar «Guidelines on organizing and conducting Child Labour Monitoring in Kazakhstan» we discussed the CL monitoring mechanism in Kazakhstan. I would like to note the high quality of the seminar and high professionalism of the organizers. Our center plans to use the Guidelines in its activities on prevention of WFCL, as well as in the implementation of the ILO-IPEC pilot project on cotton-growing in the Maktaaral district of South-Kazakhstan region.”

Vera Zakutnyaya, Program Coordinator,
Public Foundation Legal Center for
Women Initiative “Sana Sezim”

tional structures to be involved in the process. A comprehensive CLM Training Toolkit has been attached to it and will be used to train the key stakeholders at national and local levels. 20 representatives of the National Coordination Council on Child Labour have been trained in a one-day CLMS national orientation workshop held in November 2011. During the workshop, the Guidance has been endorsed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

As a follow-up of the recommendation of the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, the List of Light Work for children 14 years and above and the Instructions to properly identify child labour cases have been developed by a working group including specialists from the key government agencies, social partners and NGOs. The recommendations made by the experts from the National Scientific Research Insti-



tute of Labour and Employment under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Citizens, the Kazakh Research Institute of Labour and ILO-IPEC Geneva have also been considered. The final List of Light Work has been submitted to the members of the National Coordination Council on Child Labour for

processing in the form of by-laws and submission to the Ministry of Labour for approval. The Instructions to identify child labour cases will be reviewed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan upon finalizing the update of the List of Hazardous Work and appended to it.

An updated national website on child labour launched:

The national child labour website (www.stopdetrud.kz) has been redesigned and updated with ILO-IPEC technical and financial support and launched in October 2011. It is hosted and will be technically supported, administered and updated on a regular basis by the National Information-Resource Centre on the Problems of Child labour under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. The website includes information about the activities for combating child labour, international and national legislation on child labour, resources on child labour, workshops and seminars organized, World Day Against Child Labour activities, photos and video materials, information on

www.stopdetrud.kz

key stakeholders and other. The website is an awareness raising tool and a source of information on child labour in Kazakhstan for the key stakeholders and public at large.

“The website has now a user-friendly structure and a better content management, it presents updated information, new pages have been added. The website is available in Kazakh, Russian and English languages”

Binara Tolegenova, Head of Division on Social Partnership, Department of Labour and Social Partnership, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection



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