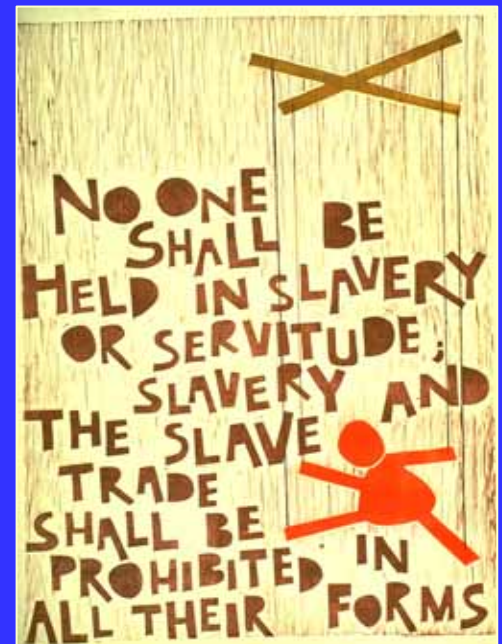


# *Children on the move*

## *An ILO perspective*

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# *ILO mandate*

- ILO Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998): *'All 183 member States respect, promote & realize the principles concerning fundamental rights at work'* including rights to be free from:
  - *Child labour (Convention 138)*
  - *Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL), including trafficking (Convention 182)*

# *ILO mandate & policy framework*

- Global Action Plan (GAP) against WFCL
  - Elimination of WFCL by 2016;
- Roadmap for achieving the elimination of WFCL by 2016

## Art 5:

*‘Governments should consider ways to address the potential vulnerability of children to, in particular, the worst forms of child labour, in the context of migratory flows’.*

## *Broad context*

- Most developing countries are 'young';  
E.g. 44 % of the population in Sub Sahara Africa is below 15 (Population Reference Bureau).
- Where populations grow fast & have large youth cohort – expectation of more out-migration (World Bank, 2007)
- 80.7 million youth aged 15-24 are unemployed (ILO, 2010).
- **Internal** migration 740 mln (UNDP, '09) **>** **International** migration 215 mln (UN 2010)

# *Stop the exploitation, not the movement*

- Youth want to leave rural areas for perceived opportunities in cities
- Don't stop voluntary migration, but prevent trafficking and child labour while creating an environment that protects children and helps them to have a positive experience
- Unprepared & ill-informed migration puts many at risk of trafficking and child labour
- Without affordable, fast & transparent migration/job placement services, irregular migration will continue

# *Recognize context specifics*

- Internal versus cross-border migration  
Family versus independent child migration
- Into agriculture, domestic work, urban informal economy...?
- Reasons for migration: E.g. unemployment, poverty, natural disaster, conflict, seasonal flooding, history of migration, culture, gender discrimination, domestic violence...?
- What makes certain children more vulnerable than others?

**No one size fits all**



# *Safe(r) migration...*

## **Policies and services at source (prior to departure)**

- Pre-departure orientation
- Awareness raising on rights & opportunities
- Training in life skills, negotiations, do's and don'ts
- Vocational/skills training services
- Licensed and monitored recruitment agencies  
ILO Convention 181 (art 7):  
*'Private employment agencies shall not charge [...] any fees or costs to workers'*
- Access to cheap credit and low interest govt. loans
- To postpone migration: education and youth employment

### Key:

- *Affordability & quality service offered in rural areas*
- *Agencies to work together*
- *Possible role for LVC's, youth homes*

# *Safe(r) migration...*

## **Policies and services while on the move (in transit)**

- Trained police and workers in the transport sector monitor movement to prevent harm, without stopping migration
- Information services on trains/busses/ferries & at stations (i.e. migration booths, drop-in centres);
- Link between sending & receiving area/province/country
- Functioning hotline services with trained staff linked to referral services (*and keep records for monitoring purposes*)





# *...for decent work*

## Policies and services at destination (and in workplace)

- Apply minimum employment age
- Extend the reach of labour law & regulate the informal economy
- Improved labour inspection
- Complaints & settlement mechanisms
- Punish exploiters & hurt them in pocket
- Hold recruitment agencies liable for exploitation if employer cannot be charged
- Drop-in centers that offer social and legal assistance
- NFE



**NOTE: Labour exploitation does not appear where labour standards are routinely monitored & enforced**

# *Address public indifference to exploitation*

- Un-mask conditions
- Set up discussion forums on specific forms of child exploitation
- Engage leaders and celebrities to speak out
- Run strategic campaigns – e.g. International Migrants Day (18 Dec) and WDACL (12 June)

# *Involve business community*

- Engage in pre-departure skills training to ensure relevance;
- Trained employers to offer decent work to migrants above the minimum working age
- Corporate Social Responsibility & supply chain management address child trafficking, including at the beginning of the chain
- Offer positive media attention to model companies
- Tap the potential of businesses that benefit from migrant workers



# *How to mobilize employers*

What is IN It for Them? (WIN IT)

...or think from their perspective:

- Exploiters undercut profit of 'clean' employers;
- Exploitation increases staff turn-over;
- Manage risk & reputation (complex supply chains increase risk exposure to child trafficking);
- Corporate Social Responsibility & ethical business increases appeal of product/service & export potential;
- Involvement in child trafficking is legally & morally unacceptable;
- Most employers have kids!;

# *Join or associate with trade unions*

Art 2 of ILO Convention 87 on freedom of association:

*‘Workers [and employers] without distinction whatsoever, shall have the right to establish and, subject only to the rules of the organization concerned, to join organizations of their own choosing without previous authorization’*

Benefit from their protection services

**NOTE: ITUC promotes portable trade union membership for international migrants**

# *Youth empowerment & self-protection*

- Be aware & prepared prior to departure
- Don't travel alone but with like-minded migrants or family
- Know destination, employer, salary, deductions
- Keep money and travel documents in a safe place
- Don't travel at night
- Be suspicious of strangers who approach you
- Join children's clubs, self-help groups, place name associations, trade unions



# *Example: Spring Rain Campaign*

## *During Chinese New Year*

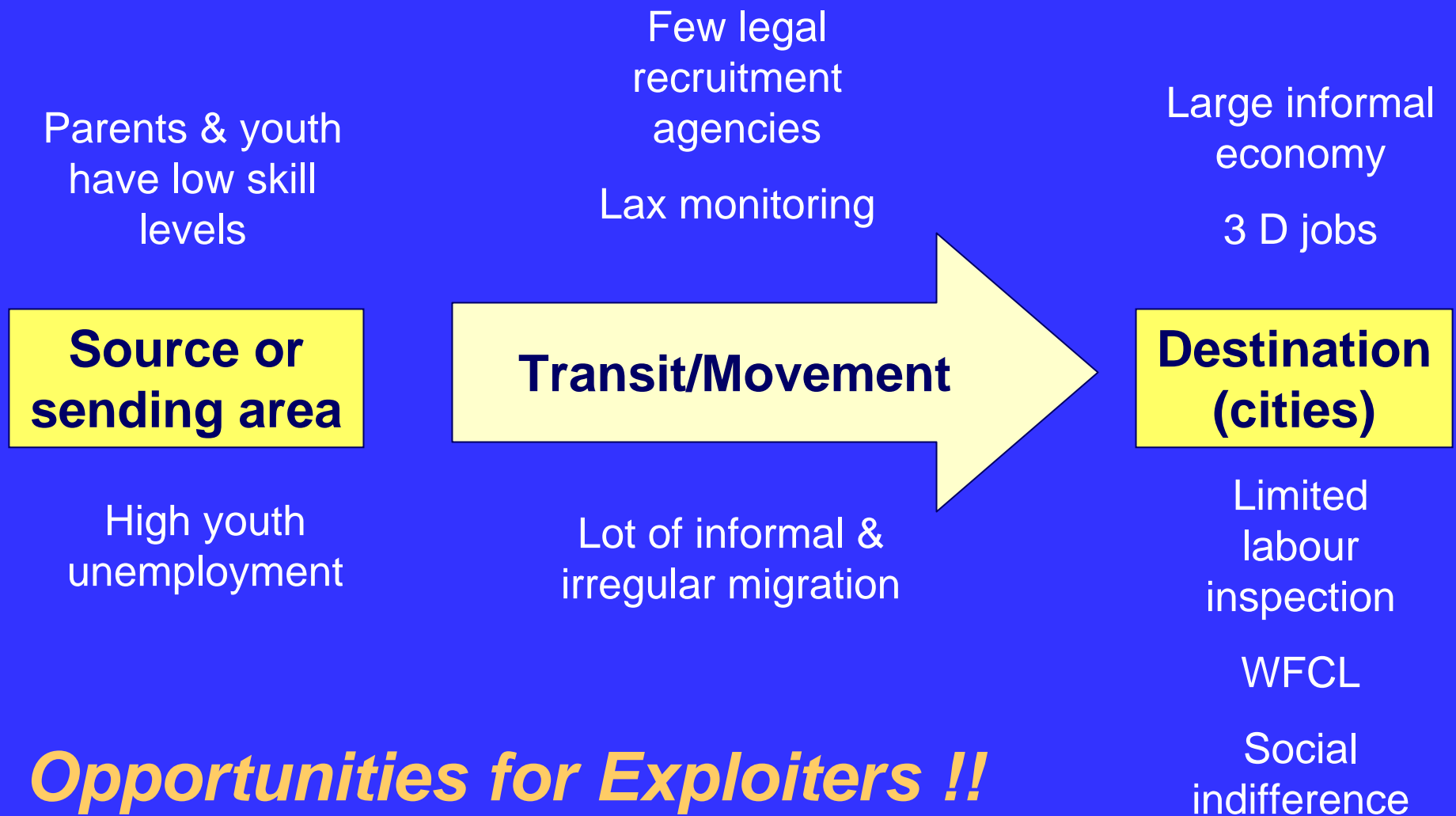
- Engagement of railway authorities & network of women's federations and labour bureaus
- Trained staff, information booths and referral services
- Use of cartoon images and variety of communication methods
- Simple overall slogan + detailed localized information that differs by province
- Seek feedback from beneficiaries
- Link to job fairs
- Timing and location!

[www.preventtraffickingchina.org](http://www.preventtraffickingchina.org)



# In summary:

## *Labour dimension - the downside*





# *Labour dimension - Our aim*

Parents & youth  
of working age  
have decent  
jobs

## **Source or sending area**

Children go to  
school/training and  
acquire skills

Active  
licensing and  
monitoring of  
recruitment  
agencies

## **Transit/Movement**

Fast, affordable &  
transparent services  
by registered  
recruitment agencies

Law enforcement &  
prosecution against  
traffickers

Migrants join  
trade unions

Employers  
have CSR  
policy

## **Destination (cities)**

Working  
conditions  
monitored

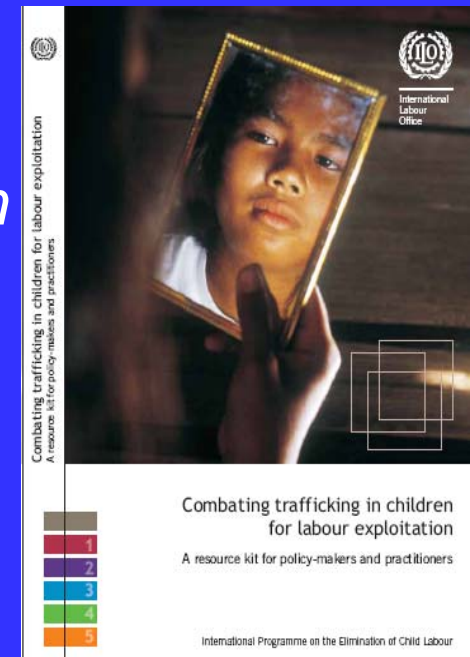
Public wants  
clean  
products

No underage  
labour

***Exploiters have no business***

# Useful resources

- Relevant Conventions (UN CRC, UN Migrant workers, 'Palermo', ILO C 29/105, 97/143/181, 138/182);
- *Combating trafficking in children for labour exploitation: Resource kit for policy makers and practitioners* (ILO, 2008)
- *Training manual to fight trafficking in children for sexual, labour and other exploitation* (ILO/UNICEF/UN.GIFT, 2009)
- *Roadmap for elimination of the WFCL by 2016* (2010)
- All on: [www.ilo.org/childlabour](http://www.ilo.org/childlabour)
- 'Migration and child labour: Exploring child migrant vulnerabilities and those of children left behind', ILO, 2010. (on conference site)



**Thank you for your attention!**