

Regional Efforts for Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour and Trafficking in Pacific Island Countries

Building on the Fiji Experience as Pacific Hub of Excellence

Gender (%)	Western (%)	Northern (%)	Total
76.4	86.4	77.8	82
2.4	9.1	-	11
2.4	-	-	1
7.1	-	5.6	4
2.4	4.5	11.3	5
-	-	5.6	1
42	44	38	104

Vigorous awareness campaign needed

...ness campaign needs to be ... rural agricultural communities on ... law regarding children's work, a ... suggested. ... would be beneficial to have the ... documents and information trans- ... to ensure the issue is ... at the grassroots level. ... December 2010 report on Child La- ... the ILO and children between ... of five and 17 years were removed ...



A young boy who spend the whole day at the market but helping his parents sell their produce.

Street kids need social support

THE International Labour Organization believes that ... and social assistance ... should be provided to take ... off the streets. ... If such resources ... be allocated and an ... environment ... to take children off ... the streets and out of ... labour. ... According to the ILO, ... should be ...



A Proposal

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OVERALL SITUATION OF CHILD LABOUR IN THE PACIFIC

1. There is clear evidence that children in the Pacific Islands Countries (PICs) are susceptible to the worst forms of child labour and trafficking. ILO child labour research studies conducted with the support of TACKLE in Fiji (2009), PNG (2010) and Kiribati (2011) found children exploited in prostitution (Fiji 107; PNG 175; Kiribati 33), hazardous work (agriculture, scrap metal scavenging, construction), and illicit activities such as drug trafficking, begging and pick pocketing. Research findings have shown that violence against children, including bullying, humiliation, abuse (physical, sexual, emotional) have been both causes and consequences of children dropping out of school and being trapped in child labour.
2. Poverty, illiteracy and poor academic performance and lack of employment opportunities are factors that aggravate risk and vulnerability to exploitation and abuse. Other reports highlight that children in PNG and Solomon Islands are being exploited through the mining and logging industry, early marriages and custom of bride prices where some fathers have used the tradition of bride price to trade their daughters for cash or other goods from mining and logging companies.
3. According to the 2011 U.S Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, in urban areas in PNG, some children from poorer families are prostituted by their parents or sold to brothels, and women are transported to logging and mining camps, fisheries and entertainment sites where they are exploited in forced prostitution or domestic servitude. The TIP report has put Kiribati on the Tier 2 watch list citing children trafficked into sexual exploitation. Research conducted by the Christian Care Centre in the Solomon Islands (2007) identified thirty six children in sex work and twelve children sold into marriage by parents or entered into marriage at an early age.
4. Since 2008, Fiji has been benefiting from the European Commission funded and ILO implemented child labour project called TACKLE-tackling child labour through education, currently being implemented in 12 countries (including eight countries in Africa, two in the Caribbean and Fiji and Papua New Guinea in the Pacific). The TACKLE project has achieved much but is coming to end in August 2013, requiring further efforts to sustain the momentum created by the project and further strengthen the systems and structures that have been put in place.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGY

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

5. The project objectives are to:
 - Improve country level legislation on child labour and education
 - Strengthen institutional capacity to formulate and implement policies, strategies and programmes to combat the worst forms of child labour
 - Enhance the knowledge base on combating the worst forms of child labour through targeted research and high-impact demonstration action-projects
 - Improve regional coordination and advocacy of child labour issues through regional resource-sharing and networking mechanisms

PROJECT TARGET GROUPS AND FINAL BENEFICIARIES

6. The target groups for the project are national authorities including government departments, employers' organisations, trade union bodies, schools, student and youth groups, civil society and community groups, Faith-based organisations and regional agencies. The final beneficiaries of the project will be all children especially in the worst forms of child labour and trafficking who will benefit from strengthened legislation and the implementation of policies and programmes targeted at combating the worst forms of child labour. This will include children in commercial sexual exploitation, illicit activities, hazardous work, out-of-school children, at-risk children, families and communities. Children and youths will participate in and contribute to the action and development of national action plans and strategies through school and community level bodies, forums and media networks.



Participants display their artwork during a Supporting Child Rights through Education, Arts and the Media-SCREAM Camp, Sigatoka, Fiji, 2011.

PROJECT STRATEGY

7. The project will achieve these objectives by working in the following four key result areas:
 1. **Improved country level legislation on child labour** -- This will comprise assessing core legislation, including child labour provisions, strengthening legislation to comply with international labour standards, developing and implementing National Action Plans to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour (NAP-WFCL), determining and applying lists of hazardous child labour, and building the capacity of countries to fulfil their reporting obligations on C138, C182 and UNCRC. In the Solomon Islands and Kiribati, a full review of legislation, policies and services will be conducted to assess compliance with ILO Conventions 138 and 182 and a report submitted to government with recommendations to address gaps. The action will support

Solomon Islands and Kiribati to develop a NAP-WFCL, and determine a hazardous child labour list. In Fiji and PNG, reviews will be conducted to evaluate changes made since the legislative reviews conducted through TACKLE in 2009. The action will provide technical support to Fiji and PNG to revise their hazardous work lists for children and National Action Plans to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour and implement these.

2. **Strengthened institutional capacity to formulate and implement policies, strategies and programmes to combat the worst forms of child labour, including child trafficking** -- Capacity of the national competent authority- Ministries of Labour- to coordinate and design strategies to address the worst forms of child labour will be strengthened through appointing a Child Labour Officer in the Departments of Labour in the Solomon Islands, Kiribati and PNG and providing technical support to the established Child Labour Unit in Fiji. The roles of the tri-partite bodies and national coordinating committees for Children's issues such as the Kiribati National Advisory Committee on Children and Fiji National Coordinating Committee on Children (NCCC) will also be strengthened to coordinate and mainstream child labour efforts into national strategies and programmes. National partners and stakeholders will be trained to establish Child labour inspection and enforcement procedures, child labour monitoring networks, and Codes of Conduct or Child Protection Policies to address the worst forms of child labour particularly the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). The capacity of the Ministries of Education will be strengthened to identify risks and vulnerabilities of children to violence and labour and sex trafficking in schools; to improve careers counselling and entrepreneurship education in schools and teacher training colleges; and to design non- formal education bridging programmes for out-of-school children in the worst forms of child labour or at risk.
3. **Enhanced knowledge base on combating the worst forms of child labour through targeted research and pilot demonstration models** -- Focused research on the worst forms of child labour such as children in slavery-like conditions, in commercial sexual exploitation, in hazardous work in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, and illicit activities will be conducted in Solomon Islands, PNG and Kiribati. A school to work transition survey will be piloted in Fiji and PNG. National partners will be supported to pilot demonstration models to withdraw children from the worst forms of child labour or prevent at-risk children from engaging in child labour. Information from the research and lessons learnt through piloted actions will be used to stimulate discussions at the local, national, and regional levels and will enable governments to review enforcement procedures and hazardous child labour lists, and relevant policies.
4. **Improved regional coordination and advocacy of child labour issues through regional resource sharing and networking mechanisms** -- This will comprise setting up a regional community of practice through social media tools on the worst forms of child labour and child trafficking in the Pacific; establishing a core group of trained regional journalists on child rights issues, particularly on worst forms of child labour and trafficking; standardising indicators on data collection on the worst forms of child labour and child trafficking in targeted countries with the view of contributing towards a regional data-base on child trafficking and worst forms of child labour; and supporting upstream- downstream flow of knowledge and advocacy on the worst forms of child labour through district level, national level and regional level child labour forums to recognise risks and vulnerabilities of children to the worst forms of child labour, establish mechanisms for monitoring and data collection and share most significant change stories. The project will work with higher education institutions to introduce child labour as an elective subject, and pay special attention to enhancing the role of teacher unions as advocates of child labour and education issues.

ILO'S RELATED CURRENT WORK AND PARTNERSHIPS

8. In the Pacific, the TACKLE project has supported the Fiji and PNG governments, social partners and civil society groups to identify priority outcomes to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in draft National Action Plans (NAP) and this action will support efforts to achieve these. In addition, the action will extend the work of TACKLE in PNG by supporting the government to incorporate child labour provisions into the Employment Act reform; establish the Child Labour Unit; determine the hazardous child labour list; develop child labour inspection systems and procedures; establish child labour monitoring systems; and extend targeted research on the worst forms of child labour and trafficking to other regions in PNG.
9. In Fiji, technical support will be provided to government departments, social partners and civil society groups to mainstream actions to eliminate child labour into national policies, and to enable child labour expertise to be provided to other countries and partnering agencies in the region. The action will strengthen the role of the Committee on Child Labour, established as part of Fiji's legislated National Coordinating Committee for Children, involving tri-partite and civil society.
10. The Fiji Government also launched in 2011 the 'Fiji National Action to Prevent Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children' (NAP). The action will expand on the work of the TACKLE project to build the knowledge base on trafficking of children and assist policy makers formulate a comprehensive response to the issue.

PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES REQUESTING THIS ASSISTANCE

11. Specially, the project will focus on Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. In these countries, the future project would work with the Ministries of Education to address violence against children in schools, integrate skills and careers counselling into formal education systems and design a comprehensive non-formal education bridging programme for out-of-school working children as an avenue to be integrated into the formal school system where possible. Trade union bodies and employer federations in each country will address violence against children by establishing codes of conduct on the commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children, developing child labour or child protection policies, and organising the informal sectors where children are found in the worst forms of child labour.
12. At a sub-regional level, the action will establish mechanisms for knowledge sharing on the worst forms of child labour and contribute to standardised data collection indicators and guidelines on detecting, identifying, reporting and referring worst forms of child labour and child trafficking cases. The action will advocate for the integration of the worst forms of child labour issues into regional strategies and frameworks and build the capacity of regional bodies such as Forum Regional Security Committee, COPE (regional teachers union body), FSPI (regional civil society body) to develop strategies to address the worst forms of child labour, and tertiary institutions such as the University of the South Pacific to develop a child labour training course for regional students.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

13. The current TACKLE (2008-2012) management arrangements attempt to establish national management implementation arrangements, under the global management of a CTA. In the Pacific such national structure with distant supervision are extremely costly to operate and finding and supervising capable national staff is particularly difficult.
14. Based on the accumulated wealth of knowledge and technical know-how that Fiji and the ILO in the Pacific has developed, it is now in a position to share this experiences, skills and expertise with neighbouring PIC that are ready to take the necessary steps to start addressing child labour and trafficking.
15. Thus, this proposal builds on Fiji experience as a hub of excellence and providing technical support and policy advice systematically to government agencies, workers and employers' organisations and civil society groups in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and PNG. This would be achieved by:
 - Appointing an international level officer (at least at the P3 level) as the Pacific sub-regional coordinator to oversee and supervise the work at the target countries as well as to facilitate the provision of technical assistance to Fiji. S/he would be required to travel frequently to the target countries for a range of necessary tasks, including:
 - facilitating the preparation of work plans, organizing meetings, workshops and oversee any studies or reviews
 - making the necessary arrangements for Fiji to establish itself as a centre of excellence on child labour by working closely with the relevant ministries, particularly the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment and the Child Labour Unit based in the Ministry
 - ensuring the input and support of the ILO Fiji office in this process
 - developing a work plan for the Centre of Excellence (to be based in the ILO Fiji office initially)
 - putting in place a monitoring and reporting system both for the Centre of Excellence and for the countries to benefit from the services of the centre
 - manage the financial resources allocated for the Centre of Excellence
 - supervise the work of national staff who may be employed in the countries targeted
 - Other duties as directed by the Director of the ILO Fiji Office
 - National coordinators would be appointed in the target countries who would report to the Sub-Regional Coordinator
 - Policy advice, training would be coordinated through the Sub-Regional Coordinator
 - Countries requiring assistance and input in their efforts to address child labour, would need to appoint focal points in the most relevant government institution (normally the Ministry of Labour but also Education, Social Welfare, Justice etc.) and form a national steering committee for policy advice and guidance in each of the target countries.
 - Mobilising and monitoring high-impact action programmes in the target countries



Child Labour Forum participants, Sigatoka, Fiji, 2011.

INDICATIVE RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

16. Too sustainably impact upon this project's Development Objective, would require a project of between three to four years and to be efficient should cover at least four Pacific Island counties. A detailed budget can only be finalized after these variables are clarified. However, resources would be required to cover, international and national staff and their associated operation and equipment costs, national and regional training workshops and mentoring, in-depth technical analysis and studies, advocacy materials, monitoring and evaluation, etc.
17. Indicatively, up to four countries as described in this document and operating for three years would cost between US\$2m and US\$3m.