



IN THIS ISSUE

- End child labour, it's everyone's business
- Back to school drive keeps children in school
- Schools monitor children at risk of dropping out
- Workplaces to eliminate child labour
- Strengthening national child labour data efforts
- SCREAM Camp
- Combating forced labour and trafficking
- Upcoming child labour courses at ITCILO
- Gallery

End Child Labour It's everyone's business!



Participants at the Student Leadership Seminar on child labour in the northern division (above) and World Day Against Child Labour Forum in Samoa (below)



Schools around Fiji organized activities from June 10-17 for World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL), observed annually on June 12. Children wrote poems, drew pictures, invited guest speakers, prepared speeches, role plays and dramas on the theme: **End child labour in supply chains, it's everyone's business!**

Students from Suva, Labasa, Ba, Lautoka and Nadi also participated in student leadership forums on child labour organized by the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Ministry of Education, Fiji Teachers Union, Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation and the TACKLE project team.

In his opening remarks at the Student Leadership Seminar in Labasa, Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Hon. Mahendra Reddy highlighted government policies such as the free education and bus fare schemes and the establishment of technical colleges improving access to education and training to all children in Fiji, including early school leavers.

National awareness was created through the daily newspapers, TV One Get Set programme

and Breakfast Show and daily news segment, and on social media through the a facebook page set up for the campaign. Kaila! Magazine published two editions of child labour articles, games and competitions and poetry.

In Samoa, the ILO National Officer, Mr. Tomasi Peni, ILO constituents and members of the Child Labour Working Group, organized a national child labour forum and media awareness. The forum resulted in commitments to review the Education Act to forbid the engagement of children in street vending, and finalise the Child Protection Policy and ensure children were protected from economic exploitation.



Students from Xavier College, Ba with their certificates

END CHILD LABOUR IN
SUPPLY CHAINS

IT'S EVERYONE'S BUSINESS!

Supply chains are the sequence of activities and processes involved in the production and distribution of a product. With globalization, supply chains have become increasingly complex, involving workers, small producers, and enterprises around the world. While most child labour occurs in production for domestic markets, children can also be found working in the production of goods and services for export. Enterprises need to be vigilant to ensure that their supply chains are free from child labour.

Keeping children in school

In the wake of TC Winston, partners and friends of the International Labour Organization worked together to keep children in school through the Back to School Drive.

Launched on February 25th by the ILO, Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation and the Fiji Teachers Union, the Back to School drive provided stationery kits to over 1500 students and schools in Tailevu, Naitasiri, Ra, Ba, Taveuni, Ovalau and to displaced students in the greater Suva area.

All stationery kits contained basic items- 5 exercise books including 1 Math book, pens, pencils, erasers, rulers. Additional items such as calculators, pencil colours, correction pens, glue sticks, book covers, cello tape, notebooks, lunch boxes or crayons were added to the stationery kits for selected areas.

A number of school bag packs were donated to displaced students in the Suva area, kindergarten students from Baba settlement in Levuka and students from Kocoma Primary School in Qamea.

Stationery donations valued at over FJD \$20,000 were received and delivered to the Fiji Teachers Union for distribution through their extensive network and outreach into Fiji's urban and rural schools.

Mr. Agni Deo Singh, the National Secretary of the Fiji Teachers Union, said it was heartwarming to see the smiles on children's faces and know that the items would help students return to normalcy and remain in school after TC Winston.

The National Trust of Fiji assisted in delivering the stationery kits to secondary and kindergarten students in Levuka and Taveuni, Rotary Pacific Water Foundation delivered stationery items to Nalotawa District School in Ba, and the Ministry of Education delivered stationery kits to displaced students studying in Suva.

The Back to School Drive complemented efforts by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF Pacific to assist in getting children back to school as quickly as possible, and involved coordination with other organisations and community groups also providing stationery items to schools to ensure that supplies were distributed fairly.

Thank you to the staff and individuals who supported the Back to School Drive from the:

- Fiji Teachers Union
- Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation
- Women Entrepreneurs Business Council
- Fiji Bureau of Statistics
- Ministry of Employment
- Ministry of Education
- National Trust of Fiji
- Directors of Kaiming Agro Processing Co. Ltd
- Max Marketing and STAR Printing
- US Embassy Foreign Service National Association
- Youth Tech Lami Studio
- World Vision
- Rotary Pacific Water Foundation
- Laje Rotuma Initiative
- Churchward Chapel Sunday School
- ILO Suva Staff Union



Emergencies and disasters caused by natural hazards create huge economic shock and infrastructure damage, unemployment, loss of food and productive assets, placing children, already vulnerable because of food insecurity or poverty at an even greater risk of child labour.

Direct causes of child labour in emergencies include lack of access to education, changing role of children in emergencies, economic shock and loss of family livelihoods and income, family composition changes and involvement in relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction work.

Acceptable work for children in emergencies is work which does not negatively affect children's health, personal development, or schooling. Children should be either above the minimum age of employment (15 years in Fiji) and the work is not hazardous or harmful to their health and welfare; or children may be below the minimum age, but no younger than the age for light work (13 years), and the work is not detrimental to their health, safety, education or training.



Schools assist children at risk of dropping out

The Fiji Teachers Union (FTU) is strengthening child labour monitoring systems in schools to reduce the risk of children prematurely dropping out of school and possibly into child labour.

The FTU mini-programme **“Preventing child labour through school-based child labour monitoring systems”** was launched in February and is being implemented in selected schools in the greater Suva area.

The programme involves preventing 50 in-school vulnerable children from being involved in child labour through education support, remedial classes and counselling. Child Labour Monitoring (CLM) systems will be strengthened or established in schools and teachers trained in identifying and assisting children who are at-risk of becoming involved in child labour.

In June, teachers were trained on the national legal framework for child labour and child protection, using school-based attendance monitoring and other data to assess risk and vulnerability, and developing prevention strategies and drop-out early warning systems.

The *‘Trade Union Guide to Eliminate Child Labour in Fiji’* published in 2015 by the FTU, FTUC and the ILO, was used as a key resource.

The FTU and the Fiji Trades Union

Congress (FTUC) have continued to promote the elimination of child labour through their programmes and networks throughout Fiji, and as active stakeholders of the TACKLE Project.

In 2011, the FTUC and FTU from November 2011 to June 2013 implemented an action programme on *“Mobilising schools and communities to prevent 300 at-risk children from engaging in child labour”*.

As a result of the programme over 800 children at-risk were prevented from dropping out of school and engaging in child labour through educational and counselling support.

Almost 80% of children assisted were from farming communities with no stable or regular source of income, negatively affected by expiry of land leases and recent natural disasters. Some children were from single parent families or living with grandparents.

In addition the programme also assisted children from large families with a higher number of young children, living in conditions where there was no proper housing facilities, electricity or water source, and from families with no working adult.

Teachers who were trained as child labour focal points and had to visit parents at

home due to students missing school due to the inability to provide lunches, school uniforms and books. Parents were happy with the assistance provided as they could focus on providing for other family needs.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Checkpoints for Companies

comes with an app that allows business managers and auditors to create interactive checklists that will help them ensure a child labour-free operation. There are 18 checkpoints in total, divided into six categories. Each checkpoint provides best-practice recommendations for taking action.

Download the app on: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.ilo.checkpoints.childlabour.android&hl=en>

Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

Abuse offers guidance on how to navigate the complex lexicon of terms commonly used relating to sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. They aim to build consensus on key concepts in order to strengthen data collection and cooperation across agencies, sectors and countries.

Download the guidelines on: http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_490167/lang-en/index.htm

In 2014, two representatives from FCEF Women, Entrepreneurship and Business Council attended a course on hazardous child labour in agriculture at the ILO International Training Centre (ILO TIC). In 2015, the Research Officer at FCEF attended an ILO-ITC training course on child labour policies and reporting processes and the role of business sector in addressing child labour and trafficking.

Workplaces eliminate child labour

In February, the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation (FCEF) launched a mini-programme on **“Developing workplace-based strategies to eliminate child labour and improve safe work for young workers in Fiji”**.

Two hundred retailers in central, western and northern divisions participated in trainings to improve workplace based practices to prevent child labour and protect young workers, including developing child labour policies or codes of conduct.

According to FCEF Training Officer, Ms. Suka Salusalu, “employers are best informed of the child labour laws through briefings and workshops so they can align their organizational policies to national legislations that govern the employment of children.”

The *Employers Guide to Eliminating Child Labour in Fiji*, adapted by FCEF in 2013, was used for the workplace-based training which covered what child labour is, causes and consequences, national laws, reasons why employers should eliminate child labour and guiding principles for actions.

As a main stakeholder of the TACKLE project, FCEF has conducted training and awareness for its members, published the Employers Guidebook for Eliminating Child Labour in Fiji, and contributed to child labour research and initiatives to address child labour issues since 2008.

FCEF continues to advocate on eliminating child labour through improving workplace-based policies and providing better education and training opportunities for all children. It also provides opportunity to build the capacity of members to combat child labour.

Building national child labour data

Over 80 statisticians, data entry officers, enumerators, analysts, project officers, field supervisors and field workers in the western, northern and central divisions, were trained on child labour data collection and analysis.

The Government Statistician, Mr. Epeli Waqavonovono, at the launch of the child labour training series in Suva on March 14th, emphasized the need for good quality data on child labour to develop appropriate policy and programme interventions, establish priorities and mobilise resources.

The training covered child labour concepts and legal frameworks, child labour data collection and research methods and incorporating child labour indicators in national surveys.

The Fiji Bureau of Statistics has played a major role in mainstreaming child labour

indicators into national surveys and building the capacity of TACKLE project partners to develop credible and robust methods for collecting and analyzing child labour data.

Recent surveys such as the Agricultural Census and the 2010-2011 Employment and Unemployment Survey have decreased the survey age group to 10 years old, providing national data on children in economic activity and out of school.

For example, findings from the 2010-2011 Employment and Unemployment Survey reported 3500 persons between 6-17 years had left school, the majority (49%) in the 10-14 year age group when they left school. The main reasons given by children were: not interested (36.2%), cannot afford (31.9%), disability/ illness (8.3%), family did not allow (5.0%), to help at home (2.5%), to work as

unpaid family worker (1.5%) and for other reasons (15.5%).

The trainings promoted the collection of national data on child labour and education, and fostered collaboration and resource sharing by the Fiji Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations (MEPIR) and the TACKLE Project. At the training workshops, Mr. Eferemo Raturcoko, the focal point of the Child Labour Unit in the MEPIR, outlined the significant progress made by Fiji in enforcing the national child labour laws. In 2015 the MEPIR received ISO certification (ISO 9001:2008) for labour standards and compliance which involves child labour



FBOS North Manager in training.

Contact Marie Fatiaki, fatiaki@ilo.org to request the Report of the training workshops on child labour data collection and analysis or for information on the SCREAM programme.

SCREAM holiday camp

Children in Lami actively participated in a SCREAM Camp during the Term 1 school holidays.

SCREAM, which stands for Supporting Children's Rights through Education, Art and the Media, is an ILO programme using songs, drama, research, and media to promote awareness and advocacy of child labour and child rights issues.

The SCREAM camp helped children understand the national legal child labour framework and conduct their own research on child labour in the supply chains and design graphic artwork to highlight the issue. Research, recording of videos and music, poem drafting as well as a field trip to the Sigatoka agricultural areas including a sugarcane

farm visit to the Kishore family farm, and the visit of the Fiji Sugarcane Corporation kept children busy during the week.

Activities and research were presented by children to parents and community members during the closing of the SCREAM camp at the Lami Studio. A total of 7 video clips on child labour were produced by the children and aired on the Get Set programme on Fiji during the weeklong World Day Against Child Labour Campaign following June 12th.

The SCREAM Camp was conducted in collaboration with the Lami Tech Studio, which operates an after school program for children from the Lami community.



Students at the Lami Tech SCREAM Camp and on a field trip to learn about the sugar industry- Kishore family farm

Forced labour and trafficking training in Turin, Italy



Savenaca Baro, FCEF

Savenaca Baro, Research and Communications Officer the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation attended a child labour course at the ILO's International Training Centre in Turin, Italy in

December 2015.

He shares some of his experiences:

"Stepping off the plane after 39 hours of travel, the winter breeze and the lovely view of the snowy Alps greeted me as I made my way towards the terminal in Turin or Torino as the more traditional Italians would say.

The Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation was awarded a fellowship for a one week course on "Laws, policies and reporting tools: supporting the fight against child labour, forced labour and trafficking".

The course focused on forced labour and the engagement and involvement of the private sector in helping curb the violation of rights of children and workers from these forms of illegal work practices.

Attended by 12 countries, the course quickly delved into the intricate issues faced globally with case studies on specific examples of child labour and forced labour encountered in different countries.

Being the only representative from an employer's organization, I was blessed to get a chance to share what FCEF had accomplished as part of the EU-funded TACKLE project in the fight against child labour in Fiji.

The experience and exposure in Turin, gave me more understanding of how ILO operated globally in dealing with these issues and the knowledge sharing amongst fellow participants and other stakeholders has also given insight on how I could better help FCEF combat and eliminate the issue of child labour and forced labour in Fiji. Not only did it help me plan what I can do from a work based perspective, but it also ushered in the ideology of how personally I can help create more awareness on these issues in my own network of friends and community.

A Latin saying states "In Scientia Fortitudo", translated in English is "In Knowledge lies Strength", so with the knowledge gained in Turin, lies our strength in helping deal with these issues in Fiji.

Grazie!!

The Fiji Police Force Assistant Police Commissioner and the Officer in Charge of the Human Trafficking Unit recently attended training at the ITC ILO on **"Identifying and investigating cases of forced labour and human trafficking**, from 23 – 27 May 2016.

Combating sexual exploitation and trafficking

In May, TACKLE supported a GEM (Girls Empowerment Momentum) Camp run by Homes of Hope working with young girls to build self-esteem, examine emotions and practice healthy coping skills, create supportive networks, strengthen communication skills and learn practical skills for income generation.

The GEM Camp is an initiative of the Homes of Hope "Momentum Project - creating safe and productive communities for children and young women vulnerable to forced sex". The Momentum Project withdraws children from sexual exploitation and trafficking and provides them with training and rehabilitation support. It also builds the capacity of community to prevent sexual exploitation and trafficking and strengthens safety nets for poor families and single parent households.

The GEM Camp builds on the previous HOH Safety Net project, which was funded by the European Union. The Safety Net project also conducted SCREAM Camps (Supporting Children's Rights through Education, Art and the Media) for vulnerable girls and boys.

Following the successful GEM Camp in May, Homes of Hope facilitated a 2-day Peer Mentor Training aimed to develop a pool of mentors to provide guidance and mentoring support to young women who are victims of or vulnerable to Commercial Sexual Exploitation.

The training assisted the 15 participants to build self awareness and explore their motivations in becoming a peer mentor, their roles and responsibilities, techniques for working with mentees, how and when to refer mentees for additional or specialized help, and identifying a mentee to support. A post-training meeting was held at Homes of Hope to strengthen relationships and provide support to the mentors.

Upcoming Training Courses at the ILO's International Training Centre:

Achieving education for all and eliminating Child Labour
26 – 30 September 2016

Monitoring and evaluation of development programmes & projects
19-30 September 2016

Anticipating and Matching Skills Needs
03 – 07 October 2016

For more information consult the ILO ITC website



ITC ILO Campus in Turin, Italy

Photo Gallery



Over 160 students and teachers participated in the Student Leadership Seminars in the central, western and northern divisions in Fiji.



Media awareness a large part of the WDACL Campaign. Ms. Lynn Roche from Homes of Hope on the Fiji One's (TV) Breakfast Show (left) and articles in the print media in Fiji and Samoa.



ILO intern, Ms. Ophelie Bettiol, from France, joined the TACKLE team in February 2016 and helped to facilitate the Lami Tech SCREAM Camp.

Young child vendor at Vaitele street

"I've told my mother a number of times that I wanted to go back to school like others but she told me to stay home,

John L. John

Two-year old John of Vaitele Fou is one of a growing number of child vendors in Samoa. Providing for his family by selling brooms is his daily routine.

"My mother's salary is not enough... I love selling these brooms and cones. I have been doing it since I was young," he said.

"Yesterday, I earned \$10 from selling brooms... I want to help my family... that's why I do this," "I'm not sure about my future... but... this helps my family to survive... because most of the time we don't have enough food to eat.

John told Samoa Observer that he was sent by her mother to sell goods for money.

"I've told my mother a number of times that I wanted to go back to school like others but she told me to stay home.

"I started as child vendor when I was four... five years old.

John dropped out of school when he was in Year 3. Earlier this month, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said it was serious about helping Samoa address the issue.

"National Coordinator in Samoa, Tomasi Pene, said law reform is a vital part of the solution.

According to Mr. Pene, there is currently no specific legislation stopping child vendors from working at night time in Samoa, with existing legislation only preventing it during school hours. Other legislation did not apply to child vendors as it does not consider the street "a formal place of work," Mr. Pene said.

"The country needs to work together, especially the ministries and social organisations that deal with child labour," he said. "What they need to do is look at the gaps in legislation and see where they can work together to include the street vendors in legislation."

He said young children were working into the late hours of the night on the streets of Apia, selling various things.

"That exposed them to a variety of dangerous activities as well, with some children stealing.

Mr. Pene said the street vendor issue would take some time to solve, but government



SUPPORTING FAMILY: Young John from Vaitele Fou.

intervention was important. In the meantime, the community and social organisations throughout the country had an important role to play in ensuring children weren't working as street vendors, he said. "What we want to see in the next course of action is for the social partners (ILO is working with) to take action." Mr. Pene urged parents to put a stop to their kids working as child vendors. "I think it's time they take the issue seriously."

For further information, please contact
ILO Country Office for Pacific Island Countries
8th Floor, FPNP Place, 343-359 Victoria Parade, Suva. | Tel: +679-3313866
Email: suva@ilo.org | Website: www.ilo.org/suva

