



COMBATING CHILD LABOUR IN THE COMMUNITY OF PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES (CPLP) IN AFRICA, BRAZIL AND TIMOR-LESTE

The Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) was founded in 1996. It comprises nine countries: Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Timor-Leste, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, and São Tomé and Príncipe. Since 2004 it has been a major platform for the activities of the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). The political support of CPLP has greatly contributed to the promotion of ILO's fundamental principles and rights at work, including the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).

The ILO Global Report on Child Labour (2006) called on member States to commit themselves to the elimination of all the worst forms of child labour by 2016. In the same year, a conference organized by the CPLP recognized that child labour was a challenge for the Community. As a result, it issued a joint declaration policy, which was signed by all countries, and initiated an Action Plan against Child Labour. Since that time, the CPLP and the ILO have been cooperating to promote dialogue and tripartite coordination between all CPLP agents working against child labour.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Partners:

Caixa Geral de Depósitos (Bank/
private donor)

Beneficiary countries:

Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Timor-Leste, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, and São Tomé and Príncipe.

Timeframe:

2010 – 2014

Budget:

USD 10,205

THE RESPONSE

Under this framework, the Caixa Geral de Depósitos (CGD) agreed with ILO-Lisbon to fund technical cooperation activities to combat child labour in the CPLP in 2010. Its contribution was used to co-finance other IPEC-related activities in those countries in the Community. The goal was to ensure greater coherence between national plans and social dialogue mechanisms to combat child labour and share good practices.

The CGD co-funded technical meetings and training sessions, which were attended by child labour focal points and specialists from the CPLP. Those meetings ensured the coordination of ILO project activities in the CPLP, as well as the planning and organization of common initiatives in line with the CPLP Action Plan against Child Labour, the ILO priorities for Africa, and the ILO's 2016 goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour.

They also established a mechanism for sharing best practices and exchanging views on the most relevant child labour issues.

The training sessions covered such issues as: data collection on child labour using the Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC); strengthening partnerships and policy coordination; and drafting lists of hazardous child labour activities and national action plans.

The co-funding also contributed towards the preparation of joint activities for awareness raising in connection with the World Day against Child Labour (WDACL). These activities included producing official ILO communication materials on child labour and distributing them in the CPLP.

RESULTS

The partnership with the CGD enabled those combating child labour in the CPLP to meet in tripartite and subregional workshops and technical meetings, and to plan and coordinate joint activities in line with the ILO Conventions on child labour – with the support

of the CPLP Executive Secretariat. Added to other funds, the CGD contribution allowed for the organization of three meetings of focal points (March 2007, May 2012 and December 2012), one subregional tripartite seminar (April 2010), and two training sessions



“As a result of national efforts to prevent and eradicate child labour, a National Unit as well as a National Committee for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour were created; a National Survey on Child Labour was conducted; the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour was approved; a comic series entitled “STOP Child Labour” was conceived; and a national list of hazardous work prohibited to children and teenagers is in the approval phase.”

Jairson Gomes, focal point for child labour in Cape Verde

(October 2010 and May 2011), involving a total of over 400 people. Common actions included the celebration of the WDAFL in 2012, the launch of the campaign against child labour in the CPLP, and the preparation of the III Global Conference on Child Labour in Brazil – which took place in 2013.

The WDAFL campaigns involved the editing and translation into Portuguese (by ILO Lisbon) of the official communication materials (brochures, posters and bookmarks) and their publication. The materials were then made locally available in the CPLP.

The CGD financial contribution also made it possible to produce and distribute CDs containing a digital library, which included the Portuguese version of SIMPOC, the resolutions and decisions adopted by the CPLP Member States, the official texts of the Conventions on child labour, training manuals, and guides and campaign materials for training and use by constituents.

By the end of the project in 2014, the remaining funds from the CGD covered the production and printing of the communication materials of the Red Card to Child Labour Campaign. This awareness-raising campaign was officially launched by ILO Lisbon, together with the CPLP Executive Secretary, during the 2015 WDAFL. The launch included a traditional music and dance parade from CPLP countries during the festivities of St. Anthony, patron saint of Lisbon – which took place on the same day, 12 June 2015.



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BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

- Ensuring the delivery of the Portuguese versions of the main ILO communication materials, guides and manuals – both in paper and digital format – for national use in all the countries involved.
- Fostering the active participation of CPLP child labour focal points in technical meetings at both tripartite and subregional levels.
- Providing CPLP child labour focal points with training on data collection, ways to strengthen partnerships, and policy coordination skills.
- Sharing best practices and exchanging views on the most relevant child labour issues among key stakeholders in the CPLP.
- Coordinating common activities in line with the CPLP Action Plan against Child Labour, ILO priorities for Africa, and the ILO's 2016 goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour.
- Ensuring greater coherence in the adoption of national plans and the capacity building of tripartite constituents to combat child labour.
- Raising awareness of child labour through common activities under the WDAFL campaigns.