



ELIMINATING CHILD LABOUR AND PROMOTING DECENT WORK IN THE STORA ENSO VALUE CHAIN

Child labour is a serious concern, which has an extremely damaging, and long-lasting impact, on the children involved and their families. Child labour also threatens the economy, security and national competitiveness. Recent global estimates show that of the 168 million child labourers worldwide, almost 78 million are in the Asia and Pacific region. In Pakistan, recent estimates indicate that almost 2.5 million children aged 10 to 14 years are in employment

(13 per cent of all children), and 33 per cent of the 15-17 years age group are employed. In the packaging and recycling sector in particular, children engaged in wheat straw collection endure long hours of work, as well as exposure to the sun, allergies and low levels of hygiene. They are also subject to work-related injuries such as back pain and abdominal problems, which pose serious problems to their health and future development.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Partners:

Stora Enso (SE)

Beneficiary countries:

Pakistan and global

Timeframe:

2015

Budget:

USD 860,179
for Stage 1

THE RESPONSE

Stora Enso (SE) is a leading paper, biomaterials, wood products and packaging company with its head offices in Finland and Sweden. Bulleh Shah Packaging (BSP) is its joint venture and agricultural and recycling product supplier in Pakistan. To strengthen its policy and global efforts to promote decent work and eliminate child labour in its value chain in Pakistan, SE has entered into a public-private partnership (PPP) with the ILO.

The agreement has global and local components. The global component will focus on aligning policy and practice with international labour standards and increasing the company's knowledge of child labour and other rights at work. The local component aims to promote decent work and to combat child labour in the value chain of BSP, SE's joint venture in Pakistan.

RESULTS

The following results are expected from the first phase of the project:

At the global level, in order to increase SE's capacity to effectively align global policy and practice with relevant international labour standards, the ILO will identify and review the company's relevant internal policies. SE and the ILO will then jointly determine whether further complementary research is needed. Should such research be deemed necessary, relevant documents to review will include all reference material aimed at guiding the social partners' actions to eliminate child labour and forced labour. The ILO will then create and deliver a training programme for both management and workers' representatives, drawing on the findings of the research and geared toward the strengthening and implementation of a robust management system

that is aligned with fundamental principles and rights at work.

The ILO also proposes to establish a Joint Tripartite ILO-SE-BSP Committee to review the strategy and implementation of the partnership. This Committee will meet once a year, or as needed. It will examine emerging learning and opportunities from the PPP.

In order to increase the SE's knowledge base of the repercussions that child labour and other rights-at-work violations have in the countries in which it operates, two activities are proposed. The first is to conduct desk reviews of selected countries and sub-sectors in which SE operates; the second is in-depth research into labour rights and socio-economic conditions in selected sub-sectors in the SE supply chain.



“For Stora Enso, this partnership is an important step in enhancing human and labour rights in our operations and supply chains. Cooperation with the ILO will help us increase our knowledge, build up local networks and work together with the government and other local stakeholders to bring about positive change.”

Karl-Henrik Sundström,
CEO at Stora Enso

At the local level, the first stage is a situation analysis and orientation phase.

A baseline study to identify decent work deficits in the BSP value chain

A comprehensive study will be designed and implemented in consultation with the social partners to assess decent work deficits throughout the entire BSP value chain in Pakistan, and to undertake a precise mapping of the value chain. The ILO will provide technical support to design and carry out the study to help SE and BSP determine their respective responsibilities in line with the applicable ILO standards.

Orientation and sensitization of BSP management on the dividends of decent work

In parallel with this study, a series of orientation sessions will be prepared and implemented for the BSP management and trainers of trainers on the relationship between decent work and increased productivity, the sustainability of enterprises, and obtaining an enhanced brand reputation. These sessions will also enable the ILO to receive feedback from the BSP management and workers' representatives on their perspectives of supporting decent workplaces.

Pilot intervention

Drawing on the findings of the baseline study, the ILO will implement pilot interventions in selected communities to support the progressive elimination of child labour. These interventions are likely to reach only a section of the communities in the SE and BSP supply chain affected by child labour and other decent work deficits. However, starting direct action in selected communities will enable the project to test and develop models for evidence-based interventions that can then be replicated and improved. This will also be key in establishing alliances, particularly with the local and national Government, which will be critical to the success and sustainability of this and any future interventions.

Develop a proposal for a medium-term technical support programme

ILO technical specialists, in consultation with SE and the BSP management and social partners, will develop a technical cooperation project to support the BSP in mainstreaming principles of decent work into its value chain. The design process, carried out in conjunction with the Joint Tripartite Committee, will take two months to complete and will spell out a clear roadmap for future work.



Partnerships and Field Support Department (PARDEV)

International Labour Organization
4, Route des Morillons
CH-1211 Geneva 22
Switzerland

Tel. +41 22 799 7309
Fax +41 22 799 6668
E-mail: ppp@ilo.org
www.ilo.org/ppp

BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

The ILO is a United Nations agency with the mandate for the world of work. With its tripartite structure, it has developed a strong technical expertise in the areas of child labour, labour administration, labour inspection and other dimensions of decent work. The ILO also assists member States and its constituents in applying international Conventions. It has technical expertise at various levels, which supports its interventions at country levels. The ILO's global knowledge base and its experience of implementation in various countries gives it an edge in offering sound technical assistance to national counterparts.

The ILO is the leading agency in Pakistan to provide a platform that brings together Government, workers and employers, and to dispense technical advice and services to improve compliance with labour standards. The current proposed project would benefit from the ILO's long experience in establishing partnerships and implementing a number of sustainable projects to tackle child labour in Pakistan's supply chains.