

**TOWARDS ELIMINATING  
CHILD LABOUR IN  
TANZANIA**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF ILO-IPEC  
SUPPORTED INITIATIVES**



**International Labour Organization**

**International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)**

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# **TOWARDS ELIMINATING CHILD LABOUR IN TANZANIA: HIGHLIGHTS OF ILO-IPEC - SUPPORTED INITIATIVES**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Tanzania has a population of about 30 million people with a growth rate of about 2.8% per annum. The economic growth rate is 4% and it is estimated that 47% of the population are children below 15 years of age.

With the escalating economic problems in Tanzania, which have caused a decline in real wages and in the provision of social services particularly health and education, more and more children are being forced to work outside the family context, and under conditions that are harmful to their development.

The health threats notably the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the rise of poverty, lack of access to quality basic education among the factors driving more and more children into the labour market. Children are sometimes exposed to situations which are hazardous to their mental, physical and psychological well being.

As families struggle to cope with rising costs and fewer jobs, the income contribution of children has become an essential part of the family survival strategy. In the light of rising costs of education and the fall in quality standards, many parents see little value in education which does not provide their children with income-earning skills. This has led to an estimated 30% dropout of all 10 - 14 year old children country-wide.

Furthermore, deteriorating living conditions in the rural areas have prompted a large influx of youth to the cities which has further overburdened the existing services as these cannot be absorbed into

the formal sector employment. As a result, urban families increasingly resort to survival strategies which involve children contributing to the household economy through the informal sector. In both rural and urban areas, working children are a common feature of the society, but much of the employment is hidden within the context of unpaid family work and in the informal sector.

The worst forms of child labour in the country appear to be in the plantation industry, where children are exposed to chemicals, machinery, hard physical work and long working hours, and, to some extent, in mines and manufacturing industries. The vast majority of child workers are engaged in subsistence agriculture and in private households. Most visible though are those who work on the streets of urban centres in a wide range of tasks and activities. Other sectors are fishing and commercial sex work.

The International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) programme which was introduced in Tanzania in 1994 has been working closely with the Government, social partners and various NGOs to prohibit, restrict and regulate child labour progressively, with a view to its ultimate elimination. Programme to Withdraw 200 especially vulnerable children from hazardous worksites and provide them with alternative life opportunities, the establishment of sustainable projects geared at helping children to move away from child labour into schools and rehabilitation centres is among the steps taken to attain this objective.

## **2.0 THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF CHILD LABOUR IN TANZANIA**

Child work in Tanzania like in many other parts of the world is considered to be an essential part of the socialization process and a

means of transmitting acquired skills from parent to child. Children are involved in craft workshops and small scale services, assisting parents in ancillary tasks, acquiring skills and gradually becoming fully fledged workers in family establishments or trades. Child labour refers to the economic exploitation of children in hazardous worksites and occupations; the type of work and working environment which puts at stake children's education, health, social development and even their lives. Child labour is work carried out to the detriment of the child and in violation of international law and national legislation. Concern is therefore on children who are denied their childhood and a future, who work long hours for low wages, often under conditions harmful to their health and to their physical and mental development, and who are deprived of their right to basic education.

Both the context and incidence of child labour in Tanzania today are closely associated with the series of market reforms which the country has adopted over the past decade. These have seen severe reductions in the social sector budget and worsening rural poverty.

Consequently, there has been increased rate of rural-urban drift by the youth and children, finding their way into the swelling urban informal sector, where children below 15 years of age constitute about half the workforce.

The removal of subsidies on education has contributed to a situation whereby about 30% of all 10-14 year old are out of school. The selling or closure of many parastatals has meant the retrenchment of tens of thousand of workers, mostly parents, who are then compelled to enlist the contribution of their children to supplement meagre family incomes.

## **2.1 Sectors associated with child labour**

Child labour in Tanzania is now an accepted phenomenon and is characterized by its widespread presence in society with varying sectoral magnitude in urban and rural areas. It is estimated that between 350,000 and 400,000 children below 15 years of age are engaged in child labour in various sectors of the economy including agriculture, mining, in the informal sector and in domestic services.

About 45% of the school age children do not attend school and there has been an increasing rate in school drop-outs in the last six years. The average drop-out rate for primary schools during 1992 - 96 was 26%. These factors compound the problem of child labour in the country as the number of absentees and drop-outs in schools add to the number of children who were not enrolled into schools in the first place.

### **(a) *Commercial and subsistence agriculture***

Tanzania is among the Sub-Saharan countries with the highest incidents of both low income and poverty at the household level put at about 40%. (UNDP statistics 1997).

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy with subsistence agriculture providing over 80% of employment in rural areas. For this reason and given the high incidence of rural poverty the vast majority of child workers are engaged in subsistence agriculture.

Children in some villages are lured by big farmers who promise them handsome income and transport them to tobacco and sugar-cane plantations in far away districts. These children are over worked and often exploited and left on their own at the end of the season to seek other means of survival.

Studies have shown that between 1,200 and 1,500 children aged 10-15 years, boys and girls, are seasonally employed to work under hazardous conditions with little pay in tobacco

estates in Iringa rural district, Iringa region. In Mufindi district in the same region, tea estates employed in the past, about 120 children each, aged 12-15 years to carry out various activities ranging from cleaning farm boundaries to picking tea leaves.

To date, however, both trade unions and employers have in collaboration with IPEC, implemented various programme activities which have resulted in the effective prevention of child labour on most tea, coffee and tobacco plantations.

Intervention strategies have included the training of trade union leaders on bargaining for better and safer working conditions for children, raising awareness of plantation owners about negative aspects of child labour, safeguarding jobs for adults and gradually reducing the number of children working on the plantations. Children aged between 8 and 15 years, including primary school drop-outs, constitute 18-20% of the labour force on the rubber, cloves and green algae (seaweeds) plantations in Zanzibar. Truancy is very high especially during harvesting seasons as the children join adults to work in these plantations so as to add-up on their families income. The children are mainly involved in all processes of rubber harvesting, picking, distalking and drying of cloves, as well as planting, harvesting and drying green algae.

(b) *Mining and Quarrying*

Child labour is rampant in small mining sites where children work in open-cast mines or underground. Children find themselves involved in mining and quarrying for various reasons, including rural poverty and the lust for quick



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fortune associated with minerals. Primary school drop-out rate in villages surrounding the mining sites range between 30% and 40%. Some of these children are found working underground e.g. at Mererani mines, Arusha region. Apart from being exposed to the environmental hazards in the mining sites, the children are subjected to sexual abuse and hence to high probability of being infected with the HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

(c) *Informal sector including domestic services*

The participation of children in the informal sector activities of various kinds is on the increase. The exploitation of child labour in the urban informal sector is closely associated with the current influx of children and youth from the rural areas to urban centres.

The most visible child workers are those who work on the streets of urban centres in various types of tasks and activities like petty businesses, car-wash and parking, child prostitution, panel beating, drug trafficking, begging and leading blind parents or relatives. Dar es Salaam city alone is estimated to have a total of 4,500 street children.

A less invisible category of working children are girl-child domestic servants employed mostly in the households of urban working and middle class often under both abusive and exploitative conditions.

## **2.2 Working conditions**

In all sectors involving child labour there is one common feature cutting across all activities done by children. This is the unfavourable working conditions which are detrimental

to the children's physical, social and psychological development. The hazardous conditions, to which working children are subjected include:

- long working hours, with heavy workloads
- exposure to extreme climatic conditions
- contact with poisonous pesticides other agro-chemicals
- sexual abuse and high probability of being infected with Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS/HIV) and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

### **2.3 Causes and factors contributing to child labour**

There are a number of factors and conditions that cause and precipitate child labour in Tanzania. Among these are:

(a) *Economic Liberalization measures*

Policy measures introduced by the government in the past fifteen years to transform the economy from socialist centrally planned to liberalised market economy have had adverse effects on low income population and grave consequences of precipitating child labour. The results of these policy measures include the privatisation of parastatals, and the subsequent retrenchment of employees in the government and parastatal organisations, removal of subsidies on education and severe reduction of social services budget in real terms.

(b) *Urbanisation and social disintegration of the traditional family system.*

Urbanization has to a large extent contributed to the increase of child labour in the country. The urban growth rate of 10% coupled with increasing rural poverty have forced many parents and their children to try to earn a living through all sorts of marginal and casual employment.

Furthermore, and due to economic hardship, people have been prompted to only take care of their nuclear families, a departure from the traditional norms and values which bound family and clan members together.

Many children from high and low income families no longer enjoy love and care from their families. Some are abandoned and neglected and ultimately run away from their homes and end up in different work sites as labourers.

(c) *Unconducive school environment*

School environment in the country has remained unattractive to the pupils because of poor physical infrastructure and inadequate educational facilities which have led to poor quality of education in many primary schools. Many children have tended to dislike school and therefore either drop out or do not enroll at all. The primary education curriculum is generally not focused on imparting life skills or employment assistance to the pupils. Both parents and children see little value in basic education, which is to many poverty stricken families, a burden in

terms of the costs of school uniforms, school fees and other contributions. To many poor households it makes good economic sense therefore to send children to work rather than to enlist them in school.

(d) *Other Factors*

These include variably the HIV/AIDS epidemic which has seen the death of parents/breadwinners, leaving behind household economic hardships and creating a pool of orphans; big-size families, as well as cultural traditions and practices.

## **2.4 Government's Commitment and Efforts**

The position of the Government as far as the rights and welfare of children are concerned is decisive. Both at the policy and institutional levels, the government, has been keen to promote the rights of the child, including their protection from economic and social exploitation. Several measures have been initiated towards the prevention of child labour, including the enactment of the Employment and Young Persons Ordinance, the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1991) the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the ILO on the implementation of the IPEC programme, (1994) and more recently (1998) the ratification of the ILO Minimum Age Convention (138).

## **3.0 ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF CHILD LABOUR: SIGNIFICANT LANDMARKS**

The government's resolve and commitment to address the problem of child labour in the country dates back to the 1980's. Among the important landmarks are:

- **Formation of a Ministry Responsible for Women and Children Affairs**

**In November 1990**, following the World Summit for Children, September 1990, the Government formed new fully fledged Ministry of Community Development Women Affairs and Children, mandated to make a follow up on the Summit, the Declaration and Plan of Action.

- **National Summit on Children Survival & Development**

**In June 1991** the Government convened a national summit on the “Survival, Protection and Development of Children”. Subsequently the parliament endorsed resolutions arising from the summit. The resolutions provided the current policy framework for the National Programme of Action for the Goals for Tanzania children in the 1990's.

Resolution No.7 of the national summit focuses on “improved protection of children in especially difficult circumstances by the year 2000, including advocating against child labour”.

- **Government/ILO Initiatives**

**In August 1992** the Government in collaboration with the ILO organized a national seminar on child labour which dwelt on the concern for the plight of children trapped in child labour and the desire to take concrete actions towards the prevention of child labour and the protection of working children. The seminar proposed a comprehensive strategy for addressing the problem of child labour, and a framework for the formulation of a national policy on child labour. Subsequently an **interministerial committee on child labour** was formed led by the Ministry of Labour and Youth Development, to work on the subject.

**In March 1994** the Government and the ILO signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** to implement child labour programme activities in the country under the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

- *Policy Document*

In the same year, (1994) a draft policy document was prepared by the Ministry of Community Development Women Affairs and Children to be eventually passed by the parliament as a national policy for children. This proposed among others, increased protection of children in the context of the UN Convention on the Rights of the child. It also specifically refers to the adherence to the minimum age and the principles for the protection of working children.

- *ILO Minimum Age Convention*

In 1998, the Government ratified the ILO Minimum age Convention 1973 (No.138). The Convention establishes that the minimum age for employment should not be less than the age of completing compulsory schooling and in no event less than 15 years of age. A developing country may specify initially a minimum age of 14 years.

#### **4.0 INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME ON THE ELIMINATION ON CHILD LABOUR - IPEC FACT SHEET**

- 4.1 Ever since its foundation in 1919 ILO has devoted a major part of its efforts to the elimination of child labour. A number of conventions have been adopted by the Organisation including the two conventions on the forced

labour (No.29 of 1930 and No.105 of 1957) which have been widely ratified, and a more recent one, the **Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.138)** and the **Recommendation No.146** which calls on member states to aim at the effective abolition of child labour. These three (3) conventions are among the seven (7) ILO core conventions identified as being fundamental to the rights of human beings at work.

In June 1999 the ILO concluded its 87th International Labour Conference with the unanimous adoption of a new Convention (182) and a Recommendation banning the worst forms of child labour. The Convention applies to all persons under the age of 18 and call for “immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency”. It defines the worst forms of child labour as:

- all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage, serfdom and forced or compulsory labour.
- forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in aimed conflict.
- use of a child for prostitution, production of pornography or pornographic performances;
- use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs and
- work which is likely to harm the health, safety and morals of children.

4.2 The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) was launched in 1992. The programme

works toward the elimination of child labour by strengthening national capacities to address child labour problems and by creating a worldwide movement to combat it. This is the world's largest technical cooperation programme on child labour. In more than 60 countries, IPEC inspires, guides and supports national initiatives to eliminate child labour.

IPEC gives top priority to actions which will bring about an end to extreme forms of child labour in hazardous working conditions and occupations, including bonded child labour, child prostitution and the trafficking of children. The programme gives special attention to very young working children, especially those below 12 years of age and working girls.

- 4.3 The implementation of ILO/IPEC strategy in participating countries begins with the expressed will and commitment of individual governments to address child labour in co-operation and consultation with workers organisations, employers organisations, NGOs as well as other relevant institutions in society.

IPEC supports partner organisations to develop and implement measures aiming at preventing child labour, withdrawing children from hazardous work and providing them with appropriate alternatives, and improving working conditions as a transitional measure towards the elimination of child labour.



## **5.0 IPEC ACTION IN TANZANIA: OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS**

### **5.1 *IPEC country objectives***

The IPEC programme was introduced in Tanzania following the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government of Tanzania and the ILO in 1994 with the following main objectives:

- To assist the Government and the social partners to design and implement specific action programmes aimed at the protection of working children and the elimination of child labour.
- To bring about increased capacity of the social partners to identify child labour problems and to respond effectively to protect working children and to prevent child labour.

### **5.2 *IPEC Country Strategies***

In Tanzania, the IPEC strategy has focused primarily on the prevention of child labour through institutional capacity building public awareness raising, community mobilization and information campaigns against child labour, as well as on the withdrawal of children from hazardous worksites and their reintegration in schools and vocational skills training. altogether, thirty five (35) action Programmes on child labour have been implemented by various social partner-agencies since 1994 various focusing on these interventions in every part of the country.

The execution of the programmes has been guided by the 1992 proposed National Programme of Action which among other things, prioritized areas with notorious child labour practices such as children in mining, plantations, domestic service, children in street trade and those trapped in prostitution.

**IPEC SUPPORTED PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE 1998 - 99 BIENNIUM: AN OVERVIEW**

**(I) Action Programmes**

Programme Area	AP Title /Implementing Agencies	Impact
Institutional and Policy Development	Enhancing the Capacity of the Child Labour Unit to Combat Child Labour (Child Labour Unit, Ministry of Labour and Youth Development)	An effective programme implementation through training co-ordination and networking has been achieved; a country profile on child labour has been up-dated; partner-agencies local government officials and senior policy makers have been sensitized on and involved in the formulation of national policy guidelines on child labour
Institutional and Policy Development	Programme to Promote Primary School Enrolment and Retention in order to Prevent Child Labour (Ministry of Education and Culture)	Primary school enrolment is being promoted in 50 wards in 6 regions. The sensitization of ward education committees on child labour and their training on monitoring and evaluation of school enrolment and retention has resulted in 25% increase in enrolment and reduction in the incidence of child labour in 50 wards.

**Action Programmes (contd)**

<b>Programme Area</b>	<b>AP Title /Implementing Agencies</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Institutional and Policy Development	Programme to Provide Training and Orientation on Hazardous Child Labour to 15 Grass-roots NGOs (Tanzania Council for Social Development).	Managers of 15 grass-roots NGOs sensitized on child labour, 30 trainers from 15 grass-roots NGOs provided with orientation on the integration of child labour in NGO programme activities; 15 community-based action programmes on child labour formulated.
Direct Support	Programme to Withdraw Children from Extreme forms of Child Labour in the Informal Sector and to Provide them with Appropriate Alternative Opportunities (DOGODOGO Centre for Street Children).	250 working children identified and withdrawn from hazardous work in the informal sector and provided with alternatives including vocational skills training, reintegration into primary schools and re-union with families; a revolving loan fund for self employment provided to 120 children in a co-operative set up of 10 groups.
Director support	Programme to Withdraw 200 especially vulnerable children from hazardous worksites and provide them with alternative life opportunities (Tanzania Social Workers Association)	200 especially vulnerable young children removed from hazardous worksites in 4 urban centres and provided with alternative life opportunities
Institutional and Policy Development	Programme to Prevent the Recruitment of Girl-Child Domestic Workers (Tanzania Media Women Association)	A media campaign to create and raise awareness on girl-child domestic labour undertaken in 7 regions; a lobbying campaign directed at policy makers against domestic child labour launched, 3 crisis centres established to provide legal aid, counselling, withdrawal and rehabilitation.

## **7.0 SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS**

The implementation of the IPEC programme in Tanzania over the 1998-99 period has consolidated previous achievements into an emerging national commitment and resolve to tackle the problem of child labour. Programme activities implemented by partner-agencies and collectively covering each and every part of the country have awakened the Tanzanian society to both the reality and gravity of the problem of child labour on one hand, and stimulated a common resolve at different levels of the community to protect children from exploitative and hazardous child labour practices on the other.

As significant dimension of this achievement has been the resultant broad range of actors, apart from IPEC partner agencies and collaborators on child labour, comprising of NGO networks, media institutions, local community leaders, parent groups and other civic organizations. This in effect means that the IPEC programme in Tanzania has succeeded to put in place both at the community and institutional-policy making levels, self-propelling initiatives to combat child labour.

The implementation of varied individual IPEC action programmes by Government Ministries, Workers and Employers organizations as well as NGOs has during the period generally been both effective and efficient. Up to 80% of the intended outputs have been achieved through more or less, timely implementation of activities according to work plans. Such outputs and the their respective target group beneficiaries include the follow:

- The establishment of strong and sustainable mechanisms at the grassroots level, to monitor, prevent and stop child labour in four regions. The mechanisms include the formation of child labour committees in 20 villages, the

forging of agreements between trade unions and local government authorities on child labour, the withdrawal of 242 children from mining sites and domestic service and their reintegration in families and schools, as well as awareness raising campaigns on child labour targeting 800 community leaders comprising of parents, employers community-religious leaders councillors and local government officials.

- The training and sensitization of IPEC partners and collaborating agencies, local and senior government officials on child labour, along with consultations and dialogue on national policy guidelines on child labour. Quarterly reports of the Child Labour Unit as well as briefing to the National Steering Committee indicate a growing consensus between the tripartite partners as well as other stake-holder agencies on a policy framework for addressing the problem of child labour in Tanzania.
- An increased inter-agency collaboration and networking on child labour issues both within the IPEC country programme framework and between IPEC implementing agencies and other stakeholder organizations. This is making it possible for programme activities to be implemented in a more coherent, systematic and complementary manner, hence enhancing the prospects for increased effectiveness. Joint initiatives on child labour between IPEC and UNICEF-Tanzania in assessing child labour situations and formulating common intervention measures has made it possible to reach most target groups and stimulated community-level action against child labour in six districts with considerably higher incidence of child labour.

- Increased integration of child labour issues into programme activities on related social problems such as family planning, poverty alleviation and HIV/AIDS prevention. Both at the national, regional, district and community levels, situation analysis and awareness raising activities on child labour have deliberately included the subject of other social factors which in one way or another contribute to the incidence of child labour and, or, impinge on the child labour situation, so that in the long run child labour is effectively tackled holistically within a social development context.

## **8.0 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE**

Whereas the reform of existing labour laws has been a rather slow process and that legislation and enforcement is yet to contribute more effectively towards the prevention of child labour, local level “by-laws” and directives as well as agreements have proved to be very instrumental in curbing child labour practices. In local communities where school committees and village leadership have agreed on measures towards increased enrolment and retention in primary schools, the incidence of child labour has been reduced. This means that it is quite possible for district and community level action to prevent child labour through various strategic measures even while national laws are being reviewed.

The prevention of child labour is however not made easier by the fact that many households especially in the rural areas live below subsistence levels and quite often have to resort to putting children to work either to raise family incomes or because parents cannot meet the cost of putting their children in school. Thus the level of

**success of interventions to prevent child labour in certain localities depends to a large extent on the available income earning opportunities for parents and households.**

**The labour inspectorate in the Ministry of Labour and Youth Development though staffed with inspectors trained on child labour is not able to provide sufficient logistical and financial support to inspectors to enable them carry out inspections at different worksites. The withdrawal of children from work and provision of alternatives has been challenging.**

**The overall experience, however, shows that the successful and effective withdrawal of children from work is dependent to a large extent on careful and systematic prior planning involving all the parties concerned, i.e. the targetted children, parents, school teachers, employers and community leaders; children's participation and involvement in deciding on the available alternative opportunities has proved to be an essential aspect of the withdrawal exercise. The success achieved so far in withdrawing and reintegrating children from domestic service, mining sites, plantations and the urban informal sector is largely a result of this approach.**

**There is however, another dimension of withdrawal which has seen children being banned from worksites, (especially from mining and**



plantations) by employers and have, therefore, been compelled to leave. These have invariably sought alternative worksites or have altogether drifted to the urban centres to join the informal sector.

Social-partner agencies are concerned that haphazard and forced expulsion of children from mines, plantations and domestic service could be driving the children into less visible, and may be more hazardous and exploitative occupations such as drug peddling and prostitution.

The big snag in the set of interventions aimed at the withdrawal of children from hazardous and exploitative worksites is that the identification of sufficient feasible and viable alternatives for withdrawn children has often proved difficult. Schooling opportunities as well as opportunities for vocational skills training are not readily available in certain localities. There are more children leaving worksites (either voluntarily or by compulsion) than there are available alternative opportunities for them. IPEC partner-agencies have however committed themselves to undertake withdrawal activities more cautiously in the light of the emerging experiences, first to seek to widen the scope of available alternative opportunities for children through increased linkages with other resource-agency networks including the private sector and community based institutional schemes and the formation of group-cooperative income generating ventures for children, combined with vocational /apprenticeship training.

The question of the sustainability of IPEC programme interventions has received increased attention and focus, not only within the deliberations of the National Steering Committee and implementing agencies but also in terms of strategic actions by individual concerned agencies to integrate child labour into their routine policies, programmes and activities and also cost-sharing in the implementation of IPEC-funded, programmes activities. Continued

training of labour inspectors, trade union leaders and NGO personnel on child labour has added to the overall capacity already built for undertaking sustained action on child labour. Child labour is also being mainstreamed into the national employment policy, presently under review.

Given the generally poor performance of the national economy and therefore the weak financial resource-base of most social service oriented agencies and institutions, the mobilization of in-country support has been limited. Increased commitment on the part of employers and local communities to fight child labour however, has prompted these to set aside resources for the improvement of primary school infrastructure and for promoting enrolment and retention.

There is still, limited comprehensive information and statistical data on the nature and extent of child labour in Tanzania. A British (DFID) fund country survey on child labour presently been undertaken under IPEC in 1999 is expected to contribute towards filling the existing information gaps. A statistical survey on child labour in Tanzania is also planned for 2000 under the Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC-IPEC). It is expected that these studies will to a large extent contribute towards filling the existing information gaps on the situation of child labour in country.

The Government has expressed its commitment to and is supporting the process of the formulation of policy guidelines on child labour, within the framework of the overall aims of IPEC.