



Evaluation Summaries

Support to development and implementation Of time-bound measures against the worst forms of child labour in Zambia

Quick Facts

Countries: *Zambia*

Mid-Term: *August 2008*

Mode of Evaluation: *independent*

Technical Area: *Child Labour*

Evaluation Management: *IPEC/DED*

Evaluation Team: *Stephen Tembo*

Project Code: *ZAM/06/50/USA*

Donor: *US DOL*

From the executive summary of the full report

The Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) of the Support to the Development and Implementation of Time Bound Measures Against the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) was carried out between 19th June and 4th July 2008. The main aim of the independent MTE was to review progress made in the first half of the project life and learn lessons and recommend ways to improve project performance in the remaining half of the project life. Standard evaluation methodologies were used focusing on the usual areas of evaluation, namely: design, implementation, relevance, sustainability and special aspects to be addressed.

Key Findings

ILO/IPEC's fight against the Worst Forms of Child Labour through the POS TBP has dealt

with both up-stream and down-stream interventions. The major areas have included the following six: (i) policy action; (ii) awareness raising; (iii) building the knowledge base; (iv) mainstreaming; (v) networking, and; (vi) direct action. The project has made good progress in all the 6 areas.

The project did deal with the major necessary design issues including: linking up the project to existing policy and development frameworks; drawing from past experience of similar projects and networking with on-going initiatives, and; consideration of assumptions and their possible negative effects as well as mitigation measures to reverse the negative effects. However, the assumption on the macro-economic environment was not given adequate attention and hence it was not sufficiently provided for in the project's strategies. The depreciation of the US dollar against the Kwacha threatens to negatively impact on the project's capacity to meet its target of withdrawing and preventing 10,000 children unless other measures are put in place.

According to the available data, the average percentage achievement of the project at midline, taking into account all the three immediate objectives indicator targets was 66%. Though there were indicator data gaps in the calculation of this percentage value, nonetheless it does give a fair picture of the

overall project performance at midline and shows that the project is on track. The project should be able to meet its overall target of supporting 10,000 children in the remaining half of its life.

Objective 1 had the highest achievement in indicator targets of 74%, a reflection of the good performance POS TBP has had. Most of the activities under objective 1 are up-stream, in which POS TBP team has played a critical role. The nearly three quarter achievement of targets at midline must, therefore, be appreciated. The performance of Lead Partners (LPs) and Implementing Partners (IPs) has been impressive, as evidenced by the indicator targets already achieved at midline. For instance, out of the three immediate objectives, the second highest achievement in indicator targets (69%) was on objective, concerned about the delivery of models of interventions. These are primarily down-stream activities and by all standards, 69% is a good achievement at midline. On the other hand, the greatest challenges have been faced in areas where government institutions have taken the lead. Notwithstanding the challenges cited above, considerable progress was made by government in putting into place an environment critical for the eradication of the WFCL. Efforts made in restructuring of the MLSS, including the establishment of Labour Offices in 23 of the country's districts as well as a CLU at national level, are well appreciated.

Government has also shown some level of commitment in providing leadership in the formulation of the NAP. Nonetheless, there is need for greater effort on the part of the government if this project is to fulfil its intended objectives within the remaining half of its life.

At the current rate and considering the available human resources, it may not be possible to get a quality NAP formulated by December 2008. If this is to happen, MLSS must bring in other ministries dealing with children to help it fulfil this important

mandate. For instance, where MLSS does not have a presence at district level, it is recommended that any of the other ministries dealing with children take the challenge of facilitating the formation and operationalization of District Child Labour Committees (DCLCs) as well as performing the function of a secretariat to the DCLC. Even where MLSS is present at district level but has low capacity, the same ministries could help in championing the eradication of the WFCL.

Several recommendations have been made, number of which depend on MLSS for action points. Due to the critical nature MLSS must play in the eradication of WFCL, it is crucially important that it be in the driver's seat though presently it may not have the needed capacity. This entails more aggression on the part of the ministry to mobilize the needed human, financial and other resources.

Given the limited timeframe and resources (both human and financial) for the implementation of the project and given the magnitude of CL issues in the country, the project can only kick-start interventions to eradicate the WFCL in Zambia. The project has successfully managed to undertake this mandate in its first half. There will be need to circulate to more stakeholders the draft exit strategy developed jointly with CLU in order to solicit for their comments. The strategy may need to be adjusted as the project winds up.

One critical area a follow-up project could focus on is strengthening the downstream structures, i.e. the DCLCs and the Community Child Labour Committees (CCLCs). Just over half (52%) of the targeted DCLCs have been formed and 79% of the CCLCs. Given that these institutions have just been formed and others are yet to be formed, there is need to strengthen these structures for them to effectively discharge their mandate. Some of the most critical areas needing such strengthening are training and mobilization of operational financial resources which should also include building the capacity of the committees to mobilize such resources.