



Evaluation Summaries

National programme for the elimination of child labour in Mongolia (Phase II)

Quick Facts

Countries: Mongolia

Final Evaluation: June 2005

Mode of Evaluation: independent

Technical Area: Child Labour

Evaluation Management: IPEC DED

Evaluation Team: Mei Zegers

Project Code: MON/02/50/USA

Donor: United States

Keywords: Child Labour

From the Executive Summary of the report

ILO-IPEC carried out two phases of a project on child labour in Mongolia. Phase II started in August 2002 and is currently ending. The Final Evaluation concentrated on assessing the momentum achieved through the project towards eliminating child labour in Mongolia and on drawing general conclusions. Recommendations included in the report focus on identifying areas of improvement to address some concerns that were identified during the evaluation.

The final evaluation report serves to update and complement the Mid-Term Review which was conducted less than one year ago. The evaluation team is inclined to agree with the findings of the Mid-Term Review team. During the final evaluation an updating exercise assessing national commitment to the elimination of Child Labour led to a more positive interpretation of the country's readiness for a Time-bound

Programme. The field work, a stakeholders workshop to discuss preliminary findings, and the drafting took place from 30 May to June 16.

The project succeeded on several levels and learned many lessons through the implementation of the project. The most important success is the raising of awareness at different levels of the society. Much more work is necessary, however, to reach more segments of the society and increase geographic coverage. The increased awareness has already led to the undertaking of concrete steps at the policy level. Policy development is now well underway. Child labour is mentioned in several relevant policy documents and a sub-programme on WFCL has been prepared and submitted to the Cabinet. A draft of a National Plan of Action on Child Labour was presented during a national workshop just after the Evaluation mission.

The project was able to test methods that led to the success of efforts to withdraw and prevent child labour at local government level. The ability of NGOs, local governments, schools, children and families to work together has been demonstrated. It has also been shown that Trade Unions, Employers Federations, and the police are capable of carrying out Action Programmes on CL.

The project was able to work towards improvements in the legal framework and implementation of existing laws but much remains to be done in this area. New laws and regulations still need to be prepared and existing ones applied to bring the country in line with the

requirements under ratified ILO Conventions 138 and 182.

The project took the successful approach of including a combination of work on awareness raising, needs assessment, and concrete action in each of 18 individual Action Programmes. In this way the concerned partner agencies were able to gain experience and improve their capacities on different levels. A need still exists for further development of capacities in a number of different areas.

Much attention was paid by the project to improving access to and the quality of formal, vocational, non-formal, and skills development education. An impact assessment determined that education was key to effective withdrawal and prevention of WFCL.

Learning materials were developed although some were said to need further improvement after utilisation through the project.

Collaboration between the IPEC project and partner agencies was good. Interviewees were satisfied with collaboration between their own agencies although some wished to have more opportunities to share experiences. The development of additional partnerships or networks with agencies working on eliminating some of the causes of CL is important for a future phase of the project.

Good progress was made on developing the knowledge base although most of the studies on specific types of CL were more qualitative than quantitative due to small sample sizes. A baseline child labour survey was carried out which can serve as a partial basis for future monitoring of progress on the elimination of CL. The recommendations made during the Mid-Term Review are still valid although the final evaluation team differs on the subject of readiness for the Time Bound Programme.

The final evaluation team has determined that the country is quite ready for the Time Bound Programme. The final evaluation team also made specific recommendations to addressing remaining issues on policy development, legal framework, coordination issues, awareness raising, capacity building, education, increasing

the knowledge base, and management and internal coordination of the ILOIPEC project.

In conclusion, the project was able to establish a good starting point for creating a more comprehensive national programme on the elimination of child labour. Development of effective policies, laws and regulations, an aware population, and implementing agencies with good capacities should lead to the elimination of child labour in Mongolia.