



# Evaluation Summary



International  
Labour  
Office

Evaluation  
Office

## *Elimination of Child Labour in Latin America – Phase 4 Education and Observatory on Elimination of Child Labour Final Evaluations*

*[original report is in Spanish]*

### Quick Facts

**Countries:** Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chili, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.

**Final Evaluation:** 11/2014

**Evaluation Mode:** Independent

**Administrative Office:** ILO/IPEC

**Technical Office:** ILO/IPEC

**Evaluation Manager:** ILO/IPEC

**Evaluation Consultant(s):** Emma Lucía Rotondo y Juan Manuel Santomé

**Project Codes:** RLA/11/03/SPA  
RLA/12/04/SPA

**Donor & Budget:** AECID/Spain (US\$ 4'367'666) & (US\$ 1'310'615)

**Keywords:** Child Labour

### Background & Context

The final independent evaluation examines two projects that linked projects “Elimination of Child Labour in Latin America – Phase 4, 2011-14” (hereinafter referred to as PETI Phase 4) and the programme “Education and Observatory on Elimination of Child Labour 2012-14” (hereinafter referred to as Observatory).

The project PETI Phase 4 was downsized by approximately 30 per cent against its original budget, from EUR 5,000,000 (US\$ 7,122,507) to EUR 3,350,000 (US\$ 4,367,666), which evidently had an impact on the programme. This cut in funding was not the result of poor performance by ILO/IPEC (International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour), but rather a sign of the Spanish Cooperation Agency’s (AECID) commitment to continue their support, despite the global aid crisis. It even shows that AECID is relying on IPEC, despite the financial crisis currently facing Spain.

The Observatory project was run from July 2012 to July 2014 as follow-on to PETI Phase 4, developed by ILO and agreed by AECID, in response to the reduction in funding for the main project.

### Purpose, scope and clients of the evaluation

The aim of PETI Phase 4 is “Progress was made on the prevention and elimination of child labour in Latin America, particularly its worst forms.”

The goal of the Observatory is to “contribute to build capacity and base decision making for the prevention and elimination of child labour, particularly its worst forms, on quality information in Latin America and Caribbean countries, in order to put forward more effective and focused policies, with a view to achieving the Decent Work Agenda for the Hemisphere targets by 2015 and 2020.”

### Methodology of evaluation

For the final assessment, a two evaluator team developed the work in June and July 2014 and, in November 2014 collected feedback on the preliminary

report in order to write up a final version. The ILO/IPEC Evaluation Office based in Geneva supervised the work.

The final assessment addresses four – regional, sub-regional, national and local – levels, since both projects operated at these levels. At the regional level, the outputs and outcomes of specialist fora and other policy-making events were examined. At the sub-regional level, sub-regional integration mechanisms (i.e. the MERCOSUR Common Market of the South and SICA Central American Integration System) were analysed. At a national level, the 18 countries targeted were divided into three categories, to develop case studies and identify good practices, and visits were undertaken to four of them (Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Peru). The local level was examined in a cross-cutting manner through interviews and surveys, as well as, documentary review.

The evaluation approach used is primarily based on *the triangulation of different data sources and means of verification*. A number of qualitative methods were used, including *participatory observations*, particularly of committee meetings at sub-regional and national levels and a *documentary review*, including donor reports, evaluations, systematizations, studies, publications and website and social network content, amongst others, was also carried out. In addition, both *individual and group interviews* were conducted with 70 key stakeholders at all three (regional, sub-regional and national) levels, to identify their perceptions, assessment and both direct and indirect changes as a result of the programmes. These were conducted both in person and through Skype. Finally, two *evaluative perception surveys on PETI* were carried out. The first survey, targeted at key stakeholders with the aim to collect their insights, was sent out to 120 individuals selected by the evaluation team, of which 35 responses (30 per cent) were received. This group included responses from ILO decision-makers (66 per cent of the total number of responses). The second survey was posted on social networks for a period of three weeks, including YouTube, the ILO/IPEC website,

## Main Findings & Conclusions

### Conclusions

#### 1. All regional phases

**1.1** From the outset (1995) to date (2014), the regional programme has succeeded in introducing the issue of

Public Policy on Child Labour to the national agenda and initiating pilot experiences on specific issues, which can then become models to be replicated by governments and other social actors. Each country's legislation has also been aligned and adjusted for legal and protection purposes. In addition, throughout all its phases, the project has managed to raise awareness and mobilize a number of both public and private stakeholders, including organizations of employers and workers at regional and national levels.

**1.2** The regional programmes also provided the following added value: (a) expertise within the reach of supranational mechanisms, (b) good practice and comparative experiences shared, (c) learning drawn from specific contexts shared throughout the region, (d) information, research and insights shared, (e) capacity building based on common standards and definitions, (f) regional and sub-regional mechanisms and opportunities for discussion opened up.

#### 2. PETI Phase 4

**2.1** The final evaluation concluded that the project, in its fourth Phase, had been successful and had achieved the expected outcomes to a large extent, as its strategies devoted special attention to ownership and sustainability, thereby reinforcing commitments at regional, sub-regional and national levels. An unexpected outcome was to pave the way for the Regional Initiative “A Latin America Free from Child Labour,” based on each country's commitment to the 2016 and 2020 child labour targets, which opens up a new, promising stage, as it will mean more responsibility for the issue in each country, as well as an increase in funding.

**2.2** The commitment of organizations of employers and workers proved to be varied, significant, but still insufficient to eliminate the worst forms of child labour (WFCL), with a number of significant pilot experiences implemented by the employers' organizations across the region. Implementing these actions based on a self-assessment by businesses themselves, including research on the presence of WFCL within the production chain, and by public-private partnerships, poses a challenge. Actions conducted with workers' organizations involved including the issue of the Elimination of Child Labour (ECL) into regional-level declarations, supporting an inter-labour union plan and specific actions at national level. There are no actions of joint organizations of employers or workers leading to ECL.

**2.3** While PETI Phase 4 plans did not include addressing the Official Development Assistance agenda and the commerce agenda, strong efforts will be needed in the short-term in this direction.

**2.4** The challenges faced to have a sustainability strategy in place should be dealt with by developing adequately funded country Action Plans, by considering public-private partnerships setting up projects, and by prioritising the issue in terms of budget and staff within ILO itself.

**2.5** In short, cumulative actions implemented across all phases, particularly Phase 4 (including the Observatory), have had wide-ranging, substantial impacts and helped institutionalize the issue within the region, even despite the inevitable challenges that lie ahead in public management processes (decentralizing, building linkages, allocating a specific budget to child labour, promoting inclusion and intercultural approaches). Within this framework, Phase 4 contributed to increase ownership of ECL by implementing strategies at several levels, promoting the active engagement of governments and National Committees and fostering opportunities for consensus building at sub-regional and regional levels.

### **3. Observatory project**

**3.1** The Observatory project is highly relevant, as information and education are essential to build national and regional capacity. Due to time constraints – the human resources needed were only available at ILO/IPEC as of October 2013 – effectiveness was limited to the initial dissemination of the valuable outputs developed.

**3.2** The project has developed key knowledge on ECL and contributed to the ownership, sustainability and capacity-building strategy of PETI Phase 4.

## **Recommendations**

### **1. To ILO:**

- a) Lead the design and implementation of a comprehensive strategy to accelerate and ensure sustainability of ECL.
- b) Champion a process of mainstreaming and sharing the wealth of information and experiences developed by IPEC on ECL within ILO as part of a strategy to ensure sustainability.
- c) Lead and strongly support the Regional Initiative “A Latin America Free from Child Labour” as part

of a strategy to accelerate and to ensure the sustainability of ECL.

### **2. To AECID:**

- a) Continue contributing, in its capacity as a traditional strategic partner, to the process of acceleration and sustainability of ECL, which should be activated once Phase 4 ends.

### **3. To governments:**

- a) Contribute proactively to the process of developing a comprehensive “Strategy for acceleration and sustainability of ECL”, led by ILO, particularly by developing a Roadmap to position CL at the forefront of the Financial Agenda
- b) Firmly support the Regional Initiative
- c) Follow resolutely the strategic guidelines, including those efforts required to embed CL prevention and elimination and adolescent work permitted protection (PETI/PTAP) in local and rural areas
- d) To the governments of Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Paraguay: make all possible efforts to create, consolidate and implement policies/plans for the CL prevention and elimination and adolescents work permitted protection, which we suggest IPEC continues to support in a focused manner.

### **4. To employers and workers:**

- a) Contribute proactively to the process of developing a comprehensive Strategy for Acceleration and Sustainability of Elimination of Child Labour, led by ILO, particularly with regard to developing a sustainability strategy embedded in civil society, “from the bottom up” and led by Employers and Workers.
- b) Resolutely support the Regional Initiative.