



# Evaluation Summary



International  
Labour  
Office

Evaluation  
Office

## Global Research on Child Labour Measurement and Policy Development Project (MAP)

### Quick Facts

**Countries:** Armenia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Jamaica, Malawi, Paraguay, Peru, Tanzania and Tunisia

**Final Evaluation:** November 2018

**Mode of Evaluation:** Final Independent

**Administrative Office:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Technical Office:** Makati City, Philippines

**Evaluation Manager:** Hussein Macarambon

**Evaluation Consultants:** Maryvonne Arnould and Paul McAdams

**Project End:** November 14, 2018

**Project Code:** GLO/13/21/USA

**Donor & Project Budget:** United States of America Department of Labor (US\$ 7,000,000)

**Keywords:** Child labour survey, work, labour force survey, labour statistics, capacity building, evaluation, programme evaluation

### Background & Context

#### Summary of the project purpose, logic and structure

1. The Global Research on Child Labour Measurement and Policy Development Project (MAP) is a \$7 million USD

initiative funded by the US Department of Labor (USDOL) and implemented by ILO under ILO's Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch (FUNDAMENTALS), with the collaboration of Understanding Children's Work (UCW) based in Rome. The project targets 10 countries and aims to build the capacities of the National Statistics Offices (NSOs) to collect and analyze statistics on child labour; promote the regular data collection on indicators used to measure child labour; and improve information about existing policy and programmatic frameworks to combat child labour at the national or sector level. MAP is also striving to update statistics for core indicators on children's work and education in approximately 110 countries based on the availability of new survey datasets provided with MAP.

2. The project has four immediate objectives (IO), namely IO1 increased capacity of national statistical offices; IO2 improved information on working children; IO3 improved up-to-date statistics on child labour; and IO4 improved information about existing policy and priority areas for action.

### **Purpose, scope and clients of the evaluation**

3. The purpose of the final evaluation is to provide insights into the coherence, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact of the intervention and covers five years (November 2013 to November 2018). The evaluation is also intended to be forward-looking and provide recommendations, lessons learned and emerging good practices for improved decision-making. The primary audiences for this evaluation are: ILO Geneva, the donor USDOL and ILO constituencies. The evaluation was conducted between the end of July to the end of October 2018 by two independent consultants and covers all participating countries.

### **Methodology of evaluation**

4. The methodology for the final evaluation included a desk review, key informants' interviews and focus group discussions (in Malawi and Tanzania). Field missions were organized in 5 countries (Jamaica, Tunisia, Paraguay, Malawi and Tanzania). Overall, interviews with 114 persons were conducted, reaching out to all stakeholders either in person or through Skype for countries not visited by the evaluators. Limitations included a short time period between the 2018 assessment of project planned outcomes and the final evaluation, evaluation fatigue from stakeholders solicited several times for interviews and timing of the field visits corresponding to the holiday period for many ILO country staff and country stakeholders.

## **Main Findings & Conclusions**

5. The project is judged highly relevant by all stakeholders as it fills a gap for actualized data and provides current, accurate and

credible information on youth activities, child labour and hazardous child labour, thus increasing the visibility of child labour issues. The project has also familiarized stakeholders with clear, up-to-date definitions of child labour and hazardous child labour.

6. The MAP was an ambitious project (initially planned for four years and extended to five years) that required country-specific approaches, since not all NSOs had the same technical capacities to conduct surveys and to complete the survey process. Each country's ownership of the NCLS process was facilitated by a building block approach, a strong focus on capacity building, a "learning by doing" approach paired with on-going and adapted technical support, timely communications and the provision of standardized tools judged appropriate by all the stakeholders interviewed.
7. Ten countries produced child labour surveys and NCLS reports have been published and publicly available. The capacities of the NSOs to conduct child labour surveys have improved significantly. NSO staff have stronger abilities to conduct all phases of their respective child labour surveys, from the capture of child labour statistics, questionnaire elaboration, sampling and data analysis, and reporting. NSO capacities have been raised significantly to a point where the majority of NSOs consider having acquired enough technical skills and knowledge to produce child labour statistics meeting international standards.
8. Policy appraisals have been completed for five countries: Jamaica, Malawi, and Tanzania are available on the UCW website, while reports for Peru and Paraguay are expected to be available by the completion of the project (November 2018). For other countries, the policy appraisals were reoriented towards a multi-country study on

occupational injuries in El Salvador, hazardous work studies in Armenia and Georgia, and additional capacity building for the NSO in Ethiopia and Tunisia, based on country requests. As for the two qualitative reports on children living in Roma communities for Serbia and Azerbaijan, they were not completed. Most project stakeholders did not see the direct link between the NCLS and the policy appraisal process. A comprehensive theory of change (ToC) at the planning stage of the project could have provided a clear picture for all stakeholders of the short- and medium-term changes required to reach all project objectives.

9. Understanding Children's Work (UCW) uploaded eight child labour datasets to the UCW site. Tunisia previously indicated that its dataset would not be made public due to the legislation. The dataset for Jamaica is not yet available.
10. Overall, the project was cost-efficient in its implementation and the project management made effective use of funds, given the financial and human resources allocated for the full implementation of the project.
11. The final evaluation has identified several success factors supporting the potential impact of the MAP. NCLS information has fed into the National Action Plans or National Child Strategies (Malawi, Armenia, Tanzania, Paraguay, El Salvador, and Tunisia), Child Policy review (Jamaica) and enactment of laws, bills and regulations (Paraguay in domestic work and night work, Malawi through community by-laws). Moreover, the tools and methodologies demonstrate a solid potential to contribute to the improvement other surveys, particularly labour force surveys and statistics related to children's rights.
12. The extent to which the momentum created by MAP will translate into commitment to

ensure regular production of child labour data – either as standalone NCLS or as child labour modules into household or labour force survey, requires medium to long-term follow-up that goes beyond a single project but needs to be incorporated into ILO strategies relevant for each country. Considerations about project timeline, TOC, and a comprehensive exit/phase-out strategy and bringing the gap between NCLS report, dissemination and policy appraisals ought to be considered as factors contributing to the sustainability of the MAP or similar interventions.

## Recommendations, Lessons Learned & Best Practices

### **Lessons Learned and Best practices**

13. Lessons learned include the importance of developing a clearly articulated Theory of Change during the planning stage of the project; ensuring that key messages related to information from national child labour surveys are transmitted to all levels within a country, which favours a wider dissemination strategy of survey findings; the sharing of tasks among all partners is key to the finalization of the national child labour survey reports; and increased dialogue with governments and social partners can ensure the successful completion of activities. Best practices include Tunisia's decision to publish a NCLS summary report communicating only key findings, in response to a request for information from the government, which gave the NSO more time to conduct an in-depth analysis of CL issues and produce a complete report later in the project. The level of flexibility demonstrated by ILO and the management team to adapt interventions (i.e. policy appraisal) to better meet

country-level needs and interests is another best practice that supports project implementation and completion.

### **Main recommendations and follow-up**

14. The initial project design should include a Theory of Change (ToC), presented as a simplified diagram and a short narrative that managers and senior representatives can use to present the project to stakeholders. This will strengthen all stakeholders' knowledge and buy-in of the project. Furthermore, building on its gender mainstreaming expertise, ILO should take appropriate measures and allocate sufficient resources to provide gender mainstreaming guidance to country constituents, in the context of future research projects, to ensure that a gender lens is applied when utilizing research information supplied by the NCLS.
15. Inclusion in the project design of a phase-out strategy/exit strategy that identifies roles and responsibilities of government stakeholders beyond project completion. The strategy would identify the roles and responsibilities of government stakeholders and others to disseminate child labour information generated by the project beyond the project completion. This would build a broader coalition interested in addressing child labour, which could ultimately have a greater impact in addressing CL issues in each country.
16. There should be greater involvement of NGOs and other social partners during the initial consultation stage. More involvement from these stakeholders, by way of learning about their experiences in addressing child labour, their perspectives on priority areas, their knowledge of sectors where children are particularly vulnerable, and their potential support in implementing the project, would help strengthen the project's nationwide buy-in and enhance overall awareness of child labour issues in each country.
17. Initial project timelines need to factor in varying technical capacities, human resources, and project portfolios among NSOs. Such considerations may require an extended period of time to complete the project to allow for a smoother, sequential production of the main deliverables. Moreover, the process to engage in a dialogue with the government to prioritise what can realistically be done about child labour in the country may often require more time than expected.
18. There should be increased follow-up and coordination (ILO HQ and UCW) following the production of NCLS to raise awareness and ownership of the policy appraisal process by stakeholders. Future projects could consider the establishment of a sustainable mechanism to encourage government stakeholders and social actors to follow up on CL interventions. For some countries, a more sustainable platform of exchanges to channel communications among public and social actors is needed.
19. There should be a regular follow-up dialogue with countries on funding and human resources implications for the inclusion of regular data collection of CL statistics into the National Statistical System (some countries have been successful in channeling funds).
20. While not part of the original project design, a wider dissemination strategy (beyond a national-level event or workshop) can strengthen the impact of this type of project. By undertaking a broader dissemination within each country at regional, district and local levels, government officials and NGOs working at these levels are informed about child labour issues using evidence presented in the

NCLS and would therefore have a greater ability to integrate child labour issues within their work.

21. Future interventions should consider the addition of an M&E dedicated officer to support reporting and data collection, taking into consideration the multidimensional nature of the outcomes in a research project such as the MAP.
22. Since a project of this nature requires NSO staff to have up-to-date knowledge on child labour definitions, concepts, and standards, as well as technical skills in current sampling methods, on-going technical capacity building is important in order for NSOs to maintain the quality of their reports to international standards. Furthermore, evaluation of training sessions should become standard practice at end of each training, with a follow-up within 6 months to measure skills and knowledge transferred.
23. Specific information on the usage of child labour statistics from the UCW website needs to be collected in order to provide evidence that child labour data is being used to support policy review, policy formulation, research, and in support of program and project development on a global scale. Information gathered from website usage on the UCW website should, at a minimum, include the type of user (researcher, government, civil society organization, etc.) and the ways in which the child labour data accessed from the UCW site is used by asking users about the purpose of their queries.
24. Since the technical capacities to upload information, statistics, and other survey-related information varies greatly between countries, there should be IT support to include CL data on partners' websites.
25. The transition from paper-based data collection methods to digital means (using tablets) is a pivotal strategy that is known to improve quality of data and save time in data collection and cleaning. If countries in future projects are using paper-based methods, efforts should be put in place to ensure a transition to digital methods.