



Evaluation Summary



International
Labour
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Tackling Child Labour among Syrian refugees and their host communities Lebanon and Jordan; Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour among Syrian Refugees and Host Communities Lebanon; Pilot Project for the Elimination of Child Labour among Refugees and Host Communities Jordan; Reducing worst forms of child labour among children affected by the crisis in Syria

Quick Facts

Countries: Lebanon

Final Evaluation Date: April - June 2018

Evaluation Mode: Independent Cluster Evaluation

Administrative Office: ROAS

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Projects Codes: RAB/15/01/DAN; LBN/16/01/NOR;
JOR/16/52/CAN; SYR/16/01/RBS

Donor(s) & Budget:

- DANIDA: USD 665,423.7
- Norway: USD 715,732.6
- RBSA: USD 941,740
- Canada: USD 263,973

Keywords: Decent Work; working conditions; children; refugees; international labour standards

Background & Context

Project Background

The Arab region has witnessed several armed conflicts and population displacement in recent years, which is believed to have brought a new wave of child labor (CL). In Jordan and Lebanon, the recent years have shown an increase in child labor not only among

Syrian refugees, but also within the host communities. For this reason, a comprehensive evaluation of the interventions in the region that fight child labor is necessary. The evaluation covers four initiatives (ongoing as well as completed) within the region, and assesses the ILO's strategic position in each case. The evaluation will however not incorporate the impact of each project, given that a quantitative analysis has not been undertaken.

Evaluation Background & Methodology

Evaluation Background

The Evaluation took place from April 16th to June 30th 2018. The Lebanon Mission took place during the week of April 23rd 2018. The Jordan mission took place during the week of April 29th 2018. The interview calls with Syria took place during the week of May 7th.

The purpose of this evaluation is to assess both the extent to which each project achieved its objectives, with eventual unexpected positive and negative results, and the relevance and effectiveness of ILO's portfolio and strategy on combating child labor, specifically in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Scope of the Evaluation:

The evaluation of each of the projects aims to identify the lessons learnt and good practices for accountability and learning purposes. It assesses the emerging impact of the interventions on child labour in each country and the region as a whole considering

strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and challenges that have affected the achievement of each project objective. The evaluation will also develop recommendations for the future regional direction on child labour.

The strategic assessment of ILO's portfolio and strategy on compacting child labour in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria considers the relevance of the interventions in all three countries to status of child labour and defines main gaps. This element of the assessment also considers the different intervention models, of each of the projects listed above, and define the impact of these models and their applicability in other countries in the region. Aspects of regional complementarity and integration among different interventions was also assessed and analyzed.

Evaluation Methodology

The following methods were employed in the evaluation:

1. **Documentation review** (of documents provided by ILO and identified by the team itself).
2. **Stakeholder consultations and beneficiary/community group interviews**
3. **Direct observation**
4. **Contribution Analysis** to independently assess the development effectiveness. The main type of interview was the Key Informant Interviews (KIIs).

Main Findings & Conclusions

Project Design

For all projects, there was an urgent **need for effective M&E practices**, robust quantitative and qualitative indicators, and rigorous impact evaluation, supplemented with relevant follow-up and pre-and post-training tests to evaluate the actual impact of trainings on individuals' knowledge and capacities. Follow-up should be conducted preferably by an independent or external evaluator.

Since there was **no detailed eligibility criteria** list to select beneficiaries, the validity of results is impaired by the fact that unobservable might have driven

people's participation. If this is true, the project is just an acceleration of outcomes that participants would have achieved anyway.

The implementation of a **holistic approach** will develop systemic change in order to address child labor by combining direct services with advocacy, awareness raising and capacity building

Effectiveness and Efficiency

Almost all **the project outputs were delivered in a satisfactory way**, so, all the three projects have been rated as highly effective in achieving the stated outputs and outcomes.

One of the common weaknesses amongst the three projects was the **limited time frame**, which prevent from the development of a fully comprehensive model for child labor intervention, and **budgets**, which prevented the development of education, protection and livelihood projects that effectively address the needs of the children and their families. The ILO projects in Jordan and Lebanon have also been **highly effective in establishing solid relationships** with the different national stakeholders.

Potential Impact

Due to lack of sufficient data collection, interventions have fallen victim to the **'snake biting its own tail' logic**: NGO's and International Organizations, due to time and budget constraint, cannot conduct effective data collection and this prevent them from correctly measuring impact and, therefore, conducting better interventions.

An important measurement of impact of interventions is through **behavioral and attitudinal change**. For example, following interventions in Lebanon, the internal security forces and general security forces adopted a more humanistic approach towards children, which went from viewing them as criminals to viewing them as children that required protection. This was achieved both through the designated impact of the interventions as well as through informal discussions with key stakeholders such as the GS.

One of the most concrete outcomes achieved has been a **widespread awareness** amongst the general public that they are all agents of change and have a role to

play in the fight against child labor.

The ability of the projects to progress towards their intended impact was **highly dependent on the effective engagement of all relevant stakeholders** in addressing Child labor. All three projects focused on engaging stakeholders on multiple levels.

Relevance:

Both in the **Canadian-funded project in Jordan project** and in the **RDPP project in Jordan**, the ILO procedures for project planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation for technical cooperation projects were used efficiently throughout the project cycle. In the first project, reporting to donors was in accordance with the agreed reporting schedule, and also regular field mission by the National Program Manager allowed monitoring and implementation of eventual corrective actions. Finally, despite the presence of a pre-project database for the educational project implemented through the project, the ILO did not have access to it. In the second project, detailed monitoring and evaluation processes were implemented within all capacity building activities.

Concerning the RDPP project in Lebanon, different stakeholders implemented their own monitoring and evaluation systems. M&E consists of collecting detailed information on the number trainings and capacity building activities conducted in a log framework, even if more robust indicators are required to assess effectiveness of trainings.

Regarding the Norwegian-funded project in Lebanon project, continuous visits to field sites to monitor progress partially compensated for the lack of more robust M&E system.

Sustainability:

Sustainability of the ILO's interventions in Lebanon and Jordan has been difficult to measure due to the **lack of baseline surveys and robust indicators**.

A comprehensive approach, by working across multiple levels and sectors is one of the most.

To avoid rebound affect, follow-up activities should be complementary to ensure the economic empowerment of families and the successful reintegration of children into their communities.

The OSH and CL manuals developed through the RDPP project in Jordan ensured the successful implementation not only at the policy level, but also addressing child labor on the ground.

Lessons Learned

1. **Budgetary allocations should take into account all factors affecting the achievement of project's objectives.** For the Canadian-funded project in Jordan project, the commitment of withdrawn children from intervention projects was limited in some cases as schools were far from residential areas. Budgetary allocations should have taken into account the transportation costs to ensure that beneficiaries had access to the project as well as alternative sources of income for vulnerable families. **The ability to be flexible** is essential in developing impactful interventions. Although the RDPP had a more limited budget in comparison to the Norwegian-funded project in Lebanon, its ability to adapt to changes that arose during the course of operations contributed to its success. The ability to adjust operations is particularly important in light of rapidly changing political and social environments. One of the important lessons learned from the RDPP project, was that when working on multi-regional interventions, countries should work very closely to exploit any synergies in operations as well as challenges faced at the regional level.
2. **Projects should include both upstream and downstream activities.** Whilst capacity building is important, upstream interventions (as awareness campaigns and trainings) should not be the only focus. It is not efficient to rely solely upon spillover effects from upstream to downstream. Additionally, sustainable elimination of child labor can only be achieved through the involvement of families and the local community. The participation of these actors should be essential components in Child Labor withdrawal interventions. Moreover, guidance and support regarding direct interventions should be closely linked to capacity building efforts of the ILO. Lack of integration between upstream and downstream interventions is impeding to correctly anticipate unbalances in the delivery of services: for instance, in Lebanon, too much attention is paid to Syrians in child labor efforts and not enough on Lebanese children.

Interventions should be careful to ensure **equitable impact**, in order to protect the most vulnerable children and families, whilst preventing and societal divisions arising.

Emerging Good Practices

1. Conducting regional trainings and knowledge sharing activities through active communication activities is a useful strategy that emerged from the RDPP project, such as the SCREAM training rolled out through GAM to the Children's podium in Jordan. It allows for the exploitation of cultural and linguistic similarities, whilst establishing a set of best practices. For RDPP trainings conducted in Egypt, trainees learned the best practices and employed them in their own country strategies. A strategic communication project aimed at attitude and behavioral change is essential for child labor interventions in achieving long-term impact. For example, the RDPP project adopted a multi-pronged approach, which involved traditional and social media, local leaders and champions. In both Jordan and Lebanon, the project received strong media coverage, raising awareness amongst the general public on the dangers and risks of child labor. The measurement of the effect of media coverage on the attitudes of the general public would have to be measured to be able to fully evaluate the effect of the intervention.
2. The development of a formalized agreement can provide an effective solution for child labor as it provides a reliable source of income for families, conditional on withdrawing their children from work. This was demonstrated by the agreement with the Farmers' Union in Lebanon.

Recommendations

Recommendations for Jordan and Lebanon

1. Priority level: High. Addressed to: ILO/National stakeholders/other NGO's.
In order to implement impactful interventions, policy interventions and direct interventions should be interlinked. Stand-alone interventions achieve only a minimal impact, and if they are not linked to a system,

they fail to achieve sustainable results. Alternatively, interventions focusing solely on policy may lack impact on direct action on the ground. **It is important to ensure that mechanisms are put in place to, for example, ensure the livelihoods of families of children withdrawn from child labor.** Additionally, a formal strategy to drive attitudinal and behavioral change amongst parents of child laborers is essential in eradicating child labor practices.

2. Priority level: Medium. Addressed to: ILO/ Policymakers/ national stakeholders/ other NGOs

A **comprehensive platform should be developed** incorporating the monitoring and evaluation of the different NGOs addressing child labor, in order to help them share experiences, best practices, data collection tools and information. **Provide a platform for discussion of what is working and what needs improvement amongst key stakeholders is essential for long-term success.** This should include continuous dialogue on different aspects of the project amongst donors, development partners, technical specialists, and social workers etc. to ensure successful implementation. One specific recommendation emerging from the Norwegian-funded project in Lebanon project was the importance of developing a mapping of all the donors and other relevant institutions. Although this is currently happening under the Child Labor Monitoring and Referral Systems, a centralized platform, which unifies all relevant information, would be critical in consolidating national efforts addressing CL.

3. Priority level: Medium. Addressed to: ILO/ Policymakers/ national stakeholders/ other NGOs

For instance, it is essential to adopt a long-term outlook with respect to the Syrian refugee crisis and its wider economic and social implications on child labor. Beyond CL interventions, support systems need to be planned and implemented once the refugee children reach the age of 18. It is necessary for the ILO to begin long-term planning in order to address the future impact of the Syrian refugee crisis. The ILO can take a leading role in addressing the long-term planning for the Syrian refugee crisis in the region.

Specific Recommendations by Country

Lebanon

4. Priority level: High. Addressed to: National stakeholders.

*The Syrian crisis began in 2012, so the National Action Plan implemented as early as 2013, and was subsequently updated in 2016 to be extended to 2020. However, the NAP **should be consistently adapted** to the evolving circumstances of Syrian refugee crisis taking into account its impact on the Lebanese economy.*

Jordan

5. Priority level: Medium. Addressed to: national stakeholders / NGOs.

*One important recommendation is to **generate more awareness** amongst adults and the parliament, and further SCREAM trainings within social centers and vulnerable neighborhoods in Amman. Trainings should incite attitudinal changes, as the most common strategy for families was for the mother to stay home and the children to work.*

Syria

6. Priority level: Medium. Addressed to: ILO.

*The ILO should work faster in **establishing a presence** in Syria, and increase general preparedness with respect to the emergency situation at the highest level. To date, the Syrian office only has one staff member and should thus be reinforced with support and technical staff. In the subsequent phases of its presence in Syria, the ILO should aim to act **more independently** from the partnerships and expand its own activities to target the livelihood needs of families of working children. The ILO can play an important role in developing capacities across a number of these organizations. **Technical support** should then immediately be given on the field and in close collaboration with national partners to fully understand the situation on the ground and the scale of the support needed.*