

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM THEMATIC AREA: OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN – ILO-IPEC COMMENTS ON SECOND CONSULTATION PAPER

General comments

There is a close connection between child labour and the issue of out of school children. In recent years this connection has been increasingly explored in inter agency fora including the Global Task Force on Child Labour and Education for All, the Understanding Childrens Work project, and most recently through the Out of School Children Initiative. However the present initiative under the FTI Global and Regional Activities Program provides a new opportunity to advance concrete cooperation.

ILO-IPEC's comments focus on the following:

- Data gaps (responding to Section 2.1 of the consultation paper)
- Migration, child labour and education (responding to section 2.2 of the consultation paper)
- Work with LEGS and inter agency cooperation at national level (responding to section 2.2 of the consultation paper)
- Using experience of work to tackle child labour in order to to support targeting children out of school (responding to section 2.3 of the consultation paper)
- Coordination with the Global Task Force on Child Labour and Education for All

Section 2.1 Data Gaps

The following proposal focuses on collaboration between FTI and ILO-IPEC, regarding Section 2.1 on Data Gaps.

Background on IPEC's Statistical Activities

SIMPOC, the statistical and monitoring unit of the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), provides technical and financial assistance to governments to collect comprehensive data on various aspects of children's work including its magnitude, characteristics, determinants, and education and health impacts.

The proposal below is aimed at exploring how a strong link with SIMPOC surveys could be developed, which would assist FTI to obtain additional information that could significantly assist education planners.

Proposal

- Development of an operational definition of Out of School Children (OOS) and related indicators for statistical measurement purposes, keeping in view the objectives

of FTI. In this regard, collaboration with WB, UNICEF, UNESCO and UCW is envisaged. Clarity will be important both for collection of data through existing survey mechanisms such as SIMPOC surveys and for any new survey instrument which may be developed.

- Development of a model questionnaire to collect data on OOS and other relevant statistics through SIMPOC household based surveys, and a manual for supervisors and interviewers.
- Pilot testing of the model questionnaire in two countries.
- Finalization of the model questionnaire and the manual on the basis of the findings of the pilot tests, in consultation with FTI.
- Conducting five national household-based surveys including the comprehensive module on OOS.
- Development of a report for each survey and a synthesis report based on the findings of the five surveys.
- To hold a global workshop for exchange of national experiences and evolving the guidelines on further refinement of the education module and its expanded use by countries.

Depending on the selection of the five countries (to be made in consultation with FTI) a collaboration between FTI and ILO-IPEC-SIMPOC to implement the scheme of activities proposed above is estimated to require 30 months. Additional resources would need to be raised to cover the costs of a programme of this kind.

Section 2.2 Evidence based Policy Development

Migration, child labour and education

Some of the comments on the first round of consultation indicated that there was a need to address issues of migration and its impact on children being out of school. The ILO-IPEC programme has recently intensified its work on the impact of migration on child labour.

Under proposed activity 2 it is suggested to:

- add an area of work relating to migration and ILO-IPEC would be pleased to assist in coordination of such work. This would involve research determining to what extent migrant children - in particular independent child migrants and children of seasonal migrant workers - go to school in countries that face significant internal and/or cross-border migration and identifying the main impediments to education and what are enabling factors.¹
- Based on learning from this research, work could be undertaken along selected migration routes to create pilot initiatives that offer protection and access to education.²

¹ Countries to be identified in consultation with FTI

² Such work could be undertaken in cooperation with the Global Working Group on Children on the Move, which both UNICEF and ILO are involved in supporting.

The knowledge generated from the research and pilot work would serve to strengthen advocacy for policy changes that are more inclusive of the plight of migrant children and include a focus on facilitating their access to education.

With LEGS, assessing Education Sector Plans ability to address out of school issues from a policy planning point of view when data is available

ILO-IPEC supports the proposed approach, which refers to using tools such as the EFA - FTI Equity and Inclusion in Education guide. The original proposal to develop the Equity and Inclusion Guide was made by the Global Task Force on Child Labour and Education for All³, recognising that the Ministries of Education face demands to respond to a range of equity issues. The GTF proposal led to a discussion involving UNGEI, the GTF, the EFA flagship on the right to education for persons with disabilities, and the UNAIDs inter agency Task Team on Education. It was following that discussion that steps were taken which subsequently led to the development of the Equity and Inclusion Guide.

The idea of promoting country level dialogue using knowledge and data on exclusion to help strengthen education sector plans has also been considered within the Global Task Force on Child Labour and EFA. ILO-IPEC would be ready to support country level initiatives by

- providing data on child labour and other relevant information to support country level discussions
- where required, providing experts to assist the country process
- supporting technical workshops

Section 2.3 Management and Implementation Gaps – targeting children out of school

The consultation paper notes that hard to reach children often require targeted interventions and support to overcome disadvantages and barriers that lead to their exclusion from schooling. It refers to the need for identification and sharing of best practices including on programmes that target hard to reach groups.

ILO-IPEC manages the largest international programme that is specifically focussed on child labour, with activities in 77 countries during 2010. In many of these countries IPEC's activities include work at local level, identifying children in or vulnerable to child labour, and providing them with direct support services - often involving support to retain children in school or to provide alternative basic education.

ILO-IPEC would be ready to work with FTI on the proposed approach, with a view to seeing how linkages can be made between action to address child labour and education sector plans. Specifically this could take the form of

- Sharing of good practice approaches on child labour and education
- Pilot programmes in two countries to see how education sector plans can upscale approaches used by ILO-IPEC partners to provide education services to out of school children

³ The partners in the Global Task Force are ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank, UNDP, Education International, the Global March against Child Labour and the government of the Netherlands.

Global Task Force on Child Labour and Education for All

ILO-IPEC provides the Secretariat function for the Global Task Force on Child Labour and Education for All (GTF) which was launched in 2005, and endorsed by the Education For All High Level Group. Partners in the GTF have included the ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, EFA FTI, World Bank, Understanding Childrens Work, Education International, the Global March against Child Labour and the government of the Netherlands. This alliance of UN agencies and others was established in order to enable a more effective and integrated approach to policies and programmes concerning child labour and education.

Since its establishment the GTF has contributed to raising the profile of the child labour issue in international discussions on EFA. ILO-IPEC would intend to cooperate closely with GTF partners in the areas of work outlined above. There could also be opportunities for using the framework of the GTF for ongoing discussion with the FTI on development of child labour related initiatives within the GRA program.