

Financing and resource Mobilization for Child Labour Programmes in Malawi

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Malawi**

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Abstract

Financing child labour programmes has been a challenge in Malawi because child labour has not been mainstreamed in most development programmes. The launching of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Child labour is a milestone for a country to eliminate child labour. It also provides an operational framework for most organizations in fighting for the cause. Therefore this paper discusses the extent to which the NAP on Child Labour will be financed for the implementation of its activities. The finances will strengthen both the national institutional capacity for the implementation of programmes as well as downstream activities for combating child labour at community level. The paper also discusses some generic strategies and challenges for mobilizing resources both in-country and soliciting external financing.

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1.0 Introduction

Child labour continues to be a problem in Malawi. In its effort to eliminate child labour, the country ratified the International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions no. 138 and 182. The country has designed a number of institutional frameworks, these include among others the formulation of child labour policy, code of conduct on child labour; inclusion of child labour in the current Malawi Growth Development Strategy II (MGDS II) . Malawi has also implemented a number of project and programmes with technical and financial support from ILO such as the ILO/IPEC project on the elimination of child labour. Following the 2006 ILO Global Action, the Malawi government and the social partners developed and launched the child labour National Action Plan (NAP- 2010-2016).

Under the NAP, the National Steering Committee has been mandated to mobilize resources through the following broad initiatives:

- Lobbying for the establishment and increase in government budget lines on child labour in various key ministries and departments;
- Lobbying development partners to contribute through a basket fund;
- Engage the private sector to support the NAP;
- Utilisation of volunteers.

This paper discusses the extent to which the National Action Plan on Child Labour will be financed for the implementation of its activities. The finances will therefore be used to strengthen both the national institutional capacity for implementation of programmes as well as downstream activities for combating child labour at community level. The paper also discusses some generic strategies and challenges for mobilizing resources both in-country and soliciting external financing.

With current local and international economic challenges, it is worth considering multiple potential sources for resource mobilization both local and international in order to deliver the programmes. These diverse sources of fundraising can be both financial and non-financial. The NAP budget has key lead stakeholders for various activities. The Child Labour Unit within the Ministry of Labour and the National Steering Committee can support different stakeholders to develop resource mobilization strategies for financing of the programmes.

2.0 Child Labour – The Magnitude

It is estimated that 220 million children in the world are child labourers and 26% of them are found in sub-Saharan Africa (ILO, 2012). In Africa, the majority of child labourers are found in agriculture and its related activities. The children work for long hours in hazardous situations and often with little or no pay at all. As part of a global response towards the elimination of child labour, ILO developed the Global Action Plan for elimination of the worst forms of child labour by 2016. The member countries were expected to put in place appropriate time-bound measures by the end of 2008.

Child labour is still rampant in Malawi despite efforts to deal with it since 2002. Malawi ratified Conventions 138 on the minimum age for employment and 182 on the worst forms of child labour in 1999. A comprehensive child labour survey was carried out and revealed that 37% of the children between ages of 5 and 15 were involved in child labour. The situation was confirmed by a Malawi Demographic and Health Survey in 2004. The Multiple Cluster Indicator Survey conducted in 2006 however showed that the prevalence of child labour had fallen from 37% to 29%. This could be a result of the work on child labour since 2002.

3.0 Child Labour – The Challenge

As can be appreciated, the challenge of combating child labour in Malawi is enormous. Even with **K3,213,520,000 (\$22,010, 410.96)** for a period of 5 years is not enough to significantly reduce child labour in Malawi as most geographical areas and economic sectors have not yet been targeted with systematic or any programmes. Tackling child labour requires addressing the real causes of the problem at community and national level which is poverty. Unless targeted communities move from poverty to sustainable economic households, the problem of child labour will still exist and even worsen.

4.0 Purpose of Resource Mobilization

The key question confronting Malawi is how it can raise the income needed to implement the NAP at both the national and international level. Identifying the sponsors for child labour programmes is itself a challenge let alone sustaining their support in strengthening organizational and programme sustainability.

Developing a national comprehensive plan or strategy for resource mobilization can lead to creative efforts in using local resources and assets. It is also evident that not one single source of financing would meet the financial demands of the NAP. Multiple sources of funding can therefore increase national independence and flexibility to implement programs and reduce reliance on external (or foreign)

funding. With increased competition for scarce grant resources, it worth exploring creative options for new and diverse, and multiple funding streams to better manage the implementation of the various NAP programs.

5.0 Cost of Child Labour Interventions

The NAP requires financing for the following priority areas:

- a) Development and improvement of the policy and legislative framework,
- b) Building the capacity of the education sector,
- c) Creating Awareness on child labour,
- d) Bridging the information gap in child labour;
- e) Building the institutional and technical capacity of service providers;
- f) Provision of services to withdrawn and prevented children to enable them achieve their education objectives, and
- g) Mitigate the effects of HIV and AIDS on working and at risk children.

6.0 The Cost of NAP

The total cost for implementing the 2009 – 2016 NAP is **K3, 213,520,000 (\$22,010, 410.96)** estimated as follows for the various Strategic Objectives:

- **K36,000,000** is required for **Strategic Objective 1** : To create a conducive legal and policy environment through mainstreaming Child Labour issues in national and sectoral social and economic policies, legislation and programs;
- **K222,500,000** is required for **Strategic Objective 2**: To build and strengthen the technical, institutional and human resource capacity of stakeholders dealing with child labour elimination;
- **K2,297,000,000** is required for **Strategic Objective 3**: To directly combat child labour through the prevention, withdrawal , rehabilitation and reintegration of working children and their families
- **K380,000,000** is required for **Strategic Objective 4**: To establish Monitoring and Evaluation Systems for child labour in the country
- **K5, 000, 000** is required for the mobilizing of resources to ensure that the NAP is implemented as well as ensuring that the country meets its national and international obligations in combating child labour.

6.1 Estimated Funds Allocated for Child Labour Programmes (2010 to 2015)

So far, it is estimated that the following institutional funds have been allocated for child Labour programmes since the NAP was launched:

No.	Institution	Estimated Allocated Funds (US Dollars)
1	Save the Children Fund (USA) CLEAR Project	5,000,000
2	ILO/IPEC SNAP Programme	2,300,000
3	ILO/IPEC JTI ARISE Project	1,300,000
4	Ministry of Labour	100,000
5	WINROCK International JTI ARISE Project	1,300,000
6	Employers Association and Private Sector	(Not Known)* 0
7	Workers Associations	(Not Known) 0
8	UNICEF (child labour and child protection)	(Not Known) 0
9	One UN Fund Malawi	150,000
10	Plan International Malawi – Kasungu	120,000
11	Other Government Ministries	(Not Known) 0
12	Other Non-Governmental Organizations	(Not Known) 0
	Estimated total	10,270,000

NB - * Not known means that the contributions from these institutions cannot be easily verified or ascertained solely for child labour programmes. Note also that institutions like FAO, UNICEF and Government institutions commit vast amount of money in child protection programmes and improving community livelihoods, which in turn reduces overall child labour. However, it is a challenge to isolate the child labour component in these programmes though the contribution is enormous.

Please also note that the real direct investment that can be traced to the child beneficiary is likely to be far much less than the commitments above indicate because of management and operational costs that are associated with “development programmes”.

6.2 Disparities between Required and Current levels of Financing

With modest, it can be estimated that US \$2,500,000 (US \$10,000,000/4 years) can be attribute as expenditure or investment by the various partners in 2011/2012 since the NAP was launched at the end of 2010.

However, if the NAP is to cost US \$22, 000,000 for four years, from 2012 to 2016 this means that annual budget is US \$5,500,000 per year. It would cost US \$11,000,000 for two years meaning that the implementation of the NAP is operating at a financing gap of (11m - 5.5m) = US \$5,500,000, representing a shortfall of almost 50%. This figure is even over-estimated considering that the institutional funds are usually for more than 3 years and hence the financing gap is more than reflected here.

6.3 Traditional Sources for Financing Child Labour Programmes

In Malawi, the traditional sources of income for financing child labour programmes have mainly been the International Labour Organization through the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), contributions from the Ministry of Labour, Trade Unions and Employers Organizations. Other Government Ministries UN Agencies, development partners and NGOs have also been involved in child protection programmes.

7.0 Combating Child Labour – Institution Challenges and Generic Strategies

Child labour programmes in Malawi have generally focused on conventional strategies of identifying children, withdrawing and preventing them from hazardous work. These are usually 2 to 3 year programmes and at best the direct beneficiaries receive direct support from the programmes for less than two years when preparatory and project activities are factored in.

The Ministry of Labour, ILO and its tripartite partners as well as other agencies have implemented various programmes for the past 10 years. However, due to low financing, it has been difficult to target the beneficiaries with a holistic approach for sustainability of the programmes. One of the major root causes of child labour is poverty at household level. Lifting vulnerable households out poverty has been a major challenge in implementation of programmes since most households in rural areas live under the poverty line.

8.0 Recommendations - Mapping Existing and Potential Sources of Financing

The National Child Labour Steering Committee and its partners need to consider the following as potential sources of finance:

- UN Agencies to mainstream specific child labour components as shown in the NAP
- Direct request to development aid agencies both local and international through proposal writing, targeted meetings and special events to showcase the challenge and the development benefits achieved when programmes are supported.
- Malawi Government through the MGDS and raising the profile of child labour to the level of other social programmes that are hitherto considered as priority areas.
- Lobbying with Parliament for budgetary allocations to various Ministries to mainstream the NAP in their programmes
- Private sector both local and international by creating linkages between the child labour problem and their corporate social responsibility
- Communities themselves through implementation of awareness and enforcement programmes. Communities have skills and non-financial assets that are yet to be exploited. However, they will need to be organized in order to their contributions to be significant.
- Creating a pool of high standing members of society that can act as ambassadors in supporting the NSC and partners.
- Multi-stakeholder reporting of financial investments and benefits to potential sponsors. Unless the value of investing in child labour programmes is demonstrated, it is unlikely that more sponsors will come on board as there are indeed more development challenges competing the same resources.

The above strategies can raise the basket for child labour programmes in Malawi. However, it has also been assumed that the local partners have the requisite technical capabilities to develop and follow through resource mobilization strategies. Therefore, this may call for an assessment and possible capacity building exercises so that child labour and its programme financing issues are well articulated.

One of the ILO strategies for the elimination of child labour – A Trainers Guide, suggests various ways of reducing costs through engagement of parents and families, provision of education opportunities, income security, enforcement and improving occupational health and safety standards. As opposed to always seeking financial sources, partners can also be engaged to employ other strategies but with similar results and impact on the communities.

9.0 References

1. Child Labour National Action Plan for Malawi (2010 - 2016)
2. The African Executive – Domestic Resources Mobilization: Key to Broad-Based Development
3. ILO Publication: Strategies for the elimination of child labour – A Trainers Guide (2005)