



Research to Ignite Discussion & Action

Summary of research papers commissioned for the Malawi National Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture, September 4-6, 2012

PURPOSE

Participants at the Malawi National Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture will focus on four key child labour issues, incorporating findings from the latest research, and creating key messages for action to end child labour in Malawi agriculture.

Stakeholders throughout Malawi have developed research and working papers on four themes in child labour and will present their summaries to participants at the conference. Participants then will break into four concurrent workshops to discuss the findings based on their own experiences and expertise. Each group will focus on one of the relevant themes, transforming the discussions into key messages and plans of action for sustainable responses to end child labour in agriculture in Malawi.

RESEARCH

1. Agricultural Development and Child Labour

- *Assessing the Impact of Safer Agricultural Practices and Labour Saving Technologies on Child Labour*

Samuel Mingu, ILO Consultant on Child Labour in Agriculture in Malawi

This paper analyses and quantifies the impact of interventions to promote safer agricultural practices, labour saving technologies, basic education for withdrawn children, and capacity building through vocational skills trainings. The interventions assessed were provided in Kasungu District by the FICA-FAO Project Unit, Circle Integrated Community Development, and Kasungu District Labour Office. The paper also presents a synopsis of the socio-economic context, background information on child labour in Malawi, and a conclusion with recommendations.

- *Reducing Child Labour in Agriculture Through Good Agricultural Practices: FAO Experiences*

Norah Mwamwadi and Bernd Seiffert, FAO

In many countries, the agriculture sector and family undertakings are characterized by limited unionization, poor legislation, fragmentation of the labour force, and inadequate labour inspection. The majority of child labourers participate in agricultural activities as unpaid family labour and child labour is socially acceptable. Against this background, FAO has over a decade's experience working with smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa. This paper provides FAO's reflections on what works to reduce vulnerability in farming communities, thus addressing the root causes of child labour in agriculture. The paper concludes by making specific action-oriented recommendations for different stakeholders to address the problem of child labour in agriculture on a sustainable basis.

- *Child Labour and Tobacco Production in Malawi: Causes, Solutions, Challenges and Opportunities*

Martha Mwangonde, Legal Counsel, Limbe Leaf Tobacco Company

Child labour in tobacco growing in Malawi generally takes three forms: trafficking of children to work in tobacco growing, children working with their parents as part of the family labour force in the tenancy system, or children voluntarily working to provide an income to their families/siblings, especially for orphans and other vulnerable children. This paper discusses what tobacco companies in Malawi are doing to address child labour at the bottom of their supply chains, and it identifies gaps and opportunities in their ongoing efforts and investments to ensure tobacco growing is child labour-free.



- *Technology Options for Reducing Child Labour Demand on Tobacco Farms In Malawi*

Dr I.M.G Phiri, Director and Chief Executive, Agricultural Research and Extension Trust

There are two production systems of tobacco in Malawi: a “High Input” (HI) system used by large-scale farmers and a “Low Input” (LI) system. These two systems are differentiated by extent of farm mechanization, land size, and labour intensity. Given that the smallholder system produces 97% of the country’s burley tobacco crop annually and that the crop is by nature labour intensive, this paper expertly explores the existing labour-saving technologies that directly reduce demand for child labour at each critical stage of the tobacco-growing process in both HI and LI systems.

- *The Role of Labour and Energy-Saving Technologies In Child Labour Elimination in Crop Production*

Aone Kumwenda, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, and Andrew M. Namakhoma, Community Development Officer, National Smallholder Farmers’ Association of Malawi

Labour- and energy-saving technologies reduce drudgery of farm operations and reduce the number of man-days required to accomplish a specific task. This paper discusses the existing labour- and energy-saving technologies for a variety of commonly grown crops in Malawi. It concludes by making actionable recommendations for better addressing child labour in agriculture by embracing specific proven, low cost technologies.

- *Review of Child Labour Potential in the Malawi’s Capture Fisheries Sector*

Steve Donda and Friday Njaya, Department of Fisheries, Lilongwe

The fisheries sector is a neglected area in child labour elimination actions in Malawi and yet it employs nearly 60,000 fishers directly and another 500,000 people indirectly. It is also closely linked to the tourism, hotel and catering, livelihoods, and animal protein supply of millions of Malawians. The sector is dominated by the small-scale fishers that operate various traditional gear and craft types. This paper explores the child labour incidence in the fisheries sector in Malawi and makes recommendations to bring the sector to acceptable labour standards.

- *Child Labour in Livestock Production In Malawi*

Gilson R. Njunga, Chief Animal Health and Livestock Development Officer – Central Veterinary Laboratory; Patricia Mayuni Levison, Acting Chief Animal Health and Livestock Development Officer – Blantyre ADD; K. Allidu, Chief Animal Health and Livestock Development Officer – Mzuzu ADD; and Peter Makhambera, Chief Animal Health and Livestock Development Officer – Lilongwe ADD

Probably the first of its kind to address issues of child labour in livestock development in Malawi, this paper acts as a catalyst for a phenomenon that is known to exist in rural communities countrywide. This is surprising, given that the livestock industry in Malawi contributes about 8% to the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and about 36% of the value of total agricultural products. Livestock provides food, income, manure, animal traction, and social security. Taking all these into consideration, livestock may contribute up to more than 11% of the GDP. There are about 1.2 million farm families that own one or more of various livestock types. This seminal paper identifies gaps in addressing child labour in livestock production in Malawi and offers practical suggestions on how to bridge the knowledge gap and stem the practice.

2. Child Labour and Political Will

- *National Legislation, Policy and Strategy on Child Labour in Malawi - Identifying the Gaps*
Martha Mwangonde, Legal Counsel, Limbe Leaf Tobacco Company

A strong legislative framework is a fundamental prerequisite in addressing child labour in any country. Malawi has enacted progressive child protection legislation and ratified many anti-child labour international conventions since the 1990s. However, the goal of child labour elimination in Malawi remains elusive. Why is that so? This paper critically analyzes the legislative and policy environments in Malawi as they relate to child labour, and identifies gaps that need to be plugged so that the country addresses child labour on a sustainable basis.

- *Child Labour Monitoring and Referral Options for Malawi*
Archangel Bakolo, National Program Coordinator, ILO-IPEC, Malawi

Malawi is obliged to maintain detailed information and statistical data on the nature, extent, and up-to-date trends of child labour to serve as a basis for determining priorities for action. This paper argues that the fight to end child labour in Malawi requires that a strong, locally owned, cost effective, community driven, and functional Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS) is put in place as a national priority. Without a CLMS, the outcomes of stakeholders' investments will go unnoticed and unappreciated, while the national effort to eliminate child labour is disjointed, poorly coordinated, and so haphazard that it will be ineffective.

- *Financing and Resource Mobilization for Child Labour in Malawi*
Chimwenje Simwaka, Programme Manager, ARISE Project- ILO, Malawi

Financing child labour programmes in Malawi remains a challenge. While the launch of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Child Labour in 2010 was an important milestone, securing finance for its operationalization has been difficult. This paper discusses the extent to which the NAP on Child Labour can be financed and provides some strategies for mobilizing in-country and external resources for child labour programmes and actions.

- *Legislation and Policy on Child Labour In Malawi*
Wafwile Msukwa, Chief Labour Officer, Ministry of Labour

This paper expertly and succinctly looks at existing legislation and policy in Malawi and identifies gaps and challenges in addressing the problem of child labour through the general labour legislation. It seems that addressing child labour requires a more diverse legislative and policy response than is currently available.

- *The Extent to which Child Labour in Agriculture is Addressed in the National Action Plan*
Joyce Maganga, Principal Research and Employment Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

Malawi, like most ILO member states, has developed and launched the National Action Plan (2011-2016) as a strategic and comprehensive tool for eliminating child labour. Collaboratively, the NAP brings together all sectors and stakeholders in the elimination of child labour by defining strategic direction, objectives, and various roles and responsibilities of stakeholders. This paper examines why the problem of child labour still persists even when the NAP was enacted and the legislative framework is in place. What is the missing link?

3. Nature and Complexity of Child Labour

- *The Role of Community Leaders and Impact of Culture in Eliminating Child Labour*

Senior Chief Kaomba – Kasungu District

Culture has a pervasive influence in the maintenance of social cohesion, peace, and stability and prepares a child to live an independent life. Cultural values are transmitted through the child's interaction with parents and the community in general. Parents and communities believe in the value of hard work and instill this in their children at a very young age. This paper discusses the cultural factors and practices that drive child labour in Malawi and the role of community leaders in the fight to end child labour.

- *Child Labour in Malawi's Agriculture Sector - The Socio-Economic and HIV/AIDS Impact Nexus*

Henrie Manford NJOLOMA (PhD), Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, Water Resources Department

Child labour is both a cause and an effect of vulnerability. The high HIV prevalence in Malawi creates a vicious cycle of vulnerability that affects both adults and children. This paper discusses child labour in agriculture especially as influenced by both the socio-economic and HIV/AIDS conditions and argues that the practice defeats the objective of profit maximization.

- *Child Labour Magnitude, Nature and Trends in Malawi*

Paul Mkupa Gondwe, Principal Labour Officer, Ministry of Labour

Studies show that Malawi is among the countries in Southern Africa with high incidence of child labour. How bad is the situation? Which sectors are most affected? What tasks/activities do these do, for how long, and under what conditions? Based on an extensive review of available literature on the issue, this paper contextualizes the child labour problem in Malawi and proffers recommendations on how the scourge can be brought to an end.

4. Role of Stakeholders in Combatting Child Labour

- *The Role of Trade Unions in Eliminating Child Labour in Agriculture*

Joseph Kankhwangwa, Project Coordinator, Malawi Congress Trade Union

Rural agricultural production is characterized by low unionization and lack of enforceable labour standards. Against this background, how can trade unions help in combating child labour in agriculture? This paper by the Malawi Congress of Trade Unions is a culmination of a consultative process with unions in key agricultural sectors of the Malawian economy. It identifies the key reasons why child labour is still prevalent in agriculture in Malawi and offers suggestions on how that can be changed.

- *Child Trafficking and Child Labour in Agriculture: Gaps and Opportunities*

Maxwell Matewere, Executive Director, Eye of the Child; Commissioner, Special Law Commission for the development of a law on trafficking in persons in Malawi; Vice President, Southern Africa networking against trafficking and abuse of Children (SANTAC); Coordinator, Malawi Network against Child trafficking (M-NACT)

This paper begins by observing that child trafficking for exploitative labour in commercial agriculture is not new; what is new are the appalling dimensions acquired in recent decades in the context of globalization. It offers unique perspectives and insight into the interface between child labour and child trafficking in Malawi, while proposing specific improvements that are needed to create a protective environment for orphans and vulnerable children in the country.

- *Community Mobilization in Combating Child Labour in Malawi*

George Jobe, Executive Director, Creative Centre for Community Mobilization CRECCOM

Fighting the social acceptance of child labour begins with changing attitudes and challenging the status quo in rural communities. Ending child labour involves social change and challenging norms about the role of children in the family. That is no easy task. This paper draws on the unique experience of the Creative Centre for Community Mobilization in using the Social Mobilization Campaign conceptual model in eliminating child labour in Malawi.

- *The Role of Employers in Eliminating Child Labour in Agriculture*

Bayani Todd Munthali, Executive Director, Employers Consultative Association of Malawi

Child labour in supply chains in Malawi is on the agenda of activists, governments, key trading partners, the media and public, and private investors as never before, and rightly so. The consequences for businesses associated with the use of child labour in their supply chains include reputational damage, loss of business, shareholder disappointment, or even divestment. While child labour is a feature of subsistence and small-scale agriculture, the goods and services produced by children find their way into the formal economy and international markets. This paper explores the role that employers can play in eliminating child labour in their supply chains.

- *The Role of Media In Combating Child Labour*

Grey J. Mang'anda, Senior Lecturer, Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of Malawi, The Polytechnic

The media has long been associated with economic development. Some studies have found a link between a free press and prevention of famines, concluding that societies living in closed political systems are more likely to go hungry than those that live in open societies. This thought-provoking paper argues that the media can play an important role in the fight against child labour and provides clear recommendations on how this can be done.

- *The Role of the Education Systems in Combating Child Labour*

Grace Kafulatira Mulima, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

It is universally acknowledged that providing access to quality education is key to child labour elimination. How does Malawi fare? This paper discusses the country's National Education Sector Plan and the country's progress toward meeting the national goal of Education for All by 2015. This paper is a must-read for understanding the gaps and opportunities in eliminating child labour in agriculture.

To download key messages and plans of action in the outcome document after the conference, visit www.eclt.org.