

User's Guide

In recent years, a wide range of organizations have carried out activities to combat child labor through education interventions. Through the Community-based Innovations to Reduce Child Labor through Education (CIRCLE) project, Winrock International's partners carried out projects that have generated a wealth of knowledge and learning that can be invaluable to others working in this field. It is hoped that this publication will serve as a source of inspiration and guidance to those involved in or interested in implementing projects to tackle child labor through education. Potential users may include governments, donor organizations, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), employers, and employers' and workers' organizations, particularly those that are either already working in the inter-related fields of child labor and education or interested in doing so.

This publication is intended as a practical tool to support the generation, management, and application of knowledge to:

- help users design and implement activities for children either already in situations of child labor, vulnerable to or at risk of child labor, or withdrawn from child labor;
- raise awareness about child labor and support stakeholders in assuming their roles and responsibilities in responding to it effectively and sustaining outcomes in the long term.

The document is divided into two main sections. The first section focuses on the context. It provides detailed background information on the interrelated issues of child labor and education, looks at the causes and consequences of child labor, sets out the existing legislative framework, and introduces Winrock International and its CIRCLE initiative. The first section also includes Project Design Guidelines to guide organizations through the process of designing an effective project to combat child labor through education interventions.

The second section, which constitutes the bulk of the publication, presents a distillation of the practical learning from the broad range of projects implemented under the CIRCLE umbrella. The publication describes approaches that have proved effective in addressing child labor and extracts lessons that can assist others implementing similar initiatives in their own contexts. This section is organized thematically, with a chapter devoted to each of the following:

Awareness-raising – The starting point and keystone of any child labor project is to inform those most closely concerned with the issue, as well as wider society, of the existence and implications of child labor and the role of education in combating it.



"Mama, I am still too fragile to carry heavy loads. I want first to grow up so I can better help you."

Advocacy – Building on awareness, advocacy goes one step further to inform and seek the support of governments, policy-makers, employers, civil society, and others in positions of power and influence in efforts to reduce and prevent child labor, particularly through education.

Education – Education in some form was the focus of all of the projects described in this publication. The main premise of CIRCLE and therefore of this publication is that access to quality education, be it formal or non-formal, is the single most important factor in preventing vulnerable and marginalized children from premature entry to the labor market and in offering viable alternatives to hazardous and exploitive situations.

Child labor occurs around the world and can deprive children of good health and education

Vocational education and skills training – Closely associated with the previous chapter on education, vocational education and skills training are given separate treatment to underline their importance in providing education alternatives for older children and in helping them access decent work opportunities at an appropriate age.

Peer education – Children and young people can play an important role by influencing their peers in their attitudes and behavior towards education.

Child labor monitoring – This chapter highlights the role of stakeholders in monitoring children's activities and attitudes and in ensuring that they stay in school or training programs.

Data collection – The gathering and analysis of information can inform and guide project activities and policy and program development and reform.

Each chapter begins with an introduction to the topic in question and then provides an overview of the key elements of the CIRCLE projects selected as having a best practice in this area. Main design elements of the approach are highlighted as are components critical to ensuring effective and sustainable outcomes. Lastly, each chapter looks at the main challenges for project design and implementation and how these might be overcome or pre-empted. The annexes contain a comprehensive list of all the CIRCLE implementing partners in the different countries. Those interested in finding out more about specific project activities and approaches are encouraged to contact these organizations directly.

The impact of this publication will depend on its ability to mobilize and influence users and encourage them to support and participate fully in local, national, and global efforts to reduce, prevent, and ultimately eliminate child labor and promote education for all children. This impact will be tracked through communication between users and Winrock International and the establishment of effective partnerships, alliances, and communities of practice. To this end, users are encouraged to be in contact with Winrock International.

Winrock International would like to know, for example: Are the project design guidelines comprehensive and effective? Is the language accessible? Are the content and examples provided in the thematic chapters useful in terms of assisting you in designing project interventions? Have you found the publication to be a useful reference tool in developing new projects or in preparing calls for project submissions? Similarly, in terms of enhancing the role of a community of practice in this field, it would be vital to know more about the outcomes of projects designed on the basis of information from this publication. Your feedback on the value of this publication in your work is critical.

Winrock International seeks to establish a community of practice of like-minded organizations in the field of child labor elimination and to build on the platform established by this publication and a shared vision of a world without child labor. Please send comments, questions, and experiences to:

Community of Practice

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Please visit the CIRCLE project and community of practice website: <http://circle.winrock.org>

The website will support communication and coordination between organizations and strengthen local, national, and international efforts in this field. It will be maintained and updated to share experience and expertise, exchange information, and facilitate a wider sharing of knowledge.