

State of the World's Children 2006

State of the World's Children & CIRCLE

The recent publication of *State of the World's Children 2006* (UNICEF) is yet another reminder of the important work in which the Circle partner organizations are engaged. Indeed, this year's report ...the economic benefits of eliminating child labor outweighs the costs... focuses on excluded and invisible children—the world's most vulnerable children—and argues that one of the four circumstances in which children are most likely to be excluded from development efforts and/or become invisible is children in the worst forms of child labor (the other circumstances include: children without a formal identity, children without parental care, and children affected by armed conflict).

Latest International Labor Organization (ILO) global estimates put the number of child laborers between the ages of 5 and 17 at 246 million with nearly 70% of these children working in dangerous and hazardous situations. Moreover, the UNICEF report clearly illustrates that the economic benefits of eliminating child labor (education and health) outweighs the economic costs (interventions, education supply, opportunity costs) of eliminating child labor over the period 2000-2020. (See also the ILO study that demonstrates the economic benefits of education over Child Labor:

http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/publ/download/2003_12_investingchild.pdf)

To contribute to the elimination of child labor in an even shorter timeframe, Winrock is encouraged that the CIRCLE partners are implementing programs that address the needs of some of the world's most vulnerable, excluded and invisible children through awareness raising efforts, developing formal and transitional educational systems for working children and those at risk and strengthening national policies to reduce child labor and promote education for all.

To see the UNICEF report in its entirety, please visit: <http://www.unicef.org>



We have a voice—please listen

Three Circle Partners' Work Highlighted

CRED (India)

The Centre for Rural Education and Development (CRED) is implementing a project in Tamilnadu province, in southeastern India, as part of Winrock's CIRCLE Project. The main purpose of the project is to raise awareness about and address the various hazardous forms of child labor among the target communities in Madurai district. The key innovation of CRED's project has been to launch Non-Formal Education (NFE) centers for youth and, at the same time, self-help groups for parents and community adults. Read more about CRED: <http://circle.winrock.org/news/in-CRED.cfm>



MUK (Bangladesh)

Manab Unnayan Kendra (MUK), a non-governmental organization (NGO) in Bangladesh, is working to end child labor in factories in the Thana Meherpur District. As an implementing partner of Winrock's CIRCLE Project, MUK's work focuses on providing non-formal education for child laborers, while at the same time motivating employers to stop hiring children to do harmful work. They have also been raising the awareness of parents and community members, about the hazards of child labor and about educational alternatives for working families. In MUK's experience, effective progress cannot be made without mobilizing the local community. MUK has developed effective alliances with local elected bodies, administrators, employers, professional bodies, teachers in formal education institutions, trade unions, religious leaders, local sports clubs, community based organizations, and parents/guardians to create a successful and sustainable environment for its activities at the community level. See the complete article on MUK at: <http://circle.winrock.org/news/bd-MUK.cfm>

MUK targeted over 500 employers and factory owners who were employing child laborers



Classes for child laborers were held under a banyan tree

The Development and Welfare Agency (Pakistan)

Through the CIRCLE project, DWAY launched its pilot project Reducing Child Labor through Awareness and Indigenous Mobilization (RECLAIM). One of the first activities initiated was a child labor survey of the target area. During the child labor survey in the Sabzi Mandi (Fruit Market), one of the most extensive child labor areas in Bannu, some of the child laborers showed strong interest in education and even requested that DWAY open a school in Sabzi Mandi. The children stated they could not afford to go to formal school or any other non-formal school outside of the market area. The project team discussed their findings and evaluated various alternatives for educating the children in the market. Finally, the decision was made to open a school in the market area, but with the majority of the financial contributions coming from shopkeepers and shop owners in Sabzi Mandi. Read more: <http://circle.winrock.org/news/pk-DWAY.cfm>

An Interview with the Regional Manager

Dr. Milan Adhikary is the Regional Manager for Asia. She recently sat down with some of the Circle staff to discuss her experience and views on child labor in the region:

How long have you been working with the CIRCLE project and in the field of child labor?

I worked for Winrock International in other projects prior to coming to the CIRCLE project, and after being asked to head up the Asia region, took up the challenge to work for CIRCLE from its inception in 2002.

In your view, what are the main causes/forces behind child labor in the Circle project countries?

CIRCLE targeted countries in the South Asia region are underdeveloped countries or are in the process of developing, so poverty is the primary root cause of child labor in this region. On top of this, inequality, due to socio-cultural phenomena in these societies and weak governmental policy to mobilize developmental funds for education, are other factors contributing to the high prevalence of child labor.

What impact do you think the Circle project is having in reducing instances of child labor in the project countries?

The implementation of the CIRCLE project has encouraged community-based organizations to work on this sensitive issue in the larger framework of community development. The project has also helped to advocate and raise understanding of the government's mission of the "Education for All" program. In many communities of India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh due to the project, awareness about the hazards and harmful anti-development effects of child labor, the importance of education, and a growing sense of ownership and empowerment has been developed within communities and among stakeholders of the project in the target areas. In my opinion, these are all very important aspects of reducing child labor, and the project has been successful in leveraging these approaches.



“Once communities understand their roles and responsibilities then they will develop a sense of ownership/empowerment regarding the project and their involvement will be ensured.”

How can the general public become more involved in the child labor eradication movement?

The general public is the community, so without their involvement the movement cannot be a success. To garner greater involvement of communities and stakeholders in the child labor eradication movement, a focus on raising awareness of the issues through education, advocacy and sensitization measures is vital in establishing a sustainable, participatory and effective movement to reduce and, ultimately, abolish child labor. Once communities understand their roles and responsibilities then they will develop a sense of ownership/empowerment regarding the project and their involvement will be ensured.

How can NGOs (and other agencies) improve their activities in the field of reducing and eradicating child labor?

Activities or programs of NGOs and other developmental agencies in the field of child labor should focus on child-centered and rights-based approaches along with. NGOs and civil society organizations should be able to involve community stakeholders in their programs. Furthermore, the program should be well structured, planned and transparent and accountable with regular follow up of their activities. They should always seek corrective measures for improving their project activities and should be flexible in terms of correcting their errors as well as making note of best practices and lessons learned for the success of the project and potential replication in the future.

Will you please share a moment from your experience, when you felt that your job was helping to fulfill the dream of reducing child labor and/or assisting children at risk to avoid becoming child laborers?

Well, I was always touched when I made site visits to project areas of targeted countries. I have had a number of experiences, and I would like to share some of these here.

One of the unforgettable moments for me occurred while I was on a site visit to the Laura Vicuna Foundation (LVF), at Negros Occidental of the Philippines. The children warmly welcomed me and sang songs and all of the children were so touchy and thanking us for our support to them. To see the children's smiling faces and eyes at having the opportunity to read and write is an experience and personal happiness I will not soon forget. The parents of those children were also happy with the CIRCLE project in their area and committed that they would do their best for their children for their future.

Likewise, a visit that I made in the conflict-ridden, child labor prone area of Bannu City, Pakistan for monitoring the RECLAIM Project run by the Development Welfare Agencies (DWAY), has led to local stakeholders, including religious leaders, to declare "if a woman of a foreign country can make a challenge to visit this area for the betterment of the community where no outsiders normally dare to visit-it is shameful for us not to think to do the same". With this, on the spot, the local stakeholders committed to work for the eradication of child labor in their area through their cash and in-kind support.

I would also like to share here a similar type of movement that I discovered during my visit to Tamil Nadu (India), at the project site of the New Earth Team. When one of the women raised an issue about being unable to feed her children without their earnings, another woman of the community woman asked her what skills she had to increase her income? The woman replied that she can do tailoring work, but did not have the money for purchasing a sewing machine. At that very moment, without hesitation, the other woman said she would contribute 500 Indian rupees to help her acquire a sewing machine. Immediately, the NGO director gave an additional 1,000 rupees. Being also very touched, I personally contributed 500 rupees. The point is not how much money each of us contributed; rather, this incident made clear to me that even though all communities have problems, they also hold the keys to coming up with solutions to solve these problems. Community mobilization is also key—as this community demonstrated—and is one of the important components of our entire Circle project and partners.

In Recognition of World AIDS Day (December 1)

In recognition of World AIDS Day on December 1—and the plight HIV/AIDS inflicts on millions of children around the world—the Circle project is aware that HIV/AIDS is a key factor contributing to child labor in CIRCLE target countries, and around the world. Awareness and education packages and mainstreaming efforts to address HIV/AIDS as it affects children can play a significant role in strengthening treatment and prevention initiatives, and activities for children and their families in addition to facilitating a more holistic and systematic approach to realizing children's fundamental right to an education and reducing child labor. According to UNICEF, every minute of every day, a child under the age of 15 dies from AIDS-related illness. AIDS claimed 3 million lives in 2004. One of every six of them was a child under the age of 15. (*AIDS Epidemic Update 2005*, Visit: <http://www.crin.org/resources/>)



Global Movement for Children: Lesson for Life Campaign

Over 10 million children from 60 countries world-wide have joined a giant simultaneous lesson on HIV/AIDS this World AIDS Day. Tens of thousands of schools and youth groups in countries from Azerbaijan to Zimbabwe have participated in the Lesson for Life, learning about HIV/AIDS and mobilizing children and their communities to work together to change the destiny of children affected by HIV and AIDS.

Organized by the Global Movement for Children and the World AIDS Campaign, the Lesson for Life involved children urging their governments to take as much action on HIV/AIDS as children themselves are taking.

'In the Lesson for Life, children from across the world are tackling the HIV/AIDS crisis head on,' said Miquel De Paladella, from the Global Movement for Children. 'Our leaders must sit up and take notice of these children - their innovation and energy puts our governments to shame.'

Children are missing from global awareness, budgets, and action on HIV/AIDS, and do not have the services, care, support, and knowledge that they need. Fewer than 5 percent of HIV-positive children have access to treatment. Less than 10 percent of children who have lost parents to AIDS get public support or care.

'Empty promises cost lives,' continued Miquel De Paladella. 'Every year that governments fail to meet their commitments is another year that the millions of children affected by HIV/AIDS are without the care, support and treatment that are their need and their right.'

Article courtesy of the Child Rights Information Network
(<http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=6698&flag=news>)

The wealth of our
partner nations:
social capital!

Collaborate; Network; Share Skills & Ideas

Collaboration, networking and sharing skills can leverage development gains into lasting and sustainable changes that benefit everyone. The CIRCLE partner projects listed below (in alphabetical order) provide learning experiences in this process.

1. Aasaman Nepal (aasaman@wlink.com.np)
2. Arunodhaya (India) (aruno@xlweb.com)
3. BASE (Nepal) (dangbase@mail.com.np)
4. CAC Nepal (cac_nepal@hotmail.com)
5. CCF (Pakistan) (ccf@nexlink.net.pk)
6. CDP (Bangladesh) (cdp@khulna.bangla.net)
7. CLAP (India) (satapathyramakant@rediffmail.com)

8. CRED (India) (cred@eth.net)
9. CSID (csid@bdonline.com)
10. CWEDA (Nepal) (sudu@wlink.com.np)
11. CWIN (Nepal) (cwin@mos.com.np)
12. CWISH (Nepal) (cwish@wlink.com.np)
13. DDS (Nepal) (not available)
14. Deepalaya (India) (info@deepalaya.org)
15. DWAY (Pakistan) (dwaybannu@hotmail.com)
16. MUK (Bangladesh) (msislam67@yahoo.com)
17. NDS (Bangladesh) (nds@bdonline.com)
18. VOCRDC (India) (vocrdc@yahoo.com)
19. WATCH (Nepal) (watchftp@wlink.com.np)

Contribute articles to the Newsletter:



1. Contact us with story ideas and discussion topics
2. Interview or talk to community members and beneficiaries who have received positive benefits from your project.
3. Involve your child beneficiaries in telling their own stories.
4. Talk to everyone you know about the harmful and anti-development effects of child labor and make education for all a reality. Share your experiences and ideas for awareness-raising.

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About CIRCLE:

Goal and Objectives - The goal of CIRCLE is to prevent child labor, especially the worst forms. The CIRCLE objectives are to identify and promote replicable, community-based educational innovations that successfully address the prevention or reduction of child labor and to document their Best Practices. CIRCLE project activities contribute directly to the following objectives of U.S. Department of Labor Child Labor Education Initiative:

- Strengthen formal and non-formal education systems and mobilize a wide array of actors to improve infrastructure;
- Raise awareness of the importance of education for all children and the hazards of child labor;
- Strengthen national and local institutions and policies to address education and child labor; and
- Ensure sustainability of these efforts.

CIRCLE solicits and administers sub-contracts on a competitive basis to non-governmental (NGO), community-based organizations. CIRCLE has funded over 65 community-based organizations in 23 countries addressing various sectors of child labor and providing education alternatives. See the CIRCLE web site www.circle.winrock.org for information on the organizations, countries and projects.

The purpose of this newsletter is to share and exchange information on the CIRCLE projects with the community-based NGO partners in each region. NGOs are encouraged to send feedback, lessons learned, and special events or any positive changes in their countries that involve reduction of child labor through education. The newsletter is also a resource for regional child labor and trafficking prevention information. The Newsletters for each region are posted on the CIRCLE website.