

Learning Full CIRCLE

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CIRCLE Launches Training for ASIAN NGO Partners

In 2006, CIRCLE launched an additional 19 sub-projects globally, chosen on the basis of their innovative proposals in meeting CIRCLE objectives. Six of these projects are located in Asia, with three projects to be implemented in the Philippines (Southeast Asia) and another three in Nepal (1) and India (2).

From June 20-23, 2006, CIRCLE organized a Regional Launch Meeting in the Philippines where twelve participants composed of Project Directors and Finance Officers of the six organizations met for an orientation and upgrading of knowledge and skills in the overall management of the CIRCLE project. The Meeting highlighted topics and concerns essential to ensuring project accountability and sustainability. CIRCLE resource persons highlighted the following areas of concern during the Regional Launch Meeting:

- * Monitoring and evaluation, focusing on DOL impact indicators related to withdrawal and prevention of child labor through education



CIRCLE RLM 3 Participants in Cebu, Philippines

- * Child labor monitoring
- * CIRCLE reporting guidelines
- * Spotlight stories and best practices
- * Sustainability and partnerships

The Meeting was attended by senior officials from the Philippine Department of Labor who gave the keynote speech, as well as ILO-IPEC's Regional Field Coordinator and World Vision-Education Initiative's Provincial Education Officer who offered their solidarity messages and project updates.

The Meeting stressed the importance of ensuring sustainability of interventions toward reduction of child labor through education. Child labor monitoring was emphasized as a way of systematically tracking that children are no longer involved in worst forms of child labor.

At the conclusion of the 4-day Meeting, all NGO partners enriched their technical proposals and shared rich experiences and plans to achieve CIRCLE objectives in their own country context.

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Six Completed CIRCLE Projects

Six CIRCLE projects have recently completed their projects and delivered positive impacts in the lives of child laborers and at-risk children in the Philippines (Kapatiran Komunidad People's Coalition, Actuator for Socio Economic Progress, Inc. and Laura Vicuna Foundation); Cambodia (Wathnakpheap and Women Development Association) and Vietnam (Center for Studies &

Applied Sciences in Gender, Family, Women & Adolescents). Based on an ongoing evaluation of best practices demonstrated by Actuator and CSAGA, tangible benefits for assisted child laborers and prospects for scaling up and sustainability have been identified, pointing to the relevance of strategies employed to reduce child labor through education.

Center for Studies & Applied Sciences in Gender, Family, Women & Adolescent (CSAGA) in Vietnam has shown that life skills education and living values education for 40 urban poor working children developed essential learning competencies among the children, serving as a bridge program for their entry to formal school or engagement in safer work. More positive

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A female youth volunteer of CSAGA, with her class of urban poor at-risk and working children in Hanoi



Wathnakpheap skills training



WP-Rattan mate weaving

behavioral choices were demonstrated by the children who chose to complete their sessions rather than work in the streets. Parents who were reached by a national radio program expressed negative views about child abuse and child labor and reflected on what they ought to do as parents, particularly with regard to their children's education. Most child laborers reached by the program expressed better understanding of their rights and understood that "going to school is a necessary thing in their life..." Potential best practices shown by CSAGA are as follows:

- * Partnership with youth volunteers in delivering non-formal education
- * Content of learning materials/ curriculum; and
- * Radio program/awareness raising through the media/ public awareness outreach through radio

Actuator for Socio Economic Progress, Inc. (ASEPI) demonstrated a strategy to sustain the education of at-risk children through a mix of awareness raising and parent advocacy; maximizing networking among key stakeholders; and developing parent capacities to address business and child rights concern. The 8-month project was able to form an organization

of parent-shoemakers as a sustaining mechanism for education of child labor/at-risk children.

The organization has a built-in educational program and savings scheme as well as provisions for child labor monitoring, continuing education and mobilization of parents and other stakeholders. Schools, NGOs and local government are working together to provide direct educational support to at-risk children of shoemakers and build capacity of MOVERS, the shoemakers organization. At project completion, MOVERS has accumulated some amount for individual and group savings. Marketing activities are being pursued and capital build up has started.

The following potential best practices have emerged from the project:

- * Savings and planning for education of child laborers
- * Organization of parent shoemakers with built-in educational plan and savings scheme
- * Advocacy and stakeholder's involvement
- * Capacity building of parents as producers and advocates
- * Tutoring for retention in class

- * Partnership and collaboration with other NGOs and local government

Wathnakpheap in Cambodia which implements CIRCLE within a comprehensive community development program in Pursat has exceeded its targets for increasing access to educational opportunities for rural, hard to reach and at-risk children and child laborers. As a result of awareness raising on education and child labor, close to 1,500 children living in difficult circumstances had access to community-based education programs not provided by the government school system. Fifty one marginalized girls continued their secondary education. Ninety eight youth were prevented from being trafficked through their trade training in marketable skills. Eighty three per cent of the trainees found gainful and safer employment to start their independent living.

Wathnakpheap believes that their outstanding outcomes resulted from a needs-based approach; substantive involvement of community structures such as Community Education Committee; mobilization of community for continuous monitoring of children's education; market driven skills

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The three SEA CIRCLE NGOs are:

Share A Child Movement, Inc. (SCM)

This project looks at how a mandated structure in the barangay could be strengthened to promote a multi-sectoral stakeholder action against child labor in Barangay Guba and two other farming communities in Cebu City. SCM will organize family watch groups; a school-based quick action team; and strengthen the Barangay Development Council in target areas.

H.O.P.E. Foundation, Inc.

The project has three objectives,

namely: 1) to strengthen and improve the quality of education systems of three elementary schools in Himamaylan City; 2) to promote activities that enhance student's appreciation of the value of learning and staying in school; and, 3) to increase the level of awareness, among key stakeholders in Himamaylan City, on the hazards and negative effects of child labor and the importance of education for all children. It is expected that approximately 500 children of sugar farm workers will be prevented from engaging in child labor and are attending school, at least 98% of target children

have completed their grade levels, and the three partner schools institutionalized the special projects and integrated child labor into their curriculum.

Quidan-Kaisahan of Negros Occidental, Inc.

The project intends to establish education-based mechanisms that will ensure the sustainability of child labor reduction and/or prevention initiatives in ten rural barangays. By the end of the project, incidence of child labor in the target community will be reduced by at least 30%.

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training; and capacity building of all stakeholders, including local leaders. With functioning community structures in place, Wathnakpheap has reason to believe that even after CIRCLE, education of at-risk children and prevention of worst forms of child labor in Pursat will be pursued with success.



Councilor Edcel Lagman motivates KKPC youth to engage in healthy sports activities & protect themselves from child labor & drug use.

When **Kapatiran Komunidad People's Coalition (KKPC)** completed its program in April, all 152 assisted children were still in school, with 122 of them withdrawn from dangerous jobs in the city and 30 prevented from engaging in hazardous labor. Through KKPC's successful mobilization of educational support from its city legislators, ordinances were passed ensuring stricter compliance with child labor laws in the city, and scholarships were made available to KKPC-Winrock 'scholars'. Six students who graduated from secondary school received college scholarships at the Asian School of Arts and Sciences, with a monthly allowance of Php 2,000 from the city government. Two are currently scholars under one city councilor's program and except for one, the rest of the graduates are pursuing their college courses.

KKPC attributes its success to continuous capacity building of its volunteers to handle key activities of the project- tutorial services, systematic monitoring of children's work and school performance, peer monitoring and support systems, continuing advocacy among organized parents and children's association, and management of community-based learning resource center. KKPC also saw to it that their local leaders, particularly their legislators would be involved and committed to their program. Their continuing advocacy paid off

with tangible support provided toward protection of child laborers and improved access to educational opportunities.

Like Wathnakpheap, **Laura Vicuna Foundation (LVF)** used a comprehensive community-empowerment approach in achieving its objectives for child sugar workers and many at-risk children in sugar plantations covered by their CIRCLE project. It exceeded its targeted number of children, as the project reached out to a total of 588 children, preventing a majority from performing hazardous sugar farm production tasks.

The most innovative aspect of the project is the formation of sustainable mechanisms for parental and children's substantive participation in meeting the objectives of CIRCLE. Parents and children's associations



Children are talking to other children about their rights. They speak of education and the right to be protected from work that is harmful to their physical and psychological well-being. Children are affirming their right to know, and participate in decisions affecting their lives.

were further linked with community structures such as Parent Teacher Community Association and the community council for the protection of children to raise awareness about child rights issues, specifically child labor and education concerns and broaden community support for the project. The process itself laid the foundation for sustainability of CIRCLE initiatives in the sugar-producing areas targeted by the project.

Women Development Association (WDA) in Cambodia was able to withdraw 18 child laborers from their harmful work through the provision of skills training. As a result of their community education efforts and formation of watch groups in schools and communities, WDA



Ms. Long Srey Sour, secretary of the commune council of Angkor Reach presents the Commune Integrated Plan.

reintegrated 55 out of 90 out-of-school children back to school during the October 2005 school enrolment, and encouraged parents of 108 out-of-school children even in non-targeted areas to send their children to school and prevent them from engaging in hazardous work. Nine commune councilors reached through advocacy and mobilization activities prepared their annual community work plan incorporating education campaigns and information-sharing activities on child labor and education.

"We are learning how volunteers influence parents to send children back to school...we see more children going back to school in our village... we are also getting to know new things about children's school problems... we all have a role in encouraging children to get the education that we did not have..."

CIRCLE

Community-based Innovations to Reduce Child Labor through Education

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.

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Lingap Rescues Abused Child Domestic Laborer



Vanessa does well in school after the rescue

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Lingap Pangkabataan is a church-related organization in the Philippines with 25 years of experience in leading child advocacy efforts, implementing community development programs largely through a network of volunteers and partner organizations; and generating resources to promote community self-reliance.

In June 2004, it began targeting a vulnerable sector of child laborers, the child domestic laborers (CDLs) through its partnership with the Philippine Children's Ministries Network. Research in this sector revealed that CDLs suffered from isolation, various forms of hidden exploitation, low self-esteem, and poor educational access and performance. Through the CIRCLE project which commenced in May 2005, Lingap expanded its project for child domestic laborers in selected communities in Quezon City, targeting to provide 100 child domestic laborers with improved access and support to their educational needs; organize local support systems to provide care and protection; and organize child domestic workers themselves to serve as their peer support system.

The story of V* demonstrates Lingap's commitment and success in ensuring that child domestic workers under their care are guaranteed their rights to education and protection from exploitation:

V was referred by her teacher, Ms. Vargas to Lingap while the latter was identifying target child domestic workers in school. Ms. Vargas attended the CIRCLE project orientation and was instrumental in talking to her students and other teachers about the importance of identifying child domestics in need of protection and educational support in their school.

Lingap learned that V was abandoned by her mother early on and she grew up under the care of her grandmother. When she was barely 13 years old, her grandmother brought her to Manila to live with an aunt. The latter treated V like a household helper, giving her such a heavy load and punishing schedule for her age- taking care of 4 children, cleaning the house, washing and ironing clothes, and cooking. Although her aunt sent her to school, she did not support V's other school needs. Worst, she was harsh with her, regularly berating and scolding her for any reason. Oftentimes V slept in the living room, overworked and tired from the day.

Lingap supported V's wish to continue schooling despite her difficult work situation. She was provided school supplies, complete set of workbooks, payment for school projects and school shoes. Through a series of counseling, V decided to escape from her aunt. Lingap mobilized support from volunteer pastors who have been assisting the former in reaching out to communities with identified child domestics.

June 2006. With the assistance of local officials, Lingap and the volunteer pastors immediately took V from the custody of her aunt, sheltering her in the church. The pastors and local officials talked to her aunt, who denied any maltreatment of V, even claiming that her actions were "normal." Both Lingap and the pastors educated V's aunt about the rights of children, particularly suggesting ways to support her education and protect her from harmful work, and describing negative effects of V's home and work situation to her overall development.

In the meantime, the pastors continue to provide psychosocial counseling to V while awaiting further assistance from the Social Services Development Department of Quezon City. Lingap sought the support of V's teachers too so that they could help her cope with her traumatic work experience and enable her to continue schooling.

To date, Lingap monitors her attendance in school with support from her teachers. V reports to Lingap and uses the computer to do her school projects. Having been trained in simple computer operations, she now helps other child domestic laborers in using the computer to meet their academic requirements.

V is slowly recovering from her trauma. She has joined the Lingap Children's Association and is recognized as alternate representative of the child domestic laborers group. She performed well in the recent theater presentation in school and according to the church pastor, actively participates in church activities for the youth.

Lingap, together with the volunteers pastors, plans to continue counseling sessions for V's aunt and uncle as well as prepare V to reunite with them, if still feasible. If such occurs, Lingap and the pastors will be there to monitor her home and work conditions, to ensure that agreements with her aunt and uncle are observed, especially pertaining to V's work hours and her rights.

*initials have been used to protect the child's anonymity

How CLM contributes to the fight against child labor

- ⇒ Identification of worst forms of child labor
- ⇒ Girls & boys of legal age have better working conditions
- ⇒ Younger children removed from child labor
- ⇒ Children have better alternatives for the future
- ⇒ Communities committed & engaged in fight against child labor
- ⇒ Enforcement authorities (such as labor & school inspectors) & social service providers have better knowledge & capabilities to address child labor

CIRCLE Notebook

Child Labor Monitoring (CLM)

Child labor monitoring is the active process that ensures that regular checking of places where girls and boys may be working is occurring. Its principal activities include regularly repeated direct observations to identify child laborers and to determine risks to which they are exposed, referral of these children to services, verification that they have been removed and tracking them afterwards to ensure that their situation has improved.

Child labor monitoring is based on national child labor legislation and the establishment of a self-sustaining process to combat child labor. In es-

sence, child labor monitoring is a way to mainstream action against child labor at the level of the local government where child labor occurs and where actual services, such as schooling, are made available for girls and boys.

CLM is closely linked to the provision of basic education and the protection of young workers from hazards. It directly supports the implementation of the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (no.182) and the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (no. 138.)

Source: "Overview of Child Labor Monitoring", ILO-IPEC. 2005