

CIRCLE in Africa

August 31st, 2007



WINROCK
INTERNATIONAL

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Newsletter

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

USDOL Workshop June 1-4, 2007



2007 ANNUAL OCFT GRANTEE WORKSHOP MAXIMIZING THE IMPACT OF CHILD LABOR INTERVENTIONS

The U.S. Department of Labor/OCFT workshop on "Maximizing the Impact of Child Labor Interventions" was held in the Washington, DC area, June 1-4, 2007 at the Crystal Hyatt Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia. Over 100 representatives of about 20 projects funded by USDOL/OCFT around the world addressing child labor issues and education. The Office for Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking, (formerly the International Child Labor Program (ICLP) and grantees presented topics such as:

Meeting Goals and Expectations; What does Impact look like?; Project Design, Baseline, and Data Collection; Targeting; Tacking and Monitoring; Effi-

ciency and effectiveness; Impact Assessment

Prevention of Children Involved in Armed Conflict; Impact in Commercial Sexual Exploitation ; Ensuring Quality Non-formal Education; GPRA; Audit and Evaluation Findings; Project Close out.

Power Point Presentations of all of the presentations and Best Practices are available on <http://www.dtiassociates.com/ocftannualworkshop/>

The workshop provided an opportunity for grantees to exchange experiences, lessons learned and best practices. Areas of particular inter-

est were methods in student tracking; challenges of keeping children out of worst forms of child labor once removed; income generation activities without cash transfers; and impacts. Grantees showed their diverse creativity and brought a symbol of impact of each project that was posted altogether on the workshop walls.

Grantees spent time with their project Grants Officer and with other members of DOL staff for a fruitful and productive workshop. Several groups decided to follow up with information sharing and the group from Latin America plans to maintain networking among grantees through a list serv. The workshop was facilitated by DTI Associates.

FROM THE FIELD

The CIRCLE Project Evaluation

Last March, WI was informed of the final evaluation of the CIRCLE 1 project and the mid-term evaluation of CIRCLE 2. This evaluation was commissioned by the US Department of Labor (US DOL) in order to document successes, areas for improvement, and learn lessons. This evaluation will serve the Department of Labor, and WI, to examine achievements, challenges and

lessons learned. This will improve the present project and future ones on child labor. Recommendations will allow us to take corrective measures for on-going projects, and to insure that children's needs are taken into account through the various activities.

The evaluator was able to visit projects in Mali, Sierra Leone and Ghana.

These visits has allowed her to discuss with project staff, meet local authorities, beneficiary children, parents as well as a number of structures who support education and child labor efforts: parent-teacher associations, child monitoring committees, school management committees, village-based "think-tanks" and advocacy groups.

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NGOs at Work

The National Policy Conference in Sierra Leone

As a closing activity to a range of projects, and to contribute to the sustainability of their efforts, CIRCLE subcontractors RADA-SL, CARD and APEGS organized a two day national policy conference that took place on May 25th and 26th. The conference focused on the theme **“Child trafficking and exploitative labor: The need for a coordinated approach within the context of the National Plan of Action”** and built on subcontractors’ experiences of developing strategies and raising awareness to implement the 2005 Anti-Human Trafficking Act at community level. The act defines human trafficking as an offense and criminalizes all forms of human trafficking.

The conference was chaired by the Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs, assisted by Dr. Fofana, the chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights. It was opened by the U.S. Ambassador and attended by about 80 representatives of the police, the judiciary, the military, local education authorities, na-

tional and international NGOs, traditional chiefs, trafficked children and young people, and community advocacy groups. After a range of statements condemning child trafficking and child labor and presentations describing current initiatives to combat them, participants worked in groups to discuss various aspects of the National Plan of Action prepared by the Trafficking-in-Person (TIP) Task Force responsible for the implementation of the act.

The conference provided an opportunity for task force members to deepen their analysis and discus-

sion of the issues concerned and for members of civil society organizations to express their frustration at the slow progress towards full implementation of the act and to offer some practical suggestions for speeding things up. The event complemented the apparently limited public consultation that took place before the signing of the act. Recommendations for improving and implementing the plan came out of the work group discussions and two smaller follow-up meetings were proposed to widen the plan to include regional and local levels and input from civil society representatives. The conference was a fitting finale to the current phase of the impressive and inspiring work carried out by CIRCLE partners in

Sierra Leone, enabling them to complement community level initiatives by facilitating and influencing national policy development.

Sue Upton

Evaluator of the CIRCLE project

CIRCLE:
*Community-based
Innovations to
Reduce
Child
Labor through
Education*



An ex-child laborer explains how she sees the future without child labor



The Minister of Social Welfare, Gender & Children and the US Ambassador during opening address.

FROM THE FIELD

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The projects in Sierra Leone which were undertaken in a post-conflict environment have particularly focused on cross-border child trafficking issues, community awareness raising on laws and child rights and education: rehabilitation/construction of schools, professional training and socio-professional re-insertion of youth. In Mali and Ghana the projects visited focused on the reduction of child labor in agricultural and mines sectors on

one hand and the artisan sector: awareness raising on child rights, construction/rehabilitation of schools, obtaining birth certificates, establishment of “think-tank” groups, reviving school management committees (etc.).

Through 40 projects financed in Africa, nearly 9000 children benefited from a formal or non-formal education. The evaluation reveals that more synergies need to be developed between stake-

holders; that subcontracts should be of longer period and funding level higher; that strategies have to be put in place to better sustain families and allow them to put their children in school; and that future projects focus on the achievements our of best practices.

Child Labor News

June 12, World Day against Child Labor. This year the theme is "Harvest for the Future: agriculture without child labor". In Mali, ILO/IPEC organized a round table on the risk children face when participating in agriculture tasks.

For that purpose, ILO states that:

Worldwide, agriculture is the sector where the largest percentage of working children is found - nearly 70 percent. Over 132 million girls and boys aged 5 to 14 years old often work

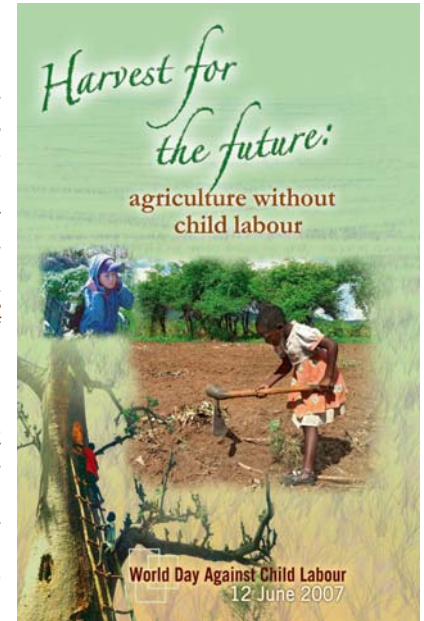
from sun up to sun down on farms and plantations, planting and harvesting crops, spraying pesticides, and tending livestock.

Child labour, according to **International Labour Organization (ILO)** conventions, is work that harms children's well-being and hinders their education, development and future livelihoods. When children have to work long hours in the fields, their ability to attend school or skills training is limited, preventing them from gaining education that could help lift them out of poverty

in the future. Girls are particularly disadvantaged as they often undertake household chores following work in the fields. Moreover, agriculture is one of the three most dangerous occupations to work in along with mining and construction, in terms of fatalities, accidents and ill health.

However, not all work that children undertake in agriculture is bad for them. or would qualify as work to be eliminated under the ILO Minimum Age Convention No. 138 or the

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ILO-IPEC poster 2007

INSIDE CIRCLE INSIGHT CIRCLE INSIDE CIRCLE

NGO Participation in the identification of Best Practices

In order to diversify points of view and to take into account the input of the NGOs in the identification of best practices (BP), the evaluation process has included the NGOs. This approach gives them the opportunity to review each others' work and contribute to increasing information exchange between them. A member of the NGO participates with 4 other evaluators to do a desk review (technical reports, field trip reports, spotlights, etc.) and identify the (potential) best practices. This review phase of the CIRCLE BPs is coming to an end, but already 4 NGOs have taken part in the process.

Winrock World Day Against Child Labor Event

In recognition of the World Day Against Child Labor, on June 5, Winrock hosted *Cultivating Change: Alternatives to Child Labor*, a program and reception on Capitol Hill. Senator Tom Harkin's office sponsored the event and was represented by foreign relations legislative assistant Rosemary Gutierrez. Key speakers included Grace Banya from ILO, Dr. Charita Castro of the US Department of Labor, and Ron Croushorn from the US Department of Agriculture. The event was in preparation of the actual date of June 12 that was sponsored by the International Labor Organization and others to observe the World Day Against Child Labor. Many of the grantees in the Washington area attending the DOL workshop attended the event and outside participants included members of the local community from private sector, government, congressional offices, NGOs and Foundations learned about problems and solutions to child labor in agriculture, a sector responsible for 70 percent of under-age workers. Exhibits were sponsored by the ILO Washington Office, Winrock, and the International Center for Child Labor and Education, Washington, DC. ILO showed its video *Child Labor*. Winrock showed its video on combating child labor in cocoa through education from the Winrock program CLASSE sponsored by the World Cocoa Foundation and members. The event closed with music by guitarist John Albertson and passing out of "Seeds for Change" cards that can be moistened and planted in gardens or indoor pots and yield flowers for the prevention of child labor.

Partners are invited to share their experiences in this newsletter. Please send your contribution to kcisse@winrock-mali.org



CIRCLE project Director, Ms. Vicki Walker (center) with Dr. Charita Castro from USDOL and Grace Banya from ILO on the right.

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**We're on the Web: [http://
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An estimated 220 million children around the world are caught up in work situations that put their lives at risk, violate international core labor standards, and negatively impact their futures. Providing viable economic and social alternatives as well as unbiased information for informed decision-making will lead to behavioral change that reduces the numbers of children working in harmful conditions and increases educational alternatives and school retention. CIRCLE aims 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.



Putting Ideas to Work

FUNDING FOR THE CIRCLE PROJECT IS PROVIDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR THROUGH COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS E-9-K-2-0048 AND E-9-K-2-0005

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Child Labor News: Child Labor Day (continued from page 3)

Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182. Tasks appropriate to a child's age and that do not interfere with a child's schooling and leisure time can be a normal part of growing up in a rural environment. Indeed, many types of work experience for children can be positive, providing them with practical and social skills for work as adults. Improved self-confidence, self-esteem and work skills are attributes often found in young people engaged in some aspects of farm work.

The ILO, especially through its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), is now working with international agricultural organizations on the elimination of child labour in agriculture, especially hazardous child labour. These organisations are currently

the:

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);

International Fund on Agricultural Development (IFAD);

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR);

International Federation of Agricultural Producers

(IFAP) representing farmers/ employers and their organisations;

International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF) representing workers and their organizations.

These international organizations represent an important conduit to the national level because of their close contacts with national ministries or departments of agriculture, agricultural extension services, farmers' organizations and cooperatives, agricultural producer organizations, agricultural research bodies and so on.

This new partnership strengthens the global movement for the elimination of child labour and will have a real impact on the ground.

Source: [http://www.ilo.org/ipec/
Campaignandadvocacy](http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy)

Child Labor Links

The CIRCLE project website: <http://circle.winrock.org>