

**THEMATIC EVALUATION OF ACTION ON CHILD LABOUR
IN ARTISANAL AND SMALL SCALE MINING**

**ILO-CASM WORKSHOP
APRIL 28-30, 2004
WASHINGTON, DC**

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

A jointly sponsored workshop of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour of the International Labour Organization (IPEC-ILO) and Communities and Small-Scale Mining (CASM), was held at the International Finance Corporation Headquarters in Washington, DC, USA, from April 28 – 30, 2004, under the title “Thematic Evaluation of Action on Child Labor in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining.”

The purpose of the workshop was to review what has been learned about the problem of child labour in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) and to come up with practical advice and programming recommendations for the future. The workshop was an opportunity for IPEC programme managers to consider alternative approaches to the issues associated with ASM and for CASM to learn more about the child labour aspects of ASM from those with grassroots-level experience.

About 20 participants attended the workshop, including managers of selected IPEC programmes in Latin America, Africa and Asia, specialists associated with CASM, World Bank officials active in ASM, industry and union personnel knowledgeable about ASM, and the US Department of Labor.

The basis for discussion was a background paper researched and prepared by Mr. Michael Priester of Projekt Consult for IPEC-ILO titled “Evaluation of Action against Child Labour in Mining.” IPEC-ILO undertook the evaluation to assess the effectiveness of their past and current efforts to eliminate child labour in mining, and to identify lessons learned that would guide future programming in the mining sector.

The workshop began with introductions, followed by Mr. Priester’s overview of his research findings. The participants gave their general observations and reaction to the paper, focusing on the Lessons Learned section with a view to adding depth and precision to them, and to seek elements that should have been included.

Agreeing that mining and quarrying are, in virtually all cases, the worst form of child labour because of the extent and severity of the hazards and risks of injury and disease, participants raised several questions based on the experience of the IPEC-ILO demonstration projects: Is it possible to try to eradicate this worst form of child labour?

Can it be done on a national or even global level? Is it possible to prioritize children – i.e. to take immediate action to remove the child workers and ensure that they are not replaced, while long-term efforts are underway to gradually improve conditions in the ASM sector as a whole? Are there significant differences between child labour in gold and coal, salt and gravel, precious stones and building materials? And if so, are there approaches specific to each? These, and several other questions, framed the discussion over the two days of the workshop.

Presentations on international experiences from countries such as Tanzania, Peru, Mongolia, Nepal, Colombia, Uruguay; and partner organizations such as ICEM, ICMM the ILO and WB, further supplemented the discussions.

Some of the key issues/problems identified were:

- The lack of good methodology for research studies in some countries;
- The nature of surveys; national surveys are large, costly and do not provide detailed information, and surveys have not been helpful in identifying target beneficiaries;
- The need for more skills in child labour;
- Involving stakeholders in developing appropriate tools and measures, especially for monitoring and evaluation;
- Raising awareness in government, among individuals and other motivating groups and role models such as youths;
- Community empowerment;
- Moving beyond awareness-raising to assessment;
- Lack of education; and
- High demand for income generation in families.

Participants discussed several interventions that could help curb the problems:

- Develop toolkits that will help researchers know what to look for. Projects need a strong baseline but also a flexible one to take account of changes.
- Carry out good local level research with an increased number of child labour questions such as the value system of the parents.
- Develop a tracking form in order for surveys to capture the information on the child at entry into the labour force, and subsequent removal and service provision.

- Increase government involvement in child labour policies. Also increase labour inspection that is not just enforcement but the creation of a level of confidence between the government and the informal sector.
- Train more mining professionals and engineers.
- Ensure that awareness raising is a process that involves understanding the perceptions of the people - it is not enough to say that children shouldn't work, or that it is dangerous. Determining their perception about child labour is equally important.
- Work from a human rights point of view in the development of the community. Fully understand the community culture and traditions and give them a vision of what the children should be doing as an alternative to working.
- Develop programs that will cover most of the children's time with both educational and recreational activities. Education is seen as *the* most effective means of getting people from mining.
- Provide extra income sources for women that will allow children to leave work.
- Focus on technological change that will eliminate jobs that children generally do.

Concluding the meeting, the participants discussed next steps, which will include setting up an email working group to exchange materials, and formulating an external inter-institutional or stakeholder network that would include the WB, CASM, donors and social partners. This mechanism should be used to disseminate a summary document of this meeting, integrate child labour into other agenda and update on new products and materials.

The following were also proposed: 1) the development of a roster of specialists in child labour in ASM; 2) the development of a global map of ASM that can serve as a planning tool to see where child labour action should be considered; 3) a learning session on CL-ASM at the CASM Annual General Meeting to be held in Sri Lanka in October; and, 4) policy briefing on the national level to involve workers, employers and government.

Finally, it was recommended that ILO-IPEC, CASM, the WB and other relevant organizations, such as ICEM and IDRC, should build on the meeting in order to forge a lasting working relationship to combat child labour in ASM. Specifically:

1. ILO, CASM, the WB and other relevant organizations should work together to ensure that child labour in ASM is addressed in an integrated way within a sustainable development framework.
2. ILO and the WB should consult on how best to use the comparative advantage of each organization in ASM, including seeking to engage in joint programmes to eliminate hazardous child labour from all ASM, starting with a follow-up meeting in June 2004 in Geneva.

3. CASM should include child labour issues in its work programmes and integrate them into analytical tools that it may develop, starting at the next AGM in October 2004.
4. CASM should, as soon as possible, post on its web site the outcomes of the meeting as a start to publicizing the need to address more coherently the elimination of hazardous child labour in ASM.
5. ILO-IPEC, CASM, the WB and other relevant organizations should collaborate to develop global and regional research and training programmes on ASM and on child labour to increase the skills and awareness about ASM issues when developing and implementing programmes for the elimination of child labour.
6. ILO-IPEC should publicize widely the benefits of addressing child labour in ASM and provide child labour-related input to ASM methodologies and data gathering.