



International  
Labour  
Organization



## **Building FAO – ILO Collaboration on Elimination of Hazardous Child Labour in Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry**

*Joint FAO - ILO Report written by Paola Termine*

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**2006**

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## **1. The purpose of this report**

This report explores areas and opportunities for cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) on elimination of hazardous child labour<sup>1</sup> in agriculture, fishing and forestry. Specifically, this report identifies relevant programmes, projects and activities undertaken by the FAO, and identifies the relevant departments/units who could implement activities relevant to the elimination of hazardous child labour. It is targeted to ILO and FAO staff.

This document outlines 1) the thematic areas of work of the FAO that are relevant to policies for the elimination of child labour in agriculture and the rural economy and 2) indicates areas/topics for building FAO-ILO cooperation - (which could eventually develop into a joint FAO/ILO strategy to eliminate hazardous child labour in agriculture).

## **2. The rationale for building FAO-ILO cooperation on elimination of hazardous child labour**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) leads international efforts to end hunger and rural poverty through the sustainable development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, rural areas and their natural and human resources. FAO represents a unique source of knowledge and information on these topics, and provides a neutral forum for policy negotiations on agriculture- and rural development- related issues. FAO assists Member Nations, especially developing countries and countries in transition, to improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices, to ensure good nutrition for all, and promote rural development to achieve food security and poverty reduction. FAO's strategy includes actions to improve rural livelihoods through increased productivity of small-scale farming, fostering the creation of non-farm rural income-generating activities especially for landless and near landless workers, and broadening access to food by the most vulnerable, in order to reverse the cycle of poverty, enhance the nutritional status, health and productivity of the poor, and raise their consumption and demand for local goods and services, thereby stimulating the creation of additional sustainable employment, investment opportunities and wealth generation for the rural poor. These challenges are undertaken using participatory processes with an emphasis on equity and gender sensitivity.

The International Labour Organization of the United Nations (ILO) is the lead agency for work, employment legislation, employment generation and labour standards. Within the UN system, the ILO has a unique tripartite structure with workers and employers participating as equal partners with governments in the work of its governing bodies. The ILO's mandate is to promote social dialogue, social justice and internationally recognised human and labour rights. The Organization formulates international labour standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations setting minimum standards of basic labour rights: freedom of association, the right to organize, collective bargaining, abolition of forced labour, equality of opportunity and treatment, and other standards regulating conditions across the entire spectrum of work-related issues. It provides technical assistance primarily in the fields of vocational training and

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<sup>1</sup> Hazardous child labour is work in dangerous or unhealthy conditions that could result in a child being killed, or injured (often permanently) and/or made ill (often permanently) as a consequence of poor safety and health standards and working arrangements.

vocational rehabilitation; employment policy; labour administration; labour law and industrial relations; working conditions; management development; cooperatives; social security; labour statistics and occupational safety and health. It promotes the development of independent employers' and workers' organizations and provides training and advisory services to those organizations.

FAO and ILO share a commitment to support people-centred and sustainable development, while maintaining very distinct fields of expertise and specialisations. Both organizations are fully committed to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly the overarching goal of combating hunger and poverty, by promoting rural and agricultural development strategies that are socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.

The ILO and FAO have a long history of collaboration dating back to 1947. The most recent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FAO and ILO, signed in September 2004, provides an institutional framework for increased cooperation between the two organizations. The action areas prioritised by the MoU are: follow-up to major global conferences, including the World Summit for Social Development, the World Food Summit (WFS) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), and support for the achievement of their objectives; promotion of a fair and inclusive globalisation; promotion of sustainable agriculture and rural development (SARD) as a key priority for hunger and poverty reduction, especially through improvement of rural livelihoods and generation of decent employment. The MoU identifies a number of instruments of collaboration, such as: demand-driven consultations between technical units, flagship publications, enhanced operational interaction, including at country level. The MoU could therefore provide a framework for supporting joint action on the elimination of child labour.

For FAO and ILO, a coordinated strategy for the elimination of hazardous child labour in agriculture would complement and enhance work currently being carried out by each organisation, respectively, on agriculture and rural development and child labour.

The FAO would benefit from an increased focus on the social and economic dimensions of agricultural practices and rural development policies. In fact, FAO's work is currently focusing prevalently on the supply side of food security, i.e. it has concentrated on promoting more productive agricultural practices and farming systems, therefore main beneficiaries are agricultural producers (as well as forestry workers and fisher folk) and their organizations such as producers' organizations, cooperatives, farmers' organisations and other rural institutions, while workers' - including child workers' - issues tend to be overlooked. Another key dimension of food security that is the *access* to adequate, nutritious food, has been less directly addressed by FAO; better access requires the enhancement of income-generation among the food insecure to enable them to purchase food. FAO's future efforts in this respect could be greatly enhanced through joint work with the ILO, particularly in view of the ILO's established International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) and other expertise on labour market issues, statistical surveys and data collection on labour and other socioeconomic indicators. FAO could also benefit from increased access to the ILO's established collaborative arrangements with Ministries of Labour, networks of rural workers unions and specialised research institutions.

The ILO could benefit from access to and collaboration with FAO's knowledge and expertise on agricultural practices, rural development, training, fisheries, forestry, land and rural institutions. Moreover, ILO could collaborate more closely with FAO's facilitated partnerships, networks and alliances, such as the International Alliance Against Hunger, the UN System Network on Rural Development and Food Security, the SARD Initiative, the

Mountain Partnership, to complement its network of trade unions and established mechanism of collaboration with Ministries of Labour at national level. The ILO could benefit from access to rural institutions such as cooperatives, farmers' groups, and grassroots organisations, as well as from increased collaboration to Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries Environment, Natural Resources and related fields.

### **3. Background information on hazardous child labour in agriculture and ILO and Convention no. 182 on the worst forms of child labour**

Hazardous child labour is work that harms children's well being and hinders their education, development and future livelihoods. Hazardous child labour is work which, by its nature and/or the way it is carried out, harms, abuses and exploits the child or deprives the child of an education<sup>2</sup>. A child is defined as a person under eighteen years of age.

According to ILO-IPEC estimates, over 70 percent of all child labour is found in agriculture, fisheries and forestry<sup>3</sup>. This amounts to over 173 million children worldwide, working in everything from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, agriculture is one of the three most hazardous/dangerous industries to work in, and this is especially true for child labourers as they are at greater risk from hazards than adults. A significant number of these 173 million children in agriculture work in what is termed hazardous child labour, that is work which results in children being killed, injured, or suffering ill health as a result of their work. Hazardous child labour is defined by Article 3<sup>rd</sup> of ILO Convention on *Prohibition and Immediate Action on the Worst Forms of Child Labour*, 1999, No. 182: as "work which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to jeopardise the health, safety or morals of young persons". With respect to agriculture, Convention No 182 aims to promote urgent action by governments and other stakeholders to eliminate all forms of slavery, including debt bondage and serfdom, trafficking, and hazardous child labour.

Hazardous work affects girls and boys, even though in different percentages in different sectors, and the relative gender distribution tends also to be different according to the geographical area. There are no accurate estimates available on the percentage of children working in hazardous activities in the agricultural sector, although the ILO estimates that every year more than twenty two thousand children are killed at work globally in all economic sectors.

However, not all of child's work is harmful for the development and well being of the child. In fact, especially in contexts of subsistence agriculture, children's participation in the household activities represent a way to learn valuable skills, adds to the building of self-esteem and sense of belonging to the community, and very importantly contributes to the generation of household income, with direct impact on children's livelihoods. Understanding and tackling the problem of child labour in agriculture is therefore very complex and cuts across economic, social and cultural dimensions.

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<sup>2</sup> IPEC: Every child counts: New global estimates on child labour, (Geneva, ILO, 2002), p 23.

<sup>3</sup> The term "agriculture" is henceforth used to cover all these sectors, unless specifically indicated otherwise.

<sup>4</sup> Recent data from ILO has shown that there has been a marked reduction in relative and absolute numbers of children labourers, however to make these progress sustainable and progressively achieve the elimination of all forms of hazardous child labour in agriculture there is the need for concerted action by all the relevant institutions.

When addressing child labour, it is important to differentiate issues and responses by age groups, as both children and youth are vulnerable groups, especially in rural areas, but issues and risks are very different according to age group. It is important to keep in mind that policy and interventions targeting children have been in the agenda for many years, while risks affecting youths, and adequate policy responses to these risks, are changing very rapidly. Targeting children and youth with broader social and economic development strategies, including those aimed at the elimination of child labour is effective because they represent the majority of the developing world's poor, they are the most vulnerable to external shocks and negative economic trends (malnutrition, dropping out of education, risky behaviour, etc); they represent the periods of highest physiological and social risk in the life cycle. Children and youth are particularly vulnerable to the following risks that are relevant to, or derive from their participation in the labour market: poor nutrition, unsafe physical environment, lack of legal protection, HIV/AIDS, social exclusion, dropping out of education, among others. It has been proved that strategies that invest broadly in children and youth are pro-poor, also in terms of reducing future poverty.

The work to eliminate hazardous child labour fits into and supports various development frameworks at the international level, such as the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and the Education for All Initiative. If FAO and ILO want to substantially contribute to the achievement of the MDGs, child labourers should be targeted as a specific group, being among the poorest and most disadvantaged groups with specific issues and priorities, and explicitly taken into account when formulating rural development policies. The MDGs agreed upon by the international community in 2000, place a huge emphasis on the improvement of the wellbeing and development of children and youth. They provide an excellent impetus and opportunity to focus UN and government efforts towards poverty and hunger elimination through integrated strategies including increased attention to education and health and specific targeting of youth and children.

#### **4. FAO programmes, projects, and activities of potential relevance to the elimination of hazardous child labour in agriculture**

FAO can play an important role in the elimination of hazardous child labour in agriculture, as it represents an important conduit to the national level because of its close contacts with national ministries or departments of agriculture, agricultural extension services, farmers' organizations and cooperatives, agricultural producer organizations, agricultural research bodies and other rural institutions. While initiatives to tackle hazardous child labour are not a central issue in FAO's work as of now, analysis of its current programmes and activities shows that it has in fact much to contribute. Indeed, many of FAO's programmes, projects, reports and publications address issues that are related to or contribute to the elimination of hazardous child labour, or to the improvements of livelihoods and upgrading of services in rural areas, the organisation lacks a coherent strategy and coordination mechanism to integrate the various areas of its work for a consistent and decisive action for the elimination of child labour in agriculture.

This represents a serious gap not only because the majority of the world's poor and food insecure live in rural areas, and a focus on these groups is key to enabling them to escape from poverty and providing the means to produce or purchase adequate, nutritious food, but also because insufficient understanding of the causes and consequences of hazardous child

labour may lead to failing to foresee possible negative unintended consequences of the adoption of agricultural practices and technologies on child labour. Given the complementary capacities of the two organizations, the definition of a coordinated strategy or programme would allow to capitalise on the synergies generated by specialised, complementary expertise in the two organizations and to address new areas that currently present gaps, either in the normative or field programmes.

To design a coordinated strategy for the elimination of hazardous child labour in agriculture, it would be essential to start building on the work already ongoing in the different units of the organisation to identify priority areas for coordinated action and to identify the areas in which FAO has a comparative advantage, as opposed to the ILO or other agencies, as well as to identify the gaps in terms of issues or areas not yet covered. A shared vision and a coordinated policy on child labour between FAO and ILO would offer the opportunity to effectively link efforts towards the elimination of hazardous child labour to broader policies for sustainable agriculture and rural development, including food security and poverty reduction.

There is a need to create awareness among FAO's staff on the specific issues, including causes and policy options, and to define an organisational strategy – including clear goals and priority areas, on how the different departments and areas covered by FAO can address issues of child labour, and how these efforts can be linked and contribute to food security and sustainable development, and to define an institutional framework for collaboration between FAO, ILO, governments and other development agencies. It is important to highlight the increased interest and commitment in FAO to address rural employment and agricultural labour issues, including through its ongoing reform proposals, in its departments and by its staff. Also, proposals to explicitly include rural employment, social standards and fair conditions of employment in agriculture and related industries are being considered by the FAO management and technical staff.

FAO's work is of great relevance for the elimination of hazardous child labour in agriculture and in the rural economy. FAO recognises that the causes of child labour are rooted in the livelihoods systems of the rural areas, and are affected by the economic vulnerability of families as well as by the institutional context, their access to resources and services, and other social and economic factors. FAO's promotion of rural development strategies and any programmes or activities aimed at improving rural livelihoods, creating income generating activities for farmers and workers, capacity-building interventions, extension and education activities, and programmes addressing issues of health and safety in agriculture, will have an impact on the extent of the use of child labour, and on the level of danger and hazards associated with it.

A joint strategy for the development of a policy on the elimination of hazardous child labour in agriculture should be closely linked and integrated with FAO's programmes and strategy on rural employment, which is expected to be developed and implemented in the course of 2006/2007 as part of FAO's broader reform proposals and in the framework of the implementation of the MoU between FAO and ILO. It is important to build in a defined component on child labour in a systematic way.

This section outlines FAO's work relevant to the elimination of hazardous child labour by theme, and indicating main departments/units responsible for its implementation. However recognising the cross cutting nature of the thematic work, the list may not be exhaustive especially as far as the specific departments involved are concerned.

More detailed information on potential areas for cooperation is given below:

### **Rural employment**

Rural Development Division (SDA)

Rural Institutions and Participation Service (SDAR)

Website: [www.fao.org/sd/sda\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/sda_en.htm)

Contacts: Jennie Dey de Pryck and Paola Termine, focal points on ILO/FAO collaboration and rural employment

Proposals on FAO reform, currently under consideration, include the option of developing a joint ILO/FAO programme (or division) on rural employment. Rural employment provides the nexus between environmental, social and economic sustainability, poverty reduction and food security. Indeed, given the importance of rural employment for poverty reduction in relative and absolute terms, it is surprising that rural employment is not central to agricultural and rural development policies. Instead, policies aimed at the development of sustainable employment opportunities in farm and off-farm activities are often absent. Traditionally, FAO's agriculture and rural development policies have focused on agricultural growth with a focus on the production side, from small to large farms, often without a careful evaluation of their impact on the livelihoods and vulnerability of the largest group of poor in the rural areas: the workers, including the landless, wage-dependent small farmers, youth and child workers. However, successful sustainable development requires that both small farmers and workers are given considerably more attention as distinct groups, each with its own political, economic and social needs and contributions; that both groups figure in sustainable rural development strategies and programmes; and that more support is given to building and strengthening links between these groups in the interests of sustainable development and poverty elimination. If approved, the programme could focus on the following areas, among others

- (i) analysis of the supply and demand factors and institutional framework affecting rural labour markets including: the size and gender of the (seasonal) agricultural/rural workforce, demand for and conditions of employment of agricultural/rural labourers, impacts on rural employment and livelihoods of globalization (especially markets and information), technological innovation, climate change, the pull factors from the cities and rural towns, remittances, labour laws, legislation/programmes affecting access to land, water and other productive resources, education, health and nutrition etc;
- (ii) development of joint country-level rural employment programmes, with a focus on small and medium enterprises that would particularly benefit the poorest;
- (iii) improvement of fair conditions of employment and safety and health-related impacts on the work force (from agro-chemicals, agricultural machinery, waterborne diseases from irrigation sources, HIV/AIDS etc);
- (iv) eradication of hazardous child labour in agriculture;
- (v) capacity-building/institutional strengthening of agricultural/rural workers' and producers' organizations, cooperatives, chambers of agriculture;
- (vi) analysis of the implications of increased/more secure rural employment for food security and poverty reduction.

The issue of child labour has therefore been included in the reform proposals as one of the FAO's priority areas for the development of a rural employment and rural development corporate strategy. ILO-IPEC's collaboration in designing the strategy should represent the core of FAO/ILO collaboration on child labour.

### **Decent work and fair employment**

Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) Initiative

Rural Institutions and Participation Service (SDAR)

Websites: <http://www.fao.org/sard/en/init/964/1573/index.html> or [www.fao.org/sard/initiative](http://www.fao.org/sard/initiative)

Contact person: Eve Crowley (Task Manager Chapter 14, Agenda 21) and Paola Termine

With FAO and ILO's joint launch of the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) Initiative, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2002, FAO has supported ILO in a global campaign for fairer conditions of employment in agriculture. The SARD Initiative is an alliance between civil society, represented by the Major Groups as defined in Agenda 21, governments and intergovernmental institutions.

- Workers and Trade Unions have solicited support from FAO and ILO to develop decision-support tools to assist governments in promoting better conditions of employment in agriculture, especially on health and safety aspects, and to support the identification and promotion of SARD good practices that have a demonstrated positive impact on health and safety at work, especially regarding pesticide use.
- The SARD Initiative is exploring how SARD good practices, and especially those specifically addressing social dimensions, can support the implementation of Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) in collaboration with the GAP FAO working group.
- The SARD Initiative is also undertaking work on: legal empowerment of the poor, especially focusing on how access to land and other resources may affect conditions of employment and child labour in agriculture; support to the implementation of employment generation schemes (in India), especially aiming at including practices for sustainable agriculture and for building the asset base of the poor; assessing the role of local/informal rural institutions in promoting fairer conditions of employment in agriculture.
- The SARD Initiative has published a webpage on fair conditions of employment in agriculture – including specific references to child labour, a policy brief on agricultural workers and SARD, and is planning a joint FAO-IPEC brief on child labour in agriculture.

### **Rural livelihoods and employment diversification**

Sustainable Development Department (SD) website <http://www.fao.org/sd/>

Livelihoods Support Programme (LSP) website [http://www.fao.org/sd/dim\\_pe4/pe4\\_040501\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/dim_pe4/pe4_040501_en.htm)

Rural Development Division (SDA) website [http://www.fao.org/sd/sda\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/sda_en.htm)

Contact person: Parviz Koohafkan, Jan Johnson, Doyle Baker, Siobhan Kelly

A great share of FAO's work on rural development aims directly at improving rural livelihoods. The generation of alternative income sources at household level may have an impact in decreasing the need to force children into work, especially as households become more resilient to negative shocks. Livelihoods diversification, enterprise development, employment and income generation, creation of alternative income generation opportunities, improvement of labour productivity, promotion of agri-business, and promotion of innovative solutions to service delivery in rural areas, strengthened participation of smallholders in the market economy, are all areas that impinge on child labour. The Livelihoods Diversification and Enterprise Development programme of the LSP is supporting development of business plans and enterprise development, including a small project in Ethiopia implemented by the association of orphans and vulnerable children and their families (most of them HIV/AIDS affected).

## **Good Agricultural Practice and social/labour standards**

Agriculture, Biosecurity, Nutrition and Consumer Protection Department (AG)

Websites: <http://www.fao.org/ag/> and <http://www.fao.org/ag/magazine/0504sp3.htm>

Contact person: Loretta Sonn, Anne-Sophie Poisot

FAO's Basic Principles of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) include, among other aspects, social aspects of production, such as labour standards and eliminating the use of child labour. GAP codes, standards and regulations have appeared in recent years from the food industry and producers organizations but also governments and NGOs, aiming to codify agricultural practices through farm level certification for a range of agricultural products. Implementation of GAP is increasingly used as part of a food chain approach to food safety which includes GAP at farm-level, and along the chain Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Good Hygiene Practices (GHP), Good Laboratory Practices (GLP), as well as the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system.

GAP are intended as “practices that address (1) environmental, (2) economic and (3) social sustainability for on-farm processes, and result in (4) safe and quality food and non-food agricultural products” (FAO 2003). These four pillars or dimensions of GAP are included in most private or public sector standards, but the scope which they actually cover varies widely. The concept of GAP should serve as a reference tool for deciding, at each step in the production process, on practices and/or outcomes that are environmentally sustainable and socially acceptable and lead to safe and high quality food.

Good Practices for SARD encompass a broad range of technical and institutional practices intended to achieve sustainable management of the natural resource base while also securing sustainable livelihoods for the rural poor. The implementation of GAP should therefore contribute strongly to Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD).

ILO and especially IPEC could provide assistance in refining the GAP principles of FAO; provide guidance and tools on how to assess and identify good practices with relation to the elimination of hazardous child labour that should be replicated and promoted as part of GAP and other certifications; help define approaches to work with farmers and exporters groups to promote sensitization activities and incentives towards the voluntary elimination of hazardous child labour as part of GAP and other certifications, and help identify the best ways to sensitise the private sector on social GAP principles (consumers’ role, incentives, binding regulations, among others).

## **Reinforcement of rural institutions and capacity-building**

Rural Institutions and Participation Service (SDAR)

Websites: [http://www.fao.org/sd/indef\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/indef_en.htm) [http://www.fao.org/sd/in2\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/in2_en.htm)

and [http://www.fao.org/sd/in3\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/in3_en.htm)

Contact person: Jennie Dey de Pryck, Olivier Dubois, Bernd Seiffert

FAO’s activities on capacity building of rural organisations, including cooperatives, micro and medium enterprises, and national institutions, can contribute to creating an enabling environment for interventions aimed at eradicating child labour.

In order to reinforce formal and informal organisations’ role in the process of rural development requires strengthening their business competitiveness and efficiency, assessing the effectiveness of local and national level institutions and policies, and creating viable and

sustainable options for vertical and horizontal diversification. The Rural Institutions and Participation Service (SDAR) has many years of experience and in-depth expertise in the following areas: policy advice, capacity building and technical assistance to support the development of sustainable rural livelihoods, the alleviation of poverty, the enhancement of food security, and disaster risk mitigation and management, with the objective of strengthening national institutions in the public, private and civil society sectors to plan, implement and evaluate policy and institutional strategies for SARD.

The Rural Institutions and Participation Service is currently investigating how its expertise on institutions could support workers' unions, especially in the area of service provision and health and safety measures and other social support services.

Cooperatives can tackle hazardous child labour in two main ways. Firstly, they can ensure that members and others who have business dealings with them do not use child labour either directly or indirectly. This means that in addition to banning the direct hiring of children, the cooperatives make sure that labour supplied by contractors and subcontractors does not include children and that agricultural produce supplied to the cooperative by outgrower farmers is not produced using child labour. Secondly, they can use their influence to combat child labour with other industries along the food supply chain.

The Rural Development Division (SDA) of FAO has a long-standing working relationship with the Cooperative Branch of ILO in the field of small-scale rural enterprises and the development of agricultural/rural cooperatives as well as within the framework of the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC). Other areas that could provide opportunities for increased FAO/ILO collaboration in the promotion of rural enterprise groups and cooperatives are: rural microfinance and small group enterprise development; National Cooperative Legislation; cooperative capacity building through training; role of cooperatives in preventing HIV/AIDS in agriculture, and computerization of agricultural cooperatives and producer organizations through initiatives such as [www.CoopWorks.org](http://www.CoopWorks.org).

## **Partnerships and Alliances, collaboration with civil society and other stakeholders**

### **Sustainable agriculture and rural development (SARD) Initiative**

Website: [www.fao.org/sard/initiative](http://www.fao.org/sard/initiative)

Contact person: Eve Crowley

### **International Alliance Against Hunger**

Office of the WFS follow-up and Alliances

Website: [www.iaahp.net](http://www.iaahp.net)

Email: [IAAH@fao.org](mailto:IAAH@fao.org)

### **UN System Network on Rural Development and Food Security**

Website: [www.rdfs.net](http://www.rdfs.net)

Contact person: Stephane Jost

With government support, FAO is increasingly working with a wide range of stakeholder organisations as primary actors in the promotion of sustainable agriculture and rural development (SARD). The SARD Initiative, an alliance between civil society, represented by the Major Groups, governments and intergovernmental institutions, links policy to action on sustainable rural development<sup>5</sup>. As seen above, promoting fair conditions of employment in

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<sup>5</sup> The Major Groups as established in Agenda 21, the blueprint for sustainable development in the 21st century, which was adopted at the UN Conference on Environment and Development, 1992, and are farmers, indigenous

agriculture is one of the three thematic areas selected in consultation with Major Groups. Other relevant partnerships include:

- The UN System Network on Rural Development and Food Security of which ILO is already a member. Activities in the Network include participation in National Thematic Groups as well as support to the international Secretariat (information dissemination, technical notes, etc). The UN System Network also supports the implementation of the International Alliance Against Hunger.
- The International Alliance Against Hunger, a voluntary association of local, national and international institutions and organizations with the common mission of eradicating world hunger and poverty through a combination of political will and practical action. The International Alliance also supports individual countries in setting up National Alliances that will focus on their specific needs, and provides a forum for bringing together different levels and perspectives of the fight against hunger.

### **Integrated pest management (IPM), Pesticides management**

Plant Protection Service (AGPP)

Contact person: Niek Van der Graaff; Peter Kenmore

<http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/agpp/ipm/>

For Pesticide Management

Contact person: Mark Davis

Website: <http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid>

Pesticides are one of the main hazards faced by child labourers in agriculture, and preventing or reducing their exposure to these chemicals is critical for their safety. It should be noted that children are more vulnerable to the acute and chronic toxic effects of pesticides than adults and therefore normal control and protection measures are generally inadequate to protect children. FAO plays a central role in improving standards on pesticides use and disposal, and its many programmes and projects in this area are of direct relevance to child labour. They include:

- Implementing *FAO's International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides*, which attempts to establish a minimum international standard for regulation and control of pesticides by governments and the pesticide industry
- Acting as the joint Secretariat for pesticides for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade 1998, in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)<sup>6</sup>

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peoples, workers and trade unions, business and industry, women, youth, non-government organizations, local authorities, and the scientific and technological community.

<sup>6</sup> The Rotterdam Convention aims to ensure that international shipment of a *chemical that has been banned or severely restricted* in any country in order to protect human health or the environment, or, *severely hazardous pesticide formulations causing health or environmental problems under conditions of use in developing countries*, do not proceed without the *prior consent* of the government of the importing country, based on *prior information* on the hazards of the chemical, and prevention and control measures etc, from the exporter (or via the importer) of that substance.

- Supporting countries in identifying and disposing of obsolete pesticide stocks and building capacity to reduce reliance on pesticides and improve pesticide management with the objective of preventing future accumulation of obsolete products
- Promoting non-chemical means of pest control in Farmer Field Schools through use of Integrated Pest and Production Management (IPPM) techniques.

The ILO is also centrally involved in preventing and reducing the occupations risks associated with pesticides, and is involved in several of the processes/fora listed above.

Action point: FAO will make efforts to integrate awareness and training on child protection from pesticides into activities that address pesticide management in countries. FAO and ILO will collaborate in the development of appropriate informational and training materials to support these activities and will pilot joint activities to test the efficacy of the materials and approaches developed. FAO could also explore ways to link the above processes to the implementation of ILO Convention 184 “Concerning the Safety and Health in Agriculture”.

### **HIV and AIDS in agriculture**

Gender and Population Division (SDW)

Website: [http://www.fao.org/sd/pe1\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/pe1_en.htm)

<http://www.fao.org/hiv aids/> and [http://www.fao.org/hiv aids/publications/labour\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/hiv aids/publications/labour_en.htm)

Contacts person: for HIV/AIDS Gabriel Rugalema; for JFFLS: John Hourihan and Carol Djeddah

Children orphaned by AIDS are likely to be at risk from hazardous labour, malnutrition, disease, abuse, stigmatisation and sexual exploitation. As parents and family members become ill, children take on greater domestic, agricultural and income generating responsibilities. Young people are increasingly becoming the most affected age-group in the developing world, and there are strong links between HIV and AIDS, youth, and poverty.

FAO’s *Initiative in support of AIDS orphans and vulnerable children* stems from the recognition that as a result of HIV and AIDS, children are negatively affected in a variety of ways ranging from loss of parents, early participation in the job market (sometimes forcibly), missing out on parent-child skills transfer and socialisation, loss of access to assets, deterioration of livelihoods, having to take responsibility for the household and care giving responsibilities at a young age, increased poverty and vulnerability. Since 2003 FAO, in collaboration with WFP and UNICEF have piloted the Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS), designed specifically to strengthen agricultural and life skills and capabilities of orphans and vulnerable children.

### **Fisheries**

Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP)

Website: <http://www.sflp.org/>

Contact person: Benoit Horemans

Although data on child labour in fisheries is rarely available, as surveys generally group agriculture, forestry and fisheries together. Some countries disaggregate the agricultural sectors, as for example Ghana, El Salvador and the Philippines. Even though the lack of data limits the analysis, inland and marine fisheries represent one of the most hazardous agricultural sub-sectors where many children are employed. A study on inland and marine fisheries by FAO in West African countries highlighted the large use of child labour in fisheries in that region. This was one of the findings, for example, of a 2002 poverty profile studies on Lake Volta (Ghana). Trafficking of child labourers in fisheries is increasingly

recognised as a big issue, particularly in India, Bangladesh, and West Africa. However, some of the reports of trafficking in fisheries-related work could derive from alarmist views, as these phenomena could in some instances be better described as (voluntary or involuntary) child labour migration. In West Africa (and other parts of Africa and irrespective of the AIDS-pandemic), for instance, it is common for children to temporarily migrate and move between households.

The Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) in collaboration with the University of East Anglia is undertaking research on hazardous child labour in fisheries, and will publish soon a technical paper and a policy brief. The SARD Initiative in collaboration with the Fisheries Department in 2006-07 will implement a project aimed at capacity building of small scale fisheries in West Africa to promote the implementation of the code of conduct for responsible fisheries. Main activities will include development of manuals and other training and resource materials, training and capacity building. This activity will be linked to other programmes for safety at sea. In collaboration with IPEC a specific component on child labour could be included.

### **Land tenure, Agrarian Reform and Rural Development**

International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD)

Land Tenure Service (SDAA)

Websites: [www.icarrd.org](http://www.icarrd.org) and [http://www.fao.org/sd/in1\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/in1_en.htm)

Contact person: Parviz Koohafkan and Paul Munro-Faure

Access to land and other productive resources are key to sustainable livelihoods, however children and youth are rarely recognised in terms of rights of ownership and access to natural resources. To promote greater accountability of public and private actors by strengthening civil society institutions, especially those representing the poor and disadvantaged groups, the Land Tenure Service of FAO (SDAA) works on improving the effectiveness of institutional structures and processes and making national policies and programmes more pro rural poor in the decentralisation process. It provides technical assistance for the harmonisation of traditional and communal land tenure systems and the recognition and formalisation of rights of access to natural resources, especially of vulnerable groups, including the youth; restructuring of rural institutions and identifying and preparing projects on land tenure institution building for food security and sustainable rural development; formulation of methodologies for government-assisted land tenure policies to improve access to land by disadvantaged groups; improvement of land markets, leasing arrangements, and private land transaction policies and institutional support to improve access by the poor for sustainable use of natural resources; modifications of land tenure systems to promote rural development under indigenous and common property resource management; land tenure regularization and land administration services; promotion of participatory territorial development approaches; analysis of migration and utilisation of remittances for acquisition of land. The Land Tenure Service is taking the lead in a series of activities aimed at identifying good practices and lessons learned for increasing poor people's access to land and other natural resources, and increase security and continuity of property rights for the most vulnerable, with the objective of supporting the newly established High Level Commission for the Legal Empowerment of the Poor. One of the target group to be addressed will be women, widows and youth<sup>7</sup>.

The International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD), Porto Alegre, Brazil, in March 2006, also recognised the linkages between land and labour. Follow up to the Conference declaration could provide an opportunity to address hazardous child

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<sup>7</sup> See <http://legalempowerment.undp.org/>

labour elimination through the interaction between access and tenure of resources, labour markets and rural development. ILO-IPEC could support FAO in identifying key areas for action.

### **Governance and Decentralisation**

Websites: [http://www.fao.org/sd/dim\\_pe2/pe2\\_050402a1\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/dim_pe2/pe2_050402a1_en.htm)  
and [http://www.fao.org/sard/common/ecg/1490/en/Leaflet5\\_10x21\\_Marrone\\_Sabbia\\_E.pdf](http://www.fao.org/sard/common/ecg/1490/en/Leaflet5_10x21_Marrone_Sabbia_E.pdf)  
Contact person: Paolo Groppo and Jean Bonnal

FAO's Negotiated Territorial Development (NTD) Approach and the ILO Local Economic Development (LED) Programme activities could represent an opportunity for concrete field level collaboration especially in view of the Land Tenure Service's field activities in the area of land tenure and rural development. FAO has a major role in contributing to build the pre-conditions for the participation of the poor and vulnerable groups in socio-economic development through capacity-building and reinforcement of community-based organisation and their representative bodies. These approaches can also provide opportunities for restructuring public institutions at different administrative levels, applying multi-stakeholder participatory and people-centred approaches, and linking public and civil society organisations to grassroots-level institutions and action programmes.

### **Indigenous peoples**

Rural Development Division  
Contact person: Adriana Herrera, Eve Crowley, Mario Acunzo

FAO (especially through the Land Tenure Service, the Livelihoods Support Programme, the Resources and Strategic Partnerships Unit, the SARD Initiative and the Communication for Rural Development Group) is developing a conceptual framework to mainstream indigenous peoples issues and work within FAO. Part of the work involves the identification of a strategy and a programme to mainstream and harmonise FAO's regular programme and field activities with indigenous peoples needs and issues, on priority areas such as access to resources, income generating activities and cultural indicators, all of which impinge in hazardous child labour.

FAO and ILO have developed a proposal for a joint programme on Strengthening Indigenous Peoples livelihoods in the Mekong Sub-Region to contribute to the sustainable development of indigenous peoples living in the highlands of the Mekong sub-region through assistance in revitalization of their traditional employment practices and to improve their rights and policies for their own development. Both agencies' programmes and activities involving Indigenous Peoples could benefit from enhanced collaboration by increased information exchange on their policies vis a vis indigenous peoples, joint inter-agency review of lessons emerging from the implementation of policies and programmes to assist indigenous peoples.

The ILO-IPEC could support FAO in harmonising indigenous human rights-based approaches and sustainable development goals, and support a wider application of Convention 169 in countries that have ratified their agreement to the Convention. A collaboration with ILO-IPEC in targeting child labour in indigenous communities, also through communication and education could a natural development of the already existing work programme.

## **Communication for development**

Sustainable Development Department

Websites: [http://www.fao.org/sd/kn1\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/kn1_en.htm) ; <http://www.fao.org/sd/ruralradio>

Contact person: Mario Acunzo

FAO has developed communication systems geared towards and managed by rural people to promote the sharing of knowledge and information among rural groups in collaborative agriculture and rural development activities. The distinguishing feature of FAO's programme is the use of a participatory and multi-media approach to rural communication that blends appropriate new information and communication technologies (ICT) with local and indigenous practices and sources of information. The ILO-IPEC could support FAO in developing communication initiatives targeting children and youth, as alternative training systems, and for creating awareness about issues of hazardous child labour.

## **Training and education**

Education for Rural People Programme (ERP)

Website: <http://www.fao.org/sd/erp/>

Contact person: Lavinia Gasperini

Of the many training, education and curriculum development activities of FAO, the Education for Rural People Programme (ERP) (in collaboration with UNESCO) is of particular relevance for strategies for elimination of child labour. Education is an essential prerequisite for reducing poverty, improving agriculture and the living conditions of rural people and building a food-secure world. Education is a basic right in itself. In spite of this, children's access to education in rural areas is still much lower than in urban areas, adult illiteracy is much higher and the quality of education is poorer. The objectives of the ERP programme are:

- Overcoming the urban/rural gap in education.
- Increasing access to basic Education for Rural People
- Improving the quality of basic Education for Rural People
- Fostering the national capacity to plan and implement ERP as part of National Education for All and Rural Development Plans.
- Building awareness on the importance of ERP as a crucial step to achieve all the Millennium Development Goals, and particularly, eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education and promoting gender equity.

The programme could be adapted to incorporate specific elements, such a specific module on elimination of child labour

## **5. Summary and conclusions**

This report has identified the main areas and opportunities for collaboration between FAO and ILO for the elimination of hazardous child labour in agriculture, with the aim of providing a starting point for discussions on a joint FAO/ILO strategy on child labour. By analysing FAO's and ILO's comparative advantages, fields of expertise and by providing insights on FAO's activities, programmes and priority areas relevant for policies on child labour, this report concludes that there are a number of entry points to define a joint strategy on the elimination of hazardous child labour, and provides suggestions on next steps under each thematic areas. Other issues that should be kept in mind when defining a joint strategy, which are FAO's recognised fields of expertise with relevance to child labour, and that could be explored further in subsequent debates are summarised in the table included as annex.

## Annex: Other FAO's thematic areas of relevance to child labour

<p><b>Food security and farming systems</b>  Nutrition and health  Issues of Right to Food  Social Protection measures (including Food For Work programmes)</p>
<p><b>Access to and management of resources</b>  Sustainable use of natural resources  Vulnerability to risk and shocks, including natural resource management  Conflict over access to and management of natural resources</p>
<p><b>Economic trends, trade, value chains</b>  Enterprise development, small and medium enterprise, off-farm income generating activities.  Fair trade / voluntary application of codes of practice  Impact of globalisation on commercial agriculture / contractual arrangements  Rural employment for adults</p>
<p><b>Enabling environment, capacity building of rural institutions</b>  Reinforcing social capital at community level and awareness raising  Strengthening of agricultural workers trade unions  Promoting participation of children and youth through their associations in decision making at local and national level</p>
<p><b>Education and human capital</b>  Availability and quality of (primary and secondary) education in rural areas  Farming skills, transfer and continuity of knowledge  Targeted extension services</p>
<p><b>Labour market</b>  Trafficking of children in commercial agriculture vs voluntary child migration  Migrant labour  Bonded labour in agriculture  Contractual arrangements (piece-rate etc) and impact on use of child labour  Laws and regulation of agricultural employment</p>
<p><b>Health and safety</b>  Agricultural practices that are less hazardous for children (reduced use of pesticides etc)  HIV/AIDS as a workplace issue in the farm  Targeted health and safety training</p>
<p><b>Good practices</b>  Adoption of appropriate agricultural practices for SARD targeted at children and youth  Training and dissemination methods for scaling up of good practices</p>
<p><b>Communication, awareness and information</b>  Communication strategy for rural areas, identification and upscaling of good practices in communication and information technologies to target rural communities and children  Campaign and awareness raising through extension services</p>