



PROJECT UPDATES

Myanmar Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (My-PEC)

Stakeholders, artists join WDACL 2016

In Myanmar, recent studies on child labour show that about 1 out of 10 children are into child labour, with more than half of them in hazardous work.

This year, the country celebrated the World Day Against Child Labour for the 3rd time. Events were organized in different part of the country (Yangon, Ayeyarwady, Bago, Mon State) with the support of ILO Myanmar Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (MyPEC) and in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Confederation of Trade Unions in Myanmar, Ratana Metta Organization, Sympathy Hands and Jeepyah Civil Society Development Organization.

Participants included representatives from the government, Workers' and Employers' groups, civil society organizations, township and village authorities, parents, children and teachers.

"While other children like me are in school, I have to go to the jungle and pluck the

Labour inspectors, other agencies trained on child labour inspection

"Labour Inspectors and child labour monitors are the core of the fight against Child Labour, especially at the district and community lev-



Saw Phoe Kwar performed a heartfelt rendition of the reggae song "I Wanna Go to School" composed for the child labour campaign during the World Day Against Child Labour celebration in Yangon on 14 June.

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lasia plant every day for our family survival," shared a 14 years old child labourer from Ohn Ship Gone Village, Daik – U Township, Bago Division.

Adults, particularly parents, teachers, community

members and village authorities gained some insights as well. "Today's is a first time I have attended this kind of event where I gained a lot of knowledge on child work, child labour and hazardous work for children. Most of the

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els," highlighted Sivananthiram Alagandram, the trainer for the Training on Child Labour Inspection Skills conducted at Summit Parkview Hotel, Yangon on 17-20 May.

A total of 34 labour inspectors and 14 other stakeholders from the Police, Workers' and other government agencies participated.

The aim of the training was to assist the labour inspectorate in tackling child labour and ensure its integration in the daily work of inspectors through training inspectors using the "Training Tool for Labour Inspectors In Combatting Child Labour in Myanmar" developed by the My-PEC.

Practical topics were discussed including planning child labour inspections, preparing for the child labour inspection visit, conducting the inspection, dealing with uncooperative employers/managers, guidelines and criteria for judgment of some situations, instructions on conducting a closing

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Mon young photographers win national awards

In Mon State, the ILO has been working closely with the Mon Women Empowerment Programme to address child labour and seek innovative approaches to reach out to communities.

A training of trainers on photojournalism was organized with the support of the French Embassy and Yangon Photo festival in November 2015 with the aim of using photographs taken by youth and children to engage dialogue on the issue of child labour at the community level.

One of the outputs of this ongoing initiative is the photo story entitled "Monsoon Plastic Collector" by Mi Lyah Rot and Mi Seik Chan which was awarded 1st prize "Emerging Talent" during this year's Yangon Photo Festival. Another young photographer from Mon State, Chanson was awarded 2nd prize in the same category for her photo story "Long Life Already".



A participant happily received his Certificate of Completion of the 4-day child labour inspection training from Suzanne Yountchi of the US Embassy.

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Key Findings from the Agriculture Sub-Sector Surveys, May 2015

*All of the children surveyed can be classed as "child labour" given the total number of working hours, exposure to workplace hazards, work's interference on one school, or all three factors.

*Children entered the workforce prior to leaving school and many children continue to study while engaging in economic activities in their local sub-sector.

*Reasons for leaving school and entering work include the children's desire to help out family members and generate income and also disinterest in school and need to pay off debt.

Inland fisheries (Labutta, Ayeyarwady)

- Children work along the entire value chain, from the villages to the city-based markets where wholesale products are sold domestically and internationally.
- At the crab and prawn brokers in the town and trading centers, children workers are likely to reside in the production facility where they often work long hours, often at a piece rate. Children in such facilities are at-risk of gross exploitation due the working arrangements.
- Employed children are exposed to inclement weather and rough currents, disease-carrying mosquitoes, sharp equipment like hook and traps, and likelihood of puncture wounds from tying crab claws.
- For those who had left school early, the transition between primary school and secondary school was the most likely time to discontinue schooling.



Sugarcane (Aung Lan, Magway)

- In the study area, Aung Lan, children entered the workforce most commonly around age ten, later than in inland fisheries.
- Peak entry into the workforce aligns with departure from schooling, reaching a high-point after grade 5, roughly eleven to twelve years old. However, it is not universal. Children continue to their schooling while working. In Aung Lan, 47% of children did not attend school in the reference year.

Beans and pulses (Pakokku, Magway)

- Children commonly entered the workforce between age ten and thirteen, though there was no noticeable peak age of entry.
- In Pakokku, 14% of the children surveyed had not been to school in the reference period. As was the case in other study areas, the peak period for children to be pushed out of the school system is at the transition between primary and secondary school, after grade five. Although for children in the area, despite the transition year being a pinnacle of push out, there is a steady year-to-year decrease in school adherence.
- Children working in the sub-sector prepare the land, maintain crops, sow the seed and harvest. Girls and boys do many of the same activities though there is evidence of division of labour by sex.
- Hazards faced by children in bean cultivation include climatic exposure – high and low temperatures, as well as dust. Children tend to use very basic steel tools, but not machinery.
- Most of the children in Pakokku work for their parents.



- Children in sugarcane prepare land, care for and sow seedlings, maintain the crops and harvest. They use knives and machetes which add to the general hazards involved with working in the dusty, sunny, dense sugar fields with snakes.



- Children often work for adults that are not relatives.
- Half of the child workers make half-day and daily rate money in fields owned by non-family members.

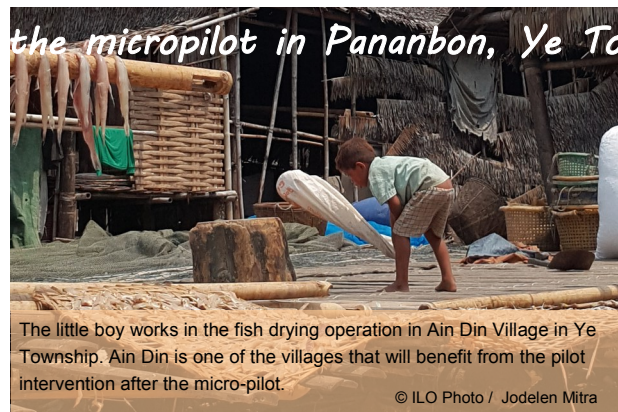
For more information about the survey, contact Hnin Wuit Yee, My-PEC Survey and Research Assistant (yeehw@ilo.org)

Key lessons learnt from the micropilot in Pananbon, Ye Township, Mon State

Cooperation and participation of village authorities and community members: The implementing agency should have a good record and support from the authorities and the community members. Advocacy on Child labour eradication is a social work, and social sensitivity is needed to be taken fully into account. It is critical to sensitize the authorities about this social dimension and the appropriate approaches to promote social sensitivity from the beginning. This will impact the community members' participation to the project and is key in ensuring sustainability of the child labour initiative.

Ethical practices should be adhered to from the initiation to completion phase of the project. Consultations with the communities are essential to identify the real needs of the beneficiaries. Mindful of the project constraints, processes could be developed taking these ethics and plans into consideration.

Timing/Budget: Provision of school supplies is best done at the start of the school year to ease the burden of households in supporting the basic educational needs of their children. Providing support to drop-out children who want to go back to



The little boy works in the fish drying operation in Ain Din Village in Ye Township. Ain Din is one of the villages that will benefit from the pilot intervention after the micro-pilot.

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school will need to consider the next enrolment. Some schools may accommodate late enrollees. Other children may opt for informal/non-formal education if they miss formal school enrolment.

On the other hand, developing livelihood takes time - implementation should take a year or more. Larger funding is also needed to ensure that the cycle of poverty is broken. Making use of Value Chain Assessment and Local Economic Development approach to determine livelihood potentials would identify livelihoods that will be more value-oriented and the requirements of reaching income potentials (skills, markets, technologies, etc.).

Capacity building and systems: Capacity building support to implementing partners is necessary as they go through the learning curve of implementation. This should also cover mentoring going through workplan and discussing issues thoroughly and openly and finding resolutions. Setting up regular implementing

agencies coordination meetings are encouraged. Implementing agencies' monitoring systems should find out how their interventions are affecting the beneficiaries to have a basis for re-strategizing or planning. Livelihood monitoring must include details about the household's increased capacity to support the needs of its members, capacity to continue or expand their businesses, the reasons behind their capacities and actions, among other things.

Interventions: On awareness raising, the frequency and method matter. Multiple awareness raising activities on a short period of time may be effective in amplifying the issue at that given time. However, as time elapse and other community and household issues arise, child labour issues are put aside and does not seem urgent. We should utilize means of providing constant reminder about the issues through IEC materials and tackling child labour in community meetings. However, it has to be noted that child labour has to be tackled from various angles addressing its root causes. Therefore, awareness raising has to go with education, livelihood and safe work interventions.





Series of events commemorated World Day Against Child Labour in Myanmar

YANGON: 14 June, Summit Parkview Hotel



Members of the TWG-CL, the government, workers, employers, UN, CSOs, youths and media were represented.

ILO, the government, workers and employers altogether called for the elimination of child labour in Myanmar and expressed the continued commitment to the cause. The government mentioned that they are taking the lead in the fight against child labour in the country

Child labour-related performances were given by reggae star Saw Phoe Kwar, Ratana Metta and FXB and the video animation on child labour was launched.

BAGO: 11 June, Dauk-U Township In partnership with: Confederation of Trade Union in Myanmar



Teacher Naw Sumon Thein of Sarnel Kalel School, a joint Monastic School shared with My-PEC that this child labour event is first time for her and the whole community. "We do not have child labour knowledge before. Children are not aware of their rights." For her WDACL message she urged the government to provide free and compulsory quality education to eliminate child labour; UN, government, employers and workers to collaborate with each other; employers to adhere with existing government's rules and regulations and give support to education; and for parents to value education.

YANGON: 12 June, Ward 87, Dagon Seikkan Township In partnership with: Ratana Metta Organization





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Series of events commemorated World Day Against Child Labour

YANGON: 12 June, Ward 87, Dagon Seikkan Township In partnership with: Ratana Metta Organization



Daw Hla Hla Htwe of Ward 87 is a 10 households head and is struggling to make a living herself. "My salary is not enough to send to my children to school because high school student fees are very expensive such as tuition fees, study guide' fees and other cost of reference books. My husband got into accident last year so our family has very low income. Presently, we are renting the house with 25,000 Kyats per month. I want to see my daughter succeed as a nurse or teacher or singer in the future." Her daughter is sixteen years old and is currently working in the garment factory to augment the household income.

MON: 15 June, Ye Township

In partnership with: Jeepyah Civil Society Development Organization



"Learning and playing are my favorite hobby that's why I come to school every day as much as I can. During the days when I cannot attend school, I feel very sad. However, I would like to become a dutiful daughter for my parents and I need to help my parents' work. My parents are working in the vegetable farms and orchards as daily workers but my mother is not in good health and she need to take care of her youngest daughter. I also help my parents for household chores, taking care siblings and also working in the farm. Last year my right leg got injured using the mattock in the vegetable farm. I couldn't go to school for couple of weeks due to this wound that this made me difficult to follow my lessons. One of my dreams is to become a teacher so I could teach the poor children like me in the small village." - Mi Kun Htaw, first prize winner of Arts contest

AYEYARWADY : 19 June, Labutta Township In partnership with: Sympathy Hands



The rainy weather didn't stop the Sympathy Hands, Swan Saung Shin and ILO team in conducting the WDACL celebration in Poe Laung Village, Poe Laung Village Tract, Labutta on 19 June. The event was attended by village and village tract authorities, parents, children and other community members, Games for children were held and school supplies were given away.





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Stakeholders, artists join WDACL 2016

children in the village work in some kind of hazardous work which use hazardous tools, materials and sometimes in hazardous condition such as working during night time, under direct sunlight, climb the trees, in the farm where they might encounter poisonous snakes and insects,” said a primary school teacher, Kan Ni Village, Mon State.

Two Myanmar artists, Nyan Kyal Say and Saw Phoe Kwar collaborated with the ILO to raise awareness on Child Labour in Myanmar as part of the national campaign. The video animation and song were presented during the National Event on June 14 in Yangon.

According to Nyan Kyal Say, an award-winning animation artist, he decided to make a short ani-

ated film named “I Wanna Go to School” to point out some of the main obstacles the children have been facing, to raise people’s awareness and to motivate people to help the children – particularly, child labourers, in any possible way.

On the other hand, Saw Phoe Kwar, the only reggae singer in Myanmar mentioned that “Wherever I go anywhere in the country I spend most of my time with children. I always wonder about the problems of and solutions to the under-age children I see working at the tea-shops, road construction, cleaning places

and selling flower near the traffic lights.”

Youth artists from Ratana Metta Organization and FXB also presented during the events.

All these artists believe that their collaboration, as well as those of other artists will be extremely helpful to eliminating of child labour in the world someday.



ILO trains workers, employers, CSOs on CL



Members of the CSOs in Shan State planned for their mock presentation playing the roles of advocates to parents.

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My-PEC embarked on a series of trainings using the project-developed child labour training modules for specific target groups.

Trainings for Workers’ groups and civil society organizations (CSO) were conducted by My-PEC simultaneously on 8-9 March in Yangon and Taunggyi, Shan State, respectively. An Employers’ Training was conducted in Yangon on 27-28 April.

All trainings were held to raise the levels of awareness and capacity of different groups to address child labour. As such, topics such as

roles of and immediate actions that could be done by employers, workers, and CSOs were specifically covered.

There were 27 participants from eight (8) workers’ organizations, 12 CSO members and 16 participants from affiliate members of UMFCCI who benefitted from such trainings.

Participants also identified potential interventions that can be carried out by their organizations including mainstreaming in their own programs.

Most CSO participants belong to youth networks who are experienced in providing different social services despite being young. There were a lot of interactions. Games, group work and role-playing activities were introduced.

The activity in Shan State was in done in collaboration with the ILO Shan Project for Peace, Reconciliation & Development through Community Empowerment.



Representatives of workers’ organizations developed risk assessments about child labour in different sectors.

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Labour inspectors, other agencies trained on child labour inspection

meeting, follow-up on the inspection visits, issuing notices, writing reports and record keeping and how to conduct a training action.

Representatives of different agencies were given the chance to be resource persons in the panel discussions. Participants also did mock presentations at the end of the training.



The Myanmar Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (My-PEC) is an ILO four-year project that aims to develop a comprehensive, inclusive and efficient multi-stakeholder response to reduce child labour in Myanmar. The information contained in this newsletter reflect only some of the activities and outputs that the project has delivered since its official start. For more information please send an email to Selim Benaissa through yangon@ilo.org or call +95 1-2336538 .

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