



PROJECT UPDATES

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



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A girl from Ward 87, Dagon (Myothit) Seikkan in Yangon. The Ward will be one of the three pilot areas for direct intervention of My-PEC.

Stakeholders converge to identify pilot areas, direct services

“This is an evolution. Other organizations go to our areas and implement with their logical frameworks and M&E plan already completed, without consulting us what we need. This participatory approach is excellent,” said Salai Kee Law Har of Kyaung Htar Mi Khin referring to My-PEC process of identifying interventions for Poe Laung Village Tract, Labutta Township, Ayeyarwady Region.

The workshop was held on 15-16 October and another similar workshop was conducted for Ward 87, Dagon (Myothit) Seikkan in Yangon on 12-13 October.

The two workshops were participated by local stakeholders including representatives of the General Administration Department (GAD), Department of Labour, Factories General Labour Laws and Inspection Department (FGLLID), non-government organizations (NGOs), workers organizations, community members and leaders, children and

parents. As part of the process, the data from GAD and focus group discussions with parents, children and community members were presented by My-PEC and analysed collectively with the participants.

The selection of Poe Laung Village Tract and Ward 87 as pilot communities also followed a community-driven participatory approach. This was done after data from the 2013 Myanmar Census and 2015 ILO Internal Migration Study provided key indicators for identifying regions and townships.

The My-PEC Project Steering Committee validated the methodology on 26 August.



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A focus group discussion with mothers was facilitated by My-PEC Asst. M&E Officer Ei Haymar in Ward 87, Dagon (Myothit) Seikkan, Yangon on 28 September.

Hazardous work list process initiated

The determination of hazardous work was the highlight of the 9th Technical Working Group on Child Labour (TWG-CL) Plenary Session in Yangon on 17 August.

In his opening remarks, DG U Win Shein emphasized the important role of the TWG-CL and the necessity of making sure that efforts are aligned with international standards.

FGLLID has started coordinating with other agencies since June 2015 and encouraged them to contribute data that may be used for the hazardous work determination process. Additional information about potential hazardous work were shared by the participants during the Plenary.

The first of a series of workshops for the determination of the hazardous work was held on 9 October with the TWG-CL and facilitated by My-PEC Chief Technical

CSO members become CL trainers



© ILO Photo / Hnin Wuit Yee

Officer Saw Hsar Ka Baw and Survey and Research Assistant Ma Hnin Wuit Yee in Mawlamyine, Mon State on 01-05 September 2015. The ToT was organized by Mon Women Organization (MWO) with

A “Training of Trainers (ToT) on Child Labour for Civil Society Organization Members” was conducted by My-PEC

Project Steering Committee established

The My-PEC Project Steering Committee (PSC) was formally established on 26 August to provide technical guidance on ensuring that project activities and outputs are sustainable and relevant to the country context and that the project approaches are participatory, effective, efficient and transparent.

FGLLID, Agriculture and Farmers' Federation of Myanmar, Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar, Myanmar Trade Union Federation and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry are the members of the PSC who

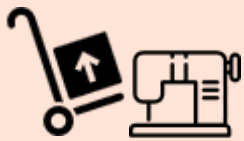


Key Findings from the Child Labour Rapid Assessment in Hlaing Thar Yar Industrial Zone

Child labour exists in the Hlaing Thar Yar Industrial Zone. Half of the interviewed children were below the legal age for employment of 13 years old in Myanmar. Almost all of them worked in excess of the maximum working hours prescribed by the law for different age groups.



The formal sector, particularly the garment and food factories were also found to employ children .



Children were found performing a wide variety of jobs such as sewing and water delivery.

Working children dropped out of school to pursue work.



The younger the child, the smaller the remuneration, and the more likely to work in informal sector.



The sense of obligation to work to support their families is very high among child labourers and even higher in female-headed households.



Children working in the informal sector are more exposed to hazards with greater risks of illness and injuries.

In addition to poverty being the main reason for child labour, the lack of coherent legislation is a major challenge.



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Hazardous work list process initiated

Adviser Selim Benaissa.

Hazardous work list is very critical for the enforcement of child labour policies in the country and identification of work not fitted for children, but provisions have to also consider impact to youth employment, as emphasized by Mr Benaissa.

The TWG-CL is showing keen interest in going through a series of workshops for the development of the hazardous work list. The ILO recognized this and as Liaison Officer, a.i. Piyamal Pichaiwongse articulated in her speech on 17 August, “the ILO noted an increase of understanding and recognition of the issue of child labour among different stakeholders, this is partic-

ularly demonstrated in the level of participations during previous workshops and meetings. Our key concern is whether the commitment built until today will remain or grow after the elections.” and we hope it will.” 


CSO members become CL trainers

financial support from the French Embassy and technical support from ILO.

Fourteen (14) women members and representatives of MWO from Ye, Than Phyu Zaya and Mawlamyine Townships attended the training. They have prior experience facilitating activities on social issues related to child labour.


The training involved discussions, case studies and group works on facts about child labour, international conventions and national laws, child labour situation and hazardous work and roles of CBOs,

NGOs, and other community members in combating child labour. Practical exercise on training planning and conduct was done on the last two days.

Local representatives of the FGLLID also participated on the first day and shared their knowledge about national legislations, trafficking and labour inspection in Mon State. 

Project Steering Committee established

will meet on a quarterly basis to discuss project updates, concerns and plans. Other agencies will be invited when needed.

On its first meeting on 26 August, the PSC validated the project methodology for selecting its pilot areas, namely: Ye Township, Mon State; Dagon (Myothit) Seikkan, Yangon; and Labutta, Ayeyarwady. 



FEATURE STORY

It takes a village to raise a child

Article and photos by Jodelen Mitra, My-PEC M&E Officer



Child labourers participated in the focus group discussions conducted in pilot communities.

Talking to Kyaw Win (not his real name) is like talking to an adult. He seems certain about his responses to our questions, expressing them with confidence - although his downcast expression tells another story.

At his age of 15, he should be in Grade 11 by now. But that's not the case. He quitted Grade 8 three years ago when his father died, leaving him and his three siblings with their mother who is a vendor. His two older sisters are already married and his only brother works in a factory.

At 12 years old, Kyaw Win started working in a wood factory for MMK 3,000.00 daily wage. His work is similar to that of adult - 8:00AM to 5:00PM from Monday to Saturday morning. He started work under the legal age for employment and while he considers his job of lifting

woods hazardous, he has no occupational safety and health benefits. His employer is unregistered with the government and is not visited by labour inspectors. There is also no hazardous work list in the country yet.

Many children in Ward 87 where Kyaw Win lives are too young to work and should be in school instead. For him, parents have the primary responsibility to send and encourage their children to go to school. He added with conviction that, "When children are educated, the future is brighter." That was his way of revealing his aspiration to us.

Child labourers in Ward 87 are not all like Kyaw Win who values education. Many are no longer interested to go to back to formal school. Some hope to be enrolled in vocational trainings someday to be more skillful on mechanical and factory-related work. Others are contented with their current earnings and prefer to continue their work instead.



This little boy dragging a pail of water was seen during the field work in Ward 87. Some households get the children to work as early as this boy's age to help mothers in household chores when fathers are at work.



Ma Sandar Hlaing, a child monitor in Ward 87

The community has a big influence on this, according to Ma Sandar Hlaing, a World Vision child monitor. "Vices are rampant in this community. Child labourers also get into these. There is so much illiteracy among the people. Some community members influence the children to stop attending school and just go to work."

Indeed, the community stakeholders understand the complexity of the issue and as they pointed out during the Workshop for Designing of Direct Interventions on 12-13 October, the following problems have to be addressed comprehensively by different stakeholders: household poverty, lack of access to quality education, lack of access to safe work for youth and low level of awareness and understanding of community members about child labour.

My-PEC aims to remove and prevent children from child labour in Ward 87 with its pilot programme. It's going to take a multi-stakeholder approach to help the likes of Kyaw Win.



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 566538.

Funding for this ILO project is provided by the United States Department of Labor (Project MMR/13/10/USA). This material does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of Labor, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the United States Government.