Project No. 4-1

Region: Asia
Country: Bangladesh

Project:
Prevention and Elimination of Selected Worst Forms of Child Labour in the Informal Economy of Dhaka City, Bangladesh

Project Description:
This IPEC Project in Bangladesh has developed and implemented a comprehensive package of strategies, models and interventions to effectively combat child labour reaching approximately 80,000 direct beneficiaries in 100 communities in Dhaka. Four major strategies are used:

1. The Social Protection strategy reaches four groups of beneficiaries: child labourers; their families/guardians; their employers; and the communities in which they live. Child labourers between 8 and 15 years of age engaged in the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) are gradually withdrawn from work and provided with alternatives in the form of Non Formal Education (NFE) for younger children followed by mainstreaming them into the primary education system or transferring them for skill training. Older children are provided with Skill Development Training (SDT), followed by job placements in viable and decent wage employment, self-employment, or in monitored apprenticeships. Through the Project's Social and Economic Empowerment program (SEE), guardians of former child labourers are eligible for micro-credit support for Income Generating Activities, in combination with saving schemes in order to shift their dependency away from their children's earnings. The SEE program also imparts training on entrepreneurship, human rights, gender, health and hygiene, early marriage and dowry. Supplementary services on nutrition, primary health care, legal aid and counseling are provided through a private and public (often community based) service provider network. 84 Multi-Purpose Centres and 2 ful-fledged Vocational Training Centres form the Project's implementation infrastructure. These Centres are focal points for service delivery and for community mobilization and participation through Centre Management and Vigilance Committees, the latter supplementing the child labour monitoring system.

2. The participatory Monitoring, Verification and Tracking system enables the identification and surveying of beneficiaries, the verification of data, the monitoring of employers' compliance while tracking the progress made by and the services supplied to each individual beneficiary. The system can facilitate credible analysis on the impact of interventions.

3. The Advocacy and Awareness component contributes to social mobilization at community and national levels to eliminate WFCL. Activities relate to raising awareness on the causes and consequences of child labour, and the key role stakeholders can play to fight it. Regular community meetings, street drama performances, round table dialogue, long-term media programmes, and nationally broadcast video documentaries are held. The project also develops and disseminates calendars, posters, newsletters, and leaflets.

4. To equip the partners with the mind-set, knowledge, and tools to fulfil their respective responsibilities, orientations and trainings are imparted to them under the Capacity Building component, ranging from basic management principles and monitoring to community mobilization and participation.
The Project's integrated approach implemented through the four project components are illustrated in the figure below.

The Project has built alliances with various child rights and child labour related organisations. Through surveys and assessments in conjunction with a constant reflection on experience to date, the project has not only generated a considerable knowledge base on the urban informal economy in Dhaka, but also been able to identify emerging good practices in the fight against child labour in the sector.

**Gender and Ethnic Components:**
The Project pays particular attention to the most vulnerable amongst its target groups, i.e. the youngest children, girl children, child labourers in low-skilled sectors of the informal economy, the poorest and the socially excluded and female guardians, through supplementary measures and interventions that aim at ensuring that these groups have equal access to and gain equal benefit from Project interventions.

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