
- Increased support for the education of target children by government institutions, communities, and households.

The project was designed to work closely with government actors, NGOs, and community-based organizations.

Purpose and Scope of Evaluation
The final evaluation examined project performance to date in relation to stated objectives. Specifically, the aim was to determine the project’s relevance and fulfillment of objectives, to identify challenges and successes, to assess its impact, to provide recommendations to USDOL for future programs, and to share best practices.

Methodology of Evaluation
The evaluation was based on a desk review of relevant documentation, followed by a field mission to Rwanda conducted by Lou Witherite from October 5, 2008 to October 13, 2008 in select districts. The field work consisted of interviews, focus groups, and other information collection techniques with stakeholders including government representatives, volunteer citizens, children, parents of beneficiaries, teachers, district officers, and labor inspectors. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the terms of reference (TOR), as prepared by Macro International with input from USDOL and other key stakeholders.

Performance Summary
At its conclusion, KURET has enrolled in educational services 7,372 children from HIV/AIDS-affected communities, exceeding the project target of 7,000 children. Further, the project has served to positively affect the national enabling environment through partnership with select ministries, as well as the local enabling environment through the mobilization of community based organizations.

U.S. Department of Labor, International Labor Affairs Bureau, Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking
Nonetheless, as a consequence of a lack of an effective exit strategy coupled with financial constraints due to budgetary revisions, sustainability concerns remain evident, with stakeholders expressing reservations that the project ended prematurely.

### Lessons Learned & Recommendations

**Lessons Learned**

- A four-year time frame is not sufficient to put in place the conditions for sustainable efforts to eliminate child labor;
- USDOL requirements for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting served to strengthen national capacity to track incidence of WFCL in Rwanda;
- Creating dependencies among project-supported beneficiaries is a concern and an effective exit strategy should be included within the project design; and
- KURET/Rwanda benefited greatly from the regional structure of the project and the support from the KURET Regional Office, which provided technical expertise and helped strengthen the project’s contributions at the policy level and in the education and child labor monitoring arenas in Rwanda.

**Key Recommendations**

Following are some of the key recommendations for future child labor programming as presented by the evaluator:

- Explore additional ways for parents and community members to contribute to the costs of keeping children in school, and ease out of KURET support;
- Involve children at a deeper level, especially to identify and address problems of working children;
- Expand vocational training to reach more students, provide a broader offering of vocational skills, and train more vocational teachers in learner-centered methods and life skills;
- Incorporate school performance measures of individual children and project-assisted schools into the M&E design;
- Ensure that livelihood support components are embedded in the design of the project from the outset and employ a staff member who is an expert in income generation/livelihood support;
- Bifurcate responsibility for consciousness raising and policy advocacy efforts;
- Develop more creative methods for awareness-raising and involve an awareness-raising coordinator from the outset;
- Articulate a clear, focused, and strengthened HIV/AIDS strategy if it is to be a component of the project’s mission statement;
- Build research components into child labor projects from the beginning, especially in addressing the needs of young children who are heading households, orphans, and the legacy of genocide;
- Establish links with some of Rwanda’s 10 institutions of higher education; and
- Conduct an in-depth knowledge, attitudes, and practice exercise, followed by systematic follow-up to understand the impact the project’s efforts to combat WFCL.