

## **GHANA COUNTRY PROFILE**

### **Prevalence of Worst forms of child labor(WFCL)**

The National Child Labor Survey scheduled for 2013 will probably be the authoritative source of information on the incidence and sectoral distribution of Child Labor in Ghana since the Cocoa Labor Survey in Ghana – 2007/2008.

Ghana has made significant progress towards piloting of the Ghana Child Labor Monitoring System (GCLMS) and is closely collaborating with the US Department of Labor, the international chocolate and cocoa industry, ILO/IPEC and other major stakeholders on this.

The GCLMS will complement the Child Labour Survey in providing conclusive information on Child Labour in Ghana. Meanwhile, the following indicate significant progress in addressing Child Labour in Ghana:

- Glaring incidence of WFCL which was prevalent in agriculture and fishing appear to have decreased considerably
- A monitoring exercise by the National Programme for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Cocoa (NPECLC) in 20 districts and about 200 communities in 5 cocoa producing regions between January 30 and February 14, 2011 indicated that:
  - School attendance had increased. The linkage between regular school attendance and a reduction in Child Labor (CL) is cause for optimism
  - There was general acceptance by parents/guardians of the prevalence of Child Labor; they now appreciate the consequences of CL better. They also accept responsibility to contribute towards eradication of same, although poverty remains a challenge
- Besides poverty, one of the main reasons for CL, as revealed by the Cocoa Labor Survey in Ghana- 2007/2008, is ignorance of the consequences of the effect of CL on the development of the child, the family and the community at large. The sensitization programmes carried out on CL out in all sectors have served to educate the communities. Consequently, parental responsibilities towards children appear to have markedly improved.
- Communities are now increasingly contributing towards the drawing up and implementation of Community Action Plans

### **Children in Domestic Service**

Awareness creation on CL has been quite consistent in the cocoa sector and appear to have had a ripple effect on all sectors, including the use of children in domestic service, particularly in the Ashanti and Greater Accra regions; there is now general acceptance of responsibility to ensure that children not living with their biological parent(s) are in school or undergoing some training to enable them cope in life. Although the number of adequately trained personnel is still a challenge, the Department of Social Welfare and the Ghana National Commission on Children have the capacity to make some impact if their funding requirements improve. It is hoped that the increasingly favorable public perception of the

Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare and appreciation of its challenges will translate into enhanced funding to address the phenomenon.

### **Children in Other Sectors – Kayaye, Street Children, Mining and Quarrying etc**

With the launching of the National Plan of Action(NPA) for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2011 the various Sub-Committees under the National Steering Committee on Child Labor are now poised to commence implementation of their strategies to deal with WFCL in their respective sectors. However, the following beneficiaries have, so far, been reached through the ILO/IPEC Ecowas I Project:

Fishing – 2274 children in WFCL

Mining and Quarrying – 2276 in WFCL

The challenge, even in the cocoa sector which has seen some relative progress, is that the interventions are limited to only a few communities; this is mainly attributable to limited funding.

### **Trafficking**

The Ghana Police Service added 4 new regional Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTU) in its Criminal Investigations Division. The Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) also opened two new anti-trafficking desks on its borders with Togo and Ghana. The records available are as follows:

46 cases of trafficking were reported to AHTU between January , 2010 and March, 2011

23 investigations were completed, 6 prosecuted and 4 convictions obtained with sentences ranging from \$350 to 10 years imprisonment. Prosecutors chose not to pursue 2 cases and 17 others dismissed for lack of evidence or lack of victim assistance

17 additional cases remain under investigation by AHTU

60 GIS officers received anti-sensitization training in November, 2010, as did 40 new officers in 2011.

482 victims were identified in 2011 by the AHTU, the Economic and Organized Crime Office and the GIS; they also referred an unknown number to government and NGO facilities for protection care

### **Laws and Regulations on WFCL**

Ghana ratified ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age on June 6, 2011 and was elected a member of the governing board of the ILO. The Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare is awaiting the validation of the HAF for Mining, Fishing, Agriculture, Domestic Work, Street Hawking, Porters and Cattle Herding to introduce an amendment to the Children's Act.

## **Institutional Mechanism for Enforcement –Government policy on WFCL**

The number of labor inspectors remained 86 in 2011. An approach has been made for recruitment of new personnel, which is awaiting budget clearance. However, the number of labor inspections increased from 140 to 187 in 2011. Tender has also opened for the procurement of one Navarra Pickup to facilitate labor inspection. Public perception of the Ministry has obviously seen considerable positive transformation since 2010 and this is expected to reflect in the Ministry's budget for 2013 and beyond.

## **Coordination**

The National Steering Committee on Child Labour (NSCCL) coordinates the implementation and monitoring of programmes targeting WFCL within the framework of the National Plan of Action on Child Labour which Government adopted on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2010. The NPECLC has also instituted the National Partners Forum for implementing partners in the cocoa sector to enable them share good practices for scaling up, and commenced a coordination forum for the key implementing partners in the cocoa sector to share information on their programmes; the objective here is to avoid duplication, maximize the impact of available resources and expedite progress.

## **Government Policy on WFCL**

The National Plan of Action (NPA) for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor which was adopted by the Government of Ghana on October 20, 2010 was given some publicity at a launching by the Chairman of the Council of State on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2012. The Government has signed Memoranda of Understanding with a number of government agencies to establish their roles in the fight against WFCL. Currently the number of such agencies stands at 36.

Following the signing of the Declaration of Joint Action by the US Department of Labor, the Governments of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, and the chocolate and cocoa industry, the goal of the NPECLC now is a 70 percent reduction in aggregate of WFCL in the cocoa sector by 2020. In the meantime, the NPECLC will continue to contribute towards a significant reduction of WFCL in all other sectors by 2015.

## **Social Programs to eliminate/ prevent WFCL**

- The Capitation Grant Scheme, the Free School Uniform and exercise books Programme and the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) have all made tremendous impact on school enrolment and retention. The GSFP currently covers 645,000 children, with a target of 2 million by the end of 2012.
- The Early Childhood Development Policy has also encouraged parents to take their younger children to kindergartens, where they are available, instead of the farms, thus reducing the risk of child labor.
- The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) has made it possible for parents to access medical care for their children a situation that improves school attendance.

Under the Livelihood Empowerment Against Child Labor (LEAP) Programme 81,000 households were covered by March, 2011. This had increased to 100, 000 with 120,000 beneficiaries at the end of 2011.