

**The Republic of Uganda
Hoima District Local Government**



Hoima District Child Labour Conference

***“Quality Education & Skills Development:
A Sustainable Way of Eliminating Child
Labour in Agriculture”***

**Hoima, Uganda
18-19 May, 2016**

Conference Outcomes and Recommended Actions

Having convened the national pre-conference on *Addressing Child Labour in Agriculture*, organized by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) on 28-29 January 2016; and having convened the *Hoima Child Labour Conference*, organized by the Hoima District Local Government on 18-19 May 2016; in collaboration with the Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco Growing Foundation (ECLT), Uganda Women's Effort to Save Orphans (UWESO), and with the technical support of the International Labour Organization (ILO), and being attended by representatives from the national and district Government; Social Partners; international organizations and development agencies, and non-governmental organizations; corporations, and private sector agricultural producer organizations;

Recognizing child labour is a social problem worldwide and the agricultural sector comprises the largest percentage of child labourers found¹;

Recognizing the efforts by the Government of Uganda in collaboration with workers' and employers' organizations, and with the support of the ILO and other development partners, through the development and implementation of key programs, strategies, and policies including the National Action Plan on the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour (NAP) in Uganda 2012/13-2016/17 to address child labour;

Further recognizing that the National Steering Committee (NSC) has a key role to play and mandate to coordinate the NAP;

Further recognizing that the efforts by the Hoima District Local Government, in collaboration with stakeholders throughout the District, has put in place a District Action Plan (DAP) for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Hoima District, developed in line with the NAP, that can be used by different stakeholders to create awareness and mobilize communities to take action to reduce on incidences of child labour in the District;

Acknowledging the multi-sectoral efforts and partnerships with trade unions, employers, organizations and cooperatives; companies and enterprises; international and non-governmental organizations and civil society towards the elimination of child labour;

¹International Labour Organization, Marking progress against child labour Global estimates and trends 2000-2012

Recognizing international commitments to the elimination of child labour which include ILO Conventions and other international instruments and the Roadmap for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) by 2016 adopted at the Hague Global Conference (2010) and reiterated in the Brasilia Declaration on Child Labour (2013);

Taking into account the fact that the elimination of child labour in agriculture requires multi-sectoral coordination and efforts both at the national and district levels;

Acknowledging the continued need to effectively implement the National Action Plan and Hoima District Action Plan for elimination of the child labour;

Now therefore, the conference calls upon:

1. Government of Uganda

- i. To mainstream child labour issues into national development frameworks, sectoral policies and programs,
- ii. To strengthen the capacity of the NSC to facilitate the coordination, implementation, and dissemination of the current NAP which expires in 2017,
- iii. To strengthen the capacity of the NSC to also facilitate the review and assessment of the existing NAP towards the development of a new NAP for 2017,
- iv. To develop and put into place a nationwide monitoring system on Child Labour.
- v. To strengthen the Public Awareness and knowledge of child labour issues at all levels.
- vi. To building greater collaboration and partnership with international organizations, Development Partners, NGOs, and Social Partners to design and support the implementation of initiatives to eliminate child labour
- vii. To strengthen Labour administration and Inspection Services at the District level to adequately address child labour situations in agriculture sectors and other sectors.
- viii. To building the capacity of extension officers to monitor child labour situations in their respective areas.
- ix. To extend social protection systems for the effective and sustainable reduction of child labour incidences.

2. In collaboration: Trade Unions & Employers Organizations

- i. Strengthen Social Dialogues Systems;
- ii. Implement activities under the existing National Action Plan to eliminate child labour and monitor its implementation through the development of a nationwide child labour monitoring system;
- iii. Actively participate in the National Steering Child Labour Committee and guide in the development of a new NAP through social dialogue;
- iv. Strengthen efforts to collaborate with corporations and/or employer members, to ensure that companies are enforcing anti-child labour policies throughout their supply chains. When necessary, trade unions will include measures to eliminate child labour in collective bargaining agreements or contracts and in their organizing strategies;
- v. Support greater linkages for families with children of legal working age to local vocational training programs or providing apprenticeships within the cooperative, trade union or company;
- vi. Strengthen capacity of trade unions / Employers association officials to educate and train employees and Employers on Labour laws in collaboration with Labour Inspectors on labour laws enforcement

3. Private Sector, Companies and Enterprises

- i. Ensuring that the appropriate protective gear is provided for employees and farmer suppliers
- ii. Ensuring the provision of training for all employees and farmer suppliers on the labour laws of Uganda and internal human resource policies, regulations, and sanctions. Regulations should be readily available for employees and farmers, or posted in places that are accessible and can serve as a preventative measure
- iii. Actively monitor incidences of child labour in their operations and/or throughout the supply chain.
- iv. Collaborate with the Government of Uganda and District officials to monitor their operations within a common community-based child labour monitoring system
- v. Considering the provision of incentives to farmers and agricultural workers who actively monitor and comply with child labour policies; and supporting community initiatives and programs to address and/or combat child labour
- vi. Ensuring that children of legal working age have access to Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) and other vocational training experiences

The conference further calls upon an affirmation of the following components of the Hoima District Action Plan Section 5.0 ***Implementation and Coordination Framework*** (pages 27-28 of the DAP):

5.1.1 Hoima District Local Government

Hoima District Local Government structure composed of the District and Lower LGs as well as the Hoima Municipal Council shall play a key role in the operationalization of this Plan. The roles shall be among others to:

- i. Raise awareness on child labour and mobilize the relevant departments, organizations and communities to prevent and /or eliminate child labour. Through partnership with some CSOs, there are radio programmes being broadcasted on local FM stations which are creating awareness on children involved in WFCL.
- ii. Integrate child labour issues within district plans, budgets and structures;
- iii. Participate in the identification of children in hazardous work and facilitate their withdrawal;
- iv. Monitor the situation of child labour and follow up on children withdrawn from WFCL;
- v. Enact Ordinances and Bye-Laws and provide support for dissemination and enforcement;
- vi. Strengthen linkages and partnerships with other government programmes in the district to harness resources for child labour activities; and
- vii. Involve children in community discussions and decision-making through appropriate avenues.

5.1.2 Civil Society and Faith-Based Organizations

There are a number of organizations that are reaching out to children affected by WFCL working in Hoima District. Under this action plan, they will be expected to play the following roles:

- i. Reach out to hard to access potential sources of child labour with social mobilization and child labour prevention interventions;
- ii. Identify and withdraw children from the worst forms of child labour and rehabilitate them through:
 - a) Establishing transit and drop-in centers to provide temporary accommodation and health care, psychosocial and legal support as well as nutrition for the victims of child labour;

- b) Providing vocational training and non-formal education; and
 - c) Conducting research on child labour
- iii. Mobilize funds for elimination of child labour activities

5.1.3 Media Houses

Hoima and Bunyoro Region as a whole are well served with local FM stations and TVs which are major sources of information and entertainment to the community. These will play a key role to disseminating information on child labour issues.

5.1.4 Communities, Traditional and Cultural Leaders

Communities shall initiate, fund and implement activities to prevent and /or eliminate child labour at the village level. They shall also carry out surveillance on the children affected by child labour and take corrective measures. Communities shall further educate their members about the dangers of child labour and the sanctions for those who breach the laws and regulations on child labour.

5.1.5 Children

The children shall participate in all activities that address child labour in their communities, attend school regularly and encourage their peers to do the same, report children involved in child labour to school authorities, local councils, community leaders and labour offices. In school children through their Child Rights clubs will be expected to integrate issues of children in WFCL. Children are expected to report those involved in violation of child labour and children's rights.

5.1.6 Youth

The youth will be expected to participate in activities that address child labour in their communities, discourage children from carrying out child labour activities, report cases of child labour to relevant authorities, encourage their younger relatives and other children in the community to attend school regularly, educate young people on child labour issues and take part in activities that reduce poverty in their communities.

5.1.6 Development Partners

The role of development partners shall be to provide funding, technical support and implementation of the components of the Plan.