


**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LAW PROTECTING CHILDREN  
AGAINST CHILD LABOUR:  
A CASE STUDY OF KAMPALA CENTRAL, AND IT'S OUT SKIRTS,  
KAMPALA DISTRICT**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	i
DECLARATION .....	iii
DEDICATION .....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....	v
<b>CHAPTER ONE .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM .....	2
1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY .....	2
1.4 HYPOTHESIS .....	2
1.5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY .....	3
1.6 METHODOLOGY OF DATA COLLECTION .....	3
1.7 CHAPTERISATION .....	4
<b>CHAPTER TWO .....</b>	<b>5</b>
LITERATURE REVIEW .....	5
2.0 INTRODUCTION .....	5
<b>CHAPTER THREE .....</b>	<b>13</b>
3.0 FORMS OF ABUSE OF FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR .....	13
3.1 DRUG TRAFFICKING .....	13
3.2 CHILD SOLDIER .....	14
3.3 THE URBAN INFORMAL SECTOR AND STREET ACTIVITIES .....	15
3.4 CHILD PROSTITUTION .....	16
3.5 AGRICULTURE .....	17
3.6 DOMESTIC CHILD WORKERS .....	18
3.7 SEXUAL ABUSE .....	19
3.8 NON PAYMENT OF WAGES .....	20
<b>CHAPTER FOUR .....</b>	<b>21</b>
4.0 CAUSES OF CHILD LABOUR .....	21
4.1 POLITICAL INSTABILITY/CIVIL WARS .....	21
4.2 SOCIETY ATTITUDE AND IGNORANCE .....	21
4.3 FAMILY DISINTERGRATION .....	22
4.4 POVERTY .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
4.5 IRRESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD .....	22
4.6 INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICIES .....	23
4.8 AIDS PANDEMIC AND SOCIAL CULTURAL EXPLOITATION .....	24
4.9 SOCIO ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES .....	25
<b>CHAPTER FIVE .....</b>	<b>26</b>
5.0 EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LAW IN PLACE .....	26
5.1 MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA TO CURB CHILD LABOUR .....	27

5.2 POLICIES .....	27
5.3 PRACTICAL MEASURES .....	28
5.4 FINDINGS .....	29
<b>CHAPTER SIX.....</b>	<b>32</b>
6.0 RECOMMENDATION: .....	32
6.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS.....	34

## **DECLARATION**

I MPASA E. IVAN solemnly declare, that this piece of work is original and it has never been handed in for any award of certificate, Degree or Diploma in any high or institution of learning.

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this research to my Dad. Mr. MPASA DAVID, My mum MRS. ROSE MPASA, my friends most especially, my course mates, to Mr. Kagwa, my supervisor and to all my lecturers who have been taking me in my course since my 1<sup>st</sup> Semester and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

Child labour means where children who are considered to be minor are employed either commercially or domestically. The definition of child labour is derived from an international labour organization (ILO) convention No. 138 (1973) of minimum age of employment and the international labour organization No. 182 (1999) on the worst forms of child labour. Both conventions are complementary to the 1989 UN Convention on the rights of the child.

The convention on the rights of children guarantees should be protected from economic exploitation and any work that is hazardous and interferes with schooling or harmful to their health and development. Therefore child labour principles set under the conventions and recommendations for example the child is who is below the minimum age of 18 years as a given or stipulated under the Uganda Constitution of 1995, that renders work hazardous for children. Since it is very difficult to distinguish between child labour and light work that a child is to work or assist his/her parents, this research will make attempts to highlight some of the activities that children are engaged in today.

The 1995 constitution of Uganda, Article 34 (4) provides that "children are entitled to be protected from performing work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with their education or to be harmful to their health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development". Meaning any kind of labour out of the above is child labour, which is inconsistent with the constitution.

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Child labour has for long time been recognized as a problem in Uganda and world wide and is considered as norm in most communities that have limited resources, however many people are not aware of the dangers and the negative consequences that are associated with child labour.

The HIV/ AIDS has compounded the problem by contributing immensely to the number of orphans in Uganda, these growth and development, children suffer from all sorts of exploitation, they appear to be victims to racial discrimination. Despite the above Government has taken measures to eliminate child labour through legal and it's policy international as enshrined in the constitution of Uganda 1995 Article 34(4) and in the children's Act 1996.

## **1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The objective of the study is as below:-

- To show the causes of child labour in Uganda.
- Show measures being taken by government to curb down the rampant problem of child labour in Uganda.
- Effectiveness of the law protecting children against child labour.
- The consequences of child labour in Uganda.

## **1.4 HYPOTHESIS**

The concept of child labour in Uganda and reasons of its rampancy is not clear to people however despite the fact that child Labour Day is celebrated every month [12<sup>th</sup> June] of the year and many statutes have been put in existence prohibiting that act there is no clear explanation why child labour exists in the country (Kampala). The laws never the less have tried to bring the peoples' attention, some of the causes of child labour are being practiced by the very persons.

However some of the reasons as per the law includes instabilities (civil wars) mostly in the northern part of Uganda where most of the children were taken



as child soldiers, loss of parenthood, the war between UDFP Army and the Karamojongos has made child to join a rebellion against the Uganda forces in disarming them, AIDS pandemic and the penal code Act cap 120, the ignorance of the law is no defence children end up coming to central i.e Kampala.

The children who are victims of child labour tend to suffer physically, mentally and psychologically which has left the need to reform the current laws that are not so much effective in solving / curving the problem of child labour like the children Act 59 which relates to it was enacted effectively.

### **1.5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

This includes the geographical scope, and according to the researcher the scope of the study will be Kampala central division and its out skirts areas.

### **1.6 METHODOLOGY OF DATA COLLECTION**

The researcher is likely to use several methods in collecting data. This will include:-

#### **INTERVIEWS**

The researcher shall have direct interviews with the children who are victims of the child labour. This will also be done through interviewing various people who have knowledge about child labour.

#### **QUESTIONNAIRE**

This shall include asking resourceful persons that are victims of child labour and other people who have relevant information. The question will be relevant questions and they are required to give response which is to the best of their knowledge.

**QUALITATIVE RESEARCH:**

This include getting first hand information from people handing the knowledge and victims of child labour.

**DESK RESEARCH**

This includes reading from various librabries, reading text books journals, Annual reports, magazines, decided cases and other relevant materials.

**1.7 CHAPTERISATION**

This shows briefly what each and every chapter is talking about for example chapter one includes introduction, methodology, scope of the study, statement of the problem and objectives of the study, among others.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

Child labour being an area of concern, many people have shown un satisfaction about the phenomenal on their poof making it inevitable for them to research and write the catastrophe and bring out the true meaning of child labour and how children's rights are being violated. There fore the same inspiration has been adopted by the researcher who wants in the same perspective to bring out the true meaning of child labour particularly in Kampala (Uganda).

In respect to explain the concept of child labour, many statutes and conventions have been used to explain this as it's seen below.

The 1924 Geneva declaration on the rights of child<sup>1</sup> it provides for particular ways through which care can be extended to the child. This particularly came to be extended to the child. One should beer in mind that it was further stated in the declaration of rights of the child adopted by the General Assembly on 20 November 1959<sup>2</sup> and recognized in the universal declaration of human rights<sup>3</sup>, international comment on civil and political rights particularly Article 23 and 24 also in the international Covenant on civil and political covenant on economic, social and cultural rights<sup>4</sup>. And under Article 10 and relevant instruments<sup>5</sup> and international organizations concerns with the welfare of the children<sup>6</sup>.

It should be beared in the mind that the child by reason of physical and mental immaturity which makes them to be weak generally thus makes them to

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<sup>1</sup> The 1924 Geneva declaration on the rights of child  
<sup>2</sup> The General Assembly on 20 November 1959  
<sup>3</sup> The universal declaration of human rights  
<sup>4</sup> Political covenant on economic, social and cultural rights  
<sup>5</sup> Article 10 and relevant instruments  
<sup>6</sup> International organizations concerns with the welfare of the children

deserve special safe guards and care, before and after birth this is indicated in the declaration of the rights of the child. Childhood is entitled to special care and assistance and the family being the fundamental group for society and the natural environment conducive for their growth particularly the children, In addition children should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume, it's responsibility lies with in the community as provided in the universal declaration of human rights.

IT should be clear that for the harmonious development of the child's personality, a child should group in a family and a descent environment of happiness, love and understanding. A child should be prepared fully to live an individual life in a society and brought up in the way proclaimed in the charter of the United Nations<sup>7</sup>, that is to say bringing children up in peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equity and solidarity.

Article 12 of the convention on the rights of the child<sup>8</sup> is to the effect that, states parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the rights to express their views freely and more over this has achieved it's goals since children have talk-shows over the media inclusive Radio station, British Broadcasting (BBC) Newspapers and Televisions<sup>9</sup>, in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child. And for this case the children should in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative or any tribunal or body in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.

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<sup>7</sup> The charter of the United Nations

<sup>8</sup> Article 12 of the convention on the rights of the child

<sup>9</sup> Radio station, British Broadcasting (BBC) Newspapers and Televisions

Article 32 of the convention<sup>10</sup> shows that the child is exempted from and it is to the effect that the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation, and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical mental spiritual, morals or social development is recognized in the convention, thus a child should not be exposed to work / employment which in the due course will hamper his /her development. For purposes of re-enforcing the provision in Article 32 (1)<sup>11</sup> the conventions give orders to states parties and in clause (2) to take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to ensure, the implementation of the above Articles.

Having regard to the relevant provisions of international instrument states parties shall particularly.

- (i) Provide for minimum age for admission for an employment.
- (ii) Provide for appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure the effective enforcement of the aims of instruments or conventions such provisions would be vital in the elimination of the concept of child labour in the states parties.
- (iii) Provide for appropriate, regulations of the hours and condition of employment.
- (iv) For the usage of children as trademark in the production of illicit and trafficking substance, the convention came up with Article 33<sup>12</sup> which provides that, state parties shall take appropriate measures, including legislative administrative, social and educational measures to protect children and illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substance as defined in the relevant international parties and prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such drugs.

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<sup>10</sup> Article 32 of the convention

<sup>11</sup> Article 32 (1)

<sup>12</sup> Article 33

The international covenant on civil and political right (ICCPR)<sup>13</sup> states “Every child shall hence...the rights to such measures of protection as required by his/ her status as a minor and with the help his/ her family and the state. Article 23 (4) of the international covenant on civil and political rights<sup>14</sup> states, parties to the covenant shall take appropriate steps to ensure equality of rights and responsibility of spouse as to the marriage and as it's dissolutions, in instances of dissolution, provisions shall be made necessary to protect the children.”

Visa vie the above Article 10 of the international covenant on economic and social rights<sup>15</sup> provide for possible protection and assistance that should be accorded for fundamental group unit of the society.

The childrens' Act cap 59<sup>16</sup> defines a child as a person below the age of eighteen (18) years, and under section 5(1) of the children Act cap 59 provides the responsibility or duty of parents, guardian or any person having custody of the child to maintain that child and in particular that duty gives a child the right to.

(a) Education and guidance

(b) Immunization

(c) Adequate diet

(d) Clothing

(e) Shelter and medical attention. And that any person in the custody of child shall protect him/her from discrimination, violence, abuse and any neglect.

The Act further provides for harmful employment that children should be kept away from such employment.

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<sup>13</sup> The international covenant on civil and political right

<sup>14</sup> Article 23 (4) of the international covenant on civil and political rights

<sup>15</sup> Visa vie the above Article 10 of the international covenant on economic and social rights

<sup>16</sup> The childrens' Act cap 59

Under the children Act Cap 59 section 11 (1)<sup>17</sup> states that duty to report infringement of child's right, any member of the community who has evidence that child's right are being infringed or that a parent, a guardian or any person having custody of the child is able to but refuses or neglects to provide the child with adequate food, shelter, medical care, education shall report the matter to the local government council (LCs) of the Area.

Still the children Act provides that where the court during divorce, separation or nullity proceedings finds that the child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm as a result of both parents being unfit to have custody of the child, court shall place that child in the custody of fit person, but parents shall be allowed to have reasonable access to their child unless it is not in the best interest of the child. And its from that to give credit to the state despite of some loopholes with in the statute that is under section 88<sup>18</sup> which provides for minimum age of criminal responsibility to be twelve (12) years and under this section its to my view that there is child labour in Uganda however contributing hand in hand with other factor as shall be seen further.

On 12<sup>th</sup> / June /2009 it is a world day against child labour and on this day a recent study revealed that child labour is a widespread phenomenon in Uganda and about 2.7 million out of the 7.9 million young boys and girls are prematurely working and, this excludes the 10,000s involved in regular household work.

UNATU'S (UGANDA NATIONAL TEACHERS' UNION<sup>19</sup>) Response was also brought up. In the New Vision of 12 /June/2009 that "while the Uganda government is stepping up efforts to reduce the number of child labourers through provision of universal education and poverty reduction mechanisms,

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<sup>17</sup> children Act Cap 59 section 11 (1)

<sup>18</sup> The statute that is under section 88

<sup>19</sup> UGANDA NATIONAL TEACHERS' UNION

its important that each and every one takes responsibility in this response however for more detailed information it is provided in the photocopy of the New Vision of 12/June/2009<sup>20</sup> as in my research.

The international labour organization convention No. 182 came into force as an international law on November 19<sup>th</sup> 2000 with more than 25% of the ILO's<sup>21</sup> 175 member states already formal signatories to the work forms of child labour convention and also in the international labour organization, minimum age convention No. 138<sup>22</sup> their coming means that they must take immediate and effective actions to prohibit and eliminate these forms of child labour which and use of children in illicit and hazardous activities for children under the age of 18 years.

Therefore all member states of international labour organization will be legal bound to report annually their efforts regarding the work forms of child labour however this excludes Somalia whilst child labour in General as defines under the organizations other labour standard on child labour.

The minimum age convention No. 138<sup>23</sup> is to the effect that "it is a clear demonstration of the rapidly growing movement to eradicate as quickly as possible the worst abusive exploitation of children"

The ILO Director – General Juan Somavia Said "with convention No .182<sup>24</sup> the world is declaring that all these forms of child labour are morally abhorrent in any society whatever it's development stage or cultural traditions. And according international labour organization about 100 million girls are involved in child labour and they are involved in working as house maids and food

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<sup>20</sup> The New Vision of 12/June/2009

<sup>21</sup> The International Labour Organization- ILO

<sup>22</sup> Minimum age convention No. 138

<sup>23</sup> The minimum age convention No. 138

<sup>24</sup> The ILO Director – General Juan Somavia Said with convention No .182



drivers in Kiosks and some doing undertaking similar types of work as boys, but often also endure additional hardships and face extra risks and also boys are engaged in different child labour like boys harking tomatoes.

And approximately 246-250 million children inclusive girls and boys world wide between 5 and 17 years are forced to work and this does not exclude Kampala and it's out skirts as my case study. Half of the above number, it is claimed are engaged in full time jobs, of these 73 millions are less than ten years old, it is further claimed that the developed world supplies 25 millions child labourers while Eastern Europe Nations given an equal number. The developing world/ countries is the second large St with a record of 48 million child labourers after the Asian pacific region which leads with 127 million children involved in child labour. Sadly the statistics of 200 it is claimed that every year there 22,000 child labour related deaths.

About 70% of the children are engaged in commercial agriculture, hunting and fishing or forestry jobs while 8% are to be found in the manufacturing sector and another \$ are whole sale and retail trade hotels and restaurants while 7% are in community social and personal services as domestic workers. Globally a total of approximately 8.4 million children are trapped in slavery most from West Africa, trafficking debt bondage, prostitution and other illicit activities. And about 1.2 millions of these children have been trafficked.

In 1999 a renewed call was made to all signatory nations of the (international labour organization) ILO conventions to end the worst forms of child labour<sup>25</sup>, this was to emphasize their previous campaign on the global child slavery / child trade, use of children for drug trafficking and other illicit activities, child prostitutions, conscription of children for combat and most a problem to

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<sup>25</sup> ILO conventions to end the worst forms of child labour

African states and any other activities that threatened the safety, health and morale of the children.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **3.0 FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR ABUSE**

Children today are exposed and are subjected to various forms of abuses and form of child labour. And these inter-alia included child domestic workers, sexual abuse extra. These forms however are considered to be the worst forms of child labour.

The worst forms of child labour were defined in convention No. 182<sup>26</sup> having come into force. It defines and included worst forms of child labour as slavery, debt bondage, prostitution, pornography, forced recruitment of children for use in the Armed conflicts, use of children in drug trafficking and other illicit activities like food and tea drivers here in Kampala and all other work harmful or hazardous to the health safety or morals of girls and boys under 18 years of age.

### **3.1 DRUG TRAFFICKING**

Drug trafficking is illegal under the laws of Uganda and immoral trade of illicit drugs. In both rural and urban area, children are used as suppliers of narcotic drugs by availing their flow into illicit channels they supply Bhangi Cocaine and in the process have become a link to the chain that has made drugs easily available to the public ending up creating social and economic consequences that are destructively inestimable for example children involved in drug trafficking make their way in noticed through a crowd of people in towns and cities occasionally stopping to serve customers who need their services such children are given these substances to sell on behalf of their employers. However, those who have established their bonds to have themselves become vendors and buy drugs from the suppliers, forward and retailing to colleagues and other customers. These vulnerable children end up becoming victims of their own activities.

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<sup>26</sup> Convention No. 182

A condition being a circumstance required for the working of the cause, I discovered that the children's innocence and honesty, make them so an easy target for exploitation. Besides their small sized bodies are assets when it comes to squeezing through narrow passages and to passing through security points. They are easier for casual labour because they can be over worked under paid and mistreated with impunity. Actuated by their shameless greed, unscrupulous employer ended up having a massive lot of cheap and obedient labourers that offer an uninterrupted income. For such people the having mode takes precedence over the "being made" That is to have much wealth is idolized. Whereas to be concerned for the children's welfare is devalued. As instruments of gain, therefore children are totally subordinates to their employers gain, it is important to note that caused events could not be other than they are, unless different causes intervene, as long as children remain unaware of their condition they will fatalistically "accept" their exploitation.

### **3.2 CHILD SOLDIER**

These children usually are abducted and taken to the Bush and become the discarded fodder of the cynical wars in the world. Such kind of displacement separates children from a new environment. It can mean facing food insecurity, being physically assaulted or sexually abused and or losing one's social support network. Reporting on the plight of child soldiers in Liberia Wash indicated that:-

During the British rule Taylor's forces rounded up children as young as ten years from homes and school pumped them with drugs and primed them to fight when enemies sprang up to topple them, they did the same. The 1986 liberation war in Uganda children below 18 years were used to overthrow the government by then. The Lord's resistance forces led by Joseph Kony it also abducted children to be recruited in the rebel acts and trained as soldiers to resist against the government of Uganda. And these children they are given

heavy machine guns and like Ak-47 as a tool for war. And also trained to drive heavy tanker fighters.

### **3.3 THE URBAN INFORMAL SECTOR AND STREET ACTIVITIES**

The urban informal sector has different work settings ranging from motor garages, carpentry workshops markets, cooking vending and hawking. Though studies are still very limited in this sector there are signals that the sector harbours a considerable number of working children.

The study on child labour and the urban informal sector has provided new insights on the situation of the victims. The majority of child labourers 82% are involved in hazardous works specified by the relevant international labour organization<sup>27</sup>.

Hazardous activities include hawking, prostitution, bar/restaurant attendants, garage attendants, brick laying, cleaning dirty and un hygienic places, carrying luggage, carpentry work and welding. Such activities affect their health and safety of children list of the hazardous work they face include exposure to dangerous chemicals and substances such as petroleum paint, battery acids and electrical shocks. In addition, eye sight and hearing damage at among the potential occupational injuries inflicted on the children in the formal sector.

Another sector on which the public attention has been focused is the problem of street children. Most of the children on the streets of Kampala ranging from 2 years to 17 years they are being used by different groups of people to get money out of these children. These children are put on different streets all over Kampala as beggars and when they get help in form of money and other items given is being taken by people who pretend to be care takers and the children end up with nothing.

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<sup>27</sup> International labour organization

Friends of children association (FOCA)<sup>28</sup> study estimated 5000 street children of whom 1000 live fulltime on the streets in Kampala. Survival of these children on the streets is marked by day-to-day involvement in exploitative and hazardous situation such as begging, drug abuse, vending, hawking and sleeping on streets during day and night. These conditions expose children to contraction of diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and STDs, malaria, diarrhea, chest infections and skin diseases. Often, they get involved in crime, drug abuse and sniffing fuel. Street children are extremely disadvantaged with respect to education, health care and proper nutrition.

### **3.4 CHILD PROSTITUTION**

Child prostitution is the involvement and use of children on commercial sexual purposes in exchange for cash or other gains by employers who hire them. It is mainly evident that those engaged in the exploitative trade target and find poor children in rural areas easy prey. They entice them take them to towns and cities under false promises of offering them “jobs” some perpetrator of the “hoax” claim that children are preferred for sexual exploitation because they are cheaper than and readily accept any thing.

For example in case study Kampala, child prostitution is commonly practiced out in Kabalagala in kibukamutwe zone where young girls aging 10 years to 17 years are used by some tycoon [sugar daddies] to earn money out of them and each man she sleeps with when with out condom the more amount of money she is given and the boss takes atleast half of the money and so these girls due to being money minded mostly they go into sexual intercourse without condoms or unsafe sex and this has resulted into rampant HIV/AIDS victims.

Other erroneously believes that children are HIV/AIDS free. Sold into this thriving “enterprise” often unknown by poor families and less often by families

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<sup>28</sup> Friends of children association (FOCA)

who are cheated into believing offers of decent jobs in the cities and towns the lives of young girls become continuous sad story of exploitation, oppression, sickness and disease from which there is no hope of escape such continuous in it self dehumanizes a child even when sweetened by false generously because it interferes with the individual child is on to logical and historical vocation to be fully human.

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### **3.5 AGRICULTURE**

Over nearly 1,760,000 million children engaged in the child labour around the world, the vast majority 95% of the some million frequently work for long hours searching heat, harvest heavy loads of produce are exposed knives and harsh, violation of their right to health, education and protection from work that is hazardous or exploitative.

Investigations in Egypt, Ecuador, and India of the United States Human rights watch found that despite the vast and abuses faced by children. In Egypt, Human rights watch examined the cotton industry Egypt's major cash crop where over one million of children work each year to manually remove pests from cotton plants!!"

In Uganda, where most children are made to work both on small and large scales commercial agriculture plantation weeding, planting and harvesting of rice and this mostly in Eastern Uganda where they grow mostly rice, In addition the children are denied their right to school and they are used to chase birds from the rice plantations. On the other side children have been also used in cattle driving from one place to another including milking of these cows, this is mostly in western Uganda (Ankole) and North Eastern Uganda (Karamoja area) and they are over worked during drought season when they walk for long distances when searching for pasture and water of the animals.

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<sup>29</sup> The united nations human rights watch

A report by the international labour organization of June 2003 identified a number of states in Nigeria a central child trafficking of boys and girls <sup>30</sup>underage of ten for child labour both items of supplying and receiving children as well as acting as transits routes. The Nigerian Government officials reportedly declared their resolved traffickers were arrested but over all the practice remained entrenched despite initiatives by the governmental and non governmental bodies like the National task force on human trafficking and child labour set by the present democracy.

Due to various nuances associated with the world child labour coupled with the difficulty of arriving at a central definition led the United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF) to provide the following guidelines that could serve as starting points of definition of child labour:-

- (i) Starting full-time work and responsibilities at every early age.
- (ii) Long hour spent on work with in or outside the family leading to excessive fatigue.
- (iii) Depriving children of their rights to education where schools are available or interrupting their education.
- (iv) Participating in work that results into excessive physical, social and psychological strain on the child.
- (v) Working and living in inhuman conditions i.e. on the streets.
- (vi) Low wage
- (vii) Work that does not facilitate the psychological development of the child for example dull repetitive tasks which do not stimulate child's creative ability.

### **3.6 DOMESTIC CHILD WORKERS**

Majority of the child workers here are girls who have lost their parents, come from large and poor families dropped out of school or have been given out by

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<sup>3030</sup> The united nations children education fund [UNICEF]



their parents or care takers for commercial purpose in urban areas. They toil under exploitative environment.

At most times these children starve, they are denied share in the family's meal and never get "salary" because the agreement is between the parents / caretaker who give them out for commercial purpose and they are denied education and live under an unbecoming instructions like never to speak or play with other children.

Such work enslaves rather than liberates the children, it reduced a child to an object or a piece of property to be owned yet it is possible to own a person. Principally, to use a child or an adult more than is required to change such person contribution from voluntary to impose forced labour. This is equivalent to reducing children to animals' status instead of liberating their humanity. The issue of child domestic workers, fondly referred to as house girls and house boys in the society of Kampala is no new phenomenon. Some of these house girls are forced into sex intercourse with the big boys of the employer. And in such situation when found they are rehabilitated with women and youth service (WAYS) a local non governmental organization that campaigns against all forms of child labour.

### **3.7 SEXUAL ABUSE**

A research by women and youth service (WAYS)<sup>31</sup> indicates that sexual abuse of child domestic workers does not affect only girl-child but the boy-child too. However statistics indicate an exponentially high difference in percentage between the girls and boys that face this kind of abuse. It has been found that 81.1 % of girls sexually abused as compared to 18.9% of boys making the affection ratio of girls to boys 5:1. This tendering them perpetrators of this are

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<sup>31</sup> Women and youth service (WAYS)

male adults in house holds, neighborhood and or fellow workers like shamba boys, said Margaret Happy Akaka programme manager WAYS. Mostly what happens children subjected to child labour will not tell a one what they are going through but programs like women and youth service (WAYS) has managed make them opening up and sharing their bitter experience.

### **3.8 NON PAYMENT OF WAGES**

Despite, children being subjected to hazardous work, over worked and they are not paid. Employees taking the advantage of their status for example orphanage, poverty situations their age and they do not fulfill the duties of employer which is paying wages to their employees. These children are in along run left suffering simply because they are denied the little money which would other wise if paid be of help.

The children who are not paid are bound to suffer severely in that they will not be in position to afford the necessities of life. Such as food, clothing's medical care which will subsequently make children live miserable life. Mostly these children they have no where to claim for their payment and even if they are to claim to local councils they end up being corrupted by their masters yet they have up being corrupted by their masters yet they have no wider exposure to the law enforcers who can help them in such a case.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **4.0 CAUSES OF CHILD LABOUR**

#### **4.1 POLITICAL INSTABILITY/CIVIL WARS**

An added dimension of child labour in Africa is the problem of civil strife and wars. These ravaged the continent and have tremendously worsened the situation of children colouring, stabling blocks, with images of children screaming in fear huddled on to announced parent or lying on sheets saturated with their own blood. There is no doubt that if such children survive the atrocities of war fare, they could end up as child labourers at some place if not in their own counties on catered for their basic needs since their parents were either killed or incapacitated in the process of war. The survival of such children comes through forced or voluntary children labour.

#### **4.2 SOCIETY ATTITUDE AND IGNORANCE**

Societal attitude and ignorance have a strong generic influence on society as a whole including child labour practices exploitation both in homes and outside. This is lack of under standing regarding the difference between child work and exploitative labour. In many settings child labour is considered "National even if it poses risks to the health and development of the child. There is wide spread acceptance of child labour which parents do not take into consideration school attendance especially for the girl child.

Attitudes and myths held by parents in the rural setting, particularly, the practice of parents giving away their children to wealthier relatives or friends in towns with a belief that children would enjoy a better life is a source of manipulation, exploitation and exposure to child labour. In urban areas exploitation of children as domestic servants is also a widely tolerated social practice.

### **4.3 FAMILY DISINTERGRATION**

The most disheartening experiences are a family broken by death divorce, separation or desertion. Regardless of the cause of the broken family, the child is denied of adequate parental care and assistance during the formative years of his /her life. There is usually a period of emotional tension preceding and following the break and there is likely to be poverty, means emotional tension family friction plus severe deprivation in children when material possessions are used as a condition for social acceptance among the peer groups. Such an environment would contribute to child labour for one to cope.

### **4.4 POVERTY**

Poverty is seen as the main cause of child labour in Africa. The parents of child labourers are often unemployed or under employed and are desperate to secure employment and income, yet their children who are offered jobs are paid less.

The supply of working children is found primarily among large and poor families in need of supplementary income for survival. The burden of expenditures required to attend school and the general family upkeep combine to make education too costly for such families. This situation is particularly education. But even in countries where there is no universal primary education. Such education for instance in Uganda there is still children of school going age who are at home because parents are unable to provide them with other requirements such as compulsory school uniforms etc. In this way children are unable to exercise their rights to education and so fall prey to child labour because there will be no other alternative other than involving themselves in child labour.

### **4.5 IRRESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD**

Parenthood is more than begetting children. Some of the children are drawn into the child labour market at an early age because of irresponsible parents. There are instances where parents deliberately neglect and abuse their children,

thus precipitating the child labour, parents who squander their wages in selfish activities such as over drinking, drug abuse and supporting of the right to protection because the parents deny himself/ herself, such snario deprive a child him/her economic security and social needs.

Indeed it's sad and irresponsible to hear some parents uttering insulting statements to their children, and so children who experience such situations feel psychologically, socially and economically unwanted.

The only option for them is to resort to child labour and so toil for what they can call their own.

#### **4.6 INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICIES**

International economic trends also have increased child labour in Africa. In many developing countries governments internal and international economic policies and recession have resulted in economic crisis and recession have resulted in many African countries that have accentuated cuts in social spending that have disproportionately hit the poor consequently worsened the job situation in Africa. The affects of these programmes have and are still causing much suffering to the low-income of the population. One of the serious effects is the retrenchment of thousands of workers at an early age by governments of whom the majority are parents. Some of the children are forced to terminate their education due to lack of school fee and other school requirements.

**4.7 Another cause for child labour is the crisis facing the African family,** through modernization the African cultural set-up of the extended family and the clan is breaking up. The child is now an individualized entity without the cultural ancestral fabric that held the clan together, for example in traditional African society the communal spirit of sharing with those who did not have was valued especially though the extended families and emergence of urbanization and individualism. Due to the break down of the cultural identity of the family

Separating on, mobility and self centre dress children feel abandoned and so wonder is search for survival thus child labour is all they can resort to “help” them establish individualized identity. The disintegration and function of the African family invariably results in putting children at risk for many children, because of domestic violence, the home and family have become hostile rather monitoring environment. These hostile family conditions faced, they end up on the streets hawking or doing odd jobs for survival, getting conscripted into the army or in any other form of employment in this case of child labour.

#### **4.8 AIDS PANDEMIC AND SOCIAL CULTURAL EXPLOITATION**

This is a horrible deadly phenomenon which has caused lines of hundred of thousands of people in the World to be taken away. The disease AIDS has no cure and it has led to the existence of the child labour since children become the heads of families upon the death of their parents. The children lack guidance and assistance, which initially their parents rendered to them before passing away. They also lack basic necessities which human beings can not live without, such as food, clothing, shelter among others and above all, they are considered people who can not do any things developmental in the community and end up being indulged in child labour. These child mostly they are not at all respected since there is an image on them that they are HIV positive. And so they go on looking for jobs to sustain their well-being as young as they appear and since troubled and miserable children look to be heard working are employed and as a result, they are subjected to exploitation. They are exposed to poor working conditions and some times are not paid in the long run; they do not advice the goals for their looking for employment. Worst of these children are exploited sexually. Inaddition also the most modern family systems are not as strong as the traditional African families where communal responsibility was emphasized, many factors have contributed to the situation among them, the industrialization, urbanization disintegration of families. The AIDS prevalence in Kampala has increased the number of orphans who are forced to become their bread winners.

#### **4.9 SOCIO ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES**

The difficult socio-economic has led to the current problem of child labour. The socio-economic status of the parents has been reduced to zero, the children find no other alternative but to go out and indulge in illicit activities or become perpetual beggars on the street in this snario child labour is nothing more than survival tactic which is some times used as an exploitative tool by those who have more. For example when a middle class family from town comes to the village, they pick girls or boys and takes them to towns or cities to help in domestic work, and later does not assist in educating them it can be disastrous for the child when he/she looses favours with his/her master/ mistress.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5.0 EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LAW IN PLACE

Despite the many measures the government has come up with to reduce the issue of child labour. Child labour is being an issue of concern which has made almost every reasonable prudent person to have baise or negative attitude towards it resulting to the coming into force of many laws and conventions which UGANDA is a signatory and which look at the issue, in the same aspect they(law) are not very effective. The laws in place appear not to be very strict / serious in the practice because the government is aware of the rampancy of child labour in the country and there are no serious steps being taken to eliminate the use of children for commercial gains.

According to the research carried out in 2003 by the ministry of Gender labour and social development, National child labour policy<sup>32</sup> signed by Honorable minister Syda Bbumba it brought clear out the nature of child labour and the forms and child labour had increased. At the end of the day the ministry did not even at one moment disclose what was done to those who promote the forms of child labour thus showing the infectiveness of the law since seemed the minister had no power with her apart from addressing its increase.

The constitution of Republic of Uganda 1995 particularly Article 33<sup>33</sup> protects children against child labour and non of these laws have disclosed a heavy punishment for the offenders making people suffocate these children, hence the weakness of the laws of Uganda to protect children fully a part from just be laid in the supreme law of the land.

Despite Uganda's ratification of key international instrument conventions aimed to protect children who are working in the informal sector in agricultural

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<sup>32</sup> In 2003 by the ministry of Gender labour and social development, National child labour policy

<sup>33</sup> The constitution of Republic of Uganda 1995 particularly Article 33



as domestic servants and illicit activities, even the law enforcers they do mind and they are so corrupt make the law ineffective to punish offenders.

The provision in the Ugandan law and international conventions which provides serious measures protecting children against child labour are merely authoritative and there not implemented.

Besides the National constitution of 1995<sup>34</sup>, among other laws that have a bearing on child labour include:- the local government Act Cap 243<sup>35</sup>, penal code Act cap 120<sup>36</sup>, The Uganda citizenship and immigration control Act cap 56<sup>37</sup>, The National Drug policy and Authority Act cap 206<sup>38</sup> and the mining Act 2005<sup>39</sup> that protects children from working in mines. Although they exist and tend to sound so authoritative many people have persistently and rampantly continued to do the contrary and mostly where children being employed for both day and night shifts for commercial gains no serious step is taken to eliminate the problem of child labour, hence make the laws ineffective.

## **5.1 MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA TO CURB CHILD LABOUR**

In considering what to be done to the problem of child labour how to be done to the problem of child labour how to be solved the Ugandan government has come up with various policies and practical measures which policies and practical measures has helped to a small extent to reduce on child labour as here under.

## **5.2 POLICIES**

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<sup>34</sup> The National constitution of 1995

<sup>35</sup> The local government Act Cap 243

<sup>36</sup> Penal code Act cap 120

<sup>37</sup> The Uganda citizenship and immigration control Act cap 56<sup>37</sup>,

<sup>38</sup> The National Drug policy and Authority Act cap 206

<sup>39</sup> The mining Act 2005

The government of Uganda has tried to put certain policies that the impact of child labour is reduced and they include:-

- (1) The Health policy and strategic plan of action, 2003
- (2) The revised poverty eradication Action plan 2004
- (3) The Draft policy on HIV/AIDS at the work place, 06
- (4) The programme of modernization of Agriculture 2001.
- (5) The draft National Gender Policy 2006
- (6) The revised Nation strategic frame work on HIV AIDS in Uganda 2003/2004-2005/2006.
- (7) The revised National gender policy 2006
- (8) The Decentralization policy 1997.
- (9) The orphan and other vulnerable children policy 04.
- (10) Universal primary Education (UPE) 1997.
- (11) Universal Secondary Education (USE) 2007.

### **5.3 PRACTICAL MEASURES**

The government has been implementing several practical measures in collaborating with the ILO international programme on the elimination of child labour<sup>40</sup>, the federation of Uganda employers of plantation and agricultural worker,<sup>41</sup> other actors and civil society prevention strategies have been tested in the most hazardous and exploitation including commercial agriculture exploitation, exploitation in the formal sector and street activities domestic work, armed conflict and HIV/AIDS induced child labour. Multi-sectorial national steering committee on child labour and the child labour unit in the ministry of Gender labour and social development provide guidance and coordination to the above measures.

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<sup>40</sup> The ILO international programme on the elimination of child labour

<sup>41</sup> The federation of Uganda employers of plantation and agricultural worker

Despite the on going initiatives the multi sectoral nature of the phenomenon and the multiplicity of actors calls for well integrated and sustained action harmonization of legislation that would contribute to eliminating child labour.

The adoption of the above policy is further step in government efforts to domestic international child labour instruments, international labour organizations No. 138 and 182<sup>42</sup> to which Uganda is a signatory and requires the formulation of national child labour policy. The policy is also elaborates the commitments articulated in article 34 (4) of the constitution<sup>43</sup> that call for protection of children from hazardous and exploitative labour.

#### **5.4 FINDINGS**

Findings reveal that a big population of children work or are employed in domestic work a fund the centre of Kampala and its cent shirts 60% children work as hawkers and in the domestic work and have under girls aged between 12-17 years and the 20% are engaged in the business of prostitution and have mostly girls, the remaining 20% engage in informal sectors and agriculture.

Most of the girls have never gone to school. A number of problems as per their reason of not being to school include: - poverty situation of parents or guardians parent's death rates among others. They were involved in house hold work such as preparing and cooking of food for the family, baby-sitting, cleaning houses taking and collecting the children of their masters / bosses from school and actually working for long hours more than 14 hours.

The terms and conditions of service of these children are not clearly defined, most especially when it comes to payment, no clothing are bought for them and they starve a lot. It is done in kind in form of food, shelter, and some times

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<sup>42</sup> International labour organizations No. 138 and 182

<sup>43</sup> In article 34 (4) of the constitution

clothes which appear to be very old i.e. after the children of their bosses have used them for some time.

One called Robert a boy aged 16 year employed as a house boy and agate keeper of a certain home had this to discuss with the researcher. I dropped out of school while in P.6 after my parents failed to raise me school necessities such as school uniforms, books, pens and pencils and when ever I could remain home I used to go and dig the swamp for rice growing but still I could end up not going to school since the little cent put could get it was only enough for substantial use at home and we could not sell for fear of famine, one Samaritan working in Kampala picked me and brought to Kampala now where am getting some money.

He said am subjected to work overtime, I wake up at 4.30 am to organise children of my boss who are in different schools to always drop all of them in their respective schools before 8:00 am, I do wash my boss's vehicle, washing clothings, brushing shoes, mop the big house. I always do this to late hours of the night and am always the last person to bed when am much tried.

All these are done for a meager pay of 45000/= per month which money is paid to my parents upon demanding for it and when it is not demanded nothing is paid, I feel cheated because me who is subjected to all these hard work I do not see the money and I can do thing about it because my voice is not considered and am young. He said there offer from the government i.e. universal primary education (UPE)<sup>44</sup> but I could not afford the necessities. I tried to consult m boss who always gave me empty promises to improve on my salary and conditions.

Therefore children in paid domestic employment work for long hours have compared to those engaged in unpaid domestic employment work for hours. On

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<sup>44</sup> Universal Primary Education (UPE)

the side of girls who are employed in domestic work (child labour) are accompanied by a number of abuses like sexual, verbal abuse, beating, isolation and detachment of contracting HIB/AIDS through this act of sexual abuse. And one girl abandoned her duty one month back said, my boss could come home in the afternoon, requesting sex with him and I rebuked to his request but threatened my life. I had no where to report to, I thought my female boss but to me she would not understand because she would think that I have been in love with her husband therefore found it fit to quite.

According to the finding however, commercial sexual exploitation has subjected many children here girls most especially to emotional and physical dangers that can shorten their life span, this is as a result of increase risks of contracting HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, un wanted pregnancies and crude abortion and a numberly of abortion cases have been reported to be high.

Many girls in Kampala, at night escape from their parents home and hostels and attend night clubs with men (sugar Daddies) who dictate upon their lives (girls). These men happen to be married persons who are only looking forward to spoil and dump the young girls after sleeping with them.

Conclusively, those are the finding according to the researcher in Kampala centre and it's out shirts or shrubs.

## CHAPTER SIX

### 6.0 RECOMMENDATION:

Having endeavored to research fully on child labour and coming up with different views about child labour. There is need to make recommendation on what should be done in-order to eliminate the problem. And the below observations on the recommendation should be adopted.

- (i) There is need for adult workers who are at ready in the system to form trade unions to lobby for just wages and safe working environment. When this is done and effectively put in place it will minimize and rather even eliminate child labour because currently children are being used as cheap source of employment, they are exposed to poor working conditions, working under dangerous machines. The employer so will in turn fear to employ such children who have not attained the working age.
- (ii) There is need for the legislators amend the laws and include provision for penalty of persons who promote or employ children for gain. Even the laws on corruption should be made so harsh on those who are corrupt in the cases of child labour. This will make the laws serve the purpose for which they are enacted for hence reducing child labour.
- (iii) The government should encourage people to file a petition on public interest litigation against any person or organization that employs the children depriving them their rights. If the government extends power to the public centre these fully without exceptions of some laws, the offenders will be got easily other than depending only on bodies the government has set.
- (iv) The ministry of Gender, labour and social development has a lot to do. It must move out to the public sensitizing them about dangers of child labour since it has been discovered that most people are not informed on the dangers of young children out of the ignorance although the penal code makes it clear that it's no defence in the courts of law. In fact this

should be an exercise to sensitize every Ugandan in order to change the status quo.

- (v) Given the definition of a child by the many laws and conventions in place, children need absolute care thereby making them not loose sense of direction. Being persons who can not decide on their own whether or not, their parents are alive, it therefore leaves it to every reasonable Ugandan to take the responsibility of looking after children ensuring their good growth and development. This relieve the government from expenses and the burden of taking the responsibility individual.
- (vi) There is need to address the adverse impact of HIV/AIDS on child labour. Increase in the HIV/AIDS scourge has led to more children being, compelled to join labour force. The death of their parents/ guardians compels them to enter labour market at an early age in order to support themselves and their families. Moreover, the more affected children engage in exploitative labour, and the more are exposed to the risk of HIV/AIDS infection to the lives.
- (vii) There must be campaign to increase political good will in enforcing legislation against child labour.
- (viii) To reduce or completely eliminate the over whelming act, the government should strengthen social capital through legislation and planning together with in human rights awareness and these human rights bodies should be funded from the National budget on preventing child labour.
- (ix) The government should introduce vocational training schools inorder children who missed formal schooling opportunities to provide the requisite skills for gainful employment. These children will be creative thereby making good citizens of the country. Other than getting wasted in exploitative work which happens to hinder their growth and development. Education constituted the best tool for preventing and eliminating child labour.
- (x) Prior to avail people with low interest loans the government of Uganda should also avail, compulsory free flexible and quality primary education

in a way government must extend it to the rural set ups so as to reach the needy who may appear not be in position to afford education individually however even the necessities of the school should be provided by the government and not only leaving the burden of necessities with the parents/ guardians. If it's a constitutional right under Article 30<sup>45</sup> which provides that all children have a right education.

- (xi) In order to minimize child labour and completely eradicate it the government should address poverty which appears to be one of the root cause, there are many ways through which poverty can be addressed one of which is giving its people loans with low interest rates and grants.

This will generate money and they will be in position to pay their children school necessities and requirements of the children.

## **6.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Finding show that the child participating rate is 15 percent. The majority of the children are engaged in domestic activities. Further more although one in every five working children is an orphan, three out of every four children were non-orphans. Children who have lost atleast a parent are more likely to engage in child labour compared to those children with both parents.

Children who are not attending school are reported to engage more in employment 78% compared to those attending school, further more, those engaged in paid domestic services are more likely to work for long hours, every day than those engaged in any other activity.

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<sup>45</sup> Constitutional right under Article 30



→ Beggers / street boys  
→ Street hawkers

## DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

SUPPLEMENT

## Project to boost fight against child labour

By Elvis Basudde

**T**HE Support for the Preparatory Phase of the Uganda National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour (SNAP), a 44 month project, was launched in January, courtesy of the US Department of Labour.

It is being implemented in Wakiso, Mbale and Rakai districts, but will be extended to the rest of the country. It will assist the Government to further strengthen its legal, policy, institutional and social foundations for timely, large-scale action against the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL).

Akky de Kort, Chief Technical Advisor, International Labour Organisation, (ILO), says to achieve this, interventions will be designed to tap into components of the Uganda Decent Work Country Programme as well as the opportunities offered by other political, social and economic development programmes and policies in Uganda.

The project will seek closer linkages with the Orphans and other

Vulnerable Children (OVCs) and Action Plan, which targets children engaged in child labour among other vulnerable groups and support integrated programmes at the district level in the areas of education, social protection and livelihood development. It will also contribute to the finalisation and support for the implementation of a five-year National Action Plan to combat the WFCL, currently in draft form.

Akky says the project of support will facilitate the process of translation of the National Child Labour Policy into a finalised National Action Plan. It will also contribute to the implementation of the plan by strengthening the legal framework and enforcement mechanism for protecting children from exploitative work and abuse. In addition it will reinforce the knowledge base and help in raising awareness and piloting of an Integrated Area-Based Approach (IABA) in support of vulnerable families and children in the selected districts.

Activities that address three cross-cutting concerns will be woven into all components of



A child hawking tomatoes

the project, that is, preventing the spread and mitigating the effects of HIV/AIDS on children; assuring that gender concerns, in particular the special concerns of the girl child, are addressed, and;

providing forums and opportunities for children's participation in project interventions.

The Integrated Area-Based Approach will aim to create good-practice models that lay the groundwork for the establishment of child labour free zones that can be scaled-up throughout the country. The project will leverage expertise and resources from other ILO technical units in the areas of cooperative development, youth empowerment and entrepreneurship training and local economic development to pilot innovative and multidisciplinary approaches to combating child labour in targeted districts.

Within the direct action component of the programme, a total of about 8,000 children will be targeted for withdrawal and prevention from child labour through the provision of educational and non-educational services following district action from the project.

And 1,100 parents or adult caregivers of the targeted children will be supported to improve their livelihoods and referred to existing social protection mechanisms in their community to

enable them support children in school.

The Project of Support is firmly anchored in structures that the Government of Uganda has for the districts - those out to orphans and vulnerable children and HIV/AIDS.

**Project Objective**

By the end of the project, the legal and economic policy and regulatory framework for the foundation to combat the Worst Forms of Child Labour will be reinforced.

People and institutions at the district levels of Ugandan government will be supported to mobilise child labour through awareness of its consequences and increased knowledge of the ways to combat the problem.

A multidisciplinary approach based on a multi-sectoral approach laying the foundation for the establishment of "child labour free zones" at the district level will be created for implementation throughout the country.

## World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL), 12 June 2009

"Give girls a chance; end child labour"

Give Girls a Chance  
End Child Labour

Around the world, an estimated 100 million girls are involved in child labour. Many of these girls undertake similar types of work as boys, but often also endure additional hardships and face extra risks. Moreover, girls are all too often exposed to some of the worst forms of child labour, often in hidden work situations.

**Girls face multiple disadvantages**

Most child labour is rooted in poverty, often associated with multiple disadvantages. Socio-economic inequalities based on language, race, disability and rural-urban differences remain deeply entrenched. Girls can face particular disadvantages due to discrimination and practices which allocate certain forms of work to girls. Many girls take on unpaid household work for their families, usually more so than boys. This work may include childcare, cooking, cleaning, and fetching water and fuel. Girls often also have to combine long hours of household chores with some form of economic activity outside the household presenting girls with a "double burden". This can have a negative impact on any opportunity for school attendance and can present a physical danger to girls.

**Girls still disadvantaged in education**

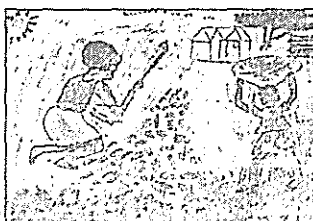
Millennium Development Goal 2 calls for all children to complete a full course of primary education by 2015. Millennium Development Goal 3 has a target of eliminating gender disparity both in primary and secondary education. However globally some 75 million children are still not enrolled in primary school. For every 100 boys in school, there are only 94 girls and girls in rural areas are particularly disadvantaged.

Girls may often be the last to be enrolled and the first to be withdrawn from schools if a family has to make a choice between sending a boy or girl to school. Girls' access to education may also be limited by other factors, for example the safety of the journey to school or lack of adequate water and sanitation facilities.

Without access to quality education, girls drift into the labour force at an early age well below the minimum age of employment. It is therefore vital to extend secondary education and skills training for girls and to ensure that children from poor and rural households can access this provision. Tackling child labour among girls and promoting their right to education, is therefore an important element of broader strategies to promote development and Decent Work.

**The ILO-IPEC (International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour)**

The ILO through IPEC is contributing to the elimination of child labour worldwide. The mandate of IPEC is guided by the ILO Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and the ILO Convention



No. 182 on the elimination of the Worst Forms of child labour. The ILO provides technical and financial support to government and others to formulate and implement initiatives against child labour, policy action, awareness raising, building the knowledge base, networking, and direct action to prevent, withdraw, rehabilitate children from child labour. The ILO-IPEC has been in operation since 1999 and is also marking the tenth anniversary of IPEC Uganda. Projects have been implemented like the child domestic service and HIV/AIDS induced child labour projects that both had a particular focus on girls.

The ILO-IPEC Project of Support for the preparatory phase National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour. A new project, funded by the United States Department of Labor, launched on 24th April, 2009. The 44 months Project of Support National Action Plan (SNAP) will contribute to the finalization and implementation of a five year National Action Plan (NAP) to combat child labour. This Project will contribute to the implementation of the plan by strengthening the legal framework and enforcement mechanism for protecting children from exploitative work and abuse, reinforcing the base, awareness raising and the piloting of an Integrated Area-Based Approach (IABA) in support of vulnerable families and children in three cross-cutting areas in other districts. Activities that address three cross-cutting concerns will be woven into all components of the project: preventing the effects of HIV/AIDS on children; assuring that gender concerns, in particular the special concerns of the girl child, are addressed; and providing forums and opportunities for children's participation in project interventions.



Access to education gives chance to development and decent work

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The World Day this year marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the landmark International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No. 182, which addresses the need for action to tackle the worst forms of child labour. Whilst celebrating progress made during the past ten years, the World Day will highlight the continuing challenges, with a focus on exploitation of girls in child labour. The global theme this year is "Give girls a chance; end child labour".

**Girls and child labour**

ILO standards require that countries establish a minimum age of employment (generally 15 though developing countries can set the age at 14). They also require that children (including adolescents aged 15-17) are not involved in work designated as a worst form of child labour.


However in many countries of the world, girls below the minimum age of employment can be found working in a wide range of occupational sectors and services and often in the worst forms of child labour. Large numbers of young girls labour in agriculture and in the manufacturing sector, frequently working in dangerous conditions. A major sector of employment for young girls is domestic work in third party households. Oftentimes this work is hidden from the public eye, leading to particular dangers and risks. The extreme exploitation of girls in the worst forms of child labour includes slavery, bonded labour, prostitution and pornography.

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UGANDA NATIONAL TEACHERS' UNION / ADVERTORIAL

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(UNATU)



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WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR - 12TH JUNE 2009

EDUCATION CRUCIAL IN ADDRESSING CHILD LABOUR CHALLENGES

Worldwide, over 200 million children are forced to labour in fields, factories and as domestics. Sub-Saharan Africa has the greatest incidence of economically active children – 26.4 per cent of all 5-14 year-olds.


Millions of children are victims of the worst forms of child labour in the Africa region. Of particular concern are child trafficking, the use of children in armed conflict, small-scale mining, hazardous work in agriculture, commercial sexual exploitation and domestic labour. The persistent challenges of widespread and extreme poverty, high population growth, the AIDS pandemic, recurrent food crises, and political unrest and conflict clearly exacerbate the problem.

Children's rights are denied by all forms of child labour, which threaten their education, damage their health and may lead to further exploitation and abuse.

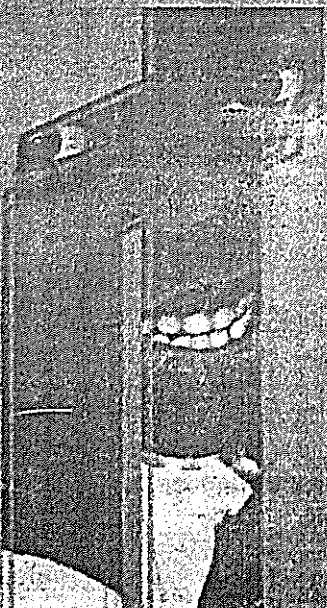
The World Day against Child Labour theme for this year is "Girls and Child Labour". Because of gender discrimination in the household, the community and indeed, all levels of society, girls are more likely to be deprived of education. Girls are often the last to be enrolled in school or are often the first to be withdrawn from schools in order to take on nursing of the sick, domestic and child rearing duties. Distant schools, unsafe journeys to school, lack of adequate water and sanitation facilities and lack of provision for gender friendly and responsive school environments are typical barriers to girls' education.

The school enrolment of girls and the progress on gender equality, as requested by the goals 2 and 3 of the Millennium Development Goals, have a direct impact on poverty. Without access to education, children drift into the labour force at an early age well below the minimum age of employment, more so for the girls. It is therefore important that we advocate and contribute to increased access to education.

A recent study reveals that child labour is a widespread phenomenon in Uganda where about 2.7 million out of 7.9 million young boys and girls are prematurely working. This



12th June  
World Day  
AGAINST CHILD LABOUR




Give girls  
a chance:

END CHILD  
LABOUR

Over 3,000,000  
Ugandan Children  
are Child Labour  
Victims !!!

What is your  
responsibility???



excludes the tens of thousands involved in regular household work.

UNATU'S RESPONSE

While the government of Uganda is stepping up efforts to reduce the number of child labourers through the provision of Universal Primary Education and poverty reduction mechanisms, it is important that each and every one of us takes responsibility in this response.

It is for this reason that Uganda National Teachers' Union (UNATU), as one of the leading education stakeholders in the country has developed interventions that support access to quality education and improvement of learning outcomes. Our major role is to engage at policy level to influence them to ensure access to quality education is realized.

UNATU has developed its own Education For All policy that guides her interventions in this response.

UNATU has been very instrumental in supporting the curriculum reforms that contribute to improved learning outcomes such as the Thematic curriculum and customised performance targets.

Our Commitment to engage in all campaigns that contribute to children's access to quality education such as Participation in campaigns against child labour, Global action week in education, Go back to school campaigns, Day of African Child, World Literacy Day, Anti-Aids campaigns and other related campaigns. In these campaigns, we put pressure on all others

to play their roles.

Furthermore, we are engaged in mobilizing communities, more especially parents participation in the learning process. Roles such as provision of a mid day meal and ensuring that children attend school are sometimes ignored by the parents.

UNATU has developed a programme that is intended to empower teachers with skills, knowledge and values to become lead actors in creating learner friendly environments for children to access, stay and complete education.

Implementation of socio-development programmes that respond to social education development issues such as the response to HIV and AIDS, response to the Sexual Reproductive Health challenges of learners, gender in education which are all intended to contribute to increased access to education.

CALL TO ACTION

- Supportive policies should be put in place and operationalised so that child labour is effectively tackled.
- promoting the mainstreaming of child labour concerns in broader economic and social policy frameworks;
- emphasizing the links between education and child labour and universal primary education as an important goal in itself and a crucial pillar of a strategy to eliminate child labour; and promoting processes to access to quality education.
- Continuous research to enhance knowledge base on child labour and for evidence based advocacy.
- The social partners to strengthen their responses to elimination of child labour, including the various levels of the government, and other major stakeholders.
- Commitment to ratification and implementation of ILO Child Labour Conventions such as the Child Labour Convention No: 182 and the ILO Minimum Age Convention No. 138.

Everybody has a role to play in ending child labour- Are you playing your role?

"Because We are, the Nation is"

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