



SPRIZ

Support for Poverty Reduction in Zambia

Combating Hazardous Child Labour among Adolescent Girls in Vubwi

END OF PROJECT REPORT



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Table of Contents

1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
2.0	ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED	1
2.1	Formation of Community Child Labour Committees	1
2.2	Formation of the District Child Labour Committee (DCLC)	2
2.3	Train CCLCs and ACLCs in social accountability and use of the scorecard methodology	2
2.4	Train community theatre groups in carrying out child labour awareness campaigns using theatre for development	3
2.5	Lobby for development of community child labour action plans from local chiefs	5
2.6	Conduct Community Child Labour Inspections to withdraw children engaged in child labour	6
2.7	Provide school requisites to adolescent girls integrated in school from poor households	6
2.8	Present Policy Analysis Paper on the role of District Governments in fighting Child Labour	7
2.9	Advocate for Development of a Gender sensitive National Child Labour Policy implementation plan	8
3.0	KEY OUTCOMES	8
4.0	CHALLENGES FACED	9
5.0	LESSONS LEARNT	9
	PROJECT STAFF	10



1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Combating Hazardous Child Labour among Adolescent Girls in Vubwi Project was designed as a three pronged social accountability strategy designed to foster access to justice through enabling citizen engagement; monitoring anti-child labour service delivery; as well as community participation and policy influencing. The conceptual framework was adopted from the Social Accountability definition by Fox (2014) who states that “social accountability involves, citizen monitoring and oversight of public sector performance; user-centered public information access and dissemination systems; public complaint and grievance redress mechanisms; and citizen participation in actual resource allocation decision-making processes”.The justification for this initiative is that it is designed to foster the progressive realisation of adolescent girls’ access to justice by securing their rights to social, economic and cultural rights. More important, this initiative was designed to strengthen both dialogue and action among key stakeholders from both the demand and supply side of child labour namely duty bearers, parents and adolescent girls in securing the lives of rural adolescent girls at risk or engaged in child labour. The project design is based on the human rights based approach to social accountability anchored on the understanding that the Zambian government and parents have a duty of protecting adolescent girls from engaging in hazardous work and ensuring that they grow into responsible adults who are health, self-reliant and able to contribute towards economic growth.

2.0 ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

2.1 Formation of Community Child Labour Committees



The training of the Community Child Labour Committees (CCLCs) was done in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) which is responsible for sustaining the operations of CCLCs. Thus, three committees were formed namely Chipanje, Chitumba and Matemba CCLCs. All the ten (10) members from each of three CCLCs were trained bringing the total number trained to 30 members. During the selection of CCLC members, SPRIZ took into consideration the need to mainstream issues of gender and disability. Overall, the 30 members of the CCLC trained represent a 100% achievement of the targeted output for the project.

2.2 Formation of the District Child Labour Committee (DCLC)



The formation of the District Child Labour Committee (DCLC) was necessitated by the change of the project site from Chipata to Vubwi. Since there was no DCLC in Vubwi district, SPRIZ, through the Combating Hazardous Child Labour among Adolescent Girls Project proceeded to establish a DCLC in collaboration with the MLSS and the District Commissioner for Vubwi district. The committee was comprised of

various government ministries including the Ministry of Labour and Social Services; Ministry of General Education (MoGE); Ministry of Community Development and Social Services; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Home Affairs; the District Council Secretariat; and the District

Commissioner's Office in Vubwi. The Committee is composed of 10 members and was very active in monitoring activities of the CCLCs, conducting awareness campaigns against child labour and verifying the number of children that were withdrawn from child labour. The establishment and operationalization of the DCLC in Vubwi represents a 100% achievement of the targeted output for the project.

2.3 Train CCLCs and ACLCs in social accountability and use of the scorecard methodology

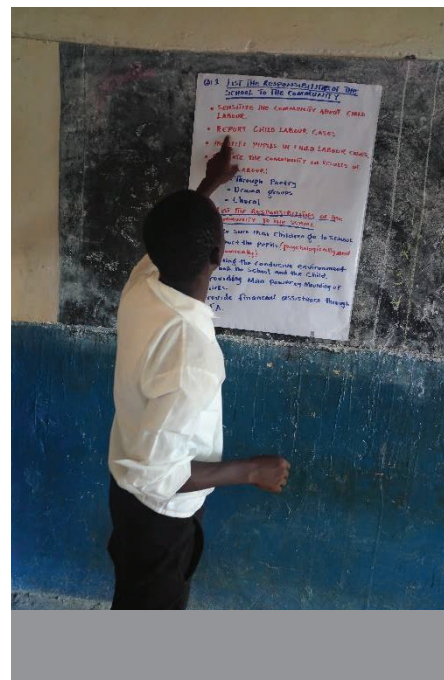
In order to enhance social accountability among duty bearers, the CCLCs and anti-child labour clubs (ACLs) were trained in social accountability and use of scorecard methodology. As shown in the table below, a total of 25 pupils from ACLs were trained. The number of ACLs was composed of 56 % female and 44% male members. The 30 CCLC members that were trained were composed of 55% female to 45% male members. Additionally, two teachers per school were trained to enable them serve as matrons and patrons for the ACLs respectively. The number of people trained represent a 203% achievement of the targeted output by the project. The table below shows a tabulation of the number of ACLs, CCLCs and teachers trained by the project.

Number of people trained in Social Accountability by Gender

NAME OF SCHOOL	FEMALES	MALES	TOTAL
ACLC Members	14	11	25
CCLC Members	16	14	30
Teachers	3	3	6
Grand Total			61



ACLC training in progress



During implementation, members of the ACLC and CCLC presented different education problems to duty bearers mainly head teachers and the DCLC members through the meetings organized to monitor the quality of education using the scorecard methodology. The most common among the problems presented were pupil absenteeism due to child labour, lack of desks, inadequate school infrastructure and long distance to water points in the schools. This resulted in the MLSS intensifying their efforts in carrying out labour inspections in the fields. Similarly, the District Education Board Secretary's Office was also actively involved in the integration of former child laborers in school and also made sure that Head teachers put the necessary measures to ensure that children were attending school regularly. Furthermore, through the DCs' office, a borehole was drilled at Chitumba School after the CCLC members presented the water problem to the DDCC members during the scorecard interface meeting.

2.4 Train community theatre groups in carrying out child labour awareness campaigns using theatre for development

Theatre for development was used in Vubwi district for two main reasons. Firstly, Vubwi and Eastern province in general have a rich in culture that is rich in dance. As such, theatre for development in Eastern Province is a crowd puller. In addition, Vubwi district has no Zambian radio or television frequencies yet. Thus, local drama groups were instead used in the awareness campaigns. The drama groups were supported with materials such as t-shirts, drums and drama costumes.



Chipanje drama group in action



Matemba drama group performing

Similarly, the CCLCs were also supported with bicycles to ease their movements, while incentives such as snacks were occasionally given to boost their morale whenever necessary. Unfortunately, as a result of the reduced project implementation period, only 15 drama performances (5 per community) were conducted in four (4) months. A total number of 1,437 people were reached through theatre for development. This represents only 36% of the total number of people that were targeted to be reached by the Project.



CCLCs after receiving bicycles



DC Vubwi hands over bicycles to CCLCs

2.5 Lobby for development of community child labour action plans from local chiefs

During implementation, Chief Pembamoyo was engaged to support the project in his chiefdom which had high incidences of child labour. The Chief accepted to be the ambassador for the project and further played an important role in urging his subjects to be involved in fighting child labour and giving valuable guidance towards the implementation of the project. Among others, the chief guided his subjects on the need to have all their children enrolled in school. Similarly, both government officers and community members in general responded positively knowing that the initiative had the support of the Chief. Thus, action plans were developed and submitted to the CCLCs for implementation although they were not followed through due to the funding gap

experienced in the middle of the project implementation. Instead new community plans were used towards the end of the project after the funding resumed.



Chief Pembamoyo second from right with SPRIZ& MLSS staff

2.6 Conduct Community Child Labour Inspections to withdraw children engaged in child labour

The DCLC in Vubwi conducted 9 monitoring visits in each of three communities to inspect children withdrawn from child labour by the CCLCs. During the inspections, parents were counselled on child labour related issues and were encouraged to send their children to school. The DCLC further used survey forms to verify the vulnerability of the affected families. Generally, there was good collaboration between the CCLCs and DCLCs during the implementation of this activity. All the children that were withdrawn from child labour were verified by the DDLC members representing a 100% achievement of the project output.

2.7 Provide school requisites to adolescent girls integrated in school from poor households

The CCLCs withdrew 205 children from child labour and re-integrated them in nearby schools. After conducting the verification exercise for all the children withdrawn by the CCLCs, the members of the DDCC recommended the children for school requisite support by SPRIZ which were delivered accordingly. The distribution of the school requisites mainly school uniforms, books, pens and pencils were witnessed by the Vubwi District Commissioner (DC) and all the DCLC members. The distribution was also done in the presence of the parents and other members of the community. Overall, the 205 children integrated in school represents a 51% achievement of the targeted number of children. The failure to reach the target was mainly as a result of the reduced project implementation period.



2.8 Present Policy Analysis Paper on the role of District Governments in fighting Child Labour

SPRIZ developed and presented a brief policy paper on the role of government departments at district level in the fight against child labour in line with the provisions contained in the National Child Labour Policy of 2010. Arising from this meeting, the DCLC members undertook 21 monitoring visits and were more pro-active in responding to child labour emerging issues. This is a clear demonstration that DCLC members understood their roles adequately and were able to embrace a multi-sectoral approach in the fight against child labour at district level.



2.9 Advocate for Development of a Gender sensitive National Child Labour Policy implementation plan

A high level stakeholders meeting was held in Lusaka on the development of a gender sensitive National Child Labor Policy implementation plan. The stakeholders meeting was officiated by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Labour. During the meeting, stakeholders resolved to commence the process of developing the NCLP implementation plan, with SPRIZ spearheading the process. As a result, a draft Policy Implementation Action Plan was developed and the MLSS took up the process of validating the report which is still in the process. The process involved the participation of all members of the National Steering Committee on Child Labour namely the MLSS; Ministry of Gender; Ministry of General Education; Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Justice; and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Child Development. Stakeholders from CSOs included the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Winrock International, SPRIZ, Children in Need Network (CHIN), Jesus Cares Ministries, Japan Tobacco Leaf Zambia Limited and the Zambia National Federation of Employers (ZFE).

3.0 KEY OUTCOMES

- Project created sustainable platforms for girls engagement with duty bearers through the facilitation of visits by DCLC members to the three targeted communities namely Matemba, Chitumba and Chipanje
- The project strengthened a multi-sectoral approach to child labour at district level for instance with the District Community Development Office enlisting families of vulnerable children in the Social Cash Transfer Programme, while the District Agriculture Office linked poor households to the Food Security Pack Programme
- SPRIZ developed a Draft shadow National Child Labour Policy Implementation Plan which was adopted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security subject to validation by all stakeholders.
- The project spearheaded the development and implementation of community and DCLC Action Plans.

4.0 CHALLENGES FACED

1. **Funding Gap:** The project suffered a setback when funding was out on hold for over 6 months. This resultantly affected the implementation of the planned activities and the project outcomes as a whole. Thus, while some target were reached, others were not achieved as a result of this gap
2. **Non availability of Zambian radio frequency in Vubwi:** The non -availability of Zambian radio frequency in Vubwi district limited the number of people that could be reached. Only the Malawi radio frequency is accessible in the area and this become a huge limitation in awareness raising through radio.

5.0 LESSONS LEARNT

The use of local people as agents of change i.e. CCLCs, helps to contribute to easy community members' mind-set change on child labour issues as the local change agents are easily accepted.

The loss of the initially targeted communities by SPRIZ which were identified at proposal writing stage to other partners made the organization realize the need to secure communities by launching some no cost activities alongside the resource mobilization actions and notifying the relevant Ministries and stakeholders about the organization's future plans.

PROJECT STAFF



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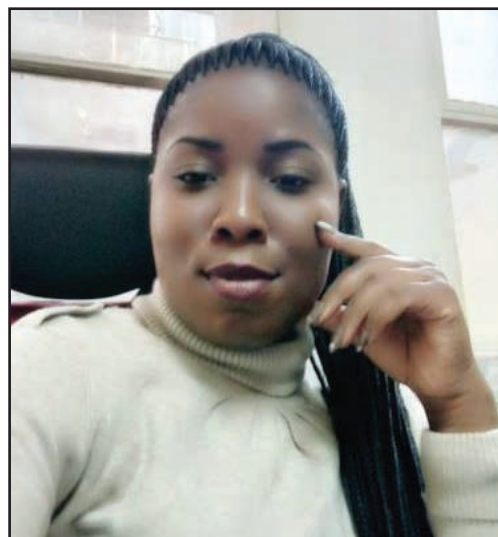
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