

Seventh Working Group meeting on EFA (Paris, 19 – 21 July 2006)

Session 2

Reaching the EFA Goals: Overcoming Child Labour to achieve EFA

Global Task Force on Child Labour and Education for All **Terms of Reference (June 2006)**

1. Background

As long as child labour continues, the international community faces a huge obstacle in the way of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular the second Goal of achieving universal primary education. The Education For All (EFA) goals, essential in achieving the MDGs, and the progressive elimination of child labour are inextricably linked. In order to “keep the promise” of achieving the MDGs by 2015, a concerted and collaborative effort is needed to tackle child labour as a matter of urgency.

It is in recognition of this fact that the Global Task Force on Child Labour and Education For All was launched during the Beijing Round Table in November 2005, and endorsed by the EFA High Level Group. Initial membership includes the ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank and the Global March Against Child Labour. The Dakar Framework for Action (DFA), the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the ILO Conventions No. 138 on Minimum Age for Employment and No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour provide the policy context for the work of the Global Task Force (GTF).

2. Objective and strategy

The overall objective of the GTF is to contribute to the achievement of the EFA goals through the elimination of child labour. The GTF is a partnership to assist developing countries in this endeavour. Its main strategy is to mobilize political will and momentum towards mainstreaming the issue of child labour in national and international policy frameworks contributing to the EFA objectives. This strategy will be pursued through (i) strengthening the knowledge base on child labour and education linkages; (ii) advocacy and social mobilization; (iii) policy coherence; (iv) programme support; and (v) partnerships. The strategy will be flexible and adapted as needed, taking into account country priorities and circumstances, in consultation with national partners.

3. Areas of action

3.1 Knowledge base on child labour and education linkages

- Develop a strong knowledge base on child labour and education linkages through systematic collection and compilation of relevant data and research at country, regional and global levels;
- Lead development of indicators to reflect child labour issues in EFA and related policy frameworks;
- Provide support in translating research into accessible information for policy planning and action;
- Support the generation and sharing of knowledge, collecting documentation and disseminating lessons learned, practices and information;
- Emphasise participation of and networking among local universities and research institutes in knowledge development and dissemination activities, in addition to taking advantage of existing research capacity at GTF member agencies and organizations and the “Understanding Children’s Work” (UCW) project.

3.2 *Advocacy and social mobilization*

- Create a broad-based social mobilisation and awareness on the linkages between child labour and education and the key elements outlined in the Dakar Framework for Action and the ILO Conventions on child labour;
- Strengthen the political will to integrate child labour issues in the EFA on the one hand, and EFA priorities in action against child labour on the other;
- Advocate adequate budgetary allocations at national and global levels to enable unified action on education and child labour;
- Promote improved understanding of interactions between elimination of child labour and achievement of EFA goals, particularly among legislators, policy makers, mass media organizations and networks, NGOs and civil society.

3.3 *Policy coherence*

- Assist in the articulation of coherent goals, policies and strategies related to education, child labour and poverty reduction;
- Encourage the identification and targeting of working children and the development of explicit strategies within national EFA plans to increase their enrolment, retention and achievement rates;
- Engage in policy dialogue at global, regional and national levels to facilitate addressing issues related to child labour and education in all development processes (MDGs, PRSPs, UNDAF, etc.);
- Enhance dialogue among finance and other relevant ministries to draw attention to and promote linkages among macroeconomic, education and social policies and child labour.

3.4 *Programme support*

- Provide programming support in terms of (i) financial and technical issues concerning child labour and education and (ii) harmonising existing work within the new framework of the GTF;
- Provide assistance to programmes of governmental and non-governmental organisations active at country and regional levels, within the area of child labour, education and poverty reduction;
- Work through partnerships in the EFA context to develop coherent and sustainable models for (i) prevention of child labour through expanded opportunities for education, and (ii) removing children from exploitative labour and providing educational opportunities and rehabilitation support to former child labourers.

3.5 *Partnerships*

- Build effective partnerships and mobilize resources at global, national and regional levels and promote identification of key common legislative, policy and programme issues as the basis for further collaboration;
- Encourage inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral cooperation at national and regional levels, as well as encourage the adoption of various approaches to enhance civil society participation, such as the facilitation of community-based initiatives;
- Promote partnership with the private sector/employers and their organisations and encourage effective communication among labour and education inspectors and employers in EFA and child labour related issues.