



GOVERNMENT

Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Sierra Leone
pledges to

Review of the National Action Plan against the worst forms of child labour including child trafficking in Sierra Leone

Review of the National Action Plan against the worst forms of child labour including child trafficking in Sierra Leone

Name:

Review of the National Action Plan against the worst forms of child labour including child trafficking in Sierra Leone

Description:

The issue of child labour in Sierra Leone is complex and widespread and needs to be viewed in the wider context of economic development, poverty and demography. The main socio-economic factors that cause child labour and lead to all forms of child exploitation include poverty and lack of sustainable livelihoods, limited opportunities for young people to maximise their potentials for success, some traditional power structures and practices, and the inadequacies of the legal frameworks to protect children. The elimination of child labour remains an issue high on the agenda of the Government. It is recognised that the consequences of the worst forms of child labour and other hazardous work for children deprive them of their right to education, health, wellbeing and protection.

As part of the ongoing efforts in the elimination of child labour in our country, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security developed a National Action Plan (NAP) to address the worst forms of child labour. The NAP essentially focuses on the worst forms of child labour as defined in the ILO Convention 182. This NAP needs to be reviewed to meet with the current day challenges in the fight against child labour.

The NAP identified four (4) key policy areas to be considered in addressing the worst forms of child labour in Sierra Leone:

- Advocating for adequate legislation and law enforcement
- Promoting access to affordable relevant and quality education
- Ensuring effective social protection strategies and actions to address most vulnerable households, and
- Promoting the involvement of key stakeholders in supporting the elimination of Worst Forms Child Labour

The key target groups for this NAP are children involved in child labour, children at risk of getting into child labour, and children who engaged in hazardous work. Another target group will be the families of these vulnerable children and stakeholders involved in planning, policy-making, enforcement, or implementation of child labour programmes.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY, SIERRA LEONE

The NAP will primarily target children engaged in the following worst forms of child labour: Exploitative and commercial sex; Illicit activities, Trafficking of children; Domestic work; Children in polygamous broken homes, School dropouts; Child parents; Single parent children, Children in kinship care, Children on the move, Child headed households, Teenage parents, Children with a disability, Out of school children, Children in slums and street children.

Implementation plan:

The Ministry of Labour and Social Security in collaboration with its Social Partners (i.e. Trade Unions and Employers Organisation) and Child Protection Partners will organise five (5) regional consultative workshops to review the National Action Plan on the worst forms of child labour. The approach used to determine the proposed interventions in the National Action Plan will be largely participatory and broad-based. All stakeholders, including local communities and authorities, will be involved to ensure local ownership.

The National Action Plan is based on a multi-sector approach requiring the commitment and contributions of Government, Trade Unions and Employers' Organisations, other Civil Society Organisations, the Private Sector and Development Partners. The National Action Plan essentially focus on the worst form of child labour as defined in the ILO Convention 182 and the activities identified and considered to be the worst forms of child labour in Sierra Leone.

Impact:

The NAP recognises the urgency of eliminating child labour in Sierra Leone. Furthermore, it will serve as a road map towards the elimination of child labour in our society. It will clearly guide all stakeholders towards which action to be taken in the elimination of child labour. Every effort shall be made to remove children from the worst forms of child labour and enforce relevant protective measures to prevent children from engaging in the worst forms of child labour. The NAP seeks to address the gaps in the past child labour eradication efforts and consolidate new developments and other emerging concerns on child labour in a comprehensive action framework.

[Website](#)