
JOB DESCRIPTION

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Title of the posting: Associate Expert in Child Labour in Promotion Social Floor

Sector:

Work Unit: ILO Vietnam

(your office or technical unit in Geneva who is responsible for initiating PA)

Location: Hanoi, Vietnam (The Socialist Republic of)

Duration Appointment: 36 months

Starting date: 2010

Donor:

SUPERVISION

Supervision by: Ms. Rie Vejs Kjeldsgaard, Director, ILO Vietnam

Ms. Maria Luisa Rodriguez, Chief Technical Adviser, Programme of Support to the National Time Bound Programme on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (TBP)

INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of the “doi moi” reforms in 1986 Vietnam has made remarkable progress in terms of economic and social development. It is Vietnam’s goal to become a Middle-Income Country (MIC) by 2010 and an industrialized country by 2020. Viet Nam’s increasing global economic integration yielded significant positive impact on society, although it is not evenly shared among regions and all social groups. In addition to persisting disparities, the impact in Vietnam of the global economic slowdown has drawn attention to the fragile nature of gains on the poverty reduction front. Overall, the government of Vietnam’s rapid and proactive response to the global economic downturn has been instrumental in helping avert drastic negative effects of the global downturn and helped sustain employment and business activities across the country, However, a number of challenges still remain such as external competition in the face of the sluggish global economy, quality jobs for the approx 1.5 million new entrants to the labour market, modernizing governance structures, upgrading the human resource base, etc.

In 2007 Vietnam was officially selected as one of the eight pilot countries to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the High Level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence. The spirit and principles of the Paris Aid Effectiveness Declaration have

been proactively endorsed in the Hanoi Core Statement and serves as the guiding framework for the all encompassing One UN in Viet Nam .The five pillars for UN reform in Vietnam include: One Plan, One Budget, One Leader, One Set of Management Practices and One UN House. The ILO has endorsed and is fully integrated into One UN initiative. The ILO's Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) is incorporated in the One Plan, which is based on the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) 2006-2010 and seeks to strengthen programme coherence and coordination by the participating UN Agencies to achieve better results. The government is in the process of developing the Socio Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) 2010-2020 and 2011-2015 SEDP which will be the basis for a new One Plan. Improving competitiveness of the economy and being active in global integration (improving labour productivity), reducing poverty, radically improving and enhancing quality of education, training and human resources and employment creation are some of the main objectives outlined in the draft SEDP.

The ILO's DWCP is fully aligned with these objectives as it focuses on three strategic priority areas: Improved Labour Market Governance to reflect the needs of a market based economy, Increased and Productive Employment and Enhanced coverage and effective Social Protection. In addition, the core ILO concerns of social dialogue, international labour standards and gender are integrated into each of these priority areas of work.

The ILO/IPEC project "Programme of Support to the National Time-Bound Programme (TBP) on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour" contributes to the DWCP priorities of labour market governance as well as improving the social protection floor including the promotion of equal access to basic social services such as health, education and food security for all children. Despite the rapid progress made in social and economic development in the last decade, child labour is still considered a controversial subject in Vietnam. Although Vietnamese law prohibits the employment of children less than 15 years of age, children still share the workload and household responsibilities with their family, both in rural and urban environments. Poverty, rapid population growth in large cities, industrialization, urbanization, etc have contributed to the growing numbers of child labourers. The goal of eradicating child labour, and in particular its worst forms, can only be reached with the involvement and active participation of Governments, civil society and others.

The commitment of the government to address the issues of child poverty and the growing problem of child labour in Vietnam is demonstrated by the ratification of ILO Conventions 182 and 138 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, as in most countries the challenge is to ensure the implementation of Conventions. Providing efficient assistance to Member States to maintain the momentum is of utmost importance. The ILO/IPEC Project aims to do this by strengthening and making use of existing initiatives to combat child labour in Viet nam, and facilitating the preparation of the national Road Map towards the elimination of all worst forms of child labour by the year 2020. The Project will work with the various key National Plans of Action, in particular, but not limited to, those aiming at reducing the number of street children, child victims of sexual abuse, children in hazardous work and children who are victims of or at risk of being trafficked.

This Project's main strategies and components will consist of improving the national knowledge base on child labour, policy-level work, harmonization of legislation and policies and the implementation of pilot projects in five target provinces. Awareness raising and social mobilisation, capacity building, gender mainstreaming and the creation of solid linkages with other on-going relevant initiatives will be cross-cutting strategies. In the lead-up to the 2015 target date for the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals and also as part of the One UN initiative and Understanding Children's Work, which is a joint initiative by ILO, UNICEF and the World Bank aiming at developing effective and long-term solutions to child labour, ILO in Viet Nam is working closely with other UN and international agencies. The interagency nature of the Understanding Children's Work (UCW) programs is seen by the agencies as important to advancing their child labour research agendas. These interagency initiatives contribute immensely to upstream policy support /development.

The Associate Expert will be assigned to work with TBP to support the implementation of the project, mainly focusing on communication, advocacy, awareness creation and maintaining strategic partnerships with the UN/ international agencies, Civil society as well as donors. He/she will work in close consultation with the Programme Unit of the ILO Hanoi office and ensure collaboration and the mainstreaming of child labour issues into the other ILO projects, the DWCP, the One UN agenda and national frameworks. One further framework that the AE will support is ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) which has agreed by consensus to support an ILO initiative to develop a time-bound roadmap to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in the subregion by 2016. This is also in line with the ILO-endorsed global goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016.

A fundamental basis for effective planning, monitoring and evaluation is up-to-date, accurate information. The ILO has been assisting Vietnam to strengthen its labour market information system and analytical capabilities. The AE will liaise closely with the Labour Market Information Project and ILO/IPEC's Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC) to ensure information and data child labour are mainstreamed into the national Labour Market Information System

DUTIES AND RESPONSABILITIES

The Associate Expert will carry out the following tasks:

- Support the Programme of Support to the National Time Bound Programme on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (TBP) in its interagency work.
- Support the TBP in its efforts to mainstream child labour into national frameworks in Viet Nam.

- Provide support to the development and implementation of Action Programmes on the elimination of child labour in the TBP target provinces
- Advocacy and awareness raising on child labour issues.
- Networking and building relationships with strategic partners, including local civil society organizations, groups, UN and other international agencies, donors.
- Assisting in the development of new project proposals and resource mobilisation.
- ILO Viet Nam Liaison Officer/focal point for policy and capacity development issues related to Child labour and Social Floor.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Education:

Associate expert must have an academic degree equivalent to Master's degree or a Bachelor's degree or an equivalent technical qualification. Candidates may not be over 32 years of age.

Experience:

Some years of working experience

Languages:

Excellent command of English. Good knowledge of another ILO working language, preferably Spanish, of advantage

Competencies:

Ability to communicate effectively in English, both orally and in writing. Ability to work as a member of a team. Analytical skills, ability to prepare reports in time, knowledge of programme formulation, administration and evaluation techniques and practices. The ability to work in a multicultural environment and gender-sensitive behaviour and attitudes are also required.

TRAINING COMPONENTS, COACHING AND LEARNING ELEMENTS

Within the job, the Associate Expert will gain exposure to:

1. Interagency work and approaches in Vietnam, both as part of the TBP's interagency work as well as being part of the One UN

2. Mainstreaming child labour into national frameworks in Viet Nam. This will expose the AE to issues of sustainability, working with national authorities, national platforms, national development frameworks and the ILO tripartite constituents.

3. Technical assistance on child labour. The AE will gain exposure in developing proposals (Action Programmes) for the elimination of child labour at the local level. This will involve capacity-building of national implementing partners (NGOS, tripartite constituents), reviewing and commenting on proposals, monitoring the implementation of action programmes in the provinces, technical reporting, administration and financial planning and reporting. The AE will also gain experience in data collection (for example, baseline surveys) on child labour, knowledge management, evaluation and impact assessment. There will be regular technical support from the ILO Bangkok and from ILO/IPEC Geneva.

4. Exposure to the One UN initiative in Vietnam

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Background information should include: (see annex)

- general information about the organizational structure (an organigram should be attached to the submission) (see annex)
- general outline of the programme/project

SUMMARY:

Title: Project of Support to the National Time-Bound Programme on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL)

Partners: Ministry of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs , Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Health , Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Police; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vietnam General Confederation of Labour , Vietnam Cooperative Alliance , Vietnam Women's Union, Youth Union, Political-social and mass organizations, Mass Media, Research Institutions, (I)NGOs, international organizations, and other concerned ministries and agencies.

Donor: Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)

Duration: 4 years

Target Beneficiaries: Children, adolescents and families

Regional Focus: 5 Provinces – Lao Cai, Hanoi, Ninh Binh, Quang Nam, Dong Nai

Project Objective: To contribute to the prevention and progressive elimination of child labour in Vietnam through supporting the National Time-Bound Programme on Elimination of the WFCL

Main Activities:

1. Improving the national knowledge base on child labour and its worst forms;
2. Creating a favourable environment to eradicate the WFCL at the national level through improvement in national policy frameworks and capacity building of institutions;
3. Developing, implementing and documenting integrated intervention models aimed at reducing the worst forms of child labour in the number of target provinces;
4. Advocacy, awareness raising, gender sensitivity, and capacity building are integral parts of the above strategies;

Main Outcomes:

1. Improved national knowledge base on child labour and its worst forms;
2. Improved national policy frameworks and enhanced capacity of institutions to eradicate the WFCL;
3. Integrated intervention models aimed at reducing the worst forms of child labour in a number of target provinces developed, implemented, documented and ready for replication by national actors.