

VIOLENCE

AGAINST CHILDREN

Violence against children impedes their development and violates their rights. To raise a call that it be stopped, the United Nations conducted a Global Study on Violence Against Children. This involved nine regional consultations; in June 2005, a delegation from East Asia and the Pacific, including children, met to discuss how children experience violence at home, in communities and on the streets, in educational settings, in institutions, in work situations, in conflict with law and in on-line environments.

In East Asia and the Pacific, a coalition of regional agencies is working to raise awareness of the issues and explore solutions. As part of this effort, a series of monthly newsletters will examine one of the seven themes of the UN violence study leading up to the launch of the global report in October. These newsletters will provide background, highlight progress, share key facts, figures and resources, as well as introduce agencies, activists and children in the region who are leading the push to end the violence.

Investigating violence against children in work situations

When Thai police and labour officials raided a makeshift garment factory producing jeans in Bangkok, they found 18 Lao girls aged 11 to 14 years in a space measuring 3 by 4 metres under the floor of a padlocked room.

Weeks earlier, two others had escaped and gone to the police. The girls had been there for six months, forced to work unpaid from 6 a.m. to midnight, poorly fed and beaten.

This story made the news.¹ But the violence taking place every day against working children across this region goes largely unnoticed and unreported.

Inside:

- P.2** Raising the standards in reporting
- P.3** Reporting and researching on violence against children in labour situations
- P.4** Global study, regional focus
- P.5** Violence and the law
- P.6** Articles and angles
- P.7** A country approach
- P.8** Further reading



Photo: Steve Levitt/World Vision

The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates around 127 million children are at work in East Asia and the Pacific.²

Child labour exploitation exposes these children to every form of violence imaginable. There are reports of child labourers hung from trees and beaten with sticks, forced to over-exert and permanently harm themselves physically, raped by older children and adults of the same or opposite sex, maimed or even killed as a result of accidents and murdered.

» continued pg.2

A child scavenges through garbage at the notorious Stung Meanchey dump. Phnom Penh. In this work situation, the dangers of injury and illness are high, the pay often less than \$1 per day and the time or motivation to attend school extremely limited.

Children speak out

Rhea and her cousin Che travelled from the country at the request of their families to become domestic workers for the same household in Manila.

“We were all-around domestic workers. Our employer was very strict. She didn’t allow us to have days off. And every time we ask for our small salary, she would say that half of that was already sent to our parents in the province and the other half covered the soap, shampoo and toothpaste that we used, as well as our share in the electric bill when we watch TV. We never received any salary.

“Every time our employer left the house, she would lock the doors and gates from the outside. She would put chains in the outer side of the grills, and then padlock everything. We couldn’t understand why our employer would always punish us. She would pull my hair and then bang our faces against the wall. Sometimes, when our employer was tired, she would force one of us to beat the other. I couldn’t take that kind of cruelty. One day, when our employer was out, we broke the chains. Then we ran as fast as we could until we reached the police hall.

¹ “Laotian slaves freed after raid on factory”, *The Nation*, 16 September 2004 and included in Elaine Pearson, *Elaine, Vulnerable Workplaces, An abridged version of a report on redefining demand as a factory in trafficking*, ILO-IPEC Bangkok, 2005.

² *The End of Child Labour: Within Reach*, ILO, 2006 www.vaceastasiapacific.org/images/ilolabour.pdf

Raising the standards in reporting

A viewpoint from officers of Child Workers in Asia

In recent years, the “worst forms of child labour” – slavery, bondage, criminal activities, the sex trade, child soldiers and other hazardous work – have been the primary focus of much of the activism and reporting against child labour in the region.

However, these represent only the most extreme forms of exploitative work in which children are engaged. There is an urgent need to examine all forms of work, formal and informal, commercial and home-based, and how they impact children’s lives.

Among organizations working directly with working children, there is a wealth of knowledge of their working conditions, including the various and often grotesque forms of violence they suffer. Little is documented or widely shared, usually because of lack of resources. Violence is rarely linked effectively to other broad social phenomena and policies, such as macroeconomics and trade. This means that higher-level policy discussions must fall back on speculation or ideological and political statements.

Among the public in East Asia and the Pacific, lack of understanding of the violence present in normal social relationships means that people place their own children in situations of risk. For example, despite the evidence of high levels of violence

suffered by children in domestic labour, placements are still sought, including in the homes of relatives and extended family.

Also, family or small-scale farming, which is an important social form in Asia, is often a hazardous environment for children. Sometimes highlighted is their exposure to chemicals, but generally difficult conditions (common the world over) see children working with heavy loads and long hours, receiving insufficient food and income in return.

In many cases and countries, the current structure of reports, academic and policy discussions, leads to a lack of knowledge of how broad social forms such as discrimination, kinship relations, wealth inequality, privatization of industries and especially public services, affect the situation of child workers. Work on these topics is generally not linked or pursued comprehensively.

There are some exceptions. Often, an organization working on credit access will look at how credit availability affects the choice of households to send children to work. Or, and this is most common, how the cost or perceived worth of education will affect decisions parents, or children, make concerning work for children.

In general, much reporting focuses on the choices families and children make concerning work, or on poverty. There is a need to look beyond the choices to the

“I used to work on the dumpsite from morning till evening just making 1,500 riels (around US\$0.4). With this small amount, I could not buy enough food for both my mother and myself. Sometimes I went hungry so my mother wouldn’t be so weak and ill.”

Kim, 10 years old, Cambodia

conditions and situations in which choices are made, and whether or not those situations are consistent with the rights of children and all persons. Addressing these situations provides a useful context for efforts to address child labour exploitation.

Child Workers in Asia Foundation (CWAFA) is the Secretariat of the Child Workers in Asia network. The network involves more than 70 groups and organizations working in partnership with child workers in 14 countries in South and Southeast Asia. Jacquelyn Pinat, CWAFA Officer in Charge, is available for interview or to organize further information and statements on child labour issues: info@cwa.tnet.co.th

Investigating violence against children in work situations » *continued from pg.1*

Less extreme forms of violence, such as regular beatings, verbal and emotional abuse, sexual harassment, intimidation and isolation and confinement, are regular aspects of the everyday experience of many child workers.

While this violence often results from the nature or conditions of their work or the behaviour of employers, some work environments also contribute to violence against children by children, through, for example, extreme bullying and initiation rites. Exploited children are also inadequately protected against violence perpetrated by persons outside the work setting, including police and others responsible for their protection.

Long-term engagement in child labour leads to reinforcement of the discrimination and poverty that are often identified as its causes. A high incidence of child labour may contribute to poor working conditions for adults, which in turn contributes to the need for children to be economically active in their family.

This creates a cycle over generations of adults and children deprived of rights and opportunities – particularly the right to quality education and the opportunities it provides.

The inequity exists in every society and the media can cover it from many angles – from the abuse and conditions to the positive work of agencies and NGOs and partnerships with governments.

Children speak out » *continued from pg.1*

The officer there believed our story; our employer already had a bad reputation in the community. He hid us and called the Visayan Forum hotline.”

Visayan Forum sheltered the girls and helped them to file a case against their employers. Now Rhea is a volunteer advocate for the rights of domestic workers, and has enrolled in non-formal education through Visayan Forum to give her opportunities outside the domestic labour market.

The case that Rhea and Che filed has not yet reached any definite conclusion. We thank Rhea for sharing her story with us. For more information on this story or Visayan Forum: director@visayanforum.org

Reporting and researching on violence against children in work situations

- Talk to in-country organizations first. International organizations and agency reports are good for broad overviews and statistics but often lack detailed information on community contexts.

In-country organizations can present the problem through situations and case studies, as well as at a broader regional or international perspective. They can also put reporters in touch with organizations of children who may be prepared to comment.

- Talk to more than one organization. Do not rely solely on the most easily available or highest profile or most interesting story line. Be prepared for differences in child labour definitions and solutions among the organizations and communities you contact.

- Hear what the children have to say. Interviews with children can make a powerful article or case study to illustrate both problems and solutions. Please be familiar with the International Journalist Guidelines for Reporting on Issues Involving Children www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=192&Language=EN

- When speaking to children, don't take one child or children's organization's view to represent the voice of all children. Children should be involved in discussions and decisions, and in fact it is only through testimony that we can actually believe some of the abuses and violations they experience. But their judgments of situations are subjective and the truth or fairness of what they say must be measured against appropriately broad research.

- Highlight the exploitation of children rather than portraying them as either suffering victims or inspirational heroes. Some children have displayed astounding resourcefulness in the face of extreme exploitation: for instance, a child sex worker who manages to arrange school books for her and other workers or a labourer who works so that his younger siblings can attend school. Bear in mind that these are examples of resilience rather than empowerment; the child's exposure to exploitation and violence is still part of their story.

- Violence against children in the work place is an indicator of a wider social injustice. There is a need for deeper research on why violence in general affects so many children. To consider this a result of the low status of children in our region is a common pitfall. Look beyond the children affected to explore links between exploitation and country or regional history, including issues of ethnic, minority or religious discrimination, social instability and generational poverty.

A powerful image drawn by 13-year-old Arnon, Champasak province, Lao PDR. "Children are forced to work at night. They don't get enough rest but still get beaten by employers," explained Arnon.



Photo : Save the Children Norway

Media initiatives

In Cambodia, the Children's Committee developed a series of six television programmes in collaboration with TV-3, a Phnom Penh broadcasting station. Starring schoolchildren from Phnom Penh, the programmes told about the impact of child labour through songs, role playing and a quiz. TV-3 executives were reluctant at first but were persuaded to produce and air the shows as an educational output to help disadvantaged children. Contact: Ms. So Kunthy, Chairperson, (855) 12 789033, sokunthy_mba@yahoo.com

In Indonesia, the Faculty of Films and Television, Jakarta Institute of Arts, ran a short film competition, shown during a film festival. The student film makers and faculty first participated in awareness-raising workshops on the situation of child domestic workers, how to make the life of child domestics into a story and how to reach those hidden from view. Contact: Hadi Artomo S.sn, Dean, (6221) 316 1258 / 315 6176, fftvikj@yahoo.com

Regional initiatives

- Since 2002, an interagency group combining ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank and the Global March Against Child Labour has been working to tailor Education For All (EFA) initiatives to communities where a high number of children are working. In November 2005, a Global Task Group was established at the Beijing EFA High Level Meeting for this purpose.

www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ippec/themes/education/gtf.htm

- The APEC Awareness-Raising Campaign creates alliances between authorities, employers, workers' groups, educators, and children and their families, to replace child employment in its worst forms with child education.

Contact: Urmila Sarkar, Child Labour and Education Specialist, ILO Bangkok, 66 2)288-1713, sarkar@ilo.org

- **World Vision** is creating anti-trafficking networks within countries and across borders, in consultation with governments and border authorities. Communities with a high level of migration are targeted with education and child rights awareness programmes. Repatriation of children into their home communities, where they often need additional protection from stigma and further violence, is another important aspect of the programme.

Taking the journey together: the Mekong Regional Trafficking Strategy
www.vaceastasiapacific.org/images/child%20trafficking_mekong_single.pdf

- Save the Children Sweden is working through research and recommendations on the issue of corporal punishment, calling for legislation to ban it and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment in any situations where children are working.

What Children Say: results of comparative research on the physical

and emotional punishment of children

www.vaceastasiapacific.org/images/whatchildrencyay.pdf

Discipline and punishment of children: a rights-based review of laws, attitudes and practices in East Asia and the Pacific
www.vaceastasiapacific.org/images/desk%20review%202005.pdf

- **The Development and Education Programme for Daughters and Communities (DEPDC)** prevents girls

from being exploited and trains them to be activists for other girls, women and communities. Through their Mekong Youth Net scheme, women with leadership potential from six different countries (Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) undertake a years' study in language, psychology, human rights, leadership skills, and regional challenges. They then return to their countries to work with host organizations or start their own community initiative.

www.depdc.org/english/about_us/activities.html

www.depdc.org/thai/archive/2003/info/MYN.pdf

- **Regional Task Forces of Child Workers in Asia** bring together local

NGO members to share knowledge of interventions to end child labour exploitation. The Task Force on Child Domestic Workers recently produced an advocacy and resource manual collating the experiences of NGOs worldwide. The Task Force on Bonded Child Labour has focused primarily on South Asia but plans to conduct an Asia-wide project in the near future. The Task Forces on Children's Participation are exploring concepts and practices of children's participation and developing a training guidebook.

www.cwa.tnet.co.th/cwa-network.html



Children labouring in Indonesia. This sort of work is often too hard for growing bones and muscles, resulting in the risk of permanent damage or disability.

Photo: PLAN

Leading the way on law

Cambodia: A National Plan of Action on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour will have far-reaching effects for the country's most exploited children.

Indonesia: The government has committed to legislation to make nine years of schooling compulsory, plus a poverty-reduction strategy that includes tackling child labour and improving basic education.

Lao PDR: The Ministry of Justice is developing a new "Children's Law", to be submitted to the Assembly before the end of 2006. For the first time, abused and exploited children will have recourse to protection through legal means.

Contact: kiemsouthi@unicef.org

Thailand: The National Plan of Action on the Implementation of ILO Convention No. 182 includes anti-trafficking measures and is helping to promote youth training and employment, leading to decent work.

The Philippines: Visayan Forum, a local agency, is calling for the government to pass the Batas Kasambahay (partners at home) draft legislation. This will improve the status and conditions of domestic workers, many of whom are children.

Contact:

information@visayanforum.org

For fact sheets on child labour and child trafficking or for more information on ratification of labour, welfare and other child-focused laws, go to ILO: www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/child/trafficking/

Violence and the law

Much coverage of child labour focuses on the international and national legal frameworks that exist for their protection, assuming that the adoption and implementation of laws is sufficient to begin changing their situation. It is true that these frameworks are important, laying down acceptable and unacceptable social relationships, and clearly specifying who is responsible for maintaining the distinctions.

However, in many cases there are lapses in the will to enforce, in the comprehensiveness of laws and policies, or in the links with deeper social changes which are often necessary to sustain progress of the law.

Implementing and enforcing child labour laws and other child welfare and protection initiatives does not extend to all child workers, particularly in the informal sector. Here, many children work in isolation, hidden or not considered subject to existing laws and policies.

Where the labour force or labour forms are not sufficiently protected or rights denied, through custom, lack of laws or impunity of employers under existing laws, child labourers will suffer the same abuse, violence and exploitation that adult labourers suffer.

The “invisibility” of children employed in this unregulated sector means restricted access to other laws designed to protect children from abuse.

Often informal labour is small scale and local, though it may also be part of a large industrial process. Children in these industries are often too young for formal employment, no longer of compulsory schooling age or not attending school at all.

To protect these children, laws can justify and guide government or NGO intervention in areas that are customarily beyond their authority, such as homes and family enterprises. They also act as incentives for employers to address exploitative employment conditions. And they give children a clearer understanding of their rights and empower them with the ability to report on and improve their situations.

What constitutes violence?

“It hurts me.”

Children’s growth is damaged by heavy labour, working in uncomfortable positions, with poor lighting or ventilation, or with injurious materials. Exposed to pesticides on farms and in packaging plants, children are rarely informed of the dangers.

“I can’t play or learn.”

Children who work intensively or for long hours have no time or energy for anything more. Some children involved in domestic labour are working the whole time they are awake. When work takes time away from sleep, children are more prone to accidents and far less likely to perform well at schoolwork.

“They punish me with beatings.”

Beating as punishment for children who make mistakes or are absent from work is widespread and often accepted by children as a part of the job. Sometimes such punishment extends to deprivation of food. Children will

continue to work while sick or injured to avoid further physical harm.

“I’m frightened.”

Children working on the streets are faced with aggressive or insulting behaviour from the public, assault and robbery from criminals and often with aggression and harassment from the authorities.

“They make me feel bad and there’s nothing I can do about it.”

Children feel humiliated when slapped or reprimanded in public, in front of other children, guests or customers. They are also often bullied by older working children or children of a household where they are working, with no power to stop the abuse.

“I feel bad about what I do.”

For children in many work settings including the sex industry, violence and rights abuse is inherent in the actual job performed. No child would choose these activities, and so additional

means are used to keep them working, including severe punitive violence and enforced alcohol or drug addiction.

“I’m abused sexually”

Not to be confused with employment in the sex industry, working girls and boys are extremely vulnerable to rape and sexual harassment. In some industries, this behaviour is institutionalized and accepted as one of the more unpleasant aspects of the job. Appealing to employers for protection from abuse is rarely successful.

“There’s nothing else I can do and nowhere else I can go.”

Many children stay in abusive situations because they have been manipulated to believe their employer is their best alternative. As a ‘commodity’, they are kept in a fit state to perform their duties, but basic rights such as education, freedom and time to play are denied to them.

Articles and angles

Opportunities for media stories on the issue of violence in situations where children work are widespread – from abuse and hazardous conditions to the positive work of agencies and NGOs and partnerships with governments.

- Informal workplaces must still be considered work and represented in labour legislation. In Cambodia,³ there are an estimated 616,023 working children aged between 5 and 17 years and 2,000 street children in Phnom Penh.

A further 15,000 children, while not homeless, spend more than six hours a day scavenging and begging. An increasing number of children are also involved in domestic labour. Most of these children are not aware that their work is legitimate, or that they have rights and recourse to protection from abuse. Contact: *World Vision, Haidy Ear-Dupuy*, haidy_ear-dupuy@wvi.org

- The ILO estimates that domestic work is the largest employment category of girls younger than 16 in the world. Because employers are not registered or accountable to normal labour laws, it's also one of the most dangerous for young girls. In Fiji, eight out of ten domestic workers reported that their employers sexually abuse them.

Contact: *Save the Children Sweden, Dominique Pierre Plateau*, dominiquep@seap.savethechildren.se

- Regional human trafficking patterns carry children as a precious commodity. The lucrative nature of this industry means a constant demand for new workers, almost always into situations of exploitation. Research in Lao villages bordering Thailand found that 44% of parents whose children had migrated admitted they did not know where they were. Returned migrants also reported a high level of cruelty; 40% said they'd been locked up, and 13% had been forced to have sex against their will

Contact: *World Vision, John Whan Yoon*, whan_yoon@wvi.org

- In Indonesia, thousands of children, mainly boys, are still working 12 or more hours a day on isolated fishing platforms away from their families. Some have been kidnapped. Within this industry children are injured in accidents and suffer horrific abuse at the hands of foremen and older children, including rape.

Contact: *UNICEF, Manuel Finelli*, mfinelli@unicef.org

- Bonded labour is most often associated with South Asia but is ingrained in other societies in East Asia and the Pacific. In Indonesia, families are reported to work together to pay off debts in the agricultural and fishing industry, keeping their children out of school as a result. It is also common for parents to accept advance payment for placing their daughters in domestic work, effectively placing them in a situation where they must work off a debt.

Contact: *Child Workers in Asia, Paro Chaujar*, southasia@cwa.tnet.co.th

- There are no industries where children are working in East Asia and the Pacific that can claim to be completely free of violence or exploitation. Major registered employers of children include garment and cloth manufacturers, agriculture and produce packing, fishing platforms and hotels. All of these industries have been known to use trafficked, bonded or forced labour, even in countries where legislation exists to make child labour illegal.

Contact: *Child Workers in Asia, Paro Chaujar*, southasia@cwa.tnet.co.th

- The ILO is leading the call for greater “corporate social responsibility” when it comes to sweatshop or hazardous labour. Their “Better Factories” programme aims to raise labour standards including action on employers who use children. Big brands are encouraged to source goods from factories involved in this programme, knowing that appropriate standards are in place and observed. For more information: www.betterfactories.org



Photo: Monrudi Chantawichianwat/World Vision

At this drop-in centre on the Thai border with Cambodia, working children can attend non-formal classes at various times of the day. Alternative approaches like this bring education and rights awareness to children who may otherwise not go to school at all.

³ *Stop Violence Against US: Summary Report, Tearfund, 2006*

A country approach

Cambodia: The Municipal Department for Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MDSAVY) coordinates a task force for policy and action. It is connected to child protection networks in all seven districts of Phnom Penh, protecting children in abusive and/or exploitative situations.

Contact: *Mr. Chea San, director; (855 23) 214 517, socialaffair@camnet.com.kh*

The Vulnerable Children Assistance Organization (VCAO) trains people to help child domestic workers directly, including commune, village and group chiefs, those with responsibility for women's affairs and social affairs, the police, school teachers and community medical personnel.

Contact: *Mr. Chea Pyden, Executive Director; (855 23) 884 722 vcao@forum.org.kh*

The Women's Development Association targets schools located in communities where child domestic labour is prevalent and seeks commitments from officials to prevent drop-outs by mobilizing teachers to monitor children and give special attention to those vulnerable to dropping out and developed child teams to take on child-to-child advocacy.

Contact: *Ms. Soreach Serei Thida, Executive Director; (855 23) 720 807, wda@forum.org.kh*

Indonesia: In Karawang district, an area known for sending children to work, the local government has helped to establish a community radio station to increase awareness on child trafficking and child domestic labour.

The Ministry of Women's Empowerment has drafted guidelines for assisting child domestic workers, including provisions for a referral system to respond to the abuse and exploitation of child domestic workers.

Yayasan Kesejahteraan Anak Indonesia (YKAI) has established a drop-in centre for child domestic workers called Sanggar Puri where they can socialise, seek formal or non-formal

education or vocational training.

A primary activity is a withdrawal programme for children under the legal age of employment (15) to help them return to school.

Contact: *Ms. Winarti Sukaesih, Executive Director; (62 21) 310 7.*

The Philippines: Many networks and individuals within the Philippines work for the rights and protection of child labourers. A key spokesperson and academic expert is Prof. Rosario del Rosario, author of the 2000 UNICEF research paper "Child Labour in the Philippines: A Review of Selected Studies and Policy Papers." www.childprotection.org.ph/monthly/features/archives/sep2000b.html

Contact: *Prof. Rosario: (632) 924 2143; (632) 929 2477 cswcd@up.edu.ph*

SUMAPI (Association and Linkage of Domestic Workers in the Philippines)

reaches out to child domestic workers in their days off and hanging out in parks. A small "survivors" group of young domestic workers was formed to give each other support. They then began to reach out to other exploited and abused child workers, in collaboration with Visayan Forum. SUMAPI now has 8,000 members, the majority of whom are teenagers

Contact: *Roland Pacis, Visayan Forum, information@visayanforum.org*

Thailand: The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, through its Child Protection and Anti-Trafficking of The ministry of Social Development and Human Security, through its Child Protection and Anti-Trafficking of Women and Children Bureaus, works with NGOs, such as the Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights, as focal points in providing social assistance to trafficking victims. The police and the National Office of the Attorney General have set up focal units to handle legal recourse for victims.

"Since I've been involved with SUMAPI, I have reported a case of rape to the police and another case where a domestic worker was thrown out of her employers' house in the middle of the night."

From a focus group discussion with SUMAPI members, in Child Domestic Labour and Emerging Good Practices to Combat It in South-East and East Asia

Further reading

Workbook on Child Labour: Rights-based Situation Analysis, Data Collection and Resource Writing, Save the Children, 2005

This guide provides systematic advice on how to collect and record the secondary data required for a national situation analysis of children's work, as well as to write the analysis.

www.vaceastasiapacific.org/images/rights-basedsituationanalysis.pdf

Raising one voice: A training manual for advocates on the rights of Child Domestic Workers, Child Workers in Asia, 2005

This extensive manual was created in response to the particular challenges of informal and often invisible work situations, to provide ideas, information and solutions for those committed to protecting children in the industry.

www.vaceastasiapacific.org/images/cwa_raisingonevoice.pdf

Combating child labour in Asia and the Pacific, ILO, 2005

The full picture on child labour in our region, compiled as part of the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). This publication provides country summaries and statistics as well as a comprehensive overview of the region and its challenges in protecting children in work situations.

www.ilo.org/iloroot/public/english/standards/ipecc/doc-view.cfm?id=1879

The End of Child Labour: Within Reach, ILO, 2006. Provides the latest news and statistics on achievements globally against child labour, indicating overall there is a decline in the numbers of children working, and highlighting the pockets where there are serious concerns.

www.vaceastasiapacific.org/images/publications/ilolabour.pdf

Child Domestic Labour and Emerging Good Practices to Combat It in South-East and East Asia, Ayaka Matsuno and Jonathan Blagbrough, ILO-IPEC Bangkok, 2005. The report highlights good practices in Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines and provides contact details.

www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/child/trafficking/downloads/cdw.pdf

Experiences and Lessons Learned in Child Labour Monitoring: Rubber, Salt and Fishing Sectors in Cambodia, ILO-IPEC

www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/child/trafficking/downloads/cambodia-monitoring.pdf



Credit : Justin Douglass/World Vision

At school in Mongolia – in areas where children are vulnerable to labour exploitation and violence, it is crucial to ensure access to quality education.

Global Study, regional focus

Due for launch in October 2006, the UN Global Study on Violence against Children will synthesize the findings and proceedings of nine regional consultations, including East Asia and the Pacific, to make recommendations at a global level on curbing violence against children.

Delegates to the East Asia and Pacific consultation in June 2005 contributed 37 recommendations to this study to improve safety and protection in situations where children work. They included documentation and research, law reform changes to government policy, social advocacy, increased interventions and better access to services for those at risk or who have experienced violence.

Improving children's participation in decisions was a major recommendation. The consultation involved 36 young people, and a set of minimum standards was established on how adults should conduct themselves in consultations with children www.violencestudy.org

Recommendations from the regional consultation call for:

- Greater clarity on the meaning and characteristics of violence in the workplace, especially in the informal sector
- The development of concrete protection procedures and legislation
- Better regulation of workplaces through the training of officials for law enforcement and monitoring of abuses
- Increased participation by the children in decisions that affect them

In accordance with child protection protocols, names have been changed and/or identities hidden of children who have suffered abuse.

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Save the Children



Child Workers in Asia



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