

Child Work and Initiatives to Eliminate Child Labour in Uganda

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Structure of the presentation

- Country Demographics
- Coffee Farming Systems
- Situational Analysis
- Government policies & initiatives
- Conclusions

Country Demographics

- Area: 241,551,000 Km² (Land: 199,807,000 Km² & Water & Swamps: 41,743 Km²)
- Population: 32m people (Female 52% & Male 48%)
- Population below the age of 15 years is 65%
- Settlement: 89% rural and 11% urban
- 80% of the population engaged in agriculture
- Agriculture's contribution to GDP: 21%
- Literacy rate
 - 65% for below 15 years
- Orphans due to AIDS/HIV and conflicts 1.7million

Coffee Farming Systems...

- Uganda is the birth place of robusta coffee,
- Coffee largely intercropped with food crops.
- About 1 million households grow coffee
- Use family labour and nominal fertilisers
- Average farm size: Robusta 0.23ha and Arabica 0.5ha

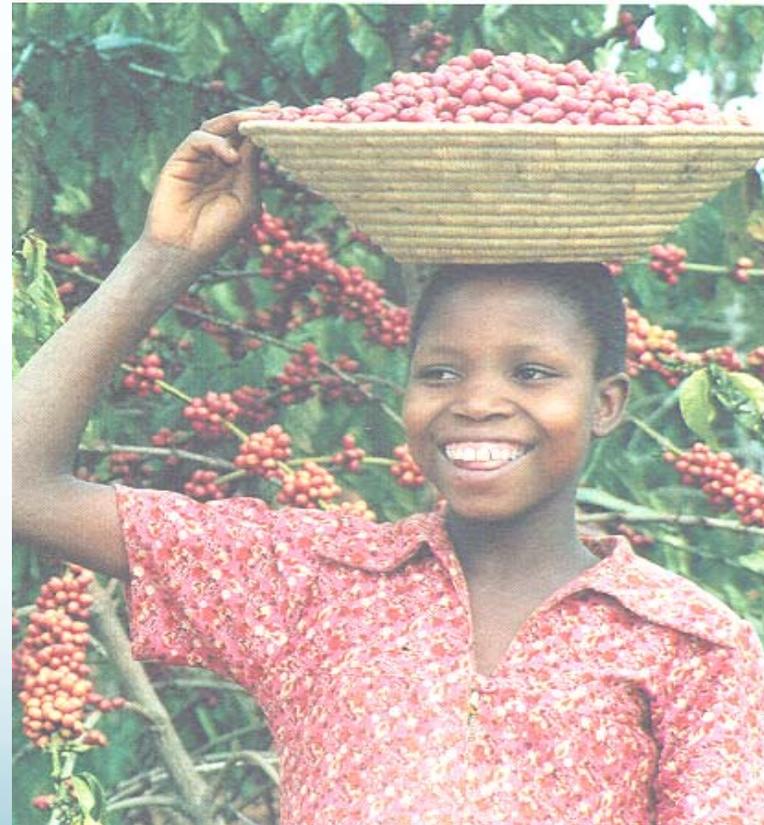


Coffee Farming Systems... cont'd

Father harvests



Child takes home



Possible Causes of Child Labour

- Household Poverty:
- Polygamy, broken-up homes, irresponsible parenthood;
- Orphanage due to HIV/AIDS & internal wars
- Ignorance of the laws and social settings
- Child headed families

Situational Analysis: Surveys/Studies

- In 1999 the Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE) studied 115 enterprises showed children performed various tasks:
 - In tea and tobacco 25% were found harvesting;
 - In coffee, 23% were picking; 14% weeding, 9% slashing and 5% were sorting tobacco
- FUE/UCDA survey in 2004 with support from ILO Bureau for Employers' Activities on child labour, revealed that some children were engaged in weeding, picking, loading, sorting and marketing

Govt policies & initiatives against Child labour

Collaborative arrangements: Charters Ratified.

- The Organization of African Unity Charter on the Rights of the Child (1991).
- ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour on June 21, 2001.
- The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) along with ILO-IPEC set up a National Steering Committee; and a Child Labour Unit was formed.
- Set up a Child Labour Unit responsible for developing policies on child labour and promoting coordination and networking among key stakeholders

Collaborative arrangements

- ILO-IPEC and Uganda launched a National Programme to Eliminate Child Labour in 1999.
 - *This has contributed to elimination of exploitive child labour through sensitization, advocacy, media awareness, and the formation of district groups aimed at addressing children's issues*
 - *Sectors receiving special attention include commercial agriculture, construction, fishing, mechanical workshops, urban services*
 - *Rehabilitation services are available to street children, domestic workers, and children involved in cross-border smuggling and drug trafficking.*
 - *The project built capacity of stakeholders to identify and eliminate hazardous child labour on tea and coffee plantations.*

National policies and programmes

- Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), which provides a framework for poverty alleviation at household level established in 1997
- Universal Primary Education (UPE) 1997, > 7.5 m pupils enrolled.
- Universal Secondary Education (USE) 2007 to absorb those from UPE
- Rehabilitate formerly abducted children and rescued street children, by providing shelter, basic education, vocational training and counselling.
- Child Labour Unit responsible for developing policies on child labour and promoting coordination and networking among key stakeholders.

Govt policies & initiatives

- FUE along with the labour unions developed guidelines to reduce child labour in various businesses.
 - *The Uganda Tea Association developed a code of conduct to prevent child labour in the tea sector.*
 - *Government labour inspectors regularly inspect enterprises for compliance*
 - *Awareness raising activities on child labour are undertaken through seminars, media, billboards and other programmes.*

Govt policies & initiatives cont'd

- The Government participated in the ILO-IPEC project to combat HIV/AIDS-induced child labour in Uganda and Zambia, which ended in December 2008.
 - A total of 2,642 children were withdrawn, 2,072 prevented from exploitive child labour through the provision of education in both countries.
 - ILO-IPEC also trained teachers on child labour, as well as HIV/AIDS-induced child labour.

Govt policies & initiatives

Cont'd

- Government is participating in a 4-year Project for the Elimination of Child Labour.
- The project aims is to withdraw at least 2,712 and prevent 5,426 children from exploitive child labour in agriculture, commercial sexual, fishing, domestic work, construction, mining, quarrying, and the urban informal sector.
- The Livelihoods, Education and Protection to End Child labour (LEAP), targets to prevent and eliminate child labour in Northern Uganda and the Karamoja region
 - through raising awareness and improving access to quality of education.
- Through provision of education services under the 4 year programme in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Ethiopia Together (KURET) project prevented a total of 32,823 children from exploitative labour in HIV/AIDS.

Govt policies & initiatives cont'd..

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SOME QUESTIONS 2 PONDER

- Differences in cultures and societal settings (rural vs urban, LDC vs G7, a child in a NYC condo vs a farm house in Timbuktu or Nakapiripit)
- Differentiation of child labour, child work and skills transfer by the illiterate parents
- Man hours on farm size of $\frac{1}{4}$ acre (400 trees)
- Some of the possible causes of child labour macro economic in nature. What should be done.
- Some countries are quite young: 65% below 15 yrs

Conclusion

- Uganda has ratified all treaties and established collaborative linkages to stop child labour
- Government and other stakeholders have developed laws & guidelines to curb child labour
- Govt has up scaled literacy programmes through free and compulsory education and prosperity for all.
- Poverty eradication, political stability and social settings will be important for elimination of child labour
- Child work should not be equated to Child labour whatever the case child labour has been reduced in Uganda.
- Child labour must be stopped and complete elimination requires joint effort by each of the stakeholders-locally internationally