

**Brief Report on the Observance of the:
World Day Against Child Labour 2010
Pakistan**

10-16 June 2010

Various activities commemorating the World Day Against Child Labour were held in Pakistan during the period 10 - 16 June 2010 under the over all theme of the campaign "Go for the Goal ... End Child Labour". The Day was celebrated in collaboration with the ILO tripartite constituents; Government, Employers and Workers, and the partner NGOs, civil society, academia, and target beneficiaries. Details of events are mentioned below.

10th June:

1. Workers Rally at Sukkur:

Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF) organized a rally at district Sukkur for the awareness raising of workers on the issue of child labour. Around 300 workers, 45 children studying at the NFE centres established by the EC/ILO CACL II Project, and a large number of Government employees participated in the rally. Participants were displaying banners and placards with messages against child labour. The rally urged the government to implement the labour laws in letter and spirit and provide education to all, skills training to older children and the availability of decent jobs for adults.

12th June:

2. Children Mela/Art Exhibition at a Public School in Sukkur:

A funfair and arts exhibition was organized at a public school by the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), implementing partner of the CACL-II Project, jointly with the District Government of Sukkur. Children withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour and enrolled in the project supported non-formal education centers performed dances, recited poems, and sang songs. The participants appreciated the efforts of the European Commission, ILO and its tripartite constituents for the elimination of worst forms of child labour from district Sukkur.

The speakers from ILO, EFP and PWF highlighted the importance of the day and its main objective to promote awareness and action to tackle child labour. The District Coordination Officer, Mr. Inamullah Khan Dharejo, was the chief guest on the occasion. He awarded prizes to young artists judged best in the art competition. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the Government would take concrete steps against the curse of child labour. He thanked the European Commission for providing financial assistance in this context. He urged the people from all walks of life to play their due role.

3. Seminar for Awareness Raising of Employers in Sukkur:

Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) organized a seminar for the employers in Sukkur. More than 70 small business owners participated in the programme which conveyed ILO's message "Go for the Goal end Child Labour". ILO's recent video on child labour was screened and photographs of the children involved in *Worst Forms of Child Labour* and *Abusive Child Labour* were displayed. Mr. Sujeewa Fonseka, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO - Islamabad and other representatives of the participating agencies spoke on the importance

of the Day and its main objective to promote awareness and action to tackle child labour. The participants (employers) appreciated the *Awareness Raising Programme*, which they had never experienced before and promised to support the cause.

4. Workers' Rally at Lahore:

Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF) organized a rally at Lahore for the awareness raising of workers on the issue of child labour. Around 350 workers participated in the rally. Participants were displaying banners and placards with messages against child labour. The rally urged the government to implement the labour laws in letter and spirit and provide education to all, skills training to older children and the availability of decent jobs for adults.

5. A Seminar in Muzaffarabad:

Pakistan Earthquake Child Labour Response (PECLR) Project organized a seminar in Muzaffarabad. The speakers highlighted the issues of child labour in earthquake area and way forward for elimination of child labour to reach the millennium Development Goals. Mr. Nazir Ul Hasan Gilani, Secretary Social Welfare and Women Department, Government of AJ&K was the chief guest of the seminar. The Day was observed with the



active participation of government officials, representative from UN agencies, civil society, academia, trade unions, lawyers, media personnel both print and electronic.

Mr. Shahbaz Bokhari, Project Manager, PECLR highlighted the objective of the Day to raise global awareness on child labour and the required policy response in eliminating its worst forms. He shared that the project is providing education and vocational training to 3,500 children affected by earthquake and entered into child labour due to loss or disability of earning member of the family or destruction of educational infrastructure. He informed that the project has empowered girls and women by providing marketable trades and market linkages for economic stability. He said that keeping in view the scale of huge calamity, more efforts needed to address the child labour issues in earthquake stricken area.

The Chief Guest in his address thanked the ILO for observing the World Day Against Child Labour. He expressed that the seminar will promote commitment and sensitize the participants on child labour. He said that behavioural and attitudinal change is the key to fight against child labour. We need to bring about changes in



our attitudes and proactively contribute towards eradicating child labour. During the seminar, gifts and shields were also distributed by the Chief Guest amongst the winner and runner up children from different schools.

6. A football Match at Muzaffarabad:

Keeping in view the theme of the Day, a football match was also played at Muzaffarabad among the teams of children involved in the worst forms of child labour. The match was well attended by all the segments of the society. Prizes were distributed among the players at the end of the match.



7. Seminar organized by the Pakistan Boy Scouts Association:

The Pakistan Boy Scouts Association in collaboration with Islamabad Crescent Lions Club celebrated the World Day Against Child Labour in Islamabad on June 12, 2010. The World Organization of Scout Movement has already signed MoUs with ILO/IPEC and Lions Club International for collaboration and joint ventures in promoting a world-fit for children. Launching ceremony of the



Project "Scouting for Me" was also arranged on the occasion in which boy scouts from educational institutions also participated. Capt. (R) Engineer Ali Yameen Qureshi, National Secretary Pakistan Boy Scouts Association was the Chief Guest. The whole program was conducted by the newly registered scouts from auto workshops.

14th June:

8. Launching ceremony of the CACL II in Sahiwal:

The World Day Against Child Labour was celebrated in Sahiwal (project district of CACL-II). On this occasion the launching ceremony of the project was also organized jointly by the

Punjab Rural Support Programme (the implementing partner) and the District Government.

A large number of representatives from PWF, EFP, academia, civil society, government officials, and target children with their families participated in the ceremony. Mr. Taseer Alizai, Senior Programme Officer, highlighted the importance of WDACL and also emphasized on major interventions of the project including NFE, literacy, health screening, micro credit, and trainings for



mothers to enhance income generation. Mr. Alizai thanked the District Coordination Officer, Sahiwal for being pro-active and supportive in the drive for the elimination of child labour from the district. Mr. Alizai

also raised the red card and asked the audience to pledge on this important day to show red card to child labour in the district, which the audience did by raising their hands. Mr. Muhammad Khan Khichi, District Coordination Officer Sahiwal, chief guest on the occasion, said that the district government was committed to eliminate child labour from the



district. He said that District Coordination Committee on Child Labour had already being formed. He said that child labour could only be eliminated with the joint efforts of all stakeholders. He thanked European Commission and ILO for selecting Sahiwal for this intervention and assured his full support to the programme. The event was widely covered by the electronic and print media.

9. Workers Conference on Child Labour and Rally at Sahiwal:

Child labour Conference was organized by PWF to mark the WDACL and role of trade unions to eliminate child labour. A large number of workers participated in the conference. Speeches were delivered by the PWF dignitaries and ILO official. Mr. Talib Nawaz, President, PWF in his address requested workers to play their due role to root out this curse of child labour from the society. He asked every worker to pledge to teach a child or support education of one child. He said that we should consider child labourers as our own children and should save some money from our income to support one child labourer at least. In the end he thanked all participants and requested them to participate in the rally. The rally was lead by PWF dignitaries and ILO officials. Workers carried placards and banners and also chanted slogans against child labour.

10. Employers Seminar in Sahiwal:

EFP representative Mr. Saud Alam, Coordinator, discussed the role of employers to eliminate child labour and shared a presentation on Occupational Safety and Health issues faced by child labourers. Mr. Taseer Alizai, SPO, briefed the participants on the action programme to be implemented by the EFP in the district. He said that employers could play a significant role in elimination of child labour by not allowing under age children to work at the workplaces. Mr. Sheikh Azmat Saleem, President, Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce, the chief guest, appreciated the initiative taken by ILO to eliminate child labour from Sahiwal. He said that he and his colleagues will provide full support to the project and he would like to see more events like this and more extensive participation of the employers.



11. Entertainment Evening for Target Children at Sahiwal:

An entertainment evening was especially designed for target children who had been recently identified for the NFE centres. An animated movie "Kung Fu Panda" was shown to the children on multimedia



screen. 60 to 70 children along with their parents participated in this entertainment evening. Children were given balloons, chocolates, goody bags, colourful books, and geometry boxes. The event was arranged in a public school.



15th June:

12. Seminar and Children’s Mela at Provincial Child Labour Unit, Lahore:

A daylong event was organized in Lahore by the Provincial Child Labour Unit, Labour Department-Punjab in collaboration with the Employers’ Federation of Pakistan (EFP), Pakistan Workers’ Federation (PWF) and Pak-Swedish Teachers Association (NGO). The event included a seminar on this year’s theme, a speech competition, an exhibition of paintings, a magic show for kids, a puppet show and a street walk to raise awareness on the issue.



The seminar was organized at the CIWCE Auditorium with representatives from the provincial departments of Labour, Social Welfare and Education, civil society organizations and media personnel. Mr. Ashraf Khan Sona, Provincial Minister of Labour and Human Resource, was the chief guest on the



occasion. Mr. Taseer Alizai, Senior Programme Officer, highlighted the importance of WDACL and emphasized on the need for the provincial government to take steps towards the implementation of the laws in the province and actions against the violators of the law. Mr. Alizai thanked the Provincial Labour Minister for his time and his support in the drive for the elimination of child labour from the province. The chief guest in his address said that the provincial government was committed to eliminate child labour from the province. He warned all violators of Employment of Children Act, 1991, to abide by law otherwise strict action would be taken against them. He said that child labour could only be eliminated with the joint efforts of all stakeholders. He also raised the red card and asked the audience to pledge on this important day to show red card to child labour, which the audience did by raising their hands. He thanked European Commission and ILO for selecting one district in Punjab for their intervention and assured his full support to the programme. The event was widely covered by the electronic and print media.



16th June:

13. A Seminar at Provincial Child Labour Unit, Karachi:

The Provincial Child Labour Unit, Directorate of Labour Government of Sindh in collaboration with the active involvement of Employer Federation of Pakistan and Pakistan Workers Federation, organized an event in Karachi to mark the World Day Against Child Labour. Mr. Amir Nawab Khan,



Minister for Labour, Government of Sindh, was the chief guest of the event. Mr. Nazar Mohammad Khaloro, Commissioner Sindh Employees Social Security Institution also participated in the event. Children withdrawn from hazardous working conditions, under various programmes in the province, actively participated in the programme and presented various tableaux. A magical show and debate competition was also organized for them.

Mr. Mir Mohammad Balooch, Director Labour Welfare, Sindh welcomed the participants and briefly informed on the efforts his department was making for the elimination of child labour in the province. He thanked the European Commission and ILO Pakistan for their support in this regard. The employers and workers representatives appreciated the efforts of the government towards the establishment of the provincial child labour unit. They also appreciated the role of the labour department in bringing a consensus on labour policy, industrial relations and similar other issues.



Mr. Amir Nawab Khan, Minister for Labour Sindh, in his key note address reiterated the commitment of the provincial government to eliminate the child labour especially its worst forms from the province. He said that the government would be working in collaboration with the ILO and the European Commission and would involve experienced national NGOs to prevent, withdraw and rehabilitate the child labourers in the province. He alluded to the government's ratification of the two ILO Conventions relating to the child labour and appealed to all segments of the society, intellectuals, writers, and those in power to come forward and contribute their part in this regard. He also stressed upon the need for involving media in the efforts towards eliminating child labour.

14. Media Coverage of all events relating to WDACL:

In addition to the vast media coverage of the above events, various programmes were relayed on the Pakistan Radio, Pakistan Television and various private channels during the period beginning from 10 to 17 June 2010. Such programmes included talk shows, video documentaries, thematic songs, discussions and television spots. Some of the links are mentioned below.

<http://dawn.com.pk/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/local/lahore/70%2C000-working-children-rehabilitated-under-ipecl-660>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxObxDxWJv4&feature=player_embedded
