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people unlimited



WHAT CAME OUT OF OMAR'S DREAM

STOP



CHILD LABOUR

School is the best place to work

supported by



Stop Child Labour

In March 2012, the Dutch National Postcode Lottery awarded Hivos a grant of €3,189,588 for the project "Omar's Dream, the beginning of the end of child labour". The grant covered a three-year period, from June 2012 to June 2015, and a no-cost extension for 6 extra months was approved through to November 2015.

Stop Child Labour is a coalition of different Dutch, European, African, Asian and Latin American NGOs and trade unions. For the Omar's Dream project, Hivos co-ordinates the project and works with four other Dutch and several African organisations to implement activities to realise Child Labour Free Zones (CLFZ) in different African countries.

These Dutch organisations are:

- Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland, which implements CLFZ in Ethiopia and prepares three West African Francophone countries, Senegal, Mali and Burkina Faso, for implementing CLFZ in the future by linking with and learning from other African countries and the MV Foundation in India;
- FNV Mondiaal in close collaboration with the Dutch Teachers Union (AOB), which implement CLFZ in Morocco and Ghana. Through teachers' unions in Mali, Senegal, Ghana, Morocco and Uganda, FNV Mondiaal also works with Education International on engagement in CLFZ in Africa. This is done by linking with and learning from other African initiatives;

- ICCO Cooperation which implements CLFZ in Kenya;
- Hivos implements the CLFZ directly through the Hivos Regional offices in Nairobi (overseeing Uganda) and Harare (overseeing Zimbabwe).

As a direct effect of the project interventions, a total of 43,278 girls and boys have been withdrawn or prevented from child labour and have been returned to and retained in school. However, many more children – as well as adults – have benefitted from the project interventions.

During the three years that the Omar's Dream project has been operational, implementing organisations have taken the CLFZ concept to a large number of communities and several thousand children have been withdrawn from child labour and placed in formal education. But child labour still exists, and hence the project's purpose is still relevant. Accumulated experience makes it obvious that the efforts carried out in pursuit of the CLFZ model have been successful and need to be pursued further.

SUMMARY

AFRICA

35 CHILD LABOUR
FREE ZONES STARTED

AFRICA

**MALI, SENEGAL,
MAROCCO, GHANA
AND UGANDA**

The teachers' unions' contribution to developing child labour free zones

WEST AFRICA

**MALI, SENEGAL AND
BURKINA FASO,
LINKING & LEARNING**

The partners have shared experiences and learned from each other.

AFRICA & INTERNATIONAL

LOBBY & ADVOCACY

At country and international level

NETHERLANDS

AWARENESS RAISING
in the Netherlands

MAROCCO



3786 CHILDREN
PREVENTED AND WITHDRAWN
FROM CHILD LABOUR

GHANA



6806 CHILDREN
PREVENTED AND WITHDRAWN
FROM CHILD LABOUR

ETHIOPIA



21639 CHILDREN
PREVENTED AND WITHDRAWN
FROM CHILD LABOUR

UGANDA



3358 CHILDREN
PREVENTED AND WITHDRAWN
FROM CHILD LABOUR

KENYA



5539 CHILDREN
PREVENTED AND WITHDRAWN
FROM CHILD LABOUR

ZIMBABWE

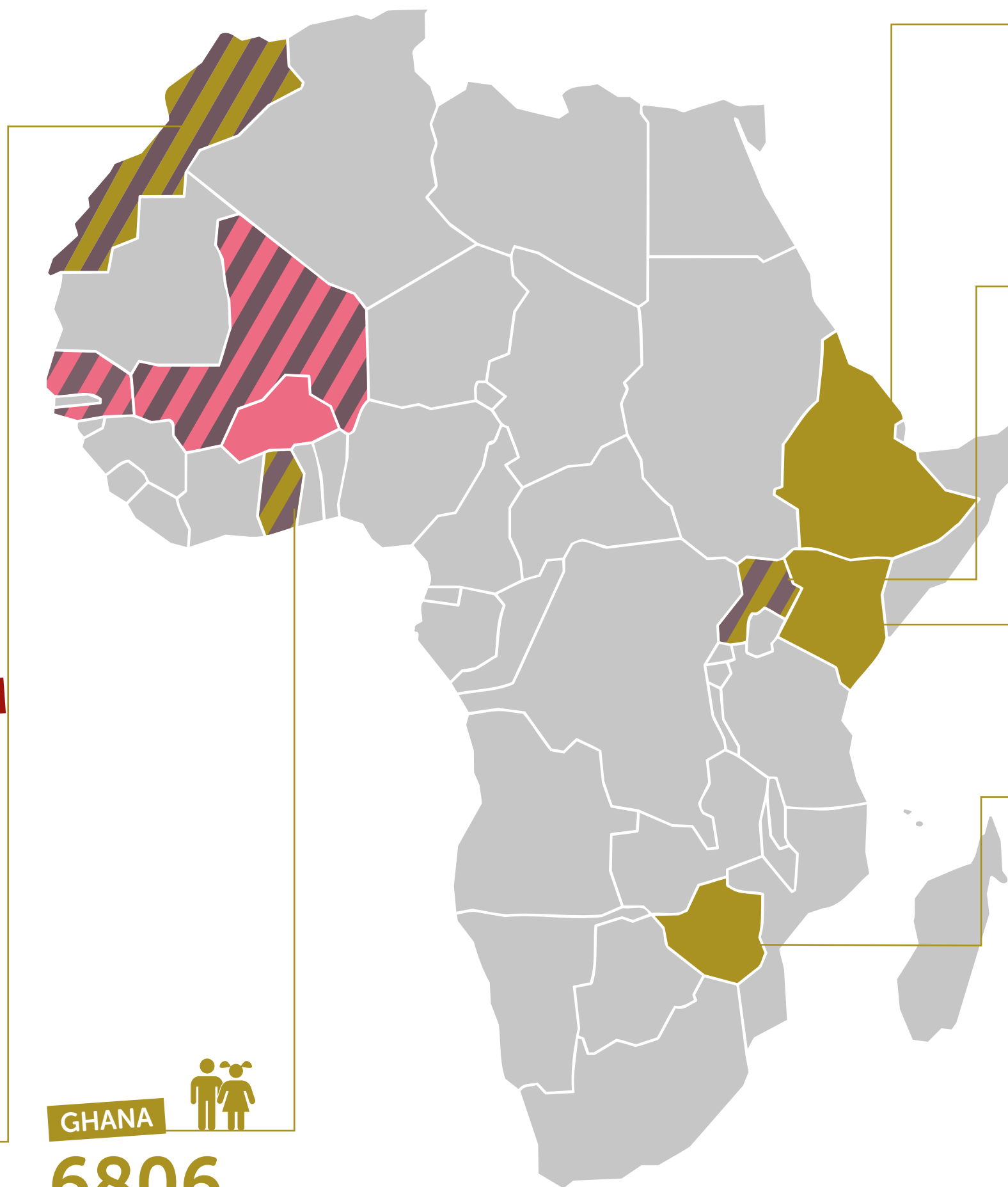


2150 CHILDREN
PREVENTED AND WITHDRAWN
FROM CHILD LABOUR



TOTAL AFRICA

43278 CHILDREN
PREVENTED AND WITHDRAWN
FROM CHILD LABOUR



17 CLFZs in Ethiopia and a total of 21,639 children prevented (16,774) and withdrawn (4,865) from child labour.

1. African Development Aid Association (ADAA): 8 CLFZs in Siraro District, West Arsi Zone, Oromia Regional State. 4,537 children (1,802 girls and 2,735 boys) prevented and withdrawn from child labour.



Most important results:

- 350 girls and boys withdrawn and 4,187 (1,643 girls and 2,544 boys) prevented from child labour and (re)integrated into school. 38 children dropped out of school, mainly due to migration issues; 1,264 children are still out of school across the eight CLFZs;
- Introduction of fourteen self-help groups for 330 mothers of vulnerable households to assist them with income-generating activities and saving schemes, to enable them to better support their children in school;
- From the start of the project, close collaboration with communities and local governments, that have integrated the activities into their plans;
- Community conversations have been very successful in discussing issues related to child labour, harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation and early marriages, and other social problems.

CASE STUDY: CHILD WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CWAC) LIBERATED CHILDREN FROM LABOUR



Guta Gudeta and Lelisa Belcha were born in Damine village, Siraro District (in one the of target kebeles of Siraro District, Oromia Regional State). Both of them are school-going children and registered at Damine Olana primary school in 2014.

Guta Gudeta is a grade 3 student and Lelisa Belcha is a grade 5 student. Unfortunately somebody convinced them to work in another zone, herding cattle for a little money. The girls accepted this idea and went there, drop-

ping out of school. The annual wage the children earned was 2-3.5 quintals of maize.

After the introduction of the CLFZ project to the kebele, the CWAC and community facilitators brought up the serious impact that child labour has on children's development, as well as the benefit of education for children, at every community conversation session. The CWAC members decided with the assistance of the Community Conversation members to write a letter

to East shoa Jido kombolcha woreda in order to reunite these children with their families.

Now, both Lelisa and Guta are back in education.

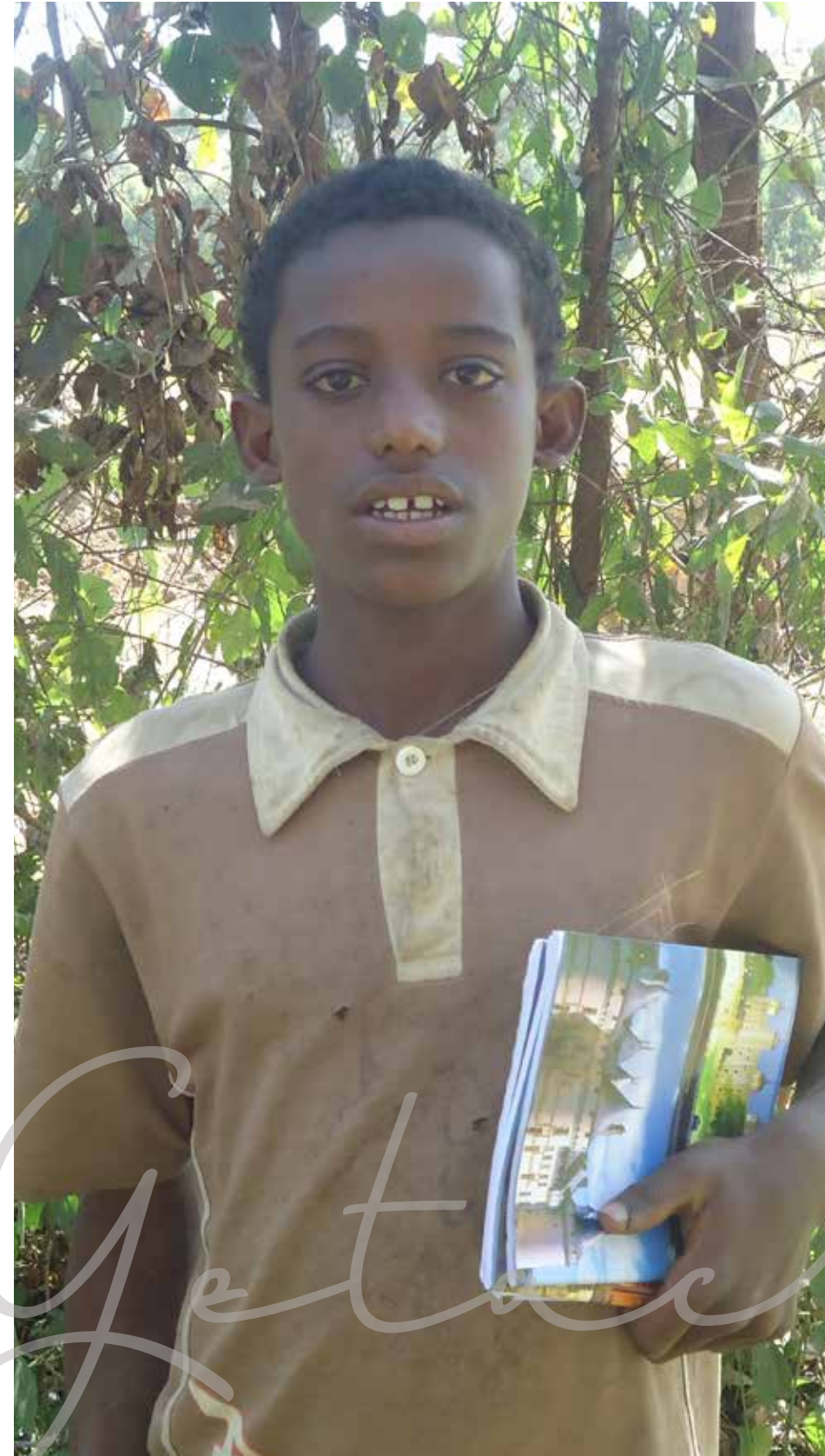
2. Wabe Children's Aid and Training (WCAT): 7 CLFZs in East Estie Woreda of South Gondar administrative zone in Amhara Regional state. 5,285 children (2,654 girls and 2,631 boys) prevented and withdrawn from child labour.



Most important results:

- 3,072 children (1,458 girls and 1,614 boys) withdrawn from child labour. 2,213 (1,196 girls and 1,017 boys) prevented from child labour and (re)integrated into school; amongst these are 56 children with a disability who are integrated into primary schools; an additional 1,389 children under six years of age are integrated into pre-schools;
- Strong involvement of the community and community structures through community awareness and community dialogue at grassroots level;
- Close collaboration with teachers, schools and the education department resulted in the expanding of schools and increased enrolment of children (the dropout rate reduced from 8.5% in 2012 to 1.2% in 2015). Girls' enrolment increased in particular. The community was involved in the construction of new school blocks/classrooms;
- 314 disadvantaged women and youth were trained in agricultural business skills and assisted in setting up income-generating activities and savings schemes.

CASE STUDY: GETACHEW TADIE



Getachew, a twelve-year-old boy, lives in a small village called Adwa. He is the oldest child in his family and has two brothers. He lives with his biological mother and father.

His family is engaged in economic activities in small farming of land and daily labour activities. They live below the poverty line.

Most of the time his father engages in daily labour in order to meet the family's basic needs. When his father went to work, Getachew took on responsibility for managing the family. This meant that he had to engage in farming activities in order to meet the family's needs. Although Getachew was enrolled in grade 1 at Mehalgie primary school in 2010, he dropped out as a grade 2 student in 2011. He did not continue his education because of work.

When WCAT identified and collected data on out-of-school children, the development promoter and volunteer teachers discussed education with Getachew and his mother, and Getachew was given the opportunity to return to school. The main reason for Getachew dropping out was economic. After the discussion, WCAT provided Getachew with school uniform and educational materials. Getachew's mother also engaged in WCAT's income-generating programme. As a result, Getachew returned to school in 2012. Now he is a grade 3 student at Mehalgie primary school and is able to attend classes regularly.

3. Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment (FSCE): 2 CLFZs in Dessie Town, South Wollo Zone of Amhara Regional State. 11,817 children (5,970 girls and 5,847 boys) prevented and withdrawn from child labour.



Most important results:

- 1,443 children (735 girls and 708 boys) withdrawn from child labour. 10,374 (5,235 girls and 5,139 boys) prevented from child labour and (re) integrated into school. 28 children had previously been trafficked and brought to Dessie city from the countryside;
- Urban project with problems such as child trafficking, child prostitution and other child abuses;
- Multi-Stakeholder Community Based Child Protection Structures (MSCCPS) have been established over the past three years in the two target kebeles of Dessie city. Those have been strengthened to enable them to discharge their duties and responsibilities – protecting children from child labour and other forms of child abuse – in a systematic manner. They have been able to carry out different activities based on the identified child protection indicators in their locality;
- Target community has made neighbours, friends and relatives part and parcel of the fight against child labour and other abuses by attracting and inviting them to the community conversation sessions. As a result the local target community is extending awareness of the negative impacts of child labour and other child abuses to the neighbouring kebeles;
- A revolving fund for 100 mothers/guardians has been organised into saving and credit associations at the two kebeles. The fund is expected to increase the borrowing capacity of the mothers/guardians in the associations, allowing them to engage in more profitable businesses to increase their incomes. This, in turn, will help the mothers/guardians not only to send their children to school but also to fulfil their other basic needs.

CASE STUDY: IGAs FOR ELDER YOUTH



Yonas Berhanu is one of the older children who has been supported through our Income Generating Activities (IGA) scheme as part of the project "Creating Child Labour Free Zone at Kebele 01 and 03 of Dessie City".

Yonas was living in a very impoverished environment with his jobless mother and a younger brother. Life was hard for him. Yonas says, "I have no other alternative I can think of, I have decided to help myself, my poor mother and my younger brother by getting involved in laborious activities." Yonas was working with a tailor, with a daily income of less than 10 ETH Birr. Even so, he says, "My income was very insufficient to support myself let alone my family. As a result, my brother was about to drop out from school and the already poor health of my mother got worse."

"The coming of the Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment (FSCE) through the IGA scheme was a turning point in my life," he says. After taking various trainings on business skill, entrepreneurship, saving and management, Yonas, who already had experience in tailoring, found it easy to decide what kind of activity to engage in – tailoring! With a 5,000 ETH Birr provision from the project, he bought a sewing machine and got to work immediately. Yonas, a smart business-minded boy, was not interested in paying rent for a place to run his business. He cleaned a corridor (actually a place where people pee) between buildings and got permission from the building owners to start his business.

Today, things are different for him. He has been able to send his younger

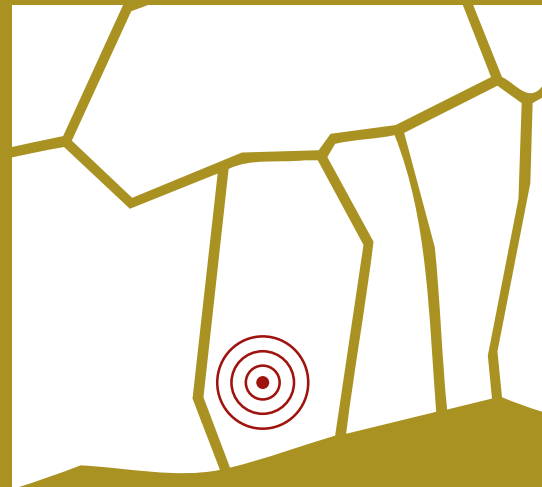
brother to school, covering his educational expenses. "Glory to God, my mother recovered from her illness after I took her to the hospital," Yonas says. He has now a total of 33,456 ETH Birr saving in the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia. He also saves 100 ETH Birr a day through his "Ekub" Traditional Association.

"I am very proud and have hope in my life and I developed my confidence that I can independently stand and support others. Many people I have known while working in between the buildings have become my customers themselves. Generally, if you ask me what did I get from the project, oh, many things: I have become financially competent, socially active, personally independent and supportive," Yonas says.

3 CLFZs (ten communities per CLFZ).

1. Kpando District in Volta Region, CLFZs in fishing area
2. Kwaebibirem District in Eastern Region in oil palm industry
3. Kwabre District in Ashanti District in cocoa small farmers area

Stop Child Labour partner agency: General Agricultural Workers' Union (GAWU) of Trades Union Congress (TUC) – Ghana



Most important results:

- 6,806 children (3,290 girls and 3,516 boys) of which 2,764 withdrawn and 4,042 prevented from child labour and (re)integrated into school;
- The project has tested and applied the Torkor/ SCL-CLFZ Model in all the three project districts. The term 'Torkor Model' is the domestic version of the Ghana Volta Lake approach inspired by the MV Foundation and SCL, CLFZ concept;
- Income levels amongst women and men are beginning to see significant increases in some communities, from between a modest gain of 5% to 28% as a result of the training and some support and advice for alternative livelihoods. Some increases have also been linked to government-provided additional livelihood schemes through the National Board for Small Skill Industries (NBSSI);
- Ghana currently has 72 child labour free zone communities in the cocoa, oil palm and fishing communities, 30 of which are direct products of the Omar's Dream project, and 42 of which are a pilot under the ILO in cocoa communities using the integrated area-based approaches towards child labour free zones. Currently five additional communities in the area have also started promoting the concept;
- Ghana is reviewing its seven-year national action plan on child labour to capture elements of the SCL-CLFZ model. We have made a formal presentation to the national drafting committee. The Ghanaian Government has adopted the concept in the development and design of the National Plan of Action for 2016 to 2020.

CASE STUDY: ADOPTION OF OMAR'S DREAM / SCL-CLFZ AS A THEME FOR SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION



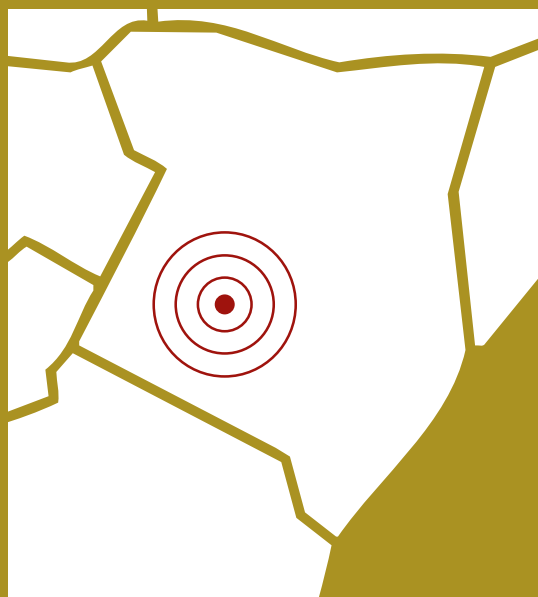
The chief of Adankrono, one of the project target communities within the oil palm belt of the eastern region of Ghana, namely Oasbarima Sarpong Kuma Kuma, adopted our SCL-CLFZ as the theme for the celebration of the silver anniversary of his enstoolment as the chief of Adankrono. The celebration was also used to announce his declaration of a child labour free zone. The chief also launched the by Omar's Dream project supported Women Oil Palm Processing Centre in the village. The programme

took place in the community on Saturday 24 October 2015. A high-powered delegation from GAWU was present at the ceremony. Other project community centres also attended the ceremony to share solidarity messages and CLFZ success stories.

8 CLFVs (2 villages per county).

1. Machakos County: Kaseve and Kathiani villages
2. Kwale County: Tiwi and Makwakwani villages
3. Busia County: Bwiri and Mundembu villages
4. Kisumu County: Obwolo and Obunga villages

Stop Child Labour partner agency: Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children (KAACR)



Most important results:

- 5,539 children (2,795 girls and 2,744 boys) of which 756 withdrawn from child labour and 4,783 prevented from child labour and (re)integrated into school;
- KAACR has been at the forefront in actively lobbying and advocating (eg, the parliamentary caucus) for several children's rights issues, with the aim of ensuring that various policies protecting children are passed in parliament. A key achievement is that the long-awaited Child Labour Policy, which has been a draft for many years, was approved by the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Labour, Social Services and Security in December 2014 and has been forwarded to parliament for debate;
- County and Community Child Labour Committees were established in all four counties and eight villages. Through being active in several activities, eg, in Kwale and Machakos, the school management committee together with the child labour protection committee in both villages were instrumental in ensuring that the government built two schools (Kirudi ECD and Lumbwa Secondary school) in addition to posting teachers from the County and Teachers' Service Commission;
- Child Rights Clubs were established in all villages and are taking the lead in ensuring that most children are retained in school as well as curbing child labour within the four counties.

CASE STUDY: EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL IN KIRUDI



"Chirima in Tiwi location of Kwale County is another child labour free village where the Omar's Dream project was implemented. At the beginning of the project many children were not going to school and they were engaged in quarrying activities and sand harvesting. Kirudi was badly affected and children as young as six were already being introduced to breaking stones for ballast. Their parents said that their sons and daughters could not go to school due to poverty and because the nearest school was very far away.

As a result of the training and sensitisation campaigns around child labour and the implementation of CLFV in Kirudi, the community became aware of the effects of child labour and the importance of education as the way to keep

children out of child labour activities.

The community lobbied their leaders, including the area Member of County Assembly (MCA), and they were able to put up an Early Childhood Development (ECD) school. The project was fully funded by the ECD department of the County Government. The school has now been completed; it has 2 ECD teachers who are employed by the county government. The school has around 83 pupils.

The land where Kirudi ECD School stands was voluntarily contributed by one community member. The very young children who could not walk the long distances to the school but were engaged in breaking stones are now beneficiaries of the Kirudi ECD School. The children are happy to be in school

and hope to achieve their dreams in life. The local child labour committee is still mobilising the community and other stakeholders to ensure that more children are withdrawn from child labour and are integrated into school.

The community is happy and its members are proud of themselves for the change they influence in the community through the Omar's Dream project, beginning the end of child labour in Kenya".

1 CLFZ in Safi

The city of Safi has a population of 282,227. It is situated on the coast, 320km south of Rabat. Safi is the main fishing port for Morocco's sardine industry, it exports phosphates, textiles and ceramics, and it is well-known for its traditional artisan and handicraft workshops.

Stop Child Labour partner agency: Syndicat National de l'Enseignement (SNE-FDT) (National Teachers' Union)



Most important results:

- 3,786 girls and boys of which 45 withdrawn and 3,741 prevented from child labour and (re) integrated into school;
- The focus has been on 12 schools in different neighbourhoods in Safi. Not a single school dropout has been registered during the project period in those areas. Great efforts have been made to retain children who are at risk of leaving school before the age of 12. This is mainly due to awareness-raising programmes about the child labour phenomenon and the value of education to which a large section of the community has been exposed;
- Teacher training has been the main focus of the teachers' union: Teachers received quality training in different modules to strengthen their capacity skills in children's rights and child labour in Morocco and in Safi, as well as pedagogical sessions of extra classes to fight against school dropout, extra support for children living with a disability, and advocacy and lobbying, particularly with the education department and ministry;
- Integrated classes for children living with a disability; support for children with short-sightedness problems in the form of glasses.

CASE STUDY: ZAKARIA



Dressed in jeans, a Paris Saint-Germain football jacket and flip flops Zakaria Rajati (14) looks like an average Moroccan adolescent. With his hands in his pockets, he shuffles across the unpaved road in Sidi Wassel, a working-class area in Safi. His mother, Zahra Nayti, is right behind him.

While walking to the nearby Zarktouni school, Zahra apologises for not being able to receive guests at home. 'My husband is chronically ill and our house is rather small.' In an empty classroom mother and son sit down at a cramped school desk. Zakaria, who is becoming more and more at ease, explains that he left school 18 months ago. 'I had to repeat a class twice and I did not want to be in yet another class with much younger children.'

His illiterate mother, who never went to school herself, thought it was 'awful' that Zakaria was no longer getting an education: 'I was sad and tried to convince him to return to school, but he really did not want to.' She was worried that her son would hang around on the streets, with all due consequences. But Zakaria looked for and quickly found a job as a helper at a car garage where he earned 50 dirhams (€4.50) per week. Zakaria: 'I used that money to go to the hammam and the hairdresser's, I gave my mother the rest, about 20 dirhams.'

After he had worked for over a year, teachers Mohammed Garmim and Meryem Doublal talked to the boy at the garage and asked whether he wanted to return to school. Zakaria explains: 'Yes, I

very much wanted to.' 'I had to do unpleasant jobs at the garage, such as wash car tires. That was no fun. Going to school is better.' His employer also consented and even encouraged the boy to continue his education.

Together with other former child labourers this fourteen-year-old is now in the special 'preparatory class' of the Zarktouni school. 'I can get my certificate within one year and follow vocational education to become an auto mechanic. After that I want to work at Hyundai or Peugeot and save for my own car dealership.' Mother Zahra smiles: 'I am happy for Zakaria. He will be able to take care of himself later if he continues to learn now. With God's help all will be well.'

5 CLFZs were established in Uganda and a total of 3,358 children prevented and withdrawn from child labour. Uganda's unique approach was to work as a coalition of three agencies, two NGOs and one teachers' union

1. African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) Uganda Chapter – Rakai: two CLFZs in Mitukula and Nakatoogo parishes, both in Rakai District.



Most important results:

- 1,659 children (912 girls and 747 boys) withdrawn and prevented from child labour and (re)integrated into schools.
- This includes 56 youth (15-17 years) who successfully completed a vocational training course;
- The Community Conversation Meetings (CCMs) proved to be sustainable community awareness and reflection platforms for communities to deliberate on pertinent issues adversely affecting children. CCM have achieved milestones in changing the attitudes of caregivers and service providers, who have then gone on to speak out against the negative cultural practices that were perpetuating child labour. CCMs were also used by local governments to gather community ideas and concerns during the budget planning meeting, resulting in communities accessing support from the local government;
- Child Labour Free Household (CLFH): the households that complied and were declared CLFH were given a certificate of achievement, which encouraged every household to work hard and be awarded the same certificate. By the end of project implementation, 90% of the households had received the certificates.

CASE STUDY: CHILD LABOUR FREE HOUSEHOLDS IN RAKAI



The reward system (certificate of achievement) was used to motivate community members to step up child protection and children's wellbeing in order to qualify for the Child Labour Free Household award.

The project change theory was built on the premise that households are the building blocks of the community, and critical change was envisioned at household levels. The community developed parameters of child protection and wellbeing to assess the performance of the households that were to qualify for the award.

2. Kids in Need (KIN): three CLFZs in Kigungu, Kitubulu and Nakiwogo parishes in Wakiso District, near Entebbe.



Most important results:

- 1,669 children (814 girls and 885 boys) withdrawn and prevented from child labour and (re)integrated into schools;
- KIN acted as a resource centre and agency on CLFZ in Uganda by facilitating field visits from different countries as well as capacity-building activities to enable new partners to learn from their experiences;
- KIN organised the end-term meeting for the Omar's Dream partners and launched the "5x5 Stepping Stones for Creating CLFZ" handbook in a village, Kigungu, that was declared a CLFZ at the same time;
- The Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) were introduced in the CLFZs and proved to be very successful in assisting families with sending their children to school and providing for the families' basic needs;
- The Supporting Children's Rights through Education, Arts and the Media (SCREAM) has yielded positive results in the quality of education in terms of more child-friendly schools. Various teachers and community leaders were trained on the SCREAM methodology and applied this in their schools and communities, as well as training other teachers.

CASE STUDY: KIGUNGU: CHILD LABOUR FREE ZONE



3. Uganda National Teachers' Union (UNATU): mainly focused on leveraging the two partners on advocacy activities at the local government and community levels while also targeting higher-level advocacy to influence change at the national level.



Most important results:

- Six regional meetings and one national level orientation meeting took place to sensitise the members and stakeholders on child labour and the value of education, and to promote the CLFZ concept;
- UNATU, being a national union with members all over the country and links at a political level, used several media strategies for awareness-raising as well as for lobby & advocacy. These included radio spots, talk shows, news items, posters, brochures, stickers, calendars, etc.;
- UNATU integrated child labour and the area-based approach towards CLFZ as the best strategy to combat child labour in their overall programmes for promoting and improving education;
- Lobby & advocacy on a high level with parliamentarians and policy-makers, for example the national orientation meeting, hosting a field visit to CLFZ in Entebbe, and supporting the motion on CLFZ presented to Parliament.

CASE STUDY: CHILD LABOUR FREE ZONES MOTION OVERWHELMINGLY PASSED BY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT



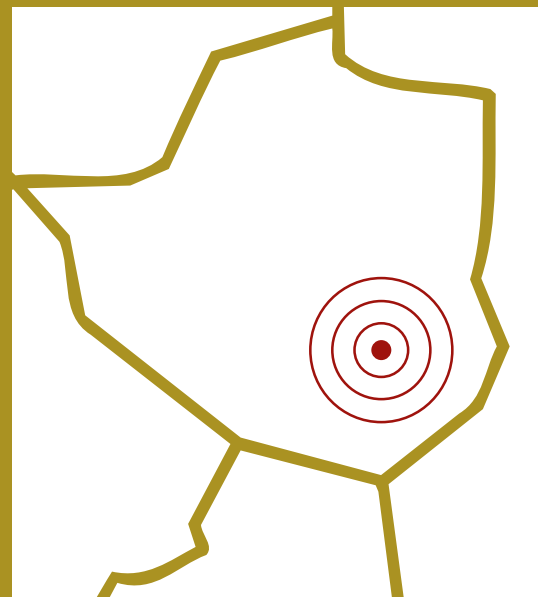
At the national level, after the interface and strong lobbying of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Quality Education, a resolution was moved on the floor of Parliament that the government of Uganda adopts and supports an area-based approach policy and above all, to amend legislation with regard to education and employment of children. All this goes to demonstrate that key institutions have been sensitised to reduce the barriers to communities

changing their norm to 'no child should work, all children must go to school'.

CLFZ in Ward 16, Chiredzi.

Situated in South-East Zimbabwe, close to borders with Mozambique and South-Africa. Ward 16 has 25,000 inhabitants and consists of 168 villages. It is about 50 by 60 km and has 16 primary schools and 3 secondary schools.
Stop Child Labour partner agency: Coalition Against Child Labour in Zimbabwe (CACLAZ).

CACLAZ is a coalition consisting of 3 partners: the African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN-Zimbabwe Chapter), Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ) and General Agriculture and Plantation Workers Union in Zimbabwe (GAPWUZ).



Most important results:

- 2,150 children (910 girls and 1240 boys) removed from child labour and (re)integrated in school; 95% of the people in ward 16 are sensitized and positive about the project;
- Introduction and establishment of 2 "Incubation Centres", that acted as bridge schools for returnees coming from work, going back to school;
- Networking and collaboration with a wide range of actors. Additional activities supplemented by other donor agencies; support and involvement from the local government and Ministry of Education; strong involvement of local leaders and village counsillors;
- Chiredzi acts as a resource centre for new actors and interested groups to learn from the experiences of establishing a CLFZ in Chiredzi, Ward 16.

CASE STUDY: TURNING VILLAGERS INTO ACTIVISTS - FROM RHETORIC TO REALITY!



“When i got hold of this book with the picture of my family in it, I felt like you people were unlocking my heart with a big key. I’m thrilled beyond words to realize that, how humble and uneducated as I am, I have appeared in a book. Not even my children may achieve this feat.”

Headman and Counsillor, both men are now activists against child labor and advocate for full-time school. Headman (right) with CLFZ handbook in his hand, proudly showing it and saying

When CACLAZ first set foot in Ward 16, no one had an idea things would turn out the way they have today. It was business as usual for a village where most of the people grow cotton and herd cattle, goats and sheep. The villagers looked at our staff with stale neutrality. This was just one of the many NGOs that would come and go. What difference would they make to their lives anyway? Many others had come and gone, and nothing really had changed their lives for the better! But things began to take a very interesting turn. The organization sounded different from those that had come before. They wanted all children to stop working and return to school. The message was short and precise and effective: PARENTS TO WORK! CHILDREN TO SCHOOL! Soon leaders were called to meetings at which they were told of the evils of child labor and the glories of sending children to school. It occurred to them for the first ever time that they were actually abusing their own children, and they regretted it. The schools were nothing but an untidy, dusty, dirty, heap of grass and poles, and

the children did not see any value in attending consistently. Some felt it was better to herd cattle and get rewarded by getting one beast per year as payment rather than waste precious time attending school that did not measure up to anything decent. The meetings were intense but lively, targeting school development committee members, headmen, chiefs, government officials, teachers, the children themselves, the youths and church leaders. No one was left out. No one. Slowly but surely, the message was driven home. At times, the leaders would watch drama by the pupils who were learning very quickly that the programme was to their benefit. Songs were also composed to send the message home, that parents must earn, and let the children learn. Soon the counsillor for the ward began to enjoy the activities. Other leaders also joined in. They became passionate about it, especially when they realized that children were actually returning to school from work- the first batch of 450 returned in 2012. The figure rose to 1000, in 2014 and 2150 by the end of 2014. It was fulfill-

ing to become part of the programme that was yielding tangible results. No NGO had previously carried out work that had such visible results! Everyone was beginning to enjoy the success story. With the withdrawals in full swing, it became clear that there was something wrong with the schools. They were shabby and not up to standard. They were an eyesore in a situation where success was already being experienced. And when CACLAZ asked the whole community to reflect on what they thought 'made up a good school', the seed appears to have been sown in the people's hearts of the need to make those dreams real. Together with their leaders, they decided to build 'the good school'. Men and women with vision and a passion for development easily came on the forefront: the counsillor, Headmen, Chairperson for Masimbiti Primary school, Headmasters and many others. They realized the importance of mobilizing others to the cause for children.

In the L&L project in West-Francophone Africa, there has been a special focus on spreading the area-based approach to Mali, Senegal and Burkina Faso in particular. The partners have shared experiences and learned from each other. They help each other solve problems and identify opportunities for the successful implementation of their activities. The partners also share knowledge and experiences with organisations in other parts of Africa (and beyond).

The participating partners that have started the implementation of CLFZs are:

1. Burkina Faso: FDC is supporting two CLFZ projects in the provinces of Bazenga and Sanmatenga.
2. Mali: Enda Mali is supporting CLFZ projects in Markala, in the Ségou region; in Senou on the outskirts of Bamako; in Mopti; in Bougouni, in the Sikasso region. Alphalog has a CLFZ project in Niono, in the Ségou region. GSAD has a CLFZ project in Douentza, in the Mopti region.
3. Senegal: ENDA Jeunesse Action is supporting CLFZ projects in Kaolack and in Ziguinchor.

Most important results:

- Exposure visits to India and Ethiopia gave more insight into the concept of the area-based approach and child labour free zones, and how this is being applied in different contexts;
- Participation in the International Conference on CLFZ in Uganda and the kick-off meeting of the Out of Work project in Mali gave partners the chance to interact with different partners involved in implementing CLFZs;
- On-the-job training in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal given by an experienced Stop Child Labour partner from Ethiopia assisted participants with extra capacity-building and gaining the confidence to implement CLFZs in West Africa;
- The Regional CLFZ workshop in Ouagadougou provided a platform for discussing experiences to date in establishing CLFZs in the three countries and for learning from each other's best practices. A monitoring and evaluation training was conducted based on the tools Stop Child Labour has developed to guarantee quality and ensure that the concept is well applied. The workshop also invited other stakeholders to promote the CLFZ concept and to get more support;
- Regular support visits to the three countries by Kinderpostzegels staff facilitated the process of establishing the new CLFZs.

CASE STUDY: KICK-OFF MEETING OF NEW SCL PROJECT IN MALI AND HOW OMAR'S DREAM PARTNERS BENEFITTED FROM THE OPPORTUNITY



The kick-off meeting for the “Out of Work” project was held in Ségou, Mali in October 2014. The meeting was organised by Malian partner agency ENDA, which took the opportunity to create more visibility for the area-based approach towards CLFZs in Mali as the ideal strategy for combatting all forms of child labour and getting children into school. ENDA was able to get both Honourable Ministers of Education and Labour on the stage to officiate the meeting.

They organised field visits and were able to showcase their CLFZ projects and get media attention. They also benefitted from feedback from the partner agencies, eg, from MVF from India and partners from Uganda, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Morocco, Kenya and Ghana on the experiences built up as part of the Omar's Dream project.

The Omar's Dream project took the opportunity to use international lobby & advocacy at different levels and on a number of occasions, in addition to the lobby & advocacy activities that were carried out at country level by the different projects.

Examples of the successful lobby & advocacy activities and the most important results:

- **CLFZ promo film:** a film was produced in Africa, in which the Omar's Dream partners displayed their projects and gave a voice to their powerful actors in the field in order to create an inspirational 20-minute presentation. The film was mainly used to start workshops, meetings and conferences in order to set the scene and get people inspired. The film can be viewed at <http://www.stopchildlabour.eu/child-labour-free-zones/>
- **International CLFZ conferences, Kampala & Managua Declarations:** in April 2013 an International Conference on CLFZ was held in Uganda and in September 2013 in Managua. These conferences resulted in two Declarations that were unanimously adopted and undersigned by all participants. The Declarations can be found at <http://www.stopchildlabour.eu/kampala-declaration-working-towards-child-labour-free-zones-unanimously-adopted/> and <http://www.stopchildlabour.eu/managua-declaracion-on-child-labour-free-zones-approved-unanimously/>
- **Global Conference on child labour in Brazil:** this conference was held in October 2013 and the Dutch Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Co-operation, Minister Lilian Ploumen, promoted the CLFZs in her speech.
- **CLFZ Handbook:** The 5x5 stepping stones for creating child labour free zones was published and launched in May 2015 in three languages: English, French and Arabic. The handbook is an inspirational guide featuring the stories and strategies of NGOs, unions and child labour free zone members worldwide. Many of the stories and strategies come from the Omar's Dream partners. <http://www.stopchildlabour.eu/handbook/>
- **Independent Evaluation:** an independent evaluation of the CLFZs in the six implementing CLFZ countries of the Omar's Dream project was carried out in 2015. The explicit aim of the evaluation was to capture and critically assess the 'diversity in uniformity'. A particular focus was placed on the effectiveness and sustainability of the Child Labour Free Zone model. <http://www.stopchildlabour.eu/child-labour-free-zones-evaluated/>



“Schools should be instruments to create citizens, eliminate disparity and put children under scrutiny. Children become public when they are in school. Schools need to be prepared to handle the challenges placed before them. There are no ‘ifs’ and ‘buts,’ children should be in school.”

A quote from Professor Shantha Sinha, India's Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, at the Kampala CLFZ International Conference.



“The sad thing, however, is that this best practice is called a child labour free zone. We need to make this term obsolete. What we need is a child labour free world. These children have to stop working. They have to be able to go to school. We must give them time to dream first. Then they will really be able to work on making their countries' dreams come true.”

A quote from Minister Lilian Ploumen, Dutch Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Co-operation.

The teachers' unions' contribution to developing child labour free zones in 5 countries.

Partner agency: Education International (EI)
The countries and teachers' unions are:

1. Ghana: Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT)
2. Morocco: Syndicat National de l'Enseignement – Fédération Démocratique du Travail (SNE-FDT)
3. Mali: Syndicat National de l'Education et de la Culture UNTM (SNEC-UNTM)
4. Senegal: Comité intersyndical de lutte contre les pires formes de travail des enfants au Sénégal
5. Uganda: Uganda National Teachers Union (UNATU)

Most important results:

- National workshops in the five countries to develop national activities to raise awareness and contribute to the existing CLFZ coalitions. In Mali, Morocco and Uganda, the eradication of child labour has been mainstreamed in the unions' policies and programmes;
- National advocacy focused on pushing governments to deepen their commitment and bridge policy implementation gaps. Efforts have been made to target business leaders and employers' federations to sensitise them to their responsibility;
- Teacher training, monitoring tools, manuals and materials were produced to build the capacity of the teachers and schools to improve the quality of schools;
- Community outreach according to the unions' strategies was a key activity. The focus was mainly on media strategy (print media, radio and television) and promotional materials; several products were also produced in local languages;
- All participating countries (except Senegal) took part in the EI delegation to the 3rd Global Conference on Child Labour in Brasilia, Brazil in October 2013. The delegation managed to influence the conference outcomes with the insertion of an additional paragraph in the conference declaration stating, "We stress that education, health and social workers should be entitled to decent working conditions and relevant initial and continuous training, and that related policies should be developed with workers' organisations through social dialogue";
- In Morocco the handbook was translated into Arabic, printed and disseminated to a wide range of stakeholders;
- In Uganda and Mali, the teachers' unions contributed to the preparations of a new Stop Child Labour project with the aim of continuing to support the CLFZs started under the Omar's Dream project as well as the newly-initiated CLFZs;
- EI facilitated an exchange visit to Morocco, to learn from the direct support the union is giving to the Safi CLFZ.

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"Eliminating child labour and improving the quality of education are strongly interlinked – the first will not happen without the second – and teachers, educators and their organisations have a critical and particular contribution to make to the elimination of child labour as do politicians, government officials, employers and the international financial institutions."

Education International Congress Resolution, July 2011
Based on this Resolution, the Omar's Dream teachers' unions' contribution was initiated



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CASE STUDY: MOROCCAN TEACHERS LEAD THE WAY

Fourteen representatives of teachers' unions from eight countries participated in a study tour to the SNE-FDT (National Union of Education – Democratic Labour Federation) projects, including the child labour free zone in the Moroccan city of Safi. This area has been developed by the union, based on best practices from Stop Child Labour partners and on learning from its own experience in the fight against school dropout and child labour.

Making school a better place

Participants in the study tour were struck by the SNE-FDT's ongoing interest in forging collaborations with many partners in the fight against dropping out: local and national authorities, parents,

employers, the media, non-governmental organisations. NGOs play an important role in making schools more attractive by organising sporting and cultural activities, school trips and decorating the schools.

Child labour free industry

The dropout rate fell sharply in every school where the SNE-FDT was involved. In Safi, SNE-FDT introduced the child labour free zone approach as part of the Omar's Dream project. The union selected the industrial area of Safi, which was known to use many children for work. SNE-FDT members tirelessly met with parents and employers in this area to convince them to register and keep all children in school. They obtained com-

mitment from employers that these would not recruit children below the legal working age. The union has set up three classes of non-formal education to enable working children to catch up when they return to school.

SNE-FDT noted that union involvement in this type of project has enabled it to change its image. The teachers' union has shown that defending the interests of its members – in working in a quality education system – also defends the interests of children.

In the Netherlands, Stop Child Labour/ Hivos carried out numerous events and activities to create awareness among the Dutch public.

Most important results:

- On 12 June 2012, Stop Child Labour launched the campaign “We want child friendly shoes” on child labour in the shoes industry. By the activities during this campaign period, we reached the public by participation in sports events (Dam-tot-Damloop, City-pier-City), advertisements (J/M, Groter Groeien, Flow), items in news media (Volkskrant, Algemeen Dagblad, Metro, Nederlands Dagblad), an item in Koffietijd and instore promotions (Dolcis and Scapino);
- On 20 November 2013, SCL started “Made by Kids?!” a school activity/ contest on child labour in the products we can buy in the Netherlands. 8,000 primary schools were invited to join and 751 actually participated. The public was reached by a large billboard-campaign, items in news media (Nederlands Dagblad, Kidsweek, Algemeen Dagblad, regional newspapers) and Koffietijd;
- We sent out our newsletter to 2,500 persons, 4 times a year;
- Our website has been visited by an average of 2,000 persons per month.
- We shared our messages frequently via the Stop Child Labour social media channels (2,500 Facebook-likes; 383 Twitter-followers) and the channels of our coalition partners (Hivos 10.099 FB-likes; Kinderpostzegels 10.650 FB-likes; Kerk in Actie 2,095 FB-likes; Mondiaal FNV 450 FB-likes)



WHAT CAME OUT OF OMAR'S DREAM

