TASK FORCE 3: CHILD LABOUR AND ADOLESCENT WORKERS

Co-chairs: Susan Gunn, ILO (gunn@ilo.org) and Gerry Eijkemans, WHO (eijkemansg@who.int)

The ILO Convention No. 182 on Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour was unanimously approved in June 1999. The worst forms of child work are slavery, forced labour, use of children in illegal activities, and children working in hazardous activities. The countries ratifying the Convention No. 182 need to agree in tripartite discussion upon the hazardous work that they have in their countries. It is also possible to improve the working conditions as the first immediate action on the way to eliminating the worst forms of child labour. Networks should be utilized to disseminate information and to work together to achieve these objectives.

The process of this Taskforce is led by IPEC/ILO Geneva, in close coordination with the Occupational Health Office in WHO and SafeWork in ILO. That process will allow all WHO Collaborating Centres to play a less or more active role. The members that have expressed interest in the Taskforce in the Chiang Mai meeting in November 2001 will be kept up to date of all activities. The centres that have expressed interest in adolescent workers will be invited to participate in the taskforce.

Additionally, the individual members will be asked to produce papers, respond to questions etc., depending on their involvement and interest in the issue.

NIOSH safety checklist program for schools -- OSH CD-ROM with a safety program and resources for schools (high schools to graduate schools)

John Palassis NIOSH, USA, (JPalassis@cdc.gov)

Keywords: safety, program, checklists, high schools, students, construction, curricula, young workers, CD-ROM

Target Group: High school administrators and principals, school supervisors, teachers, professors, safety committees, students, small business owners, young workers

The aim of this project is to contribute and disseminate occupational safety and health information in a CD-ROM format to high schools, technical schools, and community colleges, undergraduate and graduate schools, to inform the school administrators and principals, school supervisors and teachers, professors, safety committees, and ultimately the students during school and after school as they enter in workplaces as young workers. The CD-ROM provides information on how to establish a safety and health checklist program based on 82 safety checklists, to increase awareness of workplace hazards, and ways to control the hazards. Included in the CD-ROM are numerous safety and health and environmental resources and hundreds of links to helpful organizations and government agencies, safety curricula, including young workers' resources.

The information in the CD-ROM went through extensive internal and external review, focus-group testing, and beta-testing (public review) on the NIOSH Website. The CD-ROM was prepared in 2003 and is available at no cost by contacting John Palassis JPalassis@cdc.gov) or through the NIOSH website (www.cdc.gov/niosh).

Conferences have taken place at which many completed and ongoing activities were reported, and new action plans developed:

- National Institute of Occupational Health, India (H.N. Saiyed, saiyedhn@yahoo.com) participated in the meeting on gem stones (on the topic of child labour) in Bangkok in Nov. 2001.
- A regional meeting was held in Zimbabwe, Jan 02, on Networking on HCL. Participants from 10 Anglophone African countries participated. Links were established with the WHO-ILO Joint Effort.
- A regional meeting on networking on HCL was organized in March 2002 in Costa Rica. PlagSalud participated, as well as the PAHO consultant for the "flower project" in Central America. OHS centres and experts from all Central American countries were present, and all countries are preparing research and action proposals, in the field of agriculture, garbage collection and fireworks.
• A regional meeting in South America was held on HCL in March 2002 in Lima. OHS specialists from 7 countries participated. A list server was established (RED-TIP), closely linked to the list server previously established by PAHO on OHS in Latin America. Projects on the identification of HCL and interventions are prepared in several countries.

• A tri-country meeting (Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon) on the role of OHS in the implementation of C.182 was held in July 2002. WHO EMRO has participated in the meeting and will be active in the follow-up.

• Meeting Baru on Rural Health (incl. Child and labour in rural areas) organized by ICPS, Italy in Nov. 2002 in coordination with ISPESL.

• An ICOH Conference was held in Brazil in 2003; a mini symposium was held, and ICOH has created a working group on child labour.

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**Validation of the pedagogic model for training and risk prevention in medial education – technical industrial schools in Colombia**

Julietta Rodríguez Guzmán (jrodriquezg@fiso-web.org), FISO, Colombia

**Keywords**: Risk Prevention, technical industrial schools.

**Target group**: Teachers and students of technical secondary education (10th and 11th grade).

The purpose of the project is to raise awareness and induce a preventive culture among educators and students of technical secondary education schools in 10th and 11th grade, concerning the importance of ensuring the health of workers, and the necessity of recognition of OH promotion and prevention programs in the young population’s education programs.

With the aim to strengthen the preventive culture of professional risks in Colombia, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security promoted the development of educational projects and models since early school, with sponsorship of the Professional Risk Fund. Thanks to this initiative, FISO designed an educational model that gives technical and educational tools for teachers and students, to be trained on prevention of school risks in 11th and 12th grades in the technical industrial schools.

The model was designed in three steps. First it is based on a bibliographic search, data collection and statistical analysis, the characterization of medial education and the target population. Secondly, a risk diagnosis was carried out to prioritize actions in the technical industrial schools, with international assessment and the design of the model. Thirdly, the model was validated and adjusted, to finally develop the educational instruments. For the diagnostic analysis and the risk characterization the Auxiliary Center for Teaching Services CASD, was the chosen center. Its student population rises to 6,800 students in universities and technical high schools, and 70 teachers of different specialties. A training and diagnostic workshop was done with them, to consider the most frequent occupational risks in school and the educational strategies that were consider most adequate to train the students in prevention. The study guidelines were used to facilitate the analysis and the proposals of the group of teachers. It was concluded that training for such schools must be done under the frame of each technical specialty given by the institutions, and with educational tools that orient both teachers and students.

The educational model starts with a central module of basic preventive fundaments and principles, and 11 collateral modules that deal with occupational risks and technical specialties in the institutions. It is understood that each module must be developed by each teacher, following the teacher’s guide and by means of study guides for student participation. The following is the content of each educational tool developed for teacher and student orientation: orientation for management of technical concepts; a methodological guide that orients the content development; a series of slides with a simple language to present the contents; and, work guidelines to help students to built and understand the concepts.

All 12 educational modules are available in Spanish, to be disseminated to all schools in the country.

**Completion date**: December 2003.

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**International Symposium on Youth and Work (http://www.ttl.fi/e/project/youthwork/index.htm)**

Jorma Rantanen (jorma.rantanen@occuphealth.fi), Kirsti Tuominen (Kirsti.Tuominen@ttl.fi), Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland

20–22 November 2002, Helsinki, Finland (Participants: WHO/HQ, ILO, IPEC, ICOH)
The three-day Symposium was organized by the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health in close collaboration with the Finnish Ministry of Education, WHO and ILO. It was attended by almost 110 participants from 27 different countries from all over the world. The idea to organize the Symposium rose from several studies demonstrating that successful integration to work life is an important factor in overall management of life, health and well-being and that the integration has psychological, social and economic consequences. Ensuring decent work and safe and healthy working conditions for young people on the labour market is an important objective which will benefit not only the young people themselves, but also the enterprises and the society as a whole.

The Symposium analyzed the critical steps towards successful work life during three distinct periods in the life of young people: at school (vocational and secondary school), during the transition from school to work, and a few years after entering work life (as a young worker). Also, strategies, measures and actions for ensuring successful preparation for work life were discussed in the course of the Symposium days.

**Identification of hazardous occupations**

Susan Gunn, ILO/IPEC (gunn@ilo.org)

*Keywords: child labour, occupational hazards of youth, working conditions of young workers*

The objective of this project is to develop a tool, with enough flexibility and specificity for countries to use to identify and prioritize hazardous child labour (HCL), and produce a national action plan to effectively address the issue. Activities:


b. An expert meeting on Hazardous child labour was held in October 2002 in ILO Geneva. Selected WHO Collaborating Centres, ICoh and IOHA participated in the discussion on the definition of hazardous child labour. The expert committee will keep functioning until the product (publication on the definition on Hazardous Child Labour) has been finished.

c. Preparation of a draft of the publication. A consultant will be identified through the WHO Collaborating Centres Network. Document expected end of May 2003.

d. Review of the draft document by members of the expert committee

e. Publication and distribution: December 2003

f. Design and maintenance of a database on hazardous child labour: through the WHO Collaborating Centres, an institution that can take on this task will be identified

Additionally, IPEC is in the process of constructing national, (sub) regional and global networks of institutions willing to undertake short, focused studies on hazardous child labour that will contribute to policies and action in this area. WHO Collaborating Centres will be approached to participate and support the networks in their regions and areas of interest. Funding for the project is in place. Studies currently underway:

- High risk tasks and conditions in various agricultural sectors (Central America, Indonesia)
- Small-scale manufacturing (e.g. fireworks, shoe-making)

**Elimination of the worst forms of child labour**

Marta Petyx, ISPESL, Italy (martapetyx@tiscalinet.it or martapetyx@tiscali.it)

*Keywords: child labour, workshop, Convention 182, child work*

**Target group:** Bearing in mind the priorities identified by the ILO within the sphere of the IPEC programme, attention will be focused on the countries which, on the basis of their socio-economic characteristics, are more affected by the problem and to which the programme of interventions can make a useful contribution in applying the 182 Convention principles.

The objective of this project is to monitor and implement the ILO 182 Convention, in particular in developing countries, through the constitution of a work group to find possible solutions to the problems. This action is in line with the ILO international programme for the elimination of child labour (IPEC). The proposed activities include a Workshop to discuss the difficulties, limits and strategies for the correct application of Convention 182 in developing countries and to identify an effective contribution that advanced countries can make to the problem.

A Mini-symposium on “Child labour in rural areas” was organized by ICPS and ISPESL in the “International Conference on Rural Health in Mediterranean and Balkan countries” in Bari, Italy on November 13-16, 2002.
A paper has also been published: “Child labour: the Italian perspective and the contribution of ISPESL” by A. Pera, M. Petyx, C. Grandi, S. Iavicoli, S. Palmi in proceedings of “International conference on rural health in Mediterranean and Balkan countries”, Bari, Italy, November 13-16, 2002.
Funding for the project is in place. It will be completed by 15 April 2005.

**Training the trainers involved in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour**

Irene Hawkins, Istituto dell’Approccio Centrato sulla Persona (IACP), Italy (ihawkins@iacp.it)

*Keywords:* person-centred, empowerment, train the trainer, child labour

*Target group:* trainers working in the field of elimination of child labour

The objective of this project is to develop a training curriculum for the trainers working in the field of elimination of child labour. A search on the existing literature and interviews with experts has been conducted. The curriculum is being designed.

**Training needs and a health and safety curriculum for young workers**

Carol Stephenson (CStephenson@cdc.gov) and John Palassis (JPalassis@cdc.gov), NIOSH, USA

The aim of this project is to develop and disseminate occupational safety and health curriculum materials for high school and post high school youth who are just entering the workplace. Using materials developed under prior NIOSH funded efforts, and information gathered under contract with the National Safety Council, NIOSH is partnering with OSHA, State Directors of Career and Technical Education, several academic institutions, and other interested entities to assess the occupational safety and health training needs of new/young workers and to develop a core health and safety curriculum for adolescent workers. A draft curriculum has been developed and will be tested in 16 school districts in ten US states during 2004 and 2005. The final curriculum should be ready for distribution and translation late in 2005.

*Project end date:* The project is scheduled to be completed by December 2005.

**Guidelines for occupational exposures and adolescent workers**

David Zalk, International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA), California, USA (zalk1@illnl.gov)

*Keywords:* prevention, IOHA, occupational hygiene, occupational exposure limit values, ACGIH

*Target group:* cooperation with ILO, IPEC, WHO and bodies deemed appropriate as described within IOHA articles of association.

The aim of this project is to utilise IOHA expertise and member organisation support to deliver guidelines for occupational exposures and occupational exposures as they may apply to adolescent worker issues.

Tore J Larsson (tore.larsson@general.monash.edu.au) and David Wegman (David_Wegman@um.edu) of the University of Massachusetts Collaborating Centre and ICOH are also contributing to this project.

**SOLAR — Study on Occupational Asthma Risks in adolescent workers**

Dr. Katja.Radon, Institute and Outpatient Clinic for Occupational and Environmental Medicine, University of Munich, Germany (katja.radon@arbeits.med.uni-muenchen.de)

*Keywords:* occupational asthma, ISAAC follow up

*Target group:* Adolescents entering working life

The purpose of the project is to conduct a prospective cohort study on occupational asthma and allergies in adolescent workers.

About 10 % of all asthmatic disease is attributed to occupational factors. Due to the cross-sectional character of most studies performed in this field, no prospective data have been collected. We have initiated a follow-up survey of the ISAAC (International Study on Asthma and Allergies in Childhood) II cohort in Munich and Dresden in order to conduct a prospective cohort study on occupational asthma and allergies that starts in early childhood until well beyond the age of working life. For further information please visit our website (www.solar-deutschland.de). We are planning to perform the investigation also in other countries where the ISAAC protocol has been followed.
The project has been funded by Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Wirtschaft, Berlin for the period of 2002-2004.
Names of other Centres collaborating on the project: University Children’s Hospital, Dresden. Other centres are currently joining the project.
Products: health-based recommendations to adolescents regarding choice of job

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**Child labour/adolescent workers – Occupational health problems, evaluation and control**

H.N. Saiyed, National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad, India (saiyedhn@yahoo.com)

*Keywords:* gem polishing industry, match industry, agate industry, occupational health problems, worst form of child labour.

*Target groups:* Policy makers, owners, child workers, parents, trade unions, NGOs.

The purpose of the project is to produce scientific evidence of occupational health hazards in various industries with child labour as major problem. This evidence could be used by the policy makers to classify the said industry as worst form of child labour.

The environmental epidemiological studies have been initiated in following three hazardous industries with child labour problem. 1. Agate industry, at Khambhat. 2. Match Industry, Sivakasi and 3 Gem polishing workers at Jaipur.

**Agate industry:** A survey of 227 children (below 18 years) working and/or living around the agate industry showed 29 (12.8%) children showed evidence of silicosis and 13 (6.7%) children showed evidence of tuberculosis. Ministry of Labour, Government of India has been requested to declare agate industry as worst form of child labour. Dust control device has been developed and installed to reduce dust levels in agate industry.

**Match Industry:** A total of 1191 study subjects (257 males and 934 Females) and 515 control subjects (139 males and 376 females) in the age groups of ≤14, 15-18, 19-30 and 31+ yrs were included for medical examination including occupational history, pulmonary function test (PFT), Hb%, urine examination, chest X-ray of respiratory symptomatics. The results of the study show statistically higher prevalence of low body weight, anemia and poor PFT in children working in match industry as compared to control children. The environmental study has shown ergonomic problems, high levels of siliceous dust, heat stress and noise problems. The high morbidity is attributed to the factors such as poor nutritional status and personal hygiene, unsuitable postures during work, non-use of personal protective equipment, lack of awareness about the possible impact of physical and chemical pollutants on health at work place and multiple and psycho social stresses.

**Gem Polishing Industry:** Industrial hygiene study showed high levels of noise, silica dust, chemicals and ergonomic problems. The most important occupational health problem is the potential exposure to free silica dust during cutting of chalcedony group of gemstone containing free silica during polishing gemstones using quartz powder as polishing material. The use of chemicals (e.g. chromium salts) for polishing is another potential risk. Work of medical examination including chest x ray (for diagnosis of silicosis and tuberculosis) and PFT of 581 children has been completed recently.

Reports will be written on the projects which will provide scientific evidence for inclusion of the above industry as worst forms of child labour on the basis of serious occupational hazards.
Funding for this project is in place. It will be completed by 2005.

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**Children’s work in agriculture in Benin**

Professor Benjamin Fayomi, University Laboratory of Health at the Work and Environment (LUSTE) (bfayomi@intnet.bj)

*Keywords:* pesticides, child, agriculture, Africa

*Target:* Children implied in pre- and post- pulverization activities.

The goal of the project is to detect the clinical and biological disorders in children who have been pulverizing for at least 5 years. In Benin, the children work in agriculture either at their parents' sides or serving as agricultural hands. This study aims to determine the proportion of children subjected to plant health treatment, identify the pesticides to which the children are exposed, analyze their working conditions, and to evaluate their state of health. We will carry out a descriptive cross-sectional study in one of the sub-prefectures of the country. With this intention, we listed village groupings in which children take part in
Travail des enfants en agriculture au Bénin

Professeur Benjamin Fayomi, Laboratoire Universitaire de Santé au Travail et Environnement (LUSTE) (bfayomi@intnet.bj)

Mots clés : Pesticide, enfant, agriculture, Afrique

Cible : Ce sont les enfants impliqués dans les activités pré et post pulvérisation.

Le but du projet est d’épister les troubles cliniques et biologiques chez les enfants qui pulvérisent depuis au moins 5 ans. Au Bénin, les enfants travaillent en agriculture soit aux côtés de leurs parents ou pour servir de main d’œuvre agricole. Cette étude vise à déterminer la proportion des enfants commis au traitement phytosanitaire, identifier les pesticides auxquels les enfants sont exposés, analyser leurs conditions de travail et évaluer leur état de santé.


Sur ce projet on collabore avec l’Institut National de Recherche the project agronomique (INRA) Bénin.

Work and working conditions of children/adolescent workers

Nguyen Ngoc Nga, National Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health, WHO Collaborating Center on Occupational Health, Vietnam (n.h.nga@ftp.vn)

Keywords: risk group, information, adolescent, working condition, global program

Target group: Policy-makers, managers, Occupational Health staff, local authorities, employer, MOH, MOLISA

The objective of this project is to identify risks at work and determine the health status of working children, to raise awareness among employers, managers, policy-makers, MOH, MOLISA to the existing risks for working children, the magnitude of the problem and the necessity of preventive measures. Funds have been secured by WHO.

Translation of the ILO Brochure on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour into Italian language

Irene Hawkins, Istituto dell’Approccio Centrato sulla Persona (IACP), Italy (Ihawkins@iacp.it)

Contribution to the identification of hazardous occupations in Latin American countries

Julietta Rodríguez Guzmán, FISO Colombia (jrodriguezg@fiso-web.org)

Funding for the project is in place. The completion date is yet to be agreed on.

Support for reducing occupational risks for children and future generations and elimination of hazardous child labour and in the WHO European region

Sergio Iavicoli, serlav@iol.it, ISPESL, Rome, Italy; Marco Maroni, mail@icps.it, ICPS, Milan, Italy; Stanisław Tarkowski, tarko@imp.lodz.pl, Nofer, Lodz, Poland; Jovanka Karadžinska Bislimovska, bislimovska_j@hotmail.com, IOM, Skopje, Macedonia; Jouni Jaakkola, j.jaakkola@bham.ac.uk, Institute of Occupational health, Univ Birmingham, Birmingham, UK; Yuri Kundiev, Institute of Occupational Health, Kiev, Ukraine; Lyudmila Ivanov, nchmen@nchmen.government.bg., National Centre for Protection of Public Health, Sofia, Bulgaria; Ivan Ivanov, IV@euro.who.int, WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark, Gerry Eijkmans, eijkmansg@who.int, WHO Headquarters, Geneva

Keywords: child labour, hazardous work, agriculture, guidelines
Target group: Ministers of health, ministers of labour, public health agencies, labour inspectorates, primary health care workers

Purpose of project: To provide Member States with evidence based guidelines and recommendations on how to address occupational health risks for children and future generations within the framework of the Children’s environment and health action plan for Europe and the corresponding national action plans.

At the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, Budapest, 2004, the Member States committed to action on improving children’s health and the environment. The ministers approved a Children’s Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE) to guide national policies and action plans on environment and health. This plan defines regional priority goals (RPG) in addressing the largest burden of disease from risks in the children’s environment. A meeting was organized by WHO in Fiuggi, Italy in February 2004 to identify the directions of activity in the area of hazardous child labour. At the September 2004 meeting of the European Collaborating Centers, it was agreed to proceed with this project.

This intervention will include the following activities:

1. reviewing existing evidence on hazardous child labour, identifying the gaps in current knowledge and developing strategy for research;
2. developing practical tools to facilitate the implementation of ILO Convention 182 to provide support to the countries in defining hazardous child labour;
3. developing a state of the art Regional report on occupational health risks for children;
4. establishing a European database on country statistics regarding hazardous child labour and a clearing house with available interventions and good practices;
5. developing and disseminating good practices and guidelines for addressing hazardous child labour;
6. developing training materials for health care workers to recognize the effects of hazardous child labour;
7. developing a research programme on the short and long-term effects of occupational health risks on children;
8. developing international and intercountry projects on comparative assessments and interventions with the assistance of intergovernmental organizations and donor countries.

*Project start date:* January 2004

*Project end date:* December 2006

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**High School Chemistry Laboratory Safety Guide.**

John Palasis NIOSH, USA, (JPalasis@cdc.gov)

*Keywords:* safety, chemistry, laboratory, checklists, high schools, teachers, students

*Target Group:* High school teachers and students (also administrators and principals, school supervisors)

NIOSH in collaboration with the U.S. Consumers Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), have been collaborating since 2003 for the development of a 25-30 page document entitled School Chemistry Laboratory Guide. The purpose of this safety guide is to highlight safeguards and safety measures regarding the ordering, storage, use, and disposal of chemicals for high school instructors as well as high school students. This safety guide is not intended to address all safety issues but rather to provide basic information on some important components of safety in the chemistry laboratory and to serve as a resource to locating further information. The safety guide provides general safety checklists highlighting important information for working in the high school laboratory, one for teachers and a second for students that teachers may reproduce to hand out. The next steps are individual agency review of the guide by CPSC, EPA, and NIOSH, and then field testing at several high schools. Funding for the project is in place.

*Project start date:* January 2003

*Project end date:* September 2005