



Project to prevent trafficking in girls and young women for labour exploitation within China (CP-TING project)



A partnership between the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Chinese Government and non-governmental agencies, implemented in close collaboration with the All China Women's Federation (ACWF), and funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID-China)

Objective of CP-TING project

The project's main objective is to help prevent girls and young women ending up in the 'entertainment industry' or other unacceptable forms of work in China, by reducing their vulnerability to trafficking.

Background: Unprepared & ill-informed migration can lead to trafficking into unacceptable labour

- Labour migration in China is inevitable and is an important contributor to the country's continued economic development and the creation of a balanced and well-off society;
- Though men constitute the majority of the migrant labour force (an estimated 94 million Chinese in 2002), the percentage of women is rising quickly, especially in the younger age groups;
- The influx of such huge numbers of surplus rural labourers has created opportunities for those seeking to exploit the most vulnerable – i.e. girls and young women - as they often migrate at younger ages than men and have lower average levels of education;
- Despite a lack of data, government sources (MPS) confirm an increase in the number of cases of trafficking into the 'entertainment' sector, in particular in the 16-20 age range;
- According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security only 40 percent of internal migrants use 'regular' channels, (other sources say this percentage is even lower). Many labour migrants – especially girls and young women – leave their villages uninformed and ill-prepared, often after dropping out of school prematurely, and facing a lack of local (employment) opportunities;
- There is little awareness amongst these potential victims, their families and the authorities that such uninformed and irregular movement may involve deception or coercion, systems of debt bondage, and/or result in sexual exploitation or forced labour in slavery-like conditions;
- It is very difficult to protect the rights of migrant workers if their migration movement is not managed through safe channels.

History & scope of CP-TING project

The CP-TING project was designed in close collaboration with the All China Women's Federation (ACWF), representatives from project provinces and a number of ministries, including the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Education. The project uses lessons learned during three years of pilot interventions in Yunnan Province, organized under the ILO-IPEC Mekong Sub-regional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women (TICW). The CP-TING project operates in five provinces – Anhui, Henan, and Hunan (sending provinces) and Guangdong and Jiangsu (receiving provinces) – and at national level where it works towards the creation of a national policy framework.



Proposed interventions to reduce vulnerability of girls & young women to trafficking

- Working with girls and young women at high risk of being victimized (and the communities in which they live), warning them of the dangers of unprepared and ill-informed migration, and encouraging their direct participation in creating local solutions. Paying special attention to the needs of unskilled girls and young women – in particular those who have dropped out of school prematurely – as they are more vulnerable to being lured into unacceptable work;
- Reducing the school drop-out of girls under 16 years to improve their future labour market prospects;
- Raising awareness of the risks of trafficking and HIV-AIDS, protection measures and legal literacy in pre-departure life skills training to prospective migrant girls (aged 16 and over) and young women;
- Working with workers and employers organizations to offer 'decent jobs' to migrant girls/women (aged 16–24);
- Promoting managed migration for employment purposes, including bilateral cooperation agreements between 'sending' and 'receiving' provinces; free information and job placement services targeting prospective migrant workers; licensing and supervision of recruitment and contracting agencies for migrant workers (in accordance with the ILO Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181) and Recommendation (No. 188));
- Disaggregating (by age and sex) and fully analyzing (existing) data relevant to migration to support focused policy initiatives;
- Protecting the labour rights of all migrant workers - including the adoption of minimum standards for employment contracts, training and information, and the provision of support services;
- Improving access in urban areas to social services for migrant girls and young women in need;
- Documenting lessons learned from 'pilot' projects to improve policy frameworks at national, provincial and local levels.

Expected results

- Sound conceptual understanding of trafficking and effective interventions among key stakeholders in each project province and at national level;
- The identification of gaps in research and information relating to trafficking in girls and young women for labour exploitation, and omissions addressed;
- Pilot, 'community'-owned, prevention interventions undertaken monitored, evaluated and documented so that they can be replicated in the sending provinces (Anhui, Henan and Hunan);
- Pilot, 'city neighbourhood'-owned, prevention interventions undertaken, monitored, evaluated and documented so that they can be replicated in the receiving cities of Jiangsu and Guangdong Province;
- A review of national, provincial and local level policy frameworks, structures, processes, and staff skills to prevent trafficking in girls and young women for labour exploitation, and improvements suggested - including sound migration management between sending and receiving provinces.



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CP-TING project approaches

The CP-TING project applies the following approaches:

Gender focus: Girls and young women are more economically disadvantaged, ill-educated, and vulnerable to being lured or deceived into exploitative work. Special focus is given to their needs and situations;

Matching interventions to age: Different ages – different needs – different responses;

Making migration safer: Acknowledging the right to migrate and the economic forces in play and giving young females the knowledge and information they need to migrate safely. In the case of girls under 16, the project will urge them not to migrate unaccompanied;

Participation: Actively involving those directly affected – girls and young women – and others who can be part of the solution;

Process-based learning and mobilization: Use implementation as an opportunity for learning, involvement, engagement and ownership;

Multi-dimensional response and partnerships: Trafficking is a complicated, multi-faceted issue that has many causes. It is a problem both in and of society. It requires responses that are multi-dimensional and based on broad partnerships;

Project as catalyst, government at the centre: The project is implemented in close collaboration with the ACWF and a range of ministries. By developing small-scale models at different levels the project tries to influence broader policy mechanisms and to mobilize government resources.

Project coverage

China nationally; specifically Anhui, Henan and Hunan ('sending' provinces), and Guangdong and Jiangsu ('receiving' provinces)

Duration

48 months; starting date: 1 May 2004

Budget for interventions

USD2,250,000 from DFID-China for project interventions. USD 316,000 from Chinese project partners.



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