Making girl education possible at Chalima primary school, Kapiri zone, in Mchimaji district

Fyness Msiska a member of an ECLT supported VSL Group in her grocery shop in Kamphenda School, Kamphenda zone in Rumphi

School maize garden at Chorwe Primary School, Makanda zone in Ntchisi, head teacher and members of school feeding programme

The discussions at the ongoing Global Meeting on Work Deficits in the Tobacco Sector in Uganda from 2 to 5 July 2019 have significant potential impact on children, farmers, workers, families and communities throughout Africa and in all 120+ countries around the world where tobacco is grown.

Child labour is a major social and economic problem in Malawi as it violates children's rights. The 2015 NCLS found that 38% of the children aged 5-17 were engaged in child labour. Of the children engaged in child labour, 68% are in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry, 28% are in domestic work and the remaining 4% are in other industry. Some children in Malawi are engaged in worst forms of child labour and these include children in street situations, children engaged in prostitution, those engaged in the production of tobacco and then those in child-marriage.

In Malawi, the CLEAR project, Tobacco Association of Malawi (TAMA) supported by the ECLT Foundation, has been an important platform for joint action against child labour and to support sustainable development in the districts of Mchinji, Ntchisi, Rumpi, Nkhotakota, Lilongwe, Zomba and Dowa since 2012 to date. Additionally, the Foundation has been supporting and working with the Government of Malawi, CLEAR Consortium, TAMA, and NASFAM, the Tobacco Industry and the Employers and Workers unions.

This is in response to the SDGs that are clear about what works -- Collaborative, multi-stakeholder area-based approaches are best practices because they produce measurable and sustainable results against child labour. Support has been provided to the Government of Malawi to coordinate the National Steering Committee against Child Labour to develop and implement a strong National Action Plans (NAP), through revision of the NAP I (2011-2016) NAP to NAP II (2019-2025) to guide stakeholders on priorities to address child labour in Malawi. The document has strong and strategic objectives fully costed for multi-stakeholder planning, implementation and reporting. The NAP II is costed at approximately USD44, 700,000 for a period of 5 years. The overall goal of the 2019-2025 NAP is to eliminate child labour in all sectors of economy in Malawi by 2025.

And in September 2012, the Malawi Government, the Malawi Congress of Trade Unions and Employers Consultative Association of Malawi (ECAM), with support from civil society, UN agencies, multi-stakeholder initiatives, producer associations and businesses (Tripartite plus) with funding from ECLT Foundation and the International Labour Organization (ILO) convened a National Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture. Attended by more than 320 delegates from government, business, trade unions, farmer associations, civil society, UN agencies, children and development partners, the conference provided a national platform for farmers to share discussions on a multitude of issues pertaining to child labour.

The conference resulted in sector-by-sector Action Plans (NAP), through revision of the NAP I (2011-2016) NAP to NAP II (2019-2025) to guide stakeholders on priorities to address child labour in Malawi. The document has strong and strategic objectives fully costed for multi-stakeholder planning, implementation and reporting. The NAP II is costed at approximately USD44, 700,000 for a period of 5 years. The overall goal of the 2019-2025 NAP is to eliminate child labour in all sectors of economy in Malawi by 2025.

The discussions at the ongoing Global Meeting on Work Deficits in the Tobacco Sector in Uganda from 2 to 5 July 2019 have significant potential impact on children, farmers, workers, families and communities throughout Africa and in all 120+ countries around the world where tobacco is grown.

Child labour is a major social and economic problem in Malawi as it violates children's rights. The 2015 NCLS found that 38% of the children aged 5-17 were engaged in child labour. Of the children engaged in child labour, 68% are in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry, 28% are in domestic work and the remaining 4% are in other industry. Some children in Malawi are engaged in worst forms of child labour and these include children in street situations, children engaged in prostitution, those engaged in the production of tobacco and then those in child-marriage.

In Malawi, the CLEAR project, Tobacco Association of Malawi (TAMA) supported by the ECLT Foundation, has been an important platform for joint action against child labour and to support sustainable development in the districts of Mchinji, Ntchisi, Rumpi, Nkhotakota, Lilongwe, Zomba and Dowa since 2012 to date. Additionally, the Foundation has been supporting and working with the Government of Malawi, CLEAR Consortium, TAMA, and NASFAM, the Tobacco Industry and the Employers and Workers unions.

This is in response to the SDGs that are clear about what works -- Collaborative, multi-stakeholder area-based approaches are best practices because they produce measurable and sustainable results against child labour. Support has been provided to the Government of Malawi to coordinate the National Steering Committee against Child Labour to develop and implement a strong National Action Plans (NAP), through revision of the NAP I (2011-2016) NAP to NAP II (2019-2025) to guide stakeholders on priorities to address child labour in Malawi. The document has strong and strategic objectives fully costed for multi-stakeholder planning, implementation and reporting. The NAP II is costed at approximately USD44, 700,000 for a period of 5 years. The overall goal of the 2019-2025 NAP is to eliminate child labour in all sectors of economy in Malawi by 2025.

And in September 2012, the Malawi Government, the Malawi Congress of Trade Unions and Employers Consultative Association of Malawi (ECAM), with support from civil society, UN agencies, multi-stakeholder initiatives, producer associations and businesses (Tripartite plus) with funding from ECLT Foundation and the International Labour Organization (ILO) convened a National Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture. Attended by more than 320 delegates from government, business, trade unions, farmer associations, civil society, UN agencies, children and development partners, the conference provided a national platform for farmers to share discussions on a multitude of issues pertaining to child labour.

The conference resulted in sector-by-sector Action Plans (NAP), through revision of the NAP I (2011-2016) NAP to NAP II (2019-2025) to guide stakeholders on priorities to address child labour in Malawi. The document has strong and strategic objectives fully costed for multi-stakeholder planning, implementation and reporting. The NAP II is costed at approximately USD44, 700,000 for a period of 5 years. The overall goal of the 2019-2025 NAP is to eliminate child labour in all sectors of economy in Malawi by 2025.