

**IN-DEPTH STUDY ON THE SITUATION OF CHILD LABOR IN THE
PYROTECHNICS INDUSTRY
INITIAL INPUTS FOR THE TIME- BOUND PROGRAMME DOCUMENT**

By: Dr. Divina Edralin
24 June 2002

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1. INTRODUCTION:

Pyrotechnics also referred to as fireworks and firecrackers are products made from combinations of gunpowder and other ingredients which are shaped, compacted or compressed as required. When these are burned, they explode with loud noises and produce colorful sparks and flames.

The pyrotechnics industry in the Philippines started as a non-formal, micro enterprise and family based business to provide the recreational and traditional practices of celebrating fiestas, Christmas, and New Year's eve in a more festive atmosphere. The continuing demand for this type of product over the years, particularly before the Asian Crisis in the late 1990s and the campaign for a clean & healthy environment has made the industry a very lucrative one. It has lured many business-oriented people to engage in this enterprise because profits earned in the manufacturer of firecrackers and pyrotechnics during the peak season, is more than enough to support their family needs for the rest of the year.

Moreover, the pyrotechnics industry is considered one of the most hazardous industries in the Philippines because of the risky and dangerous nature of its raw materials and the production process involved in the manufacture of the products. In spite of the hazardous nature of the industry, it was reported that there is a significant participation of young children in the production of firecrackers and pyrotechnics because of the income opportunity, the subcontracting work arrangement made by the licensed manufacturers to poor families in the area, and the lack of awareness on the part on the children regarding the dangers posed by the work that they perform.

For several years, the industry operated illegally because the production of firecrackers and pyrotechnics were banned. It was only in 1992, when R.A. 7183 was passed into law, regulating the sale, manufacture, distribution, and the use of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devices, that the industry was legalized. The licensed pyrotechnics manufacturers as of September, 2001 based on the Phil. National Police record are located in the Region I- Pangasinan, Region II- Bulacan, Region IV- Batangas & Cavite, Region V- Negros Occidental & Aklan, Region VII- Cebu, Region IX- Zamboanga City, and Region XII – South Cotabato. The greater bulk (74%) of these manufacturer are in Bulacan. It is estimated that there are almost 4,000 children in pyrotechnics in Bulacan as of 2002.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Data Collection

A total of 116 children in pyrotechnics found in Bulacan were interviewed. Moreover, 34 key informants were also interviewed for the purpose of the study. These key informants are as follows :

<u>NGO's</u> PATAMABA	Mary Delos Santos	Staff/ Member
Co-Multiversity	Edilberto Villaruel	Organizer/Educator
<u>Government</u> PNP (FED)	SPO4 Alberto Bagarra Insp. Ricargo	Chief Clerk Asst. Chief
Sta. Maria	Ricky Da Silva	Councilor
Dept of Tourism	Lito Supan	Officer
Pulong Buhangin, Sta.Maria	Simplicio Hermogene	Brgy.Captain
Binang, Bocaue	Eleuterio Etorinos	Brgy.Chief
Pulong Buhangin, Sta.Maria	Zenaida Gumasing	Brgy.Health Worker
DSWD	Tricia Musa	Child Labor Coordinator
UP-CSWCD/PATAMABA	Rosalinda Ofreneo, Ph.D.	UP Professor/ PATAMABA Consultant
<u>People's Organization</u> UGMA Association	Marcela Francisco Rosario Tutanés	Secretary Treasurer
Solid Group, Bocaue Pyrotechnics Manufacturers and Dealers Association	Victoriano Dela Cruz	President

Parent

Sta. Maria

Edna
Ida
Catalina

Bocaue

Linda
Neneng
Cecille

Manufacturer/ Dealer

Tabing Ilog, Marilao

Josie Francisco

Bocaue

Ric Santa Maria

Bocaue

Cora Eustaquio

Bocaue

Tita Ventura

Pulong Buhangin, Sta.Maria

Dante Silva

Sto. Niño, Baliuag

Jessie Baltazar

Bocaue

Ariel

Brgy. Igulot, Bocaue

Neneng

Binang, Bocaue

Chie

Brgy. Igulot

Olie Caratenas

Lolomboy, Bocaue

Kulot Fireworks

Binang, Bocaue

Nik-Nak Fireworks

Pulong Buhangin, Sta.Maria

Lucky Dragon

Taal, Bocaue

P & R Fireworks

The secondary sources of data that were very useful in the development of the approach and strategy for the TBP on children in prostitution are listed below:

1. Country Report 2001, "Human Rights and The Causes of Poverty in the Phils.", People's Recovery, Empowerment and Development Assistance Foundation Inc.
2. Department of Tourism (2000), "Advocacy Against Child labor Towards National and Community Ownership and Responsibility. Manila.
3. Department of Science and Technology, (2000) S & T Post Office, Official Newsletter of DOST, November & December edition. Metro Manila.
4. Educational Research and Development Assistance (ERDA) Foundation, Inc. (2001). Final Output Report, Action Programme: Educational Assistance and Support Services for Working Children in Hazardous Under taking in Selected Philippine Communities. Quezon City. Phils
5. International Labor Organization. (2001) Action Programme for Decent Work: Philippines. Manila
6. ILO-IPEC Final Output Report. (2002), Community Organizers Multiversity. "A Provincial Advocacy & Community Organizing Campaign Against Child Labour in the Fireworks Industry of Bulacan".
7. ILO, International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour: A Summary Note on the Time-Bound Programme Concept and Methodology.
8. Occupational Safety and Health Center , Dept of Labor & Employment, "Assessing the Occupational Safety and Health Conditions of Child Labor in the Pyrotechnics Industry", Quezon City, Phils.

2.2 Limitations

The collection of the necessary data as initial inputs to the TBP for children in pyrotechnics was a herculean task. Because of the period of the data collection is the low reason for manufacturing of pyrotechnics, children workers are not yet around. Since they are recruited from Cagayan Valley, Bicol, Negros & Quezon Province, during the month of September – December, except for a few who are from Bulacan. Entry in the Barangay such as in Igot, Bocaue, and Sitio Perez and Manggahan, Sta. Maria proved to be difficult because they hide the children and refuse to cooperate because they have no license to operate. On the part of the key informants, particularly with the manufacturers, it was also difficult unless with the help of the referral they know. Interviews with the government offices like TESDA, DTI and Municipal officials were not that fruitful.

3. BRIEF BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

3.1 Profile of Child Workers

3.1.1 Socio-demographic Profile of Children in Pyrotechnics

The ages of the children in pyrotechnics range from 7-17, most of them are 13 years old. The greater bulk are males and they are predominantly Catholic. All of them are still single. A good number of them are born and raised in Cagayan, Bicol and Negros but they can speak Tagalog well.

Most of their parents are still living together, with an average of 6 siblings in the family. Many of these child workers are the second child. Many of them are already living with their co-workers in their place of work.

For their mothers, many are full-time housewives while their fathers usually work as blacksmith, driver and construction worker.

Many of the child workers are helping their family by giving/sending money to buy their family needs like food.

3.1.2 Working Conditions

These child workers are mostly working in small fireworks manufacturers in Sta. Maria, Bulacan, which employ less than 10 employees.

The boys mostly work as fireworks laborer which involves in loading of fireworks' powder, "mitsa" and pasting the folded, brown, triangular paper. The girls on the other hand are mostly assigned doing finishing and packaging work.

They work 7 days a week from morning to evening for 6-15 hours a day and are paid piece rate. They earn P10.00 to P70.00 a day depending on how fast they work.

They were mostly recruited from the provinces of Bicol, Cagayan and Negros by the relatives of the owner of the pyrotechnics in Bulacan. They accepted the job because they like to earn money for themselves and their family. Even before working, majority of them have already stopped schooling since they have no money to support their education.

It was observed that some children were doing experimentation on the chemicals during their playtime. Such early exposure to chemicals would put them into danger because of its hazardous components. They're trying to make their own kinds of firecrackers by getting some chemicals available in their working area. Although children's task are consistently in the preparation and the in end process (packaging). According to Senior Science Specialist from DOST, "the chemicals being used are considerably hazardous being corrosive, flammable reactive and toxic in nature." So, simple inhalation could also trigger a series of respiratory reactions that may rapidly transport toxicants "directly into pulmonary blood circulation for distribution to the rest of the body or risk is greater when toxicants enter through the sweat gland or follicle. In spite of this situation, the child workers were never referred for medical treatment or check-up.

Moreover, it was related that explosion accidents happened sometime in 2001 due to negligence and incorrect handling of pyrotechnics materials and those accidents caused many lives and properties, Some people said that there were children involved on the accidents which happened in Sitio Perez in Sta. Maria, Brgy. Igulot and in Biñang, Bocaue.

3.2 Target Groups, Areas, Program Phases

3.2.1 Target groups :Direct Beneficiaries

1. Children working in Pyrotechnics
2. Families of children affected
3. Children at risk especially younger siblings & girl Children
4. Families vulnerable to having their children in pyrotechnics.

3.2.2 Areas

1. Sta. Maria : Pulong Buhangin (Sitio Perez and Sitio Manggahan)
2. Baliuag : Sto. Niño
3. Bocaue : Brgy. Igulot, Biñang 1&2, Lolomboy, Taal and Wawa
4. Marilao :Tabing Ilog, Poblacion 2
5. Norzagaray : Parada, Matictic

3.2.3 Program Phases

Program Phase	Approaches	Year
Phase 1	Policy, Legislation & Enforcement, Advocacy & Social Mobilization, Education	2003-2004
Phase 2	Advocacy & Social Mobilization, Policy, Health, Legislation and Enforcement, Capability Building, Income and Employment Generation	2004-2005
Phase 3	Advocacy, Education, Health, Capability Building, Law Enforcement, Income and Employment Generation	2005-2006
Phase 4	Education, Law Enforcement, Income and Employment Generation, Health	2006-2007
Phase 5	Education, Health, Law Enforcement, Income and Employment Generation	2007-2008

3.3 Gaps and challenges that need to be addressed through the TBP

There are certain gaps and challenges that need to be addressed through the TBP that the key informants from the pyrotechnics industry expressed. These are the follows:

3.3.3 Political will & commitment to policy reforms to address root cause of child labor in pyrotechnics

1. Bulacan Municipal officials do not conduct any consultation regarding the real needs of the people, especially in terms of livelihood programs.
2. Few people in the municipal level have the political will to solve the problem of child labor.
3. Lack of support services for the children and their families from the government.
4. No full monitoring from the PNP and they don't take real responsibility.
5. Pyrotechnics industry in Bulacan is highly syndicated.
6. There are loopholes in the implementation of R.A. 7183 because the licensed manufacturers are victimized while the unlicensed manufacturers are not penalized.
7. Not serious in the implementation of the law because violators known by the law enforcers are not reported or penalized.
8. Backer system. Employers have influential and powerful backers to support them.
9. Police confiscates the ready to sell pyrotechnics of the unlicensed manufacturers.
10. Bribery and "under the table" dealings happen in the industry.
11. Government officials and police are "All words and promises." NO ACTION.

3.3.4 Link of Child Labour action with Poverty alleviation & efforts to provide quality education

1. Children must earn money to help their family.
2. Parents are not educated so they don't understand the importance of education.
3. Instead of spending money for education, they spend it for basic needs because of poverty.
4. Many families have no other means of income/livelihood.
5. There is no holistic approach in solving the issue of demolition, land problem, employment and peace and order in the environment.
6. Children cannot pay attention to studies because they are busy earning money.

3.3.7 Building innovative partnership with Government international organizations, and financial institutions

1. Partnership is impossible since municipal officials do not entertain IPEC partner like Multiversity.
2. Difficult to unite different organizations because of different ideologies and vested interest especially the political parties.
3. Programs/projects would be useless if not properly supported by different groups with funds.
4. Lack of help from the financial institutions.
5. Tripartite bodies and multi-stakeholders have not been tried fully.
6. Only the Barangay officials of Pulong Buhangin and Multiversity are seriously taking the issue of child labor in Sta. Maria.

3.3.8 Rapid response measures for prevention, withdrawal, rehabilitation of victims of the worst forms of child labour

1. Non-admittance of the real situation that there is child labor in the area.
2. PNP doesn't coordinate with the barangay.
3. Because of raid and jail, the families become more skeptical to new faces although these people can help.
4. Children will always go back in the same work because they need to earn for the family.
5. Cannot catch children working in pyrotechnics since they hide well or hidden well by employers.
6. They have nowhere to go for help.
7. Location of Barangay halls is not accessible.
8. There is no fund to undertake rehabilitation of victims.
9. Lack of political will. All words no action on the part of government officials.

3.3.9 Social mobilization & campaigns on the effect of the worst forms of child labor on children and society and on children's rights to protection and education

1. Awareness is very limited. It has not reached yet other levels/places.
2. There is still a need to promote RESCUE SERVICES.
3. Advocacy is still lacking in spite of the warnings and reminders. There is no monitoring done.
4. There is no continuous education and orientation to the child workers.
5. Nobody is doing social mobilization about child labor in our area.

3.3.10 Public accountability of policy commitment and progress made towards the implementation of national policy to combat child by problem

1. Must have full support of the barangay.
2. Must have full support from the local government.
3. They lack support from the municipal government.
4. DSWD is blind on what is happening.
5. Medicines badly needed by the people are insufficient.
6. No proper monitoring of health as promised.
7. There is gap between DSWD and barangay.
8. Community commitment is needed to follow laws.
9. They must be able to act and think of alternatives to facilitate building of community ownership/people ownership.

4. APPROACH AND STRATEGY

4.1 Strategic Elements

In Bulacan, the problem of children in pyrotechnics is diffuse and deepfelt. The causes are multi-faceted and have no easy solutions. Reducing, if not eliminating, its incidence, as well as dealing with its detrimental effects on children in pyrotechnics, are difficult goals that nonetheless deserve the commitment and involvement of the government, employers, trade unions, NGOs, church, civil society, and the affected families. No less than coherent strategies implemented in an holistic, integrated and systematic manner are needed to enhance the likelihood of success of such efforts for the TBP.

Based on the numerous number of children in pyrotechnics who are employed in many unlicensed manufacturers, the aim of the TBP is to remove children from pyrotechnics, prevent new children from going into pyrotechnics, and to provide alternatives to children in pyrotechnics as well as to their families. These strategies are indirect and direct approaches which are related to: (1) policy, legislation and enforcement; (2) education; (3) health; (4) income and employment generation; (5) advocacy and social mobilization; and (6) capacity building. These actions are outlined in the following section:

4.2 Objectives, Outputs, Activities and Indicators

4.2.1 Development Objectives

To contribute to the Philippines Time-Bound Program for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in the Philippines.

1. To create an environment that will pave the way for the prevention of children in pyrotechnics.
2. To reduce the incidence of children in pyrotechnics in Bulacan.

4.2.2 Immediate Objectives

1. To create an environment that will pave the way for the prevention of children in pyrotechnics.
 - 1.1 Ensure that R.A. 7183 will be amended to protect children to work in pyrotechnics and strengthen the capacity of regulatory agencies to enforce the laws and monitor erring parties.
 - 1.2 Revise the education and training policies to reflect the needs of the children in pyrotechnics and these children have more access to education and training.
 - 1.3 Ensure that poverty and employment policies genuinely respond to the needs of the poor.
 - 1.4 Enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all.
 - 1.5 Increase public awareness on the negative consequences of children in pyrotechnics.
 - 1.6 Mobilize to action all relevant stakeholders to participate in the programme to reduce or prevent children in pyrotechnics.
2. To reduce the incidence of children in pyrotechnics in Bulacan.
 - 2.1 Establish or strengthen community safety nets and local capability to reduce family vulnerability of children in pyrotechnics.
 - 2.2 Provide access to primary, high school, non-formal or vocational training of children in pyrotechnics.
 - 2.3 Provide decent employment and income opportunities for families with children in pyrotechnics.
 - 2.4 Establish and/or strengthen the organizational mechanism and system in the community to reduce child labor in pyrotechnics.

4.2.3 Outputs , Activities and Indicators

Immediate Objective: 1. To create an environment that will pave the way for the prevention of children in pyrotechnics.

Policy, Legislation and Enforcement

Output 1.1a Amend R.A. 7183 to provide stiffer penalty to erring big manufacturers and non-licensed manufacturers who operate illegally. The law should also incorporate clear guidelines for Implementing Rules and Regulations / Standard Operating Procedure.

Activities:

1. Create a multi-sectoral task force involved in pyrotechnics to review R.A. 7183.
2. Provide technical support to draft amendment of R.A.7183
3. Lobby for the ratification of R.A. 7183 with the help of all stakeholders.
4. Promote codes of conduct for employers to observe through the Pyrotechnics Association.

Indicator:

1. R.A. 7183 is amended.

Output 1.1b. Continuously monitor the strict enforcement of the law and other pertinent policies related to pyrotechnics and the protection of children.

Activities:

1. Review the functions and strengthen the BCPC role in law enforcement.
2. Set up a system of immediate reporting of violators at the community level in coordination with the PNP and barangay.
3. Strengthen enforcement of laws and other ordinances by improving the capacity of people's organization and partners to liase between

children and the law enforcement authorities, including filing of cases.

4. Provide technical and legal support to people's organization and partners that monitor and initiate legal action or pursuing abusive employers and their agents.
5. Train people's organization and partners in paralegal skills, including trafficking.
6. Register and monitor child labor at workplaces through the barangay and Regional DOLE.

Indicators:

1. Revision of BCPC functions
2. Number of reported cases of violators
3. Number of registered child labor in pyrotechnics

Education

Output 1.2 Primary and secondary education is made more responsive to the needs and requirements of the poor and the child workers in particular.

Activities:

1. Create an education task force together with ERDA and with the Department of Education for the revision of the basic and secondary education curriculum.
2. Lobby to ensure that the concerns of child workers and girl children are adequately reflected in national education policies and programs.
3. Develop gender sensitive curricula in local languages that include the issues of child rights, health education, and the consequences of working in the pyrotechnics.
4. Implement new curricula through strategic partnership with DEP ED and CEAP.

5. Develop training modules for teachers that will focus on reorienting teachers attitudes on the issues of social justice, rights of children and special needs of children who are vulnerable or victims of children in pyrotechnics.
6. Conduct awareness raising for supervisors and trained teachers' unions in mobilizing teachers against child labor.

Indicators:

1. Revised primary and secondary curricula
2. Training modules for teachers
3. Number of awareness raising activity for supervisors and teachers

Income and Employment

Output 1.3 Revise poverty and employment policies to genuinely respond to the needs of the poor.

Activities:

1. Provide technical inputs and other pertinent data in an attempt to address poverty and unemployment problems of families prone to child labor.
2. Work for the incorporation of child labor issues in national policy documents related to poverty and unemployment alleviation.
3. Initiate the creation of a POVERTY Alleviation Fund in conjunction with all other stakeholders.
4. Promote policies of good governance and municipal level self-governance in partnership with ILO/IPEC through its authorized representatives and the BCPC.

Indicators:

1. Incorporation of child labor issues in National Policy documents.
2. Creation of Poverty Alleviation Fund

Health

Output 1.4 Improve the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all.

Activities:

1. Participate actively in the development of a social protection strategy paper for extending the coverage to unprotected or poorly protected people like the child workers.
2. Work out with the concerned body that Bulacan will be included in the implementation of pilot schemes to test new modules of extending social protection coverage, including unemployment insurance and community-based health micro-insurance schemes.
3. Coordinate with ILO to ensure that mothers of children in pyrotechnics will be beneficiaries of the regional project entitled Extending Social Protection through Micro-Insurance Schemes for Women in the Informal Economy.
4. Coordinate with OSHC and other health related agencies/organizations to provide technical support to the government in the design of a National Safe Work Programme that will consider the needs of working children.
5. Help promote the Occupation and Safety and Health Convention No. 155 including advocacy materials and consultation meetings.

Indicators:

1. Inclusion of Bulacan in the pilot scheme to test new modules of extending social protection coverage.
2. Number of mothers who will benefit from micro-insurance scheme for women in the informal economy.

Advocacy and Social Mobilization

Output 1.5 Increase awareness of the public regarding the ill-effects of children in pyrotechnics

Activities:

1. Identify and work with local leaders, the Church, NGOs, schools and other groups who are willing to advocate the fight against eliminating children in pyrotechnics.
2. Design and launch mass media awareness against children in pyrotechnics with the help of TV, radio, newspaper, and journalism schools.
3. Prepare materials to support campaigns at the community levels which are "tailor-fit" to the culture and language of the target community (parents and children).
4. Support employers associations (Bulacan Pyrotechnics Association, and Solid Group Bocaue Manufacturers and Dealers Association) to organize awareness campaigns for their members.
5. Assist in establishing and strengthening community-level groups or People's Organizations or the BCPC to sponsor fora where the voices of children workers can be heard.
6. Conduct media training for partners and implementing agencies and organizations at the community level to implement awareness programmes.
7. Conduct regular training for the employers and their staff regarding labor laws and health and safety policies to protect child workers.

Indicators:

1. Number of advocacy and mobilization activities done.
2. Number of people given advocacy and mobilized.

Output 1.6 Mobilize all relevant stakeholders to participate in the reduction and prevention of children in pyrotechnics.

Activities:

1. Involve political parties, religious organizations, educational institutions, trade unions, employers associations, NGOs, and other community-based organizations to mobilize their constituents to participate in campaign, rallies, and other gatherings to support the programme to eliminate or prevent children in pyrotechnics.
2. Mobilize parents and the child prostitutes themselves to report and expose to media (Correspondent, Imbestigador, etc.) regarding their plight.
3. Tap donors (individual or group) here and abroad (European NGOs) to contribute financially to the cause of eliminating or preventing children in pyrotechnics.

Indicator:

1. Number of organizations, parents, children and donors mobilized.

Immediate Objective: 2. To reduce the incidence of children in pyrotechnics in Bulacan.

Capability Building

Output 2. 1 Promote and strengthen community-based safety nets for children and families prone to child labor in pyrotechnics.

Activities:

1. Conduct training and capacity building workshops on the implementation of labor laws, R.A. 7183, social protection, and health and safety policies for BCPC and other LGU officials.
2. Sponsor awareness campaigns on the rights of children to grow up and to be protected in a supportive and healthy family and community environment.
3. Support the Sagip Bata Program and facilitate the adoption of this program at the community level.

4. Build partnership with health providers to extend quality and affordable or free health services to children in pyrotechnics and their families.
5. Provide alternative activities for the children and families of child workers, like sports.
6. Resettle squatter families of child workers to areas where they can earn livelihood and have a decent home.
7. Promote local resource mobilization to finance advocacy and awareness raising activities.

Indicators:

1. Numbers of capability building activities done.
2. Number of children and families benefited.

Output 2.2 More children in pyrotechnics will have access to education and/or vocational training.

Activities:

1. Work closely with DEP ED on their distance and flexible education program for Basic and Secondary levels.
2. Work closely with ERDA to implement action programme on educational assistance provided to working children through: (a) return to school, and (b) non-formal education.
3. Train community-based implementors of education assistance to working children on organizing and operating educational service programmes.
4. Work out with the Municipal and Barangay levels to strengthen their Education Program by providing free tuition, books, uniforms, school supplies, and snacks to poor children who will be referred by the BCPC or partner organizations working on the project.
5. Provide scholarships and stipends to offset the opportunity costs for children in pyrotechnics and destitute families.
6. Support establishments of day-care centers and improvements in school infrastructures.

7. Assist schools in developing an efficient administration to receive a large influx of former child workers.
8. Work closely with the schools in the area, to design alternative and indigenous education and/or training program for working children to equip them with skills that could be utilized for alternative types of work or source of livelihood that is safe.
9. Identify and forge linkages with suitable organizations with vocational training courses to train former child workers on quality and marketable skills.
10. Work to improve linkages between non-formal and formal schooling to effectively mainstream child workers into primary or secondary education.

Indicators:

1. Number of children supported to return to school, attend non-formal education, acquire skills training.

Income and Employment Generation

Output 2.3a Families (mother, and elder siblings) of children in pyrotechnics were trained on livelihood with priority on piggery, poultry, and farming with business entrepreneurship. Other alternative livelihood projects can be given which have high market demand.

Activities:

1. Tap the agency that can provide the training, e.g. DTI, TESDA, Schools
2. Conduct the needs assessment to tailor-fit to prospective participants.
3. Implement time saving activities that will allow women to save time and concentrate on their income generation activities
4. Provide support (physical facilities and equipment) to promote group enterprise, micro-enterprises and micro-projects.
5. Replicate the training to other places where the families of the children working in pyrotechnics live.

Output 2.3b Establish a viable credit financing program for families who are trained to have access to capital to operate business.

Activities:

1. Look for an organization/foundation who can provide a micro-financing with low interest rate and affordable repayment scheme similar to Grameen Bank approach.
2. Ask families to prepare business plan to be submitted for financing.
3. Orient qualified beneficiaries about the terms and conditions of the loan.
4. Monitor loan repayments and financial status of the family beneficiaries.
5. Replicate the same micro-lending scheme to other places where the families of the children in pyrotechnics live.

Indicators:

1. Number of financing companies tapped.
2. Number of families able to avail of micro-financing.

Output 2.3c Families (priority given to father) of children in pyrotechnics to be trained on skills that will employ them in the formal labor sector and ensure that they will be absorbed by the firms.

Activities:

1. Tap the agency that can provide the training, e.g. TESDA, Schools, Industry Associations.
2. Conduct the needs assessment to tailor-fit to prospective participants.
3. Identify companies and enterprises in the locality that can absorb these workers.
4. Refer and facilitate their employment.
5. Replicate the training to other places where the families of the children working in pyrotechnics live.

6. Support non-farm opportunities through employment intensive investment programmes where this trained families can be employed.

Indicators:

1. Number of fathers trained
2. Number of fathers employed
3. Number of training conducted

Output 2.3d Assist the families who will operate a livelihood project in the sourcing of raw materials and marketing of their products.

Activities:

1. Link with cooperatives and other NGOs who can assists on this program.
2. Refer the families who will be interested to avail of such assistance.
3. Facilitate the build-up backward and forward market linkages.
4. Facilitate the organization of cooperatives for these families.
5. Replicate the assistance to other places where the families of the children in pyrotechnics live.

Indicators:

1. Number of families assisted to source raw materials.
2. Number of families assisted to market their products.
3. Number of cooperatives organized.
4. Number of assistance replicated in other areas.

Capability Building

Output 2.4 Establish and/Strengthen the organizational mechanism and system at the community level to reduce children in pyrotechnics

Activities:

1. Organize or activate Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC).
2. Conduct consultation workshops with the provincial/municipal sub-committee on Children's Affair.
3. Undertake capability training for the leaders and members of the organized people's organizations in the area.
4. Organize people's organizations in the community and unions in factories to pursue the issue of reducing child labor in the area.
5. Network and coordinate with potential partners in the area to implement activities on child labor.
6. Form "self-help groups" through the process of direct consultation with the concerned people's organization.
7. Conduct series of awareness raising on the issue of child labor from the barangay up to the municipal level.

Indicators:

1. Functioning BCPC.
2. Number of groups organized in the area.
3. Number of Self-help Group formed.
4. Number of awareness raising hold.

4.3 Supporting Strategies

The strategies for the TBP of children in pyrotechnics will be supplemented with supporting strategies to ensure its success. These are as follows:

1. Programme Management

1.1 ILO/ IPEC will strengthen coordination between and among its partners both at the national and local levels.

1.2 ILO/ IPEC will have to identify and accredit capable and committed organizations who will become partners to implement the programme.

1.3 ILO/ IPEC through a consultation workshop must identify and delineate the major roles and responsibilities of the TBP major stakeholders: (1) government both at the national & local levels; (2) workers organizations; (3) employer's organization; and (4) NGO's and civil society such as the church.

1.4 ILO/ IPEC will facilitate the establishment of the child labor Coordinator Committee or BCPC in each of the target districts.

2. Capacity Building

2.1 ILO/ IPEC together with experienced partner agencies must train partners in financial management, documentation and reporting, organizing, advocacy, gender mainstreaming, child right, and networking.

2.2 ILO/ IPEC together with consultants/ experts must conduct joint training programmes with different stakeholders to enhanced their management capability in project management.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

3.1 ILO/ IPEC will have to create a Child Labor Monitoring System at the Area level to follow- up closely the targets set by each district on community or partner working on children in pyrotechnics

3.2 ILO/ IPEC will have to establish an External Child Labor Monitoring System who be responsible for measuring the overall progress of the TBP on Children in pyrotechnics

3.3 Research & Publication

- 3.3.1 ILO/ IPEC will initiate specific research on the extent and nature of the hazards of child pyrotechnics in other areas in the Philippines where they are found.
- 3.3.2 ILO/ IPEC will conduct a multi-year tracer. Study of former children in pyrotechnics and other participants (such families & employers) of the TBP.
- 3.3.3 ILO/ IPEC will create a data base and an interactive web site. About stories of children in pyrotechnics and courses of action done to solve the problem.
- 3.3.4 ILO/ IPEC will publish regularly a newsletter on the efforts to eliminate prevent children in pyrotechnics. The newsletter will be published both in English and Filipino.

4. Participation by women and Children

4.1 Gender Analysis will be conducted before any programme is finalized to ensure that appropriate action for boy or girl child pyrotechnics are done. All future action researchers will ensure collection of dis-aggregated data.

4.2 Partners will ensure children participation in programme design, implementation, training, and capacity building.

4.3 Childrens council will be formed at the Municipal and regional levels which will serve as consultative bodies regarding the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs that will affect their lives.

4.4 Sustainability

It is imperative for certain issues to be addressed to ensure the sustainability of the Time Bound Programme for the Children in pyrotechnics.

1. Identifying and mandating a national agency or organization with the power and capability to obtain updated and reliable data on the children in pyrotechnics
2. Strengthening knowledge, capacity and commitment of the executive, legislative, and judiciary branches of the government on the problem of children in pyrotechnics.
3. Sensitizing the public at large on problems and the solutions concerning children in pyrotechnics.

4. Ensuring sufficient funds & technical support to partners who will implement the action programme.
5. Ensuring the continuity of active participation of all stakeholders throughout the TBP for children in pyrotechnics
6. Creating strategic alliances and forging new linkages between and among implementing agencies and partners of the TBP for children in pyrotechnics.
7. Building institutional and internal capacity and knowledge of all stakeholders of the TBP for children in pyrotechnics.
8. Providing long-term solutions for empowerment of local communities, trade unions, people's organizations and sustained action at the municipal and barangay level.
9. Adopting specific measures for the gradual phasing out of the TBP such as financial source and administrative support mechanisms.
10. Ensuring that monitoring and evaluation and mechanisms are build-in in the implementation of the TBP for children in pyrotechnics.

4.5 Assumptions

The following general conditions are critical in the implementation of the proposed strategies.

1. Baseline surveys will provide reliable data on the extent and nature of children pyrotechnics in the different regions of the Philippines, and these data will be regularly updated and made available to all concerned stakeholders and the public.
2. Institutional transformation or reforms must be undertaken to make them more sensitive and responsive to the needs of children in pyrotechnics these priority institutions are those that provide education, healthcare, justice, and legislation.
3. Political will and capacity to implement commitments made, policies and plans as well as to honor commitments made at the national and local levels regardless of political party affiliation or leadership to enhance coordination.
4. Convergence of services through linkages and genuine cooperation between and among the different intermediate groups (Employers, Trade Unions, Department of Tourism, Phil. National Police, Department of Social Welfare,

Mayor) for more effective and holistic approval to the needs of the children in pyrotechnics.

5. Media and Civil Society will continue to take an active interest in the problem of child pyrotechnics.

6. Sufficient funds must be secured and capable partners must be identified to implement the Action Programme to prevent/lessen the Incidence of Children in pyrotechnics.

7. Communities, employers, families and children will want to participate in direct action intervention designed for with them.

8. ILO/ IPEC will be able to foster fruitful alliances with international NGO's as new partners of the TBP as well as with other bilaterals agencies and government institutions

9. Restructuring of the existing IPEC programmes to streamline the TBP implementation of the children in pyrotechnics.

10. Development of a National policy framework and master plan of action on Child Labor in the Philippines.

**IN-DEPTH STUDY
ON THE SITUATION OF
CHILD LABOR IN THE
PYROTECHNICS INDUSTRY**

**INITIAL INPUTS FOR THE
TIME- BOUND PROGRAMME
DOCUMENT**

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