

**Thematic group on:**

# **Child trafficking – A new phenomena or old practises in new wrapping**

**Concept Paper to**

“Childhoods 2005: Children and Youth in Emerging  
and Transforming Societies”

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**Oslo, August 2004**

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## Purposes and goal

### Purposes

- Exchange experience on work with child trafficking, both across regions and across professions (researchers and actors).
- Define child trafficking. Find a common understanding of the phenomena from different angles.
- Distinctions between trafficking and
  - a) Child labour;
  - b) Child relocation;
  - c) Child exploitation.
- Discuss methodologies for studying child trafficking and defining the target groups for the actors.

### Goal

The group will have as its aim to come up with a clear definition of child trafficking that prevents actions taken towards child trafficking to harm other groups of children.

## Background

Child trafficking is today recognised as a serious violation of children's rights. Rights leading back to the 1956 UN Convention on the abolition of slavery, slave trading and trading and institutions similar to slavery. During the last 15 years there have been established three new legal pillars that affirms the right of the child: a) The 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), where article 32 recognises the child's right "*to be protected from economic exploitation*"; b) The 1999 Convention 182 of the ILO, which in article 3 (a) recognises child trafficking as the worst form of child labour; c) The UN General Assembly, Resolution 54/129 of 15 November 2000 to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, particularly women and children (The Palermo Protocol).

Based on these conventions, action has been taken, and these actions can be divided into two main areas: *prevention* and *protection*. We will here focus on the prevention area, as most government and NGO activity on child trafficking is prevention oriented (UNICEF, 2002). According to the UNICEF report from West and Central Africa the focus on prevention is welcomed, as trafficking is partly due to deep-rooted cultural practises and lack of awareness among families about the risks of allowing their children to leave home, and that might become an entry point for child trafficking (ibid). They divide the prevention activity mainly divided into three areas: 1) impact of awareness raising campaigns; 2) the challenge of monitoring borders, and 3) education as a key measure.

In the UNICEF report it is taken for granted that leaving the home of origin put the child in risk of being trafficked. However, relocation of children has also been shown to have a preventive effect of child trafficking. A Fafu study from West Africa, indicates that children moving to richer relatives might be better protected for exploitation than if they had stayed in their family of origin (Riisøen, Hatløy and Bjerkan, 2004). In the same study it is discussed the problem with monitoring borders. A National Plan of Action is implemented in Mali; this includes a strict control with the borders between Mali and Ivory Coast. However, the Fafu study discuss the fact that children has become more dependent of intermediators in crossing this border, because now the young ones going on seasonal migration are not allowed to cross the border by themselves. Earlier the young ones were free to cross the border as they wanted, no the official roads are closed for them. In their search for alternative routes, they have become dependent of intermediators, which increase their risk of being exploited.

The group will aim to discuss how policy actions taken works at the grass-root level and the impact on children in different part of the world. We therefore intend to have a group of researchers from different parts of the world with experience on the conflict that might come between the fight against child trafficking and old traditions and survival-mechanisms.

## **Outcome**

Prepare a presentation of concrete projects from different regions on Childhoods 2005.

Write a review/report/book chapter of the experiences from the different regions, included:

- a) Definition of child trafficking that is useful both for researchers and the operating actors in the field;
- b) Suggested methodologies for studying child trafficking and defining target groups for actors.

## **Collaborating partners**

The group will consist of researchers and NGOs that have been involved in work on child trafficking. The aim is to get representation from different part of the world: South-East Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. Max 8 persons to be funded over the project; others are welcome to participate on own cost.

### **Suggested names/institutions (preliminary – to be developed) :**

**Roberto Benes**, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (Policy and programming approaches at country level in West and Central Africa)

**Laetia Bazziveil**, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre? (Global policy trends and inter-agency cooperation on region level)

**Lila Pieters**, head of “barnevernsavdelingen” in UNICEF, Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Dhaka University** – plans to establish a child research centre. Or **BIDS**, Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies or **CWCS**, Centre for Women and Children Surveys.

CWI-members

## Time-schedule and budget

### Time-schedule

**September 2004:** Preparatory workshop in Florence

**June 2005:** Meeting during Childhoods 2005

**September 2005:** Sum-up meeting in Oslo. Editing report.

### Budget

Meeting in Florence September 2004	#	Cost/unit	Sum (NOK)	Sum (USD)
Travels in Europe	4	7 000	28 000	4 019
Travel South-East Asia - Florence	2	10 000	20 000	2 871
Travel West Africa - Florence	1	15 000	15 000	2 153
Lodging 7 persons 3 nights	21	650	13 650	1 959
Food	21	660	13 860	1 989
Local transportation	1	5 000	5 000	718
Rent of room	1	5 000	5 000	718
<b>Total Florence</b>			<b>100 510</b>	<b>14 427</b>
<b>Sum-up meeting in Oslo September 2005</b>				
Travel in Europe	1	7 000	7 000	1 005
Travel South-East Asia - Oslo	1	10 000	10 000	1 435
Travel West Africa - Oslo	1	15 000	15 000	2 153
Lodging 3 persons 3 nights	9	1 000	9 000	1 292
Food	9	460	4 140	594
Local transportation	1	5 000	5 000	718
<i>Total Oslo</i>			<i>50 140</i>	<i>7 197</i>
<b>Other unforeseen expences</b>	1	20 000	20 000	2 871
<b>Total</b>			<b>170 650</b>	<b>24 495</b>

In the budget it is preview to the meeting in Florence one researcher and one from the NGO-sector from South-East Asia and Eastern Europe, in addition one from the NGO-sector in West Africa, and two researchers from Oslo. There will also be participants from UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre and UCW (Understanding Children's Work) in Florence. The meeting will take place in the Innocenti Centre. Participants on the sum-up meeting in Oslo will be the researchers from the Florence meeting included

one from UCW. The meeting will take place at Fafo. Costs for participation on Childhoods 2005 will not be covered for the participants in the group.

## References

ILO/IPEC (1999). *Convention No. 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour*.

Riisøen K, Hatløy A and Bjerkan L (2004) *Travel to uncertainty: A study of child relocation in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Mali*. Fafo Report

UNICEF (2002). *Child trafficking in West Africa. Policy responses*. UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre and UNICEF Regional Office for West and Central Africa. ISBN 88-85401-80-5.

United Nations (1956)

United Nations (1989). *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, G.A. Res. 44/25, annex, 44 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 49) at 167, U.N. Doc. A/44/49.

United Nations (2000) *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*.