



LETTER FROM PROJECT DIRECTOR

The Actions to Reduce Child Labor Project (ARCH) is a four-year project designed to initiate actions to reduce child labor in rubber production areas in Liberia. This project is financed by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) and is being implemented by Winrock International under the USDOL cooperative agreement number IL-23978-13-75-K.

OBJECTIVES

The ARCH Project has eight basic strategic objectives for the enhancement of child labor reduction: Education, Livelihood, Social Protection, Youth Employment, Policy and Institutional Strengthening, Research and Data Collection, Transparency, and Accountability.

PURPOSE

The overall purpose of the ARCH Project under the USDOL cooperative agreement is to support efforts to reduce child labor in rubber growing areas of Liberia. The project promotes improved policies to address the reduction of child labor in rubber producing areas and to enhance monitoring and enforcement of such policies. The project also supports direct delivery of services to children ages 5 to 17 who are engaged in or who are at-risk for various forms of child labor, as well as their households.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The ARCH Project made significant strides during its four years of implementation, through partnerships with the Government of Liberia's line ministries, local NGO partners, trade unionists, rubber companies, smallholder rubber farmers, community structures and beneficiaries.

The ARCH Project enrolled 10,126 beneficiaries in various components of the project. These beneficiaries, who were involved in child labor or at risk of engaging in child labor, received project support. The project enrolled 5,516 beneficiaries in Formal Education; 1,612 in Accelerated Learning Programs (ALP); 955 in Model Farm Schools (MFS); 1,155 in Agri-Club; and 888 in Community Skills Training.

One of the core project components for sustainability lies in the application of the livelihood program for vulnerable households. This project has provided capacity building and support to 3,700 vulnerable households of children engaged in child labor or at risk of engaging in child labor. The project has also provided training for 44 community structures (PTAs) in writing "Requests for Applications" (RFAs) for small grants for implementations for the support of education for children in their communities.

At the national level, the project has supported the Ministry of Labor (MOL) in establishing the National Steering Committee (NSC), which is responsible for the coordination of child labor elimination efforts and the development of the National Action Plan (NAP) for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in Liberia. Generally, the NSC coordinates the efforts of child labor elimination in Liberia under the canopy of the MOL's National Commission on Child labor (NACOMAL).

The ARCH Project has built the capacity of the Government of Liberia to improve child labor monitoring and its policy implementation through the provision of training for Labor Commissioners and Inspector Generals of the Ministry of Labor.

Best,
James Yekeh, Project Director, ARCH Project, Liberia

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