



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 13 December 2004

Programme No. 935

Duration: 4'04"

CHILD LABOUR IN ZAMBIA

VIDEO

CHILDREN WALKING TO FIELD
(24")

WILSON ON-CAMERA (15")

CHILDREN IN A COTTON FIELD
(19")

AUDIO

NARRATION

Every day, thousands of young children in Zambia South East Africa begin the long walk to work. (6")

Every day for the past eight years, Wilson Chamsonde, now sixteen, has been one of them. (6")

Wilson, an orphan after his parents died of AIDS, is now the sole support for his six brothers and sisters. (7")

WILSON:

"After I quit school my parents died, life became hard for me and my sisters and brothers. So the only option we had at that time was just to look around for piece work". (12")

NARRATION

Wilson is just one of an estimated 600,000 child labourers in Zambia. More than 80,000 of them, like Wilson, work from sunrise in commercial and individually owned fields like on this cotton farm..... (15")

CHILDREN PICKING COTTON
(12")

Willing to work for less money than adults, often accepting food as their only payment, and with little power, these children are all too easily exploited. (11")

YOUNG CHILDREN PICKING
COTTON (15")

By using children, some as young as five years old, the farmers and other businesses are not only violating basic human rights but stand in direct violation of international and local labour laws. (14")

JOSEPH MUSHIMBWA WITH
CHILDREN IN COTTON FIELD
(19")

But some argue it's a no win situation. Joseph Mushimbwa hires more than 150 children to work in his maize and cotton farm. And while he admits to violating the law, the alternative he says, is often no better for these children. (17")

LOCAL DIALECT

JOSEPH MUSHIMBWA ON
CAMERA (14")

"If I don't hire them, some of the children will become thieves and end up in jail, some of them will become street children. So I feel I should help them in a way." (12")

ENGLISH

ILO RESREP ON-CAMERA (5")

"It is a labour which is harmful, it is dangerous."
(4")

MORE CHILDREN WORKING IN
COTTON FIELD (7")

NARRATION

Louis Ndaba-Hagameye is the Representative in Zambia for The International Labour Organization, the ILO. (6")

ENGLISH

ILO RESREP ON-CAMERA
(5")

"In Zambia, we have children working in difficult, hazardous conditions."

NARRATION

MORE CHILDREN WORKING IN
COTTON FARM (17")

But the help they really need is presenting itself in a whole different way -- coming through programmes offered by the ILO. First, there's a chance of education. (11")

(NATURAL SOUND)

NARRATION

MORE CHILDREN IN A
COTTON FARM (13")

Working children now attend "bridging classes" to enable them to finally learn the basic educational building blocks that they missed out on. (10")

SCHOOL AND CHILDREN
(16")

And the kids need not worry about school fees. The program pays all tuition as well as provides them with clothing, shoes and text books...(12")

And for older children, the ILO has vocational training. (4")

ILO RES REP:

ON CAMERA (6")

"ILO is supporting efforts to withdraw children from exploitative child labour." (5")

SEWING CLASS (9")

The programme hopes that by offering skills, these once hopeless children will grow self reliant and break from the cycle of exploitation. (8")

BOYS WALKING/CARPENTRY
CLASSES (19")

And that is exactly what Wilson is hoping will happen for him. He, like many of the other boys, has taken up carpentry and he hopes that by joining the training, he can begin to turn his life around. (17")

LOCAL DIALECT

WILSON ON CAMERA (12")

"I realize that if I go for training in skills like carpentry, my life would be better off because I will have something that would help me in my life and make me a better person." (10")

LOGO (10")

This report was prepared by Kamil Taha for the United Nations. (6")