Ghai Larissa AWARD

Special Edition 2021

Celebrating Model Practices in Addressing Child Labour in Africa

Ghai Larissa Award

Special Edition

2021

Celebrating Model Practices in Addressing Child Labour in Africa

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

ACPF wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude to Prof Dharam Ghai, Neela Ghai, Dr Alice Kramer and their families for their invaluable support to the Ghai Larissa Award scheme.

Our gratitude also goes to members of the independent Jury for reviewing, evaluating and selecting the winner from among the shortlisted nominees. The independent Jury is comprised of:

- Mr. Frans Roselaers, Member, International Board of Trustees of ACPF, former Director of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) – Chairperson of The Jury
- Mr. Aimé Bada, Coordinator, Enda Jeunesse-Action
- Ms. Moya Bridget, Director, Child Development, Ministry of Youth, Sports and Child Development, Republic of Zambia
- Mr. Wouter Cools, Technical Officer, International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- Ms. Purva Gupta, Global Coordinator, Global March against Child Labour

ABOUT THE GHAI LARISSA AWARD

The Ghai Larissa Award was initiated by the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) to recognise, acclaim and reward an organisation or individual who has made an exceptional contribution to promoting child rights and wellbeing in Africa. The Award's thematic focus is selected to complement ACPF's strategic priorities. It seeks to link policy to practice by identifying and showcasing good practice models that can be adapted and scaled up to address similar child rights challenges in different contexts across Africa.

Initially called the Larissa Award, it is a flagship initiative dedicated to the memory of Larissa, an African girl, who died at the age of five. The Award symbolises the plight of one in thirteen African children who die before their fifth birthday and million others who experience grave violations of their right to life, protection, development and participation. This award, bearing Larissa's name advances the wellbeing of all children in Africa irrespective of age, gender, origins or living situation. The Award has recently been renamed the Ghai Larissa Award to recognise its initiators and sponsors, Prof Dharam Ghai and Neela Ghai.

The winner of the Ghai Larissa Award receives a Statuette of Larissa and a modest financial prize.

ABOUT GHAI LARISSA AWARD SPECIAL EDITION 2021

The Ghai Larissa Award Special Edition for 2021 is dedicated to the elimination of child labour in Africa in line with the declaration by the UN General Assembly of 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. The African Union also launched the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour in Africa on the 31st of March 2021 and pledged to accelerate the implementation of the African Union Ten Year Action Plan on Eradication of Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery in Africa (2020-2030).

By instituting and dedicating this Special Edition on elimination of child labour in Africa, ACPF demonstrates its commitment to ending this violation of children's rights and to aligning its focus with the African and Global child rights agenda.

Alarming statistics on child labour in Africa

- One in every four children of age 5-17 years in Africa is engaged in child labour.
- The actual number of children in child labour in Africa increased from 65.1 million to 86.6 million between 2008 and 2020.
- Children in the 5-11 age group are the worst affected and account for 60 percent of all cases of child labour in the continent.
- Child labourers in Africa account for 54 percent of the global number of about 160 million
- More boys than girls are engaged in child labour in Africa (56% of those in child labour are boys)
- Children in rural areas are the most affected with 82% of those in child labour being from rural areas and the remaining from urban areas.

Sources:

- ACPF (2020). African Report on Child Wellbeing 2020: How friendly are African governments towards girls? Addis Ababa: African Child Policy Forum (ACPF)
- ILO and UNICEF (2021). Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward. New York: ILO and UNICEF.
- UNICEF (2021). The State of the World's Children 2021: On My Mind – Promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health. New York: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Child labour is a growing problem in Africa. The actual number of children engaged in hazardous work in Africa has increased from 65.1 million in 2008 to 86.6 million in 2020. In the past four years alone, an additional 16.6 million children were engaged in child labour.

Poverty is the main driver of child labour. But other factors such as recurrent crises, inadequate social protection measures, rapid population growth and, recently, COVID19 pandemic have also contributed to the rise in the numbers.

In light of these realities, the Special Edition of Ghai Larissa Award targeted organizations and individuals that have made outstanding contributions to the elimination of child labour in its varied manifestations, including forced child labour; child slavery; child trafficking, child domestic work and other worst forms of child labour.

Ending child labour requires a multi-faceted response involving relevant stakeholders from government and non-government sectors that addresses the full array of forces – economic, social, cultural and legal – that predispose children to child labour. Identifying, showcasing and popularising good practice models in combating child labour, as demonstrated in the Ghai Larissa Award 2021, would make immense contribution to bridging the gap between policy and practice and contribute to national, regional and global actions to end child labour.

WINNER OF THE GHAI LARISSA AWARD SPECIAL EDITION 2021: BRIEF PROFILE

Good Shepherd International Foundation, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The Good Shepherd International Foundation is a non-profit organization founded by Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (Good Shepherd sisters), an international Congregation of religious women which has 3,000 members in 400 communities throughout the world, to support their programmes for vulnerable girls, women and children. The Foundation works to promote community development focusing on preventing human rights abuses in low income countries and addressing the root causes of poverty and social injustice, fostering an inclusive and sustainable development for the most marginalised and vulnerable children and women, affected by gender-based violence, exploitation, discrimination and other forms of human rights violations.

THE MISSION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

More than 70 percent of the world's cobalt is produced in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). About 15 to 30 percent of the cobalt is produced by artisanal and small-scale mining. Due to high level of poverty, an estimated 40,000 children are forced to work in cobalt mines in unsafe and unhealthy conditions, using rudimental tools and without any protective equipment. Often referred to as "cobalt children" by the community, children in the Kolwezi area, in Lualaba Province, suffer from worst forms of child labour in mines with harsh environment and unsafe working condition where a number of miners put their lives in danger due to risk of mine structures collapse, landslides and toxic dusts. They work for less than a dollar a day in artisanal mines, sorting, washing and packing cobalt and other minerals, a meagre pay that is not even enough to survive, while being denied their basic rights to protection, healthcare and education.

In the face of these challenges, the Good Shepherd International Foundation and Bon Pasteur Kolwezi – the local development partner, affiliate with the Good Shepherd sisters – initiated a programme in DRC to assist women and children involved in artisanal mining around the city of Kolwezi. The main objective of the Programme is to rescue children from hazardous conditions in the mines, create alternative livelihoods for their families and enable them to continue their education, providing a safe and supportive environment where children can develop their full potential and thrive. The Programme targeted children from as young as 5 years to 14 years. It also involved women and girls and the entire community, through a comprehensive human rights approach.

CHILDREN, NOT MINERS – REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN ADDRESSING CHILD LABOUR IN THE COMMUNITIES

The Programme started small in 2013 and gained momentum. Over the years, it was able to reach almost 35,000 people in eight artisanal mining communities through a holistic and unique model of intervention that integrates education, alternative livelihood, social protection and advocacy. True to its motto - Children, not miners – the programme helped 4,800 children quit the mines and attend schools run by Bon Pasteur Kolwezi where a nutrition project has been developed to prevent malnutrition and ensure that the children access nutritious diet and improve their health. The Bon Pasteur School in Kanina area is the only free school and provides daily meals for 1,100 ex-child miners. The child protection center has now become a makeshift referral mechanism to report all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse.

There are also notable results in other fronts. The Programme has a component that addresses livelihood related challenges where girls and women are trained in tailoring and catering to help them generate income and sustain their families. This initiative has not only created opportunities to learn new skills, but also reduced the vulnerability of these girls and women to labour and other forms of exploitation. Hundreds of women now work on the farm called ‘Maisha association farm’ to enhance their income and food security for their families.

The Good Shepherd sisters remain committed to breaking the cycle of abuse against children and women and to eradicating child labour. They are recognised as advocates for promoting children’s rights and working effectively, in collaboration with the communities they serve, to address the root causes of poverty and widespread violations of human rights in the area.

PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE GHAI LARISSA AWARD

2005 – L'ESPOIR D'ADJOUFFOU, CÔTE D'IVOIRE

L'Espoir d'Adjouffou is a health care organisation providing shelter to a number of orphans. The objective is to give children a decent and autonomous life through health care, education, counselling and training in an environment of love and respect. L'Espoir d'Adjouffou places the approach to the protection and care of orphans in a broad context of health care and wellbeing for a wider community.

2007 – Kembatta Women's Self-Help Centre, Ethiopia

The Kembatta Women's Self-Help Centre (known as KMG) and its founder Dr Bogalech Gebre have successfully campaigned against Female Genital Mutilation and reduced its prevalence from approximately 100% to less than 10% in 10 years in Kembatta area. Their work includes empowering women and their communities to end customary practices and related forms of abuse of children.

2010 – Katalemwa Cheshire Home, Uganda

For the last 40 years, Katalemwa Cheshire Home (KCH) was remarkably innovative in engaging parents and experts on provision of care for persons with disabilities. KCH reached 52,000 children in 2009 through its medical and social services, economic empowerment of parents, among others. KCH also produced disability appliances and undertook campaigns and peer sensitisation for promoting inclusive education and HIV/AIDS awareness programmes.

2012 – Isibindi Initiative, South Africa

South Africa's National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW) developed a community-based care and protection intervention option for children. Linking community-based organisations with a national support network and information feed, Isibindi enabled poorly resourced communities to adopt an evidence-based approach to the provision of integrated welfare services and rapidly develop effective and informed local care and protection services for children. Sixty-seven Isibindi projects were replicated across South African

provinces, using a community development approach and serving over 100,000 children who would otherwise have fallen outside of the care and protection matrix. The Isibindi model has received public acclaim, and was at the time of the award being scaled up through a government initiative.

2014 – Hope and Homes for Children (HHC) – Rwanda

Hope and Homes for Children (HHC) – Rwanda worked to give children the chance to grow up in the love of a family and not to suffer institutional care. HHC's 'Community Hub' model provided integrated child protection and family strengthening services in Rwanda. Community Hubs were child-friendly community resource centres that offered children, parents and communities a range of diverse services that responded to identified local needs and prevented families' breakdown. The Community Hubs had a transformative impact on reducing vulnerabilities and preventing child abandonment and institutionalisation.

HHC developed the Community Hub model in Rwanda in 2005, and went on to establish eight Hubs across three districts, benefitting over 8,000 community members. Local ownership enabled full handover for long-term community benefit and ensured sustainability.

AFRICAN CHILD POLICY FORUM (ACPF)

The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) is an independent, not-for-profit, Pan-African institute of policy research and dialogue on the African child. ACPF was established with the conviction that putting children first on the public agenda is fundamental for the realisation of their rights and wellbeing and for bringing about lasting social and economic progress in Africa.

ACPF's work is rights-based, inspired by universal values, informed by global experiences and knowledge, and committed to Internationalism. Its work is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and other regional and international human rights instruments. ACPF aims specifically to contribute to improved knowledge on children in Africa; monitor and report progress; identify policy options; provide a platform for dialogue; collaborate with governments, intergovernmental organisations and civil society in the development and implementation of effective pro-child policies and programmes; and promote a common voice for children in and out of Africa.

African Child Policy Forum
ACPF

P.O. Box 1179, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Telephone: + 251 116 62 81 92/96/97/99
Fax: +251 116 62 82 00
E-mail: info@africanchildforum.org
Website: www.africanchildforum.org
www.africanchild.info

© 2021 African Child Policy Forum.