

Strategic Helpdesks for Information, Education, Livelihood and Other Developmental Services: SHIELD against Child Labor

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the SHIELD Project?	The project aims to withdraw children from the worst forms of child labor through the provision of holistic and immediate interventions at the community level. This project was developed to comply with RA 9231, and contribute to the removal of one (1) million children from child labor by 2025 as committed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Philippine Program against Child Labor (PPACL).
Why did DSWD develop the SHIELD project?	The need to develop a project addressing child labor came from a study conducted by STB in 2016 on the worst forms of child labor. It was also a response of the Department as member of the NCLC and to contribute to the target withdrawal of 1M children from child labor.
What are the basic services that SHIELD against child labor provides?	In the establishment of barangay helpdesks, convergence of services will take place to respond to the needs of the child laborers and their families. Services may include any of the following: rescue and recovery, health services, educational assistance, counseling, skills training, financial assistance, legal facilitation, livelihood skills development, capital assistance and other interventions.
Where are the pilot areas of SHIELD? How many have been benefited from it?	<p>The pilot regions of SHIELD are: Region IV-A: Catanauan, Quezon Region V: Paracale, Jose Panganiban and Labo, Camarines Norte Region VIII: Ormoc and Kananga, Leyte Region X: Maramag, Bukidnon</p> <p>587 validated child laborers and their families have been provided with various support services by the project and have been referred to other appropriate agencies as needed</p>
How has SHIELD contributed to the #1MBatangMalaya campaign?	407 children have been withdrawn from child labor as a result of the implementation of the SHIELD project in the identified pilot areas.
What is the approach towards parents who themselves encourage their children to work?	The project works on raising the awareness of the parents not only on the laws against child labor, but also on the rights of their children and on how they can better provide for them. Parents are not prosecuted them but made to understand their roles as parents. The parents and communities are also organized to help in combatting child labor.
How do we encourage children to stop working if they have been used to doing it for so long and it is a way of life for them?	The project works on making them understand their rights, the laws protecting those rights and the value of education.
What are the next steps for the project?	The project is set for institutionalization in the Department through the Program Management Bureau and replication in LGUs with high incidence of child labor identified by PMB, Field Offices and the Department of Labor and Employment.