



WINROCK
INTERNATIONAL



Empowerment & Civic Engagement

PROSPER Program

Reducing Child Labor in Tanzania

PROSPER (Promoting Sustainable Practices to Eradicate Child Labour in Tobacco) is a four-and-a-half-year program designed to complement efforts by the government, employers, workers, and civil-society organizations in fighting child labor in the tobacco-growing sector in Tanzania. The program is funded by the Elimination of Child Labour in Tobacco Foundation (ECLT) and is implemented in the Urambo and Sikonge Districts in Tabora Region, Tanzania, by Winrock International in collaboration with Tanzania Association of Women Leaders in Agriculture and the Environment (TAWLAE), the Tabora Development Fund Trust (TDFT), and the Government of Tanzania (GOT). PROSPER seeks to prevent and withdraw children of all ages from child labour and its worst forms in the tobacco-growing sector. It also aims to protect legally working children—those between the ages of 15 and 17—in tobacco-growing areas in the targeted communities. PROSPER addresses both the social and economic factors that drive smallholder tobacco farmers to employ children in hazardous work and those that impel children to seek such work.

PROSPER Objectives

- Initiating participatory processes at the district and community levels for the prevention and withdrawal of 7,800 children from tobacco growing.
- Improving access to quality education and basic social services at the district and community levels.

- Raising awareness and advocacy efforts to challenge the acceptance of child labour in tobacco growing.
- Strengthening capacity to combat child labour in tobacco growing through the development of policies, structures, and mechanisms.
- Strengthening livelihoods and improving economic situations in communities and households.
- Promoting the transitioning of children aged 15–17 from hazardous work/exploitive labour to acceptable work.

PROSPER Program Focus and Strategies

The PROSPER program is implemented using the following strategies:

- Identifying community resources for preventing and withdrawing children from child labour through the formation and training of Child Labour Committees to identify and intervene in cases of child labourers, and to monitor their status.
- Improving access to and the quality of education and basic social services such as health, water, and sanitation through infrastructure development, scholarships, increased after-school learning opportunities for students in formal school, and other activities.
- Awareness-raising activities at the community, district, and national level on child labour and





children's rights, including the right to education.

- Building the capacity of farmers, leaf technicians, community activists, district-level officials, ministry officials, and other national bodies to enable them to effectively use existing mechanisms and to enforce policies that will improve working conditions and encourage the withdrawal of children from child labour.
- Providing working children 15–17 years of age with vocational agriculture training and their mothers or guardians with microcredit and improved business skills.
- Promoting increased knowledge, awareness, and enforcement of occupational, safety, and health (OSH) standards for youth ages 15–17, community members, district level officials, and national government officials.

The PROSPER strategy maximizes its impact and financial resources by: strengthening existing systems and policies, such as the Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS) and the National Action Plan, with a specific focus on the district level; establishing key partnerships with the GOT district and national level officials in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE), Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MOEVT), Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and Cooperatives (MOAFSC), and the tobacco industry; and leveraging community assets through in-kind contributions, capacity building, and training.

Why Does PROSPER Focus on Children in Tobacco Production?

Agriculture, the largest sector for child labour worldwide, is a major source of income for Tanzania, and tobacco alone represents \$ 38.5 million in export value. Tanzania's main tobacco-producing areas tend to have low primary school enrollment and high numbers of working children aged 5–17 years. According to the ILO, the main causes of the worst forms of child labour (WFCL) on tobacco farms in Tanzania are linked to poverty: 84% of the parents of children working on the tobacco plantations/farms come from poor and very poor socioeconomic backgrounds. Orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) and those affected by HIV/AIDS are particularly susceptible to child labour. In rural areas, children involved in WFCL are often drop-outs, have never been to school, or are combining work and school, with education becoming a lower priority.

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Winrock International is a nonprofit organization that works with people in the United States and around the world to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity, and sustain natural resources.