PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES TO ERADICATE CHILD LABOR IN TOBACCO

The Promoting Sustainable Practices to Eradicate Child Labor in Tobacco (PROSPER) Umoja project is a two-year project funded by the Elimination of Child Labour in Tobacco (ECLT) Foundation that is designed to reduce child labor in agricultural areas by implementing and supporting prevention, withdrawal and protection activities in tobacco-producing regions across Tanzania. The program also aims to improve access to quality education and economic improvement and create lasting political and social change. PROSPER Umoja builds upon the successes and lessons learned from the PROSPER and PROSPER Plus projects to develop an inclusive, scalable, and replicable model for reducing child labor in alignment with the priorities laid out in the Government of Tanzania’s National Strategy to End Child Labor. The project aims to bring together public and private sector, levels of government, communities, subsectors, and stakeholders, to unify and achieve the reduction of child labor on a nationwide scale.

Project Objectives:

PROSPER Umoja will reduce child labor in tobacco-growing areas of Tanzania through interventions that support three strategic objectives: protect children (aged 5-14) from exploitative, hazardous, and worst forms of child labor in tobacco-growing communities; protect legally working children (aged 15-17) in non-hazardous work within tobacco-growing communities; and assist in implementing Strategic Objectives 2, 3, and 7 of the Government of Tanzania’s National Strategy to End Child Labor.

PROSPER Umoja Target Regions
Strategies

Winrock has engaged with two partners with specialized technical expertise and extensive networks to address the issue of child labor in the target regions: the Tanzania Women Leaders’ Association in Agriculture and Environment (TAWLAE) and Tabora Development Fund Trust (TDFT). To achieve the program’s goals and objectives, PROSPER Umoja and its partners will use the following implementation strategies:

1. **Promote an increased awareness of the National Strategy on the Elimination of Child Labor** through the dissemination of the Nat’l Strategy in both English and Swahili, promoting broad awareness of the National Strategy at the national, regional, and district levels; the development of a sound implementation strategy; and mainstreaming implementation and reporting across stakeholders within the agricultural sector.

2. **Align regional and district policies with the National Strategy and renew commitments through appropriate operationalization plans** by engaging with regions and districts to inform practical implementation of the Nat’l Strategy at the subnational level. This includes promoting increased awareness and understanding of district-level officials of their role in the enforcement of child labor.

3. **Ensure that tobacco-growing farmers are familiar with Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) standards, and youth ages 15-17 have access to decent work opportunities.** The project will partner with tobacco companies to conduct OSH awareness campaigns and provide guidance on the hazards of child labor. PROSPER Umoja will also conduct skills and youth entrepreneurship trainings to encourage children aged 15-17 to consider non-hazardous forms of employment.

4. **Ensure that children aged 5-17 are prevented, withdrawn and protected from child labor** by offering literacy and numeracy classes for children and parents, providing scholarships to children, training teachers on how to sustain attendance within their classes and achieve high academic performance, and offer after school programs for children in the target regions.

Anticipated Project Results

PROSPER Umoja will ensure that:

- At least 500 children aged 5-15 are withdrawn or prevented from child labor
- At least 200 youth, aged 15–17, engaged in or vulnerable to hazardous labor, are provided livelihoods support
- At least 500 vulnerable parents/mothers engaging their children in child labor report increased incomes
- At least 10 national policies on child labor are supported, implemented and/or strengthened.

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