Child Labour in Mexico - A workshop with the Universidad Autónoma of Nuevo Leon that brings to light the results of a successful three-year collaboration

Sept, 13, 2017. Today, the Understanding Children’s Work (UCW) Programme and the Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon (UANL) are convening academics and development practitioners in a workshop to present recent research on child labour in Mexico, and to contribute to advances towards its elimination.

The workshop (here the Agenda) will take place in Monterrey (Mexico) at the UANL faculty of Economy and it will bring together academics and students from the UANL as well as other universities. This event is part of a longstanding collaboration, which began in 2014 with a first training workshop.

Through a series of training and seminars UCW has joined hands with UANL to build capacity to conduct analysis on child labour, and then supported some students (both technically and financially) to develop their research on child labor and related themes.

“Together with UANL we selected five students for participating in this initiative. The selection was based on a comprehensive research proposal submitted by the students”, says Furio Rosati, head of the Understanding Children's Work Programme. “After the selection, we closely supported the students in different ways, from helping them in identifying the right methodology to look at the data to providing specific inputs and suggestions.”.

Partner and supporter of the programme is the Mexican Ministry of Labour and Social Development (Secretaría del Trabajo y Previsión Social). A local representative of which, Dr. Luz Natalia Berrún - Secretaria de Desarrollo Social en NL will participate at the upcoming workshop in Nuevo Leon. There will also be a local representative of another partner, Prospera, the Mexican programme for education, health and nutrition, formerly known as Progresa.

Prospera is one of the main cash transfer programs worldwide: it gives cash to families provided that they meet requirements about their children’ school attendance, vaccinations and regular medical checkups. Jointly with Prospera, UCW has conducted rigorous analysis of the impact of the program on child labour, contributing to better understand what works to eliminate child labour.

“I think it has been a very successful initiative, also thanks to Prof. Cinthya Caamal (UANL). It has been a pleasure to see that there are so many students interested in researching child labour and we hope that they will keep doing so in the future. We have been impressed by their commitment and their hard work”, concludes Rosati. “We also hope to continuing our collaboration with the Universad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon on new projects that will ensure some sustainability to this initiative”.