

# WORKING CHILDREN SEEKING AUTHORITIES' SUPPORT TO ADVOCATE FOR THEIR RIGHTS WITH THEIR PARENTS

Children engaging with decision making

Sub-Saharan Africa: Zambia

In Zambia, Child Advisory Committee (CAC) members of Time to Talk! - a global campaign supporting working children to take forward child-led advocacy for improving their working conditions and eradicating all forms of child labour - saw the need to advocate for their rights within their closest environment: their parents and families. In efforts to convince them to take their needs seriously, and not to prioritize work as their primary occupation, children requested support from local authorities and organized a stakeholder meeting with representatives from the Church, Department of Education, Department of Labour, members of the District Child Protection Committee, and the Market association. They asked representatives of these agencies and associations to help them communicate their 5 key messages in the parent advocacy meeting to be held the next day. The five messages to convey were:

- Pleaser have kind hearts.
- Please give me work appropriate for my age.
- Take our education seriously.
- Send us to sell at the right time and in the right places.
- Give me time to rest, play, go to school and study

In the meeting with stakeholders the CAC members introduced and explained each of the key messages. They presented a short play to showcase the problems working children experience missing school if their parents do not prioritize their education. They also presented a gallery of their CAC journey explaining how specific methodologies and tools had helped them develop their advocacy action plan. Children also presented a song, poem and rap on the importance of their education. A similar format was used during the Parents Advocacy Meeting, which was taken forward with the support of the above stakeholders.

**Time to Talk / From Advocacy Actions Document**

