

A USER-FRIENDLY PROJECTS HANDBOOK FOR TRADE UNIONISTS



ANNEX 4 **PROBLEM TREES**

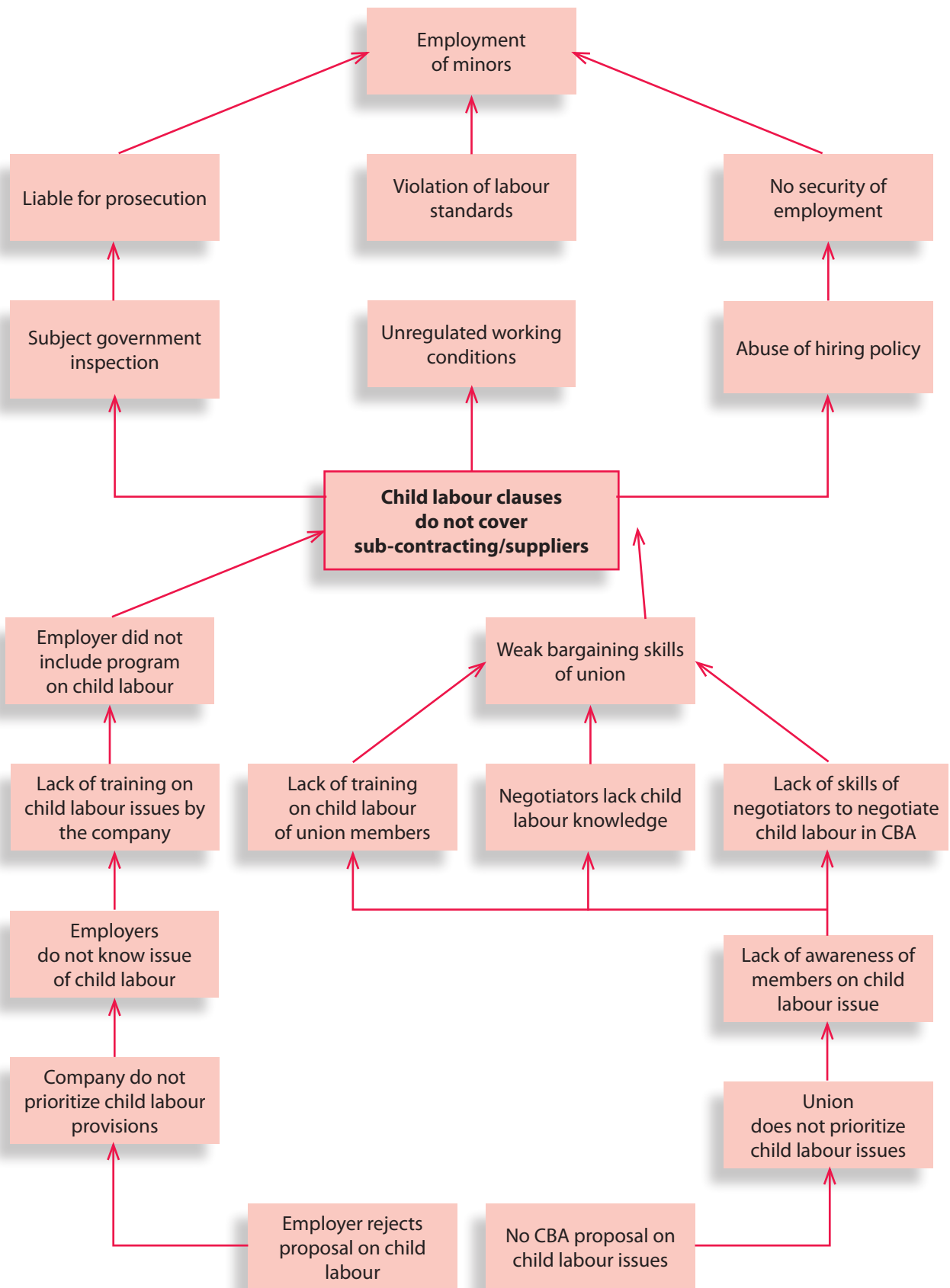
PROBLEM TREES

One way to analyse a problem its causes and effects and to construct a 'problem tree' where the roots are its causes and the branches are the effects of the problem. Usually the causes and effects are different but occasionally they may be the same, for example 'poverty' is a cause of 'child labour' but 'poverty' is also an effect of child labour because child workers are paid less than adults and they worsen unemployment by occupying jobs which should be done by adults. Hence 'poverty' is both a root and a branch in the problem tree of child labour.

Making a problem tree can be a good way to involve a wider group in the process of analysing and agreeing on the important issues for the union to work on, the contributory causes and the effects. The process of making the problem tree involves preparing lots of problems each of which is written on a separate coloured card. The group should then discuss and decide where they all fit in the tree. The problem tree can also help in the preparation of objectives. It is helpful if the discussion is facilitated by a resource person who is familiar with this planning method.

The following is a problem tree analysing the issue of (anti) child labour clauses in collective bargaining agreements in the Philippines.

PROBLEM TREE - example



Also some parts of the tree are likely to contain more urgent problems than others so it will be important to prioritise and concentrate on those first.

OBJECTIVE TREE - example

