

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE	COMBATING EXPLOITIVE CHILD LABOR THROUGH EDUCATION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (EDUCATION/YOUTH EMPLOYMENT/PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS)
REGION/COUNTRY	THE AMERICAS/Dominican Republic
PROJECT DURATION	September 30, 2007– February 28, 2011
FISCAL YEAR & FUNDING LEVEL	FY 2007: USD 4,000,000 Matching Funds: USD 979,106
PROBLEM ADDRESSED	The 2000 National Survey on Child Labor found about 436,000 working children in the Dominican Republic, representing 18% of children between the ages of 5 and 17 years. Children work mostly in the service sector followed by commerce, agriculture and manufacturing. The Worst Forms of Child Labor (WFCL) in the Dominican Republic include commercial sexual exploitation, hazardous agriculture, hazardous urban work and child trafficking. The Dominican Republic is a source and destination country for trafficking of children for commercial sexual exploitation. Also, Haitian children are trafficked to the Dominican Republic to work begging in the streets, work in agriculture and for commercial sexual exploitation.
RESULTS	<p>The project withdrew or prevented 13,109 children from exploitive child labor and provided them with education and training opportunities.</p> <p>The project assisted children ages 6 to 14 years and youth ages 14 to 17 years who were involved in exploitive labor. Priority sectors/areas included: (1) agriculture (on the Haitian border, in the South, East and Northeast “Cibao”) (2) urban informal, domestic and illicit work (in San Francisco de Macoris, Santo Domingo, Santiago/Puerto Plata, San Pedro de Macoris); and (3) illicit activities in tourist and beach areas (Samana, Las Terrenas, Boca Chica, and Eastern region) including trafficking, drug sales and commercial sexual exploitation.</p>
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Development Objective: To contribute to the elimination of exploitive child labor in the Dominican Republic.

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Immediate Objectives:

- Withdraw or prevent children from involvement in exploitive child labor through the provision of direct education and training services;
- Strengthen child labor policies, national institutions, and education systems to reduce hazardous child labor and increase school attendance for children working in exploitive conditions;
- Raise awareness of the importance of education for children and mobilize actors to improve and expand education infrastructures;
- Support reliable research and data collection on child labor;
- Ensure long-term sustainability of these efforts;
- Encourage public-private sector relationships; and
- Promote corporate social responsibility and codes of conduct certifying child-free labor.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

- Built upon a previous child labor Education Initiative project that developed an innovative and well-received school enrichment program, *Espacios para Crecer (Spaces for Growth)*;
- Implemented additional *Espacios (EpCs)* through nine NGOs and one university;
- Developed a comprehensive adolescent *EpC* model called *Espacios para Emprender (EpE)*;
- Improved data collection on education and child labor at the local and national levels;
- Raised awareness on the dangers of child labor;
- Encouraged corporate social responsibility;
- Worked with business associations to enact codes of conduct on exploitive child labor;
- Collaborated with university business departments; and
- Developed public-private sector relationships.
- At the end of the project, 13,109 children had been withdrawn or prevented from exploitive child labor as a result of this project.

GRANTEE

DevTech Systems, Inc., in association with EDUCA and INTEC

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Nine NGOs; the Universidad Católica Nordestana; Ministries of Labor, Education, and Youth; the American Chamber of Commerce; the National Association of Young Entrepreneurs; the government's vocational training institute; and the

Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education in the Dominican Republic (Education/Youth Employment/Public-Private Partnerships),

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Youth Employment Project.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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