

# TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

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<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>COMBATING THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR THROUGH EDUCATION IN ECUADOR</b>
<b>REGION/COUNTRY</b>	THE AMERICAS/Ecuador
<b>PROJECT DURATION</b>	September 30, 2005 – April 30, 2010
<b>FISCAL YEAR &amp; FUNDING LEVEL</b>	FY2005 (FY2005 Appropriations): USD 4,000,000 FY2006 (FY2006 Appropriations): USD 95,000 FY 2009 (FY2009) Appropriations): USD 150,000
<b>PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED</b>	<p>In Ecuador, nine out of ten indigenous children are working. These children are exposed to the use of chemicals in agriculture, dangerous work on construction sites, operating manufacturing equipment without safety precautions, or sexual exploitation.</p> <p>It is common for indigenous children to start school later than the usual age of 6 years, entering a year or two behind their non-indigenous counterparts. Only 40% of the indigenous working children aged 6 to 10 years are in the school grade that corresponds to their age. Only 30% of the indigenous children are still in school by the age of 16.</p> <p>Bilingual education for indigenous children in Ecuador is of extreme low quality. Often families find school education irrelevant and choose to send their children to work. Resuming an interrupted primary enrollment is difficult for these children. The reduced human capital formation leads to an intergenerational cycle of poverty in the indigenous community. Unskilled young men and women usually migrate to urban areas where they are highly vulnerable to work exploitation.</p>
<b>RESULTS</b>	<p>The project withdrew 5,662 indigenous children and prevented 2,382 indigenous children from exploitative work in three geographic areas: Sierra, Amazonia and Quito. In the Sierra and Amazonia, the project focused on children engaged in agriculture; in Quito, on children engaged in informal commerce and trafficking for child begging.</p>
<b>PROJECT OBJECTIVES</b>	<p>Development Objective: To reduce the number of child laborers in the indigenous population by increasing their enrollment in school, reducing their hours of work or removing them from work.</p> <p>Immediate Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raise awareness about the effects of child labor;</li></ul>

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- Work with formal and alternative educational systems to promote better educational opportunities for child laborers and families;
- Strengthen national institutions and policies; and
- Form strategic alliances to ensure sustainability.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

- Conducted awareness-raising campaign through radio programming, printed materials, home visits and community meetings;
- Provided accelerated basic and secondary education program for over-age students;
- Provided flexible distance education combined with weekend academic & technical school, as well as summer academic strengthening and recreation programs;
- Provided teacher training in accelerated curriculum, active bilingual-intercultural curriculum, and support for returning students;
- Collaborated with the Cantonal Council for Children and Adolescents (CCNNA) to advocate for local and national policies for the eradication of child labor; and
- Created Consultative Committees to provide input on project activities and develop a collective sustainability plan.

## GRANTEE

World Learning and Desarrollo y Autogestión (DyA)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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