

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE	COMBATING CHILD LABOR IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
ILAB PROGRAM	International Child Labor Technical Assistance
REGION/COUNTRY	THE AMERICAS/ Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua
PROJECT DURATION	Completed
FISCAL YEAR & FUNDING LEVEL	FY 1997 & FY1998: USD 1,000,000
PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED	Child labor in Central America and lack of data on the extent of child labor in the region.
RESULTS	The project withdrew and prevented child laborers engaged in hazardous activities (commercial sexual exploitation, commercial agriculture, shellfish collection, stone quarrying, and work in bus terminals), and those at risk of work, in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua, respectively.
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>Development Objective: To contribute to the effective elimination of child labor in Central America.</p> <p>Immediate Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify, survey, and analyze extreme forms of child labor in Central American and the Caribbean;• Establish a database to facilitate the systematization of child labor information; and• Implement pilot project in five countries aimed at withdrawing and preventing children from work.
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES	<p><u>Regional – based in San Jose, Costa Rica</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed a system for monitoring action programs; and• Built an internet-based information system of all program activities and outputs to facilitate country-level activities. <p><u>Costa Rica – San Jose City</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removed and rehabilitated children from prostitution and prevented other children from entering into prostitution;• Sensitized families and community leaders to the dangers of child prostitution and capacitated them to take action against this problem; and• Presented lessons learned from this project at the national level to devise further strategies for

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

national action.

Dominican Republic – Municipality of Constanza

- Withdrew children from agricultural labor;
- Mobilized civil society organizations and sensitized them to campaigns to eliminate child labor;
- Generated consensus for the fight against child labor, ensured the sustainability of the project, and created an established network; and
- Developed initiatives with civil society organizations on health, education, and income generation to allow working children to leave plantations while increasing their families' incomes.

El Salvador – Isla del Espiritu Santo, Usulután

- Progressively eliminated child labor in shellfish extraction, and provided productive alternatives for families;
- Guaranteed access to health services for targeted children;
- Integrated those children who are not in school into the formal education system;
- Generated work alternatives for the parents; and
- Undertook training and awareness campaigns directed to families in the communities.

Guatemala – Retalhuleu Province

- Collected data on the working conditions of children in the stone quarries;
- Provided educational opportunities for children to be integrated into formal education systems, as well as health/nutrition and sanitation services;
- Undertook training and awareness campaigns for families of the communities; and
- Provided income generation and economic alternatives to the parents of working children.

Nicaragua – Municipality of Leon

- Provided working girls with formal or non-formal education;
- Provided families of working children with assistance to form merchants associations or to participate in an existing associations, and created a revolving fund to provide credit to families who send their children to school;
- Raised awareness among parents about the dangers of child labor; and

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

- Mobilized merchants, workers, and the transportation cooperatives association to combat child labor at bus terminals.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Executing Agency

International Labor Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO/IPEC)

Collaborating and Implementing Agencies

Costa Rica: Ministries of Health, Labor, and Education; PANIAMOR Foundation; Technological Institute of Costa Rica; University of Costa Rica; Latin American Institute for the Prevention and Education in Health; and others.

Dominican Republic: Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health; National Autonomous University; Transportation Cooperatives; Central American University; Women's Section National Police; and others.

El Salvador: Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance; Salvadoran Institute for the Protection of Minors; Ministry of Education; Health Unit of Puerto Triunfo; Cooperativa Le Jobal; Mayor's Office; Fundacion Salvadorena para la Salud; Centro Nacional de Tecnologia y Foresta; Ministry of Labor; and others.

Guatemala: Habitat; CAPJU; Fe y Alegria; FENASTIG; OPAMA; the Gremial de Trabajadores Independientes Piedrineros de Retalhuleu; the Ministries of Labor, Public Health, and Education; municipal government; universities; and others.

Nicaragua: Ministries of Health, Education, Justice and Labor; merchants; transportation; cooperatives; bus drivers; workers around the bus terminals; local police; and others.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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