

# TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

---

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>COMBATING CHILD LABOR THROUGH EDUCATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, “PRIMERO APRENDO”</b>
<b>REGION/COUNTRY</b>	THE AMERICAS/Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua
<b>PROJECT DURATION</b>	August 16, 2004 – March 31, 2009
<b>FISCAL YEAR &amp; FUNDING LEVEL</b>	FY 2004: USD 5,730,000 Matching Funds: USD 809,030
<b>PROBLEM ADDRESSED</b>	Despite varied child labor interventions in Central America, gaps remain in areas such as inter-governmental and inter-ministerial cooperation, the acceptance of child labor as an education issue, and development of education systems that are prepared for and welcoming of working children.
<b>RESULTS</b>	The project withdrew 3,315 children from exploitive child labor and prevented 790 children from entering exploitive child labor in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.
<b>PROJECT OBJECTIVES</b>	To combat exploitative child labor in the region and strengthen government and civil society's capacity to address the educational needs of working children.  Intermediate objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raise awareness of the importance of education and dangers of child labor;</li><li>• Strengthen institutions and policies that address education and child labor; and</li><li>• Strengthen formal and transitional education systems to reintegrate working children and to reduce dropout rates.</li></ul>
<b>SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Established demonstration projects to withdraw and prevent children from exploitive work in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua;</li><li>• Mobilized parents and communities to participate in education process;</li><li>• Carried out awareness raising through radio and video spots, seminars and media campaigns at the regional, national and local levels;</li><li>• Developed project website, database, and publications for dissemination of lessons learned and good practices;</li><li>• Strengthened existing National Child Labor</li></ul>

Combating Child Labor through Education in Central America and the Dominican Republic,  
“Primero Aprendo”,

Page 1 of 2

U.S. Department of Labor, International Labor Affairs Bureau

# TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

---

Commissions, public ministries, the private sector, NGOs, and parents associations; and

- Promoted use and accreditation of transitional schooling and expanded alternative programs.

**GRANTEE**

CARE-USA

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**

Catholic Relief Services, DevTech Systems, Ministries of Labor, Education and Family throughout the region, civil society institutions; and selected NGOs.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking (OCFT)

(202) 693-4843