

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE	COMBATING EXPLOITIVE CHILD LABOR THROUGH EDUCATION IN BOLIVIA
REGION/COUNTRY	THE AMERICAS/Bolivia
PROJECT DURATION	September 30, 2007 – December 31, 2010
FISCAL YEAR & FUNDING LEVEL	FY 2007: USD 3,344,000 Matching funds: USD 472,755
PROBLEM ADDRESSED	<p>In Bolivia, at least half of the children who work are indigenous children that belong to the Quechua, Aymara and Guaraní groups. Most child laborers work in agriculture, either on family farms and/or on other people's farms or plantations. The children are exposed to agro-chemicals, extensive and forced work days, and carrying loads that surpass their physical capacity.</p> <p>Children also work in domestic service in third party homes. Girls are "handed over" to families to work in exchange of food and lodging, and sometimes education. Studies indicate that trafficking children for sexual exploitation or begging is a growing trend in Bolivia.</p>
RESULTS	<p>The project withdrew or prevented 5,413 children who were working or at risk of entering into WFCL in Santa Cruz and Chuquisaca. Many beneficiaries were children from the Quechua and Guaraní ethnic groups who migrated to work in the sugar cane and soybean plantations, while others migrated to the cities to work or to be trafficked for sexual exploitation or begging. Other children who received services were trapped in forced agricultural labor.</p>
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>Development Objective: To reduce the number of children working in exploitive conditions in Bolivia by increasing their enrollment in educational activities, reducing their hours of work or removing them from exploitive work. The project developed its strategy in conjunction with indigenous organizations and work within the framework of indigenous cultural values, organizational structure and language.</p> <p>Project goals included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide direct educational services tailored to children's education needs and labor conditions;• Raise awareness about the effects of child labor among local actors;

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

- Strengthen policies and child labor regulations; and
- Organize activities related to youth employment and alternative household productivity.
- Provided accelerated basic and secondary education program for over-age students;
- Reinserted and retained children in school through scholarships;
- Implemented after-school academic support program and summer school activities;
- Provided occupational training/continuing education;
- Conducted awareness-raising campaign based on perceptions regarding child labor among parents, teachers, municipal officials and indigenous organizations;
- Collaborated with the Child Labor Inspection System of the Ministry of Labor, the Municipal Children and Adolescent Defender's Offices, and indigenous organizations;
- Supported and monitored youth's insertion in the labor market.
- As of December 31, 2010, 5,413 children were withdrawn or prevented from exploitive child labor as a result of this project.

GRANTEE

Desarrollo y Autogestión (DYA)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Swiss Red Cross Bolivia

CONTACT INFORMATION

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