

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE	COMBATING EXPLOITIVE CHILD LABOR THROUGH EDUCATION IN COLOMBIA
REGION/COUNTRY	THE AMERICAS/Colombia
PROJECT DURATION	September 30, 2007 – February 28, 2011
FISCAL YEAR & FUNDING LEVEL	FY 2007: USD 5,099,463 Matching funds: USD 1,066,901
PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED	In Colombia, approximately 3.8 million people — half of them children — are internally displaced due to the ongoing internal conflict, and 1.5 million people live in extreme poverty. According to the National Strategy for the Elimination of Child Labor, many children are involved in mining, domestic labor, commercial sexual exploitation, street work, and commercial agriculture. Child workers generally make less than 50% of the official minimum wage and are often involved in dangerous or illicit activities. While compulsory age for schooling is 15, access to quality education is limited and vulnerable children are frequently behind their grade level, drop out of school, or lack family support for schooling.
RESULTS	<p>The project withdrew 4,959 children and prevented 5,182 children from exploitative child labor in the cities of Bogota, Cali, Yumbo, Cartagena, Barranquilla, and Santa Marta, as well as nearby rural areas and departments of Boyacá and Santander.</p> <p>The project focused on the worst forms of child labor, particularly commercial sexual exploitation of children, domestic service, street work, construction, mining, child soldiering, recycling, and agriculture.</p>
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>Development Objective:</p> <p>To reduce and progressively eliminate exploitive work and the worst forms of child labor in Colombia and support policies of the Colombian government such as the National Strategy for the Elimination of Child Labor, and programs to combat child labor.</p> <p>Intermediate Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish <i>EpC</i> (Spaces for Growth) and <i>EpE</i> (Spaces for Entrepreneurship) models to remove and prevent children from child labor;• Provide technical support for local governments to implement the National Strategy for the Elimination of Child Labor and develop the <i>EpC</i> and <i>EpE</i>

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

	models;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise awareness of parents, teachers, and community leaders about child labor; and• Increase understanding of child labor issues and possible solutions.
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce barriers to school attendance for working and at-risk children;• Improve monitoring of the implementation of the National Strategy for the Elimination of Child Labor;• In coordination with Local Committees for the Elimination of Child Labor, encourage local governments, community leaders, and civil society organizations to adopt mechanisms and tools to implement policies to eradicate child labor;• Coordinate efforts with other child labor initiatives;• Develop communication strategies and materials to raise awareness of parents, teachers, business associations, and trade unions about child labor; and• Conduct research on child labor.• As of August 31, 2010, 9,346 children have been withdrawn or prevented from exploitive child labor as a result of this project.
GRANTEE	Partners of the Americas, DevTech Systems, Mercy Corps, and CINDE.
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	ENTRENA, CEDECUR, Universidad del Norte, CorpoEducación, CorpoLatin, Creciendo Unidos, El Camino, Fé y Alegría-Cali, Desarrollo del Niño, la Familia y la Comunidad, Mamonal Foundation, Renacer, YMCA-Bogota, Rafael Pombo Foundation, Renacer, and Volver a la Gente.
CONTACT INFORMATION	Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking (OCFT) (202) 693-4843