

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE	WEST AFRICA REGIONAL MINING
REGION/COUNTRY	AFRICA/Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali (Research Activities only in Mali)
PROJECT DURATION	September 30, 2005 – January 29, 2010
FISCAL YEAR & FUNDING LEVEL	FY 2005: USD 3,000,000
PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED	<p>The GAO region in Mali, at the border with Burkina Faso and Niger, was an area with considerable cross-border movement of miners, and was known as the migration corridor to Niger and Burkina Faso gold mines. Many of these miners appeared to be children who have had little education.</p> <p>There were many factors that created an environment in this region that perpetuated child labor. This included poverty, the remoteness and isolation of many gold mining (orpaillage) areas; the nomadic tradition of the orpailleurs; a general lack of awareness of the long term consequences of child labor; the illegality and the informal nature of the orpaillage sector; government lack of capacity and resources to police the sector; lack of investment in the social infrastructure in rural orpaillage areas; lack of orpailleur associations, and a growing proportion of children in the population.</p>
RESULTS	<p>The project withdrew 1,435 children and prevented an additional 2,577 children from exploitive work in gold mining in Burkina Faso and Niger. These children received educational and/or training services and participated in youth clubs as a result of project activities.</p> <p>In Niger, the project targeted Komabangou, M'Banga and surrounding villages in the Department of Téra in the Tillabéri region.</p> <p>In Burkina Faso, the project will focus activities in Gorgadji (Sahel Region) and Ziniguéma (Centre-Nord Region).</p>
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>To contribute to the prevention and elimination of child labor in gold mining (orpaillage) in West Africa.</p> <p>Intermediate objectives included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce vulnerability of children and youth to being exploited for work in the target areas;• Increase economic security and stability of families in the target areas;• Strengthen community cohesion in the target areas;• Strengthen national policies and structures in

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES	<p>Burkina Faso and Niger to support and sustain local work; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure a feasible model for sustainable elimination of child labor in mining is ready for widespread replication throughout the mining region.• Organized miners associations meetings to negotiate and adopt a complete prohibition against children under 18 years of age in mines and mining areas;• Developed child labor monitoring documentation system/database;• For formal schooling needs, provided technical assistance to ministries of education to a) develop a system for identifying teachers for community schools, b) provide specialized training to teachers, and c) adapt existing curricula;• For informal schooling needs, established link with education-related NGOs and provide materials;• Designed and organized associations for children and peer support networks;• Organized participatory workshops and produce a “local development plan” for orpaillage communities that includes CL elimination;• Undertook investigative research on combating child labor in the tri-border area of Mali;• Trained district officials and community members from target areas in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger on matters related to removal of CL; and• Organized a sub-regional workshop to share implementation experience and lessons learned.
GRANTEE	International Labor Organization’s International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO-IPEC)
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	National level ministries; local government administration; traditional leaders; mining companies; mining federation (ICEM) and local trade unions; international and local NGOs (esp. Plan International, Catholic Relief Services, World Vision); and community organizations.
CONTACT INFORMATION	Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking (OCFT) (202) 693-4843