

# TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

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<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>COMBATING THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR THROUGH EDUCATION IN ECUADOR</b>
<b>REGION/COUNTRY</b>	THE AMERICAS/Ecuador
<b>PROJECT DURATION</b>	September 30, 2005 – September 29, 2009
<b>FISCAL YEAR &amp; FUNDING LEVEL</b>	FY2005 (FY2005 Appropriations): USD 4,000,000 FY2006 (FY2006 Appropriations): USD 95,000
<b>PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED</b>	<p>In Ecuador, nine out of ten indigenous children are working. These children are exposed to the use of chemicals in agriculture, dangerous work on construction sites, operating manufacturing equipment without safety precautions, or sexual exploitation.</p> <p>It is common for indigenous children to start school later than the usual age of 6 years, entering a year or two behind their non-indigenous counterparts. Only 40% of the indigenous working children aged 6 to 10 are in the school grade that corresponds to their age. Only 30% of the indigenous children are still in school by the age of 16.</p> <p>Bilingual education for indigenous children in Ecuador is of extreme low quality. Often families find school education irrelevant and choose to send their children to work. Resuming an interrupted primary enrollment is difficult for these children. The reduced human capital formation leads to an intergenerational cycle of poverty in the indigenous community. Unskilled young men and women usually migrate to urban areas where they are highly vulnerable to work exploitation.</p>
<b>TARGETS</b>	The project targets 2,197 indigenous children for withdrawal and 4,127 indigenous children for prevention from work in three geographic areas: Sierra, Amazonia and Quito. In the Sierra and Amazonia, the project focuses on children engaged in agriculture; in Quito, on children engaged in informal commerce and trafficking for child begging.
<b>PROJECT OBJECTIVES</b>	<p>Development Objective: To reduce the number of child laborers in the indigenous population by increasing their enrollment in school, reducing their hours of work or removing them from work.</p> <p>This will be achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raising awareness about the effects of child labor;</li><li>• Working with formal and alternative educational systems to promote better educational opportunities for child laborers and families;</li><li>• Strengthening national institutions and policies;</li></ul>

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	and
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forming strategic alliances to ensure sustainability.</li></ul>
<b>SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Awareness raising campaign through radio programming, printed materials, home visits and community meetings.</li><li>• Accelerated basic and secondary education program for over-age students.</li><li>• Flexible distance education combined with weekend academic/technical school.</li><li>• Summer academic strengthening and recreation programs</li><li>• Teacher training in accelerated curriculum, active bilingual-intercultural curriculum, and support for returning students.</li><li>• Collaborative activities with the Cantonal Council for Children and Adolescents (CCNNA) to advocate for local and national policies for the eradication of child labor.</li><li>• Creation of Consultative Committees to provide input on project activities and develop a collective sustainability plan.</li><li>• As of March 31, 2009, 7,783 children had been withdrawn or prevented from exploitive child labor as a result of the project.</li></ul>
<b>GRANTEE</b>	World Learning and Desarrollo y Autogestión (DyA)
<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>	Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking (OCFT) (202) 693-4841