TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE
REDUCING CHILD LABOR IN COLOMBIA

REGION/COUNTRY
THE AMERICAS/Colombia

PROJECT DURATION
September 30, 2013 – September 29, 2017

FISCAL YEAR & FUNDING LEVEL
FY 2013: $ 9,000,000

Matching: $ 298,000

PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED
Children in Colombia are engaged in child labor in the artisanal, non-formal mining sector. Thousands of children are engaged in the mining of emeralds, gold, clay, and coal as well as gypsum (a white or colorless mineral), salt, and talc. Children break rocks, dig in the dirt with picks or their bare hands, remove water from mines, and lift heavy loads. They work long hours and are exposed to dangerous tools, hazardous substances, toxic gases, explosives, chemicals such as nitric acid, and they suffer physical injuries and mutilations. When adult miners become sick or injured, their children are likely to work in the mines to replace the lost income, because mining is the primary source of employment in many communities. The 2010-2011 mining census identified 14,357 mining sites in Colombia, 63 percent of which are mined without a title and 72 percent fail to comply with mining regulations, such as occupational safety and health (OSH) standards. Miners often lack contracts and are paid in cash as day laborers. More than 2.5 million poor or extremely poor people live in mining areas, and the majority of miners are illiterate or have only a primary education. People in these communities disproportionately suffer from respiratory diseases and lack basic services such as electricity, schools, potable water, and sewage collection.

TARGETS
This project will target children and households engaged in child labor or at risk of entering child labor. The project will implement an area-based approach in seven municipalities in the Departments of Antioquia and Boyacá, which produce gold and coal respectively. The project will provide educational services to approximately 20,128 children and adolescents, and offer livelihood services to 10,064 households, including households with female miners.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES
Support Colombia’s efforts to reduce child labor, including by promoting safe work in the artisanal, non-formal mining sector and mitigate the risk of injuries for adult workers, which can negatively impact household livelihoods and contribute to child labor.

Intermediate Objectives:
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• Work with the Government of Colombia to develop policies to combat child labor and strengthen OSH in the mining sector.
• Strengthen the capacity to identify and address violations of child labor and OSH laws in mining communities.
• Improve livelihood opportunities for households of children involved in artisanal mining.
• Expand education and vocational training opportunities for children and youth in mining communities, particularly for those whose families are presently or have recently been involved in artisanal mining.
• Establish an exchange program with other countries to share strategies to combat child labor and address OSH in mining, with a particular focus on formalizing artisanal mines.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Project activities include:

- Piloting policies to combat child labor in target municipalities.
- Using mobile technology to track child labor and (OSH) violations.
- Developing an online accreditation program for mine inspectors to identify child labor and OSH violations.
- Setting up a program to raise awareness of OSH and child labor among miners’ associations.
- Developing one-stop centers to help miners access the mine formalization program.
- Providing educational services, including after-school programs using the Pazalobien methodology, an educational model that combines artistic activities, creative thinking, and life skills while creating a protective environment for children.
- Providing livelihood services including implementing a savings program.
- Implementing an exchange program with the municipality of Santa Filomena (Peru) to learn how that community has worked to combat child labor in mining.

GRANTEE

PACT, Inc.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Partners include: Government agencies at the national, departmental, and municipal levels; universities;
business associations; mineral traders; trade unions; miners’ associations; health organizations; and civil society organizations. Subgrantees include: Fundación Alianza por la Minería Responsable (ARM), Fundación Mi Sangre (FMS), and Fondo para la Acción Ambiental y la Niñez (FA).

CONTACT INFORMATION
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