**TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY**

**PROJECT TITLE**  
COMBATING CHILD LABOR THROUGH EDUCATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, “PRIMERO APRENDO”

**REGION/COUNTRY**  
THE AMERICAS/Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua

**PROJECT DURATION**  
August 16, 2004 – March 31, 2009

**FISCAL YEAR & FUNDING LEVEL**  
FY 2004: USD 5,730,000  
Matching Funds: USD 809,030

**PROBLEM ADDRESSED**  
Despite varied child labor interventions in Central America, gaps remain in areas such as inter-governmental and inter-ministerial cooperation, the acceptance of child labor as an education issue, and development of education systems that are prepared for and welcoming of working children.

**RESULTS**  
The project withdrew 3,315 children from exploitive child labor and prevented 790 children from entering exploitive child labor in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES**  
To combat exploitative child labor in the region and strengthen government and civil society’s capacity to address the educational needs of working children.

Intermediate objectives:

- Raise awareness of the importance of education and dangers of child labor;
- Strengthen institutions and policies that address education and child labor; and
- Strengthen formal and transitional education systems to reintegrate working children and to reduce dropout rates.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**  
- Established demonstration projects to withdraw and prevent children from exploitive work in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua;
- Mobilized parents and communities to participate in education process;
- Carried out awareness raising through radio and video spots, seminars and media campaigns at the regional, national and local levels;
- Developed project website, database, and publications for dissemination of lessons learned and good practices;
- Strengthened existing National Child Labor

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Commissions, public ministries, the private sector, NGOs, and parents associations; and
• Promoted use and accreditation of transitional schooling and expanded alternative programs.

GRANTEE
CARE-USA

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS
Catholic Relief Services, DevTech Systems, Ministries of Labor, Education and Family throughout the region, civil society institutions; and selected NGOs.

CONTACT INFORMATION
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