

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT TO REDUCE CHILD LABOR AND IMPROVE LABOR RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - LET'S WORK FOR OUR RIGHTS
REGION/COUNTRY	THE AMERICAS/Dominican Republic
PROJECT DURATION	September 30, 2013 – September 29, 2017
FISCAL YEAR & FUNDING LEVEL	FY 2013: USD 9,993,289
PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED	In the Dominican Republic, children engage in the worst forms of child labor, including dangerous tasks in agriculture. There are 304,000 children and adolescents engaged in child labor, 12% of all 5 to 17-year olds in the country. While the overall number child laborers has decreased, child labor in the agriculture sector has increased. In rural areas, children work in agriculture in the production of coffee, rice, sugarcane, and tomatoes and may apply harmful pesticides, use dangerous tools, carry heavy loads, and work long hours. Due to the lack of educational and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable families, some children become domestic workers in third party homes or become engaged in commercial sexual exploitation.
TARGETS	<p>The project will target children, households and workers engaged in or at risk of engaging in child labor or other exploitative working conditions in the agricultural sector. This project will implement an area-based approach in agriculture in 14 provinces throughout the Dominican Republic that include: Dajabón, Monte Cristi, Valverde, Santiago, La Vega, Azua, Barahona, Bahoruco, Santo Domingo, Hato Mayor, Monte Plata, San Pedro de Macorís, el Seibo, and La Romana. The agricultural areas targeted produce rice, tomatoes, coffee, bananas, cacao, and sugarcane.</p> <p>The project will reach 18,648 children and adolescents with educational services; 5,810 households with livelihood services; 20,970 children, adolescents, youth and adults with legal assistance on child labor, labor rights, and identity documentation issues; and 99,000 adults with awareness-raising on child labor, other labor rights issues, and the right to education.</p>
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Development Objective: Children, households, and workers benefit from a

*Project to Reduce Child Labor and Improve Labor Rights and Working Conditions
in the Dominican Republic - Let's Work For Our Rights*

Page 1 of 3

U.S. Department of Labor, International Labor Affairs Bureau

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

reduction in the worst forms of child labor, improved labor rights, and improved working conditions.

Project goals include:

- Vulnerable children, households and workers benefit from enhanced child protection and labor rights laws.
- Government, civil society and the private sector promote the enforcement of labor laws, including child labor laws, and social protection mechanisms.
- Vulnerable households strengthen their socioeconomic resiliency.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

- Support the Dominican Ministry of Education's Extended Day program in project areas and provide 18,648 children and adolescents with services so that they gain access to and regularly attend formal and non-formal education. Project activities in support of the program will include:
 - Promoting peer-to-peer mentoring through student councils.
 - Providing afterschool education programs.
 - Offering vocational training programs in accordance with Dominican laws for working children and those at risk.
 - Reinforcing school support networks, such as school boards and associations of parents.
 - Conducting home visits of child beneficiaries by case workers and education officers to engage families in supporting children's education.
- Provide 5,810 households with improved livelihoods opportunities. Project livelihood activities will include:
 - Conducting comprehensive assessments of local markets.
 - Training communities and households on savings and micro-entrepreneurship.
 - Offering vocational training through the national vocational institute (INFOTEP) or other programs.
- Provide 20,970 children, adolescents, and adults with legal assistance on child labor, labor rights, and identity documentation issues.
- Raise awareness on child labor and other labor rights among 99,000 adults.
- Build the capacity of the government to enforce

*Project to Reduce Child Labor and Improve Labor Rights and Working Conditions
in the Dominican Republic - Let's Work For Our Rights*

Page 2 of 3

U.S. Department of Labor, International Labor Affairs Bureau

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

labor laws, in particular child labor laws, in the agricultural sector, including the expansion of the electronic case management system to additional regional offices of the Ministry of Labor.

- Promote the development of social compliance systems in agricultural companies, including credible and independent monitoring and verification of compliance with labor laws, including child labor laws.
- Manage six (6) Workers' Rights Centers (WRCs) and 13 satellite WRCs to serve beneficiaries in 14 Provinces in the East, South, North and Santo Domingo.

GRANTEE

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Proposed partners include: Government agencies at national, provincial, and municipal levels; universities and nongovernmental organizations; UN agencies; and businesses. Subgrantees include: Asociación Scalabriniana al Servicio de la Movilidad Humana (ASCALA), Centro de Formación y Acción Social y Agraria (CEFASA), Centro Bonó, Solidaridad Fronteriza, Plataforma Vida, Fundación REDDOM, and Caminante Proyecto Educativo.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking (OCFT)
(202) 693-4843