

# ILAB TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

---

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>PREVENTION AND REINTEGRATION OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN ARMED CONFLICT: AN INTER-REGIONAL PROGRAM</b>
<b>REGION/COUNTRY</b>	AFRICA/Burundi, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda; LATIN AMERICA/Colombia; ASIA/Philippines, Sri Lanka
<b>PROJECT DURATION</b>	September 2003 – May 2007 (Closed)
<b>FISCAL YEAR &amp; FUNDING LEVEL</b>	FY2003: \$7,000,000
<b>PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED</b>	In 2001 it was estimated that 300,000 children were serving with armed units around the world. Child soldiers are exposed to the risk of death and serious injury, HIV/AIDS, sexual abuse, as well as serious trauma and psychological damage. While they are working as soldiers, they miss out on their education and other opportunities to develop social and economic skills. Peace, security, and future economic development in their countries depend on efforts to demobilize, rehabilitate and reintegrate former child soldiers, and support their communities of origin.
<b>RESULTS</b>	This project withdrew 4,335 children and prevented an additional 4,560 children from armed conflict and exploitive labor through educational and/or training services.
<b>PROJECT OBJECTIVES</b>	<p>To contribute to the reduction of the incidence of children serving in armies and/or in armed groups.</p> <p>Immediate objectives included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Creating an enabling environment in each country and facilitating the prevention, withdrawal and subsequent reintegration into society of children involved in armed conflict;</li><li>2. Assisting former child soldiers above the minimum working age with decent work opportunities to achieve a sustainable income;</li><li>3. Reducing the number of children recruited into armed conflict in the targeted countries.</li></ol>
<b>SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensured that legislation was in place and in line with the country's international treaty obligations concerning child soldiers, and that appropriate procedures and monitoring mechanisms were in place to enforce the legal bans on recruitment;</li><li>• Built the capacity and expertise of government institutions to address the problem;</li><li>• Developed the knowledge base, facilities and</li></ul>

# ILAB TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

---

opportunities for the economic reintegration of former child soldiers;

- Facilitated and supported the economic reintegration of former child soldiers through the provision of basic supplies, education and training, and financial support;
- Supported the communities to which child soldiers are reintegrating;
- Developed and implemented special initiatives to facilitate the reintegration of girl soldiers and other categories of child soldiers facing particular difficulty;
- Prevented the further recruitment of child soldiers;
- Enhanced information sharing on child soldiers within the Central African sub-region.

## **GRANTEE**

International Labor Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO-IPEC)

## **IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**

UNICEF and the World Bank

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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