TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE  COMBATING FORCED LABOR IN BRAZIL
REGION/COUNTRY  THE AMERICAS/Brazil
PROJECT DURATION  January 9, 2001 – December 31, 2007
FISCAL YEAR AND FUNDING LEVEL  Total: USD 1,728,700
                                                      FY 2002: USD 997,500
                                                      FY 2003: USD 731,200
PROBLEM ADDRESSED  Forced labor is a serious problem in Brazil, where workers are retained on
                   estates until they can pay off debts that are often fraudulently incurred. Armed guards
                   threaten and often physically punish those who attempt to flee. Forced labor is difficult to
                   combat due to the remoteness of many rural activities, insufficient labor inspection, and
                   legal and institutional loopholes that weaken punishment.
RESULTS  More than 10,000 workers were rescued from forced labor situations.
PROJECT OBJECTIVES  To contribute to the prevention and elimination of forced labor in Brazil
                     by improving inter-agency coordination and strengthening the capacity of governmental
                     and non-governmental institutions to detect and combat forced labor.
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  • Conducted a national campaign for raising general public awareness
                          on the prevalence of forced labor;
                          • Developed a national plan integrating efforts among governmental and non-governmental
                            agencies involved with forced labor;
                          • Developed an integrated database and monitoring system to reliably assess forced labor and
                            the efforts to combat it;
                          • Improved the capacity and infrastructure of the mobile inspection units and their partners to
                            enhance law enforcement;
                          • Created and trained a forced labor unit within the police force to support and protect the mobile
                            labor inspection units (MIU);
                          • Trained federal highway police to detect and investigate forced labor cases; and
                          • Developed private sector alliances to promote good labor practices employment for victims of
                            forced labor.
GRANTEE  International Labor Organization
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS  Ministry of Labor and Employment, the mobile labor inspection unit, the
                        Council to Eradicate Forced Labor, the federal police, and workers and employers organizations.
CONTACT INFORMATION  Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking (OCFT)
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U.S. Department of Labor, International Labor Affairs Bureau