



International
Labour
Organization

The Latin American Network to Combat Child Labour

The 2013 ILO “Marking progress against child labour” report estimated that in 2012 there were some 12.5 million child labourers in Latin America and the Caribbean - this is approximately 10 per cent of all children in the region. While some progress has been made over recent years and the number of working children has decreased worldwide – particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean – the problem of child labour persists. Furthermore, the recent and on-going global economic crisis could slow or even reverse progress.

THE RESPONSE

The partnership between Fundación Telefónica and the ILO created a strategic regional alliance to more efficiently combat child labour in Latin America. It strengthens institutions and provides the required tools to disseminate good practices and knowledge. This collaboration between the ILO (through its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour – IPEC), and Fundación Telefónica’s Proniño Programme is in its third phase.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Partners:

Fundación Telefónica

Beneficiary Countries:

Argentina, Brazil, Chile,
Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador,
El Salvador, Guatemala,
Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama,
Peru, Uruguay
and Venezuela

Timeframe:

2000 – 2016

Budget: In-kind

Phase one saw the ILO provide technical assistance for the development of the Proniño Program, which was created to eliminate child labour in Latin America through educational programs for working children and adolescents. Local NGOs were also trained and involved in the partnership.

In the second phase, Proniño focused on small-scale direct interventions with children and their families in multiple countries, while IPEC tackled policy concerns through strategies such as supporting the creation of National Steering Committees, promoting the ratification of Conventions, and the adaptation of legal frameworks, and the implementation of country programs for the prevention and eradication of child labour.

Now in its third phase (2006- present) Proniño is the largest initiative by a private company to contribute to the eradication of child labour in Latin America. The program advocates networking through the articulation of public policies, non-state actors, and strengthening institutions and providing the required tools to systematize and disseminate good practices and collaborative knowledge.

RESULTS

The partnership has supported an increased knowledge of the nature and extent of child labour in Latin America and equipped relevant actors with tools to tackle the issue. More specifically it has:

- Conducted a ten-country study (2010) outlining linkages between education and child labour. Results now provide relevant actors in multiple country education systems with tools to include child labour concerns into policies and plans, including relevant education plans in national-level strategies relating to child labour;
- Supported analysis of the child labour module in Guatemala (ENCOVI, 2011) and child labour survey in Panama (ETI, 2010), including ensuing report publication. Both reports were widely disseminated in press conferences, via internet, and at workshops. The results have subsequently been used in the design and reformulation of the national Road Maps for the prevention and eradication of child labour;

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“Fundación Telefónica recognizes ILO-IPEC as a leading specialized programme on the social reality of child labour in the world, and underlines its capacity for advocacy, as well as its technical assistance expertise on public policy to combat child labour.”



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- Supported the strengthening of governmental institutional capacity to fight child labour, through technical and financial assistance to the Committee for the Eradication of Child Labour and the Protection of Young Workers in Panama, the National Commission for the Gradual and Progressive Eradication of Child Labour in Guatemala, and provided support to the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism of Peru (on tackling sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in tourism);
- Supported two partners in Chile to implement the “Children’s Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media” (SCREAM) programme in schools. SCREAM promotes reflection among the children and the wider school community;
- Following demand from the participants of an ILO-Fundación Telefónica Child Labour event (Bogota, 2010) a virtual platform (Red LACTI) was created. It provides space for its 10,000 members, from 55 countries, to learn and debate about child labour, while also promoting social mobilization. Through this platform, 75 Regional Good Practices have been presented, eight debates take place monthly, virtual seminars are conducted, experts are interviewed, and large events, such as the IV International Summit on Child Labour and the III Child Labour Global Conference, are covered;
- In 2013, via Red LACTI, the Virtual Global March on Child Labour took place to mark the occasion of the III Global Child Labour Conference (Brazil). It increased mobilization and awareness through a Facebook application. Government, employers and workers organizations, NGOs, mass media and opinion leaders, symbolically covered the distance between The Hague and Brasilia. Participants lent their Facebook profile pictures to the cause through a symbol of a windmill whose image was also exhibited at the Third Global Conference. A total of 16,192 people visited the Facebook application and the promotional video received 189,606 views. The Virtual March raised awareness and urged governments worldwide to abide by laws protecting children and adolescents and to demand the immediate elimination of the worst forms of child labour;
- Increased visibility and awareness on child labour in the region. For example, the ILO provided technical assistance to the organization of the III and IV International Meeting against Child Labour (Bogota, 2010, Mexico 2013), a Regional Forum on Good Practices (Lima, 2011), country level activities for World Day against Child Labour, and a nationwide media campaign in Panama, as well as the Redlacti virtual seminars.

BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

The Latin American Network has been able to combine various initiatives working towards a shared objective. Through this strengthened coordination among different stakeholders in the fight against child labour it has produced multiplier effects that have benefited over 211,000 children in 13 countries.

Companies receive technical assistance on child labour elimination from the most advanced programme on child labour in the world: the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).