



## THE LATIN AMERICAN NETWORK TO COMBAT CHILD LABOUR

The 2013 ILO report, *Marking progress against child labour*, estimated that, in 2012, there were some 12.5 million child labourers in Latin America and the Caribbean – accounting for 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 ongoing global economic crisis could slow or even reverse progress made.

### FACTS AND FIGURES

**Partners:**  
Fundación Telefónica

**Beneficiary countries:**  
Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

**Timeframe:**  
2000 – 2016

**Budget:**  
In-kind

### THE RESPONSE

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

Phase one saw the ILO provide technical assistance for the development of the Proniño Programme, which was created to eliminate

child labour in Latin America through educational programmes for working children and adolescents. Local NGOs were also trained and involved in the partnership.

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

### RESULTS

The partnership has contributed towards 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, the following actions have been undertaken:

- A ten-country study was conducted in 2010, which outlined linkages between education and child labour. Its findings now provide relevant actors in multiple country educational systems with tools to include child-labour concerns into their policies and plans, including relevant education plans in national-level strategies relating to child labour;
- An analysis of the child labour module in Guatemala (ENCOVI, 2011) and a child labour survey in Panama (ETI, 2010) were undertaken. Both reports were widely disseminated in press conferences, via the Internet, and at workshops. The results have subsequently been used in the design and reformulation of the national roadmaps for the prevention and eradication of child labour;
- The institutional capacity of governments to fight child labour has been strengthened, through technical and financial assistance to the Committee for the Eradication of Child Labour and the Protection of Young Workers in Panama, and the National Commission for the Gradual and

*“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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Progressive Eradication of Child Labour in Guatemala. Support has also been given to the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism of Peru (on tackling sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in tourism);

- Two partners in Chile have been supported in their implementation of 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 participants attending an ILO-Fundación Telefónica child labour event (held in Bogota in 2010), a virtual platform (Red LACTI) has been created. It provides space for its 10,000 members, from 55 countries, to learn about and debate ways to end 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 major events, such as the IV International Summit on Child Labour and the III Global Conference on Child Labour (Brazil), have been covered;
- In 2013, via Red LACTI, a Virtual Global March on Child Labour took place on the occasion of the III Global Child Labour Conference. It increased mobilization and

awareness through a Facebook app. Government, employers’ and workers’ organizations, NGOs, mass media and opinion leaders, symbolically covered the distance between The Hague and Brasilia. Participants could donate their Facebook profile pictures to the cause and build a “whirligig” symbol of the fight against child labour – which was also displayed at the III Global Conference. A total of 16,192 people visited the Facebook-based app 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 eliminate immediately the worst forms of child labour;

Awareness of child labour in the region has been enhanced. For example, the ILO provided technical assistance for the organization of the III and IV International Meetings against Child Labour (Bogota, 2010, Mexico 2013), a Regional Forum on Good Practices (Lima, 2011), country-level activities for the World Day against Child Labour, and a nationwide media campaign in Panama, as well as Red LACTI virtual seminars.

### **BENEFITS OF PARTNERING**

The Latin American Network has been able to combine various initiatives with a shared objective – to combat child labour. This strengthened coordination among various stakeholders has produced multiplier effects that have benefited over 211,000 children in 13 countries.

Companies receive technical assistance for their attempts to eliminate child labour from the most advanced programme on child labour in the world: the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).