

USAID's Child Labor Programs:

Asia/Near East:

India

Three programs are being funded under the South Asia Regional Initiative (SARI)/Equity Framework, all of which involve support for social mobilization, changing community attitudes, and enrolling children into alternative learning centers and or schools and ensuring that they are retained. The specific programs are as follows:

1. **UNDP** (\$300,000 in ESF FY 1999) – reaching 1,500 working children and adolescent girls in the Mirzapur (carpet belt) district of UP in a program implemented by the local NGO, CREDA.
2. **UNDP Umbrella Grant** (\$1 million in ESF/DA FY 2000) - supporting local NGOs.
 - **CINI-ASHA:** 3,700 out-of-school children in Calcutta City, West Bengal
 - **Vidhayak Sansad:** 6,500 tribal, migrant children working in brick kilns in Marahastra
 - **Dr. Reddy's Foundation:** *The child Police Project* – 750 out-of-school and or rescued children in Hyderabad City, Andhra Pradesh.
3. **Catholic Relief Services Umbrella Grant** (\$1.1 million in ESF/DA FY 2000 – also includes a modicum of Title II regular program resources) supporting local NGOs:
 - **M.V. Foundation:** 52,000 out-of-school/working children in Ranga Reddy District, Anhdra Pradesh.
 - **Gramodaya Sansthan:** 3,200 out-of-school/working children in Kanpur City and rural Uttar Pradesh.
 - **R.C. Diocesan Society:** 930 out-of-school girls from traditional sex workers' villages in Ajmer District, Rajasthan.

Future Plans:

The India mission has requested \$2 million in ESF FY 2001 to expand the institutional and geographic scope of the USAID child labor prevention/elimination efforts. If these funds are allocated, the money will be channeled to U.S. NGOs/multilateral partners to strengthen programs emphasizing education, specifically targeting rural areas.

In addition, established NGOs like SPARC and YUVA in Mumbai (a new geographical area for USAID programs) as well as CRY (a major Indian NGO with a national outreach program) could be supported under the UNDP umbrella.

An additional \$500,000 to \$750,000 channeled to UNICEF under a mission-funded activity could expand educational coverage for working children. Inputs could include training for instructors in alternative learning centers (ALC), follow-up on enrollments and attendance, and engagement of the formal school system in assuring the in agreements to absorb children from ALC.

Philippines

USAID/Philippines will work with the following existing programs in its Civil Society Program under the Democracy Office by supporting a number of NGO coalition grants that offer potential to support a child labor initiative in the Philippines. These programs are briefly described below:

- **Empowering Women and Children in the Informal Sector (ISP)* – (US \$905,000)**
Implemented by the American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS) in partnership with the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) and other partner organizations. The activity seeks to influence policy and regulatory reforms and improve the quality of life and employment of home-based women and child workers.
- **Solidarity for Justice Project (SJP)* – (US \$580,000)**
Also implemented by ACILS, TUCP and other partners, this activity supports workers to claim their rights and to seek the enforcement of laws and protracted child labor cases.
- **Enhancing Children's Participation in Social Reform (ECPSR) – (US \$922,600 with an additional \$150,000 in FY 2000 and \$50,000 from ILO/IPEC)** This program is implemented by World Vision Relief and Development Foundation (WVRD), Plan International (PLAN), Christian Children's Fund (CCF), the Education and Research Development Assistance Foundation (ERDA), and a number of community organizations. The coalition conducts intensive advocacy and capacity building for implementing policies in support of children's rights. This coalition also provides a number of services (including education, tutorials and training, livelihood support for parents, etc.) to more than 150,000 children in over 50 provinces of the Philippines. In addition, the coalition has collected data identifying areas where abusive child labor occurs.

*About half of ISP's grants and a third of SJP's grant are devoted to child labor issues specifically. These two grants also address issues related to disadvantaged women, migrant workers, informal labor, etc. Counterpart funding provided by the grantees, partner organizations and community-based groups account for roughly 25% of total project costs.

Various partners have conducted formal and non-formal education programs to address child labor. The Education Research and Development Foundation (a member of the ECPSR coalition) has been very successful at facilitating the return of scavengers to school. World Vision has also had a high level of success with its street education programs for street vendors that are children.

Future Plans:

At present, USAID/Philippines has not allocated funds for a child labor initiative in the future although mission staff has expressed a strong interest in enhancing programs in this area.

Nepal:

USAID/Nepal works on anti-trafficking of women and children. The program is not targeted to children specifically, but most trafficking victims are "girls". The program is centered on prevention (literacy and awareness raising), protection (working with police and immigration officials), and prosecution (police sensitization, legislation, etc).

Partners include CEDPA, the Asia Foundation, World Education, and the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare.

Mongolia:

Economic Growth and Development Program - \$750,000 FY 2000

This is a child survival program which is funding a job training activity and workshop specifically targeting street children. The program also financed the building of a school facility to serve the needs of these children. Funds have been turned over to the Selesians Foundation to carry on the program.

Latin America:

Brazil

Child Labor Prevention and Eradication Program - \$1.25 million FY 2000

- Develop the capacity in each region to identify underage children working in urban environments.
- Develop ways to track and monitor progress in eliminating child labor.
- Removal of children from labor sites and insertion into the formal education system.

- Support and strengthen basic and complementary education activities to remove underage children from abusive labor situations and to prevent others from entering work.
- Provision of scholarships to families of working children.
- Develop a mechanism (eg. micro-enterprise) for providing alternative income generating opportunities for families receiving scholarships.
- Teacher training activities.
- Support one local organization (eg. Missão Criança) in each targeted area (Salvador, Recife, Fortaleza) to be the vanguard of the program.
- Improve Coordination and integration of child labor policies and their implementation at the national, state, and local levels through strengthening and supporting child labor forums to carry out formulation of policy at the national level.

Columbia

Former Child Soldier Reintegration Program - \$2.5 million FY 2000-01

Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) has developed a fast and flexible program that would:

1. Strengthen current NGO and Government capacities, including that of the Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar (ICBF),
2. Organize a quick response mechanism in case of large-scale release of child soldiers in the future,
3. Clarify the legal status of child soldiers.

The paramount objective of the OTI child soldier reintegration program is to protect the rights of demobilized child soldiers and to facilitate their safe re-entry into society. The program operates under five program tracks that are designed to address the major constraints to the successful reintegration of child soldiers into Colombian society. These tracks would build readiness, enhance capacity and quality of programs, improve the legal environment, expand placement options at regional and local levels, and disseminate information in order to strengthen the network of the groups working on the former child soldier effort.

The child soldier reintegration program was designed with the key strategic elements, including responsiveness, flexibility, legal clarification, family and community-centered, decentralized, building capacity, a standardized treatment cycle, and treatment focused. The majority of the program's resources are dedicated to treatment. The reintegration program will provide children with an alternative to illegal armed groups through psychosocial counseling, formal schooling, vocational workshops, productive schemes, medical services, and legal support. Special consideration is being given to the needs of girls, and children with serious psychiatric and/or medical conditions, including HIV/AIDS and drug addiction.