



“Priorities and Key Features of Technical Assistance”

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB)
Washington, DC



ILAB Mission Statement

- ILAB carries out the international responsibilities of the Department of Labor.
- Conducts research and formulates international economic, trade and labor policies.
- Provides international technical assistance in support of U.S. foreign labor policy objectives.



ILAB Mission Statement

- ILAB partners with other agencies to create a more stable, secure and prosperous international economic system in which all workers:
 - Achieve greater economic security
 - Share in the benefits of increased international trade
 - Have safer and healthier workplaces where the basic rights of workers and children are respected and protected



ILAB's Technical Assistance Projects

- ILAB currently has more than 125 Technical Assistance Projects worldwide in more than 70 countries.
- ILAB has technical assistance projects operating in more than 17 countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.



Priorities and Key Features of Technical Assistance

- 1. Labor Cooperation in Support of the Administration's Trade Agenda**
- 2. Improving Economic Opportunity and Income Security for Workers**
- 3. Increasing HIV/AIDS Awareness through Workplace Education and Policy Development to Reduce Stigma and Discrimination**
- 4. Contribute to the Eradication and Prevention of Exploitative Child Labor, Forced Labor, and the Trafficking of Persons for the Purpose of Exploitive Labor**



Labor Cooperation in Support of the Administration's Trade Agenda

Objective:

Pursuant to Labor Cooperation and Capacity Building Mechanisms established in Free Trade Agreements, all relevant parties may cooperate on labor issues via technical assistance programs, technical exchanges, and other collaborative projects to help strengthen the capacity to implement labor laws and other areas of mutual concern.



Labor Cooperation in Support of the Administration's Trade Agenda

Current Activities in the hemisphere include:

- Strengthening the capacity to implement labor laws by conducting trainings for inspectors, workers, employers, and labor justice officials
- Public awareness campaigns to better inform the public about national labor laws
- Providing legal and support services to workers
- Benchmarking and Verification – a tripartite process to develop benchmarks to measure and report on the progress of select countries towards improving the implementation of national labor laws consistent with internationally recognized labor standards



The Department of Labor's Wage and Hour inspectors exchanging information with their counterparts throughout Central America (2006)





Improving Economic Opportunity and Income Security for Workers

Activities in the hemisphere have included:

- Helping to create and modernize employment service centers
- Strengthening labor market linkages between education and training institutions, job seekers and employers
- Improving occupational safety and health



U.S. DOL HIV/AIDS Workplace Programs

Objectives:

- (1) Reduced HIV/ AIDS Risk Behavior Among Targeted Workers
- (2) Reduced level of Employment-related Discrimination against Persons Living with HIV/ AIDS

Projects in Guyana, Haiti, Belize, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago have reached over 61,000 workers at 85 enterprises



U.S. DOL HIV/AIDS Workplace Programs

USDOL HIV/ AIDS Workplace Activities:

- **Education** – Increasing awareness and knowledge of HIV/ AIDS by focusing on comprehensive workplace education programs;
- **Policy** – helping business, government, and labor develop and implement workplace policies that reduce stigma and discrimination; and
- **Capacity Building** – increased capacity among employer associations, government, and trade unions for an improved and focused response to HIV/ AIDS.



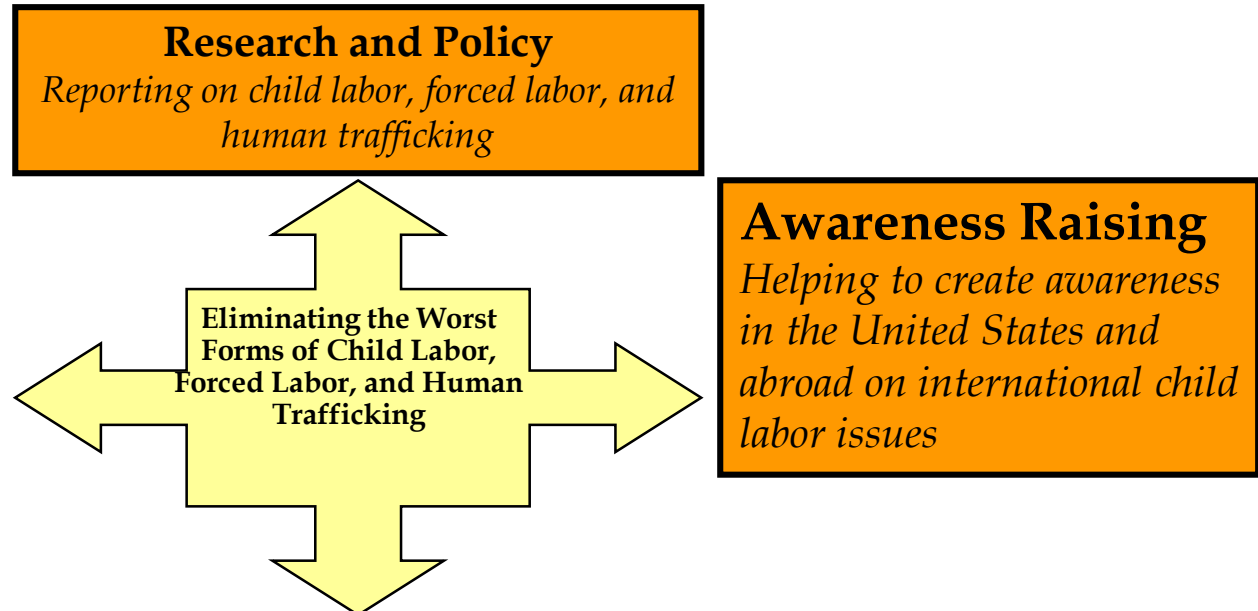
OCFT Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking

Objectives:

- The International Child Labor Program at the Department of Labor was created in 1993 in response to a Congressional mandate to investigate and report on child labor around the world.
- In January 2006, President Bush signed into law the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (TVPRA). The TVPRA directs the Secretary of Labor “to monitor and combat forced labor and child labor to be carried out in foreign countries.”



OCFT Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking





Examples of the Criteria used by ILAB in Selecting Child Labor Projects

- The nature and extent of child labor in a country;
- Gaps in children's access to quality education;
- Promotion of Administration foreign policy objectives:
 - Countries negotiating free trade agreements;
 - Anti-trafficking initiatives;
 - Efforts to address forced labor; and
 - Key allies in the United States' anti-terrorism efforts.



Examples of the Criteria used by ILAB in Selecting Child Labor Projects

- Evidence of government commitment to eliminate WFCL
 - Ratification of relevant ILO Conventions,
 - National action plans for children,
 - Stated government commitment to provide support (monetary and/or in-kind) for a proposed project;
- Past performance of USDOL-funded child labor projects in country;
- Likelihood of sustainability (Critical for all ILAB projects).



Steps in ILAB's Obligation of Funds

- a) Interagency Briefings;
- b) Outreach to U.S. Embassies who consult with Governments, Unions, and Non-governmental agencies/Global Cable;
- c) Consultations with Ministries of Labor;
- d) Meeting with Foreign Ambassadors;
- e) Exchange of Letters;
- f) Notice of Intent in Federal Register;
- g) SGA published (30-60 days); and
- h) Panels and Awards.



ILAB's Project Oversight

- a) Semi-Annual Technical Progress Reports;
- b) Measuring Impact;
- c) Quarterly Financial Reports;
- d) Site Visits;
- e) Embassy and USAID support in the field;
- f) Mid-Term and Final Evaluations; and
- g) Financial and Programmatic Audits.



Critical Features of All Projects

- a) Sustainability
- b) Tripartite Participation
- c) Adaptability of Work Plan



Partnerships

ILAB brings a unique capacity to international development through the technical expertise of other agencies from within the Department of Labor, and its partnerships with other U.S. Government agencies and organizations:

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. DOL
- Employment Standards Administration's (ESA) Wage and Hour Division, U.S. DOL
- Employment and Training Administration (ETA), U.S. DOL
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. DOL



Partnerships

Cooperation with other U.S. government agencies:

- Department of State
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR)
- Department of Commerce
- Embassies

Cooperation with international organizations such as the International Labor Organization among numerous others.



Current Projects in the Hemisphere

Caribbean:

- **Barbados and Jamaica** – HIV/ AIDS Workplace Education (2003-2007)
- **Dominican Republic** – Activities pursuant to DR-CAFTA, and International Child Labor projects focused on education (2003-2007), and the Timebound Program of Support (2006-2009)
- **Guyana** – HIV/ AIDS Workplace Education Project (2002-2009) and Child Labor Education Initiative Project (2005-2009)
- **Haiti** – HIV/ AIDS Workplace Education (2001-2009)
- **Trinidad and Tobago** – HIV/ AIDS Workplace Education (2004-2009)



Current Projects In the Hemisphere

Central America:

Activities pursuant to DR-CAFTA (Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement) include:

- Improving Labor Law Compliance (2003-2008)
- Labor Justice (2006-2008)
- Benchmarking (2006-2008)
- Agriculture (2006-2007)
- Workers Rights Center (2007-2011)



Current Projects in the Hemisphere

Central America (cont.)

- Child Labor Education Initiative in Central America (2004-2008).
Participating countries include **Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.**
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (2005-2009).
Participating countries include **Belize, Dominican Republic, and Panama.**



Current Projects in the Hemisphere

North America:

- Activities take place pursuant to the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC)
- NAALC Secretariat
- Mexico – Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Mexico (2005-2007)



Current Projects in the Hemisphere

South America:

International child labor projects currently exist in:

- **Brazil** – Education Initiative (2003-2007), and the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (2003-2008)
- **Chile** – Child Domestic Work and Commercial Sexual Exploitation (2004-2007)
- **Colombia** – Child Domestic Work and Commercial Sexual Exploitation (2004-2007), and Education Initiative (2004-2008)
- **Ecuador** – Education Initiative (2004-2008), and the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (2003-2008)
- **Paraguay** - Child Domestic Work and Commercial Sexual Exploitation (2004-2007)
- **Peru** – Education Initiative (2006-2011)



Current Projects in the Hemisphere

Inter-America:

- Promote fundamental principles and rights at work within the context of economic integration and globalization in the Americas through support for the implementation of the Plan of Action, as agreed to and directed by the XII and XIII Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor. The project is in its final phase, and will close in September 2007.



Thank you!