TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE	**SUPPORT FOR THE PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION OF THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC) AND THE PROTECTION OF CSEC VICTIMS IN MEXICO**
ILAB PROGRAM	International Child Labor Technical Assistance
REGION/COUNTRY	THE AMERICAS/Mexico
PROJECT DURATION	September 2002 – June 15, 2010
FISCAL YEAR & FUNDING LEVEL	FY2002: USD 1,800,000 FY2005: USD 1,099,902
PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED	In 2000, a government study supported by UNICEF revealed that there are an estimated 16,000 child victims of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) in Mexico. Factors contributing to children's involvement include poverty, child abuse and abandonment, social attitudes that undervalue children, weak application of existing laws, the existence of organized crime networks, and demand for the sexual services of children by tourists, pedophiles, and other criminals. The Government of Mexico (GOM) established a commission for the prevention, protection and care of child victims and conducted various studies, trainings, and workshops on the issue. It requested assistance to complete additional activities and programs.

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RESULTS

The project withdrew or prevented 654 children from commercial sexual exploitation in the cities of Acapulco, Guadalajara and Tijuana.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Development Objective:
To contribute to the elimination of commercial sexual exploitation of children in Mexico.

Immediate Objectives:

- Increase knowledge of selected sectors of Mexican society (government officials, workers, teachers, civil society) in the states of Guerrero, Jalisco, and Baja California on the negative consequences of CSEC and increase their capacity to address the problem;
- Consider and debate legislative reform proposals against CSEC at the federal and state level;
- Develop a system allowing for the identification of networks of exploiters and disseminate effective gender-sensitive methodologies for the identification and protection of girls and boys in CSE to law enforcement personnel; and
- Withdraw or prevent at least 600 girls and boys from CSE, and provide children and families with integral care following a gender-sensitive model in Acapulco, Guadalajara, and Tijuana.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

- Raised awareness of the problem of CSEC throughout Mexico and particularly in the target cities;
- Sensitized legislators about current gaps in federal, state and local laws in regard to CSEC;
- Developed an information system to identify exploiters and trained government personnel in the application of the system;
- Removed children from CSE and prevented children at risk from involvement in CSE, and provided children and their families with services; and
- Developed a model for serving CSEC victims and their families in Mexico.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

USDOL and the Mexican Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (STPS) have signed a joint declaration to cooperate on the execution of the project.

Executing Agency
International Labor Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO-IPEC)

	Implementing and Collaborating Agencies STPS, Integral Family Development (DIF), Attorney General of the Republic (PGR), UNICEF, additional nongovernmental partners to be identified.
CONTACT INFORMATION	Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking (OCFT) (202) 693-4843