Attaining Lasting Change for Better Enforcement of Labor and Criminal Law to Address Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking (ATLAS) Project Argentina

OVERVIEW

Winrock and partners implement the five-year, U.S. Department of Labor-funded ATLAS project in Argentina, Liberia, Paraguay and Thailand. The project works to strengthen government capacity in the four countries to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. In Argentina, the project is led by the NGO Desarrollo y Autogestión (DyA) and has worked to:

Improve enforcement of Argentina's labor and criminal legal frameworks related to child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking; and

Increase coordination among government, law enforcement, and social protection entities to address child labor, forced labor, and/or human trafficking, specifically in the province of Buenos Aires.

WINROCK INTERNATIONAL

To support the Argentinian government, ATLAS identified key gaps in enforcement and coordination efforts to combat child labor (CL), forced labor (FL), and human trafficking (HT). ATLAS implemented an adaptive strategy known as the Differentiated Model of Practice, an evidence-based approach that tailors technical assistance to address country-specific priorities. The model developed interventions and then piloted, evaluated, refined, implemented, and institutionalized them across key government agencies and departments to strengthen and increase coordination between law enforcement and social protection entities.

ACTIVITIES

Enforcement Training Program (ETP)

To improve enforcement of current laws, ATLAS developed an Enforcement Training Program (ETP) for front line workers, such as labor inspectors, police, prosecutors, and judges. The program consists of

five modules and 31 presentations on identification, investigation, referral, prosecution, and sentencing in CL, FL, and HT cases.

In Argentina, to develop and implement the ETP, ATLAS is working with the Federal Police University Institute (IUPFA) and the Directorate General of Accompaniment, Orientation and Protection of Victims (DOVIC) at the national level and the Provincial Commission for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor (COPRETI) and Rescue and Support Program for Victims of Trafficking (PRV) at the provincial level. These institutions are integrating the ETP into their existing training programs by adapting the material that is most valuable for them. The institutions themselves will facilitate the training sessions at the pilot stage, and the program will be integrated into the existing training frameworks of the various agencies. To date, 72 law enforcement officials have attended trainings focused on identification, investigation, referral, prosecution, and sentencing topics.

Social Cartography

Social Cartography is a participatory community mapping process in which local residents and stakeholders in targeted neighborhoods help to map and understand the geographic, social, economic and cultural space and its dynamics. This process helps to put on paper phenomena, dynamics, and vulnerabilities related to CL, FL, and HT never before documented, allowing local authorities to more fully understand what is going on in local neighborhoods, and identify and establish areas for coordination. ATLAS is partnering with COPRETI to implement this activity in Lomas de Zamora municipality and develop a joint action plan for municipal and provincial officials based on the results.

Local Implementation Guide for the Victims Rescue Program (PRV)

ATLAS is working with the provincial PRV to develop and implement a Local Implementation Guide for this agency to guide their coordination with actors at the municipal and local levels. The Guide intends to streamline the many internal policies and protocols that currently exist. It will outline how the PRV will implement these policies in practice and, more importantly, how municipal actors can coordinate their work to respond to victims' needs. This guide will be developed by DyA through analyzing existing procedures that address victims' needs and conducting meetings with the PRV and other stakeholders to gather input for drafting the Local Implementation Guide document. This guide will be presented to the stakeholders for review and feedback. The collected feedback will lead into refinement of the draft and preparation of the final local implementation guide. Upon completion, the guide will be institutionalized with the PRV for organizational trainings and ongoing use.

KEY RESULTS

To date, the Enforcement Training Program has targeted four governmental educational institutions and trained 72 individuals.

All three Differentiated Models of Practice are in implementation.

A Social Cartography mapping exercise was conducted in the 17 de Noviembre neighborhood of Lomas de Zamora in Buenos Aires. This resulted in a graphical depiction of the neighborhood, including key relationships, institutions, and social dynamics as well as allowing provincial and local government to implement actions in prevention of child labor.

As a result of the Social Cartography mapping exercise, the provincial government of Buenos Aires elected to allocate 5 million pesos to social care institutions and also invite other public organizations to strengthen the 17 de Noviembre neighborhood through projects to improve employment and provide trainings.

CONTACT

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