

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

OVERVIEW

Winrock and partners implement the five-year, U.S. Department of Labor-funded [ATLAS](#) project in Argentina, Liberia, Paraguay and Thailand. Winrock works with three major partners, [Lawyers Without Borders](#), [Partners of the Americas](#), and [Desarrollo y Autogestión](#), to strengthen government capacity in the four countries to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.

ATLAS targets three main outcomes:

OUTCOME 1: Strengthened labor and criminal legal frameworks concerning child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.

OUTCOME 2: Improved enforcement of labor and criminal legal frameworks, specifically related to child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.

OUTCOME 3: Increased coordination among law enforcement and social protection entities to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.

ATLAS implements activities under two of the three outcomes in each country with **18 different sets** of activities across the four countries.



DIFFERENTIATED MODEL OF PRACTICE

Under Outcomes 2 and 3, ATLAS developed a unique nine-step process known as the Differentiated Model of Practice to ensure activities and interventions are tailored specifically to each country's needs and priorities. This evidence-based approach identifies research-supported interventions to address gaps in enforcement and coordination, and then pilots and refines activities them before local agencies institutionalize them to ensure long-term use and sustainability.

Steps are summarized, below:

- 1 **Establish a Body of Knowledge about interventions that effectively strengthen enforcement and coordination.**
- 2 **Conduct in-country pre-situational analysis of existing legislation and enforcement and coordination capacity.**
- 3 **Hold consultation events with key stakeholders to prioritize efforts and identify TA needs.**
- 4 **Form country workgroups to develop, evaluate and refine data-driven models of practice.**
- 5 **Pilot the intervention models of practice.**
- 6 **Evaluate and refine the pilot intervention models of practice.**
- 7 **Present intervention models to country workgroups and stakeholders for refinement and validation.**
- 8 **Implement the refined models and integrate them with the existing structures.**
- 9 **Finalize with stakeholders the institutionalization plan for the approved models.**

OUTCOME 1

LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

ATLAS targets Outcome 1 in Liberia, where the project works with a Legislative Reform Committee comprising local stakeholders to identify and advocate for improvements in laws and regulations focused on child labor (CL), forced labor (FL), and human trafficking (HT). The project's approach has resulted in substantial and successful changes. For example, ATLAS contributed to Liberia's **new human trafficking law** passed in 2021; successfully pressed for approval of the country's [new Hazardous and Light Work Lists](#); and is now providing technical assistance and support for development of a new draft child labor law that would update definitions, regulations, and sentencing around child labor. ATLAS also is now assisting the government with dissemination of the new human trafficking law.

Together, these new law and regulations provide law enforcement and social services the authority to act to reduce CL, FL, and HT in the country and bring Liberia into line with international standards.

OUTCOME 2

ENFORCEMENT

ATLAS targets Outcome 2 to improve enforcement of CL, FL, and HT laws in all four countries. The cornerstone of this work is the **Enforcement Training Program**. This five-module course for police, prosecutors, labor inspectors, and other law enforcement and justice-sector officials covers identification, investigation, referral, prosecution, and sentencing. First developed at the global level, ATLAS tailored the program to each country's context and has used the material to train 725 officials to date. ATLAS works with police and justice-sector training academies to include the new modules in their curricula for long-term use.

Other Outcome 2 activities are based on each country's individual needs, and encompass additional training and learning opportunities. They range from a Training-of-Trainers for grassroots stakeholders such as religious and community leaders, advocacy and women's groups and other local officials in Liberia to a Moot Court competition for justice-sector employees and a Living Lab - a participatory approach to learning and knowledge sharing - for prosecutors and judges in Paraguay.

ATLAS provides technical assistance to host country agencies to develop procedures that improve enforcement of CL, FL, and HT laws. For example, the project developed a **Practitioner's Guide on Investigation and Prosecution of Child Labor and Forced Labor** that was incorporated into Thailand's National Referral Mecha-

nism, as well as Standard Operating Procedures for a **Child Labor Monitoring System** for use by Liberia's Ministry of Labor.

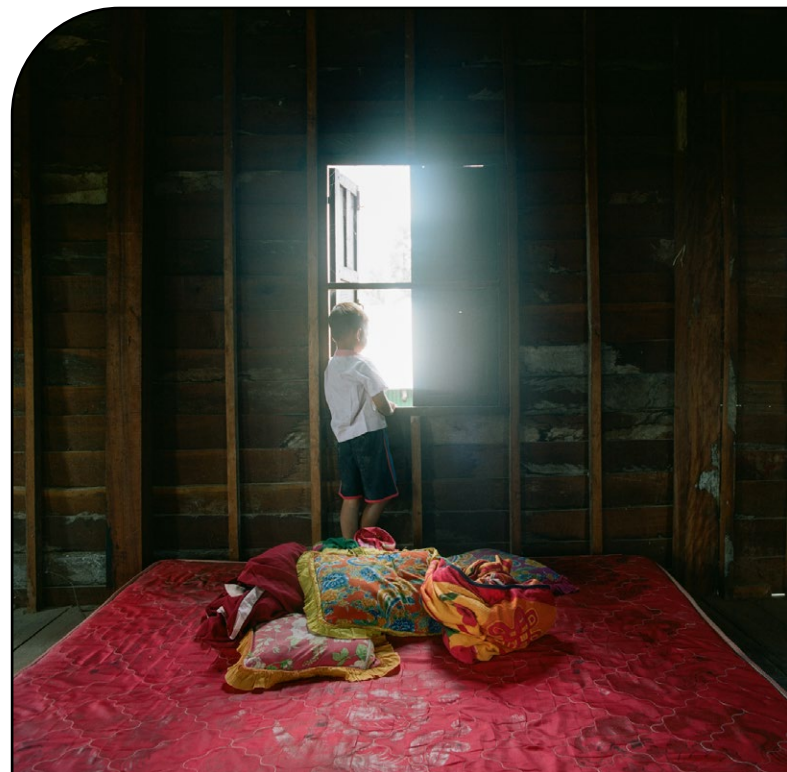
In total, under Outcome 2, ATLAS has trained 1,073 people through 64 workshops and learning events across the four countries.

OUTCOME 3

COORDINATION

ATLAS works to improve coordination between law enforcement and social service agencies in Argentina, Paraguay, and Thailand. The project provides technical assistance for development or revision of guidelines, protocols, and other roadmaps that engender institutional, intra-governmental cooperation. In Thailand, for example, ATLAS developed a **Practitioner's Guide on Coordination** to improve coordination between labor inspectors and other actors. In Paraguay, the project developed **Unified Enforcement Procedures** to streamline enforcement of CL, FL, and HT at the local level as well as a **Coordination Mechanism** to harmonize actions between national committees that address CL, FL, and HT. In Argentina, ATLAS is drafting a **Local Implementation Guide** for the victims' rescue program to work with actors at the local level.

ATLAS also engages citizens to improve coordination between local communities and government officials. In Thailand and Paraguay, the project implemented a **Community Referrals Initiative** to raise public awareness and increase reporting of CL, FL, and HT cases. Meanwhile, in Argentina, ATLAS conducted **Community Mapping** to identify areas for coordinated interventions by local authorities. Together, these activities reached 5,312 community members.



KEY RESULTS



Government officials and other stakeholders in three countries now have increased capacity to address CL, FL, HT, and other violations of human rights.



Five Differentiated Models of Practice (DMOPs) for enforcement are being implemented and institutionalized in Thailand and Paraguay.



Six DMOPs for coordination are being implemented and institutionalized in Thailand and Paraguay.



New Human Trafficking Law and Hazardous and Light Work Lists were approved in Liberia.



ATLAS completed 150 activities to impart technical assistance via meetings, workshops and trainings across all four countries.



The project has reached over 1.5 million citizens through awareness activities including radio broadcasts, video productions, dramatic performances, and dissemination of online content related to CL, FL and HT in Paraguay and Thailand.



SUSTAINABILITY

ATLAS is institutionalizing interventions within relevant local government agencies for continued use after the end of the project. For example, police and prosecutor training academies are incorporating ATLAS training modules into their curricula, new procedures and guides are being approved as official governmental policies, and appropriate agencies are assuming community engagement work. ATLAS is developing and delivering institutionalization plans covering all activities to relevant stakeholders, outlining how to incorporate and maximize the effectiveness of systems, tools, and guidance over the long term, and is providing appropriate support.

CONTACT

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Funding provided by the United States Department of Labor under Cooperative Agreement number IL-32821-18-75-K. These statements do not necessarily reflect the views of policies of the United States Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the United States Government.