



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

PARAGUAY

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 Paraguay, ATLAS is led by [Partners of the Americas](#) and has worked to:

- Improve enforcement of Paraguay'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 human trafficking.

To support Paraguay's 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

To improve enforcement of current laws, ATLAS developed an Enforcement Training Program (ETP) for frontline 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 Paraguay, ATLAS adapted the program to the country's context and then piloted, refined, and readministered it, reaching 208 participants from justice system institutions, social protection agencies, civil society organizations, unions and others. ATLAS integrated ETP modules into the training of key government bodies for use over the long term. Those agencies include the

Higher Institute of Police Education; the Ministry of Justice's International Center of Judicial Studies; the Ministry of Public Defense's Higher Technical Institute; the Public Ministry Training Center; and the Ministry of Labor. By integrating the training into these institutions, ATLAS ensures continued improvement of these key enforcement agencies' capacity to address issues of CL, FL, and HT.

ENFORCEMENT LIVING LAB

The Living Lab is a participatory approach to learning, knowledge sharing, and development of solutions in which diverse stakeholders engage in hands-on and participatory activities to explore innovative responses to shared challenges. In Paraguay, ATLAS developed a Living Lab for stakeholders around damage and restitution to survivors of CL, FL, and HT. This approach walked participants from the Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Public Defense, Public Ministry, and Supreme Court through workshops centered around discussions of practical approaches toward compensation. Regional technical exchanges with experts from Brazil and Argentina helped to establish an international network and identify best practices for use in Paraguay. ATLAS compiled those practices into a manual for future use by officials from the Labor, Public Defense, Public, and Justice ministries.



MOOT COURT

ATLAS convened a Moot Court competition for participants to practice the roles of prosecutors and defenders in a hypothetical human trafficking case, with sample case files developed by ATLAS partner Lawyers Without Borders. The Moot Court strengthened skills and improved coordination between the Justice, Public Defense, and Public ministries. Officials from those ministries manage the prosecutions, trials and sentencings in cases.

MULTI-AGENCY UNIFIED ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

In Paraguay, ATLAS developed a set of Multi-Agency Unified Enforcement Procedures (MAUEP) to improve coordination between government agencies and to streamline CL, FL, and HT cases from the detection stages through prosecution and victim care. Previously, each crime had its own process, and they were not coordinated. ATLAS implemented the MAUEP in five departments, first conducting awareness-raising on CL, FL, and HT for relevant local stakeholders, followed by workshops specifically on the MAUEP and its application, reaching 1,059 people. ATLAS also trained 43 officials representing five departmental secretariates on the utility of MAUEP beyond ATLAS, and handed over training materials and content.

INTER-PLATFORMS COORDINATION MECHANISM

ATLAS developed a coordination mechanism to unify public policy instruments related to CL, FL, and HT

crimes in Paraguay. In addressing these crimes, the project collaborated with national-level commissions to address each type of crime, including the National Inter-Institutional Commission for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor, the National Commission for Fundamental Rights in Work and the Prevention of Forced Labor, and the Human Trafficking Round Table. With these partners, ATLAS developed symposiums and workshops to co-create a coordination mechanism that harmonizes each agency's operational plan, and provided trainings and resource materials to institutionalize those plans. This work helped to identify actions to be carried out by the national commissions and the Human Trafficking Round Table. As a result, uniform procedures are now included in relevant government agencies' operational resources.

COMMUNITY REFERRALS

ATLAS implemented a public outreach strategy in Paraguay to raise awareness of CL, FL, and HT, and to educate the public about referrals. Communications materials included a radio soap opera, a play, booklets, and posters. ATLAS coordinated with government institutions including Municipal Councils for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, the Ministry of Children and Adolescents, and the Ministry of Women. The project also developed a digital library for use by government institutions, nongovernmental organizations, the education sector, and other stakeholders interested in accessing information about CL, FL, and HT for continued use after the project ends. In all, the project developed 33 different types of outreach materials that reached over 1.5 million people.

KEY RESULTS



Re-activated the Departmental Commissions on Human Trafficking in Neembucú and Boquerón departments.



Reached 2,869 law enforcement, government officials, and community members through meetings, trainings, and workshops on topics related to identification, investigation, referral, prosecution and sentencing in CL, FL, and HT cases.



Implemented 105 training and technical assistance activities.



Reached 1.5 million listeners by radio on topics of criadazgo (systemic exploitation of children for domestic labor) and decent work.



RESOURCES

A digital library of outreach materials including informational handouts, radio spots, and animations can be found at:

proyectoatlaspy.wordpress.com

mootcourtparaguay.net

CONTACT

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