

Improving Police Training in Paraguay

ATLAS SNAPSHOT

Winrock International's Attaining Lasting Change for Better Enforcement of Labor and Criminal Law to Address Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking (ATLAS) project worked with governments in Thailand, Liberia, Paraguay, and Argentina to improve their ability to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking through strengthened laws, regulations, and policies; improved enforcement of existing laws; and increased coordination between actors.

Across countries, ATLAS prioritized working with justice-sector training academies to improve enforcement of laws through education of police, prosecutors, judges, and other enforcement actors. These academies have the capacity and mandate to train police and other officials year after year and are well positioned to appropriate and replicate training programs developed by ATLAS into the future.

In Paraguay, for example, Winrock sub-awardee Partners of the Americas (POA) worked closely with the Paraguayan National Police's Higher Police Education Institute (ISEPOL). Prior to ATLAS, ISEPOL training materials and courses generally did not cover child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. According to Diana Ramirez, an ISEPOL instructor since 2010, these were considered "sensitive topics."

The ATLAS project thus made ISEPOL and the National Police a key focus of its Enforcement Training Program (ETP) – a five-module course on identification, investigation, referral, prosecution, and sentencing of child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking cases for front-line workers such as law enforcement, labor inspectors, prosecutors, and judges.

First, in February-June 2021, POA trained approximately 20 ISEPOL instructors through a 15-hour training-of-trainers course focused on investigation of child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. Later, in 2022, POA trained nineteen more police through a

revised training-of-trainers course focused more on training methods to teach content to others.

Ms. Ramirez, the ISEPOL instructor, attended the 2021 event and reported that the course helped her to improve the training that she delivers to fellow police officers. "I know the harm and trauma that can be generated around a human trafficking situation," she said. "And now, thanks to the training, I also know what situations of forced labor and child labor entail."

"The ATLAS project gave me tools to improve my teaching," she added. "And from that I was able to include the topics of child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking into my classes, especially in terms of investigative planning."

In addition to supporting individual professors, ATLAS worked with ISEPOL at the institutional level to improve its course offerings on child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking by incorporating ETP content. For example, POA assisted ISEPOL to integrate ETP materials into a course called "Updates on Technical and Tactical Operations," targeted at assistant officers.

As of January 2023, ISEPOL planned to offer this updated course to officers with child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking sections taught by an ATLAS trainee. Winrock is pleased that the National Police are dedicating time, resources, and personnel to continue this training beyond the life of the project, for it is through ISEPOL and other training academies across the four ATLAS countries that the project will have lasting impact in improving enforcement of laws around child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.

