



PARTNERS of the AMERICAS
Connect • Serve • Change Lives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mary Henkin
Communications, Partners of the Americas
mhenkin@partners.net
(202) 524-6291

Partners of the Americas Awarded \$6 Million to Combat Child Labor in Paraguay

Nov. 18, 2015, WASHINGTON, D.C. – Partners of the Americas has been awarded a Cooperative Agreement from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), Bureau of International Labor Affairs, to implement a new, four-year project to reduce the worst forms of child labor (WFCL) and improve labor law enforcement and working conditions in Paraguay, with a focus on the department of Guairá. The project, *Paraguay Okakuaa*, has two main objectives: 1) Children protected and educational opportunities expanded in the department of Guairá, and 2) Labor laws enforced and working conditions improved in the department of Guairá.

Paraguay Okakuaa will be achieved by:

- **Raising awareness** of the WFCL and labor rights and **increasing access** to social protection services.
- **Encouraging school retention and increased educational attainment of children and adolescents** through innovative education services and programs.
- **Supporting income generation and improved livelihoods** by providing relevant employment and training services to households vulnerable to the WFCL.
- **Working with the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security** to strengthen labor law enforcement and compliance, improve information systems, and improve multi-agency coordination to reduce WFCL.

Partners of the Americas will work in partnership with local organizations *Centro de Información y Recursos para el Desarrollo* (CIRD) and *FortaleSer* to build on Partners of the Americas' previous efforts to combat child labor, with a particular emphasis on providing opportunities for adolescent girls. Project activities will target five municipalities in the department of Guairá: Borja, Iturbe, Mauricio José Troche, Paso Yobai, and Villarrica. A total of 2,890 children and adolescents age 5-17 and 1,350 families are expected to benefit from the program.

Partners has over 12 consecutive years of experience implementing programs funded by USDOL to combat child labor. Partners has prevented and withdrawn over 23,000 children and youth from the WFCL by providing direct educational and livelihood services to children and their families in Brazil, Guyana, and Colombia, and is currently implementing a regional program in Ecuador and Panama.

###

Funding for this project is provided by the United States Department of Labor. This material does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of Labor, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial products or organizations imply endorsements by the United States government.

The mission of **Partners of the Americas** is to connect people and organizations across borders to serve and to change lives through lasting partnerships. These partnerships create opportunity, foster understanding, and solve real-life problems. Inspired by President Kennedy and founded in 1964 under the Alliance for Progress, Partners is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization with international offices in Washington, DC. Get involved at www.partners.net.