



# ALIANZA JOVEN HONDURAS - USAID

QUARTERLY REPORT

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## Contents

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	1
II.RESUMEN EJECUTIVO .....	3
III.RELEVANT ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES .....	5
IV.RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES THIS QUARTER.....	10
<i>Result 1: Decrease in community vulnerability to crime and violence risk factors through sustainable community institutions that support local youth and crime prevention activities.</i> .....	10
Activity 1: Conduct rapid Sustainability Assessments of the Outreach Centers .....	10
Activity 2: Facilitate and support implementation of Sustainability Plans for each OC .....	11
Activity 3: Strengthen capacities of existing Outreach Centers.....	11
Activity 4: Expand the sustainable OC model to 15 new communities.....	16
Activity 5: Build capacities of partners and community leaders to “own” and to advocate for the Outreach Centers.....	20
Activity 6: Transfer the USAID/Creative OC methodology to Tela, Copan and Ocotepeque .....	21
Activity 7: Establish coordination with USAID/CARSI partners in support of OCs .....	21
<i>Result 2: Increased skill building and employment opportunities for youth through multi-sectoral partnership</i> .....	24
Activity 1: Introduce new and expand basic skills programs to Outreach Center beneficiaries.....	24
Activity 2: Enhance employability with effective life skills.....	27
Activity 3: Strengthen at-risk youth employability with essential documentation .....	33
Activity 4: Introduce new programs in OCs for employability job training and vocational education .....	33
Activity 5: Support micro-entrepreneurial initiatives, bank partnerships and youth credit worthiness .....	33
Activity 6: Youth Movement Against Violence is strengthened to advocate for youth employment, education and other violence prevention measures.....	33
<i>Result 3: Increase employment opportunities for Ex-Gang Members and vulnerable youth recruited from the restorative justice program.</i> .....	36
Activity 1: Provide grants and business development training .....	36
<i>Result 4: Juvenile Justice and Restorative Justice Program</i> .....	36
Activity 1: Activities that lead to the passing of the Juvenile Justice Reform Law:.....	36
Activity 2: AJH Staff support the passage of the Law.....	38
Activity 3: Facilitate analysis of the implications of reform and training needs .....	39
Activity 4: Support advocacy and monitoring through local partners .....	40
Activity 5: Conduct training workshops for key Juvenile Justice Operators .....	41
Activity 6: Promote Restorative Justice as part of university curriculum .....	42

## **Annexes**

Annex I Finance

Annex II Reforms of Title III of the Children´s and Adolescents Code and referred to child offenders.

Annex III Media Coverage

Annex IV Monthly Bulletins

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In December 2011, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) signed a Cooperative Agreement No. AID-522-A-12-00001 with Creative Associates International Inc., to implement the program “Youth Alliance Honduras-USAID (AJH<sup>1</sup>)” that contributes to the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) Goal: *Strong and resilient communities resist and prevent crime and violence.*

The AJH program started on January 1, 2012, simultaneously during the close out of the Regional Youth Alliance Program (AJR USAID-SICA) on January 31, 2012. The first month of activities was mainly dedicated to project start-up and planning as well as the development of deliverables such as the Grants Manual, Annual Work Plan, and Branding Strategy and Marking Plan. The AJH team held a planning meeting in the second week of January in Siguatepeque to discuss program goals and expected results, as well as contribute to the development of the Annual Work Plan.

In early January, USAID-Honduras requested that AJH prepare a proposal to the Honduran Government to provide counterpart funding to the project through Security Tax proceeds. This funding would be reserved to complement and enhance the Outreach Centers and other key activities at the national level. The AJH submitted a complete proposal and budget for \$1.5 million to USAID/Honduras on January 10, 2012. This proposal is still pending negotiations between USAID and the Honduran Government.

This quarter, AJH focused on four sets of activities that required substantial effort and preparations. These activities include: 1) Five high-level visits to Outreach Centers by US Government officials at the Sub-Cabinet level, a Staff Delegation from the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the US House of Representative, and the US Ambassador to Honduras; 2) CARSI partner meetings in Tegucigalpa as well as the organization and coordination of meetings/visits by USAID-DG and CARSI implementers to the municipalities of San Pedro, Choloma and La Ceiba; 3) Assistance and coordination visits to ICMA/City Links to Outreach Centers in San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba and Choloma; and 4) Organization of a meeting with the Tegucigalpa Municipality with all CARSI implementers and a subsequent visit to Nueva Capital.

This quarter, AJH staff has spent significant time to developing the Sustainability Assessments for the 22 Outreach Centers. These assessments are expected to be completed by end of April 2012 and will provide the needed input for OC Sustainability Plans and grant proposals.

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<sup>1</sup> AJH - USAID: Alianza Joven Honduras - USAID

The AJH cemented several critical alliances this quarter. The program allied with the National Prevention Program (PNPRRS) to work on a National Prevention Campaign that will benefit AJH communities. The PNPRRS assigned 10 officers to work in the AJH communities. Secondly, the AJH is in negotiations to sign an agreement with TIGO, the main cellular phone carrier in Honduras. TIGO will provide free internet, cable TV and fixed phone (when available) services in up to 40 OCs in Honduras. The agreement will be signed in April 2012. In the next quarter, the AJH will sign an agreement with the National Professional Training Institute (INFOP) to bring vocational skills training to the communities. Lastly, this quarter the AJH negotiated an agreement with DEMASAH (Maseca) and FUNDEIH to bring tortilla micro-enterprises to some of the OCs and communities.

On February 07, 2012, AJH Chief of Party, Salvador Stadthagen and the Youth Movement against Violence (MJCIV), presented the program to the President of the Republic and Council of Ministers. The MJCIV presented the outcomes of the “*110 Youth Dialogues*.” AOR Scott Hedlund and DG Officer Laura Berger represented USAID during the presentations.

On March 28, 2012, as a direct result of the work of the AJH Juvenile Justice team, the Supreme Court of Honduras unanimously ruled in favor and approved the Reforms of Title III of the Children’s and Adolescents Code, which refers to child offenders. The expediency of the passing of this Resolution by the Supreme Court can be considered a record as a result of a carefully planned and executed advocacy process. This Resolution paves the way for a vote on the Reform by the Honduran Congress.

AJH’s Field Grant Manual, received final approval from the USAID Regional Agreement Officer on March 28, 2012. This activity also included the updating and adaptation of all grantee, acquisition and leverage manuals and formats previously used. With his approval at the end of the quarter, preparations started the following grant processes: 1) Bridge Funding Grants for the 25 existing Outreach Centers to cover basic operational costs to allow for preparation of the OC sustainability plans, and 2) the launch of the first Request for Applications for new Outreach Centers.

AJH introduced a new OC methodology which includes the *Cine Foro*, trained and motivated facilitators that are already reaching several hundred beneficiaries. Through the Cine Foro methodology, the AJH has introduced educational and thought provoking films in the Outreach Centers. AJH’s head trainer and some OC Coordinators trained Outreach Center beneficiaries and their families in the Familias Fuertes (Strong Families) methodology which they hope to replicate with the help of PNPRRS at the community level.

## II. RESUMEN EJECUTIVO

El 11 de diciembre de 2011, la Agencia Internacional para Desarrollo (USAID) suscribió el Convenio de Cooperación No. AID-522-A-12-00001 con Creative Associates International, Inc. para la implementación del Programa “Alianza Joven Honduras-USAID (AJH)” el que contribuye a la meta de la Iniciativa Centroamericana Regional de Seguridad (CARSI): *Comunidades fuertes y resilientes que resisten y previenen el crimen y la violencia.*

El Programa AJH inició el 1 de enero de 2012 de manera simultánea al cierre del Programa Alianza Joven Regional (AJR USAID-SICA) que concluyó el 31 de enero de 2012. El primer mes de actividades se dedicó primordialmente a actividades de arranque del programa y planificación, así como también al desarrollo de productos entregables como el Manual de Donaciones, el Plan Anual de Trabajo y la Estrategia y Plan de Marca. El equipo AJH sostuvo una jornada de planificación durante la segunda semana del mes de enero en la ciudad de Siguatepeque con el objetivo de discutir las metas y resultados esperados del programa, así como también para la elaboración del Plan Anual de Trabajo.

A inicios del mes de enero, USAID/Honduras solicitó a AJH la elaboración de una propuesta a ser presentada al Gobierno de Honduras con fondos de contrapartida provenientes de la aplicación de la Tasa de Seguridad. Este financiamiento serviría para complementar y mejorar los Centros de Alcance y otras actividades clave a nivel nacional. AJH presentó una propuesta completa con su respectivo presupuesto de US\$1.5 millones a USAID/Honduras el 10 de enero de 2012. Esta propuesta continúa pendiente de negociación entre USAID y el Gobierno de Honduras.

Durante el trimestre, AJH se enfocó en cuatro actividades que requirieron esfuerzos y preparación sustanciales. Este actividades incluyen: 1) Cinco visitas de alto nivel a Centros de Alcance por parte de Oficiales del Gobierno de Estados Unidos con rango de sub-secretaría, delegación del personal del Comité de Relaciones Exteriores de la Cámara de Representantes y la Embajadora en Honduras; 2) Reuniones de socios CARSI en Tegucigalpa, así como también reuniones/visitas de coordinación por parte de personal de la oficina de Gobernabilidad de USAID e implementadores CARSI a las municipalidades de San Pedro Sula, Choloma y La Ceiba; 3) Visitas de Asistencia y coordinación por parte de ICMA/City Links a Centros de Alcance en San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba y Choloma; y 4) Organización de una reunión con la Municipalidad del Distrito Central con todos los implementadores CARSI seguida de una visita a la comunidad de Nueva Capital.

Durante el trimestre, el personal de AJH dedicó bastante tiempo al desarrollo de los diagnósticos para la sostenibilidad de 22 Centros de Alcance. Se espera que dichos diagnósticos se finalicen a final de abril de 2012, y éstos proveerán los insumos necesarios para la elaboración de los Planes de Sostenibilidad y propuestas de donación.

AJH afianzó varias alianzas importantes durante el presente trimestre. El programa estableció alianza con el Programa Nacional de Prevención, Rehabilitación y Reinserción Social (PRPRRS) para trabajar en una Campaña de Prevención Nacional que beneficiará a las comunidades AJH, asignando 10 promotores para dicho trabajo. En segunda instancia, AJR está negociando la firma de convenio con la empresa TIGO, el principal proveedor de telefonía celular en Honduras. TIGO proveerá servicios gratuitos de internet, televisión por cable y telefonía fija (donde esté disponible) para 40 CDAs en Honduras y el convenio se suscribirá durante el mes de abril de 2012. En el siguiente trimestre, AJH firmará convenio con el Instituto Nacional de Formación Profesional (INFOP) con el propósito de llevar capacitación vocacional a las comunidades. Finalmente, durante este trimestre AJH negoció un convenio con DEMASAH (Maseca) and FUNDEIH para la implementación de microempresas de elaboración de tortillas en algunos de los CDAs y comunidades.

El 07 de Febrero de 2012, el Director del Programa, Salvador Stadthagen y el Movimiento de Jóvenes contra la Violencia Honduras (MJC VH) presentaron el programa al Presidente de la República y a su Consejo de Ministros. El MJC VH presentó los resultados de los “110 Diálogos entre Jóvenes”. Scott Hedlund (Oficial Enlace) y Laura Berger de la Oficina de Gobernabilidad representaron a USAID durante dichas presentaciones.

El 28 de marzo de 2012, y como resultado directo del trabajo del equipo del Componente de Justicia Penal Juvenil de AJH, la Corte Suprema de Justicia de Honduras de manera unánime resolvió a favor y aprobó las Reformas al Título II del Código de la Niñez y Adolescencia, el que se refiere a los niños infractores de la ley. La manera expedita que en que pasó la resolución por parte de la Corte Suprema puede considerarse como el producto del proceso de abogacía planeado y ejecutado. Esta resolución facilita el camino para la votación sobre la reforma en el Congreso Nacional.

La versión final del Manual de Donaciones de AJH fue aprobada por el Oficial Regional de Contratos de USAID el 28 de marzo de 2012. Esta actividad incluyó la actualización y adaptación de los manuales para el donatario, adquisiciones y contrapartida y sus respectivos formularios. Con esta aprobación a final del trimestre, comenzaron los preparativos por los siguientes procesos de donaciones: 1) Donaciones de financiamiento puente para los 25 Centros de Alcance existentes para cubrir costos operativos básicos que faciliten la elaboración de los

planes de sostenibilidad de cada CDA, y 2) la invitación a la primera solicitud de propuestas para nuevos Centros de Alcance.

AJH introdujo una nueva metodología que consiste en Cine Foros, procediendo a capacitar y motivar a facilitadores con el objetivo de lograr alcanzar a cientos de beneficiarios. A través de esta metodología, AJH ha incorporado películas educativas y de reflexión en los Centros de alcance. El oficial de programa de AJH para capacitación y un coordinador de CDA recibieron capacitación sobre la metodología del Programa Familias Fuertes que se implementará con apoyo del PNPRRS a nivel comunitario.

### **III. RELEVANT ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

Administrative/Financial Manager Miguel Martell transferred to San Pedro Sula in March to allow Program DCOP, Anna Leveron to focus most of her time on technical issues and building community and national level alliances, which are essential to GDA success. COP Salvador Stadthagen is balancing his time between engagements related to USAID/CARSI in Tegucigalpa, and gradually shifting his time to implementation in the North.

The limited budget for Other Direct costs, particularly in the travel, transportation and workshop/training lines continue to preoccupy the management of the projects, due to the geographical dispersion of projects and offices. These budget lines are already depleting although the program has just started implementation. In consultation with USAID, AJH has not moved yet to less expensive office facilities, before hearing further about the possible Government of Honduras counterpart funding.

The lack of the issuance of a Tax Exemption Letter for the project on behalf of the Government of Honduras through USAID, has generated significant problems to Creative Associates in the implementation of the AJH program. This process, which is completely out of the control of implementers and is an issue between the Donor and the Recipient country, has already signified monetary loses, apart from having the potential for a larger liability for the company if the issue is not resolved soon and prior to procurement of goods for the Outreach Centers.

During this quarter the computerized Monitoring and Evaluation Outreach Center System was completely re-designed. Based on last years' experience, the new comprehensive tool has further capabilities to track beneficiaries, components, courses, volunteers and microenterprises in a more amicable way.

Creative Associates, concerned by the deteriorating security situation in Honduras, assigned Security Expert Jamie Hefner to travel to Honduras during March to conduct a Security Assessment in the 3 AJH's project offices. From this Assessment a Security Plan and a Crisis Response Plan were developed, which formalize security protocols, communications protocols, business continuity, evacuation procedures, emergency contact information and crisis/incident response plans and protocols. As this expense was not contemplated in the project's budget, the company absorbed its main costs. In addition, Ms. Hefner developed a Vetting Plan and a Creative Sensitive Information (CSI) Plan for the company's operation in Honduras.

Also during this Quarter, AJH's M&E Expert received Gender training from USAID and a Gender Plan will be developed and implemented as of next Quarter.

The ten main AJH accomplishments this quarter include:

1. Resolution by Honduras Supreme Court paving way for Juvenile Justice Reform in the country.
2. Presentation of the AJH-USAID program and of the Youth Movement "*Dialogues*" to the President of the Republic and the Council of Ministers.
3. Alliance with TIGO to connect up to 40 OCs to the internet for free.
4. Agreement with the Municipality of the Tegucigalpa (MDC) to develop an OC in Nueva Capital.
5. Development of a grant proposal and budget for the GOH (Security Tax.)
6. Grants Manual approved by Regional Agreement Officer.
7. New Cine Forum methodology introduced in 25 OCs.
8. Redesign of the computerized M&E module for OCs.
9. Security Assessment, Security Plan and Crisis Response Plan completed.
10. Drafting of DEMASAH, FUNDEIH and INFOP agreements being negotiated.

## I. INDICATORS AND RESULTS

In this quarter, the AJH Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (MEP) is still in process of discussion with USAID. In agreement with USAID, the MEP will include a new set of impact and lower-level indicators and will eliminate some of the one listed in the original AJH proposal. This report presents the original indicators, noting which will be modified.

No.	Proposal Indicator	Baseline	EOPS Targets	Through March 2012
<b>Goal (SO): Achieving Peace and Security working through multi-sectoral partnerships lead to a decrease in crime and violence risk factors</b>				
<b>Result 1: Decrease in community vulnerability to crime and violence risk factors through sustainable community institutions that support local youth and crime prevention activities. (R1)</b>				
IND. 1	Number of OC Sustainability Assessments Completed (See Note 1 below)	0	40	
IND. 2	Number of OC Sustainability Assessments Implemented(See Note 1 below)	0	40	
IND. 3	Number of communities providing financial or in-kind support to sustain OCs(See Note 2 below)		41	
IND. 4	Number of Civil Society Organizations receiving USG assistance in security/prevention sector oversight and advocacy	0	5	2
In this quarter AJH continued support to the NGOs Asociación para una Sociedad mas Justa y Misioneros de la Calle, partners of Outreach Centers Nueva Suyapa and Flor del Campo.				
IND. 5	Number of communities assisted in crime prevention with USG support	0	41	25
9 in SPS: Casa Quemada, San Juan, Rivera Hernandez, Cofradia Centro, Suazo Cordova, Los Angeles, Padre Claret, San Isidro, San Jose, 4 in Choloma: Lopez Arellano, Las Pilas, Japon, La Amistad, 5 in La Ceiba: 1 de mayo, Bufalo, Armenia Bonito, San Judas, San jose, 6 in Distrito Central: Nueva Suyapa, San Martin, Flor del Campo, Villafranca, BuenasNuevas and Rosalinda. These last 3 Outreach Centers implemented by Save the Children have suspended their activities with AJH. Save the Children has received a donation of \$260,000 to work in 4 communities there, including the 3 that participated in the AJR program, using the OC facilities and equipment as a base. In this sense the long term sustainability of the effort, is assured. AJH provided some support to the Save run OCs in the early part of the year.				

1 in Puerto Lempira: Brotes Nuevos.				
In this quarter, 10 communities located in San Pedro Sula, Choloma and the Central District Municipality, that are being considered, surveyed and/or are in the process of developing grant proposals				
IND. 6	Number of youth benefiting from OCs		12,000	7,982
7,982 was attending in OCs, 3788 males and 4,166 females				
IND. 7	Number of community member trained and engaged in OCs as volunteers		500	123
The 123 volunteers received training during this quarter				
<b>Result 2: Increased skill building and employment opportunities for youth through multi sectoral partnerships (R2)</b>				
IND. 7	Number of new programs introduced to OC beneficiaries <b>(See Note 1 below)</b>	0	10	1: This quarter the Cine Forum program was introduce to OCs
IND. 8	Number of youth benefiting from Life skills training		2000	360
In this period, 360 young people were trained in Module #1 DSMV; 110 males and 250 females.				
IND. 9	Number of youth participating in skills building and employment activities through the OCs <b>(See Note 2 below)</b>	0	8000	
IND. 10	Number of youth employed following participation in training and other employment activities <b>(See Note 2 below)</b>	0	300	
IND. 11	Number of micro-entrepreneurial initiatives <b>(See Note 2 below)</b>	0	40	
<b>Result 3: Increase in employment opportunities for Ex- gang Members and vulnerable youth recruited from the restorative justice program (R3)</b>				
IND. 12	Number of youth (former gang members and from restorative justice programs) employed following participation and		75	

	training in other employment activities (See Note 2 below)			
IND. 13	Number of micro-entrepreneurial initiatives		25	
During this Quarter, AJH initiated discussions with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tegucigalpa on their interest in presenting proposal similar of the insertion/reinsertion program of creating income opportunities for former gang members, which was implemented with AJR in 2011, but with substantial changes and innovations. CIIT is expected to present a grant proposal to AJH by May.				
IND. 14	Number of businesses operating with profit(See Note 1 below)	0	20	
<b>Result 4: Juvenile Justice and Restorative Justice Program (R4)</b>				
IND. 15	Number of youth benefiting from restorative justice programs(See Note 1 below)	0	N/A	
IND. 16	Number of civil society organizations with established restorative justice programs(See Note 1 below)	2	2	
IND. 17	Number of key juvenile justice operators trained in the new reform(See Note 1 below)	0	32	
IND. 18	Monitoring and Evaluation systems established at the Municipal and National level to measure the impact of the restorative justice program on the youth participants(See Note 1 below)	1	1 Support to existing organization	
IND. 19	Number of universities delivering restorative justice as part of their curriculum(See Note 1 below)	0	1	

Notes:

1. This indicator will be eliminated because reflect an activity not a Result.
2. This indicator will be modified and added into a new indicator.

#### IV. RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES THIS QUARTER

##### **Result 1: Decrease in community vulnerability to crime and violence risk factors through sustainable community institutions that support local youth and crime prevention activities.**

##### **Activity 1: Conduct rapid Sustainability Assessments of the Outreach Centers**

Starting in late January and early February 2012, AJH's Monitoring and Evaluation Expert developed the formats and methodology for the development of Sustainability Assessments to be used with existing Outreach Centers (OCs). The formats were discussed and feedback gathered from the field technical team to reach a final design. The AJH team started a round of visits to all the OCs to gather initial information (human and physical inventory, volunteers, Coordinator capacities, etc.) and left formats for partners and Coordinators to gather additional information about the situation of the OCs and respective communities. This information was to be brought to the Assessment Workshops that were organized with OCs in each city (Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula/Choloma and La Ceiba) in March. The Puerto Lempira OC was visited by an AJH officer to meet with the partners, gather the required information and train.

The Assessment Workshops had the participation of OC partners, Coordinators and in some cases *Patronato* leaders and other key community actors.

The main goals of these comprehensive Assessments are:

1. Identify and outline all assets and elements in the OC and its community that can contribute to achieve the goals and objectives of each OC component and processes, as required for its development and sustainability.
2. Serve as the basis for a Sustainability Plans.

The comprehensive OC Assessments will be a result of thorough gathering of information, evaluation and analysis of their tangible potential (Economic Resources, Infrastructure) and intangible potential (Social and Human Capital), as they relate to OC components (Use of Free Time, Skills/Training for Employment, Values, Accelerated Learning, Homework Assistance, Volunteerism and Opportunities).

The methodology for the development of the comprehensive Assessments considers the following steps:

1. Characterization of the community, partners and the Outreach Center.
2. Mapping and analysis of actors and SWOT Analysis.
3. Identifying priority areas and bottlenecks.

The first basic draft of the 22 Assessments (the Save the Children OCs in Comayaguela were not included, as the relationship with AJH has not yet been defined) have been completed by the technical personnel of AJH. They will be the basis for the development of Sustainability Plans, that will be discussed with partners and be the foundation of the subsequent grant proposals.

### **Activity 2: Facilitate and support implementation of Sustainability Plans for each OC**

This Activity has not started as it is contingent to the completion of Activity 1.

### **Activity 3: Strengthen capacities of existing Outreach Centers**

One of the main tools for strengthening the OCs is the involvement of the Municipal Prevention Committees (CMPVs) of San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba and Choloma. The CMPVs are critical to the sustainability and long term success of the OCs. The OCs existence signifies a concrete achievement for the CMPVs and an emblematic and tangible avenue for the city's leadership involvement in the prevention of violence.

**CMPV San Pedro Sula:** In February 2012, AJH facilitated a meeting between the CMPV, representatives of the Municipality and the San Pedro OCs, with the objective of requesting the Municipality to comply with the support for the sustainability of the OCs which was part of the Agreement signed with the Regional Youth Alliance Program (AJR USAID-SICA). Several avenues of support from the Mayor's office were explored in the meeting: Payment for public services: electricity/water.

1. Attention of Dental Brigades in the OC communities.
2. Training, microenterprise development, maintenance of computers.
3. Scholarships to Municipal Vocational Institutions or to Universities that could also be part of the support for OC Coordinators.
4. Support to obtain the required sanitary documentation and permits for the micro-enterprises of some the OCs that deal with food processing.

As a result of this meeting, a training course on computer maintenance for the OCs was organized by the Municipality. This one month course was attended by 14 beneficiaries, of which only 6 completed the certification. The high desertion rate was due to some beneficiaries that some initiated other studies and some that found jobs. Another cause was the lack of funding for transportation. The level of poverty for some beneficiaries does not allow them to pay for the cost of public transportation.

AJH held a meeting with the CMPV President and some its members, in which there was consensus that the restructuring of the Committee was a priority and that this could be only accomplished by involving new members and being more effective in convening the original members that have become inactive. The President of the CMPV will coordinate and convene a new meeting in early April.

AJH brought to the attention of the CMPV a request from the Arenales community for the establishment of an OC. The community already has a facility that with Municipal support could sustain an OC. The President of the CMPV expressed doubts about the selection of this community, as it does not a very high level of violence, although it is surrounded by more violent Satélite sector communities and is adjacent the *Bordos*. The OC there could also benefit children and youth from the *Bordos* and help preserve the community from violence. The CMPV President will look for another higher risk community with willing partners and existing infrastructure. If this community cannot be identified, the Arenales request will be re-visited.

CMPV members Mr. Gustavo Valenzuela and Mr. Roberto Milla, participated in the March 14, 2012 visit by the Staff Delegation (STAFFDEL) from the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the US House of Representatives to the Padre Claret Outreach Center. During this meeting the STAFFDEL was able to not only see a working OC, but also understand the OC methodology and meet there with leaders of the San Pedro Sula chapter of Movimiento Jóvenes Contra la Violencia.

CMPV President Jannette Hernandez and members Ottoman Alva (Alderman) and Gustavo Valenzuela, had the opportunity to participate in the exchange of experiences in prevention organized by USAID-CARSI on March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in San Pedro Sula. This was important an important event which helped to enhance the CMPV's knowledge of violence prevention models that have been successful in cities such a Chihuahua, Ciudad Juarez, Los Angeles and Bogotá, among others. They also had the opportunity to meet participants and make contacts. The Mayor of San Pedro Sula participated as a panelist in this event.

AJH also provided support to the CMPV in raising their awareness of the funding opportunities for prevention. The San Pedro Municipality is entitled to receive 10% of the proceeds from the sales of impounded assets from through the Office of Administration of Impounded Assets (OABI). The CMPV President brought this to the attention of the Mayor and he requested the Mayor's Office *Procurador* make the claim to GOH.

**CMPV Choloma:** On March 23, 2012, AJH met with the Choloma CMPV to discuss the activities planned for 2012, and provide follow-up to the meetings that were held at the community level some weeks before. Taking into account the selection process conducted in 2011, the CMPV indicated that it would be good to consider implementing the OC methodology in some of the following communities: Barrio Concepción, Canadá, Quebrada Seca and Barrio El Chaparro. It was agreed that these communities would be visited jointly by AJH and the CMPV.

The CMPV participated very actively during this quarter in the following program related activities:

- CMPV President, Mr. Roberto Sánchez and members Alexander Mejía (Alderman) and Carlos Pineda, participated along with AJH personnel in the City Links/ICMA visit to the López Arellano and Japón OCs.
- CMPV members participated in visits on March 23rd and 30th to identify potential beneficiary communities and partners, such as Éxitos de Anach, Barrio El Chaparro and QuebradaSeca, facilitating contacts.
- The CMPV participated in a meeting at the Japón community in which a new OC Coordinator was selected.
- CMPV President, Mr. Roberto Sánchez participated in an Assessment Workshop carried out with OCs on March 15th.
- The CMPV has been active in advocating with the Municipality for the payment of OC Coordinator's salaries.

**CMPV La Ceiba:** This quarter, the La Ceiba Municipality held a public swearing of the La Ceiba CMPV as a body that supports the prevention activities in the city. The public swearing was covered extensively by the media.

As part of the strengthen process for the OCs in La Ceiba, the CMPV lobbied the Municipality to cover the monthly salary of the 5 coordinators as well as the rent of the OCs in compliance with the agreement signed in 2011 with AJR-USAID-SICA. As a result a contract was signed between the 5 OC Coordinators and the municipality to cover salaries and rent is being covered.

**Other Activities of the “La Ceiba Para Todos” CMPV:**

- The CMPV President accompanied the visit of US Ambassador Lisa Kubieske to the San José OC. In attendance were Mayor Carlos Aguilar and Mrs. Aguilar, USAID personnel, municipal officers, leaders of the local chapter of the Youth Movement Against Violence, FHIS officers and community leadership, neighbors and youth. There was a dialogue with the community and an artistic presentation of the “Emanuel” (dance) Youth Club.
- Provide support to the local Observatory against Violence during the public presentation of preliminary 2011 data for La Ceiba.

- CMPV President, Mrs. Rosario Arias, participated in the “More Secure Communities” exchange of experiences event, organized by USAID-CARSI in San Pedro Sula on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of March.

### **OC Strengthening Activities:**

During this period, AJH made many contacts with various institutions and organizations geared to strengthen the OC network, some in Tegucigalpa and some in each of the Municipalities of intervention.

1. Meetings with corn flower producer DEMAHSA (MASECA) and NGO FUNIDEH at USAID to advance an alliance to bring micro-entrepreneurial opportunities and some other benefits to some of the intervention communities and OCs. The draft of this agreement is in the hands of DEMASAH and FUNIDEH.
2. Meetings with Mrs. Ana Hernández, wife of the President of Congress, and the “*Vida Mejor*” Foundation to present the AJH program. The results of these meetings included:
  - a. Groups of 50 children from each OC in Tegucigalpa will be given the opportunity of a tour of Congress. Children will be able to talk to Congressmen and understand the importance of this Branch of Government.
  - b. Ten mini-laptops will be donated to the San José, La Ceiba OC, courtesy of the Vida Mejor program.
  - c. The Tae Kwon Do Association and the Vida Mejor Program joined forces to assign an instructor to the Nueva Suyapa OC. This sports for prevention program started with success at the OC.
3. Meetings and discussions with cell and internet carrier TIGO, to negotiate and achieve an alliance to bring free internet service, Cable TV and fixed telephone services (and some corporate volunteerism) to all existing and new OCs. The results were:
  - a. An executive of TIGO was given a tour of the Nueva Suyapa OC to understand the model.
  - b. Even before the Agreement is signed, TIGO decided to grant free internet through 8 modems to the Puerto Lempira Outreach Center.
  - c. AJH surveyed the equipment and/or existing connections of all OCs, and provided the updated the information to TIGO.
  - d. The draft of the agreement is in the hands of TIGO for consideration and will probably be signed in April 2012.
4. Several meetings with banking group LAFISE, to explore the possibility of bringing their “one laptop per child” to the communities where OCs are located, benefiting all children in those communities. The idea would be to develop and include Prevention software (including the Life Planning Desafío de Soñar Mi Vida methodology) in all laptops. This interesting program is contingent of AJH availability of grant resource cover at least one third of the cost of computers.

5. A meeting with Lady Lee Foundation for possible future assistance to OCs. Lady Lee is interested in providing preferential discounts to equipment and materials needed at OCs and in participating in the Volunteer Management courses.
6. Several discussions and meetings with the Executive and Deputy Directors of INFOP of an Agreement to bring training benefits to OCs. The draft of the agreement is in the hands of INFOP.
7. A work alliance with the National Prevention Program (PNPRRS) was achieved to:
  - a. Collaborate with in the National Prevention Campaign that PNPRRS is starting nationwide, focusing in in communities benefited by AJH
  - b. AJH included PNPRRS Prevention Officers in workshops and training in the Life Planning (DSMV), Mentorship and Cine Forum methodologies.
  - c. PNPRRS included an AJH officer and some OC Coordinators in the “Familias Fuertes” (UNODOC) methodology.
  - d. PNPRRS will assign up to 10 officers to work through AJH OCs. The most successful has been the participation of PNPRRS officers in the Nueva Suyapa OC, where they have trained in DSMV, conducted Cine Furums and organized an Open School program with the help of the OC Coordinator.
  - e. PNPRRS wants to implement some of the prevention campaigns developed by AJR in 2011, such as the “Piénsalo Bien” teen pregnancy one, among others and plans to bring the Cine Forum and Desafío de Soñar Mi Viva, nationwide.  
AJH is discussing with PNPRRS the possible implementation of three “Familias Fuertes” pilots using the OC facilities and community networks. Each “Familias Fuertes” program is for 12 youth experiencing problems at home and lasts 7 weeks. AJH would be looking for sponsors to pay for soft drinks and cookies during trainings, as there is no provision in either organization’s budget for this expense.
8. Talks with UNITEC about future volunteer programs benefiting OCs.

### **Important Note**

It is important to note that the Outreach Centers implemented by Save the Children in Comayagua-Distrito Central (communities of Villafranca, Buenas Nuevas and Rosalinda) have suspended their activities with AJH. Save the Children has received a donation of \$260,000 to work in 4 communities there, including the 3 that participated in the AJR program, using the OC facilities and equipment as a base. In this sense the long term sustainability of the effort, is assured.

The European Community project began paying for the salaries of the 3 Coordinators in January of 2012. The Comayagua area is undergoing a severe wave of violence and Save the Children is hardly able to work there and not able to implement the EU funding they have received. Save the Children is interested in maintaining a relationship with AJH, particularly regarding the

training of volunteers and the continuation of some of the methodologies such as DSMV and Mentorship.

**Activity 4: Expand the sustainable OC model to 15 new communities**

As part of the vision to extend the OC model to 15 new communities, AJH’s technical team held discussions with Municipal authorities, CMPV members, reviewed information about made some preliminary evaluations of communities that are candidates for intervention.

In the chart below, we list 10 communities located in San Pedro Sula, Choloma and the Central District Municipality (MDC: Tegucigalpa-Comayaguela), that are being considered, surveyed and/or are in the process of developing grant proposals.

Present available AJH grant funding, without a Government of Honduras contribution, will not allow for the development of more than 10 OCs. If some of that funding is obtained, additional communities to develop OCs will be identified in Choloma and La Ceiba. There has to be a discussion between AJH and USAID regarding a possible program in TELA, which it is also dependent of GOH funding. There has not been a CARSI group visit to the Mayor of Tela, similar to the ones organized to San Pedro, La Ceiba and Choloma, and this too will be pending before making the decision as if to work in Tela.

<b>San Pedro Sula</b>	<b>Choloma</b>	<b>La Ceiba</b>	<b>Distrito Central</b>
Col. Arenales	Barrio El Chaparro	Col. Melgar # 2	Col. Nueva Capital
Col. Satélite	Quebrada Seca	Colonia Suyapa	
Col. San Vicente de Paul #1 y #2			
Lempira No. 1			
Morales # 3 (also benefiting Morales #2)			

All these communities are vulnerable to violence and have unstable socio-economic conditions. During this period there was an initial approach with these communities where a pre-assessment was conducted that included the identification of potential partners (churches, community organizations), demographic characterization of the community, in order to identify the community’s young population and community violence indicators.

Progress obtained in this period is detailed below:

**SAN PEDRO SULA**

**Colonia Arenales:** The community proposed by Paz y Convivencia is located in the city’s south-east sector, on the road toward the airport, boarding the Cablotales, Aldea El Carmen river board and the housing areas of Calpules and San Vicente de Paúl.

Identified partners include: the Municipality, community organization led by Alfredo Hernández Beger and the Evangelic Church Príncipe de Paz, led by Pastor Santos Arita Belloza.

Among the most common crimes in the community are armed assault, minor injuries, vandalism and domestic violence. Neighbors highlight the rapid and high growth rate of the population on the river boards. This worries the community since the housing area is the first objective of young delinquents who are able to mix among the river board population.

The pre-assessment has been completed for this community.

**Colonia Satélite** is located in the south-east sector of the city. It is one of the sectors with higher population growth and it is an emblematic area due to its crime levels. An initial approach was made with the religious order Fraternidad Misionera P. Manuel Soria, led by the Priest Jorge Mejía, with offices in Satélite housing area and La Pradera housing area; both highly vulnerable sector in the city.

Conversations are ongoing; follow up is provided.

**Colonia San Vicente de Paúl** is located in the south-east sector of the city of San Pedro Sula, on the detour to Hotel Villa Nuria. The following have been identified as partners: San Vicente de Paúl Parish, represented by Priest Manuel Botet; the Parish Council headed by Alexander Rodríguez; the community association led by Marcio Andrade.

The housing area does not have a community center and has a surrounding highly populated and vulnerable river board (*bordo*). San Vicente de Paúl Parish is already an AJH partner in the implementation of the OC Suazo Córdova since year 2011, where very good results have been obtained as an outcome of the alliance.

During the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting held in the community, the commitment from all partners to submit a proposal was made official. Additionally, the locale for the OC was identified in the building of La Casa del Joven (The House for the Young People), an institution managed by Obras Sociales Vicentinas who has authorized the use of the building for the new OC.

The pre-assessment of this community has been completed.

**Colonia Morales III** is located in the Chamelecón sector, between housing areas Morales II and IV and 14 de Julio. The following have been identified as partners: Fundación para el Desarrollo

de Honduras (FUNADE) and the community association led by Mr. Javier Martínez. FUNADEH already worked closely with AJR for more than a year in Chamelecón and Choloma.

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, San Pedro based NGO FUNADEH confirmed its participation and interest as a partner, informing us that it will submit this to the Board of Directors.

The locale identified for the OC is the building of the former José Larios Silva school, in the housing area Morales III (next to Morales II, which is a LAPOP community that it will benefit from the OC), in need of some repairs for its implementation. This housing area does not have a community center, community playground nor health center.

The pre-assessment has been completed for this community.

**Colonia Lempira I** is located in the Chamelecón sector, on the road towards the country's western region. In this community the identified partners are the San Vicente de Paúl Parish and the community organization.

Neighbors mentioned the high crime rate in which they live and mainly the need of a project for young people from 11 to 14 years, since they are currently being recruited gangs located in the sector.

Although the Parish has a building where a Health Center operates, there is not enough space for an OC. Therefore, they are looking into how to close the porch of the health center and prepare it to be used. Meanwhile, they can rent a space for the OC to operate temporarily. This same situation is evident with the micro-enterprise of the OC SuazoCórdova where the same church that is responsible of it, since November 2011, rents a house within the community for its operation.

The community has center is in unusable conditions. The local Municipality has promised its remodeling in an open community meeting. No delivery date has been established so far. It does not have a soccer or a play-ground.

The pre-assessment has been completed for this community.

## **CHOLOMA**

**Barrio El Chaparro** was identified by the CMPV and is located near the city's center. Its population is estimated at 800 families, of which 22% of its members are young people between 6-17 years. It is a highly recognized community by its crime rates and near those with extreme crime rates within the urban area, such as the Canadá and Rubí housing areas.

The International Hebraic Ministry (Ministerio Internacional Hebreos) has been identified as a potential partner. This church has been working in the community for the past 32 years and is led by Pastor René González, who has noted social projection in the community and in other communities of the sector where the church is located. They currently conduct nursing training, a shop for auto mechanics, a bakery, a recently open cabinet making shop, a bi-lingual school and also a Cooperative that supports micro-enterprises. Additionally, it has an emerging TV channel that operates in closed cable circuit. It also has other branch churches in Quebrada Seca and Brisas del Norte.

The space identified for the OC is the former church building in the same area, which needs repairs such as a new ceiling, change roof plates, paint, among others. There is willingness by the Municipality to help with these costs.

The pre-assessment of this community is pending.

**Quebrada Seca Sector** is a semi-urban highly populated and vulnerable sector of Choloma. The Virgen de Lourdes Parish has been identified as a potential partner because it has adequate installations for the OC.

To date, meetings have only been held with the community parish council, who has shown interest. The CMPV has had a strong participation at these meetings and it recommends the council's inclusion. The selection process continues.

**Note:**

There were some approaches and meetings with the Community organization and visits to potential partners in the **Éxitos de Anach 1** housing area (LAPOP community). The relevant pre-assessment was made. The Anglican church of that community declined the offer to implement an OC, and it being the only organization with an adequate infrastructure, AJH has had to discard intervening in this community.

**La Ceiba**

In the city of La Ceiba, preliminary approach visits were made to the two LAPOP communities selected by USAID-CARSI: Melgar and Sierra Pina. Based on the CMPV analysis, it was decided not to work in Sierra Pina, since its crime rates are not so critical as to warrant and AJH intervention.

**Melgar #2:** Melgar had been identified by the CMPV as a potential community for AJR's intervention in 2011, due to its vulnerability, but at the time another community was selected

instead. A meeting took place between the Melgar community Patronato President (a young and energetic female Teacher), the Treasurer (and former President with strong leadership in the community) and a very good Evangelical Pastor and his wife. The Pastor has been the Spiritual Counselor of the prestigious Bethel High-school located in La Ceiba and has worked with youth for almost 20 years. The community was visited by AJH's Director and a visit was made to the (reduced) space within the Church that could be used as an OC.

The pre-assessment has been completed for this community.

### **Nueva Suyapa**

Initial contacts have been made with the Nueva Suyapa community through the Red Cross, which would probably be a partner with AJH in the OC implementation in this community. A visit is planned for early April.

### **CENTRAL DISTRICT (MDC)**

**Colonia Nueva Capital:** A meeting was held with the Presidential Commissioner for the Department of Francisco Morazán, Mrs. Soledad Ramírez, searching for synergy for the creation of an OC in Nueva Capital. Thanks to her assistance, a meeting was held with Mrs. Lucrecia de Álvarez, wife of the MDC mayor, in order to work together in the implementation of a new OC.

Mrs. Alvarez and her social team informed AJH about the availability of a Municipal owned space in Nueva Capital (LAPOP community) and would like to join forces with AJH and with a third (FBO) partner in order to implement an OC in the area.

A meeting was held in the Municipality with various CARSÍ implementers and a subsequent visit was made to the locale in Nueva Capital, together with municipal officers and implementers. In this visit it was agreed that the locale had the conditions to operate an OC. The Quasi-Parrish Virgen de la Paz was identified as a potential partner for the implementation of the OC and they were invited to submit a proposal. The Quasi-Parrish is currently working in the proposal with the support of a sociologist appointed by the Municipality for this task.

### **Activity 5: Build capacities of partners and community leaders to “own” and to advocate for the Outreach Centers.**

This activity is carried out systematically throughout all CMPV, community and OC contacts and meetings and is described in other items of this report. A “Communications for Obtaining Resources” workshop is being planned for April and May, starting with the San Pedro Sula/Choloma OCs.

## **Activity 6: Transfer the USAID/Creative OC methodology to Tela, Copan and Ocotepeque**

This activity is for later stage, provided there is Government of Honduras funding.

## **Activity 7: Establish coordination with USAID/CARSI partners in support of OCs**

### **San Pedro Sula/Choloma**

On February 14th, AJH helped organize a coordinating meeting between the USAID Office of Democracy and Governance and the Municipalities of San Pedro Sula and Choloma. The meeting was attended by USAID and CARSI implementers in Honduras and served to introduce USAID's initiatives to local stakeholders. The meeting was attended by San Pedro Sula Mayor, Dr. Juan Carlos Zúniga, Aldermen Melvin Ferraro, Reynaldo Ruglas, Aroldo Salguero, Anibal Kelly, Aldermen and members of the San Pedro Sula CMPV, Janette Hernández and Otomán Alva Castellón.

In Choloma, local stakeholder attendees included Choloma Mayor Leopoldo Crivelli, Aldermen Manuel Iraheta, Javier Gavarreteas well as the President and Vice President of the Choloma CMPV, Roberto Sánchez and Alexander Mejía.

The implementing partners included FHIS, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mejorando la Educacion para Trabajar, Aprender y Superarse (METAS), IMPACTOS and AJH.

As a result of this meeting:

- Both municipalities confirmed their interest to participate in the CARSI programs and pledged their commitment to participate in program activities, provide technical information and support, as well as support the CMPVs and eventually sign agreements.
- San Pedro Sula's Mayor appointed as liaisons for these activities Alderman Jannette Hernández for the area of Prevention and the Alderman Reynaldo Ruglas for are of Security, as they are already working in the aid areas.

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, a second meeting coordinated through AJH, was held with San Pedro Sula municipal officers, the USAID Office of Democracy and Governance, CARSI implementers, the Violence Observatory, Paz y Convivencia and the Youth and Women's Municipal Office (COMVIDA.) In addition, the meeting was attended by the Federation of Community Organizations from the Rivera Hernández community and representatives of organizations from the Morales community. In this meeting the stakeholders identified Morales I and II, San Vicente de Paul and Lempira I. as communities of intervention. It was agreed that the Committee for

Project Implementation -CEP of FHIS-CLIPS of the Los Ángeles community would be sworn in on Friday 17 at 4 p.m.

In Choloma, a second meeting was held on February 21 with METAS and FHIS, the Department of Community Development, and CMPV member Alexander Mejía. In this meeting, stakeholders determined the needs of the Éxitos de Anach community. The Community Board (Patronato) participated in the meeting and provided valuable information for the community pre-assessment.

### **La Ceiba**

The visit of USAID-CARSI implementers to the La Ceiba Municipality also took place during this period. AJH provided assistance in coordinating meetings in La Ceiba. Participating programs included: METAS, IMPACTOS and FHIS-USAID. Participants at the meeting were the La Ceiba Mayor Carlos Aguilar and Deputy-Mayor Ángel Salinas; Aldermen Luis Sandoval from the municipal corporation; as well as Carlos Espinoza and Mauricio Calix. A dialogue was held regarding ways the Municipality will support implementation of program activities.

Furthermore, USAID-CARSI, held meetings with the heads of Municipality Departments in order to collect important information on the Melgar and Sierra Pina communities.

### **Central District**

AJH helped organize a coordinating meeting with municipal authorities from the Municipality of the Central District about the development of the CARSI program in the community of Nueva Capital (LAPOP). Dialogue between USAID-CARSI and the city's Vice-Mayor had become stagnant because of lack of time on his part. AJH initiated conversations with the Presidential Commissioner, for the Francisco Morazán Department and with the wife of the Mayor and her social team, for the establishment of an Outreach Center in this community.

This meeting was chaired by Sandra Pinto, Director of the Municipality's Social Development Department. Participants included Leonor Osorio, Director of the Office for Childhood and Youth of the Municipality; Martín Quan, Director of Human Development of the Municipality; as well as Alderman Elisa Ramírez and representatives of the FHIS-CLIPS program, METAS and an NGO related to the IMPACTOS project. The Municipality agreed to an alliance and offered to provide community maps, appoint a professional to work with AJH in the OC proposal, as well as visit the Nueva Capital community, in order to supervise the facilities that the Municipality will transfer for the implementation of an Outreach Center in that community. AJH organized this visit with all CARSI implementers at a later date.

### Other Coordination Activities:

- AJH facilitated and accompanied a USAID officer to several San Pedro, La Ceiba and Choloma communities where AJH has established Outreach Centers, in preparation for a visit by ICMA/City Links. A week after that, AJH also accompanied ICMA/City Links during their visit to these communities.
- AJH participated in all CARSI team meetings for joint implementation in the LAPOP communities.
- AJH cooperated with FHIS in the design of the survey to collect primary information for the preparation of community assessments.
- Communities where the survey will be conducted were divided. and AJH was assigned to survey the following the Lempira, San Vicente #1 and #2 and Melgar communities..
- Information gathered for AJH’s community pre-assessments was distributed to the CARSI team.
- AJH collaborated with the “Safer Communities” conference organized by USAID-CARSI, facilitating suggestions of possible participants and timely communication with them and by organizing the presentation at the opening of the event of the young singer Edwin Turcios and at the closing of the event of the rock band *Montuca Sound System*.
- AJH collaborated with CARSI related visits of several high-level officers from the US Government, Congress and USAID to Outreach Centers or program related activities in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula.

No.	Name	Place	Date
1	David Brown /Oficial Regional de Contratos, Oficina Regional de USAID, El Salvador.	CDA San Martin	22/02/2012
2	Kathleen Fitzpatrick / Subsecretaria Adjunta de Estado del <i>Buró de Democracia, Derechos Humanos y Trabajo de Estados Unidos</i>	CDA San Martin/MJCV, Comayagua	23/02/2012
3	Liza Kubiske/Embajadora de los Estados Unidos de América en Honduras.	CDA San José, La Ceiba.	24/02/2012
4	Comité de Relaciones Exteriores del Congreso de EEUU	CDA Padre Claret/MJCV , San Pedro Sula	13/03/2012
5	William Brownfield /Secretario de Estado adjunto para la Oficina de Asuntos Narcóticos Internacionales y Aplicación de la ley	CDA Nueva Suyapa/MJCV , Tegucigalpa	26/03/2011

6	Liza Kubiske /Embajadora de los Estados Unidos de América en Honduras.	Casa Alianza / JPJ-AJH/International Women´s Day	07/03/2012
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- AJH tried to coordinate with METAS Project that includes Informal Education, the development of the EDUCATODOS program of accelerated education/academic certification in the AJH communities of intervention; unfortunately, after analyzing it, METAS informed that its program lacked funds for the implementation.
- The AJH facilitated meetings for the UNDP and USAID-CARSI funded program “Construyendo Paz” with the 5 OCs in La Ceiba.

**Result 2: Increased skill building and employment opportunities for youth through multi-sectorial partnership**

**Activity 1: Introduce new and expand basic skills programs to Outreach Center beneficiaries**

**Cine Forum**

AJH has begun to implement the new Cine Forum (Cinema Forum) program in the Outreach Centers in the 5 intervention municipalities. Through this activity, youth are able to reflect on the conditions or behaviors that will help them make changes in their conduct and life style that will keep them away from crime.

In the month of March, the first Cine Forum workshop was held in San Pedro Sula conducted by an expert on the subject, Luis Bravo, trainer of the organization *Cine con Causa (Cinema with a Cause)*. The Cine con Causa organization provided training on a voluntary basis as a result of an alliance with AJH. The workshop was attended by coordinators and volunteers from OCs in San Pedro Sula and Choloma. In this workshop, the cinema for behavior change as well as the Cine Forum methodology was explained. A guide containing questions for analysis used to guide discussion, were distributed with the purpose of facilitating this activity in their own OCs.



A similar workshop was conducted for coordinators and volunteers of OCs in the Central District, with the participation of Mr. Luis Bravo. In La Ceiba and Puerto Lempira the workshop was replicated by an AJH program officer who has been trained by Mr. Bravo.

In the Cinema Forum workshops, space was provided for officers of the National Prevention Program, Programa Nacional de Prevención (PNPRRS), who, in turn, have enthusiastically replicated the methodology with beneficiaries from AJR communities and in other cities of Honduras.

In order to strengthen capacities of volunteers trained in the Cinema Forum methodology in San Pedro and Choloma, they were invited by AJH to participate in the premiere of the film “La Experiencia Humana” (The Human Experience), organized by *Cinema with a Cause* in San Pedro Sula. The film was followed by a dialogue where some of the actors participated, demonstrating the power of the cinema for behavior change. *Freedom Writers* was one of the films shown in the Outreach Centers that generated interesting reflections among young volunteers and teachers. This activity has stimulated interesting dialogue among OC beneficiaries.

Total trained Cine Forum facilitators in the period were 79 (M: 38/F: 41)

	Male	Female	Total
SPS	11	19	30
Choloma	5	8	13
Puerto lempira	3	8	11
Tegucigalpa	19	6	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>79</b>

OCs that in this period implemented this activity are:

San Pedro Sula		Choloma		Central District	
OC Name	No. of young people	OC Name	No. of Young people	OC Name	No. of Young people
San isidro	31	López Arellano	43	Nueva Suyapa	243
Rivera Hernandez	17			San Martin	15

## Mentoring

AJH will continue facilitate to the provision of mentoring for youth in San Pedro Sula, Choloma and La Ceiba, and at the same time it will extend this activity to Puerto Lempira and the Central District.

In Puerto Lempira and the Central District, 34 mentors were trained from the Brotes Nuevos OC in Puerto Lempira and the Nueva Suyapa, Flor del Campo, San Martín, Villafranca, Buenas Nuevas and Rosa Linda OCs. Mentees were referred to the program by OC Coordinators and implementing partners and hold a high degree of regard in the community.

Newly trained mentors as well as those trained in 2011, consider their role as mentors as an important challenge, and at the same time they feel motivated to be an alternative of support for young people in their communities.

In the following quarter mentors will begin working with youth currently being identified in the communities. San Pedro Sula, Choloma and La Ceiba mentors add up to 165 which are supporting a group of 660 young people.

The impact of the program on individuals can be seen on a daily basis. For example, in San Pedro Sula, a young lady came to the Outreach Center, depressed and experiencing suicidal thoughts. She received OC services and support from her mentor which resulted in her changing her mind.

## Challenge of Dreaming My Life

AJH will continue offering the Challenge of Dreaming My Life (Desafío de Sonar Mi Vida-DSMV) workshops in the OCs. Currently each of the 22 OCs receives training in Module #1-Plans for Life. The AJH has expanded the program by adding workshop Module #2 Decision Making and Conflict Resolution.

<i>OCs</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>San Pedro Sula</b>			
San José	10	20	30
<b>Puerto Lempira</b>			
Brotes Nuevos	100	230	330
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>360</b>

In this quarter, 360 young people were trained in Module #1 DSMV; 110 males and 250 females.

Module #2 “Decision Making and Conflict Resolution” training was conducted in the Puerto Lempira Outreach Center. Ten facilitators were trained. The facilitators will conduct workshops with beneficiaries and provide new techniques and tools for youth to be able to solve their own conflicts as well as avoid those found in their environment.

AJH has continued to provide follow up to the DSMV workshop (Module #1) for young beneficiaries in Choloma, San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba, Tegucigalpa and Puerto Lempira. This activity was implemented to evaluate progress and constraints to the achievement of beneficiary goals. This activity is developed individually, at the Outreach Center or in an accessible place for the facilitator and the beneficiary.

Some of the changes which young people are already showing include increased motivation and an interest in participating positive activities. Some of the youth have gone back to school, others are taking vocational training courses. Facilitators are enthusiastic to learn and teach the workshops of Module #2, because they consider that they greatly aide young people in resolving conflicts.

In next quarter, follow up will continue in 22 OCs (at the moment, the 3 Save the Children implemented OCs are not included.)

### **Activity 2: Enhance employability with effective life skills**

Outreach Centers provide important life planning, vocational training, academic support and conflict resolution skills for youth. Activities developed and strengthened in the Outreach Centers are outlined below.

#### **JuvenClubs**

AJH continues to support activities with the 40 youth clubs created in the communities of San Pedro Sula, Choloma and La Ceiba.

This period, all JuvenClubs have been presenting their artistic and physical skills according to the nature of each club. The majority of the youth have increased in membership, with more than 500 youth participating.

The AJH held workshops in Choloma through COMVIDA to assess the progress of each youth club. A total of 45 young people from different communities attended the workshops, including the Hip-Hop, HunabKu Folkloric Dance, Jaguar Claw, all of them from the López Arellano

community. Young club members from Los Invencibles/La Victoria (OCA La Amistad) and Japón, also attended.

The training was focused on learning about the effectiveness, efficiency, motivation and longer term feasibility of the clubs. It also looked into learning about their strengths and weaknesses, evaluate their operation and the number of active youth in each one of them.

This meeting yielded many products because it enabled to have a wider view of the clubs' operation. COMVIDA made an evaluation of each one of them. CMVIDA gave them a grade of 70% out of a 100%, as they will need to concentrate future efforts on fund raising in order to become self-sustainable and eventually replace their equipment.

Despite the fact that they had not yet been evaluated in detail, San Pedro Sula and La Ceiba clubs show a similar situation. On their own, they carry out activities in their communities for entertainment and at the same time for their sustainability, aiming at the maintenance and procurement of new equipment.

**Components: Creative Use of Free Time, Vocational Skills (broken down in IT, English and Other), Homework Assistance, Accelerated Learning, and Values.**

#### San Pedro Sula

OC	Creative Use of Free time		Vocational						Homework Assistance		Values Formation		Accelerated Learning	
			IT		English		Other							
	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs
Casa Quemada	276	828	52	336	52	208	12	144			70	140	76	430
San Juan	130	520	11	275							36	595	16	448
Rivera Hernandez,	298	2384	16	96	7	24	30	180	18	54	90	180	90	556
Cofradía Centro,	215	2580	95	570			20	120			60	180		
Suazo Cordova,	232	2784	21	210	4	32			7	28			12	72
Los Angeles,	87	696			16	91	12	78						
Padre Claret,	94	846	46	1119	9	182	10	110	6	58	68	204	9	548
San Isidro,	200	400	115	690							32	192	150	576
San Jose,	73	365	13	190	67	2185	29	1040	8	240			25	2555
<b>Total</b>	<b>1605</b>	<b>11403</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>3486</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>2722</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>1672</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>1491</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>5185</b>

### Choloma

OC	Creative Use of Free time		Vocational						Homework Assistance		Values Formation		Accelerated Learning	
			IT		English		Other							
	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs
<b>Lopez Arellano</b>	313	3443	82	246	56	1680					24	96	10	480
<b>Las Pilas</b>														
<b>Japon</b>	88	1320					6	32	7	168	70	1680	6	144
<b>La Amistad</b>	118	472	4	32			2	28						
<b>Total</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>5235</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1680</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>1776</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>624</b>

### La Ceiba

OC	Creative Use of Free time		Vocational						Homework Assistance		Values Formation		Accelerated Learning	
			IT		English		Other							
	Jov	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov	Hrs	Jov	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs
<b>1 de mayo,</b>	41	168							17	312			32	2,560
<b>Bufalo,</b>	100	13,400	12	30									28	5,184
<b>Armenia Bonito,</b>	137	5,325									175	350	9	270
<b>San Judas,</b>	149	8,940	48	1,824			36	3,240	8	96	55	275		
<b>San José,</b>	136	4,896	27	810	45	1350	22	1,050	6	72	55	825	46	2,050
<b>Total</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>32,729</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2,664</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>4,290</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>10,064</b>

### Distrito Central

OC	Creative Use of Free time		Vocational						Homework Assistance		Values Formation		Accelerated Learning	
			IT		English		Other							
	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs	Jov.	Hrs
<b>Nueva Suyapa</b>	125	2786	35	740	67	2680	25	430	2	12	96	9216		
<b>San Martin</b>	36	432	27	216			5	72	36	120	36	180		
<b>Flor del Campo</b>	97	568	43	525			7	140	4	40	222			
<b>Total</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>3786</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1481</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>2680</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>9396</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## **Creative Use of Free Time**

During this first quarter an average of 2,900 youth attended the Outreach Centers and participated in academic, sports and recreational activities. According to the OC Coordinators, the OCs are attractive to youth because they lack this type of space, equipment and facilities at home.

One of the limitations of the OCs is the lack of variety in games and skilled volunteers that can teach a wider variety of music musical instruments. Nevertheless, coordinators find that youth who attend Outreach Centers change their behavior from aggressive and using foul language, to caring for their peers and the OC equipment.

This quarter, the San Martin OC won a \$5000 award from the Pacific Challenge of the of the OAS “Building Peace” project. The prize will be used to support artistic activities for this OC including theater, folk dance and painting. The prize funds will be awarded in April or May 2012.

## **Vocational Skills**

Computers and IT training continue to be the most attractive vocational trainings for youth in the OCs. Other income generating workshops, such as faux jewelry making, hair cutting, electricity, cooking are also very popular.

Due to training received in the vocational skills component of OCs youth have been able to generate some income increasing their ability to be self-sufficient. One of the limitations of this component is the lack of materials used in the trainings and the lack of volunteers to diversify the type of workshops.

In the Flor del Campo OC in Tegucigalpa, youth that have graduated as barbers, are now practicing and giving free haircuts at the Renacer Church and in the Cantera Zone, which is the most marginalized and poor area in Flor del Campo.

## **Values Formation**

The formation of values cannot be constructed through formal workshops. This component is one that is woven into all OC activities. Beneficiaries are encouraged to interact amicably at the OC, to take care of the equipment, to attend their classes on time.

## **Homework Assistance**

In order to increase attendance to after school homework assistance classes, OC Coordinators work with teachers at nearby schools to refer youth to the OCs. In La Ceiba, OCs have had significant success in helping youth improve their grades when they were failing.

## **Accelerated Learning**

The EDUCATODOS program introduced at OCs in 2011 increased demand for accelerated learning. Many children and youth are approaching the OCs for this kind of assistance. Unfortunately, AJH does not have the funding to continue the program. OCs that provide this training have to charge for the materials for these services that cost about \$60 per year. Many youth cannot afford to pay this cost.

Violence rates in vulnerable communities have caused EDUCATODOS to stop sending volunteers to some communities as they would get assaulted on their way. In the San Martín and other Comayagua communities, where there is no local education option, youth have to travel to Tegucigalpa city center for class. AJH estimates that the demand for the EDUCATODOS programs at OCs doubles the number of 20 scholarships per community that were offered in 2011.

### **A CLOSE UP OF THE NUEVA SUYAPA OC.....**

**Although AJH considers every OC a success story, each quarterly report will feature one in particular.**

- **The Vocational Values School was implemented to initially benefit 50 children ranging in ages 9 to 12 years in activities such as art, drawing and sports.**
- **The Impact Youth Group was incorporated and 96 youth were integrated in clubs promoting moral and community values and skills development.**
- **Four mentors were trained in the Kaisen methodology.**
- **Barbershop and cooking training courses commenced.**
- **Future English Language graduates of the Pedagogical National University (UPNFM) provided Level 2 classes to 45 youth and Level 1 classes to an additional 40 youth.**
- **80 youth are participating in the Soccer Championship Tournament promoted by the OC.**
- **The National Tae Kwon Do Federation started physical training in this sporting discipline at the OC beginning March 20 with 10 participating youth.**
- **The National Prevention Program (PNPRRS) assigned a promoter and a psychologist to the OC in February to implement the Open Schools and Strong Families programs in the community.**
- **The Youth Ministry (INJ) granted two scholarships covering transportation, school supplies and snacks for two youth benefited by the OC.**

At the end of the quarter the number of beneficiaries attending OCs and volunteers attending at the OCs are:

OC	Youth Beneficiaries Attending			Number Volunteers
<b>San Pedro Sula</b>				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Casa Quemada, SPS</b>	283	150	133	13
<b>San Juan, SPS</b>	656	279	377	48
<b>Rivera Hernandez, SPS</b>	259	184	75	35
<b>Cofradía Centro, SPS</b>	1600	640	960	49
<b>Suazo Córdova, SPS</b>	375	229	146	25
<b>Los Angeles, SPS</b>	191	98	93	16
<b>Padre Claret, SPS</b>	439	220	219	33
<b>San Isidro, SPS</b>	452	167	285	15
<b>San Jose, SPS</b>	368	164	204	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>4623</b>	<b>2131</b>	<b>2492</b>	<b>257</b>
<b>Choloma</b>				
<b>López Arellano, CHO</b>	1015	406	609	39
<b>Las Pilas, CHO</b>	139	85	54	15
<b>Japón, CHO</b>	316	163	153	19
<b>La Amistad, CHO</b>	262	146	116	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>1732</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>La Ceiba</b>				
<b>1 de Mayo,</b>	142	88	54	12
<b>Búfalo,</b>	86	50	36	33
<b>Armenia Bonito,</b>	101	64	37	7
<b>San Judas,</b>	356	189	167	20
<b>San José,</b>	410	250	160	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Distrito Central</b>				
<b>Nueva Suyapa, D.C.</b>	344	157	187	35
<b>San Martín, D.C.</b>	67	22	45	42
<b>Flor del Campo, D.C.</b>	91	35	56	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>93</b>

### **Activity 3: Strengthen at-risk youth employability with essential documentation**

Due to limited project funding and the relatively high cost of this program (around \$30 per beneficiary), AJH cannot initiate this component without Government of Honduras support. AJH has been advocating through the Youth Movement against Violence that the GOH lowers or eliminates (for youth entering the labor market) the high costs of documents required for employment. If this becomes a reality and depending on availability of funds through Outreach Center grants, training for TAL (Taller de Autosuficiencia Laboral) may take place.

### **Activity 4: Introduce new programs in OCs for employability job training and vocational education**

AJH is negotiating an Agreement with INFOP to facilitate courses at OCs or at INFOP facilities for OC/community beneficiaries. The number of beneficiaries will be limited by lack of funding for scholarships to cover the cost of transportation and in some cases cost of transportation for INFOP instructors and/or supply of some materials used in INFOP facilitated workshops at OCs.

The agreement with TIGO to provide free internet and cable TV to all existing and new OCs will create a great opportunity for employability and for online training. AJH plans to print a menu of the several web sites (free Job Banks) that offer online applications (including Centro de Recursos de Empleo-CRE, with whom AJH has an alliance) to display in all OCs and train coordinators to encourage youth to use this tool.

AJH received free software from Microsoft for self and tutored learning of Microsoft Office 2010, which will be soon distributed to all OCs.

### **Activity 5: Support micro-entrepreneurial initiatives, bank partnerships and youth credit worthiness**

Competing program priorities have not left room to initiate this activity. AJR did not have a good experience in partnering with the microfinance institution ODEF. The institution itself is strong, but the same cannot be said from its non-profit affiliate which is the one in charge of this kind of extension programs. AJH will evaluate possible partners, including revisiting some type of arrangement with ODEF. As no grant funds are available for this purpose, the role of AJH would be limited to facilitate entry and programs in the communities of intervention.

### **Activity 6: Youth Movement Against Violence is strengthened to advocate for youth employment, education and other violence prevention measures**

## **Movimiento Jóvenes Contra la Violencia (MJCVC)**

AJH will keep the moderate support to MJCVC that it can afford under its present budget to develop the Movement as the effective tool for advocacy in favor of prevention. Youth leaders of the Movement have demonstrated dedication and commitment to crime and violence prevention. They have achieved unprecedented recognition from the Government, Civil Society and other youth throughout the country.

MJCVC has presented a grant proposal to AJH, which needs some additional work.

Because the grant is still in process, youth continue to work as volunteers. Meetings take place at AJH's office. AJH's Public Policy officer provides the group with support and encouragement for their activities.

This quarter MJCVC activities included:

- Presentation before the Council of Ministers, which was received by the President and the Cabinet. This presentation was based on the results of the 110 dialogues that involved over 1,000 children and youth from different communities and cities in the country.
- From this presentation, several working meetings with GOH official ensued. Meetings took place with the Deputy Minister of Security, Ms. Marcela Castañeda, one with the Minister of Culture, Dr. Mariano Gonzalez and with the Director of TV Channel 8.
- Drafting and presentation of a proposal to receive training in Political Advocacy to Fundación FUNDE. The proposal was accepted and subsequently in April, the Youth Movement was selected among several youth organizations in Honduras to receive some training and support (not financial) from FUNDE (and NGO from El Salvador) that implements a National Endowment for Democracy financed project.
- Drafting of a grant proposal to AJH-USAID for funding in 2012.
- Presentation about the results of the 110 dialogues made to Deputy Assistant Secretary Katherine Fitzpatrick, DOS-DRL, at the San Martin OC in Tegucigalpa.



MJCVC PARTICIPANDO EN REUNIONES EN EL CONGRESO NACIONAL



MJCVC EN CONSEJO DE MINISTROS



MJCVC EN LA CORTE SUPREMA DE JUSTICIA CON LOS MAGISTRADOS

- Visit to the *Renaciendo* Rehabilitation center run by IHNFA, where the MJCVC expects to carry out at least one volunteer activity this year.
- In March 2012, the MJCVC's San Pedro Sula chapter participated in the visit to the Padre Claret Outreach Center of a STAFFDEL from the US Chamber of Representatives.
- A total of 22 MJCVC leaders received a Workshop on TV Production, facilitated by AJH officer Mr. David Medina.
- Presentation about the results of the 110 dialogues made to Deputy Assistant Secretary William R. Brownfield, INL, during his visit to Honduras, at the Nueva Suyapa OC in Tegucigalpa.
- Participation in the Video-Conference "The reduction of drug trafficking to the US", sponsored by UNAH and the Embassy of the United States.
- Presentation in the opening of the event "Safer Communities", organized by USAID-CARSI, of the song "Proposal for Peace" by the young singer Edwin Turcios, winner of the "Singing to Non-Violence" organized by the MJCVC in 2011. The singer was introduced by Ms. Alejandra Hernández, National Coordinator of the Movement. The president of Honduras commended the singer and the Movement for their efforts.
- Meeting with the San Pedro and Choloma chapters to plan for 2012.
- Participation of the MJCVC in the Building Peace II National Forum organized by OAS.
- Participation in the Video-Chat "Youth Leadership and the Prevention of Violence", organized by the Embassy of the United States. MJCVC received the highest number of messages and questions.
- Training of 2 members of the MJCVC in the workshop "Creativity and Content", sponsored by the Building Peace program of the OAS.
- Training of one member of the MJCVC about blogs, wikis and learning options available through Social Networks, with duration of 10 weeks. Also sponsored by the Building Peace program of the OAS.
- Participation in the Employment Forum and Fair, sponsored by the Institute of Youth and the United Nations.
- Affiliation of MJCVC to the "Volunteer Honduras Network", sponsored by UN.

During this quarter, the MJCVC reaffirmed its position and recognition by the Honduran Government authorities, exemplified by the following:

- Invitation to the MJCV by the President of Congress to the presentation and vote of the Police Reform (*Depuración*-or cleaning up) Law.
- Meeting with Supreme Court Magistrate Edith Urtecho, who heads the Judicial School. There was an agreement to work together in issues of common interest during 2012.
- Invitation by the President of the Republic to attend the Regional Fonseca Gulf Meeting to present the Nation's Plan. The President allowed the young leaders to address the public and they had the opportunity to engage CSO leaders, Municipal leaders and private sector from that region.

**Result 3: Increase employment opportunities for Ex-Gang Members and vulnerable youth recruited from the restorative justice program.**

**Activity 1: Provide grants and business development training**

During this quarter, AJH initiated discussions with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tegucigalpa to gauge their interest to present an insertion/reinsertion proposal that would create income generating opportunities for former gang members, which the Chamber is uniquely qualified to implement.

The program would include youth from the Juvenile Justice system that are not necessarily former gang members, but have had problems with Justice and are part of IHNFA's alternate measures/Restorative Justice Program or directly remitted by Judges under the same criteria. The Juvenile Justice component of AJH will be directly involved in the relationship between IHNFA and the CCIT, as related with the admission of young candidates.

AJH discussed the program with Mrs. Aline Flores, the outgoing President of CCIT and the Chamber's staff in charge of Social Responsibility. Ms. Flores indicated that she approved of the program in principle. Soon after there were elections of the new President and Board of the Chamber, so the decision as if the new management would approve of this involvement had to wait for the new Board's favorable decision. CIIT is expected to present a grant proposal to AJH by May.

**Result 4: Juvenile Justice and Restorative Justice Program**

Activity 1: Activities that lead to the passing of the Juvenile Justice Reform Law:

The AJH successfully reactivated the Inter-institutional Juvenile Justice Reform Commission to advocate for the passing of the Reform to the Juvenile Justice Code. First the AJH sent a formal

invitation to the heads of the stakeholder institutions to appoint a representative to the Commission. The AJH also engaged the leadership and technical teams of stakeholder institutions to ensure ownership, not only for activities that lead to passing of the Reform but also for long-term involvement in their implementation. The first meeting of the Commission took place on February 28, 2012, with participation from representatives from the Prosecutor's Office (Ministerio Público), Public Defense, Children's Courts (Juzgados de la Niñez), the Secretariat of Justice and Human Rights and a representative from Congress in charge of drafting the final version of the Reform Law (Comisión de Estilo). This first meeting served to come to a consensus on the advocacy methodology and the critical path leading to the reform.

The AJH has engaged multiple stakeholders in the advocacy process. On February 6, 2012, the AJH Juvenile Justice Coordinator met with the Penal Chamber Magistrates of the Supreme Court, with the purpose of advancing the required Resolution about Title III (Juvenile Justice) of the reforms. On February 7<sup>th</sup> there was a meeting with the Secretariat of Justice and Human Rights, which secured their full engagement in the advocacy process. On February 8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> the AJH met with the Secretary of Youth to inform and discuss with him the importance of the Reform and engage the Ministry of Youth in the advocacy process. Since the meeting, the Secretary of Youth also met the Supreme Court and Congress to advocate for the Reforms.

To increase the visibility of the reforms, the AJH assisted the Instituto Hondureño de la Niñez y la Familia (IHNFA) in organizing a Seminar entitled "The Co-Responsibility of IHNFA in face of the Reforms to the Children's and Adolescents Code. The IHNFA Juvenile Justice Coordinator spoke at the event several Under-Secretaries participated and was covered by the media.

**Results:** As a direct result of this advocacy process, on March 28, 2012, the Supreme Court of Honduras unanimously ruled in favor and approved the Reforms of Title III of the Children's and Adolescents Code and referred to child offenders. (The Resolution of the Supreme Court is attached, Annex 2) The Supreme Court can take up to a year to issue such a resolution. The expediency of the passing of these reforms by the Supreme Court, can be considered a record as a result of a carefully planned and executed advocacy process.

**Difficulties/Challenges:** The passing of the Reforms has increased in difficulty due to two reasons: 1) the passing of the Supreme Court Resolution on March 28<sup>th</sup>, and 2) the fact that Congress is considering a Draft Law to reform the IHNFA and pass some responsibilities of the Internment Centers for young offenders to the National Prevention Program (PNPRRS.) These two factors may delay the passing of the Reforms, as some in Congress believe the IHNFA reform has to pass first. The IHNFA Reform Law has to be conciliated with the Reform of the Codes as IHNFA is the main implementer of Juvenile Justice and Protection. The AJH will be actively pursuing this through the Inter-institutional Juvenile Justice Reform Commission.

One medium term challenge for the implementation of the Reform will be the training and development of qualified human resources that will be required to tend to Juvenile Justice Programs (with Restorative focus) at the IHNFA and/or PNPRRS.

**Success Story:** The speedy passing of the Supreme Court Resolution was made possible due to the early identification, cultivation and engagement of key actors at the Supreme Court and legal system. These actors were identified, through the Alianza Joven Regional (AJR USAIS-SICA) program, and were invited to participate in last year's Restorative Justice exchange of experiences with the Supreme Court of Costa Rica (Magistrates Raúl Henriquez Interiano and Edith López.)

**Next Steps:**

- 1) The Inter-institutional Juvenile Justice Reform Commission will start meeting again to further polish the content of the Draft Reform, to submit a better version to the Commission of Congress that will issue the Opinion (Comisión Dictaminadora) before the Law is voted upon and avoid delays.
- 2) Minister Ana Pineda, Secretary of Justice and Human Rights is scheduling of a meeting with Mr. Juan Orlando Hernández, the President of Congress, , in which she and representatives from the International Cooperation (mainly UNICEF and AJH-USAID) will express their preoccupation for the current situation of Honduras' children and youth. The Minister Pineda and representatives of the International Cooperation will stress the importance of quickly passing the Reform Law. The passing of this law is particularly relevant in Honduras this year as the Honduran Government has to present a key report to the United Nations regarding its compliance with the Convention of the Rights of Children and the passing and implementation of the Reforms would be a great step towards that goal.
- 3) The AJH will present about the Reforms to the Commission of Congress (Comisión Dictaminadora), which will issue an Opinion before the vote, as well as the President of Congress and the First Lady.

**Activity 2: AJH Staff support the passage of the Law**

On January 31, 2012, the AJH held a workshop to train 5 leaders of the *Movimiento Jóvenes contra la Violencia (Youth Movement against Violence-MJCV)* on Title III and other implications of the Reform. The AJH and the MJVC discussed an advocacy plan for the Reforms. During the workshop the young leaders were informed about the situation of youth in conflict with the Law and they agreed to advocate through media and by visiting key political figures.

To further the MJCV's knowledge and sensitivity to the issue, a group of its leaders was invited to visit the *Renaciendo* internment center for youth, located in the municipality of Tamara. This

visit brought the leaders of the MJVC closer to the deplorable conditions and lack of rehabilitation services faced by incarcerated youth.

**Results:** The visit to the *Renaciendo* internment center resulted in a commitment by the MJCVC leaders to advocate in favor of the Juvenile Justice Reforms.

**Difficulties/Challenges:** With the exception of a few, MJCVC leaders do not have any legal training. AJR trainings are centered in practical issues, such as the visit to *Renaciendo*.

**Success Story:** The leaders of MJCVC were really moved by the conditions of interned youth in *Renaciendo* and vowed to organize a trip to come back to the facility and bring some entertainment for them and to advocate for the Reform.

**Next Steps:**

1. Continue to train the MJCVC about the implication of the reform, using a didactic-practical methodology. A visit will be organized to the *Sagrado Corazón* internment center, which houses young female offenders.
2. Include the MJCVC leaders in meetings with other actor advocating for the passing of the Reform.

**Activity 3: Facilitate analysis of the implications of reform and training needs**

On January 27, 2011, the AJH held a meeting with Supreme Court Magistrate Edith Urtecho, Director of the Judicial School, to start drafting the training plan for Juvenile Justice Operators on the implications of the Reforms. Tentative dates for the trainings were agreed upon and the Judicial School was chosen as the convener. The Judicial School will contribute its facilities and its logistics team for training. A consensus emerged on the need to hold a Forum on the Reforms and draft a concept paper in which other actors such as UNICEF would be invited to participate and collaborate.

A subsequent meeting took place with the Director of the Technical Unit of the Supreme Court, Ms. Mildred Dubón, to discuss the need to developing manuals outlining the Reforms for the use of Judges, Prosecutors and Defenders; as well as and to enlist her assistance in their development and as a trainer in the upcoming workshops.

In coordination with the Judicial School and Juvenile Justice Operators a first draft of an inventory of implementation needs of the Reforms was developed.

**Other activities include:**

1. Meeting on February 1, 2012 with Mr. Felipe Morales, the IHNFA Director, to inform him about the Reforms to the Code and its Restorative Justice implications. Mr. Morales was very interested in the possible implementation of a pilot Restorative Justice project with youth offenders in the care of IHNFA. He gave instructions so that the officers of the Reeducation Department of IHNFA, and particularly those that received related training by the USAID Regional Youth Alliance Program in 2011, participate in the drafting of the pilot project proposal.
2. A follow-up meeting with the Reeducation and Insertion Department of IHNFA took place on February 16<sup>th</sup> with the purpose of drafting the pilot project proposal. Subsequent meetings took place on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and led to the completion of the draft of the pilot project.

**Results:**

1. The inclusion of training in Juvenile Justice in the 2012 Annual Operational Plan of the Judicial School only pending confirmation of dates.
2. Training in Restorative Justice for 20 Juvenile Justice Operators.
3. A flow-chart of the Juvenile Justice Process was drafted for use in the Manuals that are being prepared.
4. A first draft of a Restorative Justice pilot project for was completed.

**Difficulties/Challenges:** As the approval of the Reforms is in process, dates for when training on the reforms can initiate are uncertain.

**Lessons Learned:** It is critical to invest in the training of Juvenile Justice Operators due to an ongoing generational change and the lack of specialization in the practice area.

**Next steps:**

1. Finish drafting the Manuals for Judges and Prosecutors.
2. Plan and implement the Juvenile Justice Forum.
3. Obtain the validation to implement the Restorative Justice pilot project at IHNFA.

**Activity 4: Support advocacy and monitoring through local partners**

There have been some initial talks with NGOs that have bearing with the follow-up to Juvenile Justice. It was important that the US Ambassador, Ms. Lisa Kubieske pay a visit to the NGO Casa Alianza in March, which is one of the organization that does, and which received a grant from AJR in 2011.

The AJH met with the Technical Unit of the Supreme Court (UTE) on March 6, 2012 to learn about the random case/file assignment that will be soon implemented in the Administrative Tribunal (Juzgado Contencioso Administrativo). The objective is to achieve more transparency, keep statistics and give proper follow-up to cases. The idea is to evaluate if the computer tool that is being developed for that particular area of Justice, could also be applied in the Juvenile

Justice system (given that the prevalent lack of monitoring there has led to abuses), to achieve the systematization of processes with all the institutions involved.

**Lessons learned:** There are several NGOs/CSOs interested in getting more involved in the monitoring and advocacy of Juvenile Justice, but there are very few true experts in the subject that can technically contribute to its improvement. It is important to support and train NGO/CSO personnel so they improve their technical capacity.

**Next Steps:**

1. Meet and continue to involve NGOs/CSOs in any training related to Juvenile /Restorative Justice and assist them, to the extent possible in improving their monitoring of the Juvenile Justice system.
2. Follow-up with the random case/file system being developed for the Administrative Tribunal and analyze if it could be applicable to the Tribunal for Minors (Juzgados de la Niñez.)

**Activity 5: Conduct training workshops for key Juvenile Justice Operators**

Acting of specific training needs identified and at the request of the Judicial School, the AJH initiated training at the Supreme Court on January 17, 2012 with a “Legal Argumentation” Workshop. A total of 40 Juvenile Justice Operators, including Judges, Prosecutors and Public Defenders participated in this Workshop, which included a Mock Trial with alternation of roles. Juvenile Justice Operators have very little training opportunities and this Workshop was very well received.

A Restorative Justice Training Workshop was organized and implemented by AJH at the facilities of the Judicial School on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. A total of 20 Juvenile Justice Operators, including Judges of Minors and Prosecutors, and Social Workers, Psychologists and Youth Counselors from IHNFA were trained. Apart from these training, a draft of a proposal to extend Restorative Juvenile Justice concepts and practices in the system was drafted during the Workshop.

The Juvenile Justice Forum, being planned for early June, will constitute a major training opportunity. The Forum would allow the presentation of the emblematic Juvenile Justice Case in Honduras, developed by the AJR in 2011 with the help of several Juvenile Justice Operators in the country.

The AJH also met with the Director of IHNFA and the personnel in charge of the Reeducation/Insertion area of the institution. The objective of the meeting was to advance the possibility of working together with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tegucigalpa (CCIT) in identifying candidates that may benefit from the pilot Restorative Justice Insertion program. This program will be developed by the Chamber of Commerce. There was initial identification of potential beneficiaries. At this moment IHNFA is providing follow up to about

160 cases of youth that have received alternate measures to internment and there is also youth that were receiving follow up that are in need of insertion/reinsertion.

#### **Next Steps:**

1. Once the grant for the Chamber has been approved, the AJH will work with IHNFA and Chamber personnel to develop a mutually agreeable methodology, selection criteria and interaction between the two.
2. A short term consultant may be identified and hired to support the first phase of the pilot program between IHNFA and CCIT.
3. Obtain from IHNFA a formal list of potential beneficiaries.
4. Meeting with some Judges, Prosecutors and Defenders that can identify cases of youth and also young adults that could be part of the program.
5. Some restorative routes have to be started with some of the youth cases that will eventually be referred to this insertion program.

#### **Activity 6: Promote Restorative Justice as part of university curriculum**

There has been work to identify Universities that are willing to include a Juvenile Justice with Restorative Justice focus in their curricula. Last year UNITEC agreed to include such a class in their academic offer.

Also, there has been research done about the thematic content of such course work, to discuss it with potential University partners. A Power Point geared to present the need of Juvenile Justice specialization to Universities was also developed. A letter was sent to UNAH requesting a meeting to make a presentation in this regard, to be able generate interest in developing a course with specialized content in Juvenile Justice with a Restorative Justice focus.

**Difficulties/Challenges:** The central problem found is that Universities lack professors with specialized training in Juvenile Justice. A solution to be explored is that some of the Juvenile Justice Operators that AJH trained through the Post-Graduate diploma implemented by AJR in 2011 serve as invited faculty. A longer term solution is that the donor community considers scholarships for Honduran professionals that can specialize in this area.

#### **Nextsteps:**

1. Request a meeting with the Superior Council of Universities (Consejo Superior de Universidades) to promote the inclusion of the Juvenile Justice subject. Additionally present to them the class design and explore the possibility of obtain their endorsement.
2. Meet with UNAH.

## V. NEXT STEPS

- Complete the final version of the Sustainability Assessments for the 22 existing OCs.
- Develop the 22 Sustainability Plans for the 22 existing OCs.
- Develop the 22 Bridge Grant Proposals for the 22 existing OCs and present to USAID for clearance and sign the respective Agreements.
- Develop the 22 Sustainability Grant Proposals for the 22 existing OCs and present to USAID for approval.
- Advocate with the San Pedro Municipality to comply with the assistance pledged for the 9 OCs in that city.
- Give support to the Choloma CMPV to achieve that the Municipality provides the salary support for 4 of the 5 OCs in Choloma (they are already providing support for one.)
- Continue to advocate for OCs with institutions and Private Sector.
- Sign and implement the agreement with TIGO for free internet.
- Conclude the pre-assessments of some of the future communities of intervention.
- Finalize and sign the Agreements with DEMASAH, FUNIDEH and INFOP.
- Inauguration of the San José, La Ceiba OC
- Open the Nueva Capital OC in MDC.
- Continue with OC grant proposals.
- Finalize grant proposals for Movimiento Jóvenes Contra la Violencia and submit to USAID
- Finalize grant proposals for CCIT (Insertion) and submit to USAID
- Continue the coordination with other CARSI programs regarding the community surveys.
- Train PNPRRS personnel to implement the surveys and implement the surveys.
- Establish a video distribution protocol and rotate videos among the 22 OCs for the Cine Forum program.
- Draft of AJH Gender Plan
- Complete AJH's PMP, finalize discussion of Indicators with USAID

- Train OC Coordinators on the new OC M&E computerized module
- Start the procurement process for OIC equipment.
- Establish OC Support Committees in existing and new OCs
- Conduct training workshops for Coordinators and volunteers from existing OCs on Module #2 of DSMV and to new Coordinators and volunteers on Module #1 of DSMV.
- Implement Volunteer Management Workshops in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula/Choloma and La Ceiba.
- Prepare and make presentation of the Field Grant Manual to project staff during upcoming planning workshop in April.
- Submit vetting requests to Creative DC office for 22 OCs bridge grants and all other grantees.