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CREATIVE ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL

ALIANZA JOVEN REGIONAL USAID - SICA

QUARTERLY REPORT

JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2008



CREATIVE ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL



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JULY - SEPTEMBER, 2008

Prepared by
CREATIVE ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL, INC.

for

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

El Salvador

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I. OVERVIEW OF PROJECT ADVANCES THIS QUARTER

This report covers the period of activities from July 1 to September 30, 2008 for the Regional Youth Alliance USAID-SICA (Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA– AJR), also referred to as the Gangs Prevention Alliance for Central America. In this third quarter, efforts were focused in advancing in the implementation of activities agreed with allies and finding new partners. Very significant advances were achieved in the Result II Juvenile Justice Component. Terms of Reference to compete for funding for Outreach Centers were handed out in Tegucigalpa, the first Outreach Center was opened in San Salvador, the Desafio 100 program that provides job opportunities for former gang members was launched in San Pedro Sula and work was initiated to launch a Desafio 100 program in Tegucigalpa.

Agreements signed this quarter include one with the National Public Security Council (CNSP) of El Salvador to collaborate in prevention activities such as providing support for holding a meeting of the Regional Executive Council of OCAVI (the Central American Crime Observatory); one with COHEP (the umbrella organization of the Private Sector in Honduras) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Tegucigalpa (an organization of over 100 years of existence) to implement the Desafio 100 program in Tegucigalpa; a third one with ANEP, the Private Sector umbrella organization of El Salvador, to implement juvenile violence prevention activities, including Desafio 100 and Desafio 10 programs; and a grant agreement with COJUVESOL, a cooperative organized by former gang members in San Pedro Sula, to draft and to begin implementation of a business plan to make the cooperative sustainable.

Other grant agreements in negotiation include one with Iglesia del Camino, to implement an Outreach Center in Lourdes, Colon; other one with CASALCO (Salvadoran Chamber of Construction) to assist in the repair of the Enero 13 Outreach Center in El Salvador; a third with the Baptist Church Rivera Hernandez to implement the first Outreach Center in one of the most notorious areas for gang presence in San Pedro Sula; another one with Nuevo Siglo XXI to improve access of young people to their library and resource center in Mejicanos, El Salvador; and one more with “Asociacion Amigos Para Siempre”, a prevention center located in the notorious Sunseri neighborhood in San Pedro Sula, to improve their recreational facilities for vulnerable youth. Additionally, advice and assistance was provided to SICA in aspects of the organization of the International Conference on Violence and Security in Central America, which took place in Tegucigalpa.

The public signing of the agreements with COHEP/CCIT and the launch of Desafio 100 in San Pedro Sula generated a substantial amount of media interest and coverage (TV and print). The media impact of these activities, which contributes significantly to the increasing awareness in the general population, can be assessed by examining the attached newspaper articles and web links.

Finally, issues No. 03 to 05 of our one-page electronic monthly program Newsletter were distributed. (**Attachment 4, 5 and 6**) This newsletter keeps relevant AJR stakeholders and different audiences and actors in the field of prevention informed.

II. ANALYSIS OF SECURITY IN THE REGION

The report, “The Economic Costs of Violence in Central America” written by Salvadoran Economist Carlos Acevedo (by commission of the National Council of Public Security of El Salvador (CNSP) reveals that Central America is the most violent sub-region of Latin America and the world. Even if the report cites data from 2006, it is not less true that that violence today is at similar levels. The average of homicides is of 36 per 100,000 inhabitants, headed by El Salvador with an average of 67.8 and followed by Guatemala with 45.2, Honduras with 42.9, Belize with 33, Nicaragua with 12.5, Panama with 11.3 and Costa Rica with 7.7. The homicide rate of El Salvador would double the one of Latin America as a whole and ten times the one of the United States. The economic cost of violence for the Central American would be in the order of 6.5 billion US dollars, equivalent to 7.7% of the GDP of the region, according to this report.

Within this scenario, gangs as a crime modality have become a significant group. According to some press reports, Honduras has the largest number of them at a rate of 500 gang members per 100,000 inhabitants, followed by El Salvador with 180. The phenomena of growing organized crime and narco-activity, worsens this scenario, as a very high percentage of the drug consumed in the USA transits the region.

The generalized violence in the region is more visible in certain areas. In the case of Guatemala, Petén is the most violent, with a homicide rate of 57.8 per 100,000 inhabitants, proliferation of organized crime and clandestine landing strips for the shipment of drugs. Petén is followed by Chiquimula and Izabal and Guatemala takes a fourth place. Of the 23 Departments in Guatemala, there is gang presence in at least 11 of them. In the case of the capital city of Guatemala, of its 24 “zones”, most are affected by gang activity. The gang activity continues to be centered in extortion, traffic and sale of drugs (retail), gung running, homicides and robberies, among other.

In Honduras, violence continues to be associated with gangs, without them being the principal source of it. Nevertheless, security authorities there have identified new illicit youth associations: the Rockers, Emos, Skay, Revolocos, Parcheros and Punky, among others. It can be inferred that these new youth expressions, some of them illicit, can be mutations of the traditional gang phenomena. Now some do not tattoo themselves, they pretend to be in rehabilitation or do not defend a particular territory or “barrio”; these seem to be new strategies adopted by gangs.

Contrary to the above description, some realities outstand in the actual field. Active gang members in the streets seem to be fewer, many are in jail and many have migrated to places where they face less threats. Many of the youth that survived the “Mano Dura” policies and did not abandon criminal life, have transited to varied forms of organized crime, leaving behind gang life-style.

In the case of El Salvador, the General Attorney’s Office (Fiscalía General de la República-FGR) sustains that gangs are responsible for most homicides in the country. This statement from the Chief of the Anti-homicide Unit of the FGR is in itself polemic and contrasts with the actual police efforts. During the third quarter of this year, a plan to locate and capture gang members

that have been accused of homicides took place and was successful from the police point of view. But the average of eight homicides per day continues to hold.

A World Bank Report reflects that, in El Salvador, violent crime, the integrity of judicial proceedings and the protection of intellectual property, are the most problematic areas. This report, “The importance of Governance VII 2008”, of the World Bank Institute, states that the increased insecurity in the country is one of the worse obstacles for its development.

Obviously, the situation of “Northern Triangle”, that is Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, is of the interest of the USA, in view of the relationships with these countries. Commercial, migration-deportation and trans-regional gangs are important aspects affecting these ties. The FBI has determined that 33 States of the American Union have presence of gangs, according to the latest registries. In the Chiapas, border between Mexico and Guatemala there is estimates that 10,000 gang members are active.

The phenomena of deportations, even if not recent and which is associated with migration, is affecting the region and posing new challenges. By September 2008, 22,079 Hondurans had been deported from the USA and 22,032 more citizens of this country were returned by land (mostly from Mexico.) In the case of Guatemala, by September 2008, there had been 20,239 deportees received from the USA. El Salvador records show that by September 2008, around 14,000 deportees have arrived from the USA, of which almost 5,000 have criminal records and at least 50 were gang members.

This scenario of violence affects youth greatly. A report of El Salvador by UNDP related to employment, states that of the population from 15 to 24 years of age (that represents 18.93% in working age-according to the latest census) unemployment rises to 12.4% and underemployment to 50%. This is worrisome says UNDP, because the combination of excluded youth that cannot enter work, with low education levels and in most of cases coming from highly dysfunctional family settings, exposes them to higher risks of violence, as perpetrators or as victims. This situation in El Salvador is similar in the other two countries.

But even in this hard scenario, we cannot overlook several intervention initiatives to try to reduce violence. These initiatives, be it coercitive or preventive, are allowing more entities, communities and individuals to get involved in looking for solutions. In the case of Guatemala, the Trust for the Americas Foundation (affiliated to the OAS), in alliance to Grupo Ceiba and Microsoft, are bringing technology training to El Mezquital, one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in that country. The idea being that, through access to technology, vulnerable young people would not join gangs. In the case of Honduras, the Secretariat of Security, with the purpose of avoiding the spread of gangs, has trained and sensibilized over one hundred thousand youths in schools and neighborhoods of the most vulnerable areas, and the National Police has plans to create “Super Police Districts” in response of the request from citizens of 23 of the worse areas of Tegucigalpa, the capital.

In El Salvador the municipal efforts of one of the most important cities of the country, Santa Tecla, have resulted in it advancing from the twelfth place to the twenty-sixth place in the list of most dangerous cities. Santa Tecla’s citizens are definitely more secure today due to those policies.

On the other hand, the Salvadoran Police claims having neutralized 45 gang's cliques this year and having resolved 203 criminal cases through the justice system out of the 679 cases on investigation that were attributed to gangs.

During this quarter, electoral seasons have started in Honduras and El Salvador. In both countries be it primaries or Presidential, campaigns are bringing to the forefront of the national agendas the issue of security. Even though this could become controversial, the debate can also bring new ideas about the ways to confront violence in the region.

Also, there is hope that the XVIII Ibero-American Summit on Youth and Development", that will take place in San Salvador by the end of October will bring about important discussions on public policies regarding youth and around the issue of youth violence and prevention.

III. ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS QUARTER

The Chart below shows AJR's performance based on defined results, indicators, targets and achievements to date.

<i>S.O.1 Ruling Justly, More Responsive, Transparent Governance</i>					
IR 1 Strengthening Rule of Law					
Sub-IR Crime Prevention Programs Implemented					
Number	Indicator	Baseline Year	Target Sept 2010	To Sept 2009	
Result 1 Jump Start Public Private Initiatives for Gang Prevention					
1.1	Sub-Grants Implemented	2008	0	22 mid-size grants 27 small grants	3 mid-size grants 2 small grants
1.2	New Outreach Centers Established	2008	0	15	1
1.3	Youth trained at Outreach Centers	2008	0	3750	209
1.4	Youth trained for work at Outreach Centers	2008	0	TBD by June 2009	TBD by June 2009
1.5	Youth working through Outreach Centers	2008	0	TBD by June 2009	TBD by June 2009
1.6	Desafio 100 Programs Launched	2008	0	3	1
1.7	Desafio 100 youths provided with jobs	2008	0	450	26
1.8	Alliances Formed to Reduce Gang Violence and Support AJR	2008	0	30	9
1.9	Media Campaigns Developed	2008	0	3	0
1.10	Leverage Contributions raised	2008	0	1:1	In process
Result 2 Assess Regional Legal/Justice Frameworks and promote Juvenile Justice Policy Reform					
2.1	Working Group to assess National Legal Frameworks/Policies and Best Practices to recommend changes developed	2008	0	3	3

2.2	Evaluation of National/Legal Frameworks/Policies and Best Practices validated by Working Groups and Regional Comparative Analysis Developed	2008	0	4	0 Evaluations Validated 0 Comparative Analysis Developed
2.3	Advocacy Strategies to influence National/Regional Legal Frameworks/Policies Designed and implemented	2008	0	3	3
Result 3 Collaboration and Assistance to SICA to catalyze regional policy reform and harmonization					
3.1	Assistance to SICA in promoting reforms and harmonization developed and implemented	2008	0	5	1

Below there is a description by results of the activities of the quarter, achievements and obstacles.

Result I: *Jump Start Public-Private Initiatives for Gang Prevention Awareness, Rehabilitation and Reinsertion*

During this third quarter AJR has achieved significant advances in this component. The first Outreach Center outside Guatemala, the *CFO-Mejicanos* in El Salvador, was inaugurated on July 30th, and a second one, also in El Salvador, is scheduled to open in October. On the other hand, in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, at least one Outreach Center is set to open next quarter, and in Tegucigalpa, AJR is reviewing six proposals to open new Outreach Centers in alliance with the Rotary Clubs. .

Component I: *Preventing that young people enter gangs*

Activities

El Salvador

Outreach Center-CFO Mejicanos

- On July 30th, the first Outreach Center (OC) in El Salvador and the first one outside of Guatemala was inaugurated. It is located in the municipality of Mejicanos, a large, populated and violent city-suburb which is part of the Gran San Salvador metropolitan area. This OC is being implemented in alliance with the Centro de Formación y Orientación (Center of Formation and Orientation “Padre Rafael Palacios”-CFO) of the San Francisco parish, which is run by the Congregation of the Passion.
- CFO, the partner organization for this first OC, is already carrying out significant initiatives in youth crime prevention, counting with personnel of about forty people and with substantial infrastructure. It is important to note that, what moved CFO to present a

proposal to obtain a relatively small grant from AJR to initiate an OC model, was their desire to experiment with a more replicable methodology; one which would be less expensive by involving the community through a volunteerism strategy and that could support their desired expansion to other locations within and outside the large and conflictive Mejicanos-San Francisco parish, more feasible and sustainable.

- CFO idea is to be able to test and consolidate this first OC, train young people in the methodology and management, to then open new OCs.
- With encouragement of AJR, the CFO Outreach Center has introduced a variation, by which it is in operation seven days a week and for longer hours. This is made possible by the existence of a coordinating team of young people belonging to the community. In the case of Guatemala there is only one paid coordinator per OC. In El Salvador, CFO is preparing young people to be able to manage future OCs.
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- CFO is already requesting aid from donors to continue with the first OC beyond the six months of operation covered by AJR's grant, and to also for funds to open more OCs.
- The Coordinating team of this first OC had initial problems to jump start their activities. To overcome this, they opted to make domiciliary visits to explain to the neighborhood what they were offering youth. In some case AJR's personnel accompanied them to visit Judges and community leaders. Now, two months after the Center was inaugurated, they have registered 209 beneficiaries.
- Even though the press coverage of the inauguration of this effort was not optimal (reflecting the relatively small interest in prevention activities of the local El Salvador press), the inauguration was attended by persons and community leaders truly interested in prevention efforts and allowed the program to become better known, leading to new potential partners approaching AJR.

Other Outreach Center Initiatives

- Of the OC proposals received in May, the one of CFO and the one from *Fe y Alegria* were the first to be selected. The *Fe y Alegria*'s OC in the "13 de enero" community in Sacamil, was also expected to open during this quarter. This OC was expected to be operated from an existing community center building that has been damaged by gang activity and has been practically abandoned. The cost of the repairs of this community center was not feasible within the limitation of the \$18,000 dollar grant provided by AJR. For this reason, efforts have been made by AJR and *Fe y Alegria*, so that other parties such as the Municipality of Mejicanos and the Consejo Nacional de Seguridad Publica (National Security Council of El Salvador) provide the additional funds needed for the repairs. Unfortunately both entities have not fulfilled their promises of assistance, thus making it impossible to keep the original timetable.

- Also, AJR requested CASALCO (Salvadoran Chamber of Construction) assistance with construction materials needed for the repair of the “13 de enero” OC, as most of the construction work will be done by volunteers from the community itself. The Social Responsibility arm of CASALCO has responded positively and has offered to fundraise up to \$5,000 among its members in building materials and cash. If the Municipality and CNSP do not come through with their offer of assistance, AJR may consider incrementing the standard donation amount by a couple of thousand dollars, to make this project feasible. To work in the “13 de Enero” community, which is an 18 Street Gang enclave surrounded by the MS Gang and the epicenter of drug distribution in the area, would be very emblematic for the demonstrative aims of AJR: that youth violence prevention in the worse areas of El Salvador can be successful.
- A new OC implementation partner was found in the Iglesia del Camino (filial Lourdes). Headed by Jaime Guatemala, a young and charismatic Evangelical Pastor, this church operates in Lourdes, Colon, which is a very violent urban area. Pastor Guatemala was brought to AJR and recommended by Mr. Rene Dominguez, Advisor to the Ministry of Security of El Salvador. Mr. Dominguez had been looking to organize prevention activities in Lourdes for several years without visible results. The agreement with Pastor Guatemala to implement the second Outreach Center in El Salvador and the second outside Guatemala was signed on September 11th and the inauguration is expected to happen on October 21st.
- Lourdes is an area in the outskirts of San Salvador, located 24 kilometers from the capital. It is formed by 130 communities and urbanizations, in 100 of them there is gang activity. Extortion is commonplace and in some areas of Lourdes, many houses have been left abandoned as neighbors have moved to other safer places or migrated to avoid a life in constant fear. Lourdes belongs to the municipality of Colon, one of the ten most violent in El Salvador, where 190,000 people cram in an area of 86.7 square kilometers and is consider one of the most insecure places in the country (http://www.elmundo.com.sv/Mambo/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=11860&Itemid=41)
- It is expected that the establishment of this Outreach Center will give hope to the neighbors, who have seen their community eroded by crime, and encourage their participation in finding citizen oriented solutions to youth violence prevention. Obviously, several Outreach Centers are needed in different areas within Lourdes, so their impact is significant and result in a decrease of violence and extortion there. But, this first model of intervention can gauge the situation, serve as a catalyst for citizen participation and encourage replication.
- Pastor Guatemala has presented the initiative to the local authorities and enterprises operating in the area and there are plans to make a joint presentation with AJR to the Mayor and City Council during the month of October.
- A meeting with the Social Responsibility (RSE) arm of CASALCO, has resulted in some corporate members of the chamber getting interested in supporting the expansion of the

model to other areas in San Salvador. Apart from the outstanding offer to help in the “13 de Enero” case, AMANCO and other enterprises expressed interest in exploring the implementation of an OC model in Soyapango.

- Additionally, a meeting was held with Mr. Heberth Blandon, Executive Director of Agrisal and General Manager of Star Motors, the Mercedes Benz concessionary (part of the AGRISAL group of companies). Mr. Blandon also expressed his interest to support the implementation of an Outreach Center in Soyapango, near where Mercedes has its workshop and near the location of Plaza Mundo (which is also an AGRISAL investment.) His idea is that the Mercedes workshop could interact with the OC and perhaps even facilitate mechanical training and parts.
- AJR is looking for possible implementation partners in the Soyapango area, to be able to go back to the corporations that have expressed willingness to support OC models there.
- Also during the quarter, a visit was made to Fundación SIGMA on July 4th, to leave door open with Dr. Juan Daniel Alemán, who was a Member of the Commission for Public Security representing Salvadoran professionals. Dr. Alemás is open to assist in convincing SIGMA in taking Desafío 100 beneficiaries and was interested about the OC model.
- Finally, a small grant of approximately \$2,800 is expected to be made to Organización Juvenil Nueva Generación XXI (NSXXI), so the small library NSXXI operates is made more accessible for the use of young vulnerable children and youth in Mejicanos. The grant will buy some tables, chairs and materials for this purpose.

Guatemala:

Asociacion Alianza Joven (AAJ)

- AJR awarded a grant to AAJ during the first quarter of 2008. The grant allowed AAJ to get started before the new USAID Youth Development Program was awarded to Creative Associates in April 2008. The grant allowed AAJ to get started, recruit personnel and get operational. Today, AAJ has become a recognized actor among Guatemala’s civil society and government institutions AAJ has raised funding to start three new Outreach Centers and is supporting the Desafio 200 Program.
- AJR is in the process of awarding seven small grants to prevent crime in high risk communities. To do this AJR is developing terms of reference to get proposals from communities where the Outreach Centers are established. Each Outreach Center will develop a small project to fight crime at the community. Projects will rank from \$1,000 to \$2,500.00; each small grant will promote citizen participation in crime prevention activities and increase exposure to their own communities. It is expected that grants will increase youth participation at Outreach Centers. These small crime prevention grants will be awarded next quarter.

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Honduras

San Pedro Sula

- During the second quarter, Terms of Reference for the implementation of Outreach Centers, to be co-financed and promoted by AJR and Paz y Convivencia, were presented in San Pedro Sula.
- No proposals were received in San Pedro Sula from the group that withdrew TORs. The organizations considered difficult to prepare and present proposals with the requirements set by AJR. Several of the groups have been visited to inquire why they did not present proposals. Apparently the main reasons were the lack of institutional capacity to present professional proposals and the fact that the amount of the grant offered (\$18,000), covering only six months of operation, was not enticing enough for them to experiment with a new commitment of this sort.
- The above is forcing AJR to look for non-traditional partners that perhaps are not involved in prevention activities in a systematic way, but can be convinced to explore operating an OC model. Inviting and working with these partners will involve substantial additional work in assisting them to design and present proposals and in some cases train them in effective prevention methodologies. This required closer assistance to the Paz y Convivencia staff, our local partner.
- For the above reason, AJR is planning to bring to El Salvador during October, some of the partners that have been invited to present proposals and also the local personnel involved in the joint program with Paz y Convivencia, so they can see existing OCs in operation and to hold a working-meeting at AJR's office.
- Among the partners that have accepted the invitation and who are developing proposals with assistance from AJR, are the Baptist Pastor Arnold Linares from Colonia Rivera Hernandez (one of the most violent neighborhoods in San Pedro Sula) and the Youth Catholic Pastoral of Chamelecon (another neighborhood considered one of the worst in the city).
- Both proposals are expected to be ready in October and AJR hopes to be able to sign the respective agreements immediately after and to be able to begin implementation of at least one of the OCs within the next quarter.
- Looking into the longer term sustainability of the OCs, AJR has made efforts to support Pastor Arnold Linares to establish an alliance with the San Pedro Sula Municipality and through Paz y Convivencia AJR plans to approach the Mayor of the city for future assistance. This is important, as the involvement of the city is critical for the reproduction and sustainability of the model. With this in mind, AJR has also made presentations to two Rotary Clubs in San Pedro

- On September 30th, AJR along with USAID Director for Honduras and the DG team, made a visit to a youth violence prevention center in San Pedro Sula. “Amigos para Siempre”, is what could be considered a traditional youth violence prevention effort associated with the Catholic Church, that has been involved in bringing hope and a safe heaven to children in the notorious Sunseri district of the city (the old prostitution district in San Pedro Sula and still a very marginal area and drug distribution center). The local Sunseri gang has been practically finished there and the area is now controlled by a larger gang. “Amigos para Siempre” has been in operation for fifteen years and its physical installation, administration, methodologies and programs could use a revamp. AJR has been considering making a small donation to “Amigos para Siempre” and has been talking to Paz y Convivencia about them also making a donation, to be able to achieve better results.

Tegucigalpa

- The Rotary Clubs of Tegucigalpa are very strong institutions and with considerable influence in Honduran society. The AJR made a presentation to the Rotary Clubs with the intention of introducing the joint AJR-Rotary project and gather the support of the members of the Rotary Clubs of Tegucigalpa (whose presidents signed an agreement to co-finance the implementation of 6 to 10 Outreach Centers). One hundred and fifty Rotarians gathered at this extraordinary meeting to hear about the nature of AJR’s youth violence prevention models.
- The cost of the gathering and diner following was paid by the Rotary Clubs and by the cellular phone company DIGICEL.
- The Rotary Clubs in Honduras have been involved in many social projects, from water sanitation to education, but never before they had embraced youth violence prevention as one of their organization’s aims.
- The project was very well received by the Rotarian membership and it was an effective way to enlist their future volunteer work (and those of the Rotarian Ladies, Rotaracts and Intereracts) in program related issues.
- Under the sponsorship of the Rotary Clubs of Tegucigalpa, a meeting was held at the facilities of the San Miguel de Heredia Rotary Club, to present to Faith Based Organizations and local NGO’s, the Terms of Reference (TROs) for proposals to receive grants for the implementation of Outreach Centers in the Tegucigalpa area. More than 40 persons attended this meeting. About fourteen organizations withdrew TORs and six organizations have presented proposals. This presentation, which included showing a video that describes the OC model, was important to spread new ideas about voluntarism and other elements of the OC methodology, among the people that are presently working with youth.
- Six proposals were received from five of the groups that attended the above mentioned meeting and one from a group that afterward requested the documents. The proposals are

being analyzed and some will be approved during the next quarter. Our initial finding is that there will have to be substantial work with the potential partners, to further explain the OC methodology and have the interested parties redesign their proposals to make them more feasible. Among the organizations AJR received proposals from are: The Salesian Brothers, Asociación Compartir, Asociación Colaboración y Esfuerzo, Ministerios Cristianos de Mayordomía and Save the Children.

- Although there is a signed agreement between AJR and the Rotary Clubs of Tegucigalpa, it is also a fact that they still have to raise most of the funds required to finance the 6 to 10 grants to implement the planned Outreach Centers. For this reason, the Clubs have initiated a request counterpart Rotary Clubs in the US for funds matching grants. Also, AJR's Project Director and Senior Program Officer met at the request of the President of the Rotary Club of Tegucigalpa, with the Inter-Country Committee, which has been formed between the Honduran Rotary Clubs and partner Clubs in the USA. The aim of this Committee is to bring in larger Rotary assistance to Honduras. The Outreach Center project was very well received by the Rotary District 5240 Inter Country Committee representative Ms. Heather Frankle and by the President of the Rotary Club of Westlake Village, Ms. Evie Greene. On their part, the Tegucigalpa Clubs have presented the OC project to the Inter-Country Committee as a priority.
- The Rotary leadership asked AJR Project Director to arrange a meeting with the new USAID Mission Director for Honduras, Mr. William Brands. The meeting took place at the Mission in September, and was useful to both, Rotary and USAID, to recognize each other as potential partners for many important endeavors, even in fields beyond youth violence prevention.
- Although there are very good opportunities to start substantial Outreach Center work and Desafío 100 in Tegucigalpa, the fact that AJR does not have a permanent presence in the capital of Honduras, makes follow up more difficult and costly, as AJR officers have to lodge in Tegucigalpa for relatively longer periods of time. AJR will be proposing the set-up of a small office/apartment (that can be used instead of hotel) and hire some local personnel, as away to achieve better implementation of this and other AJR program components in Honduras.
- There are ongoing plans to organize Workshops with Media in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula to raise awareness among journalists that have a yellowish and reddish line when reporting about youth. Youth in Honduras is being overly stigmatized by media, resulting in less respect for their human rights and dignity. These workshops are part of the agreement signed between AJR and PNPRRS. AJR is looking for the right media personality, with name recognition in Honduras and Latin America, to deliver these workshops.

Component II: *Encouraging gang members to abandon gangs*

Insertion through job opportunities offered by the Desafío 100 program, as the culmination of a rehabilitation process and the associated public awareness, is within itself an encouragement to

gang members to consider taking steps to abandon criminal life. At the same time AJR will make specific efforts to create wider awareness in society.

The “Desafio 10” Reality Show developed in Guatemala in 2006, showed that there is a need to maintain the interest of media and thus of society in finding the human side to youth gang issues and of the need for business and citizen’s participation in looking for solutions.

During this quarter, AJR took the initiative to develop a video about the regional program, with the intention of presenting it at the International Central American Conference on Violence and security, which is to take place in Tegucigalpa, Honduras on October 1st and 2nd. AJR has been invited by SICA to participate in the panel on Gangs in the region at this Conference, and specifically requested that some visual material was prepared to show to the participants.

The video was produced in Guatemala by REC, which has solid experience as the producer of the Desafio 10 Reality Show and videos about Desafio 100 and the Outreach Centers, made for the PAJ-USAID/Guatemala program. This video was produced in a record time but involved long hours. REC donated some time and efforts by charging a minimal fee just to cover part of the costs of this production.

The video will be used beyond the mentioned Conference, as an instrument to promote AJR’s efforts in the region. It shows statements of partners of the alliances in favor of prevention that AJR has been constructing so far this year. It shows images of the implementation of the new Outreach Center in El Salvador, Desafio 100 in San Pedro Sula, the agreements with the Rotary Clubs in Tegucigalpa, and others.

AJR established contact with Ms. Ana Carpio, *Telemundo’s* TV anchorperson in Guatemala. Ms. Carpio has done some TV news reports about USAID’s Youth Challenge Program in that country. Ms. Carpio and her husband Mr. Walter Cruz, a professional TV/Movie producer, developed an 18 minute short film explaining the drama of gang youth violence in the poor neighborhoods of Guatemala. This short film had never been aired. Seizing the opportunity AJR requested to SICA that Ms. Carpio and Mr. Cruz participate in the Media and Violence Panel at the International Central American Conference on Violence and Security. SICA decided to invite them both, expenses paid, to present the film and talk about the role of Media, enriching what would have been an otherwise poor Panel.

There are ongoing talks with between USAID-Guatemala’s Youth Challenge Program, AJR USAID-SICA, REC, Mrs. Carpio, Mr. Cruz, regarding the possibility of creating a mini-series with a regional focus. The idea being that AJR could co-finance the effort along with USAID-Guatemala YCP program.

In the case of El Salvador, AJR has continued talks with TCS TV Network, which in principle has offered to donate five hours of prime time during Saturdays for airing a Desafio 10 type Reality Show produced in El Salvador. As the cost and the logistics of this Reality Show are high and complicated, and require fundraising with the private sector, AJR considers that this show can perhaps be developed in 2009. Desafio 10 is part of the agreement reached with ANEP. Once this agreement is made public (November 26th), further contacts can be made with

businesses that may want to contribute towards this end. TCS has indicated that early 2009 is better for them as they are now immersed in the production of “Cantando por un Sueño”.

In the case of Honduras, Desafio 10 is part of the agreement with Paz y Convivencia (P&C). Our partner organization has been trying to get in contact with TV networks that may want to sponsor a similar Reality Show in that country. P&C’s Director has vowed to make the necessary contacts

Due to time and personnel constraints, AJR has not been yet able to start the development of the cost-effective and culturally adapted pilot programs in rehabilitation through local FBOs, that it intends to.

Component III: *Job opportunities for rehabilitated former gang members*

Desafio 100 (Challenge 100) is a structured program of job opportunities for young people that have abandoned gangs and have not been able to close the circle to full reintegration because they do not find businesses willing to hire them. Normally this unwillingness is due to the tattoos, the criminal records and sometime the lack of employable skills of these young people. Part of the problem is the own perception of the young former gang-members, that think there is no opportunities, as he or she has been rejected when trying to find a job on his or her own.

Desafio 100 was launched in San Pedro Sula on September 30th, culminating a process initiated since May of this year. The same process has been initiated in Tegucigalpa, where the selection process of candidates was initiated in mid-September. In the capital, the National Prevention Program (PNPRRS), with whom AJR has an existing agreement, is in charge of the selection process of the beneficiaries. Additionally an agreement was signed with COHEP, umbrella organization of the Private sector of Honduras and the powerful Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tegucigalpa, of which the most important businesses of the capital are members of, so jobs become available to the young former gang members that are selected to participate in the program.

In El Salvador a comprehensive agreement to collaborate in youth violence prevention activities was signed between AJR and ANEP in September. This agreement includes Desafio 100 activities, but has not been made public yet. The idea is to have a public event on November 26th, so the business community gets interested in the project and collaborates. Until this public announcement happens, it will be difficult for AJR to have the necessary credibility to carry out related activities, but some steps have been taken to have the conditions in place when the public announcement is made.

During this quarter the following results have been achieved:

El Salvador

- After several meetings with ANEP, the cooperative agreement with AJR was finally signed. This agreement calls for cooperation in prevention initiatives, including the job

opportunities for former gang-members (Desafio 100) and sensibilization about youth violence through media activities (such as the Desafio 10 Reality Show.)

- This agreement was signed in private and has not yet been made public. ANEP has agreed to have a public “signing” ceremony or event until November 26th, to announce the agreement.
- The fact that this agreement has not been made public has raised some doubts among the people and entities working with former gang-members and have been in discussion with AJR regarding the Desafio 100 Program. For this reason some institutions and the Department of Assisted Freedom (DEPLA) of the Supreme Court of Justice have been visited and forms to present candidates for the Desafio 100 program have been distributed by AJR, no filled forms have been received.
- For the above reason, very little progress is expected to happen before the public announcement with ANEP.

Honduras

San Pedro Sula

On September 30th Desafio 100 program was launched at the solemn “Salon Consistorial” (Municipal Auditorium) of the Municipality of San Pedro Sula. Twenty six young former gang members were received there by six companies that took on the Challenger of offering them employment.

The Governor of the Department of Cortes, San Pedro Sula Mayor’s wife, USAID’s Mission Director for Honduras and USAID’s DG Director, along with other personalities from the city and AJR Directors, participated in the launch event. Also, USAID’s Guatemala DG Director was present during the event.

During the selection process, more than eighty candidates were evaluated and in the final phase forty of those qualified for the program, but only twenty nine showed up at the required “initiation” retreat, which is held during the two days preceding the launch. Three candidates left during the first day of retreat.

Description of related activities:

- The process started on July 17th, when Paz y Convivencia announced an initial launch of the Project in the presence of the Executive Vice-President of the Inter-American Bank.
- This well-intentioned action accelerated the candidate selection phase and forced AJR to contract two consultants to assist in the selection process, as AJR does not have enough personnel that can stay permanently in San Pedro Sula.

- The organization “Generación X” from San Pedro Sula, a group of former gang members that advocate for young people of the same background, got involved in the selection process by the well meaning invitation of Paz y Convivencia. Their participation became an obstacle, as they advocated for immediate job placement for the young former gang members that were “ready”, without taking the necessary selection steps and methodologies that have been developed by AJR.
- Finally in a meeting between AJR Director and Paz y Convivencia Director, it was decided to set the “Generacion X” group aside and hire two consultants that had done some work for the joint project. These consultants were hired by AJR from August 14th to October 13th, with the understanding that afterwards one or both will be hired by Paz y Convivencia to support its Joint Project with AJR.
- Both consultants (one Psychologist and one Lawyer-Social Worker with substantial experience in dealing with youth), were to identify former gang members that were under the protection of churches and other groups, sensibelize them and motivate them to take on the challenge to change their lives and participate in Desafio 100. They were also to assist in preparing the conditions for the interviews, tests and evaluation of the candidates, organizing the retreat and helping during the launch event.
- A retreat took place from Sunday, September 28th, till the morning of the launch in San Pedro Sula on September 30th. This retreat involved significant logistics. Several volunteers participated, including a Medical Doctor who spoke about the effects of drug use, a Psychologist who spoke about taking on new challenges and a Pastor provided spiritual counseling. Representatives of the business and maquila sector spoke about work habits and commitments. AJR’s partner, Paz y Convivencia, paid for most of the costs of this two days retreat.
- The results are satisfactory, especially if it’s taken into account that AJR does not have facilities or a permanent presence in San Pedro Sula, and the organization of activities had to be coordinated mostly by e-mail. The two consultants hired did a good job in dealing with the former gang members and their potential employers and this facilitated the results.
- Paz y Convivencia, with the support of AJR, organized several meetings with the business sector and in particular with some Human Resource managers, to convince them to participate in Desafio 100 and to explain what to expect.
- AJR expected more businesses to get involved, but only six offered job opportunities. But, with one enterprise offering up to twenty openings, all candidates could receive a placement.
- The fact that the launch event took place at the Mayor’s Building, with the participation of the Governor, the Mayor’s wife (the Mayor had to cancel his participation last minute due to a delay in his return from the capital), USAID’s Director, private sector leadership and other city personalities, a very important message of the city’s authorities’

commitment was delivered to society. There is hope that this message will encourage other businesses and other youth that have abandoned gangs, to participate in the next rounds of the program, sending a clear signal to other young people that “there can be life after the gang.”

- Desafío 100 in San Pedro Sula is the first test outside Guatemala and this has proved that the methodology is valid. The media attention gathered has allowed the message to be carried all over the country, and this fact should help Desafío 100 to also advance in Tegucigalpa.
- The young beneficiaries and the enterprises that hired them require of constant follow up. Paz y Convivencia, AJR’s partner, will assist with follow-up, but there will have to be substantial involvement of the program. As agreed, both partners will continue to work together to consolidate a second group of candidates to establish the methodology to open more opportunities to these otherwise excluded young people, having in mind that this example will encourage active gang members to abandon gangs and their life of crime and violence.
- There is a recognition that self employment and entrepreneurial models for integration of former gang members also have to be considered in integration-prevention programming. Not all of them are either employable or have the vocation to be employees. For this reason AJR decided to provide support to COMJUVESOL, a fledging “multi-service” cooperative formed by former gang members. AJR assistance took the form of providing the services a semi-volunteer MBA, who was contracted through MBA Without Borders (MWB). In this fashion, Mr. Joel Montgomery, a highly qualified MBA from the USA, devoted 45 days to live and work with these young people in San Pedro Sula. Mr. Montgomery was able to design a business plan, convince them to change their business focus and practices, train the members of the cooperative and walk them in the initial steps of the implementation of the plan. AJR will continue to monitor the development of the cooperative and learn further from this model, to be able determine if replication is feasible.

Tegucigalpa

- The signing of the cooperation agreement between COHEP, CCIT and AJR, that took place in Tegucigalpa on August 15th, and generated reports in several national newspapers and in at least five TV news programs, gave a lot of impetus to the start-up of the Desafío 100 process there. The Executive Secretary of the National Prevention Program (PNPRRS) was also a signing party to this agreement.
- Following the signing of the agreement, the PNPRRS collaborated with AJR in organizing a presentation of the Desafío 100 program to people, churches and institutions involved in rehabilitation. This meeting was well attended and application forms to present candidates to the program were distributed among participants.

- On September 23rd the first round of evaluations of candidates for Desafio 100 took place. PNPRRS provided the locale and helped in locating three volunteer psychologists to assist AJR personnel in conducting the tests. Psychologist Elia Caceres, who had been working as a consultant for AJR in the Desafio 100 process in San Pedro Sula, was brought to Tegucigalpa to also assist AJR's Senior Program Officer do the testing.
- The idea of involving volunteer psychologists is to create local capacity for future rounds of tests to be applied to smaller groups of potential beneficiaries of Desafio 100 in Tegucigalpa.
- In this first round of evaluations, 34 former gang-members candidates were tested. Of these thirty four, two requested to participate in the San Pedro Sula Desafio 100 program, as they had been receiving threats from active gang members and feared for their lives.
- There will be at least two other rounds of evaluations made to relative large groups, of which we hope to obtain enough candidates to perhaps launch Desafio 100 in Tegucigalpa sometime in late November.
- There are plans to organize a meeting with employers, managers and Human Resource managers so they understand better the challenges and rewards of participating in Desafio 100 and that they make compromises of specific job openings. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tegucigalpa has offered to help organize such a meeting. On its part the Human Resources manager of PEPSI for Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, who has been one of the most enthusiastic supporters and advocates for Desafio 100 in Guatemala (Pepsi has already 10 former gang members working for the company there), was approached by AJR and has offered to be a speaker at this meeting.

Although we have achieved important results, there are many limitations to AJR's activities, including:

- That AJR has no infrastructure or personnel in Tegucigalpa that can help and also knows the prevention programs promoted by AJR (Desafio 10, Desafio 100 and the Outreach Center model).
- AJR has not been able yet to meet with employers, managers and Human Resource managers to explain the program in depth and promote that they offer the job slots.

RESULT II: *Assess regional legal/justice frameworks and practices and promote multi-country policy and legal reforms to improve the treatment and rehabilitation of youth*

As a result of the initial workshops on juvenile justice carried out in the month of June in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, AJR set up Juvenile Justice Working Groups in all three countries in order to continue with the discussion of the most relevant issues determined in the workshops. The Working Groups will also provide input and validate the work of the consultants who will be working along with them in assessing the juvenile justice systems in each country.

As first step and having previously identified potential consultants to assess the juvenile justice frameworks, policies and practices in each country, AJR held in July in San Salvador, an initial meeting with the selected consultants (Oscar Alirio Campos – El Salvador, Estuardo Sanchez – Guatemala, and Rigoberto Portillo –Honduras). During the meeting the consultants were able to discuss with the AJR team the current situation of Juvenile Justice in their respective countries, identifying problems, weaknesses and challenges. Also discussed, was the ideal composition of the Juvenile Justice Working Groups to be formed in each country.

After this initial meeting with the consultants, in the month of August actors and experts working in the juvenile justice field were identified and invited to take part in the Working Groups being formed in each country. The consultants, together with the Working Groups, are currently evaluating the situation of the different juvenile justice systems, analyzing frameworks, policies, practices and identifying impediments to a well-functioning system. It is expected that the Working Groups together with the consultants, will identify best practices and make recommendations aimed at improving the systems and in particular the treatment of juvenile offenders. The findings, recommendations and good practices identified in this process will be systematized by the consultants, shared with SG-SICA and subsequently presented at the First Regional Juvenile Justice Forum, entitled "*Juvenile Justice Systems in Central America: Current Situation and Challenges*", to take place on the 20th and 21st of November, 2008 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. These recommendations will serve as input for specific proposals at the country level and for advocacy work which could be undertaken at both the national and regional levels next year.

Initial meetings of the Working Groups were held between the last week of August and first week of September in all three countries. During these initial meetings, the methodology for the evaluation process was presented, explaining how the evaluation would be carried out with the assistance, input and further validation of the working group members. A proposal of specific categories of analysis to be addressed, constituting the mayor issues facing the juvenile justice systems in each country, was also presented to the group for their discussion and validation.

The consultants began the validation process by inviting the participants to express their ideas and points of view regarding the categories and sub-categories of analysis proposed. Some main categories presented and later validated by the Working Group members were: legal frameworks, public policies, rehabilitation and reinsertion of juvenile offenders, and coordination and collaboration of juvenile justice sector operators and institutions.

This process allowed the participants to discuss the major issues facing the juvenile justice systems in each country and to identify those which had not been mentioned before in the categories, but in fact needed to be included in the analysis. The discussion subsequently allowed for the validation of the categories of analysis presented, which are to be included in the evaluation document and discussed in further detail in the upcoming Working Group meetings.

An important issue highlighted by the participants during the initial meetings, was the need to promote a space for serious discussion amongst juvenile justice sector operators, which would ultimately lead to the establishment of feasible and specific recommendations for the improvement of the juvenile justice systems in the different countries.

During the last week of September, a second all day meeting with the different Juvenile Justice Working Groups took place in all countries. During this meeting the participants were divided into sub-groups in order to maximize the limited time and to be able to better address the major categories and sub-categories previously identified and validated during the first meeting.

After a brief explanation of the meeting's objectives, the consultants presented the methodology to be followed during the meeting, which consisted in dividing the working group into sub-working groups, each addressing one of the specific categories and sub-categories previously identified and validated during the first meeting. The participants were asked to review and discuss in detail those categories in order to establish current challenges, recommendations or strategies to follow, good practices, and actors and institutions involved.

Having being presented the methodology, the sub-groups started a simultaneous discussion of the categories and sub-categories of analysis presented. At the end of the day and after a detailed discussion, each Sub-Group shared their findings, recommendations and best practices in a plenary session.

The inputs provided by the working group members during the first two meetings held in each country, were of great importance and benefit for the work of the consultants, providing them with a route map to follow in the evaluation process, including the need for an in depth analysis of certain areas of the current juvenile justice systems, and also providing them with possible solutions to those problems that would have to be explored further.

The consultants are currently working on their respective country evaluations and have been throughout this process in constant communication with the working group members, having held individual meetings with several of them, in order to discuss further some of the main issues highlighted during the meetings. The findings, recommendations and good practices identified in this interactive process with the working group members will be systematized and included in the final evaluation document. These country evaluations are expected to be finalized during the first week of November 2008.

In the month of October, as the respective country analyses are being finalized, AJR with the assistance of a consultant will begin to conduct a comparative analysis of all three juvenile justice systems. AJR has identified Mrs. Elisa Gomez, an Attorney and expert consultant on Childhood, Adolescence, and Juvenile Justice, to take on this work.

Mrs. Gomez will build upon the work of the consultants and working groups during the evaluation process in each country, including, discussions, validation, identification of best practices and adoption of recommendations aimed at improving the issues. The consultant will also take as further input the final evaluations/recommendations of the juvenile justice systems in each country.

This comparative analysis will allow determining diverging elements in all three countries regarding frameworks, policies, processes, and strategies in relation to juvenile justice, as well as best practices which could be shared and replicated in the region. This analysis will be presented

at the First Regional Juvenile Justice Forum, where it will contribute to the effective understanding of the different juvenile justice systems present in the North Triangle (Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras) and serve as input for the workshops programmed during the second day of the event. The presentation of this comparative analysis, together with the country presentations of Nicaragua and Costa Rica during the Forum, will allow further discussions and determine the possibilities of an approximation to a more coherent framework, policies and/or strategies on Juvenile Justice in the Central American Region.

AJR is currently in the process of organizing the First Regional Juvenile Justice Forum which will take place in Honduras during the upcoming month of November. To this effect, AJR has continued discussions and carried out several follow-up meetings with both SG-SICA and PAIRCA (Program to Support Central American Regional Integration, funded by the European Union) regarding the planning and organization of this important event.

AJR has been working relentlessly during the past two months on the strategy, composition, protocol and methodology for the Forum, in order to ensure its complete success. The Project Director and Liaison Officer have been in close contact and communication with both SG-SICA and PAIRCA throughout this process. As a result of this intensive work, the organization of the event is right on track. The preliminary program for the forum has already been developed, discussed and validated by SG-SICA and PAIRCA, as well as a finalized budget. Also international experts who potentially will be making presentations during the event and an overall facilitator for the Forum have already been identified and contacted by AJR.

The Central American Court of Justice, the Central American Judicial Council (the Central American Supreme Courts) and PARLACEN were invited by SG-SICA to participate as sponsors of the Forum and all three have agreed to take part in this important event, which will allow to build further regional consensus on the issue of youth in conflict with the law.

The activities related to the planning and organization of the Forum, are further explained under Result 3.

Activities:

Regional

- AJR Director has held several meetings within the last two months with Erich Vilchez, Director of Foreign and Political Affairs of SG-SICA, regarding the planning of the First Regional Juvenile Justice Forum. As talks progressed, SG-SICA sent in the month of August, official letters to the Central American Court of Justice, the Central American Judicial Council (the Central American Supreme Courts) and the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN) inviting them as sponsors of the Regional Juvenile Justice Forum. These institutions will be participating in both the opening ceremony and closing ceremony of the event.
- At a meeting recently held during the last week of September with Erich Vilchez, AJR Director explained how the planning of the forum was progressing, presenting him the

draft invitation card, CVs of the speakers, the preliminary program and the methodology for the workshops that will take place during the second day of the event. In this meeting the structure of the two day forum was briefly explained and a discussion was held regarding what the participation of the integration institutions would consist of.

- Honduras which holds the rotating Presidency of the Central American Integration System for the current semester (June-December 2008) will be the host of the Forum together with SG-SICA. AJR Director has been in close contact and communication with Ambassador Eduardo Rosales, Director of Foreign Policy of Honduras, informing him of the progress being made in the planning of the Forum.

As requested by the Pro-tempore Presidency, the Forum will take place in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. AJR, having asked for quotes in various city hotels, has made initial reservations at the Clarion Suites Hotel in Tegucigalpa for holding the event. AJR is also arranging all the logistical aspects of the event, coordinating and collaborating closely with PAIRCA, through their Communications Official and logistics consultant.

Holding the event in Tegucigalpa will allow for a high number of Honduran juvenile justice sector actors and experts to participate in the event. As Honduras juvenile justice system probably faces the most challenges in the region, holding the event in the country will be a strategic opportunity to induce positive changes, as key actors and those with decision making capacity will be invited to the Forum. In the event they will be presented a picture of juvenile justice in the region, how the different systems in five SICA member countries are working, where we are currently and what has to be addressed in order to improve these systems. Information and good practices from other countries could subsequently be inputs for needed reforms and changes in the Honduran system.

AJR is also ensuring that a significant number of participants from El Salvador and Guatemala, especially those involved in the working groups in each country, participate in the Forum. It would be both valuable and strategic to have representation from other SICA countries in order to promote the need for regional consensus around the issues and determine the possibility of a regional coherent strategy, policies and framework regarding juvenile justice. To this effect provisions have been taken to provide some of the participant's ground transportation to and from Tegucigalpa, as well as lodging. To that end PAIRCA has agreed to fund the participation of approximately 40 participants from outside Honduras.

El Salvador

- Immediately after the first meeting with the consultants from the three countries held at the end of July held in El Salvador, Consultant Oscar Alirio Campos began work, first by collecting necessary information such as assessments, diagnosis and investigations written by national, international experts and international organizations and secondly by conducting meetings with key actors in the juvenile justice sector.

- Having identified potential Working Group members in each country, AJR sent out letters during the month of August, inviting and encouraging them to participate in the groups and take part in the evaluation process, noting that their contributions regarding this issue would be of great value, enabling the formulation of key proposals for the improvement of the juvenile justice system in each country.
- Some members of the Juvenile Justice Working Group include: Magistrate of the Supreme Court Mirna Perla; Magistrate of Appeals Court, Doris Luz Rivas; Judge Aida Luz Santos de Escobar; Executive Director of the National Council for Public Security, Armando Jimenez; Director of the Projovenes program of the European Union, Lissette Miranda; UNICEF officer, Karla de Varela; UNDP officer, Xenia Diaz; Director of the Juvenile Justice Unit of the Supreme Court of Justice, Jaime Martínez; Advisor to the Vice Minister of Public Security and Justice, Sonia Kessler; Attorney Perla de Escalante from the Technical Executive Unit of the Justice Sector (UTE); and Giovanna Rizzi from Italian Cooperation, among other relevant stakeholders.
- The first Juvenile Justice Working Group meeting took place on September 2nd at the Radisson Hotel in San Salvador. AJR consultant Oscar Alirio Campos presented the proposed methodology for conducting the evaluation of the Juvenile Justice System in the country, making beforehand a brief recount of the findings established during the initial workshop carried out on June 25.
- In the meeting the following three categories in which to focus the evaluation were proposed: 1) Legal frameworks and policies of juvenile justice and their effective application; 2) Inter-institutional coordination and collaboration of juvenile justice sector institutions and actors; and 3) Rehabilitation and social reinsertion. Under the proposed methodology, the working group would be divided into three sub-working groups to evaluate each category proposed.
- Participants were then invited to express their ideas and points of view regarding the categories presented. Some issues highlighted were: the need to make reference to alternative measures and sanctions; the much needed coordination and collaboration between family, community and government institutions during the rehabilitation and reinsertion process of juvenile offenders; the need for specialization and sensibilization of all juvenile justice sector actors (judges, prosecutors, public defenders, police officers, correction facilities officers, etc.); and the need to include ISNA (Salvadoran Institution for Children and Adolescents) and its role within the system in the evaluation.
- At the end of the meeting an agreement was reached to divide the Working Group into two sub-working groups in order to analyze two main categories: 1) Legal frameworks and public policies; and 2) Rehabilitation and social reinsertion. As a cross-cutting issue, both sub-groups would discuss coordination and collaboration of juvenile justice sector operators and institutions.
- On September 22, a second all day meeting of the Juvenile Justice Working Group was held in San Salvador. During this meeting, AJR consultant Oscar Alirio Campos gave a

brief explanation of the objectives and the methodology to be followed. The Working Group was then divided into two sub-groups and asked, for each category and sub-category proposed to examine, discuss and establish: a) Current challenges; b) Recommendations and/or strategies to follow for the solution of the problem or problems identified; c) Good practices; and d) Actors and institutions involved in the implementation of those actions. All with the aim of contributing to the evaluation process being developed by the consultant.

- Among the experts present at the meeting were Judge Aida Luz Santos de Escobar, Magistrate Doris Luz Rivas, Jaime Martínez, Perla de Escalante and Sonia Kessler. The participants started a simultaneous discussion of the categories and sub-categories of analysis presented. A topic that was brought up during the discussion was the specialization of juvenile justice sector actors. Jaime Martinez mentioned as a good practice the work of the Juvenile Justice Unit of the Supreme Court. This Unit with funding received from UNICEF and through an agreement with the National Council for the Judiciary (CNJ) implemented a specialized training program on juvenile justice, where judges, court clerks, multidisciplinary team members, staff from ISNA and Ombudsman's Office staff were trained. The idea now is to form a contingent of 86 trainers in order to replicate the training and be able to reach more juvenile justice sector actors. Along this line, the participants recommended the inclusion of prosecutors and public defenders, which have not been specialized in the next training to be provided.
- Also highlighted as a good practice are the MOU's signed between the Juvenile Justice Unit (JJU) of the Supreme Court with seven municipalities, among them Santa Tecla, San Salvador and Mejicanos. According to the agreements signed, the JJU is providing training in juvenile justice to the municipal councils and in turn the municipalities are allowing juvenile offenders to comply with their alternative sanctions in the municipal buildings.
- The role of ISNA in the juvenile justice system was also addressed during the meeting. There is a certain insecurity hovering over ISNA and this is reflected in the budget allocated to this institution which accounts only for 0.49% of the Country's General Budget, it is also not clear whether certain activities such as open measures as an alternative sanction to impose on juvenile offenders, are under its area of competence. To this effect a recommendation was made to propose a revision of the budget allocated to ISNA and review the programs and actions that should be implemented by this institution.
- At the end of the day and after a thorough discussion, the sub-groups shared their findings, recommendations and best practices in a plenary session. The inputs provided during the meeting were of great value in determining the course to be followed and areas to be analyzed in depth by the consultants during the evaluation process.
- AJR has kept an ongoing collaborative relationship with UNICEF/El Salvador through Mrs. Karla de Varela. She was key in identifying the juvenile justice expert in El Salvador who is currently carrying out the evaluation of the juvenile justice system, as well as international experts that have been identified as speakers in the upcoming Regional Juvenile Justice Forum. Mrs. Varela also collaborated with AJR in identifying

potential members for the Working Group. As a member of the Working Group, her expertise has been important in providing valuable input during the evaluation process.

- AJR has also kept ongoing communication and a collaborative relationship with the Juvenile Justice Unit of the Supreme Court, through Mr. Jaime Martínez, head of the Unit. The assistance provided by Mr. Martínez has also been key in assisting AJR to identify members of the Working Group, and particularly important in identifying Dr. Mary Beloff, an Attorney, current General Prosecutor for Criminal Policy, Human Rights and Community Service in Buenos Aires, Argentina, international expert on juvenile justice with extensive knowledge and experience in the Latin American region, as a lecturer in the Regional Forum.

Guatemala

- Having identified potential Working Group members in Guatemala, during the month of August AJR sent out letters, inviting them to participate in the evaluation process of the Juvenile Justice System in the country.
- Some members of the Juvenile Justice Working Group include: Magistrate of the Juvenile Appeals Court, Roxana Morales; Defense Coordinator for Juvenile Offenders, María del Carmen Valdizón; Juvenile Court Judge, Karol Verganza; Director of the program for incarcerated juvenile offenders of the Secretariat of Social Welfare, Nora Escobar; Byron Alvarado, Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Children and Adolescents; Director of INTERPEACE, Emilio Goubaud; Grupo Ceiba Director Marco Castillo and UNICEF consultant, Jennifer Echeverria, among other relevant stakeholders in Guatemala.
- The first Juvenile Justice Working Group meeting took place on September 5 at the Westin Camino Real Hotel in Guatemala City. During the meeting, AJR consultant Estuardo Sanchez introduced participants, presented the objectives and proposed methodology for conducting the evaluation of the Juvenile Justice System in Guatemala.

Mr. Sanchez proposed three categories in which to focus the evaluation: 1) Legal frameworks and policies on juvenile justice; 2) Inter-institutional coordination and collaboration of juvenile justice sector institutions and actors; and 3) rehabilitation and reinsertion of juvenile offenders. Each category would entail looking at certain aspects of regulatory, organizational, and operational character, as well as resources and practices. Also, under the proposed methodology, the working group would be divided into three sub-working groups to evaluate each category proposed above.

Mr. Sanchez also made a brief recount of the problems and conclusions established during the initial workshop held on June 27, inviting the participants to present their points of view and ideas.

Some points of view regarding the problems outlined during the initial workshop and categories presented were: the need to review the children and adolescents protection

system, noting that the government should intervene with youth at risk before problems arise; the need for collaboration and of having a serious space for the discussion of the issues in order to be able to present a concrete country proposal in the upcoming Regional Juvenile Justice Forum; the need for participant institutions and actors to accept their weaknesses, as the richness and importance of this evaluation process is to discuss and reach agreements; the need for a juvenile justice framework, as programs and actions sometimes have been undertaken without a clear objective in mind.

At the end of the meeting, agreements were reached regarding the division of the group into three sub-working groups in order to analyze three main categories: 1) Legal frameworks; 2) Public policies; and 3) Rehabilitation and reinsertion of juvenile offenders. Coordination and collaboration of juvenile justice sector operators and institutions would be discussed as a cross cutting issue in all three sub-groups. Also noted was the need to take the indigenous rights implications into account in the evaluation.

A second all day meeting of the Juvenile Justice Working Group was held at the Clarion Suites Hotel in Guatemala City on September 23. AJR consultant Estuardo Sanchez began the meeting by giving a brief explanation of the objectives, proposed categories and sub-categories to be used for the analysis and methodology to follow. The aim was to obtain from each category: 1) Problems and challenges; 2) Recommendations and strategies to follow in order to solve those problems; 3) Good practices; and 4) Actors and institutions responsible for the execution of those actions. Also presented was the structure for the final evaluation document.

The problems highlighted during the meeting were: the lack of separation between the instruction phase and sentencing phase in the juvenile process, noting that it is the same judge who hears in both phases; the dual material competence of the juvenile courts in the country as currently there are only 8 courts in 22 departments in the country with competence to hear cases of adolescents in conflict with the law and most have dual competence, that is, they both know of processes of children or adolescents in conflict with the law and also of children and adolescents whose human rights are threatened or violated; that there is only one judge in the whole country responsible for the enforcement of sanctions of juvenile offenders; that there is inadequate access to justice was also, as people living in remote areas of the country have to travel hundreds of miles in order to have access to a court.

After a thorough discussion of each category, findings, recommendations and best practices were shared in a plenary session. In light of the problems highlighted, some recommendations made were: the creation of a regional office for the enforcement of sanctions in each of the Departments in the country; specialization of all juvenile justice sector operators; strengthening of the multidisciplinary team of the courts, specially being able to have more social workers in the courts; a video system for hearings set up in the courts, as this would help improve access to justice by conducting hearings by video conference with those in remote locations; another important recommendation was having two judges instead of just one in each juvenile court.

The conclusions and recommendations provided during the meeting were of great value in determining areas to be further analyzed by the consultant in the evaluation process.

Honduras

- The AJR team with the assistance of consultant Rigoberto Portillo identified potential Juvenile Justice Working Group members, among those identified were: Family Commission of the National Congress member, Maria Facusse de Villeda; National Coordinator for reinsertion of juvenile offenders of the INHFA (Honduran Institute for Childhood and Family) Melany Mejia; Special prosecutor for Human Rights, Sandra Ponce; Juvenile prosecutor, Nora Urbina; Director of prosecutors Daniela Ferrera; Childhood Judges from San Pedro Sula, Melissa Cubero and Belia Torres; Director for the National Program for the Prevention, Rehabilitation and Reinsertion of Gangs in Honduras (PNPRRS), Nolvía Cruz Alvarenga; and father Ricardo Sevilla Chiang from the Catholic Church.
- During the month of August, letters of invitation to take part in the Working Group were delivered. In Honduras, more than El Salvador and Guatemala, there has been a great response from the juvenile justice sector. About twenty five members have been persistent in attending the meetings of the Working Group. The great need for urgent changes in the juvenile justice system in the country has become evident during this process.
- The first Juvenile Justice Working Group meeting was held on August 29 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Consultant Rigoberto Portillo proposed the methodology for conducting the evaluation of the Juvenile Justice System in Honduras, which included holding three meetings of the Working Group in Tegucigalpa and a fourth meeting in San Salvador with representatives and consultants of Working Groups of the other two countries, in order to discuss the findings, recommendations and compare best practices in each country.

During the meeting Mr. Portillo gave a brief outline of the major problems identified during the initial juvenile justice workshop carried out during the month of June in Tegucigalpa. This immediately prompted the discussion of some issues. Representatives from INHFA, as well as judges present at the meeting, recognized that there is a series of deficiencies in the institutions and suggested that an analysis of the existing programs and their weaknesses be made in order to propose solutions.

Following the discussion, the consultant presented three categories in which the evaluation would focus: 1) Legal framework and its effective application; 2) Institutions and actors of the juvenile justice system and coordination mechanisms; and 3) Rehabilitation and reinsertion of juvenile offenders. In order to analyze each category, the Working Group would be divided into three sub-working groups in the following meeting.

- A second all day meeting of the Working Group was held on September 26 at the Marriott Hotel in Tegucigalpa. Consultant, Rigoberto Portillo began explaining briefly

the objectives of the meeting and the methodology to be used by each sub-group or work table. He also explained the structure that the final evaluation document would have.

Mr. Portillo presented the three categories and sub-categories to analyze, which had been agreed upon during the previous meeting. Following, the three sub-groups started the analysis, focusing on identifying the problems, recommendations, good practices and actors and institutions responsible for the effective execution of those actions.

Some of the problems highlighted during these discussions were: the lack of the existence of judges in charge of the enforcement of sanctions for juvenile offenders, as in Honduras, the same judge is in charge or has competence of the whole process: the instruction phase, sentencing phase and execution or enforcement of sanctions phase (the participants agreed that having only one judge in charge of all phases contaminates the process); the fact that the same judges have competence in both: cases of children and adolescents in conflict with the law and also in protection cases when their human rights have been violated; and the fact that according to the current legislation more procedural guarantees are provided to adults than to juvenile offenders.

After an extensive and thorough discussion of each category, the sub-groups shared their findings, recommendations and best practices in a plenary session. Some recommendations made were: to include the same guarantees provided for in criminal procedures for adults in juvenile justice proceedings; the need for specialization of juvenile justice sector actors (especially of prosecutors and defenders who have not been trained); and the strengthening of INHFA (Honduran Institute for Childhood and Family) so it would be effectively in charge of the supervision and compliance of substitute or alternative measures, as well as the need of the strengthening of its rehabilitation and reinsertion programs.

Huge gaps and limitations of legal, structural, organizational and human nature identified in the meeting, do not allow for the correct functioning of the juvenile justice system in Honduras. The conclusions and recommendations provided by the participants will serve as a guide for the consultant in furthering the evaluation to be made of the system and in establishing concrete and feasible recommendations on how to improve the juvenile justice system in the country.

RESULT III: Collaboration and Assistance to SICA to catalyze regional policy reform and harmonization; and gather relevant stockholders to spur development of policy initiatives an implementation of reforms

AJR has made substantial efforts to keep regular communication with SICA's personnel and in particular with Dr. Erich Vilchez and the officers in charge of Security issues.

AJR Director visits SICA on a regular basis, although the constant travel of the few officers that are in charge of security issues, who are AJR's counterparts, makes it difficult to establish more frequent exchanges and to schedule meetings.

The Secretary General of SICA requested last minute that AJR be also present at a meeting with several international organizations on September 19th at SICA headquarters in El Salvador. He asked the attendees for support in the organization of the International Central American

Conference on Violence and Security. The Secretary General requested assistance in terms of speakers, names of possible invitees and materials or visuals to make the Conference content more relevant and livelier. AJR Director had to change travel plans and returned to El Salvador to be present at this meeting, and thus was not able to participate in a scheduled Juvenile Justice Working group meeting in Guatemala.

AJR had been asked originally by SICA to collaborate in the organization of the Conference, but even though assistance was volunteered in several occasions, SICA never came back to AJR with specifics. AJR provided lists of possible invitees from the Honduran and other countries' Civil Society, experts and Government officials and even foreign cooperation officers from different countries, involved in the issue of youth violence and made sure that USAID Mission Directors, Deputy Mission Directors and DG Directors and officers were invited to the Conference.

AJR also facilitated that WOLA establish contact with SICA, as they have had problems in communicating with the organization and recurred to us. SICA ended up inviting a WOLA representative to make a presentation at the Conference.

AJR arranged that *Telemundo's* Guatemala news anchor Ana Carpio, be invited to speak at the Media and Citizen's Security Panel (explained in Result I, Component II above). Ms. Carpio's and AJR's video and presentations ended up playing a center role in the Conference (this will be explained in next quarter's report.)

AJR participation in the Conference was to be important, as SICA is to present the Presidents of Central America with recommendations gathered at the Panels held during the Conference. Also, it was important for AJR to learn from the pitfalls observed during the Conference (that could have been managed better with our assistance), in order to avoid them during the upcoming First Regional Forum on Juvenile Justice.

AJR continued its conversations and coordination with SICA regarding the organization of the First Regional Forum on Juvenile Justice, which is to take place in Tegucigalpa on November 20 and 21st. The date was confirmed by the Pro-tempore Presidency-Honduras. AJR drafted the letters that SICA sent to the Central American Court of Justice and PARLACEN inviting them to participate as sponsors of the Forum. AJR also drafted and reviewed the Forum Concept and other related documents with SICA officers. It took constant monitoring of the correspondence and several requests to SICA to press those integration institutions for answers. Finally a positive answer in the form a sponsorship letter from the Central American Court of Justice was received and although PARLACEN has also agreed, a formal written answer has not yet been received.

Additionally, AJR continued talks with SICA's PAIRCA, in order to secure their grant for the Forum. It is expected that PAIRCA's contribution toward this end will increase from the initial \$20,000 agreed to almost \$25,000 dollars, as it will be necessary to pay for the lodging and bus transportation of some of the juvenile justice operators coming from El Salvador and Guatemala.

AJR gave a small grant to the Central American Observatory on Violence (OCAVI) for the realization of the second meeting of its Regional Advisory Council. The meeting took place in San Salvador and was organized by the National Council for Public Security (CNSP) of El Salvador, with whom AJR signed a cooperation agreement and who has under its mandate the oversight of OCAVI. The meeting gathered the people in charge of the national observatories (which feed OCAVI with information) from six countries. OCAVI was recognized as regional institutional mechanism in October 2006 and is an important source of information about violence, including youth violence.

AJR Director had the opportunity to discuss with the Security Advisor from Government of Spain that has been assigned to assist SICA. The advisor comes from the Ministry of Interior and is as part of Spain's cooperation program with the organization. There was an agreement to get together again to talk about the development of both projects.

Additionally, AJR has agreed with SICA to assist in the organization of a regional level juvenile violence prevention donor/project coordinating working meeting, tentatively set for November 14th. AJR has made some initial contacts with possible attendees and there was a good level of availability among the parties consulted. AJR is to help SICA draft an invitation letter and gather a list of possible invitees and contact information, in order for Dr. Erich Vilchez to make the formal invitations.

IV. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

- What has resulted in Honduras is a dual program (by having similar program activities in both cities, San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa.) This duality and the fact that we have no office or permanent personnel in Honduras, the airport problems in Tegucigalpa and the time spent in commuting between four cities in Central America (most of the time by road) to manage the different components of the program (including Juvenile Justice), has spread AJR little personnel thin. This has resulted in having had to pay less attention to the El Salvador side of the program. AJR had to sacrifice time that should have been spent in El Salvador, in order to jumpstart the program in the two Honduran main cities.
- The fact that AJR counts with only one vehicle and that most of travel to Guatemala, San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa has been done by land in that vehicle has resulted in the office staying without its own transportation for several days and up to weeks at a time. This brings complications as it is not safe or practical for the driver/social worker to use public transportation for some of the visits that have to be made and for many errands.

V. LESSONS LEARNED

- The problems encountered by SICA in organizing its International Conference in Tegucigalpa, has provided the important lesson that we should depend in the minimum possible from the assistance of the Government of Honduras (GOH) has offered for the Forum. The only thing we should be requesting the GOH for, is the list of their high level Honduran invitees.
- The issue of the proper recording of leverage has to be discussed very early on with the partner organizations, with some training and standard formats involved.

VI. NEXT STEPS

- Finalize arrangements with SICA, PAIRCA, PARLACEN, and Central American Integration Court for the First Regional Forum of Juvenile Justice.
- Finalize arrangements with the experts that will participate as speakers at the Forum.

- Develop lists of possible participants to the Forum in each of the three countries through AJR consultants and look for some names in the other SICA countries.
- Hire a consultant in Tegucigalpa to help in the organization of the Forum there.
- Start looking for a person to hire as a Coordinator for AJR Tegucigalpa (and indirectly San Pedro Sula) activities and for an apartment/office which could be used to cut some hotel expense. This will have to be discussed further with USAID, which in principle is in agreement, and a budget revision presented.
- Start with procedures for legal operation in Honduras and opening of a bank account.
- Place extraordinary efforts in collecting leverage reports with partners.

Annex 1

http://www.tiempo.hn/mostrar_noticia.php?id=70003&seccion=4

OPORTUNIDADES. USAID y empresarios

Darán trabajo a cien ex mareros

TEGUCIGALPA. La Agencia para el Desarrollo Internacional de los Estados Unidos (USAID) y empresarios locales impulsan un proyecto dirigido a brindar oportunidades de empleo para unos 100 jóvenes que hayan abandonado las pandillas.

Con tal propósito, el representante de USAID, David Thompson; y el presidente de la Cámara de Comercio e Industria de Tegucigalpa (CCIT), Carlos Bueso, entre otros, suscribieron el convenio de cooperación "Desafío 100, Paz para Honduras".

El objetivo del acuerdo es ofrecer oportunidades laborales en las empresas a jóvenes que han abandonado las maras y están en busca de un trabajo que les permita reinserirse a la sociedad a través de actividades remuneradas.

A través de esa iniciativa se identificará a los muchachos que firmemente han dejado esos grupos, pero que debido a sus tatuajes y antecedentes penales no califican para ser contratados en las empresas del sector privado productivo.

Por su parte, la Alianza Joven Regional desarrollará el proceso de evaluación y selección de candidatos que apliquen al programa y los empresarios ofrecerán plazas de empleo a los mismos.

El proyecto se ejecutará no sólo en Tegucigalpa sino que en San Pedro Sula también, donde la Oficina de Paz y Convivencia y la Asociación de Maquiladores de Honduras suscribirán un convenio similar con la USAID.

Se espera que las iglesias y organizaciones propongan candidatos al programa que han iniciado sus procesos de reinserción a través de las mismas.



A pesar de sus tatuajes, a los ex pandilleros se les presenta una oportunidad para reinserirse a la sociedad.

Requisitos:

- Haber abandonado las maras hace un año.
- Haber superado los problemas de adicción de drogas.
- No tener persecución penal.
- Superar pruebas psicológicas y entrevistas.

Annex 2

http://www.heraldohn.com/ez/index.php/plain_site_user/ediciones/2008/08/16/ex_pandilleros_c_on_una_nueva_oportunidad_social

FIRMA DE CONVENIO

Ex pandilleros con una nueva oportunidad social

Unos 100 jóvenes tendrán trabajo en los próximos dos años

Por: María Ortiz (maria.ortizSPAMFILTER@elheraldo.hn)

TEGUCIGALPA

La fuerza de voluntad de los jóvenes que han abandonado las maras o tiene una recompensa. La faceta de asociación ilícita, drogas y problemas con la justicia debe quedar en el pasado. Desde ayer tienen una nueva oportunidad de reinsertarse plenamente a la sociedad a través de un trabajo digno.

Mediante la firma del convenio de cooperación Desafío 100, paz para Honduras se identificará a los muchachos ex pandilleros que debido a sus tatuajes y antecedentes penales no logran obtener un empleo en la empresa privada. La idea es ubicar a los jóvenes en la población económicamente activa del país.

Cooperantes

En el convenio participa la Cámara de Comercio e Industrias de Tegucigalpa (CCIT), el Consejo Hondureño de la Empresa Privada (Cohep), el Programa Nacional de Prevención, Rehabilitación y Reinserción Social de Personas Vinculadas a las Maras (PNPRRS) y la Alianza Joven Regional, integrada por la Agencia de Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional (USAID) y el Sistema de Integración Centroamericana (SICA).

El PNPRRS se encargará de localizar a los jóvenes rehabilitados, Usaid y Sica desarrollarán el proceso de evaluación de quienes apliquen al programa y los empresarios, por su lado, ofrecerán plazas de trabajo para los que califiquen al programa, a fin de disminuir los niveles de violencia juvenil en el país. El modelo fue tomado de la experiencia de Guatemala, donde más de 100 jóvenes se encuentran integrados a la sociedad laboral de su país.

Asimismo, en San Pedro Sula ha iniciado el proceso de abrir oportunidades de trabajo a ex pandilleros. Con el convenio se espera beneficiar al menos 100 jóvenes hondureños

Y es que la población está cansada de los crímenes cometidos por los pandilleros, pero a veces les es difícil comprender que muchos son producto de una sociedad con pocas oportunidades para los jóvenes.



El convenio es una forma de demostrar que sí se puede disminuir la delincuencia en el país.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Annex 3

<http://www.hondudiario.com/economia=1708.php>

Firman convenio “Desafío 100” para emplear ex pandilleros

***Para calificar a “Desafío 100” se requiere haber abandonado la mara al menos hace un año, haber superado los problemas de adicción de drogas, no tener persecución penal y superar una serie de pruebas psicológicas y entrevistas hondudiario



Los jóvenes serán insertados al mercado laboral

Por: Sarahí Flores

sarahi@hondudiariohn.com

Tegucigalpa, Honduras. (15 agosto 2008) Con el fin de insertar en el mercado laboral a los jóvenes ex pandilleros el Consejo Hondureño de la Empresa Privada (Cohep) la Cámara de Comercio e Industria de Tegucigalpa (CCIT) entre otras entidades firmaron el convenio de cooperación “Desafío 100”.

El propósito del acuerdo es dar oportunidades laborales en las empresas a los jóvenes que han abandonado las pandillas y están en busca de un trabajo que les permita reinserirse plenamente en la sociedad a través de actividades remuneradas.



El convenio beneficiará cientos de jóvenes

En el convenio también participaron representantes del Programa Nacional de Prevención, Rehabilitación y Reinserción Social de Personas Vinculadas a Maras o Pandillas (PNPRRS) la Alianza Joven Regional, la Agencia de los Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional (USAID) y el Sistema de Integración Centroamericana (SICA).

Annex 4

NOTICIAS

Edición 08-03

Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA

TALLERES SOBRE JUSTICIA PENAL JUVENIL EN TEGUCIGALPA, SAN SALVADOR Y CIUDAD DE GUATEMALA

Junio de 2008



La señora Magistrada de la Corte Suprema de Justicia Licenciada Mima Perla toma la palabra en el taller en San Salvador.



El consultor Samuel Fadul facilita el taller sobre justicia penal juvenil con la participación de importantes actores del sector justicia, gobierno y empresa privada, en las instalaciones de FOPRIDEH, socio de AJR en Tegucigalpa.

Durante el mes de junio y dentro del resultado dos del programa "Evaluar Marcos Legales y prácticas regionales a fin de promover reformas legales y de políticas de justicia juvenil para mejorar el tratamiento y rehabilitación de jóvenes en conflicto con la ley en Centroamérica", AJR realizó talleres de análisis sobre justicia penal juvenil en cada país con la participación de importantes expertos y actores nacionales en Honduras, El Salvador y Guatemala.

Con la facilitación del consultor Samuel Fadul, en los talleres se llevaron a cabo dinámicas de grupo que posibilitaron la construcción de árboles de problemas con sus causas y efectos. Los resultados fueron muy orientadores, ya que permitieron la identificación preliminar de prioridades en cada país y el interés de muchos de los presentes en participar en mesas de trabajo nacionales sobre el tema, pudiendo así definir un marco de trabajo para los consultores que facilitarán el tema.

Próximamente se conformarán mesas de trabajo, que en un proceso interactivo con consultores, abordarán la problemática y emitirán recomendaciones para compartirse en un primer Foro Regional de Justicia Penal Juvenil, que será convocado por las instituciones de la integración por medio de SG-SICA y AJR.



Asistentes al taller en Guatemala, participando en la técnica de identificación de los problemas centrales en materia de justicia penal juvenil, sus causas y sus consecuencias.

Seguir enlace: <http://www.elperiodico.com.gt/es/20080701/pais/59542/>



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Annex 5

NOTICIAS

Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA

Edición 2008-04

NACEN OPORTUNIDADES LABORALES PARA JOVENES EX PANDILLEROS EN SAN PEDRO SULA Y SURGE EL PRIMER CENTRO DE ALCANCE "POR MI BARRIO" EN EL SALVADOR



El vicepresidente del BID, Daniel Zelikow, firma como testigo de honor el convenio que da inicio a Desafío 100 en San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

ARRANCA DESAFIO 100 EN HONDURAS Ex pandilleros lograrán su gran sueño: un trabajo 17 de junio, San Pedro Sula, Honduras

Empresarios y maquiladores acordaron abrir 100 espacios para dar oportunidad laboral a igual número de ex pandilleros y que estos puedan tener un trabajo con el que rehacer sus vidas y convertirse en hombres y mujeres de bien. Ello se logró a través de un convenio entre Paz y Convivencia, la Asociación Hondureña de Maquiladores, la Cámara de Comercio e Industrias de Cortés y la Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA. El testigo de honor fue el Vicepresidente del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, Daniel Zelikow, quien dijo públicamente que el organismo al cual representa seguirá apoyando a Paz y Convivencia y se mostró satisfecho con los avances del programa.

Seguir enlace: http://www.laprensahn.com/index.php/ediciones/2008/06/19/ex_pandilleros_logran_su_gran_sueno_un_trabajo

INAUGURACIÓN DEL CENTRO DE ALCANCE "POR MI BARRIO" CFO, MEJICANOS, SAN SALVADOR

30 de julio, San Salvador, El Salvador

El primer Centro de Alcance (CdA) impulsado por el programa Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA (AJR) fue inaugurado en el municipio de Mejicanos, San Salvador. Esta es la octava experiencia de implementación de un CdA con la metodología de prevención de violencia juvenil desarrollada por Creative Associates International, Inc. Es fruto del convenio entre AJR y el Centro de Formación y Orientación "P. Rafael Palacios" (CFO), dirigido por el padre Antonio Rodríguez. Se espera beneficiar más de trescientos adolescentes, ofreciéndoles oportunidades en el uso del tiempo libre (arte y deporte), refuerzo escolar y capacitación para el trabajo. Todas estas acciones se alcanzarán a través del voluntariado, base esencial en la puesta en marcha de un Centro de Alcance.

Seguir enlace: http://www.elsalvador.com/mwedh/nota/nota_breves.asp?idCat=6358&idArt=2660050



A la inauguración asistieron numerosas personas de la comunidad así como socios de AJR y CFO. Los vecinos expresaron su disposición a ser voluntarios del Centro de Alcance.



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Annex 6

NOTICIAS

Edición 2008-05

Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA

NACEN OPORTUNIDADES LABORALES PARA JOVENES EX PANDILLEROS EN TEGUCIGALPA A TRAVES DE "DESAFIO 100, PAZ PARA HONDURAS"



El señor Carlos Bueso Presidente la Cámara de Comercio e Industria de Tegucigalpa y el señor Alejandro Alvarez en representación del Consejo Hondureño de la Empresa Privada (COHEP) al momento de la firma del convenio.

ARRANCA DESAFIO 100 EN TEGUCIGALPA 15 de Agosto, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Con el fin de insertar en el mercado laboral a jóvenes ex pandilleros, el Consejo Hondureño de la Empresa Privada (COHEP) la Cámara de Comercio e Industria de Tegucigalpa (CCIT), El Programa Nacional de Prevención (PNPRRS) y Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA, firmaron el convenio de cooperación "Desafío 100, Paz para Honduras". El propósito del mismo, es dar oportunidades laborales en las empresas a los jóvenes que han abandonado las pandillas y están en busca de un trabajo que les permita reinserirse plenamente en la sociedad a través del trabajo, demostrando así que sí puede haber una segunda oportunidad.

Seguir enlace: <http://www.hondudiario.com/economia=1708.php>

http://www.heraldoh.com/ez/index.php/plain_site_user/ediciones/2008/08/16/ex_pandilleros_con_una_nueva_oportunidad_social

http://www.tiempo.hn/mostrar_noticia.php?id=70003&seccion=4

MBA WHITOUT BORDERS (MWB) APOYA A COOPERATIVA MULTISERVICIOS San Pedro Sula, Honduras, Agosto 2008

Joel Montgomery, Master en Administración de Empresas y miembro de "MBA Sin Fronteras", durante mes y medio capacitará a la Cooperativa Multiservicios (COMJUVESOL), cuyos miembros son ex pandilleros y buscan convertirse en empresarios. Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA propició que un profesional de alta calidad, asesore a dicha cooperativa y así garantizar el éxito del esfuerzo que los jóvenes ex pandilleros están haciendo. Se espera que al final de la asesoría, los jóvenes puedan alcanzar altos estándares de profesionalismo.

Seguir enlace: <http://globalimpressions.blogspot.com/2008/08/day-9-typical-day.html>



Joel Montgomery, Consultor de MWB, Ronald Miranda de COMJUVESOL y Salvador Stadthagen de AJR USAID-SICA intercambian ideas de trabajo.



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