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QUARTERLY REPORT

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2009



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QUARTERLY REPORT

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2009

Prepared by
CREATIVE ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL, INC. (CREATIVE)
For the
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El Salvador

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I. OVERVIEW OF PROJECT ADVANCES THIS QUARTER

This report covers activities from October 1 to December 31, 2009 for the Regional Youth Alliance USAID-SICA (*Alianza Joven Regional* USAID-SICA (AJR) program also referred to as the Gangs Prevention Alliance for Central America and Mexico. The AJR's efforts this quarter focused on implementing activities in El Salvador and Guatemala, and working with partners in Honduras to advance our work there while waiting for the political situation to be resolved. The Outreach Centers (OCs) in Honduras continue to operate this quarter despite USAID travel restrictions to the country. In El Salvador, the AJR inaugurated one OC in 13 de enero, Zacamil and one in Meléndez, Soyapango, as well as agreed to an alliance with the Municipality of Apopa to develop two OCs in the Chintuc I and Chintuc II neighborhoods. The Desafío 100 program in El Salvador continued the selection of former gang members and worked to identify job opportunities for them with private sector partners. The AJR personnel in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula continued to follow up with those Desafío 100 beneficiaries. The Juvenile Justice component of the program had significant achievements this quarter, including the organization of the Second Regional Forum of Juvenile Justice in El Salvador, where 240 Juvenile Justice operators and experts from the region including Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama discussed strategies for improving juvenile justice (Annex 1- Second Juvenile Justice Forum Declaration). The political situation in Honduras, including the travel restriction for AJR personnel placed activities on hold for this quarter.

The AJR signed and is working on finalizing the following agreements:

- The AJR signed a small grant with Universidad Francisco Gavidia in San Salvador to provide training (including the development two virtual education modules) through 42 volunteers and to improve the IT capacity of the OCs developed in El Salvador;
- In agreement with the Ministry of Social Inclusion and the Directorate of Youth, led by the Office of the First Lady of El Salvador, an assessment of youth violence in El Salvador was commissioned in 144 municipalities. The assessment will be used to inform a national consultation on the design of a youth policy;
- A proposal for an OC in Chintuc II was received and is under review;
- The AJR signed an agreement with the Municipality of Choloma, Honduras and the local Catholic Parrish to develop an OC once travel is allowed;
- A first draft of a proposal to fund a reintegration process taking place in Peronia has been received from an FBO in Guatemala. In Peronia over 100 gang members from opposing sides have declared a truce.

The AJR produced two electronic Newsletters (2009-04 and 2009-05) that were distributed widely in the region. (Annexes 2 and 3)

II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS QUARTER

Analysis of Progress

During the fourth quarter, the AJR progressed in meeting its September 2010 targets. To date, 38 communities have been assisted in crime prevention efforts. The AJR also opened one additional OC bringing the total number to eight in both El Salvador and Honduras. The AJR also implemented six prevention projects in alliance with OCs in Guatemala. The number of youth benefiting from OC activities increased by 441 beneficiaries up from 2,970 to 3,411. This figure does not include youth that benefited from activities supported by small grants, such as those that were reached by the six small grants implemented in Guatemala. Also, this number does not include new beneficiaries from the Mejicanos OC, as it has been difficult to obtain data given a change in the coordinator by the partner organization CFO. The Desafío 100 program has vetted and accepted additional former gang members in San Salvador to be placed in jobs. The Second Regional Forum of Juvenile Justice was a major initiative organized in coordination with and promoted by SICA.

IR 1 Strengthening Rule of Law					
Sub-IR Crime Prevention Programs Implemented					
Number	Indicator	Baseline Year		Target Sept 2010	To December 2009
Result 1 Jump Start Public Private Initiatives for Gang Prevention					
1.1	Communities assisted in crime prevention	2008	0	30	38
1.2	New Outreach Centers Established	2008	0	15	8
1.3	Sub-Grants Implemented (other than Outreach Centers)	2008	0	7 mid-size grants 27 small grants	16 small grants
1.4	Youth benefited by Outreach Centers	2008	0	3750	3,411
1.5	Desafio 100 youths provided with jobs	2008	0	450	40
1.6	Leverage Contributions raised	2008	0	1:1	1.95/0.59
Result 2 Assess Regional Legal/Justice Frameworks and promote Juvenile Justice Policy Reform					
2.1	Evaluation of National/Legal Frameworks/Policies and Best Practices validated by Working Groups and Regional Comparative Analysis Developed	2008	0	3 Evaluations Validated 1 Comparative Analysis Developed	3 Evaluations validated 1 Comparative Analysis Developed
2.2	Advocacy Strategies to influence National/Regional Legal Frameworks/Policies designed and implemented	2008	0	3	0
Result 3 Collaboration and Assistance to SICA to catalyze regional policy reform and harmonization					
3.1	Number of reforms and initiatives promoted by SICA to improve the juvenile justice system and juvenile violence prevention through assistance by AJR	2008	0	5	3

Main Problems Encountered

The major challenge faced this quarter continued to be the travel restriction for Honduras. Nevertheless, the AJR maintained program presence in the country and expects to resume implementation of activities in February 2010.

The economic crisis in the region continues to take a toll on the program. In a recent meeting of Religions for Peace held in San Salvador and attended by the AJR Project Director, it was stated that donations to FBOs have decreased by nearly 50 percent and volunteerism has declined by 20 percent.

The AJR continued its efforts to find jobs for the Desafío 100 beneficiaries in El Salvador. Program staff made additional presentations to the Chamber of Commerce of El Salvador, the Association of Industries of El Salvador and the newly elected president of the Association for Private Sector (ANEP-Spanish acronym) organizations. After receiving USAID approval, the AJR hired a consultant to assist in building alliances with NGOs and the private sector with the expectation that these alliances will lead to jobs and leverage. The AJR staff also visited private organizations and businesses which included; the Rotary Club President, Dr. Juan Ochoa; Esso Standard Oil General Manager (Mr. Alfaro); Chamber of Industry Executive Director, Mr. Arriaza; Sugar producer CASSA (Mr. Interiano); CEPA (Mr. Bara); and Hanes. Although the AJR made considerable efforts to form alliances with the private sector, it only received two job offers from PARTEX. The ongoing situation of homicides and extortions attributed mainly to gangs has made it difficult for Salvadorian businesses to offer employment to former gang members. The AJR will adjust its job placement for former gang members as negative perceptions still dominate in Salvadorian society. Other possible venues could include internship and micro enterprise development programs that can eventually lead to job opportunities for former gang members.

This quarter Program Officer, Juan José Hernandez and Project Director were invited to be part of a panel organized by Central American University (UCA) youth volunteer organization “Un Techo Para Mi País” to discuss Christian Poveda’s film *La Vida Loca*.

The USAID funded Youth Challenge Program (YCP) ended on December 31, 2009. The AJR collaborated with the YCP on several activities including the Juvenile Justice component. In order to continue work in Guatemala, USAID/El Salvador approved the opening of a small office to implement small grants, the reintegration project in Peronia, and juvenile justice activities as well as other projects that are in the design phase.

Next Steps

The Directorate of Youth of the Ministry of Social Inclusion (managed by El Salvador’s First Lady) requested the AJR’s assistance in conducting an assessment on youth violence that will inform its upcoming National Dialogues for the Development of Youth Policy where thousands of young Salvadorans will be asked to provide input in the design of a new youth policy. USAID approved the AJR to hire Mr. Armando Jimenez to conduct this assessment by January 2010.

The AJR intends to use this assessment to form a network of youth leaders that can later participate in a youth movement against violence. The assessment will include several focus groups and meetings with youth leaders from various sectors of Salvadoran society. A presentation of the assessment will be shared with the youth groups and other stakeholders such

as academics, government officials, mayors and council members, religious groups and other moral authority figures. Using the assessment as a baseline, the AJR will produce a video to inform public opinion and motivate leaders to become involved in prevention activities. The AJR expects to develop this activity into a full component in the future extension of the program, which will focus on the creation of a national youth movement advocating for a national public policy on the prevention of violence.

The AJR initiated conversations with USAID about working with a number of municipalities on local prevention plans, and assisted USAID in organizing meetings with several of these municipalities. The AJR developed selection criteria for the new municipalities participating in the program in conjunction with RTI, Vanderbilt University and USAID. Nine municipalities were invited to present the program at the Sheraton Presidente Hotel in San Salvador. The AJR also participated in the evaluation of the proposals received from the four municipalities that expressed interest in this new program. The AJR will visit interested municipalities with USAID and will integrate these new activities in the program extension.

The AJR is exploring various options in changing its Desafío 100 methodology to make it more effective. The program is considering a possible alliance with FUNDASALVA. Given the ongoing economic crisis, the AJR has been researching successful models and experiences for reintegration through micro-enterprise development. The AJR is currently in discussions with *Metamorfosis*, which provides employment opportunities in shoemaking for former gang members and inmates.

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

Component I: Preventing that young people enter gangs

The AJR achieved notable results in the development and implementation of OCs. In El Salvador the program inaugurated two centers in 13 de enero, Zacamil as well as Mejicanos in Meléndez, Soyapango. Both of these centers were opened in partnership with local partner Fe y Alegría.

The establishment of OCs in Chintuc I and Chintuc II of Apopa has suffered delays, as a consequence of Hurricane Ida. The storm caused damage to equipment destined for the Meléndez, Soyapango OC.

Despite the political situation in Honduras, the establishment of the Choloma OC has continued, albeit long distance. The AJR has been able to get agreements from the mayor of Choloma and including a space to establish the OC. The AJR expects to implement OCs in Chamelecón, San Pedro Sula as well as in Puerto Lempira. Both of these OCs will be established in the next year.

El Salvador

In October and December, the program inaugurated two OCs in 13 de enero, Zacamil and Mejicanos in Meléndez, Soyapango. The Mejicanos OC inauguration was attended by Julissa Reynoso, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, and by Juan Daniel

Alemán, the General Secretary of the Central American Integration System (SICA) as well as the USAID Director and the mayors of each municipality. The municipalities are providing support to the sustainability of the OCs. The inauguration of this OC was extensively covered by local media (Annex 4). The Meléndez OC will benefit 130 families directly as well as the communities of Lisboa, Santa Lucía I and II, California I and II as well as Los Angeles.

The TCS television corporation ran a program this quarter on the Lourdes, Colon OC. Media coverage of program initiatives is important in raising public awareness of the needs of vulnerable youth who reside in these areas. Through public awareness, the AJR can leverage more resources to prevent youth from entering gangs and provide them with more educational and vocational opportunities.

Even though there have been some difficulties, the AJR continues to work on the establishment of the OCs in Chintuc I and Chintuc II in the Municipality of Apopa, and expects to inaugurate them in the first quarter of 2010. The municipality has agreed to support these OCs by covering operational costs.

The AJR has signed an agreement with Francisco Gavidia University to collaborate on computer repair courses as part of the OC offerings. The main objective of this partnership is that beneficiaries, volunteers and the coordinators of the OCs are certified in computer repairs. Through this agreement, university students will fulfill their required volunteer hours at the OCs.

The Mejicanos OC has begun a process of distancing itself from the OC network. This is due to a change in the OC coordinator.

The AJR has built a relationship with a company that manages pension funds to start micro enterprise trainings at the OC.

Honduras

Tegucigalpa

The AJR has only been able to maintain its presence in the country and advance project goals long distance. The program is collaborating with Save the Children to implement two OCs in Tegucigalpa. The number of beneficiaries in the OCs has reached 1108 with over 6000 hours of volunteer time. Youth attending OCs in Tegucigalpa are mainly attracted to the recreational offerings with one of the main attractions being the internet. Many youth now have access to a computer which helps with their school assignments and learning.

Youth that normally attend the OCs during school vacations have had to work to buy clothing and materials they need for the new school year. This has caused a decrease in the number of youth attending OCs.

San Pedro Sula

The Rivera Hernández OC in San Pedro Sula is now receiving support from partner Organización Paz y Convivencia (OPC). OPC donated an air conditioning system as well as a plasma television. Although funds were expected much sooner, the OC continues to provide services to youth at risk. The Rivera Hernández area has been one of the most severely impacted by the political situation.

The AJR is preparing to inaugurate an OC in Choloma in the region of López Arellano. The political situation in Honduras has impeded progress in opening this center although all partnerships are now in place. This OC will be supported by the Municipality of Choloma and inaugurated at the beginning of 2010.

The main difficulty in Chamelecón has been the ability to find a reliable local partner to support OC activities. In December, the AJR began working with an evangelical church as a local partner in establishing the OC.

Guatemala:

This quarter crime prevention community grants were awarded to six OCs in Guatemala. The six projects involved a diverse set of activities to prevent crime at the community level. The grants were intended to position the OCs as crime prevention actors in their communities. The range of activities varied from motivational talks in schools, a concert in Búcaro, Mezquital and the refurbishment of the soccer field in Ciudad del Sol, Villa Nueva.

These grants were awarded at the end of the September, and activities planned in schools were postponed for the beginning of the year to ensure maximum student participation. The following are some of the activities implemented during the quarter:

- *Palin, Escuintla:* The Palin OC conducted 18 presentations on the topic of violence prevention. The presentations were given to community members and OC beneficiaries. The presentations are expected to start in schools at the beginning of the new school year.
- *Santa Catarina Pinula:* The Santa Catarina Pinula OC will begin violence prevention presentations in schools at the beginning of the new school year. This quarter, the OC finished filming a short documentary on crime prevention that will be shown in schools. The OC will present the movie to its beneficiaries in February 2010. Known to be one of the most active, the Santa Catarina Pinula OC is hoping to reach more beneficiaries through this movie.
- *Cantón Ojo de Agua, Palencia:* The project “Yo decido contra la Violencia” (I decide against violence) will develop and strengthen personal and group skills to help protect youth in Palencia from using alcohol and drugs, interfamilial violence, and becoming involved gangs through a “movie forum”. The project started on December 12, 2009 with a concert at the Municipal Park where a local band from Mixco performed and helped promote the OC using messages against violence. The week of December 14-18,

2009 the OC showed movies on issues related to alcohol, drugs, violence and gangs at the municipal park. The movies shown were: 1) A difficult decision, 2) Sin Nombre, 3) Street fighters, 4) Scars, and 5) Facing the Giants. The activities strengthened the relationship with the mayor and members of the community and reached 1500 youth, including 500 minors. The OC is now seen as a promoter of healthy lifestyles for the neighborhood and their children.

- *Ciudad del Sol:* This quarter the OC refurbished a soccer field located a few blocks from its building which was abandoned and used to dump garbage. Partners in the recuperation of this area are the beneficiaries, the Neighbors Association, the Soccer League and the Municipality.

During the quarter, Ciudad del Sol involved community members and the municipality to build a roof, stands, and a playground in the soccer field. The inauguration of the new soccer field has been scheduled for February 2, 2010, and the Municipality has agreed to plant artificial grass by September 2011.

This project has unified the community as the neighbors continue to volunteer at the OC and the coordinator of the Ciudad del Sol Outreach Center continues to promote the involvement of Pepsi and other organizations to support with materials and products to improve the soccer field.

- *Búcaro, Mezquital:* During this quarter the Búcaro, Mezquital OC organized the Concert against Violence. The concert was held on November 7th, around 300 youth attended. The singers, who are role models for the youth gave messages related to values, the importance of life and recommended that youth should not be involved in crime.
- *San Rafael II:* The Community surrounding the San Rafael II OC has in general been apathetic to its activities. In order to involve the community more closely with the OC activities, the Pastor in charge of operational activities held several meetings with community members as well at the Municipality and Cementos Progreso to promote volunteering.

The OC and the community have been working in the construction of multi sports courts to provide youth of the community with recreation areas. This project is an example of how an abandoned space can be turned into a recreation facility for vulnerable youth. The grant has also served to position the San Rafael Outreach Center as a social actor committed to prevent crime at the community. The municipality has contributed 160 bags of cement, labor and 3 trucks; the Municipality has agreed to dump all the garbage. In the next quarter, the OC will organize the visit of a Cementos Progreso representative who has offered to contribute trees to plant around the courts. Due to this support, the money saved was used to build a fence around the facility to enclose activities. Once ready, the park will include soccer, basketball, volleyball fields and courts.

- *Ciudad Peronia:* During the quarter the AJR has been assisting Pastor Mardoqueo and several former gang members to start a small business in support of social insertion and

rehabilitation of gang members in Ciudad Peronia. In the next quarter a grant will be awarded to the new former gang members union in Peronia to start a household goods and groceries distribution business and start a ceramics company. This project is an important example of gang members leaving their gang to pursue a healthy non violent lifestyle. The AJR hopes to successfully replicate this program in other communities.

Component 2: Encouraging gang members to abandon gangs

In the last quarter, three former Desafio 10 participants were killed. Of the ten Desafio 10 participants only five are alive. Although their participation in the reality television show raised their profile in the community, their death reflects the difficulty of reinserting former gang members into society.

The AJR has suffered some setbacks in developing an awareness strategy using the media. The death of documentary director Christian Poveda has frightened many potential media partners into not working on these types of projects. The program now faces the challenge of developing an awareness strategy that does not endanger any potential collaborators.

Component 3: Job opportunities for rehabilitated former gang members

El Salvador continues to be the most difficult environment to provide former gang members with jobs. Of the 50 former gang members that were selected after a rigorous screening process, only two currently hold jobs. These jobs were not provided by Salvadorian companies highlighting their unwillingness to participate. Nevertheless, the AJR has noticed small changes in the attitudes of the larger companies operating in San Salvador. The AJR has begun to explore other options in El Salvador including training former gang members in micro enterprise development; assisting beneficiaries in getting internships as well as involving local organizations in job placement efforts.

In Honduras, the partnership with Organización Paz y Convivencia as well as the private sector has led to significant achievements in the placement of former gang members in jobs. In December, former gang members, business owners and program representatives met to talk about potential job opportunities in 2010. An organization that works with youth in gangs in the city has expressed interest in being a partner in identifying job opportunities for youth. It is important for the sustainability of the Desafio 100 program that local organizations are involved and take responsibility for the employment of these youth.

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

During the past quarter the Intersectoral Commission for the Reform of the Juvenile Justice System continued their advocacy work, moving forward an agenda and carrying out meetings with key actors of juvenile justice institutions such as the Salvadoran Institute for the Integral Development of Childhood and Adolescence (ISNA- Spanish acronym). The AJR continued to coordinate meetings, provide assistance and support to the Commission.

As a result of the advocacy work carried out by the Commission during this last quarter, ISNA has taken into account recommendations, such as the need to develop and institutionalize a comprehensive re-education/rehabilitation program for juvenile offenders and assume the administration of the juvenile detention centers (Centros de Resguardo).

In Guatemala, the advocacy effort was consolidated and a Juvenile Justice Sub-commission composed of juvenile justice operators and civil society organizations has been formed under the National Commission for Childhood and Adolescence (CNNA- Spanish acronym). This institution is responsible for the formulation and application of public policies regarding youth and children. The formation of the Sub-commission under the CNNA will provide sustainability to this important effort. An advocacy workshop was carried out to start-up activities with the Sub-commission. In the workshop, stakeholders identified key advocacy areas and an advocacy project proposal is currently being developed.

In Honduras, the Juvenile Justice Advocacy Coalition was not able to carry out regular meetings due to the continued political instability. However the presidential election of November 29, 2009 has brought a new sense of stability to the country which allowed AJR consultant Rigoberto Portillo to carry out individual meetings with coalition members in order to continue with the production of the advocacy project proposal. A draft project proposal has been completed and the AJR expects to hold a final meeting with Coalition members, once activities in Honduras are resumed.

Following up on the success of the First Regional Juvenile Justice Forum, held in Tegucigalpa in November 2008, the Second Regional Juvenile Justice Forum entitled “Towards Restorative Juvenile Justice in Central America”, was held in San Salvador, El Salvador on the 23 and 24 of November 2009. More than 240 experts and juvenile justice sector actors from various countries of the region participated in this significant event. The theme second Forum was based on a recommendation from the First Regional Juvenile Justice Forum in 2008. At the first forum, participants highlighted the importance of shifting towards a restorative approach in the juvenile justice systems of the region. The recommendations of this Second Regional Forum were aimed at developing and assuming restorative mechanisms and tools that respond to the needs of the juvenile justice systems and work from an educational perspective, inclusive of the victim and the community. These recommendations were included in the Declaration of San Salvador and have been presented to the Central American integration institutions with the expectation that much needed policies changes are advocated for at both the regional and national levels.

Achievements

Recommendations provided by the Intersectoral Commission for the Reform of the Juvenile Justice System in El Salvador begin to be implemented.

In the last quarter, the Technical Sub-commission forwarded an advocacy agenda by carrying out key meetings with government officials and providing follow-up to the actions determined by the Commission, while considering viable strategies to ensure the implementation of the recommended changes.

Efforts were concentrated in advocating for the development of institutional programs for the rehabilitation and insertion of youth in conflict with the law. In this regard, the Sub-commission carried out follow-up meetings with Mr. Luis Salazar, Executive Director of ISNA, where they discussed the need to have a comprehensive re-education/rehabilitation program for juvenile offenders. At the meeting the Sub-commission also discussed the administrative responsibility of the *Resguardo* juvenile detention center in San Miguel. This detention center should be managed by ISNA as outlined in Article 58 of the Criminal Juvenile law and not the municipality.

Mr. Luis Salazar, was receptive to the recommendations presented by the Commission and has begun implementing important changes in ISNA. Some of these changes have included the establishment of an Alternative Measures Department and retaking its role as administrator of the juvenile detention center in San Miguel. It is important to note that the center lacks the proper conditions to ensure the legal rights of the children and youth held in detention less than 72 hours. The Intersectoral Commission intends to support ISNA in the process of structuring a model administrative juvenile detention center, which could later be implemented as a pilot. A draft advocacy project proposal which includes the development of a model center has been presented to the AJR and it is expected that a final project proposal will be presented in the month of February, once a visit to the juvenile detention center in San Miguel is made by Commission members.

In follow-up to agreements reached by the Technical Sub-commission with the Minister of Justice and Security, Director of the National Civilian Police, Director of the National Academy of Public Security, and the Director of ISNA, representatives of the ANSP and ISNA have been included as members of the Intersectoral Commission and provide follow-up and coordinate the recommendations presented by the Commission. These recommendations include the need for specialized, continuous and progressive training for juvenile justice operators including police officers.

The Intersectoral Commission has become a recognized platform for the discussion and coordination of key initiatives between the juvenile justice sector institutions and civil society working in this area. The coordination and assistance provided by the AJR, has been key to the consolidation of this effort.

Establishment of a Juvenile Justice Sub-commission and advocacy effort underway in Guatemala.

The advocacy effort in Guatemala is underway and a Juvenile Justice Sub-commission has been formed under the CNNA. The Sub-commission is comprised of juvenile justice sector actors and civil society members working on juvenile justice issues. The Sub-commission includes judges, magistrates, public defenders and personnel from the Secretaría de Bienestar Social –SBS (the entity responsible for the rehabilitation and reinsertion programs for juvenile offenders) among others.

In November, an advocacy workshop aimed at prioritizing urgent areas for reform and changes in the juvenile justice system, strengthening the skills of the Sub-commission members in their advocacy process and lobbying initiatives, was held in Guatemala. As a result, key advocacy

areas were defined and validated by Sub-commission members. The areas prioritized for advocacy work are the following:

1. Provide support, as an expert group in matters concerning juvenile justice, in the development of a youth violence prevention public policy
2. Advocate for the establishment of an integrated, institutionalized and sustainable approach for youth in conflict with the law; and as a cross cutting issue
3. Develop an advocacy process aimed at working with the media in order to raise awareness of vulnerable youth and those youth in conflict with the law.

It is expected that the Sub-commission will be presenting this project proposal to the AJR during the month of February 2010.

Second Regional Juvenile Justice Forum successfully held in San Salvador, El Salvador.

More than 240 experts, juvenile justice sector actors of the region, civil society and international community members participated in the Second Regional Juvenile Forum (“Toward Restorative Justice in Central America”) on November 23 and 24, 2009, in San Salvador, El Salvador. The Forum provided an opportunity for participants to discuss and exchange best practices in juvenile justice, and provide follow-up to the recommendations established in the First Regional Juvenile Justice Forum, held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras in November 2008.

The Second Regional Forum on Juvenile Justice, was carried out in coordination with the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SG-SICA), the Central American Court of Justice (CCJ), the Government of El Salvador through the National Council for Public Security (CNSP), the Italian Cooperation, the organization Terre des Hommes-Lausanne, and with financial support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) through their Regional Security Project SICA-UNDP. The AJR provided technical and logistical support for the event. Delegations from the Central American region including Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama participated in the forum. Transportation and lodging costs for invitees were funded by the Regional Security SICA-UNDP project.

The Forum took place over two days and included a series of lectures by renowned international experts, among them:

- Claudia Mazzucato- mediation and restorative justice specialist from the Catholic University of Milan in Italy. Ms. Mazzucato provided an overview of the juvenile justice system in Italy and the application of restorative measures for adolescents.
- Victor Herrero- alternative measures expert from the Ministry of Justice of Spain. Mr. Herrero commented on the correct application of restorative measures for youth in conflict with the law.
- Douglas Duran Chavarria- Latin American Institute of the United Nations for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD). Mr. Chavarria provided a general overview of juvenile justice in Central America with a restorative justice focus.
- Dora Nevares Muñiz- University of Puerto Rico. Ms. Muñiz gave a lecture on the juvenile justice system in Puerto Rico;

- Herberth Gayle- a social anthropologist at the University of Jamaica. Mr. Gayle gave a presentation on youth violence in the Caribbean and recommendations for its reduction; and
- Florencia Saintout- Communications expert and Director of the Youth, Communications and Media Observatory at the University of La Plata in Argentina. Ms. Saintout spoke of the stigmatization and labeling of youth in Latin America and the importance of working with the media.

During the first day, the presentations focused on the juvenile justice systems of El Salvador and Nicaragua. Subsequently, during the second day of the Forum, ten round tables were established in which juvenile justice actors developed specific recommendations using a restorative focus to improve the juvenile justice systems in the region.

In the closing ceremony, the Declaration of San Salvador was presented outlining recommendations and participants committed to work within their various institutions, using a restorative framework and approach to address needs of children and adolescents who are in conflict with the law.

Obstacles

The Presidential elections carried out on November 29, 2009 brought a new sense of stability to Honduras and as a result AJR consultant Rigoberto Portillo was able to hold individual meetings with Juvenile Justice Advocacy Coalition members in order to assist them in drafting the advocacy project proposal. However, activities of the Coalition are still on stand-by, pending USAID approval of travel.

The AJR will continue to monitor the situation and take the necessary steps as appropriate. The AJR expects to continue to support advocacy activities of the Coalition in Honduras soon after the new government assumes power and the situation normalizes.

Next Steps

Next quarter the AJR will organize an observation trip to the juvenile detention center in San Miguel and accompany members of the Intersectoral Commission for the Reform of the Juvenile Justice System in El Salvador in order to observe the conditions of the center and meet with the mayor of San Miguel regarding the needs of the center. This trip is a prerequisite to the implementation of an ISNA administered pilot project at the detention center. The AJR expects to receive the final proposal from the Commission by the first week of February and will send to USAID for approval by mid February.

It is also expected that during the month of February the advocacy project proposal will be finally presented by the Juvenile Justice Sub-commission in Guatemala. The AJR expects to send the proposal to USAID for approval shortly thereafter in order for the Sub-commission to start implementing activities by the month of March.

The AJR will continue to monitor Honduras and will be ready to start-up advocacy activities with the Juvenile Justice Advocacy Coalition when USAID grants travel approval. Once activities resume, the AJR will meet with the Coalition members to substantiate the advocacy project proposal and start the construction of the advocacy strategy.

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

The AJR continues its collaborative exchanges with SICA. The Secretary General, the Executive Director, the Legal and Political Director of SICA and the members of the DSU have frequent contact with the AJR through its Project Director and regularly seek advice on various issues pertaining to security and prevention.

The AJR supported in the design and implementation of the First Central American Conference on the Culture of Lawfulness (COL) held in San José, Costa Rica in October. With USAID approval, the AJR brought in a speaker representing the National Strategy Information Center (NSIC), a Washington, DC based NGO which initiated the Culture of Lawfulness concept and introduced it in countries such as Mexico and Colombia. AJR Project Director attended this conference. The USAID logo was placed among the Conference sponsors. The conference inaugurated by President Arias of Costa Rica, was very well attended and served to establish further contacts with experts working in the area of prevention that participated as speakers, and guests. These activities were coordinated with Mr. Luis Torres from the Democratic Security Unit of SICA. SICA has decided to make Culture of Lawfulness one of its four areas of focus for the coming years.

In the beginning of November, SICA invited AJR Project Director and Project Officer to make a presentation at a Central American event held in San Salvador to promote Violence Prevention Mesas or Councils at the Municipal level. Mr. Hernandez presented on Creative's experience in the successful implementation of a similar model in Guatemala. The Project Director presented on the OC model, as a practical tool that could be useful to the councils in anchoring prevention work with youth at the local level.

As described above, the AJR coordinated the Second Juvenile Justice Forum where several SICA donors such as UNDP/Spain-SICA and Italian Cooperation-SICA participated financially and technically. The AJR only contributed a small portion of the cost of this Forum. This Forum was displayed prominently in the web page of SICA and met the expectations of participants, donors and SICA alike.

The Secretary General of SICA organized a meeting between Mr. Mauricio Loucel, Rector of Universidad Tecnológica (UTEC) and the AJR Project Director. Mr. Loucel was a Committee Member and a Coordinator of the Presidential Commission of Citizen's Security and Social Peace, in which the Secretary General also participated as a member. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss organizing a Coalition of leaders that could include some of the former members of the Commission and that could advocate for better security and prevention policies, particularly to improve the horizons of Salvadorian youth. Mr. Loucel offered to assist in any

video materials that the Media Department of his University could produce for a future campaign. He also mentioned the possibility of convening the Senate of his University to form part of any future Coalition.

The first meeting of an informal steering committee of SICA donor projects, was convened at the suggestion of the AJR. The meeting at SICA headquarters was important in understanding the role of each organization to avoid duplication of efforts. Participants agreed that to look for opportunities for collaboration among projects, even through small concrete steps. The Second Juvenile Justice Forum was seen as a positive advancement in this direction.

A meeting with the Secretary General of SICA was requested for Mr. Alex Gutman and Mr. Carlos Patricio Escobar (Vice-President of the Poma Group), representing FIFA's Futbol Forever prevention initiative. Futbol Forerever is working with 3,500 children and youth at schools located in high risk neighborhoods of greater San Salvador, such as La Campanera. This organization uses Soccer, which is the most popular sport in the Northern part of Central America, as a vehicle to work a new learning model for children, leading to self growth and building resilience against crime. The organization is looking to expand the program in El Salvador and possibly other countries in Central America. The Secretary General volunteered his assistance and mentioned that for SICA to be able to support it, the program should do to expand to more than one country.

Next Steps

The AJR Project Director met with the Director of Political and Legal Affairs, Mr. Erich Vilchez and with the Executive Director, Mr. Edgar Chamorro, to discuss future steps in the assistance the AJR could give SICA. There were several meetings, which also included e-mail correspondence with the Secretary General, regarding the menu of activities that SICA would like to request the request USAID through the AJR. A comprehensive menu of possible activities will be discussed in the next quarter, and will be shared with USAID. One activity that has the full interest of SICA is assistance for the transfer and installation of OCAVI from the CNSP to the organization and help to develop it as a working unit within SICA.

Annex 1



SEGUNDO FORO REGIONAL DE JUSTICIA PENAL JUVENIL: “Hacia una Justicia Restaurativa en Centroamérica” *Declaración de San Salvador* 24 de Noviembre de 2009

I. ANTECEDENTES

El 20 y 21 de noviembre de 2008, en la ciudad de Tegucigalpa, Honduras, más de ciento setenta y cinco operadores/as de justicia penal juvenil, funcionarios de instituciones de gobierno, sociedad civil y miembros de la comunidad cooperante, participaron en el Primer Foro Regional de Justicia Penal Juvenil. En dicho Foro se consensuaron una serie de importantes recomendaciones a nivel normativo, de políticas públicas, de organización y funcionamiento institucional, con especial énfasis en la rehabilitación, reinserción e inserción de los jóvenes inmersos en procesos delictivos, las cuales están contenidas en el “Documento de Tegucigalpa”. Algunas de dichas recomendaciones han sido retomadas y se encuentran impulsándose algunos procesos de incidencia en algunos países de la región, encaminados a lograr mejoras en los respectivos sistemas de justicia penal juvenil.

Es en el marco de esa perspectiva que se propuso la celebración del Segundo Foro Regional de Justicia Penal Juvenil: “**Hacia una Justicia Restaurativa en Centroamérica**”, llevado a cabo como un esfuerzo conjunto de la SG-SICA, la Corte Centroamericana de Justicia (CCJ), el Gobierno de la República de El Salvador a través del Consejo Nacional de Seguridad Pública (CNSP), contando con la coordinación y apoyo del Programa Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA, del Proyecto Regional de Seguridad PNUD-SICA, de Cooperación Italiana, y de la organización Terre des Hommes - Lausanne.

Asimismo, el presente Foro se desarrolla en el contexto de la celebración del vigésimo aniversario de la Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño. La Convención enfatiza en sus artículos 37 B, 39, 40.3 y 40.3B, 40.4, la necesidad de generar mecanismos y herramientas que respondan a la violencia relacionada con personas menores de edad, de manera que se busquen soluciones tendientes a la desjudicialización y al respeto y refuerzo de los derechos fundamentales de los niños y niñas.



II. SEGUNDO FORO REGIONAL DE JUSTICIA PENAL JUVENIL

Reunidos en San Salvador, El Salvador, los días 23 y 24 de noviembre de 2009, doscientos cuarenta operadores de justicia, funcionarios de instituciones de gobierno, sociedad civil y miembros de la comunidad cooperante, participantes en este Segundo Foro de Justicia Penal Juvenil, después de un trascendental intercambio sobre la situación de la justicia penal juvenil en la región centroamericana y tomando en cuenta los aportes que los principios de la justicia restaurativa pueden brindar para lograr soluciones coherentes en la región, presentamos las siguientes reflexiones y recomendaciones principales:

DECLARAMOS:

1. Que asumimos unánimemente el compromiso de seguir trabajando, desde las distintas instituciones aquí representadas, desde una visión y enfoque restaurativo en cuanto a las intervenciones con los niños/as y adolescentes que se encuentran en conflicto con la ley.
2. Que entendemos como principios irrenunciables de la Justicia Juvenil Restaurativa todos aquellos recogidos en los principios básicos concernientes a la aplicación de programas de justicia restaurativa en la resolución 2002/12 del Consejo Económico y Social de Naciones Unidas y en el Manual sobre Programas de Justicia Restaurativa de Naciones Unidas.
3. Que considerando el *Principio de Universalidad y de Igualdad ante la Ley*, se ha de trabajar para conseguir que la aplicación de la Justicia Juvenil Restaurativa pueda ser una realidad para todos los jóvenes de cualquier territorio o condición social.
4. Que considerando el *Principio de Responsabilidad Pública*, son los Gobiernos y sus instituciones los principales responsables de impulsar, apoyar y consolidar políticas públicas en favor de la prevención y propiciar espacios para la no violencia. A estas instituciones corresponde liderar y promover los recursos precisos para la implementación de una correcta aplicación de la justicia para todos los jóvenes.
5. Que considerando el *Principio de Responsabilidad del Joven Infractor*, la Justicia Juvenil Restaurativa se basa en situar al joven infractor frente a su propia responsabilidad, haciéndole consciente del daño o lesión de derechos individuales o colectivos derivados de su acción delictiva. Desde este principio, la Justicia Juvenil Restaurativa trabaja desde una visión educativa y pedagógica que tiene siempre en cuenta a las víctimas y que involucra a la comunidad, contribuyendo a la disminución de la percepción de inseguridad.
6. Que reconocemos asimismo, la especial relevancia de los *Principios de Oportunidad, de Intervención Mínima, de Flexibilidad y de Diversificación de las Medidas*, entre otros.

SOBRE LA JUSTICIA JUVENIL RESTAURATIVA RECONOCEMOS:

1. Que tiene como objetivo la reparación directa o indirecta e incluso simbólica a las víctimas y a la sociedad.

2. Que genera espacios, aportes y condiciones de oportunidad activa y participativa para el normal desarrollo del joven infractor.
3. Que al promover la desjudicialización, resulta menos costosa en términos humanos y también económicos para los Estados.
4. Que proporciona la diversificación de las respuestas penales y genera a su vez mayor proporcionalidad a dichas respuestas.
5. Que promueve y prioriza en lo posible la aplicación de las medidas alternativas contempladas en los respectivos Códigos y Leyes de la Niñez y Adolescencia.
6. Que evidencia las carencias de otros sistemas (salud, educación, servicios sociales, formación laboral entre otros), los implica en la ejecución de las medidas y estimula su fortalecimiento.
7. Que involucra de igual modo a las redes sociales organizadas.
8. Que posibilita y refuerza la coordinación entre el sistema judicial, las instituciones y redes sociales intervinientes.
9. Que reconoce y refuerza el respeto al joven infractor y a la víctima en todas las fases del proceso penal juvenil.
10. Que produce un efecto de disminución de la criminalidad y reduce la reincidencia en los jóvenes infractores.
11. Que hace del internamiento una respuesta excepcional de último recurso, reduciendo la población en los centros penitenciarios o de internamiento.
12. Que promueve para las medidas de internamiento, la clasificación, la intervención individualizada y científica, así como la progresividad de las mismas.
13. Que incide en las instituciones que intervienen, en el desarrollo de condiciones de respeto a los derechos fundamentales de los jóvenes, promoviendo a su vez en los jóvenes, la responsabilidad en el cumplimiento de sus obligaciones
14. Que evita los efectos negativos y perversos que produce la utilización indiscriminada de la privación de libertad.
15. Que en definitiva la Justicia Juvenil Restaurativa tiene en cuenta a los jóvenes infractores y a las víctimas en toda su dimensión humana.

RECOMENDAMOS:

1. Incorporar el enfoque sistémico de la Justicia Juvenil Restaurativa involucrando activamente a todos los operadores intervinientes: joven, víctima, familia, comunidad, gobiernos locales, policía, defensores, fiscales, juezas y jueces de menores y de niñez y adolescencia, jueces de ejecución, equipos multidisciplinarios, instituciones de ejecución de medidas alternativas, instituciones de ejecución de medidas privativas de libertad, instituciones públicas y privadas, centros de internamiento, servicios y entidades trabajando con los jóvenes en conflicto con la ley penal y sociedad civil implicadas en la ejecución o en la intervención con los jóvenes, entre otros.
2. Reforzar la ejecución de las Medidas Alternativas y de las instituciones responsables de las mismas, dotando a estas de las normas y procedimientos precisos así como de los medios humanos y materiales necesarios.
3. Identificar, promover y utilizar las nuevas tecnologías para la gestión de medidas alternativas y la consolidación de los procesos coherentes con las leyes y visión restaurativa; lo cual permitirá la sistematización y consolidación de las buenas prácticas, ayudando a los diferentes operadores intervinientes a facilitar sus tareas de gestión evitando la burocracia, pudiendo estos dedicar el mayor tiempo posible a la intervención directa con los jóvenes.
4. Promover un sistema de gestión del conocimiento en materia de justicia juvenil restaurativa que sea innovador, que incluya entre otros un inventario sobre las capacidades y sobre la formación ya existente, al igual que la didáctica de las experiencias reconocidas. Que este sistema sistematice dicha formación haciéndola accesible a través de la utilización de nuevas tecnologías e incorpore la misma mediante procesos de formación continua a los distintos operadores intervinientes, e incorpore financiamiento público para reducir sus costos.
5. Reforzar aquellas acciones y/o actividades de intercambio de experiencias a nivel regional en la materia.
6. A las instituciones supranacionales de ámbito regional (SG-SICA, PARLACEN, Corte Centroamericana de Justicia y Consejo Judicial Centroamericano), su refuerzo y apoyo para que en el ámbito de sus respectivas competencias, se apropien, lideren, impulsen e implementen las acciones que ayuden a la consolidación de la justicia juvenil restaurativa en el marco de la Estrategia de Seguridad Democrática de Centroamérica y México.
7. Difundir y elevar la presente Declaración a conocimiento de las autoridades representadas en la Reunión de Presidentes y Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno del SICA y en la Cumbre Iberoamericana de Presidentes de Cortes y Tribunales Supremos de Justicia.

8. Hacer un llamado a la Cooperación Internacional para que incorpore con carácter prioritario en sus agendas iniciativas relacionadas con la Justicia Juvenil Restaurativa, como estrategia para la reducción de la violencia en Centroamérica.
9. Reforzar el trabajo con los medios y profesionales de la comunicación relacionándolos con los especialistas en temas de juventud, propiciando la incorporación de la voz y experiencia de los jóvenes, promoviendo y reforzando políticas públicas de comunicación e incorporando en los programas de formación espacios de capacitación especializada en materia de Justicia Juvenil Restaurativa para periodistas.
10. Evaluar con mayor profundidad las acciones y programas que las instituciones concernientes a la justicia juvenil desarrollan en los países centroamericanos y que de igual modo se evalúen desde las instituciones de ámbito regional los procesos seguidos en esta materia por parte de los diferentes países.
11. Solicitar a la SG-SICA y a la comunidad cooperante la continuidad e institucionalización de este Foro Regional de Justicia Penal Juvenil.

Agradecemos a nuestro anfitrión, el Gobierno de El Salvador y a todos los patrocinadores y organizadores de este Segundo Foro Regional.

En San Salvador, El Salvador 24 de noviembre de 2009

Las opiniones expresadas en este documento corresponden a las reflexiones efectuadas por actores del sector de justicia penal juvenil de los diferentes países de la región y de los participantes en el Foro y no necesariamente reflejan los puntos de vista del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, de las Naciones Unidas, de Cooperación Italiana, de la Fundación Terre des Hommes-Laussane, del Gobierno de El Salvador, de las instituciones de Integración Centroamericanas y otras instituciones involucradas en la organización de este Foro.

NOTICIAS

Edición 2009-04

Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA

- AJR financia proyectos comunitarios liderados por los Centros de Alcance de Guatemala

Siete proyectos de extensión comunitaria de los Centros de Alcance de Guatemala iniciaron con la ayuda de pequeñas donaciones brindadas por Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA. Van desde festivales, impartir charlas educativas e informativas a la construcción de facilidades deportivas, todo con el fin de apoyar la prevención de la violencia juvenil a nivel local.

Los Centros de Alcance beneficiados son:

- Palín Escuintla – “Educación contra la violencia”
- Ciudad del Sol Villa Nueva – “Respeto contra la Violencia”
- Búcaro Mezquital, Villa Nueva – “Festival contra la violencia”
- Paraíso II, Zona 18 – “Limpieza contra la violencia”
- San Rafael II, Zona 18 – “Deporte contra la violencia”
- Santa Catarina Pinula – “Cine foros contra la violencia”
- Palencia Cantón de Ojo de Agua – “Yo Decido contra la violencia”



NUEVO CENTRO DE ALCANCE “POR MI BARRIO” 13 DE ENERO, ZACAMIL



- El viernes 9 de octubre se inauguró el Centro de Alcance “Por mi Barrio”, ubicado en la Comunidad 13 de Enero. Es el fruto del acuerdo que firmado entre Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA y la Asociación Fe y Alegría. Mediante la firma del convenio, ambas partes se comprometen a impactar a favor de los jóvenes vulnerables en sus propias comunidades, contribuyendo de esta forma a hacer sus sueños realidad y mejorar su calidad de vida.

- El Centro de Alcance “Por mi Barrio” 13 de Enero, brindará capacitaciones en computación, cosmetología, panadería, bisutería y repujado. Entre las actividades de entretenimiento, se desarrollará arte urbano y break dance. Está ubicado en Zacamil, Mejicanos y es el cuarto en El Salvador.

En la inauguración participaron el Dr. Juan Daniel Secretario General de SICA, el Señor Blandino Neira, Alcalde de Mejicanos, el Sr. Larry Brady, Director de USAID-El Salvador, el Señor Saúl León de Fe y Alegría y Salvador Stadthagen, Director de AJR. Las palabras de clausura estuvieron a cargo de la Sra. Delmi Chávez, Presidenta de la Junta Directiva de la Comunidad.

A raíz del trabajo de incidencia que se ha venido efectuando en los últimos meses por la Comisión Intersectorial para la Reforma del Sistema Penal Juvenil de El Salvador con el apoyo de Alianza Joven Regional, se ha logrado un acercamiento al Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo Integral de la Niñez y Adolescencia (ISNA) y al Ministerio de Justicia y Seguridad. Consecuentemente, se ha obtenido receptividad de las propuestas de la Comisión dirigidas a mejorar y fortalecer el sistema de justicia penal juvenil, así como también a generar condiciones que favorezcan a la niñez y adolescencia en El Salvador.

NOTICIAS

Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA

Edición 2009-05

SE LLEVA A CABO SEGUNDO FORO REGIONAL DE JUSTICIA PENAL JUVENIL, “HACIA UNA JUSTICIA RESTAURATIVA EN CENTROAMERICA”

Durante los días 23 y 24 de noviembre de 2009 se celebró en San Salvador, El Salvador, el Segundo Foro Regional de Justicia Penal Juvenil: Hacia una Justicia Restaurativa en Centroamérica”, en donde 240 profesionales, expertos y actores de los sistemas de justicia penal juvenil de la región se reunieron con el fin de dialogar, intercambiar buenas prácticas y dar seguimiento a las recomendaciones planteadas en el Primer Foro Regional de Justicia Penal Juvenil.

El Segundo Foro Regional de Justicia Penal Juvenil fue promovido por la Secretaria General del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SG-SICA), la Corte Centroamericana de Justicia (CCJ) y el Gobierno de El Salvador a través del Consejo Nacional de Seguridad Pública (CNSP) y conto con el apoyo de técnico y financiero de la Agencia Internacional para el Desarrollo de los Estados Unidos (USAID) a través del Programa Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA; el Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD) a través del Proyecto de Seguridad Regional SICA-PNUD, la Agencia Española de Cooperación para el Desarrollo Internacional (AECID), Cooperación Italiana y la organización Terre des Hommes-Laussane.



El Foro se llevó a cabo a lo largo de dos jornadas intensas de trabajo y contó con un ciclo de conferencias magistrales impartidas por reconocidos expertos internacionales como la Dra. Claudia Mazzucato de la Universidad Católica de Milán, Italia, el Dr. Víctor Herrero, del Ministerio de Justicia e Interior de España, el Dr. Douglas Durán Chavarría del Instituto Latinoamericano de las Naciones Unidas para la Prevención del Delito y el Tratamiento del Delincuente (ILANUD), la Dra. Dora Nevaes Muñiz de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, el Dr. Herberth Gayle, antropólogo social de la Universidad de Jamaica y la Dra. Florencia Saintout, Directora del Observatorio de Jóvenes, Comunicación y Medios de la Universidad de La Plata en Argentina.

Asimismo se presentaron exposiciones sobre los Sistemas de Justicia Penal Juvenil de El Salvador y Nicaragua. Posteriormente tuvieron lugar Mesas de Trabajo simultáneas en donde se abordó la temática en sus diferentes aspectos y se elaboraron recomendaciones puntuales.

En la ceremonia de clausura, se dio lectura a la Declaración de San Salvador, en donde entre otras reflexiones, se asumió el compromiso de seguir trabajando, desde las distintas instituciones del sector de justicia penal juvenil, desde una visión y enfoque restaurativo en cuanto a las intervenciones con los niños/as y adolescentes que se encuentran en conflicto con la ley.

Annex 4

Media Coverage of the Inauguration of the Meléndez, Soyapango Outreach Center

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