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ALIANZA JOVEN REGIONAL USAID-SICA

QUARTERLY REPORT II

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I. Executive Summary

The Regional Youth Alliance USAID-SICA, was extended in May 2010 through an amendment to cooperative agreement (CA) No. No. 598-A-00-08-00011-00. Project activities were extended to September 30, 2011. This report covers activities undertaken during the period between April 1, 2010- June 30, 2010.

The program endured considerable growth, both operationally and technically, over the course of this quarter and established an important foundation for its upcoming work, which falls under six activity areas as defined in the amendment:

Activity 1: Jump-starting public-private initiatives for gang prevention

- ~ Municipal Prevention Programs in Alliance with Municipal Violence Prevention Committees
- ~ Outreach Centers "For My Neighborhood"
- ~ Impact on Public Policies for Violence Prevention: Support to policy proposals for Youth, Prevention, Security and Justice in El Salvador and Honduras
- ~ Social Mobilization to Support Violence Prevention Policymaking
- ~ Rehabilitation and Integration

Activity 2: Assessing regional legal/justice frameworks and promoting juvenile justice policy reform

- ~ Analysis and Advocacy for Reform and Regional Juvenile Justice Policy
- ~ Education and Training for Juvenile Justice Operators
- ~ Support for Alternative Measures and Restorative Justice
- ~ Development of a Rehabilitation and Integration Model

Activity 3: Assisting SICA to promote dialogue and coherence in citizen security

- ~ Support to SICA to influence Juvenile Justice at the Regional level
- ~ Assistance for the Design and Strengthening of OBSICA
- ~ Research and Development Forums

Activity 4: El Salvador Merida Initiative on Prevention

- ~ Prevention interventions at the Municipal Level
- ~ Grant Fund for Prevention Activities
- ~ Education and Training Opportunities and Youth Employment
- ~ Partnerships with Civil Society, Universities, Churches, the Private Sector and Other Prevention Partners
- ~ Development of local Prevention Observatories

Activity 5: Honduras Merida Initiative on Prevention

- ~ Municipal Level Prevention Programs
- ~ Grant Fund for Prevention Activities
- ~ Education and Training Opportunities and Youth Employment
- ~ Partnerships with Civil Society, Universities, Churches, Private Sector and Other Prevention Partners
- ~ Development of Local Prevention Observatories

Activity 6: Measure Program Impact on Gang-Related Crime and Develop a Framework for Program Replication

- ~ Measurement of the Impact of the program on crime caused by gangs and development of a framework tool for the replication of prevention programs
- ~ Development of an integrated model that identifies the type of interventions for prevention and rehabilitation that are most effective

The AJR's first activity area remains focused on establishing local public/private initiatives to prevent at-risk youth from joining gangs, providing opportunities and alternatives to youth to leave gangs, and provide services and rehabilitation to ex-gang members. Second, the AJR will assess regional legal and justice frameworks and practices and promote multi-country policy and legal reform to improve the treatment and rehabilitation of youth in Central America. As its third activity area, the AJR will collaborate with and assist SICA to catalyze regional policy reform and harmonization and to encourage relevant stakeholders to develop policy initiatives and implement reforms. AJR's fourth activity area, includes implementation of a Community Action Fund under the El Salvador Merida Initiative that aims to support market-driven education, training and employment opportunities, including in suburban and rural communities with high levels of trafficking, gangs and organized crime. Activity Five will be implemented in Honduras, where the AJR will under the Honduras Merida Initiative on Prevention, the program will address the gang problem focusing on three activities in select urban hot spots and rural areas affected by drug trafficking: (1) community gang prevention; (2) education and job opportunities; and (3) municipal response. Finally, the AJR will produce lessons learned and a framework tool, outlining the components most critical for designing an effective gang prevention program, as well as what conditions and resources must be in place.

This quarter, AJR began to prepare for the implementation of new activities under the amendment. Anticipating this, AJR concentrated its efforts on the timely identification and interviewing of candidates to fill new positions in its offices of Honduras and El Salvador. The Regional Director, Harold Sibaja took over management responsibilities in El Salvador and Salvador Stadthagen, the National Director, assumed new responsibilities as director of the AJR in Honduras.

A few days after signing the cooperative agreement amendment, a team of fourteen staff members in Honduras and fifteen staff members in El Salvador, was in place. The young team includes many with knowledge of new technologies and is technically strong. Among the team is a number of staff who worked with Creative previously, offering knowledge of both Creative systems and its technical approach.

On June 9-10, 2010, the regional team came together in Santa Leticia, El Salvador for a productive Regional Kick-Off Session aimed at imparting knowledge of the program and different activities. The meeting was attended by the program AOTR and head of the El Salvador Democracy and Governance Office, Mauricio Herrera.

In preparation for the expansion of the program, AJR also identified possible partnerships with NGOs, government institutions and private sector. AJR concentrated much of its efforts during the quarter in developing relationships with Mayors and communities, working in turn with Vanderbilt University in the selection of communities and development of community diagnostics for the start of municipal activities in the next quarter.

Thirteen risk factors will serve as the basis for the development of community assessments. By identifying risk factors, AJR is able to focus efforts at the municipal level seeking to reduce vulnerability to these factors. Risk factors that were defined include:

A) Risk factors associated with values and identity:

1) Dysfunctional families: lack of supervision in the home and high rates of domestic violence; 2) Loss of family and social values; 3) The need for identity and belonging: low self-esteem; negative peer contact, lack of dreams and life plans and 4) Irresponsible sexual activity at an early age.

B) Risk factors associated with skills training and employment opportunities:

5) Limited access to formal and informal education, 6) Low quality of education / teachers, high school dropout rates and 7) High unemployment among youth and a lack of skills for employment.

C) Risk factors associated with public policy and the external environment:

8) Neighborhood gang presence, acceptance of a culture of violence; 9) Overcrowded neighborhoods with limited access to basic services and spaces for recreation; 10) Consumption of drugs, drug trafficking, easy access to weapons and access to the illicit economy; 11) Police Abuse / weakness and corruption of institutions; 12) Lack of Violence Prevention Policies at the national and municipal levels and 13) Immigration and deportation.

In El Salvador, municipal reconnaissance visits were used to: a) foster relationships with Municipal Violence Prevention Committees, b) understand the lived reality of intervention communities through the perspective of community leaders and key actors in the municipality, c) conduct interviews with community leaders and local actors with whom Committees establish partnerships for prevention interventions and finally, d) assess the degree of potential success for interventions according to communities themselves.

In Honduras, the program prepared to invite the Mayors of San Pedro Sula and La Ceiba Choloma to establish Municipal Violence Prevention Committees and begin the pre-diagnostic process to identify intervention communities. Like in El Salvador, the pre-diagnostic and diagnostic processes will identify a final group of communities where activities will take place in coordination with the new Municipal Crime Prevention Committees.

In Guatemala, the amendment allowed the recruitment of part-time staff to implement additional activities. During the quarter, a proposal for public policy advocacy by the Youth Movement Against Violence was approved and follow-up was provided to four prevention and rehabilitation community development projects and an insertion project with ex-gang members in Peronia.

A major achievement of the quarter was the start of the strengthening of AJR's Outreach Centers through the first training of the Philosophy of the Centers: ~~The~~ Challenge of Dreaming My Life.+ A first training was provided to Outreach Centers partners and coordinators this quarter. The idea behind the workshops, is to ensure that youth can 1) identify strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats to developing a life plan; 2) can establish personal goals and dreams and a plan for monitoring and measuring progress; 3)

gain strengthened leadership and creative abilities and finally, 4) are better able to identify and resolve conflict in their lives and communities. AJR has found that youth involved in violence lack life plans, derailing them in their potential to dream and achieve and increasing substantially, their vulnerability to gangs.

In preparation for the coming quarter and a formidable grants component under the program, AJR submitted a Grants Manual for review this quarter and has initiated processes to prepare for the implementation of grants to grantees that are anticipated to have little institutional strength or previous experience as grantees.

Finally, the AJR submitted its Monitoring and evaluation Plan (MEP) which includes a range of indicators that will enable tracking and reporting on a full range of interventions implemented at the local/municipal, national and regional levels in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. The AJR M&E system will bear in mind a short, high-output implementation period and build partner/grantee appreciation of and capacity to use M&E methods and analyze information.

The focus of the next quarter will be directed to the development of Municipal Violence Prevention Plans and the beginning of their implementation. In Honduras, because of the agreement reached with Mayors, it is anticipated that actors in forming Municipal Crime Prevention Committees, will be identified in order to initiate prevention work in partnership with AJR. With regards to Juvenile Justice Activities, AJR will have an expanded team in place to initiate activities. We will sensitize various sectors so that they better understand the need to develop violence prevention policies and so that these sectors become directly involved in identifying responsive solutions.

II. Resumen Ejecutivo

El programa Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA, fue extendido en Mayo de 2010 a través de una enmienda al acuerdo cooperativo (AC) No. No. 598-A-00-08-00011-00. Las actividades del proyecto fueron extendidas hasta septiembre 30, 2011. Este informe cubre las actividades realizadas en el periodo comprendido de abril 1 de 2010 a junio 30 de 2010.

En este período y debido a la ampliación, el programa creció considerablemente tanto a nivel operacional como técnico, estableciendo una importante base para el trabajo por venir en el marco de las seis actividades definidas en la enmienda:

Actividad 1: Iniciativas públicas y privadas para la prevención de las pandillas

- Programas Municipales de Prevención de Violencia en Alianza con Comités de Prevención Municipales
- CENTROS DE ALCANCE %Por mi Barrio+
- Incidencia en Políticas Públicas de Prevención de Violencia: Apoyo a propuestas de política de Juventud, Prevención, y Justicia y Seguridad en El Salvador y Honduras
- Movilización Social para la Construcción de Políticas de Prevención de la Violencia
- Rehabilitación e Inserción

Actividad 2: Análisis Situacional y Cualitativo de los Sistemas de Justicia Penal Juvenil en los Países de SICA

- Análisis e Incidencia para Reformar e Incidir en una Política Regional de Justicia Penal Juvenil
- Formación y Capacitación para Operadores de Justicia Penal Juvenil
- Apoyo a Medidas Alternativas y Justicia Restaurativa
- Desarrollo de un Modelo de Rehabilitación en Inserción

Actividad 3: Asistencia a SICA para Promover Dialogo y Coherencia en Seguridad Ciudadana

- Apoyo a SICA para incidir en Justicia Penal Juvenil a nivel Regional
- Asistencia para el Diseño y Fortalecimiento del OBSICA
- Desarrollo de Estudios y Foros

Actividad 4: Fondo Mérida El Salvador

- “ Intervenciones de Prevención a Nivel Municipal
- “ Fondo de Donaciones para la Prevención
- “ Educación y Oportunidades de Capacitación y Gestión de Empleo para Jóvenes
- “ Alianzas con Sociedad Civil, Universidades, Iglesias, Sector Privado y Otros para la Prevención
- “ Desarrollo de Observatorios Locales de Prevención

Actividad 5: Fondo Mérida Honduras

- Intervenciones de Prevención a Nivel Municipal
- Fondo de Donaciones para la Prevención
- Educación y Oportunidades de Capacitación y Gestión de Empleo para Jóvenes
- Alianzas con Sociedad Civil, Universidades, Iglesias, Sector Privado y Otros para la Prevención
- Desarrollo de Observatorios Locales de Prevención

Actividad 6: Medición de Impacto en Violencia Juvenil y Desarrollo de Modelos Replicables

- Medición del Impacto del programa en la delincuencia generada por pandillas y desarrollo de un marco para la replicabilidad de los programas de prevención
- Desarrollo de modelo integral que permita identificar el tipo de intervenciones de prevención, rehabilitación e inserción más efectivas

La primera actividad de la enmienda continúa siendo el establecimiento de Alianzas Público/Privadas dirigidas a prevenir que jóvenes en riesgo se unan a las pandillas, brindar oportunidades y alternativas para jóvenes abandonen las pandillas, y servicios de rehabilitación e inserción para ex pandilleros. La segunda actividad evaluar Marcos Legales y Prácticas y Promover Políticas y Reformas Legales está dirigida a mejorar el tratamiento y rehabilitación de jóvenes en conflicto con la ley en Centroamérica. Como tercera actividad, AJR ofrecerá Colaboración y Asistencia a SICA para Catalizar Reformas y Armonización de Políticas, buscando que actores clave desarrollen iniciativas de políticas e implementen reformas así como el fortalecimiento de su trabajo en seguridad y prevención. La cuarta actividad (nueva como parte de la enmienda recibida en ese período) a realizar por AJR, incluye la implementación de un Fondo de Acción Comunitario bajo la iniciativa de Mérida El Salvador encaminado a apoyar capacitación impulsada por el mercado laboral, y oportunidades laborales, en comunidades rurales y suburbanas con altos niveles de tráfico de drogas, pandillas y crimen organizado. La quinta actividad será implementada en Honduras, bajo la iniciativa Mérida Honduras. Bajo esta actividad el programa abordará el problema de pandillas enfocándose en tres actividades en comunidades de alto riesgo urbanas y áreas rurales afectadas por el tráfico de drogas, siendo estas las siguientes: 1) Prevención de pandillas a nivel comunitario; 2) Educación y oportunidades laborales; y 3) Respuesta municipal. Finalmente y como última actividad, AJR va a Medir el Impacto del Programa con relación a la Violencia Juvenil y a Desarrollar una Herramienta Marco que Permita su Replicabilidad. Se espera que la herramienta marco detalle los componentes más críticos, condiciones y recursos necesarios para el diseño de un programa de prevención de pandillas efectivo.

Este trimestre, da inicio a la preparación de condiciones para la ejecución de las nuevas actividades bajo la enmienda. Anticipando programa esto, AJR concentró sus esfuerzos en la identificación oportuna y entrevistas de candidatos para ocupar las nuevas posiciones en las oficinas de Honduras y El Salvador. El Director Regional del programa Harold Sibaja se hizo cargo de las responsabilidades de dirección en El Salvador y Salvador Stadthagen (Director Nacional) asumió nuevas responsabilidades como director en Honduras.

Pocos días después de la firma de la enmienda del acuerdo cooperativo, el personal de la oficina en Honduras, (catorce personas) y el personal de la oficina de El Salvador (quince personas) estaba establecido. Dentro del personal se encuentran jóvenes con conocimiento de nuevas tecnologías y otros que han trabajado con Creative desde 1990 bajo otros programas, ofreciendo conocimiento de los sistemas de Creative y su enfoque técnico.

El 9 y 10 de junio de 2010 (15 días después de la firma de la enmienda), el equipo de los tres países se reunió en el Hotel Santa Leticia en Apaneca, El Salvador, para realizar una sesión de dos días orientada a nivelar el conocimiento del programa y de las diferentes iniciativas. A dicha reunión asistió el AOTR y Subdirector de la Oficina de Democracia y Gobernabilidad de USAID/El Salvador, Mauricio Herrera.

En preparación para la ampliación del programa, AJR identificó además posibles alianzas con ONGs, instituciones gubernamentales y sector privado. También AJR concentró gran parte de sus esfuerzos del trimestre en el desarrollo de relaciones con alcaldes y comunidades, trabajando a su vez con la Universidad de Vanderbilt en la selección de

comunidades y en el desarrollo de diagnósticos comunitarios para el inicio del trabajo municipal en el próximo trimestre.

AJR también definió trece factores de riesgo que sirvieran como base para la elaboración de los diagnósticos comunitarios. La idea de identificar los factores de riesgo permitirá enfocar los esfuerzos a nivel municipal en buscar la reducción de estos. La definición de los factores de riesgo incluye:

- A) **Factores de riesgo asociados a los valores y la identidad:** 1) Familias disfuncionales: falta de supervisión en el hogar y altos índices de violencia intrafamiliar; 2) Pérdida de valores: familiares y sociales; 3) Necesidad de identidad y pertenencia: baja autoestima, pares negativos, ausencia de sueños y de planes de vida y 4) Actividad sexual irresponsable a temprana edad.

- B) **Factores de riesgo asociados a formación de capacidades y oportunidades de empleo:** 5) Acceso limitado a la educación formal e informal; 6) Débil calidad de la educación/maestros; deserción escolar; 7) Tasas de desempleo altas entre los jóvenes y carencia de habilidades para el trabajo.

- C) **Factores de riesgo asociados a las políticas públicas y medio ambiente externo:** 8) Vecindarios con presencia de pandillas; aceptación de una cultura de violencia; 9) Vecindarios con hacinamiento y acceso limitado a servicios básicos y a espacios de esparcimiento y deporte; 10) Consumo de drogas; narcoactividad; narcomenudeo; acceso a armas, acceso a una economía ilícita; 11) Abuso policial/Debilidad y corrupción de las instituciones; 12) Falta de Políticas de Prevención de Violencia a nivel nacional y municipal y 13) Migración y deportación.

En El Salvador las visitas de reconocimiento municipales sirvieron para: a) fortalecer las relaciones con los Comités Municipales de Prevención de Violencia, b) conocer la realidad de las comunidades de intervención a través de la perspectiva de los líderes comunitarios y los actores claves en la municipalidad, c) realizar entrevistas con los líderes comunitarios y actores locales con los cuales los Comités han establecido coordinaciones para las intervenciones de prevención y finalmente, d) asesorar el grado de éxito potencial para las intervenciones según las mismas comunidades.

En Honduras, se prepararon condiciones para invitar a los alcaldes de San Pedro Sula, Choloma y La Ceiba a establecer Comités Municipales de Prevención de Violencia y dar inicio el proceso de prediagnósticos para poder identificar las comunidades de intervención. Tal como El Salvador, el proceso de pre-diagnóstico y diagnóstico llevará un grupo final de comunidades donde se establecerán las acciones del Programa en coordinación con los nuevos Comités Municipales de Prevención.

En Guatemala, la enmienda permitió la contratación de personal (a nivel parcial) adicional para la ejecución de los programas. Durante el trimestre, se aprobó la propuesta de incidencia en políticas públicas del Movimiento Jóvenes contra la Violencia y el

seguimiento a cuatro proyectos de desarrollo comunitario de prevención y al de rehabilitación e inserción de expandilleros en Ciudad Peronia.

El logro mayor del trimestre se puede definir con el inicio del fortalecimiento de sus Centros de Alcance a través de la primera capacitación de la Filosofía de los Centros: **El Desafío de Soñar Mi Vida+**. Una primera capacitación con esta metodología propia de los Centros fue realizada con socios y coordinadores durante este trimestre para luego continuar con los beneficiarios. El objetivo de la metodología definida en tres talleres de dos días es asegurar que los jóvenes puedan 1) identificar las fortalezas, oportunidades, debilidades y amenazas de desarrollar un plan de vida; 2) establecer metas y sueños personales y un plan de medición del avance; 3) adquirir habilidades creativas y de liderazgo, 4) identificar y resolver conflictos en su vida y sus comunidades. Creative ha identificado que los jóvenes involucrados en la violencia carecen de planes de vida, lo que destruye su potencial para soñar y tener un plan de vida que les permita ser menos vulnerables de involucrarse en pandillas.

En preparación para el próximo trimestre, y de cara al componente de donaciones del programa, AJR desarrolló y presentó un Manual de Donaciones a USAID para su revisión y aprobación; el manual incluye además una sección de procedimientos para el registro de leverage. El manual de donaciones incluye procedimientos para la aprobación de donaciones a organizaciones con muy poca capacidad institucional y experiencia como beneficiarios.

Finalmente, AJR presentó su Plan de Monitoreo y Evaluación (MEP) que incluye un conjunto de indicadores que facilitarán el control y medición de las intervenciones a ejecutar a nivel local/municipal, nacional y regional en El Salvador, Honduras y Guatemala. El sistema de monitoreo y evaluación de AJR tomará en cuenta un periodo de implementación corto y de alta producción y fortalecerá la capacidad de los socios/beneficiarios para administrar los métodos de monitoreo y evaluación, y el análisis de la información. El enfoque del próximo trimestre se orientará al desarrollo de los Planes Municipales de la Prevención de Violencia y el inicio de su ejecución. En Honduras, debido los acuerdo alcanzados con los alcaldes, se anticipa que los actores para la formación de los Comités Municipales de la Prevención del Crimen serán identificados para iniciar el trabajo de prevención en alianza con AJR. En Justicia Penal Juvenil AJR contará con el equipo ampliado y podrá dar inicio a la ejecución de las actividades. Así mismo, AJR dará inicio el esfuerzo de sensibilización a diferentes sectores de la sociedad para que comprendan la necesidad de desarrollar políticas de prevención de violencia e involucrarse en la solución.

III. Theme of Activities this Quarter

AJR Community Selection Process/ Illustrative: El Congo Municipality, ES

Meetings to promote Committees* /assess and get to know municipalities through meetings with community leaders and communities



Meeting with CMPV El Congo (**29 communities pre-selected**)



AJR conducts Pre-Diagnostic through collection key socio-economic indicators, interviewing and triangulation of data to assess risk factors and HIGH, MEDIUM and LOW risk communities (**12 communities pre-selected**)



Pre-diagnostic results analyzed

(3 target implementation communities identified)



In-depth Diagnostic conducted --field work, interviewing, focus groups and mapping of actors formal assessment of leading risk factors and presentation of Diagnostic to CMPV* and community



CMPV is constructed/strengthening process initiates for existing Committees and Crime Prevention Plan preparation begins

**- This process will be adopted in Honduras where Committees are being constructed, same general steps will be practiced*

Each quarter, this first section will seek to extrapolate a theme from the quarter's activities. AJR will seek to weave this theme throughout the report in question. We consider the identification of this theme an important output of program analysis, and the identification of theme, a means by which to involve staff in the reporting process. This quarter, as a result of the AJR's expanded scope, the resounding theme of the program's work has been the initiation of activities at the municipal level.

AJR's efforts will seek to firmly ground activities at this level, aiming to strengthen existing Municipal Violence Prevention Committees, creating new Committees where they are not yet in existence and working closely with Committees to draft Municipal Crime Prevention Plans. In this way, the municipal level becomes a platform from which prevention, insertion and integration efforts radiate into communities.

In El Salvador and Honduras alike, the program has focused efforts on its municipal start-up. In both countries, the program redoubled its focus on relationships with Mayors and their offices and on collaboration with municipal and community partners to map pertinent actors and resources for future crime prevention planning with Committees. This focus reflected clearly in AJR's pre-diagnostic and diagnostic methodology as carried out in El Salvador and as is being carried out in Honduras. (See textbox on municipal process)

In El Salvador, AJR is working in three municipalities; Santa Ana, Chalchuapa and El Congo. All three are located in the Department of Santa Ana. In Chalchuapa and Santa Ana municipalities, AJR will focus activities in eighteen target communities and three downtown areas that meet pre-established criteria per a selection methodology¹ initiated by Vanderbilt University. In El

Congo, our third target municipality, three communities were pre-selected through a rigorous pre-diagnostic, diagnostic and supplementary, focus group methodology.

¹ Vanderbilt University was hired by USAID to monitor crime prevention initiatives under the Merida Initiative. Its methodology applied five selection criteria to communities; 1)size of the community (between 75-500 homes);2)socio-economic vulnerability, more than 50% community at least one basic need unmet in accordance with Basic Needs Index (BNI) developed by CEPAL; 3)communities with a significant presence of at-risk youth; 4)prioritization of areas not necessarily reported as "red zones" or "hotspots" by local actors; 5) identification of at risk zones.

Qualitative information from focus groups provided an important means of studying community members' perceptions and allows issues to surface for further exploration by AJR. The focus groups demonstrated a concerning generational rupture that prevention plans developed in the municipalities will need to address. In Honduras, the diagnostic process to identify implementation communities has initiated more recently. As in El Salvador, the pre-diagnostic and diagnostic processes will lead to a final set of communities which will be reviewed by Municipal Crime Prevention Committees that are being established. Project activities will be implemented resulting from Municipal Crime Prevention Plans.

In-depth detailed on the local municipal prevention development processes that were key to this quarter, can be found under Activity Four, El Salvador Merida Initiative and Activity Five, Honduras Merida Initiative, respectively.

A process rich with context is underway to map the municipal and community landscape, identifying those communities most in need of community based crime prevention strategies. In El Salvador and Honduras alike, the distinct characteristics of each municipality provide a unique foundation for engagement. The Santa Ana Municipal Crime Prevention Committee in El Salvador is government at a micro-level+according to AJR Prevention Coordinator, Juan Jose Hernandez. Some 30 public institutions are represented and each responds in a disciplined way to its mandates. The Chalchuapa Municipal Crime Prevention Committee in El Salvador by contrast, is smaller and very much driven by the relationships between its members.

IV. Key Developments & Activity Highlights

General

Swift Regional Expansion and Kick-Off for AJR

AJR's extension was signed this quarter on May 27th. Many of the activities of this quarter focused on preparing for the implementation of the new activities under the modification. AJR identified and interviewed candidates to fill new positions in Honduras and El Salvador and began to identify new potential partners. The program placed major focus on developing relations with Mayors, working with Vanderbilt University on the selection of communities to work at the municipal level and the development of community assessments. Also, this quarter, COP Harold Sibaja took over directorship responsibilities in El Salvador and Salvador Stadthagen (Country Director) began a rigorous travel schedule in order to take on new responsibilities guiding AJR activities in Honduras. (More on this under Activity Five).

As soon as the amendment to the Cooperative Agreement was signed Creative initiated refurbishment of its office in El Salvador to accommodate new personnel and to procure equipment and furniture. Staff that had been identified and selected were hired immediately after the modification was signed: Corina Lopez de Mena, a former employee of Creative Associates, was hired to supervise all Finance and Administrative matters at the regional level. Armando Jimenez was hired to support SICA and public policy development work, Jonathan Claros, also a former Creative employee had been hired as a consultant to guide municipal development under the program and became a full time

employee. Further, Roberto Martinez, a former Outreach Center Coordinator, became AJR's OCs Coordinator in El Salvador. Ivan Flores was hired as the Communication Expert, Majella van der Werf, a Creative employee in Washington, DC, became AJR's Monitoring and Evaluation Expert. New administrative staff was hired to support the team and revised functions and responsibilities were assigned.

The AJR-El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras teams came together for a Regional Kick-Off Meeting in Santa Leticia, Ahuachapan, El Salvador on June 9-10, 2010, marking the official launch of the expanded program. A thorough two-day orientation session included program design orientation provided by Harold Sibaja, AJR USAID-SICAs Regional Director, Juan Jose Hernandez Regional Crime Prevention Officer, and Salvador Stadthagen, AJR USAID-SICAs Country Director in Honduras. Sessions highlighted the AJR prevention methodology, history with this program area, presented anticipated activities, program results and allowed time for work planning by Activity groups. Next steps were identified for each program Activity area. AJR USAID-SICAs AOTR, and USAID Deputy Director for Democracy and Governance, Mauricio Herrera, attended and provided an overview of program priorities.

In early June, the AJRs newly hired fourteen-person team held a Honduras preliminary Kick-off Meeting the week prior to the Regional Kick-Off Meeting in El Salvador. The meeting was hosted by Country Director, Salvador Stadthagen in Tegucigalpa. A second meeting was held with the new team to provide an exhaustive review of the Outreach Center (OC) and Desafío models with participation by Senior Technical Advisor Juan José Hernández.

As a part of start-up activities and in preparation for program ramp-up the El Salvador and Honduras country teams collaborated closely on the development of AJR Field Grants Manual submitted to USAID in June. The Manual is vital given an expanded anticipated grants portfolio and the many partners that will be implementing new grant activities. The Manual draws from practices already in place for grants currently being managed in El Salvador and incorporates grants management procedures practiced by Creative Associates globally.

Activity 1: Jump-starting public-private initiatives for gang prevention

El Salvador

Deepening Program Partnerships in Advance of Ramp-up Program Activities

This quarter efforts were made to develop and strengthen many public private partnerships that will materialize over the next quarter. Alliances were established with FUNDASALVA, a well-known Salvadoran social services NGO, to provide opportunities for ex-gang members. Orphan Helpers, Metamorphosis and others were among the new alliances expected to mature during the next quarter. An alliance has been established with the Secretary of Youth under the Presidency of El Salvador to support the development of the new Youth Policy.

“The Challenge to Dream My Life” Debuts with OC Coordinators, Volunteers and Beneficiaries

AJR continues to enhance its Outreach Center Model and has proudly initiated a training method called, “The Challenge of Dreaming My Life”. The first training was provided to Outreach Centers partners and coordinators. Twenty one attendees from four established and one soon to be established OC in El Salvador attended. All attendees currently serve as Coordinators and volunteers at OCs. The idea behind the workshops, is to ensure that youth can 1) identify strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats to developing a life plan; 2) can establish personal goals and dreams and a plan for monitoring and measuring progress; 3) gain strengthened leadership and creative abilities and finally, 4) are better able to identify and resolve conflict in their lives and communities. AJR has found that youth involved in violence lack life plans, derailing them in their potential to dream and achieve. Creative’s hypothesis is that if youth are able to dream their life paths and define and monitor personal goals they become less vulnerable to and are far less likely to become involved in gangs.

A month after the first workshop for volunteers and OC Coordinators, in May 2010 the first “The Challenge of Dreaming My Life” workshop for beneficiaries of Outreach Centers was held. Forty-one beneficiaries of three El Salvador Outreach Centers (Barrio Lourdes, Lourdes Colon and 13 enero) had the opportunity to reflect on life dreams and aspirations, personal strengths and opportunities, establishing clear goals and concrete steps to proceed towards their futures. William Armando Mejía, 14 and a beneficiary of the Barrio Lourdes OC, attended the workshop in El Salvador and says that something changed after the workshop, “I have learned to value everything I have and I have discovered that with effort and dedication I can achieve what I propose for myself.

Dreams That Can Be Written On Walls



Youth in Mejicanos sit proudly in front of a mural they prepared as part of a festival of murals organized by the 13 de enero AJR Outreach Center in El Salvador, serving to mentor youth in constructing life plans that protect them from lives of violence. Photo-Ivan Flores

Javier Pineda, dips his hands into a container filled with red paint, and then lets his hands paint on a white wall, in the violent community of Mejicanos. Next to his hands he writes the phrase "Javier, to be an engineer." Those four words describe his greatest desire, to become a Systems Engineer in the not too distant future.

Javier Pineda is a 20-year-old completing his secondary schooling. He is ready to enter university. Five months ago, his violent environment and community disallowed Javier from thinking of his future. A spate of violent killings has touched Mejicanos including a massacre killing of youths watching a soccer match in their community.

Recently, Javier was invited by a group of friends to the Outreach Center "Por Mi Barrio" in Mejicanos. He and his friends received

screen printing and computer workshops. He was invited to take part in the workshop-retreat "El Desafío de Soñar Mi Vida" the main objective of the workshop is to get young people to see and to be able to create and monitor a personal life plan for a better future. The idea behind this is reduce youth vulnerability to entering a life of violence and crime by strengthening their dreams and defining a life plan.

Javier and other young people who attended the workshop could go beyond turning their dreams into a page, translating them into a powerful symbol on a wall within their violent community. In June, the AJR's OC in Mejicanos held a festival of murals organized by four students from the "United World Colleges" from Italy and Costa Rica. Students originated from Aruba, Canada and El Salvador. The activity was supported by AJR and was aimed at these privileged students interacting with beneficiaries of the OC, whose lived realities were violent and very different from their own. Groups worked together to define the kind of mural painting most appropriate for the community. One mural corresponded to the globe and the dreams of other recipients, and one wall in the community reflected the hands of community youth and their dreams of the future. The event received some media coverage. Foreign students who worked with youth expressed the experience to have been one of the most intense experiences they had ever had. *(Contributed by AJR El Salvador Communications Officer Ivan Flores).*

New Outreach Centers Underway in El Salvador

This quarter, AJR spent considerable time in Santa Ana, Chalchuapa and El Congo, to identify potential partners, and ideal sites for additional Outreach Centers. During the extended period, Outreach Centers will have been established in some of the eighteen communities selected and will offer strengthened services under a new model.

Benchmarks of the strengthened OC Model will include the following services: Soñar Mi Vida Life Skills Training; IT and English language skills strengthening; Developing youth-focused microenterprise; Volunteerism development; OC Sustainability and OC Network



Roberto Rodriguez of AJR El Salvador , gives a talk at the Barrio Lourdes Outreach Center- where he was once Coordinator-to a priest and other partners of a future Outreach Center in El Congo. Photo-Ivan Flores

Development. In Santa Ana, the Biblical Tabernacle Baptist Mission Evangelical Pentecostal Church, Christian Community Church and the Christian Church Emanuel and ten other faith-based institutions have been identified as potential partners.

In Chalchuapa, St. James Parish, Parish the Lord of Mercy, the Ministries Church Emanuel Judah and others have been identified. In El Congo, the municipality and the local Anglican Church and Pastors Unit are potential partners. Outreach Centers in these municipalities are scheduled to open in the third and fourth quarters. After AJR met with the MCPV of Nahuilzalco, it delivered Terms of Reference and criteria for the preparation of a proposal to implement a Nahuilzalco Outreach Center.

USAID is developing numerous prevention interventions in the municipality of Nahuilzalco, Sonsonate. In this regard, they have involved other programs including those implemented

by RTI, ICMA and Checchi to join forces in Nahuizalco. Creative for its part, has been asked to implement at least two outreach centers in the municipality. On June 22 2010, Creative submitted criteria for the development of Outreach Centers to the Mayor. The CMPV identified the Joshua Church, part of a network of evangelical churches, as a strong partner. The Church is a strong proponent of prevention talks in schools, education in values and of youth association building. Its own role in the community includes in the delivery of shoes and toys to vulnerable children. The proposal for an Outreach Center is currently being prepared by the church.

During this Quarter, AJR the Outreach Center, %Chintuc II+began operations. Located in a hot-zone as it relates to violence, the OC will be launched next to a school that offers classes to grades one through nine. The latter is expected to have significant impact in terms of allowing the OC to offer services to kids when they are not in class. As expressed by Roberto Flores, AJR OC Officer, Apopa municipality is known for its violence. He shares that people were impressed that USAID had thought of opening an OC here.

AJR has honed its methodology for the establishment of new Outreach Centers. The program believes in involving municipal governments so that they become engaged with the Centers' methodology for prevention- where the rubber hits the road, close to the communities themselves. The municipality has an opportunity therefore to engage with the community where they come for vocational training, educational support, and social engagement and where communities contribute of their time through volunteerism. AJR has expanded its methodology to accommodate working more closely with potential partners who are not used to implementing such efforts at the community level. It is also developing a volunteerism strategy to even more proactively foster volunteerism, within communities and beyond communities. Volunteers are heavily involved and participate in the operation of outreach centers. In Honduras and El Salvador volunteers at these Centers have contributed some 42,018 hours of community and social service time to give back to their youth and neighborhoods.

The future is very encouraging. The number of new, strengthened Outreach Centers that will be launched in the municipalities by the second quarter of next year will have a significant impact, enhancing the protective factors that vulnerable youth need to shield themselves from violence risk factors. Moreover, these Outreach Centers will be developed in tandem with an array of prevention initiatives resulting from municipal Crime Prevention Plans, further enhancing the impact of prevention initiatives. The Outreach Centers must offer a lasting infrastructure for prevention initiatives and a sustained effort to foster community-based prevention activities.

IT Training at Outreach Centers in High Demand

AJR continued efforts this quarter to strengthen market/driven service provision at Outreach Centers run by the program. In May 2010 in El Salvador, the first Automation and Computer Maintenance course concluded with the new course launching just a month later in June 2010. Courses are provided as a part of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Francisco Gavidia University in El Salvador. Forty two students from each of the three El Salvador Outreach Centers, (Mejicanos, Lourdes Colon, Barrio Lourdes, 13 de enero and Melendez) took part in the course. A major objective of the course is that youth are trained and subsequently become volunteer IT trainers in their Centers.

Outreach Center Partner Shortlisted for Humanitarian Award



The Kriete Foundation organizes an annual competition "to help those who help" in El Salvador. AJR Outreach Center partner, the NGO, Faith and Happiness, Fe y Alegría presented the project "Strengthening of Two Outreach Centers and Implementation of two New Outreach Centers." In the last four years Fe y Alegría has participated in the competition and has been named a runner up- This year it is expected to be a finalist once again. If the group wins first prize, the prize would be at least a hundred thousand dollars. If it does not win first, second or third prize, the AJR partner could win up to twenty five thousand dollars. Fe y Alegría's involvement in prevention through the Outreach Centers is key because the organization represents numerous actors and social sectors in El Salvador. AJR collaborated with Fe y Alegría in identifying a volunteer to film the Outreach Center experience, material which was presented in the competition.

Television Piece on Outreach Centers leads to a second TV taping: "The Challenge of Dreaming My Life"

The television program "Cosas Buenas" (Good Things) from the Salvadoran Telecorporación TCS, developed a piece on the Outreach Centers during the final quarter of 2009. The piece was successful in capturing a national audience. The program, Good Things, was determined to make a second piece on the Outreach Center "In My Neighborhood" attached to a specific topic. The TV program made a documentary of the method, "The Challenge of Dreaming my Life" to show how beneficiaries of the Outreach Centers are improving their aspirations, and designing a life plan. To this end, scenes were filmed during the "The Challenge of Dreaming My Life" workshop in Honduras and of the ordinary life of youth in their communities. It is hoped that the documentary is broadcast on television in the month of August. Stay tuned for additional information.

Violence Diagnostic is Developed to Revive Multi-Sectoral Dialogue on Prevention

Armando Jimenez, Public Policy Coordinator, previously a consultant and now hired as AJR staff, completed AJR's El Salvador Violence Assessment this quarter. After several revisions and modifications by the COP, the assessment was presented to USAID for review and authorization for public distribution. El Salvador is one of the countries with the highest murder rates in the world and tops the list in Latin America. In 2009 there were 4,349 homicides on record, a rate of 75.7 homicides per 100 000 inhabitants. Young people between 13-25 make up more than 44% of homicides in 2009. Taking the number of people that can be defined as young adults, those between 26 and 35 years of age, the percentage rises to 73.4%, i.e. more than seven young people killed for every ten Salvadorans. A high percentage of cases (around 90%) go unpunished.

Insecurity and victimization have had detrimental effects on the economy. According to surveys, more than half of the population has reduced the places it shops and a little more than a fifth has closed its businesses because of crime. Another fifth felt the need to leave the neighborhood where they live. AJR supported an-depth study of violence in El Salvador, with a view to using these statistics to generate momentum for its efforts to support a national prevention policy in El Salvador and Honduras and support efforts to incept a Regional Policy for the Prevention of Violence.

Though studies have been conducted before, they have not been used to create awareness within and across sectors. To revive discussions and foster new solutions to pervasive violence, AJR will use its Violence Diagnostic to conduct workshops with sectors that are key to analyzing and discussing solutions to violence. These include youth groups, private sector organizations, FBOs, the media, universities, international donors, civil society groups, local government entities, political parties, the justice sector and Prosecutor’s Office and the central government. A full report of the sectoral workshops will follow next quarter.

AJR Establishes an Alliance to Support the El Salvador Youth Secretariat in the formulation of National Youth Policy

This quarter, AJR held three meetings with the Director of Youth at the Ministry of Social Inclusion, Mr. Miguel Pereira, to introduce the Minister to Outreach Centers (OCS) in the municipality of Mejicanos, San Salvador, and a comprehensive youth development center also located in that municipality. AJR Regional Director Harold Sibaja made a presentation on AJR to the Director of Youth and his international adviser on Youth Policy. The intention of the presentation was to communicate the experience on crime prevention so that it might be considered in recommendations to the national Youth Policy formulation process that is underway. The meeting resulted in an agreement that the AJR will support the Youth Secretariat process for the formulation of National Youth Policy and the strengthening of initiatives aimed at preventing youth violence and the development of a culture of peace.

Honduras



Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central American Affairs, Dr. Julissa Reynoso listens with interest to beneficiaries of the Villa Franca Outreach Center in Honduras. Photo-David Medina

Outreach Center Villafranca in Comayaguela receives Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central American Affairs, Dr. Julissa Reynoso

USAID-Honduras requested that AJR organize a visit to an Outreach Center (OC) for Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central American Affairs, Dr. Julissa Reynoso. An OC located in Colonia Villafranca, Comayaguela, in Tegucigalpa, and implemented through Save the Children Honduras, was visited on May 4, 2010. USAID Mission Director Mr. William Brands, DG Director David Thompson and other USAID staff attended. The visit included no press and amounted to a

dialogue between Ms. Reynoso and youth and community leaders. Ms. Reynoso had the opportunity to hear directly from the beneficiaries with regards the impact of the OC on their lives.

The most striking accounts were of girls and boys that have learned skills like hairdressing or electricity and now are teaching younger kids, thus feeling proud of being able to mentor them. This visit also helped understand the strengthening needs which OCs has. Support for OCs on behalf of AJR has been limited, exacerbated by the recent crisis in Honduras. The Tegucigalpa Mayor's Office , originally offered to support these OCs which are implemented by Save the Children Honduras and has not honored its commitment. Even without funding, the community has not let the OCs down and the members of the *Patronato* and community volunteers keep spaces open. Rotary Club officers accompanied Ms. Reynoso during her visit to the Villafranca OC and pledged to seek to provide support.

Perseverance Leads to Much-Awaited Agreement for Outreach Center in Chamalecon

After over a year of negotiations and two failed approaches with the same number of possible partners in the high-risk sector of Chamelecón, San Pedro Sula, an agreement for an Outreach Center (OC) was signed on June 4, 2010. Chamelecón is notorious for violence and several years ago, was the site of massacre of passengers by machine gun on a bus.

Two pastors from the *Cristo es la Roca* Church, embraced the OC methodology and will open the OC in a space formerly belonging to their church. Pastor Freddy Torres, the head of the Church is also the Director of a nearby school that has nearly 2,000 students. The pastor has lived in Chamelecón all his life. He has lived the problem of gangs and has been working to save children and youth from them, helping a number of gang members leave them and assisting some former gang members to rehabilitate.

The OC comes not a moment too soon for Christian Gomez Perez, who is nine and lives near the Center. His family has prohibited him from leaving his home as a result of worsening violence. Where his older siblings once played soccer freely in the streets, he cannot. When asked how he felt about there soon being a space for learning and recreation in his barrio, Christian responded, "Really, that would be great, I have not seen a place like that in my neighborhood."



Christian Gomez Perez, who lives near the soon-to-open Chamalecon Outreach Center, looks forward to a new place to learn and grow in his violent neighborhood. Photo-David Medina

Christian's waiting will soon be over, the organization, Oficina de Paz y Convivencia will be a lead partner and the Mayor's wife will provide key support to the Outreach Center. This is the first OC in Honduras that will start with a strengthened model. A small pickle packing micro-enterprise will allow for sustainability and training of young people in food processing. Funding for the OC will increase from up to about \$24,000 as a result of the inclusion of this micro-entrepreneurial effort which

will be closely supported. The wife of the Mayor and the Social Development Director of the city, visited the Chamelecón OC site on May 15, 2010. The wife of the Mayor offered to provide support to this important endeavor for Christian and the many other youth that await it. *(Contributed by AJR Honduras Communication Officer David Medina).*

Choloma Outreach Center Opens: Support from Mayor's Office Exceeds Original Commitment

In Choloma, AJR's new López Arellano Outreach Center (OC) opened its doors in June 2010, well before its formal opening. Nearly 200 youth registered for courses and workshops. AJR's partner, Pastoral de Movilidad Humana attracted volunteers from the Parrish. Some 17 registered in all fields, from sports (basketball, soccer) to IT course provision. The OC's partner promoted the Center with the neighborhood and parish and is forming an association that can assist with the OCs sustainability after AJR-USAID financial assistance ends. The Mayor's Office of Choloma and the Office of Paz y Convivencia (OPC), are committing a rent-free site, repairs and outfitting of the facility. Total investment from the municipality neared \$14,000, far beyond the cities original commitment. OPC, because of financial and administrative problems, has fallen short of its commitment to provide computers, which were bought but have been impounded by their landlord, as OPC has not paid office rent. Demonstrating its commitment to AJR's work, the Mayor of San Pedro Sula has vowed to pay the outstanding rent so the computers are released and made available to the López Arellano OC. Such is the eagerness of beneficiaries and volunteers to begin, that computer classes have started without computers. Volunteers are teaching concepts while computers arrive. AJR's investment in this OC has been modest. Of a \$9,000 total contribution, \$6,000 has been disbursed at the time of this writing.

USAID-Honduras has informed AJR, that the US Ambassador to Honduras and the Mission Director will participate in the OC's official dedication in August 2010.

Established Outreach Centers Redouble Focus on Sustainability

In San Pedro Sula, the Rivera Hernandez Outreach Center (OC) continues to deliver outstanding services to beneficiaries. IT courses alone have 500 beneficiaries registered, 70 are graduating from vocational workshops. The OC continues to promote a soccer league and has been able to obtain the donation of uniforms and soccer equipment. Pastor Arnold Linares was able to refurbish a soccer field near the OC. The OC remains in urgent need of strengthening. AJR staff has been working with Pastor Linares in design a micro-enterprise that will contribute towards sustainability of the OC. There are plans to open a Cyber-Café. Baked goods produced at the OC by youth will be sold at the café.

. The Villafranca and Buenas Nuevas Outreach Centers (OCs) were visited by new AJR staff this quarter. They learned about the model and assessed the Centers. AJR was accompanied by Save the Children Honduras (STC) staff in charge of the Centers. STC is AJR's partner for these Centers.. Villafranca demonstrates a broad service base. This quarter it organized soccer competitions, choreography and theatre workshops. A volunteer who contributed twelve days to teaching mime skills to youth. Twenty-eight youth were trained in vocational skills and four received training that will prepare them to work. Significantly, ten youth are part of an initiative that is engaging with the local Chamber of Commerce to find employment. The Buenas Nuevas OC trained twenty-one youth in

vocational skills including computer, electrical and appliance repair, dressmaking and bicycle repair.

These Centers suffered this quarter however, as financial support from AJR ended a few months ago. STC has not been able to secure financial support from the Mayor's Office of Tegucigalpa, as economic conditions in Honduras worsened during and after the political crisis. The administration of the OCs has been taken over by community leaders with the help of some volunteers. These two OCs are in urgent need of strengthening. The Buenas Nuevas OC has a space conducive to operating a Cyber Café. The Villafranca OC wants to operate a similar micro-enterprise allowing the salary of a Coordinator, who with the help of community leaders and volunteers can operate both the OC and the micro-enterprise. AJR is in discussion with Save the Children Honduras with regards to two small grants of under \$5,000 each that will help strengthen these two OCs and the vital services they provide.

USAID-Honduras has informed AJR, that the US Ambassador to Honduras and the Mission Director will participate in the OC's official dedication in August 2010.

Guatemala

Image, Sound and Creativity Used to Prevent Violence in Guatemala

In Santa Catarina Pinula, Guatemala, A Film Forum against Violence is underway next quarter. Supported through an AJR grant, two short films have been produced by the Santa Catarina Outreach Center. The two short films deal with sexual abuse, drug addiction and sexual relationships. The third film is pending at the time of this writing. In May films were screened with 250 youth at two schools. Twenty-five youth were recruited as new beneficiaries of AJR prevention services. Teachers were moved by the films and the hope is that they will draw more attention to young people not getting involved in gangs.

Youth Movement Continues to Mobilize Citizens, Opening New Windows for Prevention in Guatemala

This quarter AJR approved a long expected grant to the Guatemala Youth Movement Against Violence (a movement created under Creative's crime prevention project in Guatemala). Previously the movement was able to mobilize citizens and youth to advocate for a crime prevention policy. A new grant to the Movement, aims at developing a pilot project in two vulnerable communities that focuses on implementing the recommendations of the previously proposed prevention policy. The new project named, "Para Muestra un Botón" initiated activities prior to the approval of the grant identifying two vulnerable areas to work on and partners with whom to carry out the project. Meetings and discussions were held with San Jose's Church, La Brigada, Fundacion Crecer and Grupo Ceiba. A group of young Architecture students from Universidad Mariano Gálvez became the Movement allies this quarter to work in the vulnerable communities. After several working meetings, the students provided a proposal for a renovation design of the training facilities of San Jose La Brigada's Church. A proposal was presented for about \$8,000 in support. Finally, major media awareness is expected to be achieved through TV time that has been provided for a TV campaign on violence prevention. Moreover, the globally-

renowned advertising agency Ogilvy, designed a campaign to strengthen the Movement's membership and goals free of charge and will present the design early in July 2010.

The Youth Movement held eleven working meetings this quarter. As part of continued institutional strengthening of the Movement, more than 20 youth accessed the course "Leadership, Communication and Conflict Resolution" which was obtained free of charge with support from the Fundación de Vida. A leadership seminar may follow next quarter.

Warning Against Violence Talks Penetrate the School Environment to Reach Vulnerable Youth

The city of Palin, Guatemala was affected by the Pacaya volcano and tropical storms Agatha and Alex this quarter. AJR's OC in Palin was moved as a result, which contributed to delays in implementing planned activities. As a result of the move, a reduced target population received services. In recent weeks, the Center has had to recover from the disasters and to identify new beneficiaries which has been a challenging process. However, during this quarter, four schools were visited by the Palin Outreach Center to implement the "Alerta Contra La Violencia" or *Warning Against Violence* awareness prevention talks. Talks use videos, testimonials and other materials to make clear to vulnerable youth the acute dangers of violence and to help them protect themselves from becoming involved in violence. About 100 youth are reached through each session. This small grant provided to the Palin, Escuintla Outreach Center continues to create awareness against violence in neighboring schools. Eight awareness talks are planned at schools in July and August of the coming quarter.

Insertion/Rehabilitation

AJR USAID-SICA provides myriad of support as Peronia lays a foundation for those following in its footsteps



Photo-www.noticias.com.gt

The world's eyes have been peeled on one of the most violent corners of Guatemala City since July 2009. In Ciudad Peronia, history was made in a Church symbolically named, "Desirable Land" (or *Tierra Deseable*). What was unthinkable came to be. Members of rival gangs reconciled, promising a halt to more than two decades of brutal violence between the gangs. Little more than a year later, the truce holds.

In the high risk community of Peronia, nearly half of the population of 65,000 inhabitants, are under the age of 20. For years, Peronia has had a reputation as being hotbed violence as one of the most dangerous zones of Guatemala. Homicides and extortion are rife and gangs including Metales, Caballos, Mara Salvatrucha, 18th Street, and Rockeros have disputed territory in this area.

Predominant violence and delinquency generated by gangs in the area, motivated Pastor Mardoqueo Fuentes to initiate talks with the two largest gangs operating in Peronia, the Metales and Caballos. As a result of his efforts, in July 2009 gang leaders abandoned gang life stopping criminal activities in search of a new lifestyle.

When . Metales and Caballos, agreed to leave gang life and pardon each other at Pastor Mardoqueo's church, the occasion was televised and provided hope to many Guatemalans. Eight months after the demobilization process began, a multiplying effect has transpired. Other gang members, among them MS, Barrio 18 and Rockeros, have also abandoned gang life and have become involved in the church "Tierra Deseable". Pastor Mardoqueo has worked hard to create a socially cohesive environment where five gangs were previously enemies. As a result of the process there are now 135 former gang members in Peronia in need of education, training, and employment opportunities in order that they consider themselves fully inserted into the community.

The reconciliation pledged in Pastor Mardoqueo Fuentes's Church was the first step in a process rich with accomplishment and lessons. AJR USAID-SICA first visited Ciudad Peronia in February 2009 to incept prevention activities. Pastor Fuentes sent a clear message, he wanted to work on reconciliation not prevention. AJR maintained contact with the Pastor and in July 2009, once the first youth needed to be reinserted into society, the AJR again offered its support. Pastor Fuentes needed food and medicine for youth. Several Ministries contributed food. In December 2009, AJR provided contacts so that a grocery distribution unit could be launched. To mitigate the need for income, Pastor Mardoqueo started an egg distribution effort, delivering to stores in Peronia. Fifty boxes of eggs per week were sold generating \$75-\$80 a month to pay salaries to youth distributing products and to cover cost.

Pastor Mardoqueo Fuentes established a cooperative, the *Cooperativa Integral de Ahorro y Credito Unidos por la Paz*, as a social development model aimed at assisting former gang members in their insertion process, by providing them with income generation opportunities, while also supporting Peronia's social and economic development overall.

AJR Support

AJR has provided technical assistance to Pastor Fuentes in this effort. In December 2009, AJR promoted a meeting with Giovanni Herrera, an entrepreneur and owner of MULTIMAYOREO, a food distribution company. As a result of the meeting, Mr. Herrera provided support (Q10,000 in cash and credit from Multimayoreo) for the establishment of the *Distribuidora La Paz*, a food product distribution business, managed by former gang members (Metales and Caballos) to sell and distribute food products to the various stores in Peronia. Assistance for the *Distribuidora* was also provided by Enrique Godoy, a former employee of the USAID Youth Challenge Program, who donated a printer and a month's salary for a new accountant to help start the business.

Also in December of 2009, through the work of AJR Guatemala, another business owner, Alice Zablah donated equipment, materials and unfinished ceramic pieces, for the establishment of a small-business in ceramics by former gang members in Peronia. The objective was to train former gang members (in this case the Rockeros who demonstrated significant the creative skill) in developing a ceramics workshop, and in due course, establishing a ceramics business. In the first quarter of 2010 AJR supported the development of a proposal to strengthen the newly formed Cooperative, *Cooperativa de*

Ahorro Integral R.L. Unidos por la Paz The grant approved this quarter, is supporting the development of job skills, the strengthening of the food distribution business; the establishment of the ceramics workshop that will later be developed into a small business to produce, sell and distribute ceramics; a club to address the needs of the former gang members, motivate productive use of free time and community service activities; and the systematization of the Peronia gang demobilization experience.

Activities under this grant are expected to solidify peace in Peronia through job creation and integration of former gang members, strengthening of an environment of peaceful coexistence in the community and beyond, and will aim to directly prevent violence and crime.

During this quarter, eight youth became employed with the food product distributor that was established by Peronia, eighteen are working in a ceramic workshop that now aims to commercialize its products. AJR supported coordination efforts between Unidos por La Paz and the Office of the First Lady of the Republic. The First Lady is providing a fully equipped kitchen where twenty youth will learn culinary skills. Their first challenge will be to produce 2,000 school lunches per month for a new school being opened by the government in August.

In an effort to ensure youth gain an educational foundation from which they can access future opportunities, AJR sought a school where youth could begin to receive education equivalency classes each Sunday. A space was granted in an existing school. Four teachers are volunteering to provide the classes for an eight month period. AJR's own staff rotates to provide support each Sunday. Seventy of the 140 youth had not obtained a sixth grade education. AJR's goal is that all 70 youth, previously not able to read or write, be enrolled in the Sunday classes.

In an effort to provide market-driven skills beyond basic education, The Guatemalan training organization INTECAP, has provided volunteers to teach half day courses in IT at Peronia twice a week. USAID-SICA has helped obtain desks and computers for the space and aims for all 140 youth to be enrolled in these courses.

To harness the extraordinary potential for preventing violence through life testimony from youth, AJR has helped form a Club, Unidos por La Paz to develop a program that will offer testimonies in surrounding hot zones to motivate the demobilization of gang members.

AJR has contributed its *Desafío de Soñar mi Vida* methodology, which works to ensure that youth can 1) identify strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats to developing a life plan; 2) can establish personal goals and dreams and a plan for monitoring and measuring progress; 3) gain strengthened leadership and creative abilities and finally, 4) are better able to identify and resolve conflict in their lives and communities.

Loida Priscila Mendez, AJR's technical officer, has dedicated hours to the work with Peronia. For youth who have never had such opportunities, it's not easy Priscila recounts. She says it's working with, the need inside of them to be trained and placed in a job. Pastor Fuentes has worked arduously to keep youth together and to address their psychosocial recovery through faith.

The pastor sees AJR as a partner in the best sense of the term. Working in Peronia, AJR draws on Creative Associates' experience gained working with local organizations to

reintegrate youth in Guatemala, since 2003. Support for Peronia will continue and between July and September 2010, AJR will start to systematize the Peronia demobilization/rehabilitation experience, in order that it may serve as a learning tool for the countless communities that must follow in its footsteps.

Activity 2: Assessing regional legal/justice frameworks and promoting juvenile justice policy reform

El Salvador

Juvenile Justice Team Expanded to Prepare for a Robust Ramp-up

This quarter, preparation ensued for the start-up of an expanded juvenile justice team to tackle a challenging new scope under the amended cooperative agreement. AJR Juvenile Justice Forums saw strong demand by juvenile justice system operators in the region. The AJR will produce a juvenile justice assessment and situational analysis in the extended period, seeking to provide a basis for deepened juvenile justice advocacy and juvenile justice reform. Orietta Zumbado, AJR Juvenile Justice Expert and a juvenile judge in Costa Rica, joined the team this quarter. Ms. Zumbado attended AJR's regional kick-off June 9th and 10th, returning to Costa Rica to round out her casework before moving to El Salvador permanently in July. Ms. Zumbado joins Patricia Galdamez, Liaison Officer; and Rigoberto Portillo, Juvenile Justice and Public Policy Coordinator for Honduras on the juvenile justice team. Alvaro Burgos, one of the region's leading juvenile justice professors and Victor Herrero, an expert on alternative measures and restorative justice will provide key technical inputs including to the development of training for juvenile justice operators and the development of a structured alternative measures program that enjoys regional support.

Honduras

Preparing to Expand and Strengthen Juvenile Justice Coalition in Honduras

In June, AJR Honduras reinitiated Juvenile Justice Activities, which were seriously hampered by the political situation and AJR's absence from the country. Work included updating the data of persons who have participated in meetings of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. Teleconferences and meetings with key justice stakeholders allowed the initiation of further data collection on the present situation of the juvenile justice system in Honduras. Requests for specific information were submitted to the Office of Children, juvenile courts and Honduran Institute of Children and Family (IHNFA). AJR will foster a growing Juvenile Justice Coalition in Honduras that includes justice system operators and reaches out pro-actively to members of civil society willing to support policy reform.

Juvenile Justice Diagnostic to Be Prepared in Honduras

AJR Honduras this quarter conducted recruitment for the drafting of a Juvenile Violence in Assessment in Honduras (*Diagnóstico de la Violencia Juvenil in Honduras*). Five candidates were interviewed and one of them, Mr. Gonzalo Sánchez, an academic and member of the Honduran Police, who holds a double PhD in Political Science and in Sociology, stood out. The Honduras assessment, like that conducted in El Salvador, aims

to be shared with key policy makers and to generate momentum in support of AJRs upcoming work to foster a regional prevention policy.

Guatemala

An advocacy project proposal presented by the *Sub-commission for Comprehensive Protection Policies for Adolescents in Conflict with the Law*, established under the National Commission for Childhood and Adolescence (Comisión Nacional de la Niñez y Adolescencia . CNNA), based on previously defined key advocacy areas, and was not approved by USAID. Juvenile justice activities slowed in both El Salvador and Guatemala this quarter, as both small activities with these advocacy commissions were not approved by USAID.

Activity 3: Assisting SICA to promote dialogue and coherence in citizen security

El Salvador

SICA and AJR to Collaborate on Central America Security Index (ICAS)

AJR reached an agreement with SICA's Director of the Democratic Security Unit to collaborate on the design of a novel, Central America Security Index (ICAS), as a part of its support to SICA. The concept is central to OBSICA and is a prerequisite for the development of the observatory and of any monitoring and evaluation instrument for use in measuring the security situation in the Central America region. SICA's role will be through the Democratic Security Unit (USD). SICA will propose the ICAS to the CA Security Commission as a new instrument while AJR will provide technical assistance to develop the new instrument.

AJR will support SICA's work with a youth organization and with specialized level consulting it has proposed with regards the culture of legality. The Secretary General of SICA has asked AJR to invite him to participate in program activities such as OC inaugurations or other events in Honduras, if possible during the months of August and September. AJR will coordinate with USAID-ES and USAID-HON if the opportunity arises.

Implementation ensues on new regional crime observatory: OBSICA

This quarter, AJR initiated conversations with SICA to provide technical assistance to strengthen the new regional crime observatory called OBSICA (previously OCAVI). OBSICA is expected to be designed as a virtual resource center for decision makers and operators of public policies that define prevention and implement programs focused on violence in the region. AJR will strengthen OBSICA so that it allows SICA to manage, analyze and produce information on crime that can inform regional or country specific prevention initiatives. Though the observatories have been established locally, many are not functional, do not adequately produce data on crime and are not recognized as tools in preventing crime, nor are they yet able to fulfill this role.

Activity 4: El Salvador Merida Initiative on Prevention

In El Salvador, AJR is working in three municipalities; Santa Ana, Chalchuapa and El Congo. All three are located in the Department of Santa Ana. In Chalchuapa and Santa Ana municipalities, AJR will focus activities in eighteen target communities and three downtown areas that meet pre-established criteria per a selection methodology² carried out by Vanderbilt University. In El Congo, our third target municipality, three communities were pre-selected through a rigorous pre-diagnostic, diagnostic and supplementary, focus group methodology. (See Selection Process Chart on page seven).

AJR's prevention team conducted numerous work visits to the three municipalities during the reporting period to conduct municipal diagnostics in three municipalities. These efforts are being guided by Jonathan Claros, Municipal Coordinator for the AJR and a previous Creative employee. The diagnostics conducted by AJR serve as a first step to engagement by AJR on crime prevention. Findings will be presented to Committees for discussion and provide a launch point for prevention planning. Numerous work visits this quarter served to: a) foster relationships with Municipal Violence Prevention Committees, b) understand the lived reality of intervention communities through the perspective of community leaders and key actors in the municipality, c) conduct interviews with community leaders and local actors with whom Committees establish partnerships for prevention interventions and finally, d) assess the degree of potential success for interventions according to communities themselves. The obtaining of sufficiently systematic or ordered data for the purposes of AJR's community diagnostics, has been a challenge. This has forced the compilation of data from various sources. Local sources consulted include; the national police, the municipality, the local public health system, the regional office of the Ministry of Education, the regional office of National Public Security Council and community organizations, among others.

"The relationship between adults and youth has become broken, we have to reestablish it.." –

Focus group adults by AJR USAID-SICA in Chalchuapa, El Salvador, June 28, 2010.

In Chalchuapa, as a part of MCVPs municipal assessment process, two focus groups were conducted. One was conducted with youth and one was conducted with community leaders. Qualitative information from both focus

groups provided an important means of studying community members' perceptions and allows issues to surface for further exploration by AJR. The focus groups demonstrated a concerning generational rupture that prevention plans developed in the municipalities will need to address.

Santa Ana

Once notified by USAID that the city of Santa Ana would be among the AJR's intervention municipalities, AJR established contacts with the Municipal Violence Prevention Committee. The first important step was engagement with the Mayor of the municipality to discuss the basis for engagement. AJR also contacted public and private sector entities that are part of the Committee to explain the objective and scope of AJR. A particular element that has guided AJR's engagement in Santa Ana, is the Prevention Plan which

the Committee has in place. AJR met the communities that were selected by Vanderbilt University for engagement. As a part of conducting its municipal diagnostic, AJR spent significant time in the company of community leaders, civil society representatives and municipal government and with Committee members in each of the communities. In this way AJR constructed a picture of the social and economic reality of communities and determined which vulnerability risk factors were most acute in communities. The municipal diagnostic for Santa Ana is being finalized for presentation and discussion with the Committee at the AJR's first Workshop with the Municipal Violence Prevention Committee next quarter.

Chalchuapa

Like in Santa Ana, the AJR moved quickly to establish direct contacts with the Municipal Violence Prevention Committee in Santa Ana. Known locally as, the "Committee for the Promotion of Peace and the Common Good", AJR gained a rapid sense for prevention planning precedents in the municipality and the Plan already in place here. Around this time, Vanderbilt University-through the AJR-informed the Municipal Violence Prevention Committee which communities had been pre-selected for implementation. This aroused dissatisfaction with Committee members and prompted the Mayor of Chalchuapa to organize a site visit to those communities not pre-selected for engagement by Vanderbilt in order to verify whether these did not meet the criteria used by Vanderbilt to pre-select communities. The visit led to a determination that these five communities should belong to the sample from which final communities were being determined by Vanderbilt. The engagement by the Mayor was a participatory element. The municipal diagnostic for Chalchuapa is being finalized for presentation and discussion with the Committee at the AJR's first Workshop with the Municipal Violence Prevention Committee next quarter.

El Congo

In the AJR's third and smallest target municipality of El Congo, three communities were pre-selected through a rigorous pre-diagnostic, diagnostic and supplementary, focus group methodology conducted by the AJR. The process suggested by USAID, was that AJR implement projects in at least three major cities. The municipality of El Refugio and El Congo were proposed as options for engagement. An expression of interest in working with AJR was provided by El Congo. While establishing relationships with the existing Municipal Violence Prevention Committee and Mayor and communities of El Congo as a part of its diagnostic process, the Committee's willingness to engage with AJR became clear. It was also clear that the Committee needed considerable strengthening. AJR has sought to develop the process in the Congo similarly to those in Santa Ana and Chalchuapa. Twelve pre-selected communities resulted from the AJR's pre-diagnostic. Of these twelve and based on diagnostic results, three communities were finalized for implementation, Las Brisas, El Carmen and Santa Rita. The methodology used to pre-select communities assigns a score to analysis factors that include: total population, youth population, unmet basic needs, crime rates, social infrastructure, opportunities and successful previous development experiences, among other factors.

While the process working with Municipal Violence Prevention Committees is fully underway in Chalchuapa, El Congo and Santa Ana, so too are relationships with potential

municipal partners to support CMPVs and prevention efforts. These are being pro-actively pursued by AJR.

Focus Groups Tell Dire Tale of Lived Experience of Violence

“Nobody knows what youth want.. but nobody asks youth what they want..” . Focus group youth by AJR USAID-SICA in Chalchuapa, El Salvador, June 28, 2010.

AJR conducted two focus groups representing five communities in the municipality of Chalchuapa this quarter. The effort was intended to supplement the diagnostic process which AJR carried out in the municipality, asking

youth and adult leaders about, violence, drugs, prevention initiatives, and the media’s role with regards to violence, solutions and needs, among other topics.

Striking is that the focus group of young people, demonstrated that youth have no life plans and woefully lack opportunities. Youth seek to migrate illegally to the United States to avoid lives of violence, in the words of one youth, *“We have stopped fighting+”*. Tellingly, some youth expressed having life plans, but revealed these are associated with illegal activities. The focus group with leaders demonstrated that the interests and concerns of adults may be far removed from the interests and concerns of young people. Another characteristic that recurred between the two focus groups, is a gap between the two age groups (youth and adults) and the severance of ties that regularly join these two generations, spaces in the home, church and of socialization which are key to these relationships. Among the most striking findings of the focus group of young people, one youth remarks that if one takes a middle school classroom, 70% or more youth will have intra-familial violence that has led to a rupturing of the family. Focus groups will be held in the other municipalities during the next quarter, undoubtedly offering rich insights. They will also be exercised by AJR in Honduras.

Crime Prevention Committees, Municipal Actors Join SICA for Workshop on Prevention Planning

This quarter, one member from each of the three Municipal Violence Prevention Committees and two representatives from the municipalities of Santa Ana, Chalchuapa and El Congo, received a workshop on prevention planning organized by the Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA) and the Consejo Nacional de Seguridad Privada (CNSP). The workshop was provided by two Israeli experts who developed several strategies pertaining to the reduction of violence at the local level and included practical experience from the experts on the development of Municipal Prevention Plans and prevention in schools and other environments and offered an important opportunity to exchange experiences of prevention at the local level.

AJR Gauging Foundation for Regional Observatory in Its Three Municipalities

AJR visited El Congo, Santa Ana and Chalchuapa this month to conduct a rapid assessment of the existing foundation for engagement with regards municipal crime observatories. Armando Jimenez, AJR Public Policy Coordinator met at length with the Mayors of El Congo and Santa Ana, and members of the Chalchuapa Municipal Crime Prevention Council. AJR explained the nature of its support for the creation and

strengthening of violence observatories. In each of the municipalities, full support was provided and municipalities expressed they were happy to start the job. The Mayor of Santa Ana proposed beginning immediately, as it has already earmarked resources to support the observatory and is interested in getting quick results. In El Congo, the mayor pledged to appoint a point person and assigned a room and a computer for the observatory. AJR will retake the issue of the observatory with the Mayor of Chalchuapa when he returns to his duties after a leave of absence.

In the municipality of Santa Ana, AJRs diagnostic identified that sufficient human resources are available to run the observatory in addition to there being sufficient computer equipment for a functioning observatory. AJR will provide organizational assistance to get the observatory going. In the AJR municipalities of El Congo and Chalchuapa, willingness and readiness were demonstrated on the part of both the Mayor and Municipal Crime Prevention Council to improve the observatories. Resources including staff and computers are required in the latter two municipalities. AJR will complete the diagnosis of observatories during the next quarter. In El Congo and Chalchuapa, follow-up meetings have been scheduled.

AJR Trains Committee of Local Violence Observatory in Santa Ana

AJR conducted a training session for members of the Monitoring Committee of the Santa Ana Local Violence Observatory which was attended by six people, including the Coordinator and the technicians responsible for the Centre.

The theme of the training was "stages of development of violence observatory." In addition to establishing common technical language among members, it was agreed a work plan for the observatory would be designed. Similar training will be conducted in Chalchuapa and El Congo.



The Violence Observatory Committee in Santa Ana, El Salvador attends a training session at which next steps were laid out including the need for a work plan for the observatory. Photo-Ivan Flores AJR USAID-SICA

"The municipality is interested in having an instrument that demonstrates the reality that we are living in the municipality, we are clear that we urgently need to do something to reduce the levels of violence that we currently have, and we see the observatory as a helpful mechanism for this"

-Cristina Sandoval, an employee of the observatory of the municipality of Santa Ana

Activity 5: Honduras Merida Initiative on Prevention



As just one of many activities this month, the Honduras team welcomed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central American Affairs, Dr. Julissa Reynoso this quarter. USAID Mission Director Mr. William Brands, DG Director David Thompson and other USAID staff accompanied Dr. Reynoso. Photo- David Medina

AJR Expands Footprint in Honduras with Swift Start-Up

The most significant expansion of AJRs program foot print, is undeniably that in Honduras. A two person team has expanded to a team of fourteen as a result of the AJRs amended scope. The AJR prepared for program expansion in record time. Anticipating the amended cooperative agreement, careful planning by the team allowed finalizing of all contracting just after the May 27th sign date. After an extensive search for an office space that was secure, well-located and would meet the needs of the AJR team, a space was identified at Calle Barcelona in Lomas del Guijarro Sur. AJR moved in on June 2, within five days of the signing of the agreement.

A fourteen person team was successfully identified and recruited in Honduras within five days of the signing of the amended agreement. With the exception of the M&E Officer, a complete team was in place. AJR received and screened 370 CVs, conducting interviews to handpick a talented team that is well positioned to embrace the programs objectives. New staff traveled to a Lake Yojoa where they participated in the %Challenge of Dreaming My Life+or %Desafío de Soñar mi Vida+Workshop, allowing staff an opportunity to meet partners, beneficiaries of AJR, to get to know each other and build team spirit. Showing great flexibility, the team traveled by bus to El Salvador for the Regional Kick-off meeting, closing off a whirlwind launch schedule.

During Month One of operations, AJR staff set up bank accounts, started the registration process with the Honduran Government, set up an IT network for the Tegucigalpa office and advanced program procurement needs. AJR staff initiated the tax exemption process for the three vehicles to be procured in Honduras. A small car was rented in Tegucigalpa and another one in San Pedro Sula. AJR's Northern Honduras team worked equally hard to set up the San Pedro office. Miguel Martell, F&A Coordinator, traveled to San Pedro Sula to train administrative staff in contracting, acquisition, accounting and administrative procedures. Karin Canales, AJR Program Officer in La Ceiba, traveled to San Pedro Sula to receive the training. The AJR Honduras Country Director arrived to set up permanently in Tegucigalpa on June 30, 2010.

Community Pre-selection Process Demonstrates no Lack of Willingness to Engage in Municipal Prevention

In Honduras, though the Municipal Crime Prevention Committee construction process is under way, a distinct, and promising basis for development is clear from groundwork in building relationships in the municipalities.

Municipal Violence Prevention Committees have not been formally adopted by the Honduran central government. AJR is working with Mayors so they form Municipal Violence Prevention Committees. The AJR will then work with these Committees to establish crime prevention plans and ensure that Municipal Violence Prevention Committees are able to monitor Plans once they are implemented. Some Municipalities, including San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba and Choloma, have established Security Commissions and Mesas de Seguridad, which have not been very successful. . These are principally implementing law enforcement efforts funded by a special security tax collected by municipalities. Over the course of just a few months, AJR has been able to secure political and material support to implement a Municipal Violence Prevention Committee process in Choloma, La Ceiba and San Pedro Sula similar to the process in El Congo, El Salvador. AJR has initiated a process aimed at identifying potential candidate members to form MVPCs in all three cities. A rewarding process of sensitizing counterparts in municipal offices particularly, has unfolded in Honduras. Various social actors from each city, including the Chamber of Commerce in Choloma, the Office of Community Development in La Ceiba, AJR partner, the Office of *Paz y Convivencia Ciudadana* (OPC) and the Office of Social Action in San Pedro Sula have shown extraordinary disposition to the model.

AJR is engaging in a community pre-selection process in Honduras. A pre-Diagnostic, a Diagnostic and supplementary focus group methodologies will be used in order to arrive at what are anticipated to be 25 implementation communities in the cities of San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba and Choloma. AJR's San Pedro Sula staff is preparing a pre-Diagnostic of the Municipality, which will be essential for the next steps of the municipal process. Pre-Diagnostics processes in La Ceiba and Choloma are also underway.

San Pedro Sula

AJR previously indicated to USAID that it would work to form Municipal Crime Prevention Committees in two cities, La Ceiba and Choloma. Solid relationships built with staff of the new Mayor of San Pedro Sula however, led to a political opportunity to organize a Committee there too. San Pedro Sula is the second largest city in Honduras and is considered the economic capital of the country. Levels of violence are considerably higher than in Tegucigalpa. AJR's partner OPC; organized a meeting with the Mayor of San Pedro Sula, Dr. Zuñiga this quarter. The Municipal Crime Prevention Committee concept was presented and the Mayor, who welcomed the formation of a Municipal Violence Prevention Sub-Committee, (under the Municipal Security Commission) and pledged to provide all possible support to AJR's efforts in the city. AJR explained the need to generate counterpart contributions and described its program strategy, including a number of *Por Mi Barrio*+Outreach Centers. The Mayor's wife, Mrs. Yvette Aramendia de Zuniga, who has become familiar with the OC concept and AJR, played an important role in facilitating AJR's warm welcome. AJR will be making a formal presentation of the municipal process to potential Committee members.

La Ceiba

AJR met with Mr. Carlos Aguilar, the Mayor of La Ceiba. Mr. Daniel López, Director of the Office of Community Development has been instrumental to the development of AJR's relationship with the Mayor ship. The Mayor welcomed the idea of a Municipal Crime Prevention Committee and expressed that though La Ceiba has a Security Commission, the Commission was viewed too much as a law enforcement initiative. The Mayor expressed that a Prevention Committee in which churches, businesses and civil society could participate, was a good idea, offering his full support. The AJR Project Director and Mayor reconvened to discuss a list of civic leaders to be invited to participate in the Municipal Crime Prevention Committee. On July 13th, AJR will be making a formal presentation of the municipal process to potential Committee members. Karin Canales, AJR's Program Officer, previously managed a UNICEF/Mayor ship program in La Ceiba. Karin has a desk within the Office of Community Development and is ideal in this role. With the help of officers from the Municipality, Karin will be leading the Pre-Diagnostic of the Municipality, essential in beginning the community identification process.

Choloma

AJR has a good working relationship with the Mayor of Choloma, with whom it has partnered on the implementation of an OC in the high risk López Arellano sector of the municipality. The Mayor of Choloma accepted AJR's proposal to form a Municipal Crime Prevention Committee. AJR is working to obtain specific commitments from the Mayor. AJR reinforced its relationship with the Chamber of Commerce of Choloma (CCC), which is a catalytic force with regards security issues in Choloma. The CCC was asked to manage the municipality's security tax. (It receives some 50,000 Lempira's from the Mayor's Office per month, about \$2,500.) The CCC has implemented a number of donor programs including an employment project on behalf of GTZ (UTIL) and a security project with support from UNDP. CCC welcomed the MVPC and has been working with the AJR and the Mayor on a list of civic leaders that will take part in the Committee. The CCC is an obvious partner for the implementation of the employability, and prevention scholarships component of the AJR in Choloma's *barrios*. On July 16th, AJR will be making a formal induction presentation of the MVPC process to potential members.

Visits to Potential New OC and Program Implementation Sites

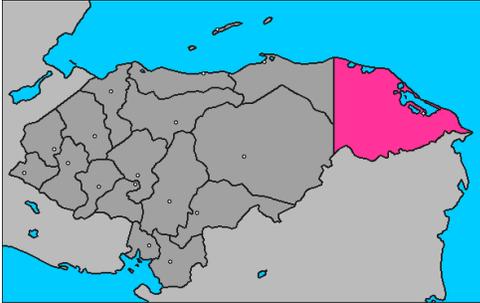
AJR Honduras is establishing a formidable prevention footprint in communities during the extension period, establishing 25 new Outreach Centers across dispersed geographical areas (Comayaguela, La Ceiba, San Pedro Sula and Choloma).

Tegucigalpa

Save the Children (STC) Honduras and USAID's DG Director David Thompson, accompanied AJR to potential sites for OC and prevention work in Comayaguela and areas of Tegucigalpa this quarter. AJR looks forward to working in Comayaguela where two models are being implemented by Save the Children Honduras, and where this organization has a community network that can be tapped for further work. In Colonia Rosalinda, a Community House is perfect for the implementation of an OC and the community appears eager to receive it. USAID, AJR and STC sat with local leadership

and youth from this *barrio* to hear about their situation and their aspirations to improve the opportunities of youth by establishing an OC. Youth indicated that there would be enough volunteers in the community to work with youth, particularly in the area of computer skills training.

Puerto Lempira



www.luventicus.org/mapas

In May, AJR joined USAID-Honduras staff member Mr. Mauricio Cruz, along with a representative from the Honduras Social Investment Fund (FHIS), AJR Country Director Salvador Stadthagen and Senior Prevention Coordinator Juan Jose Hernandez visited Puerto Lempira, Honduras with an eye to assessing implementation prospects here. Narco-activity has worsened and has exacerbated levels of violence in Puerto Lempira. Several high profile

homicides, including one in broad day light to the owner of a gas station, have occurred in the last few months.

The group met with the few potential reliable partners available, such as the local NGO, MOPAWI, the Catholic Church Parrish, the GOAL project and a local school. The Mayor was also visited.

Transportation costs, implementation challenges associated with culture and communications and a resource-barren Mayor's Office make it almost impossible for counterpart contributions to be raised and limits what can be accomplished in Puerto Lempira. Violence associated with narco-trafficking has similar characteristics to that associated with gangs, but is distinct in some ways, requiring adapted approaches. Lack of opportunities and similar risk factors are common. This lends to the possible implementation of an OC model there.

Farther Nacher, a local priest who has been working with at risk children for years is willing to explore the OC model and establish it in a house that has been offered rent-free by the Mayor. The Catholic Parrish hopes to build a larger facility to expand their prevention activities in the future and has acquired a suitable piece of land for it. The idea is that an OC is established in the house offered by the Mayor, and eventually the equipment would move to the new Center once it is built. Father Nacher is hoping that USAID will help with the construction of this Center too.

The Catholic Church also operates a radio station in Puerto Lempira. Father Nacher is open to implementing youth oriented radio programs that deal with the problem of drug consumption and violence. Additionally he has started a youth Soccer League.

Another possible AJR partner is MOPAWI, which has been implementing projects for USAID. MOPAWI implements economic development projects and has experience in organizing vocational and micro-entrepreneurial projects. They would be well positioned to implement a vocational training/micro-entrepreneurial activity and are interested in presenting a proposal. A hurricane hit the training facility (which had living quarters for trainers) that MOPAWI had, making it difficult and costly to train youth. USAID showed

some interest in financing the repair of their training facility, which is estimated to cost \$70,000 according to MOPAWI.

The third organization, GOAL, is onto larger projects. They have proposed a \$500,000 project that exceeds the amount of grant funding AJR has available for Puerto Lempira.

AJR will develop a grant with Father Nacher, to implement an OC. It may include resources to support the priest's Soccer League effort, an anti-drug consumption or other creative anti-violence campaign. AJR will provide technical assistance for the development of a lively radio campaign that creates awareness of violence and the dangers of drug consumption.

Another possible course of action in Puerto Lempira is to rescue the ~~W~~American Corner+ project that was funded by the Embassy a few years ago and is located in the City's School. Computers and other equipment are not being used due to high energy costs (they have accumulated a \$1,000 unpaid bill). The same school has solar panels that are also not in use because of a simple technical problem. AJR could explore providing a wind/solar (small wind-mill and/or panels) source of energy to the school and other prevention programs close-by (including the Catholic Church) that might be financed through USAID's infrastructure budget.

USAID-Honduras invited AJR to a coordination meeting at the World Bank's Tegucigalpa office. Joint activities were explored. One conclusion is that many development and youth projects cannot go forward if a cheaper source of energy is not sought. The World Bank wants to develop an Information Center in Puerto Lempira, but runs into the same problem of high cost of energy, which would make it unsustainable over the long-term.

Mayor's Office in San Pedro Sula Commits Assistance to AJR



Attesting to extraordinary support for the AJR in San Pedro Sula, this quarter the Mayor's Office made an office space of more than 650 square feet available to AJR. Located in an office/commercial center in downtown San Pedro Sula, office space, electricity and water is being paid by the Mayor's Office with AJR costs limited to a parking fee. The AJR team began working out of its new office in early June. The office will require a minor investment in paint, polishing of floors and a partition. This support is remarkable as the municipality of San Pedro Sula is experiencing one of its worst economic crises in its history.

Potential for Prevention through Sports and Values Education in Honduras

The President of Futbol Forever, Mr. Alejandro Gutman, who is implementing a popular learning/values through soccer program in El Salvador, came to Honduras to talk about how soccer can help integrate different social groups (University volunteers, professionals) and channel energies to *barrios* in need of attention due to violence and sound the possibilities of introducing a similar program in Honduras. His presentations in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, gained the attention of soccer personalities already working regular soccer leagues and programs in high risk areas, in some cases with municipal support. The ideas brought by Mr. Gutman opened the eyes of many. Gutman explains that just

the sports side of these programs is not enough, and that additional values methodologies could be developed to go hand in hand with sports training.

Even though Futbol Forever may not come to Honduras, it opened doors to AJR with media, volunteer groups, business people, social actors, athletes and local authorities that attended the talks. Similar programs, particularly if they are not school based, could be developed with organizations such as Athletes for Christ, which is headed by Honduran soccer legend Wilmer Velazquez. These programs have potential for implementation in communities where AJR is slated to carry out interventions.



AJR Honduras Country Director Salvador Stadthagen talks with Olga Alvarado, Under Secretary at INJ and Arnaldo García of the National Prevention, Rehabilitation and Reinsertion program (PNRRS). Photo-David Medina

Insertion Opportunities Modest but Promising in Honduras

This quarter, AJR continued efforts at generating employment slots for youth, albeit hampered by the difficult economic atmosphere in Honduras. These efforts were reinitiated in June. As a part of Desafío 100-Tegucigalpa activities, AJR visited the bottling company and distributor of Pepsi, La Reyna. Ubaldo Herrera, who took part in Desafío 100, had an interview at La Reyna. Previously, Ubaldo worked at Pollos Cadeca but was forced to resign as a result of personal safety concerns. Ubaldo did well in the interview and was immediately hired and provided benefits including social security. The next day at six AM Ubaldo started work. La Reyna has indicated being willing to contract additional youth from Desafío 100. AJR maintains active relationships with four companies that have provided employment to youth. AJR Honduras has hired a Desafío 100 member for its Tegucigalpa team, Rosa Aminda Reyes joined the team in late June and will be doing office cleaning. Psychologist Bladimir Vasquez was hired as officer in charge of insertion/reinsertion efforts. He is based in San Pedro Sula and will travel to Tegucigalpa as needed.

AJR Honduras Incepts a Public Private Coalition for Insertion/Reintegration

Two years of experience by AJR in trying to foster insertion and reintegration initiatives in Honduras, made it clear that though some organizations doing rehabilitation have made important advances, they are all affected by the impossibility of re-inserting their beneficiaries into society due to their inability to place them into jobs or productive activities.

In Honduras, a solid local partner that may have the ability to become a leader in the insertion of former gang members, does not exist. AJR has sought to consider a coalition of NGOs, FBOs and three institutions that have been working on the insertion/reintegration of young former gang members and children in conflict with the law.

These are the National Youth Institute (INJ), the Honduran Institute for Childhood, Family and Adolescence (IHNFA) and the National Prevention, Rehabilitation and Reinsertion program. (PNRRS)

AJR and IHNFA held a workshop with all sectors, which was hosted by IHNFA, in which more than 25 people representing different organizations interested in rehabilitation and insertion, participated.

After wards, AJR met with the three institutions (INJ, IHNFA and PNPRRS) individually. The group agreed that a Public-Private Coalition should be formed to better address the challenges of insertion and to collectively tap the private sector and seek to involve them

strategically in this regard. One immediate result was the increased coordination among the three institutions (INJ, IHNFA and PNPRRS). An initial meeting of possible Coalition members was also organized.



AJR Honduras meets with the National Youth Institute (INJ) in Honduras this quarter.
Photo- David Medina

Mapping Prevention Policy Efforts to Determine Windows of Opportunity

AJR sat down for meetings with the National Youth Institute (INJ) in Honduras this quarter. The meetings with this and other groups were focused on assessing advances to date with regards the Youth Policy development process

in Honduras. AJR also met with the National Program for Prevention, Rehabilitation and Reinsertion (PNPRRS), to determine that groups Prevention Policy development advances. Honduras' Youth Policy has not yet been approved by the Council of Ministers. INJ is preparing a series of youth meetings to validate the draft Policy. The Prevention Policy in the hands of PNPRRS was drafted in July 2008 but has hardly been shared. PNPRRS would like to work jointly with AJR to share and get input from various social groups.

INJ accepted a request by AJR that it be included in meetings INJ is organizing to share the draft Youth Policy with young leaders. This will allow AJR to identify youth organizations and leaders that could participate in a future Youth Against Violence Movement. AJR also met with COIPRODEN, an NGO network of organizations working with children on youth issues, to identify other youth mobilization efforts. AJR envisions developing joint activities so the Prevention Policy that is in process, is properly shared, enriched and is fully validated.

New Tattoo Machine on its Way to PNPRRS

Tattoo services are of vital importance to reintegrating use and are in short supply in Honduras and across the region. AJR Honduras initiated talks with the National Prevention Program (PNPRRS) with regards the purchase of a Tattoo Removal Machine that would replace a machine that is on the verge of falling apart. PNPRRS operates a machine that gives free service to beneficiaries remitted by FBOs and NGOs involved in rehabilitation. The services are nationally recognized. Machines are being surveyed and quoted and three meetings have been held with PNPRRS to review possibilities and a new operational protocol for the machine.

Preparing to Support Services to High Risk Deportee Populations

A visit was made to the Center for Attention to the Migrant (Centro de Atención al Migrante), operated by Scalabriniani Sisters in the Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula airports. AJR discussed with Director Sor Valdete, an integration/reintegration program geared to young at risk returned deportees prone to fall into the hands of gangs and organized crime when returning back to Honduras. Vocational programs and job placement would be made available to a pilot number of young deportees with a particular at risk profile.

Activity 6: Measure Program Impact on Gang-Related Crime and Develop a Framework for Program Replication

The AJR began implementation of this new monitoring and evaluation component with the twin objective of developing, 1) Lessons learned identified about what kind of gang prevention interventions are the most effective, and under which circumstances and 2) Developing a framework tool, outlining the components most critical for designing an effective gang prevention program, as well as what conditions and resources must be in place. Majella van der Werf, a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist will lead the program's regional efforts under this Activity based in El Salvador. She will be supported by Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, Francisco Armenta in Honduras who will coordinate monitoring and evaluation efforts in that country. Monitoring and Evaluation efforts in Guatemala will be supported from El Salvador.

Communications Unit

AJR counts a robust communications effort in Honduras and El Salvador through two strong officers leading efforts to brand AJR, position activities with stakeholders and in communities alike and to deliver communications products that support the project's mobilization objectives in the countries. Strategic coordination will be practiced between the offices.

El Salvador

In El Salvador, emphasis this quarter has been placed on institutional branding and imaging by the AJR. The program has sought to standardize and breathe new life into products including, banners, brochures and the project's website. The external image of the Outreach Centers *Por mi Barrio* are pivotal. Efforts have been directed at making branding more appealing to youth inside the communities and Centers.

An information bulletin has been developed which will be ideal in communicating activities in El Salvador and Honduras to organizations, partners, government institutions, municipalities and communities.

Honduras

Much like in El Salvador, AJR Honduras this quarter focused on branding and imaging efforts. It should be noted that Communications efforts in Honduras are expected to see increased activity beginning in the next quarter. This quarter brochure materials were designed as was imaging for offices in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula and La Ceiba. Photography, program templates and presentations were also prepared and will be systematized.



V. Indicators and Results

This quarter, AJR submitted a revised Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (MEP) to USAID which includes new expected results and indicators. Once approved, the revised MEP will substitute the AJR's existing MEP. A narrative description of the progress made during the quarter against existing results, follows:

(Result 1.1.1) The number of communities assisted by AJR increased by 18 this month as a result of new communities identified for engagement by the AJR in El Salvador. New target communities have not yet been finalized and are therefore not included for Honduras.

(Result 1.1.2) This quarter, three new Outreach Centers were established by AJR. The "Chintuc II" Center in El Salvador and the Lopez Arellano and Chamalecon Outreach Centers in Honduras were each established. The Lopez Arellano Center began operating in June and opens officially in August. A Choluteca OC is also slated to open in August. This will make a total of 6 OCs in El Salvador and 5 in Honduras for a total of 11 OC's out of the target of 15.

(Result 1.1.3) A number of new prevention grants were extended outside of the realm of new OC's. The first was to the Movimiento Joven in Guatemala for pilot prevention and social mobilization projects. A second grant was extended to Red Viva Honduras to develop a street football prevention program. A third grant was awarded for the Peronia gangs rehabilitation/insertion project.

(Result 1.1.4) Two-thousand one-hundred and sixty-eight youth were recorded in Outreach Centers as having benefitted from OC services this quarter. Nine hundred and thirty-three youth benefited from the services at four OC's in El Salvador; Lourdes; Barrio Lourdes; Melendez and 13 de enero (13 of January) Outreach Centers. In Honduras, some 1,235 youth were recorded as having benefitted from the services at four Outreach Centers; Villa Franca; Buenas Nuevas, River Hernandez; and the Lopez Arellano OC.

An important data are the number of youth registering as new beneficiaries at Centers. In El Salvador, 165 youth were recorded as having been newly registered at four OC's. In Honduras, some 227 youth were recorded as new beneficiaries at three Outreach Centers.

It is notable in reporting that in reporting presented by the Villa Franca and Buenanuevas OC's in Honduras, that these relatively new Centers, are offering broad vocational training for employment and workshops preparing youth for work. In Buenasnuevas, training activities were developed in the areas of computer, electrical and household appliances, sewing and bicycle repair. School equivalency training and training for the workforce are also offered.

Another vital data illustrating the impact of Outreach Centers on beneficiaries comes in the form of data on volunteer hours recorded by Outreach Centers. During the quarter, 17,295 hours of volunteer time were recorded, six-thousand five hundred and five hours were recorded as having been contributed in four OCs in El Salvador. Some 10,789 hours were recorded as having been contributed by community members and youth at four OC's in Honduras.

(Result 1.1.5) During this quarter, one Desafio, 100 youth was provided with employment in Honduras and eight youth accessed employment through a food distributing business in Peronia, Guatemala.

(Result 1.1.6) This result is no longer valid as the modification changed the expected 1:1 leverage to 30% cost-share.

(Result 2.1) This result; the evaluation of national/legal frameworks/policies and practices; conducted no new activities toward its target this quarter. The Juvenile Justice Team has been preparing for new activities to be reflected in the forthcoming results framework currently being reviewed by USAID.

(Result 2.2) This result; the number of reforms and initiatives promoted by SICA to improve the juvenile justice system and juvenile violence prevention through assistance by AJR advocacy strategies, did not see further development during this quarter. AJR and SICA have been in discussions with SICA on a number of new initiatives that may be formalized over the next quarter.

VI. Program Impact

Activity 1: Jump-starting public-private initiatives for gang prevention

Among progress of this quarter, the AJR's most formidable accomplishment was the start up of the "Challenge of Dreaming my Life" initiative. The initiative that involves Creative's own methodology, teaches youth how to dream their future, define goals, develop a life plan and the opportunity to monitor it with the support of mentors. This will impact the lives of many youth who come from broken homes, or haven't had parents or teachers to encourage them to study or believe in themselves and their capacities. Creative expects to share its methodology beyond the Outreach Centers in order to have a multiplier effect, reaching first OCs beneficiaries, community youth, schools and other groups such as ex-gang members in Peronia, Guatemala. Creative believes that youth who go through the training will have access to a tool that will make them less vulnerable to drugs, violence and gangs as they will have a dream and a life plan and hopefully, the opportunity to believe in themselves.

Activity 2: Assessing regional legal/justice frameworks and promoting juvenile justice policy reform

In spite of funding having been limited for this activity, Creative is recognized as an organization that is committed to offering juvenile justice operators an opportunity to enhance their practices, promote coordination and to foster stronger mechanisms to address the issue of youth in conflict with the law. This quarter, through opportunities offered by the USAID amendment to our agreement, Creative was able to develop a strategy that will impact juvenile justice in the three target countries. The amendment also the recruitment of a highly qualified team with many years of experience, capable of proposing appropriate policy reforms, new juvenile justice curricula, and enhanced opportunities for operators and youth in accessing alternative sentences that will give youth the opportunity to mend their ways without being singularly sentenced to juvenile prisons.

Activity 3: Assisting SICA to promote dialogue and coherence in citizen security

The most significant accomplishment this quarter was the opportunity agreed upon with SICA to collaborate on the design of a novel, Central America Security Index (ICAS).

Activity 4: El Salvador Merida Initiative on Prevention

Creative during this quarter made critical advances in understanding the reality of its three municipalities as a result of its diagnostic process and meetings to gather data, conduct focus groups and understand the lived reality of communities. Though crime prevention activities have yet to be selected through Plans and to be launched in these new municipalities, the entrance into these communities and relationship building with the Committees is the basis from which Committee planning strengthening and support activities will flow forth. Moreover, Creative has been very careful in developing a standard methodology to address municipal prevention in order to systematize and measure the impact of initiatives.

Activity 5: Honduras Merida Initiative on Prevention

The Municipal process, though only just initiating in Honduras, offers a rich basis for engagement in Honduras with some infrastructure in place from which the AJR will be able to build. Keeness can be detected on the part of municipal and other actors to move this process forward. The Choloma Outreach Center, Lopez Arellano launched June 2010, to incredible demand for courses and workshops. AJR's partner, Pastoral de Movilidad Humana attracted volunteers from the Parrish. Some 17 registered in all fields, from sports (basketball, soccer) to IT course provision. The OC's partner promoted the Center with the neighborhood and parish and is forming an association that can assist with the OCs sustainability after AJR-USAID financial assistance ends.

Two pastors from the *Cristo es la Roca* Church, embraced the OC methodology and will open the Chamalecon. Pastor Freddy Torres, the head of the Church is also the Director of a nearby school that has nearly 2,000 students. The pastor has lived in Chamelecón all his life. AJR looks forward to the launch of this OC which demonstrates great potential for impact.

Activity 6: Measure Program Impact on Gang-Related Crime and Develop a Framework for Program Replication

This quarter, AJR hired the two staff members that will form the backbone of the programs quantitative and qualitative data collection efforts. It competed Terms of Reference for a baseline perception survey in El Salvador and is preparing to engage in the same process in Honduras. The M&E Specialist worked with AJR to develop the program's Monitoring and Evaluation Plan which has been submitted to USAID for review. The program identified potential data collection instruments and will finalize these and systems for collection of data in both countries, during quarter three.

VII. Next Steps

Activity 1: Jump-starting public-private initiatives for gang prevention

El Salvador

- Advocacy activities initiated with regards to the design of a Youth Prevention Policy;
- Prevention grant making is initiated including long-term Integrated Prevention Program grants, Media Awareness grants, and Job Placement Support Services grants; (these are grants not originating from Municipal Crime Prevention Councils);
- One new strengthened new OC will be opened in Nahuizalco, El Salvador.

Honduras

- Participation in meetings held by AJR partner, INJ to validate a draft Youth Policy and position itself to create networks and alliances that will benefit Youth Movement development and other strategic efforts;

Guatemala

- Youth Movement celebrates First Anniversary Movement will present achievements during 2009 and planned activities for 2010. Events are being organized in collaboration with the Embassy of Mexico and the private sector.

Activity 2: Assessing regional legal/justice frameworks and promoting juvenile justice policy reform

El Salvador

- Strategic work planning meeting, July 19, 2010-July 20, 2010 with regional Juvenile Justice Team including Orietta Zumbado, Rigoberto Portillo, Patricia Galdámez, and consultants Alvaro Burgos and Victor Herrero (USAID El Salvador to participate);
- Meetings with key juvenile justice sector actors by AJR Juvenile Justice Expert and Liaison Officer to initiate preparation situational analysis and qualitative assessment of the juvenile justice systems in El Salvador;
- Juvenile Justice Expert Orietta Zumbado advances work on case studies;
- Presentations with key juvenile justice actors, including members of the Juvenile Justice Coalitions, 1)formally presenting AJR and key activities, 2) seeking support for activities and collaboration and, 3) reestablishing the Juvenile Justice Coalitions to engage in advocacy activities;
- Presentations by Victor Herrero on alternative measures and the case management tool KAIIKAI in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras with key juvenile justice actors;

- Workshop with key juvenile justice actors involved in the execution of measures imposed on juvenile offenders (Judges, and ISNA) will be held in El Salvador held by Victor Herrero to create awareness regarding the application of alternative measures. (This workshop will also be held with key actors in Honduras and Guatemala beginning in September)
- Juvenile Justice team member Victor Herrero advances the design of a comprehensive alternative measures programs for the three countries;
- Workshop held to design work plan for observatory Santa Ana municipality;
- Juvenile Justice Team member Alvaro Burgos meets with private and public universities and judicial training schools in the three countries to assess strengthening academic and in-service training for justice operators.

Honduras

- Presentations with key juvenile justice actors, including members of the Juvenile Justice Coalitions, 1)formally presenting AJR and key activities, 2) seeking support for activities and collaboration and, 3) reestablishing the Juvenile Justice Coalitions to engage in advocacy activities;
- Workshop with key juvenile justice actors involved in the execution of measures imposed on juvenile offenders (Judges, and ISNA) will be held in El Salvador held by Victor Herrero to create awareness regarding the application of alternative measures;

Guatemala

- Presentations with key juvenile justice actors, including members of the Juvenile Justice Coalitions, 1)formally presenting AJR and key activities, 2) seeking support for activities and collaboration and, 3) reestablishing the Juvenile Justice Coalitions to engage in advocacy activities;
- Workshop with key juvenile justice actors involved in the execution of measures imposed on juvenile offenders (Judges, and ISNA) will be held in El Salvador held by Victor Herrero to create awareness regarding the application of alternative measures;

Activity 3: Assisting SICA to promote dialogue and coherence in citizen security

El Salvador

- Presentations to sectoral actors to present Youth Violence Diagnostic;
- Workshop held with SICA and relevant stakeholder to define Central American Violence Index.

Activity 4: El Salvador Merida Initiative on Prevention

- Workshops with Municipal Crime Prevention Councils El Congo, Chalchuapa and Santa Ana to present Municipal Diagnostic and initiate planning;
- Draft Crime Prevention Plans (CPPs) developed with Municipal Crime Prevention Councils El Congo, Chalchuapa and Santa Ana;
- First crime prevention activities identified through Crime Prevention Plans (CPPs) in El Congo, Chalchuapa and Santa Ana and have been funded under grants;
- Capacity Building Plan developed and presented to Municipal Crime Prevention Councils El Congo, Chalchuapa and Santa Ana municipalities;
- Capacity Building calendar developed and agreed to, training has begun with Municipal Crime Prevention Councils El Congo, Chalchuapa and Santa Ana municipalities;
- Application of Baseline Perception Survey in target and control communities by sub-contractor in Santa Ana, Chalchuapa and El Congo, El Salvador and results analyzed.

Activity 5: Honduras Merida Initiative on Prevention

- Municipal pre-diagnostic and Diagnostic processes completed and implementation communities finalized;
- Terms of Reference for Baseline completed and sub-contractor selected to conduct Baseline perception survey in target and control communities;
- Terms of Reference for Juvenile Violence Assessment finalized and consultant hired;
- Monitor the sending of invitations by the Mayors of La Ceiba, San Pedro and Choloma, to city personalities, youth and other potential members of the Prevention Committees;
- Organize presentations to Potential Committee members in the three cities;
- Monitor the invitations by Mayors to prominent members of the community to participate in the first working meetings of the Committees In the three cities;
- Travel to Puerto Lempira to discuss with Father Nacher the possible grant to implement and OC there;
- A tri-partite meeting is to be held with representatives of the Private Sector organization and Chambers of Commerce and Industries, the heads of the concerned GOH institutions involved in the issue (INJ, IHNFA and PNPRRS) and FBOs and NGOs involved in Rehabilitation to sensitize them about the need to provide job opportunities for former gang members, youth in conflict with the Law and young deportees and convince them to actively engage in a Public-Private Alliance for Insertion/Reinsertion. A separate meeting will be held with FBOs and NGOs involved in rehabilitation so they appoint representatives to participate in the Board of this Alliance. AJR will provide a grant to develop this Alliance;

- Two new strengthened OC's will be opened in Honduras, in Chamelecon and a planned launch in Puerto Lempira.

Activity 6: Measure Program Impact on Gang-Related Crime and Develop a Framework for Program Replication

- Program indicators finalized with USAID and shared with project staff with training provided;
- Excel-based data collection database designed in-house with all modules complete, tested;
- Training on data collection begins with partners/grantees- focusing first, on OCs;
- Program data collection instruments identified and tested in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala;
- Project staff in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala trained on M&E systems, reporting requirements and deliverables.

Communications Unit

El Salvador

- Development of video that accompanies the Violence Diagnostic and reproduction for distribution to multi-sectoral partners;
- Three training workbooks for *Challenge of Dreaming My Life+* (*Desafío Soñar mi Vida+*) Workshops redesigned;
- Project website, www.alianzajovenregional.org, redesigned in consultation with Honduras and Guatemala communications teams;
- Initiate positioning of AJR on social networking platforms including *Twitter+* and *Facebook+*;
- Initiate positioning of Outreach Centers through local media.

Honduras

- Design Outreach Center brochure and Desafio 100 materials;
- Development of video that accompanies the Violence Diagnostic and reproduction for distribution to multi-sectoral partners;
- Develop needed materials *Challenge of Dreaming My Life+* (*Desafío Soñar mi Vida+*);
- Provide inputs to AJR Regional Newsletter and website in El Salvador;
- Produce radio pieces and content on prevention to support Puerto Lempira programming by AJR prior to conducting focus groups in that region.