



**PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF TORTURE IN THE
INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT USAID EDG-A-00-02-00030-00
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT JANUARY-MARCH, 2005**

1. General Framework

During the quarter covered by this report (January-March 2005) the main activity was organization of the second meeting of the project network-team, called: "Work session to discuss the specialized articles," held in San José, Costa Rica, from March 7 to 11, 2005.

With respect to IIHR-CEJIL coordination, Gilda Pacheco and Liliana Tojo, project coordinators on behalf of the IIHR and CEJIL, respectively, met on March 6, 2005 in San José, Costa Rica. Their main objective was to reach specific agreements on project execution in 2005.

There was a meeting on March 16, 2005 in San José, including Gilda Pacheco and Viviana Krsticevic, director of CEJIL, to inform the latter about the meeting of the network-team, as well as to coordinate the procedure to generate the final version of the Guiding Manual, taking into account the revisions and contributions made by CEJIL's attorneys. At this meeting they also how to include the topics that are being developed for the specialized publication in CEJIL's training process.

With respect to training of CEJIL's staff, during this quarter (January-March 2005) we did not carry out direct training actions (which does not modify the plan approved regarding this activity). However, a meeting of Program Directors on February 25, 2005 sought to adjust the mechanisms to optimize the scope of the goals set forth, with the aim of following-up on training conducted in 2004. At this meeting, priorities for the current year were strengthened, including an internal evaluation of the training plan of the staff, implemented during 2004, to begin execution of the plan for 2005. Participants at said meeting were Viviana Kristicevic, Liliana Tojo, Soraya Long, Tatiana Rincón, and Beatriz Affonso.

As in previous years, we took advantage of the presence of more human resources of the institution due to the hearings of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, to improve and update information on the project.

There was also progress in terms of fostering consultation with psychologists by the attorneys, to receive specific guidance regarding case management.

On the other hand, the directory of organizations was not updated during the first quarter of the year (January to March 2005). We are attaching an updated schedule that reflects this modification.

As we explained in the July-September 2004 quarterly report, during the first quarter of 2005 the project would consider the feasibility of developing a self-training course, making it available on the IIHR website, to disseminate the methodology for comprehensive psychological support for torture victims. Since the Guiding Manual on this topic is being reviewed and enriched by the IIHR and CEJIL teams, we decided not to implement the self-training course during this stage of the project. In addition to the above, the specialized section, which will play a crucial role in development of the course contents, is still in a restricted phase during which access is closed to the general public, its use being limited to the network-team.

2. Annual goals

2.1. Reinforcement and dissemination of a methodology for comprehensive psychological assistance for torture victims whose cases are being heard by the bodies of the Inter-American System.

2.2. Advocacy regarding development of the jurisprudence of the Court and the recommendations or decisions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, with respect to psychosocial reparations in cases of torture.

3. Project Execution

3.1. Coordination of the network-team of professional specialists

3.1.1. Description

Second work session of the network-team

A work session took place in San José, Costa Rica, from March 7 to 11, 2005, as part of the coordination activities of the project's network-team. Its main objective was to analyze and discuss the articles that will be included in a specialized publication generated by the network-team, with the aim of enhancing the quality of the contributions. Said publication will be geared toward attorneys involved in international litigation, Members of the Commission and Judges of the international protection bodies, the lawyers who are part of their support staff, and individuals and bodies interested in the subject matter.

This was the last face-to-face meeting of the network-team in the framework of the project, and therefore it involved closure, while at the same time it entailed the beginning of the interdisciplinary legacy of the project for work with torture victims at future hearings before the Inter-American System, primarily through the publication and the specialized section, once it is opened to the public.

Other objectives were: to conduct a general assessment of project development; to evaluate the specialized section; to comment on the psychological and legal glossary of the specialized section, and to attend a hearing of the Inter-American Court on a torture case, as observers.

We are attaching the information sheet and the agenda of the work session.

Specialized section

With respect to the specialized section, whose access is restricted to the network-team, a legal and political definition of 115 terms related to the issue of torture was developed during the quarter covered by the report (January to March 2005). This list will be included in a subsection of the glossary, together with the psychosocial terms. These legal terms were prepared with the aim of making the language of the law accessible for mental health professionals working with victims in contexts of judicialized cases, and for these persons to be able to share said language with the victims in an adequate and comprehensive manner.

Information on 11 cases of torture before the Inter-American system –5 of them included in the project- was organized systematically, as input for the work of systematically organizing the jurisprudence, which began the previous year by including information on 20 cases of torture and forced disappearance in the section.

The project also uploaded 6 psychological reports and 4 expert opinions, with respect to the cases included in the project, to the specialized section. This information was gathered during the previous year (2004) and the content was edited during the January-March 2005 quarter, in preparation for it to be included in the section.

A section with photographs taken during the work session of the network-team was also included.

Finally, 3 information capsules regarding the work of the network-team were placed in the specialized section. These pertained to preparation of the specialized publication, the process of comprehensive psychological assistance in the Mapiripán vs. Colombia case, and dissemination of the judgment in the Pedro Huilca vs. Peru case, whose measures of reparation include psychological treatment for the next of kin of the victim, an innovative aspect in the jurisprudence of the Inter-American System. In this case Pilar Raffo, a member of the network-team of the project, collaborated during the latter phase.

A message regarding dissemination of the information capsules was distributed by means of the electronic discussion list, as communication with the network-team focused on preparing and following-up on the meeting. This was done over the phone and via e-mail addresses, as the mailing list has other objectives and not all subscribers to the list were invited to the meeting, the purpose of which was for the network-team to work on the specialized publication.

3.1.2. Method

The methodological proposal for discussion of the specialized articles during the network-team's work session involved 3 subgroups and covered the following, in specific time-frames: explanation of the objective and strategic vision of the article, discussion in subgroups, presentations to the plenary by the subgroups, and a closing group activity with participation by the author and the IIHR team. The discussion followed a matrix of opening questions that was previously given to each subgroup.

To record the contributions made during the meeting, each subgroup had a rapporteur who took notes, and these were typed immediately after their presentations to the plenary. One member of the IIHR technical team was present in each of the subgroups, guiding and monitoring the

discussion. The contributions by the subgroups were presented to the plenary, providing feedback for the authors of the articles. The plenary discussion was recorded and then transcribed.

At the end of the meeting, each author received a summary of the recommendations made in the subgroups. Subsequently, once the audio recording of the plenary had been digitalized, the contributions of each subgroup were combined with the plenary discussion, and sent to each of the authors for them to take the suggestions into account.

A new contract was reached with the members of the network-team to redraft the articles, for them to make changes based on the contributions that came up during the meeting as well as guidance provided by the IIHR, for the issues addressed in the articles to focus on the specifics of case litigation before the Inter-American system, with examples from the cases included in the project.

3.1.3. Background / Justification

The first meeting of the network-team was held in August 2003, to meet the team and generate guidelines to coordinate work. The team became stronger over time, and the second meeting was a real work session, reflecting the wealth of work carried out during this period.

The network-team has been strengthened by means of electronic communication and the tools of the specialized section. The second work session completes the work task carried out and at the same time promotes a tangible contribution of the project: the specialized publication.

3.1.4. Persons responsible and coordination

The IIHR technical team is in charge of coordinating with the network-team of specialist professionals. It organized and coordinated the meeting of the network-team as well as the specialized section.

We report on coordination with USAID under the activity “Enhancing Awareness in the Inter-American System.”

3.1.5. Intermediate steps:

- Summoning of the meeting of the network-team
- Logistic and academic organization of the network-team meeting
- Record of contributions during the work session
- Systematic organization and dissemination of the results of the meeting
- Registration cards of participants at the meeting
- Participants’ evaluation at the meeting
- Input for the specialized section
- Communication with the network-team by means of the discussion list

3.1.6. Results or Products

- Work session of the network-team of the project
- Recommendations and inputs to enrich and redraft the specialized articles
- Functioning of the electronic discussion list
- Specialized section available for the network-team: systematic presentation of 11 cases of torture in the Inter-American System; 6 psychological reports and 4 expert opinions regarding the cases included in the project; 3 information capsules on the work of the network-team; legal and political definition of 115 terms in connection with the issue of torture.

3.1.7. Impact indicators

“Enhanced knowledge of the network-team on the comprehensive psychological assistance methodology”

“Strengthening of the network-team”

“Greater production and dissemination of knowledge by the network-team”

“Greater access of the interested public to the theoretical-methodological contributions of the network-team”

The assessment of the second work session of the network-team of the project shows a strengthening of the work begun during the first meeting, held in August 2003. After a year and a half, the network-team has become stronger and has adopted the comprehensive and innovative approach fostered by the project, while also establishing bonds of trust and cooperation that contribute to joint work.

At the same time, the network-team has developed and adopted a work methodology to provide comprehensive psychological assistance to victims of torture in the Inter-American System, and it continues work on the specialized contributions stemming from this experience, for the specialized publication.

We offer as means of verification:

- Audio and transcript of the plenary discussion of the meeting “Second work session of the network-team”
- Transcript of the group discussions
- Information sheet and agenda for the meeting
- Group and customized e-mails for the members of the network-team
- Specialized section available for the network-team

3.2. Comprehensive psychological assistance to victims of torture or next of kin

There were public hearings during the LXVI Regular Session of the Inter-American Court, held in San José, Costa Rica, February 28 from to March 15, 2005, on the following cases included in the project: case of the “Mapiripán Massacre” vs. Colombia, and Gutiérrez Soler case vs. Colombia. Psychological assistance was provided in both cases by specialist professionals who are members of the network-team of the project.

3.2.2 Method

Psychologist Ana Deutsch was appointed as an expert witness in the Mapiripán vs. Colombia case. Given the special scope of this case (the torture and murder of at least 49 persons, 19 survivors willing to testify and undergo psychological assessment), the expert witness appointed worked together with Dr. Jorge Buitrago, a member of the network-team who lives in Colombia, with support from the organization where he works, Corporación AVRE.

The project designed a work plan to develop the process of comprehensive psychological assistance with the characteristics required by the project (See annex: “Plan de trabajo Peritaje caso Mapiripán vs. Colombia”). Lic. Deutsch and Dr. Buitrago were in charge of drafting the written expert opinion submitted to the Court, for which they conducted several interviews with the survivor-victims to gather information for the psychiatric, psychological and psychosocial expert opinion submitted to the Court.

The process of comprehensive psychological assistance also included emotional containment and support for the victims while gathering of their testimony, for which purpose the AVRE Corporation commissioned psychologists Rosa Matilde Díaz, Dora Lucía Lancheros, and Diego Abonía, who provided support to the next of kin during the legal interviews. They also held a closing therapeutical workshop with the persons interviewed.

Subsequently, psychologist Dora Lucía Lancheros traveled to Costa Rica with the surviving victims who testified before the Court, to provide them with psychological support during the hearings.

Network-team psychologist Ana Deutsch was commissioned for the Wilson Gutiérrez Soler vs. Colombia case, to provide psychological support for the victim and his next of kin and to render an expert opinion before the Court. This process took place during February and March 2005, and the hearing was held on March 10. A work mission went to Colombia in February, where Ana Deutsch interviewed next of kin of Wilson Gutiérrez.

The expert opinion submitted in the Mapiripán case is available in the specialized section: (<http://www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/PrevencionTortura/index.htm>¹), and that of Wilson Gutiérrez will be available soon.

The psychological reports on this activity are being prepared. Once received, they will be analyzed and a report will be prepared.

3.2.3 Background / Justification

The final goal of the project is to provide psychological assistance in 17 torture cases before the Inter-American System during its period of execution. In 2003 and 2004, 7 cases benefited from

¹ As set forth in the annual plan for 2004 and stated in previous reports, this is a closed-access website (not available to the public), as it is in a methodological validation phase. An access code enables entry into the specialized section by members of the technical teams of the IIHR and CEJIL in charge of the project and the network-team of specialist professionals.

inclusion in the project.² During the period covered by this report (January-March 2005), it covered two new cases before the Court, with which the project moved toward attainment of its goal, with 8 cases pending.

3.2.4 Persons responsible and coordination

The IIHR is in charge of psychological assistance to torture victims in the Inter-American System. The IIHR and CEJIL coordinate appointment of specialists for the cases.

3.2.5 Intermediate steps

- Academic coordination of the assistance process, distribution of functions and of hours assigned to each specialist.
- Logistic steps to ensure participation of the specialists at the case hearings.

3.2.6 Results or Products

Two cases of torture with hearings before the Inter-American Court benefited from the psychological support provided by the project.

3.2.7. Impact indicators

Improvement of the quality of comprehensive psychological assistance provided to torture victims with hearings before the bodies of the Inter-American System.

Greater awareness of the victims regarding the importance of bringing their case before the Inter-American system. Increase and improvement of quality in the documentation on assistance practices for torture victims.

Greater contributions to the comprehensive psychological assistance methodology.

The experience accrued with these two new cases before the Inter-American Court undoubtedly has led to significant progress in the improvement and implementation of the methodology for comprehensive psychological care for torture victims in the Inter-American System. The Mapiripán vs. Colombia case, specifically, was a very successful assistance strategy inasmuch as it combined the work of two specialists from the network-team and one national organization in support of the surviving victims of an emblematic case in Colombia. Successful integration in this work demonstrated the feasibility and effectiveness of the methodology designed for the project, which in turn made it possible to continue its enrichment.

We offer the following means of verification:

- February 18, 2005 Court press release announcing the hearings in the Mapiripán vs. Colombia and Wilson Gutiérrez vs. Colombia cases.

² The cases are: Juan Hto. Sánchez vs. Honduras, Walter Bulacio vs. Argentina, Wagner dos Santos vs. Brazil, Panchito López vs. Paraguay, Molina Theissen vs. Guatemala, Daniel Tibi vs. Ecuador, Serrano Sisters vs. El Salvador.

- Reports on psychological assistance in the Mapiripán vs. Colombia and Wilson Gutiérrez vs. Colombia cases.

3.3. Litigation of torture cases before the Inter-American System

3.3.1. Description

Preparing and carrying out trips in the region

A work mission to Colombia was planned and carried out during the period covered by this report (January-March 2005), in connection with the Mapiripán and Wilson Gutiérrez Soler cases.³

The objective of this mission was related to the hearings of the Inter-American Court for the debate on the merits of the aforementioned cases, summoned for March 7 to 8 and 10 to 11, 2005, respectively.

Request for hearings

To comply with the goal set forth regarding cases for this year, we requested hearings during the session of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, held between February 28 and March 4, 2005, but they were not granted. The case regarding which we requested the hearings was that of the González Pérez Sisters vs. Mexico, a case of rape of three sisters, on which there is already a Report by the Commission, but we requested a follow-up hearing with the aim of demonstrating the level of damage caused to the victims.

Instead, during the period covered by the report, the Inter-American Court announced hearings on cases that will be included in the project. The Court issued orders summoning hearings on the merits in the *Mapiripán vs. Colombia* and *Gutierrez Soler vs. Colombia* cases, which CEJIL had listed at the appropriate time as potential proceedings to be included in the Project.

The Maripipán massacre was fostered by members of the Colombian military who facilitated entry of more than 200 paramilitary to that place, where for six days they curtailed the inhabitants' freedom of movement and detained, tortured, executed, and threw into the Guaviare river part of the bodies of at least 49 persons. Participation of agents of the State in the massacre went beyond facilitating entry of the AUC to the region, as they also disregarded the appeals for help from the civilian population during the incursion. The Mapiripán massacre is an emblematic case that reflects cooperation between the paramilitary and security forces in Colombia, the barbarous way in which they operate, and the cloak of impunity that surrounds them.

The Gutiérrez Soler case deals with unlawful detention, torture, and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of Wilson Gutiérrez Soler while he was under custody of State agents, as well as total impunity regarding these facts.

Rulings

³ Participants in this mission were Roxanna Althotz, Mariangeles Misuraca, and Ana Deustch. The mission report is currently being prepared.

The Court has issued its March 1, 2005 Judgment in the case of the Serrano Cruz Sisters vs. El Salvador, which was included at the appropriate time among the cases addressed by the project.

3.3.2. Method

The work mission to Colombia to prepare litigation in the Mapiripán and Wilson Gutiérrez Soler cases gathered testimony of the victims and their next of kin as well as significant information for litigation of the cases and to prepare the psychological expert report.

In both cases, the attorneys in charge of the case and members of the network-team assigned to them worked together and in a coordinated manner (see the activity: “Psychological assistance to victims of torture”).

With respect to litigation of the cases, during the hearing for the Mapiripán vs. Colombia case, the representatives of the Colombian State partially accepted international responsibility regarding violation of the right to life, to humane treatment, and to freedom of the persons murdered in the Mapiripán massacre, in the department of Meta, which took place in July 1997. However, they did not accept the responsibility of the State for the forced displacement of the survivors of the massacre, nor for denial of justice in that case. On March 7, 2005, the Court issued a ruling on the acknowledgment of responsibility by the Colombian State.

As measures of reparation, the representatives of the victims asked the Court to order the Colombian State to create mechanisms to enable elucidation of the facts, identification of all the victims, as well as location and identification of their remains. They also asked that the apology made by the State during the hearing be made during a public act of acknowledgment of international responsibility that should enable remembrance of all the victims and their dignity.

3.3.3. Background/Justification

Three cases of torture included in the project were litigated before the Inter-American System in 2003, and they supplied the technical, methodological, and administrative basis for the 4 cases that were included in 2004. The two new cases before the System in the first quarter of 2005, backed by the comprehensive methodology developed during project execution, increase exposure of this issue and provide new opportunities for the Inter-American Court to become more informed and aware of the special complexity of cases of crimes against humanity, especially torture and forced disappearance.

3.3.4. Persons responsible and coordination

Technical team of CEJIL.

3.3.5. Intermediate steps

- Identification and study of new cases to be included in the project
- Request for hearings before the Inter-American Commission
- Planning of mission to Colombia
- Preparation for the hearings in the Mapiripán vs. Colombia and Wilson Soler vs. Colombia cases.

- Litigation of the Mapiripán vs. Colombia and Wilson Soler vs. Colombia cases before the Inter-American Court

3.3.6. Results or Products

Two cases included in the project with hearings before the Inter-American Court.

3.3.7. Impact indicators

“Progress in the torture cases processed before the bodies of the Inter-American System”

“Greater presence of the issue in the bodies of the Inter-American System”

Inclusion of these two new cases before the Court increases the number of cases heard by this protection body, giving the issue a greater presence in the Inter-American System and approaching the goal set forth in the project: 17 cases by the time the project ends.

We offer as means of verification:

- Press releases by the Inter-American Court announcing hearings in the Mapiripán vs. Colombia and Wilson Gutiérrez Soler vs. Colombia cases
- Briefs requesting hearings in the case of the González Pérez sisters vs. Mexico.
- Judgment in the case of the Serrano Cruz sisters vs. El Salvador

3.4. Final design of the comprehensive psychological assistance methodology

3.4.1. Description

While the main objective of the network-team meeting was to discuss the specialized articles, it also made contributions to the comprehensive psychological assistance methodology, which will be included in the Guiding Manual for the process that is currently being drafted.

At this same meeting, the specialized section was validated with the participants, as it is they who can access the website since it is a closed-access site because it is under construction.

3.4.2. Method

The network-team meeting discussed the articles that will be included in the specialized publication. The themes of this publication pertain directly to aspects developed in the project, for which reason the discussion led to contributions regarding the methodological proposal for work with victims. These contributions were listed separately from the matrix for discussion of the articles, for subsequent inclusion in the review and enrichment of the Guiding Manual.

We presented the specialized section and all its contents to the participants, for them to assess its usefulness. Participants reported that access to the contents of the section was useful when undertaking psychological assistance processes in the cases included in the project, and especially to prepare expert opinions.

They also reported that it has been an effective input in the process of drafting the specialized articles.

3.4.3. Background/Justification

The Guiding Manual for the comprehensive psychological assistance process for torture victims is necessary because there are no general guidelines for psychological work in the context of the Inter-American System. Therefore, both the Manual and the specialized section will be very useful tools for mental health professionals who support torture victims whose cases are brought before the international human rights justice system.

3.4.4. Persons responsible and coordination

IIHR technical team.

3.4.5. Intermediate steps

- Presenting and validating the specialized section at the network-team meeting
- Drafting of the Guiding Manual

3.4.6. Results or Products

During this stage there are no products as the Guiding Manual is being prepared and reviewed, and the specialized section has not yet been opened to the public.

3.4.7 Impact indicators

“Continuous improvement of the comprehensive psychological assistance methodology for torture victims”

“In-depth development of significant methodological themes”

“Enrichment of the methodological design for use of all the interested parties”

Continuous improvement of the comprehensive psychological assistance methodology is to take place through the use of the specialized section by the projects network-team of specialists (see the activity “Coordination of the network-team of professional specialists”).

In-depth development of significant themes stemming from the methodology and execution of the project, in general, is being done by means of the specialized publication, which in addition to developing the core themes of the project in greater depth, will enhance the visibility of the work carried out throughout project execution.

We offer as means of verification:

- First draft of the Guiding Manual
- Specialized section

3.5. Sensitivity enhancement in the Inter-American System

3.5.1. Description

In the framework of the 122^d regular session of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, from February 28 to March 4, 2005, Gilda Pacheco, project coordinator on behalf of the IIHR, carried out a work mission to Washington with the aim of coordinating with USAID and CEJIL, and to attend the hearings of the Inter-American Commission. Gilda Pacheco took advantage of this visit, in the framework of the mission, to attend activities parallel to the Commission's session.

With respect to the bodies of the Inter-American System, there were informal meetings with judges to inform them of the work being carried out by the team and of the future publication. Gilda Pacheco, the project coordinator, attended a work luncheon with several members of the Court to explain the objectives of the specialized publication, bearing in mind that they are among the main persons whom the book seeks to address, and taking advantage of the fact that the meeting of the network-team was held in the same place where the Judges were staying during the session.

In the framework of the First Specialized Course for State officials on the use of the Inter-American System for Protection of Human Rights, organized by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I-A Court HR), the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (ICHR) and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR), from March 9 to 15, 2005, we contacted Ariel Dulitzky, an official of the Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission, who showed great interest in the specialized publication and offered to read it during the review process, to offer his comments and suggestions.

3.5.2. Method

The parallel activities include the meeting of the International Coalition of NGOs, held on February 26 and 27, 2005, during which we made a summarized presentation on the project before the representatives of the NGO members of the Coalition.

On Monday, February 28, 2005, the Coordinator of the project on behalf of the IIHR, Gilda Pacheco, participated in the head table of the presentation of the book "Los derechos humanos de las mujeres: Fortaleciendo su promoción y protección internacional. De la formación a la acción", a joint publication of the IIHR and CEJIL. Susana Villarán, Commissioner and Rapporteur on Women's Rights for the ICHR was among the participants, and Maria Barron, a USAID official, was invited to attend.

The meetings with representatives of the Inter-American Court were held in San José, Costa Rica, taking advantage of the geographical proximity of the IIHR and the Court, while the Court was in session (LXVI Regular Session, from February 28 to March 15, 2005).

3.5.3. Background/Justification

The process of enhancing the sensitivity of the Inter-American System has continued constantly during project execution. It is an essential activity, parallel to psychological assistance to the torture victims, as influencing the bodies of the System fosters comprehensive reparations for the victims and their next of kin. This, in addition to benefiting the specific victims of the cases

on which the Court issues rulings, also has an impact at the public policy level in the countries involved in the jurisprudence of the Court.

Advocacy among the bodies of the Inter-American system is possible thanks to the experience, the mandate, and the operating capacity of the institutions in charge of implementing the project.

3.5.4. Persons responsible and coordination

IIHR technical team.

Gilda Pacheco met with Maria Barron, a USAID official, on March 1, 2005, to assess the current status of the project and its scope, as well as future prospects. That same day, at a subsequent time, Gilda Pacheco met with USAID officials Steve Hendrix, Maria Barron, and Danuta Lockett, to consider strategies for follow-up on the project.

In response to a request by Maria Barron, Gilda Pacheco met, on March 28, 2005, with Sharon Phillips, a USAID official, to explore new contacts and possibilities of developing new project proposals.

3.5.5. Intermediate steps

- To request and set up an appointment with Judges and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Court
- To request appointments with USAID officials
- To attend meetings of the International Coalition of NGOs

3.5.6. Results or Products

Permanent process of enhancing awareness among Judges of the Inter-American Court through meetings to exchange information.

3.5.7. Impact indicators

“Progress in the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Commission and Court on torture”

“Progress in enhancing sensitivity of these bodies with respect to the psychological impact of torture”

“Inclusion of psychosocial reparations for the victims or their next of kin in the recommendations and judgments issued by the bodies of the Inter-American System”

Permanent contact with members of the Court and of the Commission, in the framework of various activities but especially of the case hearings, enables development of a continuous process of sensitivity enhancement with the protection bodies regarding the prioritized themes and the objectives sought by the project, for the ultimate benefit of the victims of torture whose cases are brought before the System.

We offer as means of verification:

- Agenda of the meeting with USAID officials.

- Agenda of meetings with the NGO coalition and presentation of the book “Los derechos humanos de las mujeres: Fortaleciendo su promoción y protección internacional. De la formación a la acción”.

3.6. Dissemination of information on the project

3.6.1 Description

One of the most important products for dissemination of the project and especially of the network-team’s work is the specialized publication with psychosocial contributions on cases of torture, its effects, and reparations in juridical contexts. It provides theoretical-conceptual contributions from the standpoint of litigation of cases of torture and forced disappearance before the Inter-American System, mainly addressing jurists of the Inter-American System: Judges, Commissioners, attorneys for the protection bodies, attorneys who litigate before the System. The themes addressed in the articles were previously reported and are being drafted by the members of the project’s network-team of specialists.⁴

3.6.2 Method

During the quarter covered by this report, the specialized publication moved forward with first drafts of the articles, delivered to the IIHR by their authors. The IIHR technical team set up a reading committee with three psychologists who are experienced in the subject matters addressed: Gina Donoso, Pilar Spelucin, and Paulina Saavedra. A timetable for reading and group discussion of the articles was developed together with the IIHR team members, Gilda Pacheco and Maylin Cordero.

Observations made at these meetings were sent to the authors via e-mail, as initial feedback. Subsequently, the meeting of the project’s network-team, held in San José, Costa Rica, from March 7 to 11, discussed and analyzed the articles, with participation and contributions by all the team (see the activity “Coordination of the network-team of specialist professionals”).

Results of this discussion were systematically summarized and will be made available in the specialized section. The articles are currently being expanded and their contents strengthened, based on the contributions made at the meeting and the strategic vision provided by the IIHR network-team. A new timetable was developed to ensure final quality of the product:

- Uploading of inputs in the specialized section for redrafting of the articles: April 29, 2005
- Deadline for submission of the redrafted articles: July 31, 2005
- Revision of the articles from a juridical standpoint: September 30, 2005
- Inclusion of final observations: November 30, 2005

⁴ The themes are: Exhaustion of domestic remedies and its psychosocial implications for the victims, Psychological support and psychotherapy, Interdisciplinary psychological/juridical language in connection with case litigation before the Inter-American System, Torture. Ana Deutsch, Forced disappearance, Grieving process. Carlos Portillo, Impunity, Reparations in cases of torture and forced disappearance in the Inter-American System, Dealing with victims of massacres and strategies for collective reparations, Role of the State and of NGOs in caring for the mental health of victims of Torture, Role of the next of kin: from victims to social actors.

3.6.3 Background/Justification

The process to prepare the specialized publication began in the October-December quarter of 2004, when the themes were selected and assigned to each author, we prepared the terms of reference, and we communicated with the network-team to guide the process of preparing the publication.

Conversations with various members of the protection bodies of the system, as well as with the members of the network-team itself and other organizations with whom we have discussed the publication process have led us to comprehend its importance as a means of dissemination of the psychosocial perspective in case litigation before the System, and as a specific contribution that brings together the work carried out during project execution.

3.6.4 Persons responsible and coordination

The IIHR technical team is responsible for coordination with the authors of the book and for final revision of the specialized publication.

3.6.5. Intermediate steps

- Revision of the first draft of the specialized articles
- Sending feedback on the first draft of the specialized articles
- Meeting with authors of the articles to discuss, analyze, and improve the first draft
- Definition of parameters for expansion and improvement of the specialized articles
- Setting a new timetable to continue the process of drafting the specialized articles

3.6.6 Results or Products

There are no results because the specialized publication is still being drafted.

3.6.7. Impact indicators

Increase in the number of persons who have information on the issue of the psychological impact of torture and assistance methodologies

Publication and broad dissemination of the book on psychosocial contributions generated by the project's experience will allow us to reach a greater number of persons with information on the experience, and especially to disseminate the work of the network-team and its theoretical-technical production.

4. Lessons Learned

Success of the psycho-judicial strategy and of the type of psychological assistance provided to the victims in the Mapiripán vs. Colombia case has proven the effectiveness and pertinence of the methodological strategy designed by the project. CEJIL's attorneys in charge of the case have stated that they are pleased with the psychological work that was coordinated between the members of the network-team and the AVRE organization in Colombia. All this shows the results of experience accrued in the project, as well as the importance of developing a psycho-judicial strategy, an aspect that has been included in litigation of cases by this project.

On the other hand, the coordination meetings between the IHR and CEJIL have shown, once again, the importance of these personal meetings to improve management and implementation of such an innovative project.

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT USAID EDG-A-00-02-00030-00
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF TORTURE IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

2002-2005

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REFERENCE SHEET

Strategic Objective / Final Goal: To provide psychological assistance to torture victims in cases before the Inter-American System for Protection of Human Rights

Performance Indicator: Improvement of the quantity and quality of comprehensive psychological assistance to victims of torture or next of kin in cases before the Inter-American System.

Intermediate results: Establishment and strengthening of a network-team of professionals specializing in comprehensive psychological assistance to victims of torture with cases before the protection bodies of the inter-American system. Development of a methodology for comprehensive assistance to victims of torture. Process of sensitivity enhancement among the bodies of the Inter-American System regarding the psychological impact of torture and on the objectives of the project.

Annual Strategic Objective (2005): Reinforcement and dissemination of a comprehensive psychological assistance methodology for victims of torture with cases before the bodies of the Inter-American System and advocacy regarding development of the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court and the recommendations or rulings of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, in connection with psychosocial reparations in cases of torture.

Annual performance indicator (2005): A comprehensive psychological assistance methodology for victims of torture disseminated among members of the network-team of specialists and concrete initiatives to expand information and sensitivity of the protection bodies of the Inter-American System, regarding the issue of psychosocial reparations in cases of torture.

DESCRIPTION

Precise definition: A new, more encompassing approach will help make assistance to victims of torture or their next of kin, with cases before the Inter-American System, more comprehensive. It will also help provide assistance to a greater number of cases of torture processed before the bodies of the Inter-American System.

Unit of measurement: Persons who are victims of torture or next of kin with cases before the Inter-American System.

Details by: Country / Victim / Next of kin / Body / Year

Mechanism: Calculation of the amount and percentages of cases in which assistance was provided. Assessment of the quality of the assistance by the victims, next of kin, specialists, and technical team of the IIHR.

IIHR DATA GATHERING PLAN

Data collection method: Record of cases covered by CEJIL. Content analysis of the specialists' reports.

Method for data to be obtained by the IIHR: The record of cases is shared CEJIL ad the IIHR. The specialists submit copies of their reports to the IIHR.

Source: Victims of torture or next of kin; Team of Specialist Professionals; Bodies of the Inter-American System; CEJIL; IIHR.

Frequency/time cycle for data gathering: Annual

Estimated cost of obtaining data: \$900.

Persons responsible: Technical team of the PROJECT ON PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF TORTURE IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, IIHR.

CONSIDERATIONS ON DATA QUALITY

Date of initial assessment of data quality: April 2005.

Known limitations of the data and their significance: The main limitation is the weakness of case analysis for development of quantitative indicators, but the nature of the situation on which the project seeks to have an impact turns this weakness into strength. The initial limitation due to the difficulty of access to the victims and their next of kin

who are beneficiaries of the project was solved by means of a coordinated strategy with CEJIL, the co-executing organization for the project, to ensure that the instruments to assess quality of assistance reached the victims.

Steps taken or planned to address the limitations of the data: We will attempt to develop qualitative indicators by means of an analysis of the specialist professionals' reports; and we will attempt, insofar as possible, to quantify the impact of the methodology to some extent, by means of the specialists of the network-team assigned to the cases, through the co-petitioner organizations in cases at the national level, through CEJIL's attorneys, and so forth.

Procedures for future data quality assessments: Systematic information on quality of assistance for every five cases, by analyzing the reports, to validate the procedure and progress of the methodology.

PLAN FOR THE ANALYSIS, REVIEW, AND REPORTS

Data analysis: August 31, 2005.

Data submission: September 16, 2005.

Data review: October 7, 2005.

Reports on the data: October 21, 2005.

OTHER REMARKS

Notes on the Starting Points: Up to now, there is no methodology for comprehensive psychological assistance for victims of torture that has been adjusted to the specific conditions of the Inter-American System, for which reason it is a challenge for the project to develop and implement it, as well as to enhance it during execution. Up to now, psychological assistance to torture victims has not been a formal component of the process of case litigation.

Goals: *Enhancement of the comprehensive psychological assistance methodology for victims of torture or next of kin. Improvement of specialized professional capabilities. Increased and improved quality of the information and documentation on the issue.*

Location of data storage: IIHR.

Other remarks:

Last update: 30/04/05