

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING



DONOR: USAID

LOCATION: Santa Ana, San Miguel, San Salvador, Colón, and Zadatecoluca

PROJECT TIME FRAME: September 2017 – September 2021

Purpose and Objectives

World Vision is leading the implementation of a four-year project to strengthen the effectiveness of the juvenile justice system in El Salvador. Through its four objectives, the project promotes a virtuous cycle of positive change to increase the use of alternative sentences to reduce recidivism. Its series of holistic, evidence-producing interventions are designed to demonstrate the cost effectiveness and impact of alternative sentences on reducing recidivism relative to traditional forms of justice, thereby increasing the use of alternative sentencing and improving the overall quality of juvenile justice.



BY THE NUMBERS

BUDGET: \$10 million

MUNICIPALITIES: 5



Geographic focus: The project's geographic targeting strategy is aligned with the project's intended impact at the national level (Objective 1 and 2) and within Plan El Salvador Seguro (Objective 3 and 4). The project will implement activities and work closely with 18 juvenile justice system judges operating in the project target departments (out of 28 trained nationally), along with youth offenders, community-based organizations (CBOs), faith-based organizations (FBOs), and the private sector in Santa Ana, San Miguel, San Salvador, Colón in the department of La Libertad, and Zadatecoluca in the department of La Paz, as prioritized in Plan El Salvador Seguro. Together, these departments contributed 62.1% of alternative sentences given in 2015.

Project Overview

The project's approach focuses on improving the process of juvenile justice through four key areas of intervention:

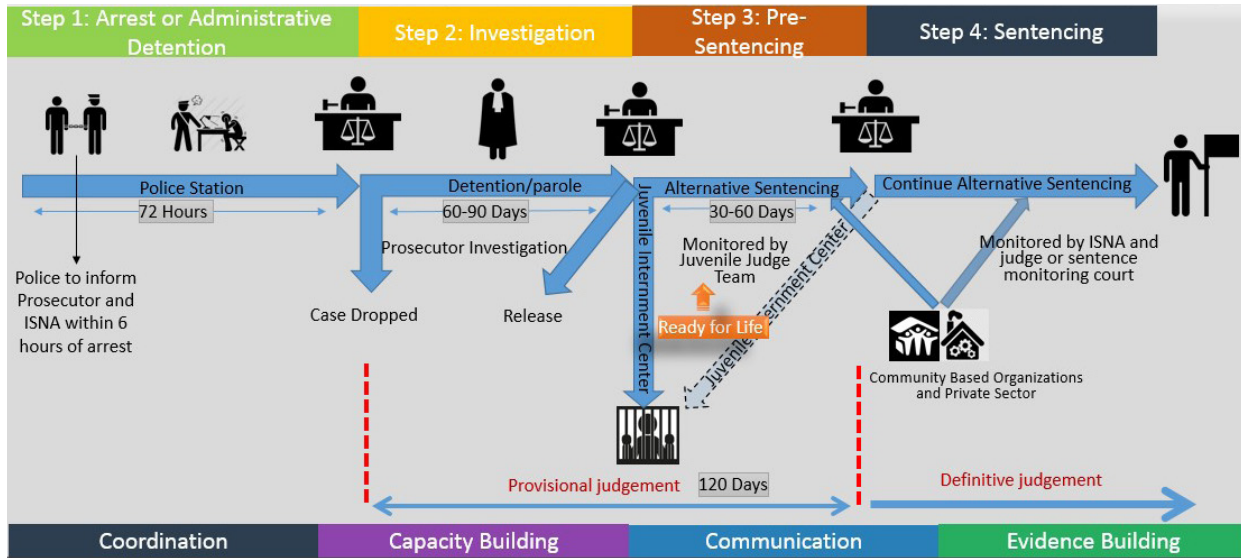
Coordination: Developing a case management system that can track children in conflict with the law throughout the process; enabling the Committee to coordinate all actors; developing a Shared Attention Network (SAN) to support efficient use, delivery, and case management of alternative sentencing for children in conflict with the law; and building a national platform to engage the private sector.

Capacity building: Training and supporting government, private, and community-based actors to play their role in the process.

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Communication: Changing attitudes of juvenile justice stakeholders and the general public toward alternative sentencing.

Evidence-building: Building the evidence base to inform policy and practice.



Key Achievements

- » There has been an 80% increase in the proportion of participants demonstrating improved knowledge of mechanisms for addressing juvenile justice procedures and international best practices since the beginning of the project, through efforts to train prosecutors, defenders, and juvenile judges.
- » The project has conducted 10 inter-institutional training courses on the topic of juvenile justice and application of alternative sentences. A total of 136 people have been trained, including prosecutors, public defenders, police officers, and judges.
- » 232 youth at risk of violence have been trained in social and leadership skills, through the Ready for Life program. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the project has successfully transitioned RFL programming to a virtual platform through distance learning (e.g. videos, infographics, phone calls, and WhatsApp messaging).
- » In response to COVID-19 and the two hurricanes that struck El Salvador in April and May, World Vision raised \$13,649 through in-kind donations and cash, specifically targeted



towards youth in conflict with the law (YICL) and their families. World Vision also donated \$11,500. The fundraising campaign benefitted 1,428 YICL and their families, through the provision of food and sanitary products. Donors included private companies and the Embassy of Qatar. Two companies, Sabor Amigo and C. Imberton, as well as the Embassy of Qatar, announced that they will partner with the JJSS project in training YICL and collaborating to find employment for them.