

At Risk Youth Project

2016-2017
ANNUAL
REPORT



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Entrena Annual Report

October 2016 – September 2017

Cooperative Agreement

AID 517-A-12-00002

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ENTRENA SRL is a company incorporated in the Dominican Republic in 1982 specializing in technical assistance, social development training and education. For over 30 years, ENTRENA has provided innovative, culturally appropriate and sustainable solutions for a diversity of clients from the private sector, NGO's, governments and educational institutions. The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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**WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT
CRIME AND VIOLENCE
AMONG CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS
AND YOUTH IN
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

CONTEXT

Over the past 50 years, the Dominican Republic changed from rural to urban, from a commodity to a service based economy, and from a dictatorship with political instability to an emerging democracy that, while still paternalistic, is also relatively stable. Furthermore, external and internal (rural to urban) migration undermined the nuclear family, resulting in one parent families.

The new service based economy decimated the traditional safety net of the extended Dominican family. Improved opportunities emerge for females, yet male-dominated “machismo” roles stay intact. These rapid transformations have resulted in the disappearance of protective family nets for children and youth, an increase in verbal and physical violence, an increase in the costs of living, and the need for increased levels of education/training to secure quality employment.

Youth have been particularly impacted by this societal transformation. They are increasingly disenfranchised from traditional channels (public school, formal employment); vulnerable youth stagnate within the informal sector where the need for immediate survival exacerbates the capacity to think positively about the future.

Role models are those who make money quickly (e.g., drugs, local political handouts, delinquency) and their generation has been characterized by the phrase, “Quiero lo mío y lo quiero ahora”, (I want my piece and I want it now). Many have lost their places of safety and security within the remnants of their families.

OUR GOAL

The goal of the Dominican Republic At-Risk Youth Initiative is to create a sustainable, multidisciplinary safety net for at-risk youth (ARY) implemented to prevent crime.

The technical approach develops a sustainable framework as a quality product that can positively continue to transform the lives of ARY in the DR, standing by itself financially and technically expanding when USAID support is phased out.

For the team, multi-disciplinary means that services are integrated and overlapping and that one isolated intervention rarely will be effective by itself.

A safety net is a back-up support network where a young person who may be a first offender, deserted from school, or a teenage mother can come to in “confidence” to rediscover hope, and connect with practical solutions and opportunities to improve and move on with their lives.

Crime is prevented because conditions of risk are significantly ameliorated when youth have viable alternatives they can access to improve their educational, employability, health, and legal status.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the period of October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017 for Cooperative Agreement No. AID-517-A-12-00002, Dominican Republic at Risk Youth Initiative, coined in Spanish as “Alerta Joven.”

The Cooperative Agreement, which initial end-date was June 30, 2017, was extended by USAID for two more years, through July 2019. This extension increases the budget by \$2,007,486 for a new total budget of \$21,979,616. The period detailed in this report, Year 5, represents the end of the first phase of the project. We will also share cumulative numerical data for the first five years of the project, and overall qualitative information in short sections titled, “Beyond the Numbers.”

As of September 30, 2017, Alerta Joven reached 139,906 at-risk youth and adolescents between the ages of 11 – 24 in more than 500 of the most violent neighborhoods in 7 provinces of the Dominican Republic. Through the creation of a multi-disciplinary safety net incorporating 23 implementing partner organizations and multiple public-private alliances, Alerta Joven is considered a validated model in the prevention of crime and violence among young people in the Dominican Republic. With the extension for two more years, an additional 4,875 participants will be served through our programs with a focus on quality job insertion with future growth. The extension also includes an expansion into four new regions outside the original Duarte Corridor geographic zone, including Pedernales, Las Terrenas, Padre las Casas, and Dajabon.

Year 5 was characterized as a reduction period for program implementation. After gradually closing down sub-agreements at the end of year forth, 11 partner organizations, out of the original 23, implemented programs.

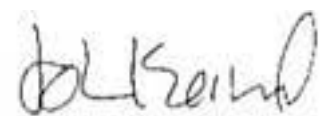
In the second quarter, only 5 partner organizations continued implementing programs. Prior to the notice from USAID to extend Alerta Joven, activities were primarily directed to the close-out of the original 23 sub-grant

agreements, final data entry and analysis, and strengthening of the sustainability component through the creation of the Alerta Joven “think tank” committee and public forums to disseminate the results of the project.

The third quarter was characterized by a five year analysis of results, challenges, and lessons learned for decision-making regarding program quality and implementation during this period. We began the process of signing new sub-agreements for the extension period which included the development of new terms of reference, evaluation of the proposals received, and the signatures for sub-agreements.

Finally, in the last quarter of Year 5, activities were focused on sub-grant startups for the 8 partner organizations who signed new sub-agreements in July. Significant investments were made in project sustainability involving Dominican government agencies, private sector, and other international development organizations.

Alerta Joven works with youth who are identified and classified by a scale of at-risk factors. These are adolescents and youth who can easily fall into the trap of delinquency and violence. This might be the 15 year old mother who feels she has no future, the 18 year old guy who left school in 7th grade to pursue a baseball career but was never signed, or our first offender, age 16, who has spent time in a youth detention center and is nervous about his reinsertion back into society. These are the youth that compose Alerta Joven, engage in our safety net, strengthen their self-esteem, return to school or acquire job skills that have a future, get on with their lives, and become productive citizens. They are the heroes of Alerta Joven.



John Seibel
CEO Entrena

ALERTA JOVEN IN NUMBERS

11,588

From October 2016 to September 2017

139,906

From October 2012 to September 2017

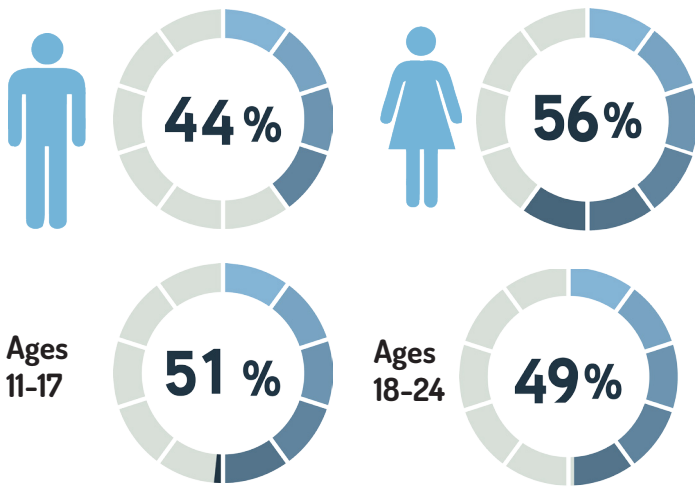
Total number of youth served

BEHIND EVERY NUMBER THERE IS A NAME ...A STORY.



“
I did very bad things
in the past. Now I
feel that my future
is totally different.
”

A QUICK GLIMPSE OF OUR 11,588 YOUTH IN YEAR 5



NUMBERS

3,929
actively participated in school retention and reinsertion programs

695
completed technical and vocational trainings for new and better employment

486
reinserted in school

794
obtained new or better employment

31
received legal assistance to obtain documentation

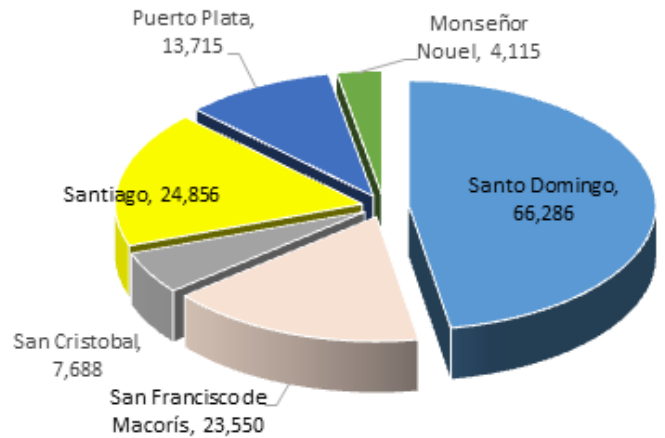
111
received their birth certificate

797
received youth friendly medical health services

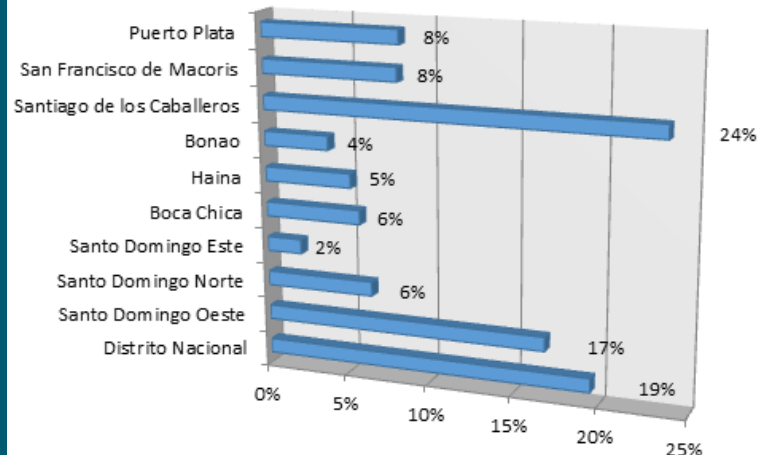
20
received Testing and Counseling (T&C) services for HIV

1,487
received information and follow up on how to prevent pregnancy, HIV, and STDs

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY GEOGRAPHIC ZONE



INVESTMENT BY GEOGRAPHIC ZONE





IMPROVING YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY

Youth policy representation in Latin America and the Caribbean is minimal. According to the Iberoamerican Survey on Youth (2013), without the active participation of youth, it is not possible to eradicate poverty, transform the patterns of production and consumption, and achieve all of the sustainable development goals.

“ I was a rebellious young man without a clear idea of what I wanted to do or where I wanted to go, just living. ” - Pablo Zapata

Now, Pablo participates in the “Youth Network of Haina.” After learning about Alerta Joven, he took an entrepreneurship course and now plans to study interior design and set up his own business.

IR I: Youth Protection Policy Improved in Practice

- Youth stakeholders empowered to influence policy decisions
- Implementing agencies understand and comply with youth legal framework
- Document children and youth increased

● EMPOWERING

YOUTH

IN YEAR 5

THROUGHOUT 5 YEARS

158

7,344

Youth participated in workshops about youth civil rights and duties

3,192

16,470

Youth participated in workshops promoting violence prevention and a culture of peace

Alerta Joven capitalized the potential of the youth multiplier groups developed by partner organizations and supported their empowerment activities within local community and governmental structures such as town councils. These groups are already trained and strengthened; support from the project will be to enhance the impact of their activities. The three models were systematized so that the processes can serve as models for other partner organizations.

During Year 5, Alerta Joven kept empowering implementing partner organizations to influence policy decisions in their municipalities. We strongly believe that sustainability is enhanced when the network of Alerta Joven partners are able to engage and collaborate with locally based governmental institutions, together with youth stakeholders, to apply youth protection policies.

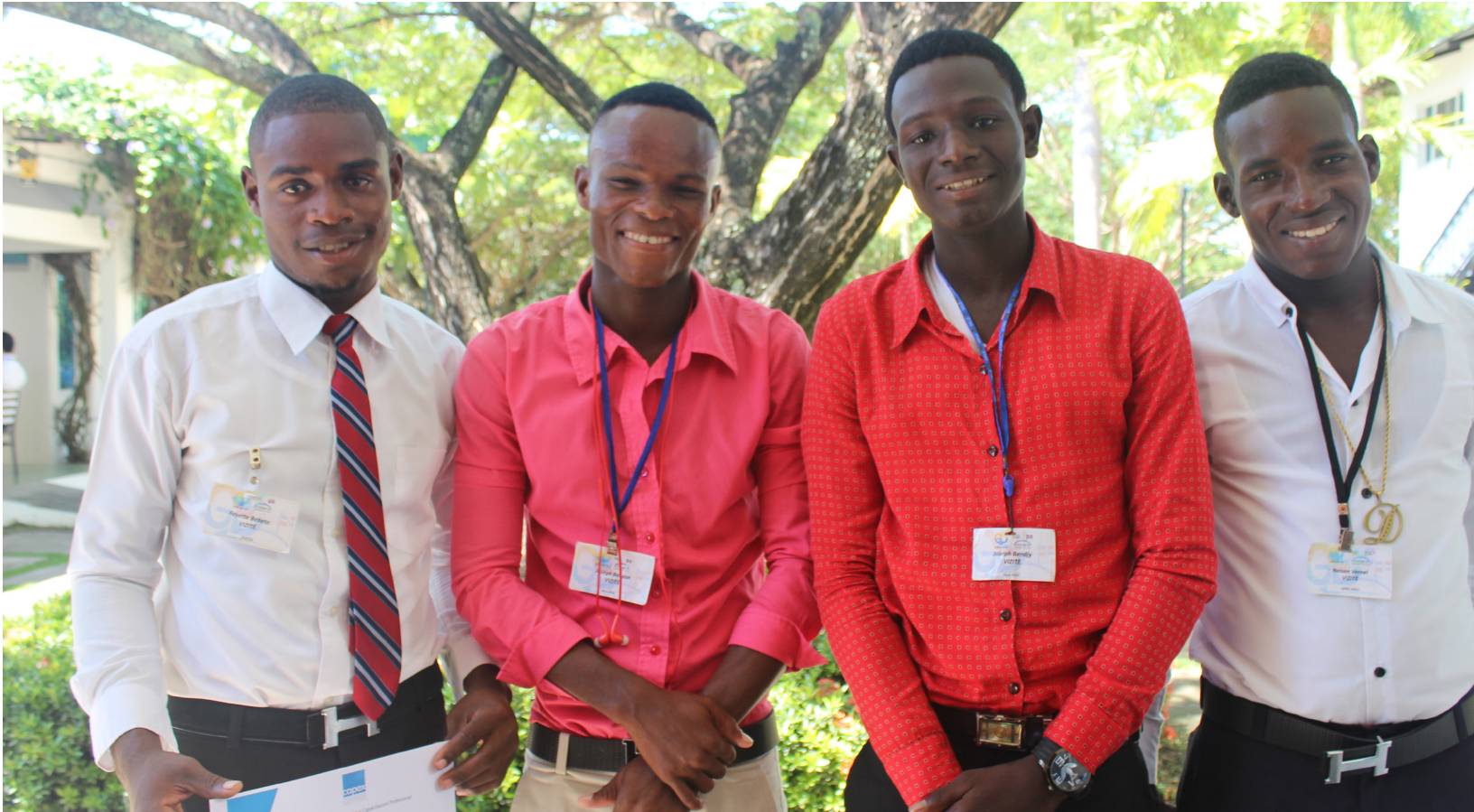
The most successful experiences related to advocacy and social oversight with young people were the three youth networks models, in which networks and/or youth councils develop an active leadership at the social and community level. They are:

- The youth network to promote care, rights, and duties of youth in the community of Sabana Perdida - Developed through our Partner Organization ACOPRO.
- Juvenile Councils of Mendoza and Los Tres Brazos in Santo Domingo Este and Boca Chica - Developed through our Partner Organization Children International.
- Youth Network of Haina, Quita Sueno, and Café de Herrera - Developed through our Partner Organization Sur Futuro.

Although the sub-agreements for the implementation of Alerta Joven programs with these three organizations concluded on September 30, 2016 (Sur Futuro and ACOPRO) and on January 31, 2017 (Children International), the three models, directed by the youth themselves, continue their meetings and interventions in order to influence their communities in favor of youth, with the support of their local organizations.



DOCUMENTATION



Vulnerable youth who lack legal documentation are unable to attend or finish school and cannot access employment opportunities.

IN YEAR 5

THROUGHOUT 5 YEARS

31

2,031

Youth participants received legal assistance and information to obtain documentation

111

1,062

Youth received legal documentation



INVOLVING THE PUBLIC PRIVATE SECTOR TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION



On October 11, 2016, Alerta Joven successfully hosted the conference, “The Reality of Crime and Violence in At-Risk Youth in the DR.” A representative from the Nacional Association for Young Business People (ANJE) shared the results from their investigation of the effects of citizen insecurity on the business climate in the Dominican Republic, and highlighted the need for involvement by the business sector in concrete, effective actions, projects, and laws..

8 of 10
business people have
witnessed assaults near their
place of business

As with crime, delinquency and insecurity directly impact business activity, development, expansion, and sustainability.

- Reduction of business **PRODUCTIVITY**
- Deterioration of **WORK ENVIRONMENT** inside the office
- Decrease in work **PERFORMANCE**
- Decrease in **SALES**
- Economic and psychological harm to employees

“The high level of delinquency limits the potential of the Dominican Republic for future international growth and competitiveness.” Country Risk Report: III Quarter 2015, Executive Secretary for the Central American Monetary Council

In the Dominican Republic:

68.4%

of businesses pay for their security (National Office of Statistics 2010)

Ranked 122

in costs to businesses for crime and violence (Global Competitiveness Index 2016 – 2017)

At the core of this event, Alerta Joven shared its strategy for an integral approach to preventing crime and violence among vulnerable youth, with results to date, and invited the 115 participants (public, private, and civil society representatives) to form part of the network and get involved in what should be the top priority for the Dominican Republic.

The Public Ministry, through the Attorney General’s Office, also shared the results from the work, in collaboration with Alerta Joven, for the design of the intervention model to approach Youth in Psycho-Social Risk (on the streets), and for the Integral Attention Centers for Adolescents in Conflict with Penal Law in the Dominican Republic.

The testimonials by young persons who have been in conflict with the law and incarcerated and then radically changed their lives through Alerta Joven are the most potent messaging for creating impacts. Two young men from implementing partner IDDI in Bonao and Children International in La Caleta, Boca Chica, brought the public to both tears and standing ovations.



“A PLACE TO LEARN, REGARDLESS OF NATIONALITY OR DESCENT”



Yuberki Joseph was born 19 years ago in the Dominican Republic, to Haitian parents. As with many young people of Haitian descent living in the Dominican Republic, Yuberki has suffered the consequences of not having proper legal documentation. She too was impacted in 2013 by the retroactive judicial sentence to 1929, in which over 200,000 people with foreign parents were stripped of their nationality, being unable to prove their legal status, bringing about a state of social limbo.

Living in Batey los Algodones in Puerto Plata, on the north coast of the Dominican Republic, many others like her were born of Haitian descent, surrounded each day by the lack of opportunities in a community shrouded in poverty and violence.

“All of us were born in Puerto Plata, but we do not have legal documentation, only an ID card that was given to me two years ago through the Plan for Regularization,” says Yuberki, referring to her five sisters and two brothers.

With a shy, sad look on her face, she tells about her siblings having dropped out of school on two separate occasions due to the mistreatment, insults, and bullying from classmates. “Since our sector doesn’t have a

school, we have to walk up to ten kilometers to attend one. Since my siblings and I are of Haitian descent, the other kids always wanted to fight with us, saying all kinds of insults and picking fights.”

Her parents do not lose hope that their eight children will get their education, and enrolled them once again in the School Madre Teresa de Calcuta in Montellano. In class, her friend who had participated in the USAID Alerta Joven project, “A Ganar,” shared with Yuberki the many benefits of the program. “She told me the date, the time, and the place. I pulled out my agenda and made a note so that the day recruitment started, I could sign up.”

Yuberki was looking for answers to the many difficult situations that surrounded and disturbed her. “When I started the program, I was depressed and had low self-esteem from having endured so much abuse, without anyone ever giving me a chance,” she expresses.

From her first day in “A Ganar,” she knew that she had, “found a home, a place to learn, regardless of nationality or descent.” Like Yuberki, an additional 22,055 young people have received this type of technical training

through the USAID Alerta Joven program, learning needed skills for the labor market, and receiving courses on customer service, intensive English, personal development, and sexual and preventive health.

Seeing the high levels of promiscuity in the batey where she lives, in which a large percentage of 14 – 15 year old girls have children and husbands, Yuberki decided to share what she had learned with others. “I enrolled in another program as a volunteer, teaching other children about HIV prevention and not getting pregnant at a young age. Currently I am assigned a group of 15 young people,” she proudly shares.

Despite her efforts, the lack of legal documentation continues to be a heavy load that she cannot lift from her shoulders. “Even with the ID card that I was given by the government, no one wants to hire me. I have gone to job interviews and pass all of the tests, but I don’t get hired.”

In the meantime, she won’t let it interrupt her dreams, now in her last year of high school, and with plans to attend university. Yuberki confidently believes in herself: “I have faith and I am not going to lose hope.”

YEAR 5

IMPROVING YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY

INDICATOR RESULTS

Performance / Impact Indicators	RESULTS		
	Target Y5 October 2016 to September 2017	Achieved October 2016 to September 2017	% Y5 Achieved
Indicator 9: Number of civil society organizations receiving USG assistance engaged in advocacy interventions	44	25	56.82%
Indicator 10: Number undocumented youth who are identified	Males	31	67.39%
	Females	53	115.22%
Indicator 11: Percent of identified youth who obtain documentation	10.00%	132%	132.1%

INDICATOR 9 DR 4.2.2 CBSI

The Year 5 target for this indicator was 44 organizations. The reached result was 25 civil organizations engaged in advocacy interventions, equivalent to a 57% of achievement.

The result under the goal was primarily due to during Year 5, the initiatives and local coordination were reduced due to the necessities of a closing period. From the initial 23 partner organizations implementing the project through Year 4, only 7 kept implementing programs in Year 5. It was expected that continuity in this initiative would probably be affected by the fact of a) more focus in specific programs with youth and b) the specific task of the closing process. Moreover, efforts were made to maintain involvement of local schools, neighborhood committees, and community associations to expand the Alerta Joven network.

The most important initiatives contributing to this result were coordination with: UFHEC (Universidad Federico Henríquez y Carvajal), Centro Tecnológico Comunitario, PREPARA, Students Association of Haina, Liceos and School District of Haina, Centro Comunitario Valpiana, Educa, Nexus Group, and the Attorney General Office of the Dominican Republic.

INDICATOR 10&11

As exposed in charts (page 12), the biggest results on these indicators were achieved in Year 3 and Year 4, with a small growth in Year 5 due to the short period (3 months) of implementation programs.

During Year 5, 91.30% (males and females) of the target was achieved. As a major success, all 88 youth identified as undocumented would obtain their birth certification.

The 32% above the target, correspond to cases identified in the previous period.

THROUGHOUT 5 YEARS....

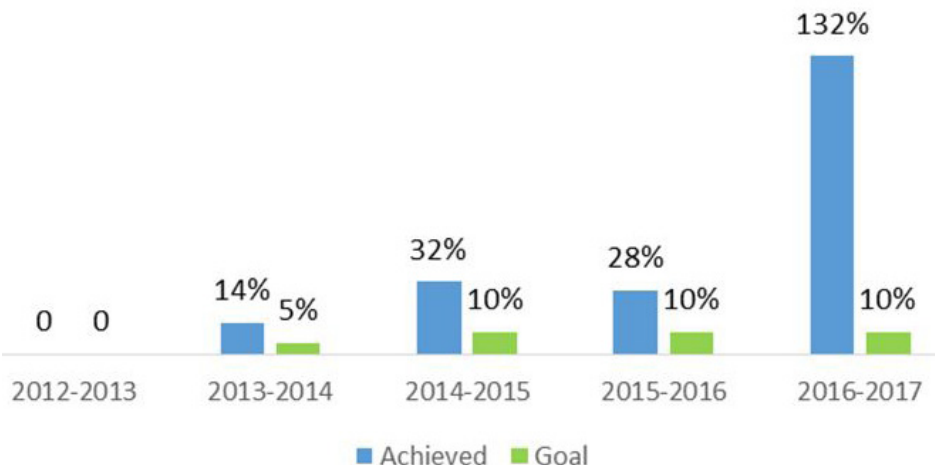
Youth Participants in Documentation Program



Indicator 10: Number undocumented youth who are identified



Indicator 11: Percent of identified youth who obtain documentation



BEYOND THE NUMBERS

The qualitative analysis from our implementing partner organizations highlight the factors that contributed to reaching the goals of the "Improvement Youth Protection Policy" intermediate result throughout the five years as:

- Dissemination and training, through Alerta Joven, in the Youth Legal Framework, and the effects of this awareness on the youth population.
- Greater youth community participation, organization, and involvement in the demand for their rights. After Alerta Joven interventions, young people took on management positions in local organizations thus allowing a unique perspective from youth to be included in the strategic agendas of organizations.
- User-friendly educational materials on the National Youth Law to promote knowledge of youth rights and duties, which increased interest in actively participating as decision makers.
- Youth councils, which emerged as a platform for the articulation of young people and community organizations to develop social demands such as: Compliance with municipal law regarding the percentage allocated to youth social services, prevention of violence, and demand for participation in management positions.
- Establishment of Youth Leadership Schools in the communities, which provide civil training and development of local youth agendas that guide policy advocacy.



INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

Creating viable access and linkage for at-risk youth to employment, educational, and health services is critical for helping them to continue on with their lives, distance themselves from crime, become productive citizens and help others in their community to escape from marginalization and potential crime.





“In a fit of rage, my mother burned all my clothes, burning my hands, and hit me so many times that I had to be taken to the hospital. She would say all kinds of terrible things about me, and everyone made fun of me. I would try to slit my wrists because I did not want to live anymore. All this was my life, until one day a teacher from Profamilia approached me with information on the Alerta Joven program.

I started to see life differently. I began to change, achieve my goals, and learn to change the way I expressed myself and treated others. I just finished a course on Leadership, while continuing my studies, and have been awarded twice as an outstanding student. I want to be a civil engineer. I have dreams. Without the project, I would never have had the opportunity to become who I am today.” **Alondra - 20 year old female.**



IR 2: Youth Opportunities to be Productive Citizens Improved

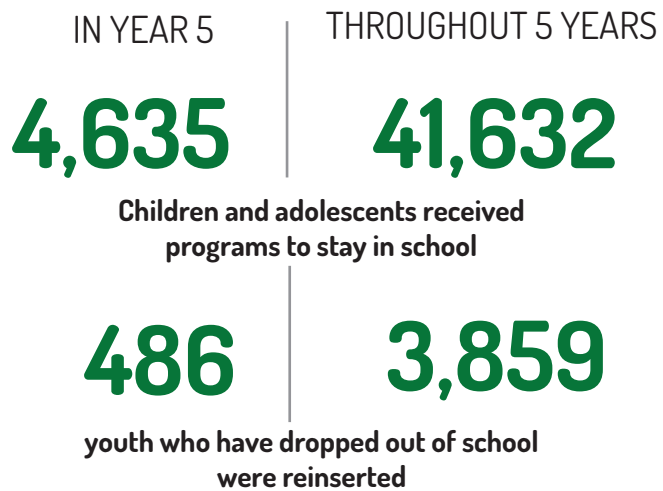
-  Formal and alternative education opportunities increased
-  Access to quality health prevention and care services improved
-  Employment for youth increased

SCHOOL RETENTION AND REINSERTION

During Year 5 of implementation, Alerta Joven used a combination of two major programs; Espacios para Crecer – EpC or Spaces for Growth, Quantum Learning for Teachers/Directors (QLT), and Students (QLS).

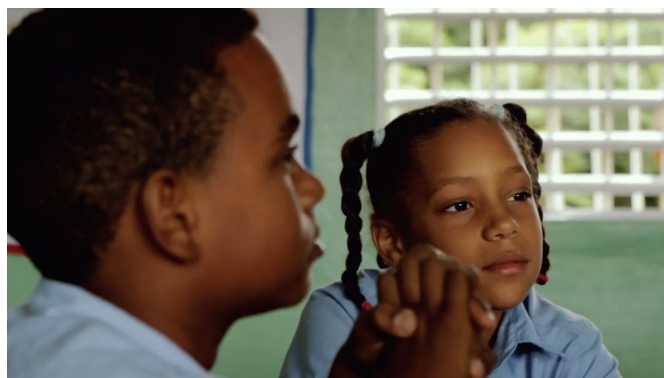
Most of the significant interventions by Alerta Joven in this intermediate result were concluded in September 2016 (Year 4). Considering that Alerta Joven would not have the entire school year for Year 5 of the project and the fact that all partner organizations began a close out process in the different cohorts. During Year 5, we continued with just five sub-agreements for implementing activities in school retention and re-insertion programs throughout an irregular and shorter period of three months in most cases and six months in the case of one partner organization (IDDI).

The educational component of Alerta Joven focuses on school retention (students at-risk of dropping out) and reinsertion (students who have already dropped out and need to be mainstreamed back into school). These two factors take into account the direct link between dropping out of school and delinquency.



Spaces to Grow (EpC)

Spaces to Grow is an educational program designed to encourage the reinsertion of school children and adolescents who have abandoned, and at the same time focuses on retaining the assistance of those in danger of defecting. EpC integrates a world-renowned accelerated learning methodology (Quantum Learning©) with the Ministry of Education curriculum to enable the student to discover their ability to learn in a fast, fun, and lasting way. An out-of-school teenager has a high risk for adopting a life of delinquency. The EpC is a educational product created by Dominicans that has already been incorporated and validated by five more countries in Latin America.



The EpCs have promoted good reading habits, and children have increased their comprehension skills. The children have improved their motor skills and are developing their talents in painting and role playing. The overall environment of the school has improved significantly, with lower levels of aggression. The children are learning to relate to each other without violence.”

– **Maria Cristina, education specialist from the partner organization Community Service Alliance (CSA).**



Quantum Learning

QL is a recognized methodology for its brain based, holistic approach to learning. Training school administrators, teachers, facilitators and students in Quantum methodology is a part of the Alerta Joven strategy to turn potentially boring or ineffective teaching/learning experiences into exactly the opposite; an environment where teachers and students are actively engaged, and their learning accelerated.

FOUR KEY INDICATORS

UNDERSCORE

THE EPC MODEL

- Attendance
- Academic success
- Parent, family, and community involvement
- Personal growth



INVOLVING THE PUBLIC PRIVATE SECTOR TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION



On March 16, 2017, Alerta Joven successfully carried out the conference, “Results of the Alerta Joven Education Interventions,” with 120 representatives and/or stakeholders from the public and private sector with significant participation from the key Dominican Ministries of Education and the Presidency. We were joined by over 35 members of civil society organizations, as well as 50 key players from the private sector.

The results achieved during the last four years of Alerta Joven education program were highlighted, showcasing the impact it has had in the life of thousands of youth in the Dominican Republic. Representatives from public and private sector were introduced to the

Alerta Joven educational models such as the EpC (Espacios para Crecer) that have been proven to retain and reinsert vulnerable youth in school.

During the conference, all major program results were presented with supporting data from the project database. A comparison made between EPC students and the general school population showed that EPC students had better attendance record, higher grades, and more chances of being promoted to the next grade at the end of the school year. The national average GPA is 68, for EPC students is 78. On the other hand, while only 88% of the general school population gets promoted to the next grade, 93.7% of EPC students do.

All this shows hard evidence of the effectiveness of the used methodologies. All participants were positively impacted by the results, understanding that their involvement is important in reducing the levels of violence and criminality, and ensuring a better future for our youth.

According to the Dominican Statistics Office, 37.5% of youth abandon school before finishing middle school, Alerta Joven has 41,632 students retained in school and 3,859 students reinserted contributing to lowering that statistic.





A CHANGED FUTURE FOR ME AND MY BABY BOY

Cristy Pérez distinctly recalls the fear for what the future would hold when she found out she was pregnant at the age of 14. “I thought I wasn’t going to continue my studies, and I was frustrated hearing people tell me what a mistake I had made, asking me how was it that my parents hadn’t taught me better,” she shares.

The oldest of three siblings, Cristy lives with her parents in the highly populated sector of Santo Domingo Oeste, Café Herrera, a marginalized area known for its poverty, in which many families live together to pool resources, exposed to high levels of crime and low chances of opportunities for a better life.

Cristy forms part of the 2015 national registered statistics on 34,453 natural births, cesareans, and abortions among female girls and adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19, making up 27.35% of all births, according to preliminary data collected by the Dominican Republic’s Ministry of Public Health (MSP).

Her relationship with the father of the baby ended, leaving Cristy alone, with the

help of her parents, to raise the little three year old boy, Christopher. At two months of age, Christopher was diagnosed with a disease that affects his neurological system, preventing him from talking and walking. Cristy uses any free time she has to do therapy activities with him, not having enough economic resources to pay for her son’s treatment.

With head held low, hiding the tears that fill her eyes, Cristy remembers nevering lost faith that she would be able to return to school one day, and be able to provide a better future for her small son. When a promoter from the USAID Alerta Joven project came to visit her and talk about going back to school, she knew her hope had not been in vain.

“This year I was not going to go to school because I didn’t have anyone who could take care of my son. When Alerta Joven came to recruit me for school, they told me that free day care and transportation would be available. I immediately told them yes, because I want to not only finish high school, I want to go to university,” tells Cristy, with a smile stretching across

The USAID Alerta Joven project empowers young people through education to improve their opportunities for development and growth, prioritizing retention in formal schooling. In 2016, 3,859 young Dominicans like Cristy who had left school and returned to class through the project’s programs.

Three months have gone by since Cristy has enrolled in the accelerated high school program, attending classes three days a week. The program allows her to complete two years of school simultaneously, and graduate with a high school degree. She is also receiving training on life skills, assertive communication, responsibility, and management of emotions.

The program developed through USAID by Alerta Joven for pregnant girls and adolescents aged 11 to 24 living in vulnerable sectors empowers them to learn skills through technical vocational courses, motivating them to finish their primary and secondary educations, while their children are taken care of in two child care centers (children 0 – 11 months, and 1 – 4 years).

The program also offers psychological therapy, meals, and transportation, among other benefits. “I feel very thankful for the help that I am being offered here, because I know it’s not common to find, giving me transportation from so far away, and taking care of my son while I study,” says Cristy.

She no longer feels fearful or depressed in her situation as a young, single mother. “I used to feel rejected by others, and now I feel proud of having a productive and independent life.”

Cristy’s next goal is to study Civil Engineering. Participating in this program means a changed future for me and my baby boy. When I became a mother, I saw many doors close. Now I have a chance to start moving forward again, and the next step is university,” joyfully expresses the young, teenage mother.

“I’VE LEARNED TO READ AND I’M PROUD OF IT”

Little Rubén Batista, age 11, always felt less important than others because he did not know how to read. His defense mechanism turned to violence, his teachers remembering the ring of fights that circled Rubén. “I felt bad about myself because everyone else could read, and I couldn’t. Whenever anyone would say anything, I’d quickly start a fight,” he confesses.

With low levels of concentration and school performance, Rubén lives in the community of La Ciénaga, Cabarete, which he describes as dangerous, and where he is constantly exposed to violence.

There he lives with his mother and is the second of four brothers. His kind smile and expressive eyes tell the story of the day, while playing with other kids in his neighborhood, he was handed a flier for enrollment in the summer camp for the USAID Alerta Joven project, to participate in the camp titled, “Summer Stars.”

Rubén decided to participate in the program, thinking he had found another place to have fun with his friends. The reality was even better than he had dreamed, since the program used the summer vacation for academic leveling and support to motivate participants to stay in school, focusing on reinforcing reading and math, in a fun way.

As part of the school retention program developed by USAID with the Alerta Joven project, 41,632 children and young people have participated and been motivated to stay in school, complete primary education, and advance onto high school, graduation, and beyond.

Now in fourth grade, two grades behind his age group, he finished the summer camp learning how to read an entire book. A great achievement for a boy that only a year ago did not even know the vowels, Rubén never imagined the things he was going to be able to discover through reading.

His behavior and attitude towards others has also changed, and for his insatiable curiosity, his teachers call him a little explorer. He is one of the best students, “and is always ready to learn. He has a great desire for everything that has to do with reading,” says his teacher.

The change in Rubén is so evident that he does not pay any attention to the bullying from his classmates and neighbors. “Before, when the kids would make fun of me, I would hit them. Now I just leave the situation, and tell the teacher if needed.”

In love with school, Rubén has decided to change the order of his plans. Before he wanted to be a baseball player as soon as possible, but now he wants to finish school and university first and then perhaps be a baseball player. “What I love the most is reading and sharing ideas with my classmates. I want to study languages at the university, and then be a baseball player.”

“I have read many books. The ones that were most memorable so far have been ‘The Commentary,’ ‘The Sky is Falling,’ and ‘A Lion in Cabarete,’” tells Rubén excitedly, ready to discuss the stories with whoever is interested.



“When I started the program, **I didn’t know how to read. Now I am proud and happy** because I can read, and I read many books.”

FORMAL AND ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES INCREASED

INDICATOR RESULTS

Performance / Impact Indicators		RESULTS		
		Target Y5 October 2016 to September 2017	Achieved October 2016 to September 2017	% Y5 Achieved
Indicator 14: Number of learners enrolled in primary schools and/or equivalent non-school-based setting with USG support	Males	328	467	142%
	Females	328	585	178%
	Indirect	300	870	290%
Indicator 15: Number of learners enrolled in secondary schools and/or equivalent non-based setting with USG support	Males	398	1558	391%
	Females	398	2025	509%
Indicator 16: Number of VYC reinserted into formal schooling	Males	367	224	61%
	Females	353	262	74%

INDICATOR 14&15

The goal for this indicator was 656 direct participants (328 males/328 females) for the age group 11 -14, for year 5 (October 2016 to June 2017). For this age group, it was possible to reach 1,052 direct participants (44% males/56% females) in a reduced implementation period of 4 months. This number represents a 160.38% compliance with the target.

On the other hand, for the age group 15-19, the target was 796 (398 males/398 females) direct participants, reaching a total of 3,583 direct participants (43% males/57% females), which represents a total of 450.13% of the initial target.

These results were significantly above the goals were possible due to:

- The goals for 2017 were conservatively established in the last PMPE review (January 2016) together with the donor. It was considered that the period was unique due to the closure process and the fact that the project would not have the full school calendar year.

Based on the analysis of the results of cumulative indicators (2012-2016) that had achieved below the targets (for various starting project factors), we decided to assign new targets to 3 sub-agreements (IDDI, UCNE, and Children International) through an extension of their sub-agreements, and considering available budget balances at the sub-agreements line. These goals were mostly achieved through the implementation of 15 “Espacios para Crecer” (group 11-14) and Quantum Learning for students (group 15-19) programs.

- The performance of these 3 organizations in achieving these new and ambitious goals was excellent due to the experience of previous years in both programs and to the achievements already made with the school districts that facilitated the implementation of the programs in the schools.

The target for indirect participants was 300, with a total of 870 indirect participants (290%) benefiting from the programs for this indicator. These

are individual stakeholders who either support or are benefited by activities, and are registered as unique participants in the Alerta Joven tracking system. Most of school retention programs involve the circle of the children (parents, teachers, school principals) through strategies focused in showcasing the benefits of staying at school as “School for Parents.” From the 870 indirect participants reported in the period, 258 correspond to indirect participants from Dream Project programs for the September 2016 period. The entry data process of these lists were regularized in the platform in October 2016, affecting the results of a different period.

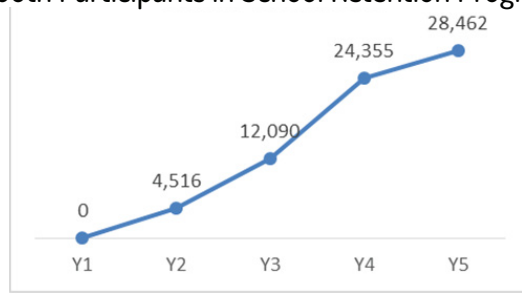
INDICATOR 16

The total number of 486 boys, girls and adolescents were reinserted into the school during Year 5. This number also represents a 68% of the goal of 720 for Year 5, in an implementation period of 6 months.

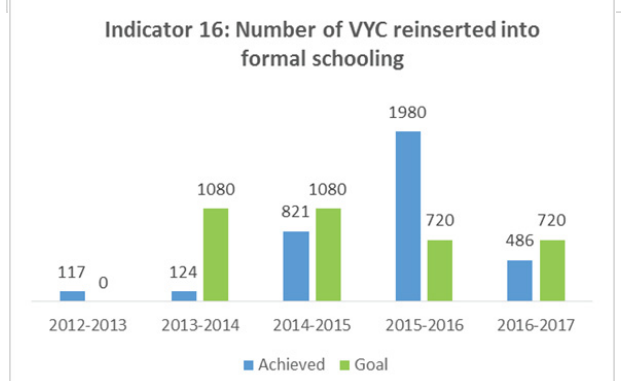
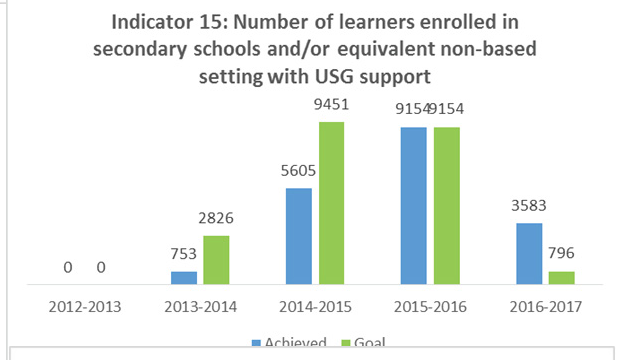
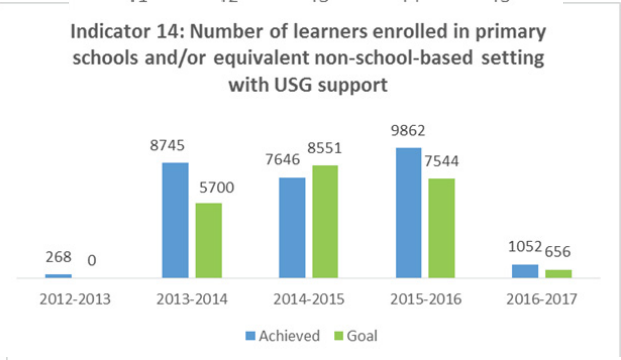
THROUGHOUT 5 YEARS....

AS SHOWN IN CHARTS BELOW, THE GREATEST GOALS AND RESULTS WERE ACHIEVED DURING YEAR 2, 3 AND 4 SINCE YEAR 5 WAS AN IRREGULAR PERIOD OF 3 MONTH (WITH 6 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS) AND 6 MONTH WITH JUST ONE PARTNER ORGANIZATION IMPLEMENTING EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Youth Participants in School Retention Program



Youth Participants in School Re-Insertion Program



BEYOND THE NUMBERS

A qualitative analysis from our implementing partner organizations of the " Formal and Alternative Education Increased " intermediate result throughout the five years highlights the following:

The cumulative indicator results for the educational programs (14, 15, and 16) were very satisfactory. On average, more participants were reinserted into school on a yearly basis than predicted, except for Year 1. From Year 2 – 5, we worked with thousands of participants in primary and secondary education by motivating continual school attendance, improving academic application, and training life skills.

An important legacy left by the program was the creation of formal agreements with the educational centers and districts, leaving the doors open for future initiatives. Other achievements include training for teachers and technical teams in new educational methodologies (QL), providing skills for working with at-risk youth in and out of the classroom, and increasing the diversity of services offered by the organizations. These strategies were incorporated into the organizations' daily work, thereby building capacity and institutional services.

Spaces to Grow (EPC), Quantum Learning, Accelerated High School with CENAPEC, and The Advantages of Staying in School were innovative school retention programs for the partnering organizations, well received by the educational community. Although the methodologies used for school reinsertion were mostly pre-existing programs, such as PREPARA, EBA, and Radio Santamaria, many organizations reported improvements in implementation for the selected population. These organizations included Caritas, CEPROSH, and CEFASA, which worked alongside the participants before and after being reinserted in school in order to increase the students' possibility of long term school retention.

The strengthening of institutional relationships with schools was a significant advancement for all organizations, fomenting teamwork among the educational community, including teachers, directors, families, and students. By working directly with the educational centers, organizations assured a space for students that were out of school and motivated the process for their reintegration into the system. Moreover, these agreements opened the doors for the use of the EPC during the extended school day. The sustainability of these actions is seen through the integration of these programs in the school curriculum and teaching methodology.



The Alerta Joven strategy for employment insertion integrates assessment and identification of emerging and future job opportunities in the Dominican economy, job skill training in consonance with these opportunities, life skill employability training applicable to all employment demands, and the facilitation of entrepreneurship and self-employment possibilities coupled with micro-credit.

EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- 1 Vocational training through GODR (Dominican Republic Government) services such as INFOTEP (National Institute for Technical Professional Formation) coordinated locally by partner organizations.
- 2 Training in self-employment and entrepreneurship using the Social Solidarity and Investment Fund (FOSIS) model. Increasing access to micro-credit for youth entrepreneurs.
- 3 Constant analysis and classification of the needs of emerging economic growth sectors in the DR.
- 4 Direct implementation of proven employment insertion programs, such as "A Ganar."

- 5 Direct partnerships with multiple Dominican private sector businesses and multi-sectorial initiatives, such as NEO (New Employment Opportunities).
- 6 Direct conversations with business sponsored organizations such as CAPEX in Santiago to directly implement job skills training for Alerta Joven youth and follow up job opportunities.
- 7 Entrepreneurship fairs to sponsor best business plans with seed capital.

IN YEAR 5	THROUGHOUT 5 YEARS
1,804	34,671
Youth participated in Vo-Ed training opportunities	
109	17,019
Youth received orientation on entrepreneurship	
6	1,267
Youth received orientation and follow up on how to obtain a microcredit loan	
695	22,055
Youth completed workforce development programs	
794	5,826
Youth with a new or better employment	

Vo-Ed training for Alerta Joven means job skill acquisition linked to life skills that lead to a job within the formal sector of the Dominican economy. We recognize that life skills are just as important (and in some cases more important) than simple job or vocational training. Repeatedly, we hear from employers of their need for employees who demonstrate teamwork and customer service, can receive feedback, show up on time, and be proactive and solution oriented.

INVOLVING THE PUBLIC PRIVATE SECTOR TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION



On November 15, 2016, Alerta Joven successfully hosted the conference, “Employment Insertion and Entrepreneurship with At-Risk Youth in the DR.” Important results were shared with the 118 participants who attended the event, including key decision makers from the business sector, civil society, and government representatives. The event received extensive coverage and positive opinions in the press and television, and successfully transmitted the message that Alerta Joven is a proven solution to reduce levels of crime and violence committed by adolescents and youth in the Dominican Republic. The support and participation from the private sector was impressive. Leaders from a major bank and from a manufacturing zone gave their personal testimonies about Alerta Joven teaming up with the private sector to reward entrepreneurship initiatives and create job insertion in industries with world renowned brands.

Technical and Vocational Training – This investment has an approximate return of 500% in income for young people.

Local Alliances – Small and medium-sized local businesses prove to be the most immediate employer of young people, improving the reality of the young people in the area in which they are located.

Internships – The project has demonstrated that 50% of young people who completed an internship continue onto permanent employment.

Alliances with Specific Productive Sectors – Alliances with Free Zones provide training for companies and direct placement of young people into open positions.

Entrepreneurship – Investing in entrepreneurship in a service economy like the Dominican Republic is a viable employment option for many at-risk young people.



Delereck Montero:

Inspiration from Valiente, Boca Chica



What costs nothing is worth nothing." That is the motto of 19 year-old, Delereck Montero, a young man who established his own barbershop under a tree at his house in Valiente, Boca Chica, Dominican Republic. Delereck learned about Alerta Joven in 2015, and immediately enrolled in the courses on Entrepreneurship, Hairdressing, and Management of Office Packages, through Children International in Boca Chica.

Combining his learnings about entrepreneurship and hairdressing, his barbershop, "God is King," was born, where he receives friends, neighbors, kids, and adults. "I chose this name because it motivates me to recognize that God is always the king of my life."

Understanding that people always have situations to endure and need to learn to manage them properly, the young man said that at the beginning it was difficult to create the business. His motivation and persistence have allowed the barbershop to keep standing.

"Everything happened because of the Entrepreneurship course and through dedication. Without motivation, I couldn't have done my project. Thanks to the support of Alerta Joven, I have achieved my goals."

According to Delereck, he hopes to see more entrepreneurs develop where he lives. "Valiente can achieve a lot of things. There are many young people with desire to learn. My little neighbors watch me with admiration and are hungry to grow."

At the moment, his business produces RD\$4,000 each month and in the future he hopes to install a cyber café at the barbershop. He studies Computer Engineering at the university and he plans to combine his business with his studies. The young man affirms that he already has three computers and that, little by little, he will bring together the resources to make his plans a reality.

To other young people that wish to start a business and don't know how to begin, Delereck would like to tell them that it's always worth trying. "If you don't try, you will never know what will happen. In the event that you fail, you just have to change your methods and start over."



FORMAL AND ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTH INCREASED

INDICATOR RESULTS

Performance / Impact Indicators		Target Y5 October 2016 to September 2017	Achieved October 2016 to September 2017	% Y5 Achieved
Indicator 22: Number of persons receiving new employment or better employment (including better self-employment) as a result of participation in USG-funded workforce development programs	Males	630	316	50%
	Females	630	478	76%
Indicator 23: Number of persons completing USG-funded workforce development programs	Males	775	248	32%
	Females	775	447	58%
Indicator 24: Proportion of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic opportunities	Males	50.00%	36.59%	73%
	Females	50.00%	63.41%	127%

INDICATOR 22

EG.6-1 (USAID 4.6.3-2) CBSI#3.1.6

The target indicator for participants with new or better employment for year 2017 was 1,260 (630 males/630 females). The results achieved for 2017 was a total of 794, making up 63% of the total goal (40% males and 60% females). The main factors for the lower results were that the established goals for the last year of implementation applied to a reduced period of 9 months (October 2016 to June 2017). The target was very ambitious and unrealistic considering that:

- Implementing partner organizations for that period were reduced to 7.

- From the 7 implementing partner organizations, 4 (Dream Project, Sur Futuro, Children International, and UCNE) had only 3 months of program implementation from October to December 2016, and closed sub-agreements in January 2017. The other 3 partner organizations (IDDI, Profamilia and CAPEX) had only 5 months of program implementation, with sub-agreements closing in March 2017.

- Time frames of closing program implementation was determined based on the closing date of the Cooperative Agreement, although Entrena expected a no-cost extension award, and established the 2017 goals considering the possibility of continuous operation of programs for an entire 12 month period.

- Other factors include the fact that during the closing period, a large investment of time went into closing procedures, such as applying exit-survey forms and the regularization of pending data entry into the web tracking system. Organizations had less human resources available during project closing periods, equating to less resources to accomplish the activities.

2017) the achieved result was 695 (36% males/64% females) which represent 45% of the total goal for 2017.

The result below the goal was primarily due to:

- Targets were ambitiously established and with the assumption of having more partner organizations implementing programs under a non-cost extension scenario that would have allowed us to implement until September 2017.

- Target indicators with the remaining sub-agreements implementing from October 2016 to March 2017 were revised. Based on analysis of cumulative indicator results, we decided to prioritize the school retention program due to the low results obtained during the first years of the project. With this decision, we increased our cumulative performance indicator results for school retention program as well as maintained an adequate cumulative performance for the indicator of work force development, which was completed with 146% accomplishment, as of March 2017.

INDICATOR 23

(USAID 4.6.3-4) CBSI#3.1.5

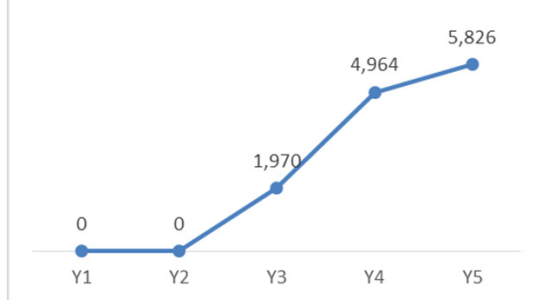
The target for 2017 was 1,550 direct participants (775 males/775 females) completing USG-funded workforce development programs. During the period 2017 (October 2016 to June

THROUGHOUT 5 YEARS....

Youth Participants in Vocational-Educational Training Program



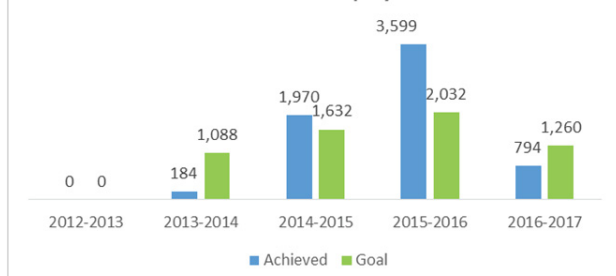
Youth Participants in Labor-Insertion Efforts Program



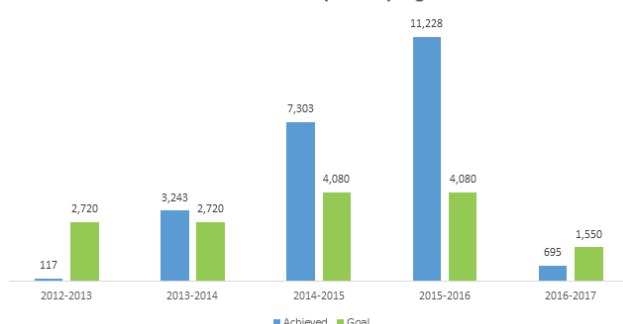
Youth Participants in Microcredits Program



Indicator 22: Number of participants receiving new or better employment



Indicator 23: Number of persons completing USG-funded workforce development programs



BEYOND THE NUMBERS

A qualitative analysis from our implementing partner organizations of the “Employment for Youth Increased” intermediate result throughout the five years highlights the following:

The cumulative results indicate that the program reached above and beyond targeted goals for technical vocational training and labor insertion for youth. According to the project closing data, the “Technical Vocational Training” program was achieved at 146%. The indicator for labor insertion (new or better employment, or self-employment) reached 97% of the five year goal.

A significant accomplishment for the project was establishing strong relationships with business people and financial institutions, through continual awareness building. This allowed for greater labor insertion for the young people through internships and formal employment. Local businesspeople were valuable allies to the project.

Alliances and coordination with local high schools and training centers were also key factors for reaching the target population. Access to schools and polytechnics for delivering entrepreneurship programs and to community technical centers for technical training guaranteed participants greater access to training, with more flexible criteria, according to the academic levels, and with trained professors from INFOTEP.

In general, the program was characterized by the incorporation of soft skills training throughout all technical courses and entrepreneurship programs. Moreover, labor insertion for youth was characterized by personalized coaching and preparation for interviews, as well as lobbying with local and national businesses.

Major achievements in the “Micro Credits” program are greatly attributed to the alliances created with Banco Ademi and Banca Solidaria to deliver talks on obtaining microcredits. The credits obtained were provided by external sources, such as Banco Ademi and CRS. Some organizations like Children International, BanReservas, Banco Popular, and the UCNE offered seed capital to start businesses through business planning competitions.

HEALTH CARE AND PREVENTION



Our at-risk youth population in the DR is frequently exposed to unhealthy lifestyles. A combination of early initiation in sexual activity, unprotected sex, and difficult access to direct youth friendly health services are major obstacles.

IN YEAR 5

THROUGHOUT 5 YEARS

2,422 | **64,848**

Received information and follow up on how to prevent HIV, pregnancy and STDs

0

3,466

Youth received Testing and Counseling (T&C) services for HIV



A friend of mine is a multiplier and facilitator for Alerta Joven – Profamilia. This project is good because it implements important things for young people’s lives. It teaches us to avoid sexually transmitted diseases and premature pregnancy. For me, it is a very important project because it teaches things that are difficult to learn on your own. They (staff of the project) treat us as if were their own children. Before knowing about Alerta Joven, I did not have as much understanding of my sexuality as I do now. **-Yermi Rafael Tejada -Profamilia**



THROUGHOUT 5 YEARS....

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

EVEN THOUGH HEALTH INDICATORS ARE NO LONGER PART OF ALERTA JOVEN, DURING OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2016, IMPLEMENTER PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED DEVELOPING HEALTH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES AS COUNTERPART. ALERTA JOVEN IS CONTINUOUSLY ENCOURAGING THE NETWORK TO CONTINUE TO USE THE HIV AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CURRICULUM THROUGH NETWORKS OF COMMUNITY AND PEER MULTIPLIERS, A TESTED AND SUSTAINABLE MODEL.

The HIV program for prevention, health services, and testing underwent important changes during implementation phase. Starting in 2015, funding for PEPFAR was continually reduced, using up the remaining funds available for the program. The projected goals had been designed for participants to receive certain health prevention services, but were not fully implemented as funding decreased. In addition, the alliances that were planned to help overlap with funding did not come to fruition due to lack of national resources, such as the procurement of HIV tests through the Ministry of Public Health.

Despite the challenges in identifying and attending to the “Most At-Risk Population” (MARP) for contacting HIV, in particular due to the resistance to self-identify, the program was strongly supported by the creation of new youth multiplier networks (peer strategy), which achieved continual advancement through community involvement and organization. These networks were made up of young people that had started out as part of an Alerta Joven program and with time, became involved in leadership. For these

Indicator 21: Number of individuals who received Testing and Counseling (T&C) services for HIV and received their test results.



young people, the networks were spaces of belonging, trust, and social status among their peers and community, changing their life courses, and offering a sense of protection and identity.

The program also achieved great impact through the development of organizational capacities and methodologies, including the models for behavior change through the Cicatelli model. Local health institutions helped support volunteer work done by the youth multiplier network through promotional and informational materials. Other achievements in the area of institutional strengthening and resource building for youth included the official certification of ACOPRO as a health center through the Ministry of Public Health, and the formation of youth-friendly consultant services.

Equally important was the coordination of joint actions for a referral system for youth, especially for those organizations that do not offer health services, but had identified youth in need. These include Casa Abierta and the UCNE, which formed agreements with Profamilia to refer participants to clinics, as part of the integral attention provided. In the same way, Santo Domingo Este formed an agreement with Regional Health to facilitate access to services and referrals for medical attention.

DEVELOPING AN INTEGRATED YOUTH SYSTEM

Alerta Joven integrates a state-of-the-art information and tracking system, model community based **crime prevention committees**, and **public-private partnerships** as part of the overall safety net for our **at-risk youth**.

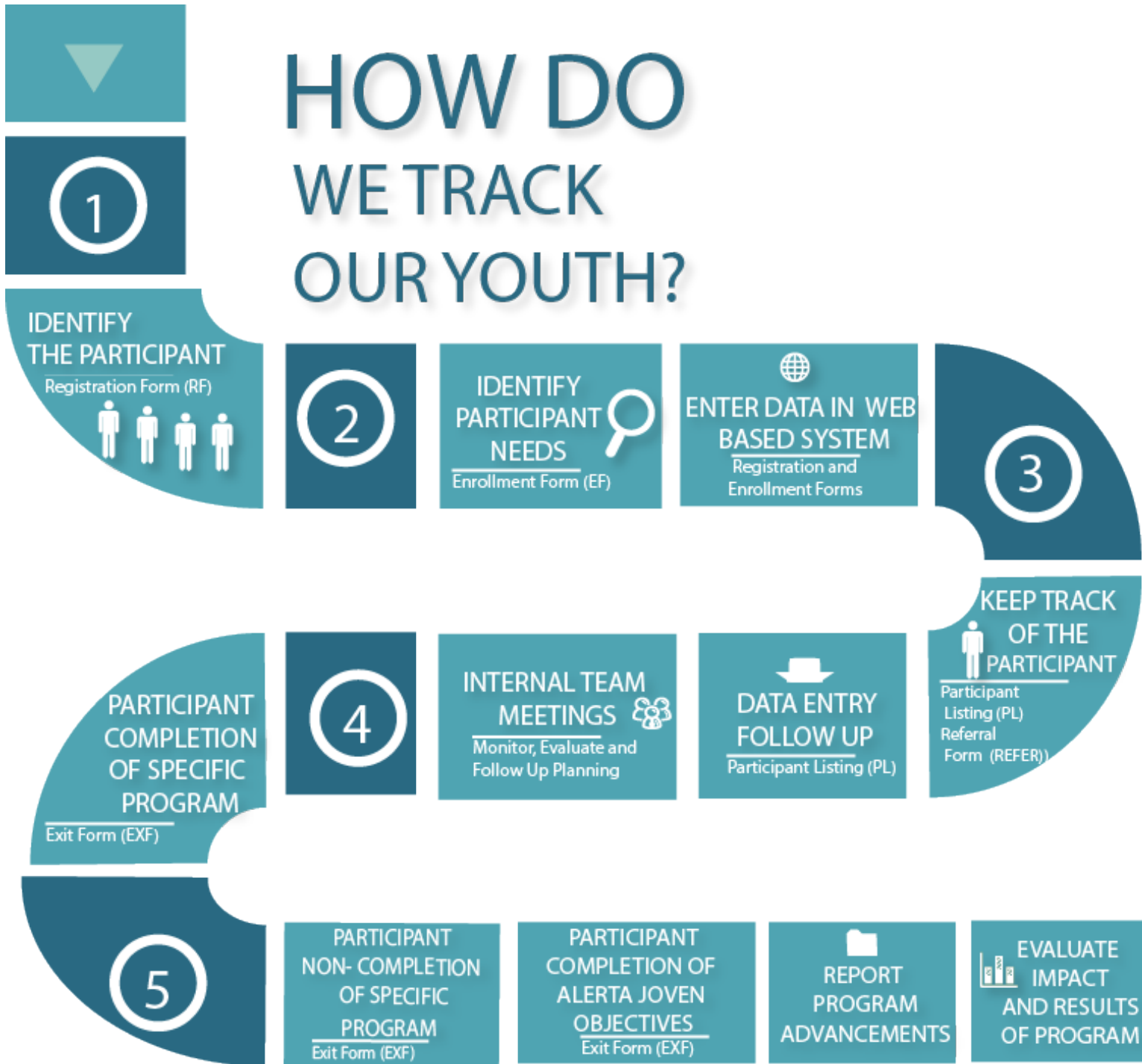
IR 3: INTEGRATED YOUTH SYSTEM DEVELOPED

- A comprehensive information system
- Multidisciplinary groups coordinating and implementing solutions to reduce crime and gang activity
- Public-Private Partnerships enhanced to support and advocate for vulnerable youth



A COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM

We celebrate the completion of our goal of developing a system of reliable information and data and evidence-based finding that establishes the credibility for the entire initiative.

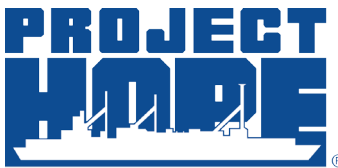


MULTIDISCIPLINARY GROUPS COORDINATING AND IMPLEMENTING SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE CRIME AND GANG ACTIVITY



BENEFITS FROM ALLIANCES

- Technical training and academic validation from INFOTEP
- Labor insertion for youth in internships and formal employment
- Influence in public policy for youth
- Access to local communities and institutions for joint service offerings
- Access to schools to offer services to students and programs for the extended school day
- Support with technical training and facilitation of microcredits or entrepreneurship
- Identification and training for at-risk youth
- Collection of evidence for documentation process
- Access to health and family planning services



BEYOND THE NUMBERS

This objective was largely supported by youth networks formed by IDDI through the program for conflict mediation, and the efforts of the UCNE and Children International through the program, "Protection Framework for Children and Adolescents and Violence Prevention."

The organizations of Casa Abierta, CSA, Caminante, ACOPRO, MOSTCHA, Acción Callejera, and Children International approached prevention work through the formation of multi-sectoral committees focused on creating protection policies for childhood and adolescence. With the purpose of progressively reducing the at-risk conditions in which this population lives, the committees work toward medium to long term reduction in the amount of young people participating in crime and violence. The UCNE and IDDI worked directly with at-risk youth through recreational and training activities to promote values, cooperation, and conflict management.

The multidisciplinary groups concentrated on working directly with youth (those effected or involved directly in delinquency) by creating networks of community leaders, families, and local institutions. The program's second line of intervention was working with youth to promote a culture of peace and life without violence, providing spaces for training and conflict resolution between peers. Both lines of actions brought about change in violent behavior, through greater awareness and understanding of emotions and self-control. As concluded in the study, "Profile of Adolescents in Conflict with the Law" one of the primary motivations to engage in crime is the lack of emotional control and self-control, or impulsivity. The focus of violence prevention work was to train young people with a wide variety of life skills, from self-perception to healthy relationships with others.

The creation of networks is an effective tool for raising awareness, but more importantly, for changing the behavior of participants, guaranteeing the sustainability and impact among youth.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ENHANCED TO SUPPORT AND ADVOCATE FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH

Alerta Joven continues to develop partnerships with the private sector, Dominican government, and international organizations. These partnerships create a variety of anchors for long-term sustainability, supporting and advocating for at-risk youth.

PPPS Integrating Private Sector and Universities



PPPS Integrating International Development Organizations



WORKING TOWARD

SUSTAINABILITY

The goal of the Dominican Republic At-Risk Youth Initiative (DRARYI) is to create a sustainable multidisciplinary safety net for at-risk youth (ARY) implemented to prevent crime. The technical approach develops a sustainable framework as a quality product that can positively continue to transform the lives of ARY in the DR, standing by itself financially and technically expanding when USAID support is phased out.

- (DR ARY Initiative Project Program Description)

During Year 5, we continued to grow our sustainability strategy of projecting Alerta Joven as a model Private-Public Alliance (PPA) integrating the private sector, government, and international organizations, supported by a co-financing fund, with validation of results and impact by Dominican society.

The sustainability of Alerta Joven has been a top priority of the project from the very beginning. The revised Program Description for the extension indicates that, "During the next two years, Entrena will focus efforts to strengthen Alerta Joven as a powerful initiative which is sustainable, supported by Dominican society, working in conjunction with the Dominican government and private sector, and attractive for future financing by other international organizations."

During Year 5, investments were made in the dissemination of results, the strengthening of the Alerta Joven "think tank" sustainability committee, the promotion of the messaging, "Their Future is Your Future (Su Futuro es Tu Futuro)," and direct linkage with Dominican government agencies for funding.

DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

We carried out the following three major results dissemination events during Year 5:

- **Results of Alerta Joven in the Reduction of Crime and Violence, October 11,**
- **Results of Alerta Joven in Employment Insertion and Entrepreneurship, November 15, 2016**
- **Results of Alerta Joven in Education – School Reinsertion and Retention, March 16,**

Each of these activities achieved their stated goals. The “breakfast meeting” format was used for each event, with the average investment of 90 minutes. Average attendance was 125 – 150 participants, composed of stakeholders and influencers for each theme, with excellent news coverage and editorial support, and impacting presentations and testimonials. These events validated Alerta Joven among leadership from the government, private sector, and international organizations through the following outstanding elements:

MOVING YOUTH TESTIMONIALS

When Gabriel, a 21 year old former gang member who served jail time, shared his life story before and after Alerta Joven, people could better comprehend why it is so easy for a young person to fall into violent criminal activity and the tough decisions they must make to leave it behind. Gabriel is a participant in the IDDI Alerta Joven program in Bonao, a town located in the center of the DR. Like Gabriel, other testimonials revealed the human aspect of Dominican at-risk youth living on the edge.

EVIDENCE BASED INTERVENTIONS

The presentation of the Alerta Joven education programs for school retention and reinsertion left a mark on the audience, quickly understanding the need for engaging, scientifically based methodologies to accelerate learning. They were impressed and surprised that these Alerta Joven interventions, such as EpCs and Quantum Teacher training, were developed by Dominicans, and had been implemented in the DR and six other countries in Latin America, at the request of their Ministries of Education.

SIGNIFICANT ATTENDANCE

The quality and influence of the attendees for all conferences was outstanding. We had large representation from Human Resource Directors of private companies and the Ministry of Education sent a large contingent for the Education event. Many Ministers from other agencies sent representatives and representatives from all major international development organizations attended.

COLLABORATION SUCCESS STORIES

The presentation by the Human Resources Director of the ITABO Industrial Park on how businesses took the risk to employ at-risk youth from the Alerta Joven program. His testimony about one company that manufactures for an international jewelry firm hiring 50 Alerta Joven youth from the Sur Futuro program, with all but two remaining on the job for the first year, underlined the importance of that first formal job. It also demonstrated how these youth, despite conditions of high risk and immersion in a poverty environment, can quickly receive the life and technical skills to make the adjustment to a formalized work environment.

COMPELLING FACTS

The presentation by the Attorney General office compared the cost of DR\$350,000 to maintain one youth in a detention center for one year (without calculating legal and management costs), to that of an average of DR\$15,000 per youth intervened through Alerta Joven, quickly affirming the need to invest in prevention.

THINK TANK

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The concept of a sustainability committee was contemplated from the start of the project. Several attempts were made to form the committee during the first two years with a sampling of directors from the partner organizations. However, this formula did not meet our expectations, and we needed time to produce and promote the success of the project. During Year 5, Alerta Joven began sharing our significant and numerous results and impact on Dominican society.

We now targeted young professionals and business people for the sustainability committee, being those who have their business and professional commitment to the DR, and many with children in school. This population knows that their quality of life in the DR, and that of their children and future grandchildren, will depend on how levels of crime and violence can be reduced and/or eliminated. The following actions were taken:



SIGNIFICANT TIME and
COMMITMENT to Alerta Joven
has been dedicated by
the committee members.

We use the term
“THINK TANK”,
which the committee
understands as the most
appropriate way to phrase
their roles at the present.

- Pre-selection of over 50 candidates whose profile matched target audience.
- Introductory large scale meeting to present Alerta Joven, and gauge interest and participation, at the beginning of October 2016.
- Invitation to Dissemination of Results Conference on Crime Prevention on October 11, 2016, and on Employment Insertion, on November 15, 2016.
- First formal meeting of the Committee with members, on December 7, 2016.
- Second formal meeting of the Committee, in early March 2017.
- Participation in event on Education Results, on March 16, 2017.
- Third formal meeting of the Committee, deciding to launch a social inclusion certification program for businesses that provide first employment opportunities for at risk youth, on May 9, 2017.

This group has demonstrated growing empowerment in their responsibilities and we expect them to continue to take the leadership role for the social certification activity.

MESSAGING, INDIVIDUAL ACTION PLANS, AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE ALLIANCES



Public recognition of Alerta Joven was significantly increased through a widespread messaging campaign during the end of Year 4 and the first six months of Year 5. The tagline of, “Their Solution is Your Solution,” was focused on producing the immediate reaction of the public to the quota of responsibility to solving the problem of violence and delinquency among youth and adolescents. This campaign also helped people to understand that adolescents out of school, perhaps cleaning windshields in a traffic jam, are linked with the lack of opportunities, leading down the road to potential delinquency. Each of us has a responsibility to work toward a solution.

The messaging campaign also helped distinguish the difference between Alerta Joven and many other youth activities in the country. It is critical that Dominican society brands us as a unique and tested project to reduce levels of crime and violence, and that we work with the most at risk levels of the youth population. Entrepreneurship and first employment are radically different for our at-risk youth compared to those, for example, from universities or polytechnic institutes.

The strategy to engage the private sector was centered on the development of 200 individual action plans for selected businesses. These businesses were identified and then profiled according to the size of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) budget, areas of preference for giving, and location. Each business was interviewed and the information from each visit was tabulated into an application. This will allow Alerta Joven to target individual companies per their scope of interest and budget possibilities. We have significant learnings from this process which will be applied to the sustainability of Alerta Joven including the following:

- The value added for Alerta Joven from the private sector is validation and social projection for the project, not necessarily funding.

- Each company has its own branding strategy for Corporate Social Responsibility activities, where corporate projection is a priority.
- Many companies have growing corporate volunteer programs to actively engage their employees.
- The first-time employment of Alerta Joven youth by these companies is a valuable asset.

Within the defined concept of the PPA, our goal continues to be that Alerta Joven be the first “model” under the forthcoming Dominican government legislation which will create a legal framework for the PPA. This process has been initiated by the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Development but there is no priority timeline for its completion at the moment. However, we will follow this process closely and maximize its benefit for Alerta Joven.

An additional goal is to develop in detail a co-financing model. This will facilitate the flow of funding to the project and also act as a leveraging tool. The future expectation is that this will be managed through a fiduciary fund through one of the private banks which has been a supporter of Alerta Joven. The model PPA for Alerta Joven, validated by both the government and the private sector, will also be attractive for international financing from entities such as the IDB, WB, and others.

LINKAGE WITH DR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Alerta Joven has worked closely with a number of Dominican government ministries and agencies from the start of the project. These include Education, Youth, Labor, Interior and Police, Office of the District Attorney, and INFOTEP. The benefits of these relationships has been tied to specific activities such as training, access to schools, work in youth detention centers, public policy forums, and workshops.

While these relationships will be continued and strengthened, Alerta Joven plans to partner with the Ministry of Presidency (DIGEPEP), which directly manages the largest budget, implements programs that complement Alerta Joven, and intercedes in the budgets of other ministries and agencies. During the last six months of Year 4 and continuing through Year 5, Alerta Joven and DIGEPEP have carried out joint workshops to share programs and identify possible points of synergy. Their new program entitled Quisqueya Digna has a series of objectives

closely tied with the objectives and target populations of Alerta Joven. Additionally they recognize the quality and impact of Alerta Joven and do not want to “reinvent the wheel.” Currently this process is in the stage of identifying specific geographic zones and the specific interventions (i.e. school reinsertion and retention, first employment) which Alerta Joven can quickly implement with its community based partners. There are “speed bumps” which need to be resolved for a long term formalized relationship, which includes signed agreements and how funds can be

transferred to Alerta Joven within the current internal regulations of the government.

In addition to DIGEPEP, Alerta Joven is close to formalizing an agreement with the Ministry of Interior and Police and the United Nations Development Fund for US\$50,000 of funding from the PREJUVE programs, to be administrated by Alerta Joven for replication of model of “youth networks” in Barrio Cien Fuegos through CAPEX.

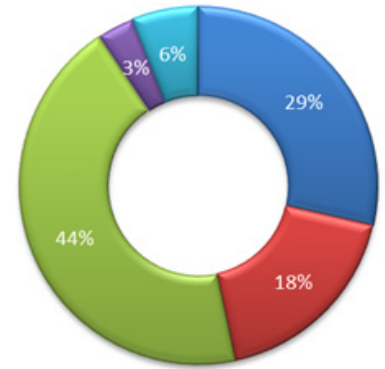


Alerta Joven has followed the design for sustainability outlined in the Program Description of the Cooperative Agreement. Any variations have been due to emerging opportunities and/or limitations with the Dominican government and private sector, with necessary adjustments made. Most importantly, we have received validation from the government, private sector, and Dominican society, ensuring the committed future for sustainability of the projects goals.

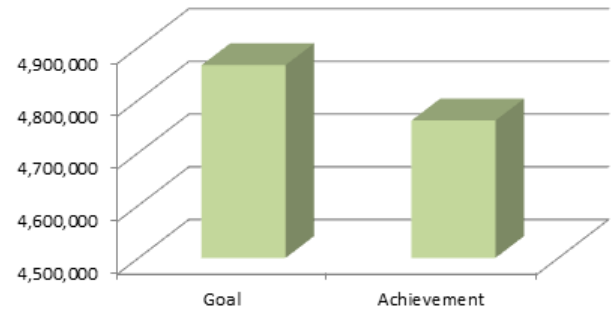
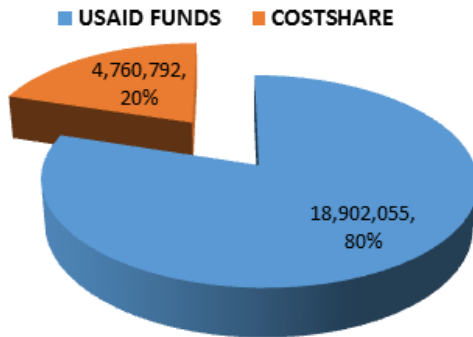
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AID-517-A-12-00002
 BUDGET EXECUTION FROM 7/05/2012 TO 09/30/2017
 expressed in US\$

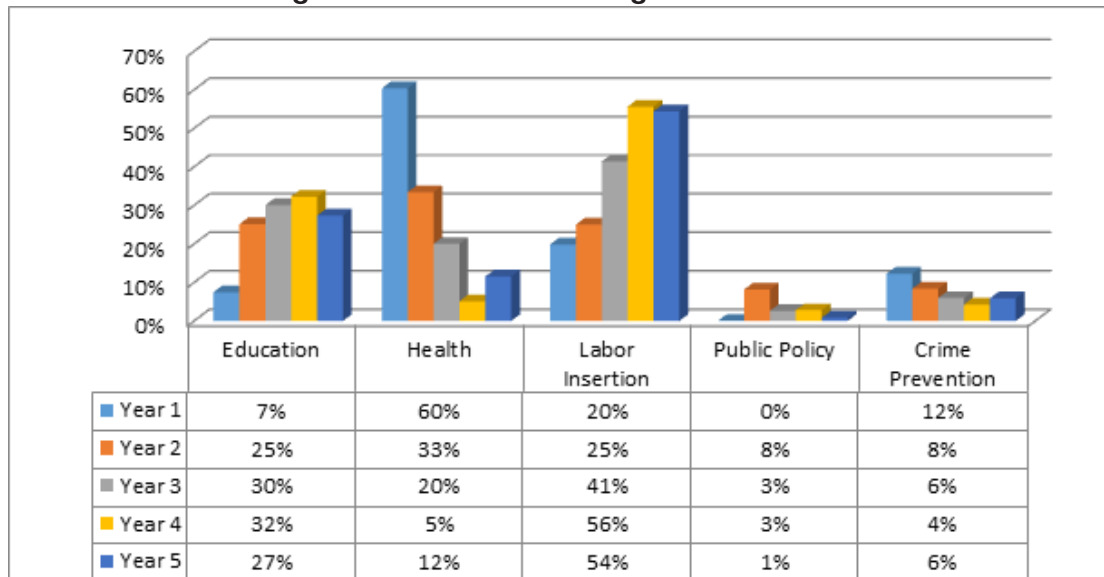
Category	Budget	Accumulative Expenditures	% of Execution
LABOR	2,308,335.00	1,702,243.01	74%
FRINGE BENEFITS	1,001,433.00	648,214.10	65%
CONSULTANTS	1,334,303.00	1,007,198.79	75%
TRAVEL	100,331.00	67,791.70	68%
OTHER DIRECT COSTS	2,558,326.00	2,267,675.69	89%
EQUIPMENT	137,899.00	126,220.83	92%
SUB-AWARDS	14,226,774.00	13,038,198.81	92%
SUB-TOTAL	21,667,401.00	18,857,542.93	87%
INDIRECT COST	312,216.00	44,512.17	14%
TOTAL	21,979,617.00	18,902,055.10	86%



Cost Share



Programs Investments - changes from Year 1 to Year 5



ALERTA JOVEN PERFORMANCE REPORT BY INDICATOR YEAR 5

Source: Alerta Joven's web tracking system by unique participant and secondary sources if requested.

Period: October 2016 - September 2017

Performance / Impact Indicators		RESULTS		
		Target Y5 October 2016 to September 2017	Achieved October 2016 to September 2017	% Y5 Achieved
Indicator 1: Percent of youth involved in crime and violence		445	No data available	No data available
Indicator 2: Citizen perception of the police		47%	71.4%	153.5%
Indicator 3: Citizen perception of security		66%	66.4%	100.6%
Indicator 4: Percent of victims of crime		35%	19.4%	55.4%
Indicator 5: Recidivism rates among juvenile (18 and under) offenders	Transport by Police	0	No data available	No data available
	New Charge by Fiscalia			
	Sentenced Detention			
Indicator 6 *: Percentage of juveniles (18 and under) housed separately in juvenile incarceration facilities		95%	93%	97%
Indicator 7 **: Number of juvenile (18 and under) offenders processed via diversion/alternative rehabilitation programs	Males	107	36	33.64%
	Females	9	2	22.22%
Indicator 8: Number of USG-funded organizations representing marginalized constituencies trying to affect youth government policy or conducting government oversight		0	0	0.00%
Indicator 9: Number of civil society organizations receiving USG assistance engaged in advocacy interventions		44	25	56.82%
Indicator 10: Number undocumented youth who are identified	Males	46	31	67.39%
	Females	46	53	115.22%
Indicator 11: Percent of identified youth who obtain documentation		10.00%	132%	132.1%
Indicator 12: Percent of audience who recall hearing or seeing a specific USG-supported FP/RH message		50.00%	23.3%	47%
Indicator 13: Percentage of youth unemployed and not in school-based setting		18.00%	2.03%	11%
Indicator 14: Number of learners enrolled in primary schools and/or equivalent non-school based setting with USG support	Males	328	467	142%
	Females	328	585	178%
	Indirect	300	870	290%
Indicator 15: Number of learners enrolled in secondary schools and/or equivalent non-based setting with USG support	Males	398	1558	391%
	Females	398	2025	509%
Indicator 16: Number of VYC reinserted into formal schooling	Males	367	224	61%
	Females	353	262	74%
Indicator 17: Modern method contraceptive prevalence rate (MCPR)	Males	41.5%	72.61%	175%
	Females	49.5%	66.39%	134%

Indicator 22: Number of persons receiving new employment or better employment (including better self-employment) as a result of participation in USG-funded workforce development programs	Males	630	316	50%
	Females	630	478	76%
Indicator 23: Number of persons completing USG-funded workforce development programs	Males	775	248	32%
	Females	775	447	58%
Indicator 24: Proportion of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic opportunities	Males	50.00%	36.59%	73%
	Females	50.00%	63.41%	127%
Indicator 25: Number of visitors to website		20000	107504	538%
Indicator 26: Number of participants in solutions for crime and gang reduction		400	1032	258%
Indicator 27: Effectiveness of working groups that include first offenders, gang members, and adolescents		Effective	Effective	Effective
Indicator 28: Number of workforce development initiatives created through USG assisted public-private partnerships		0	0	0%
Indicator 29: Number of vulnerable people benefitting from USG-supported social services	Males	1500	4074	272%
	Females	1500	5931	395%
	Vulnerable children (under 18)	2000	6110	306%
Indicator 30: Number of people benefitting from USG-supported social assistance programming	Males	3000	4383	146%
	Females	3000	6954	232%
	HIV Affected	0	0	0%
Indicator 31: Percentage of USG-funded NGO or other international organization projects that include activities or services designed to reduce specific risks or harm to vulnerable populations		100.00%	52.00%	52%

ACCUMULATED PERFORMANCE INDICATOR RESULTS 2012 - 2017

Source: Alerta Joven's web tracking system by unique participant and secondary sources if requested.

Period: October 2012 - September 2017

Performance Indicators		Results 2012-2017		
		Target October 2012 to September 2017	Achieved October 2012 to September 2017	% Achieved October 2012 to September 2017
Indicator 1: Percent of youth involved in crime and violence		445	877	197%
Indicator 2: Citizen perception of the police		46.50%	71.4%	153.5%
Indicator 3: Citizen perception of security		66%	66.4%	100.6%
Indicator 4: Percent of victims of crime		35%	19.4%	55.4%
Indicator 5: Recidivism rates among juvenile (18 and under) offenders	Transport by Police	40	0.0%	0%
	New Charge by Fiscalia	20		
	Sentenced Detention	10		
Indicator 6 : Percentage of juveniles (18 and under) housed separately in juvenile incarceration facilities		95%	92.6%	97%
Indicator 7 **: Number of juvenile (18 and under) offenders processed via diversion/alternative rehabilitation programs	Males	107	36	33.6%
	Females	9	2	22.2%
Indicator 8: Number of USG-funded organizations representing marginalized constituencies trying to affect youth government policy or conducting government oversight		46	52	113%
Indicator 9: Number of civil society organizations receiving USG assistance engaged in advocacy interventions		44	25	56.8%
Indicator 10: Number undocumented youth who are identified	Males	2564	1805	70.4%
	Females	2494	2142	85.9%
Indicator 11: Percent of identified youth who obtain documentation		10%	21%	213.1%
Indicator 12: Percent of audience who recall hearing or seeing a specific USG-supported FP/RH message		50%	23.3%	46.6%
Indicator 13: Percentage of youth unemployed and not in school-based setting		18%	6%	33%
Indicator 14: Number of learners enrolled in primary schools and/or equivalent non-school based setting with USG support	Males	11369	7197	63.3%
	Females	11083.5	7157	64.6%
	Indirect	25677	15650	60.9%
Indicator 15: Number of learners enrolled in secondary schools and/or equivalent non-based setting with USG support	Males	11208	12838	114.5%
	Females	11019	14440	131.0%
Indicator 16: Number of VYC reinserted into formal schooling	Males	1836	1964	107.0%
	Females	1764	1895	107.4%
Indicator 17: Modern method contraceptive prevalence rate (MCPR)	Males	42%	68.9%	164%
	Females	50%	64.3%	128.6%

Indicator 18: Number of the targeted population who completed an HIV preventive interventions that are based on evidence and/or meet the minimum standards required (PEPFAR)	M 10-14	6685	1736	26%
	F 10-14	16993	14755	86.8%
	M 15+	6799	1334	19.6%
	F 15+	17279	10704	61.9%
Indicator 19: Number of the targeted population reached with individual and/or small group level HIV prevention interventions that are primarily focused on abstinence and/or being faithful, and are based on evidence and/or meet the minimum standards required		33868	1528	4.5%
Indicator 20: Number of Most At Risk Populations (MARPs) reached with individual and/or small group level HIV preventative interventions that are based on evidence and/or meet the minimum standards required.	M IDU	400	28	7%
	F IDU	675	254	37.6%
	M MSM	500	86	17.2%
	M CSW	40	0	0%
	M CSW/MSM	300	18	6%
	F CSW	850	255	30%
Indicator 21: Number of individuals who received Testing and Counseling (T&C) services for HIV and received their test results.	M Other <15	2444	40	1.6%
	F Other <15	2444	74	3%
	M Other 15+	5498	784	14.3%
	F Other 15+	5498	1527	27.8%
	Positive	24	3	12.5%
	Negative	13860	2422	17.5%
Indicator 22: Number of persons receiving new employment or better employment (including better self-employment) as a result of participation in USG-funded workforce development programs	Males	3006	2620	87.2%
	Females	3006	3206	106.7%
Indicator 23: Number of persons completing USG-funded workforce development programs	Males	7575	7958	105.1%
	Females	7575	14097	186.1%
Indicator 24: Proportion of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic opportunities	Males	50%	22634	61.6%
	Females		36768	
Indicator 25: Number of visitors to website		80000	107504	134%
Indicator 26: Number of participants in solutions for crime and gang reduction		1675	14783	882.6%
Indicator 27: Effectiveness of working groups that include first offenders, gang members, and adolescents		Effective	Effective	CffCctivC
Indicator 28: Number of workforce development initiatives created through USG assisted public-private partnerships		9	20	222%
Indicator 29: Number of vulnerable people benefitting from USG-supported social services	Males	68251	61000	89.4%
	Females	72215	78906	109.3%
	Vulnerable children (under 18)	140466	139906	99.6%
Indicator 30: Number of people benefitting from USG-supported social assistance programming	Males	82300	73218	89.0%
	Females	91480	105033	114.8%
	HIV Affected	52	3	5.8%
Indicator 31: Percentage of USG-funded NGO or other international organization projects that include activities or services designed to reduce specific risks or harm to vulnerable populations		100.00%	120%	120%

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED BY PARTNER ORGANIZATION

Accumulated Results 5 years (October 2012 to September 2017)

ZONE/PARTNER ORGANIZATION	GOAL OF SUB-AGREEMENT (Total youth to reach)	TOTAL YOUTH SERVED	% REACHED
SANTIAGO			
Acción Callejera - Fund. Educativa, Inc.	3,993	4,597	115%
Caritas Arquidiocesana	3,690	4,736	128%
Casa Abierta Inc.	2,423	3,182	131%
Centro de Formación y Acción Social y Agraria	3,794	6,151	162%
CAPEX **	840	988	118%
	14,740	19,654	133%
PUERTO PLATA			
Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral	1,262	365	29%
Grupo Clara Inc.	1,481	639	43%
Centro de Promoción y Solidaridad Humana	6,876	6,406	93%
	9,619	7,410	77%
BOCA CHICA			
Caminante Proyecto Educativo	3,600	3,504	97%
Children International - PAN **	4,539	5,773	127%
	8,139	9,277	114%
SAN FRANCISCO DE MACORIS			
Universidad Católica Nordestana **	7,700	16,280	211%
SANTO DOMINGO ESTE			
Children International	4,214	5,044	120%
SANTO DOMINGO NORTE			
Accion Comunitaria por el Progreso **	3,400	3,308	97%
MOSTCHA	1,790	2,175	122%
	5,190	5,483	106%
SANTO DOMINGO OESTE			
Alianza para el Servicio Comunitario	1,471	1,791	122%
Junior Achievement Dominicana	9,639	8,438	88%
Project Hope	4,237	4,395	104%
Fundación Pediátrica por un Manana **	900	1,000	111%
Sur Futuro **	4,247	7,688	181%
	20,494	23,312	114%
DISTRITO NACIONAL - Guachupita			
Red de Jovenes Unidos de Guachupita	1,200	265	22%
DN/BONAO/PUERTO PLATA			
Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral **	19,530	30,256	155%
SD NORTE/SFM/SANTIAGO			
Profamilia	12,014	21,780	181%
CABARETE			
DREAM Project **	1,100	1,145	104%
TOTAL	103,940	139,906	135%

Reference of end date of sub-agreements

August, 2016
 July, 2016
 September, 2016
 March, 2017

** Organizations with new sub-agreements for the extension period



Learn how lives are being changed for thousand of at-risk youth
in the Dominican Republic at

www.alertajoven.com



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