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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
DRUGS AND RELATED CRIME: GANGS
LOCAL PREVENTION INITIATIVES

COSA: EL SALVADOR
April, 2004

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STUDY NAME:

DRUGS AND RELATED CRIME: GANGS LOCAL PREVENTION INITIATIVES

COORDINATOR:

Salvadoran Anti-Drug Commission, COSA

GENERAL OBJECTIVE:

To carry out a national inventory of local initiatives in the 262 Municipalities of El Salvador in the areas of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reinsertion. In addition to identify the existence of drug trafficking, illicit arms trafficking, gangs and their linkages with transnational organized crime. Among the linkages found were:

- 1) gangs serve as a source of new recruits for organized crime groups
- 2) gangs are used by organized crime groups to commit different crimes
- 3) gangs provide support to organized crime groups in organizational development
- 4) gangs gather useful information for organized crime groups
- 5) gangs can be used by organized crime groups as security agents
- 6) gangs are essential elements for trafficking drugs and related crimes within the structure of organized crime groups
- 7) gangs provide protection in their territories for activities executed by the organized criminal structure
- 8) gangs generate a political instability useful to organized crime groups
- 9) gangs terrify the population, and by threatening communities they serve the purposes of organized crime groups

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National coverage with site visits to 262 Municipalities of the 14 departments of El Salvador.

METHODOLOGY

Given this is such a complex phenomenon to tackle, the study used as a resource varied routes for obtaining information. Among these are:

- Bibliographic Research

Census records

Maps

Specialized reports and publications

Recopying information from the following key institutions:

- § Ministry of Governization,
- § Ministry of Housing,
- § CEPA,
- § National Civil Police,
- § Ministry of National Defense,
- § Attorney General of the Republic,
- § National Public Security Council,
- § Vice-Minister of Transport,
- § Ministry of Education,

- § Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance,
- § National Secretary of Family,
- § Ministry of Labor and Social Prevention,
- § Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- § NGOs
- Field studies. Divided by zones in order to organize the research and maximize available resources.
 - o Western Region (Departments of Santa Ana, Ahuachapán, Sonsonate)
 - o Central and Mid-Central Region (La Libertad, San Salvador, Cuscatlán, Cabañas, Chalatenango, La Paz, San Vicente)
 - o Eastern Region (Usulután, San Miguel, Morazán, La Unión)
- Systematization
 - o Created data gathering instruments
 - o Legal Framework
 - o Indicators
 - o Institutional information
 - o Preliminary reports
 - o Compiled information gathered in field studies
 - o Elaboration of final report
- Publication

ACHIEVEMENTS AND LIMITS OF THE INVESTIGATION

- o Inventory of local initiatives
- o Analysis of Gangs and Organized Crime and illicit firearms trafficking
- o Assessment of the coverage provided by local initiatives
- o Needs assessment

EXPECTED RESULTS

- o Municipal director of both public and private institutions that provide treatment, prevention, rehabilitation and social reinsertion services
- o Map detailing coverage and risks within demand and supply reduction
- o Strategies for creating an integral and egalitarian approach
- o Presentation of realistic drug demand and drug supply reduction projects

HUMAN RESOURCES (Contracted by COSA)

- 1 Project Coordinator (6 months)
- 6 Field monitors (3 months)
- 2 Data managers (3 months)

MATERIAL RESOURCES

- Computers
- Paper and office supplies
- Transportation vehicles
- Telephone, fax, internet access

RESEARCH PROJECT DURATION

- 3 months of field research, preliminary report
- 3 months for documentation and the final report

PROJECTS IDENTIFIED AND PREPARED FOR FUTURE EXECUTION

- **Approaching High-Risk Youth from the Area of Soyapango, Phase II**
Project components:
Sports, technology, values and environment
- **Gangs Reforesting El Salvador**
Project components
Sports, technology, values and environment

- **System to fund PIDB Scholarships (for Don Bosco Polytechnic Institute)**
- **Integral Prevention of Drug Use in Communities along the Salvadoran-Guatemalan border**
- **San Juan Bosco Regional Technical and Job Training Center**

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