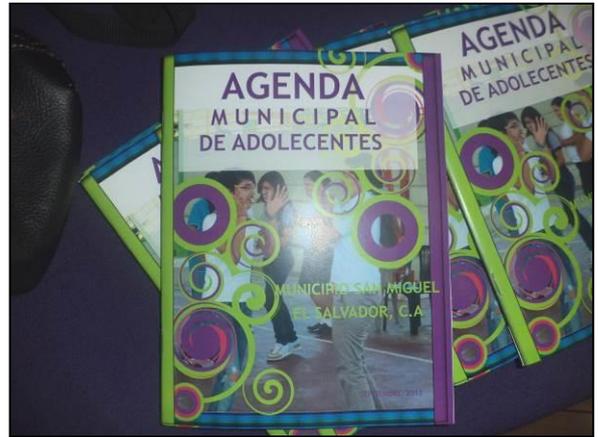




REPORT of MD19 CARE PROJECT 2012-14
CARE Phase II Action Plan
Prepared for MD-19 Lions Club



Project Name: Ending Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Girls (Phase II)
Project Location: El Salvador and Nicaragua
Amount Received: \$46,108.59 (Final Phase 2013-2014)
CARE Contact: Dana Tseng, dtseng@care.org

Introduction

Every year millions of people, particularly adolescent girls, are deceived and coerced from their home environments to be sold or subjected to some form of exploitation. An estimated 1.2 million children are victims of this scourge every year. According to the United Nations International Organization for Migration, at least 27 million people around the world have been victims of labor, sexual or commercial exploitation over the past 25 years.

Countries in Central America have adopted and approved the first two protocols of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: the protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking of people, especially women and children; and the protocol against the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air. The protocols provided inputs for the offence in the criminal law reforms of the various countries, as well as influenced special laws against trafficking of people.

In addition, the 2014 United Nations global trafficking report highlights that in North America, Central America and the Caribbean, 54 percent of identified victims had been exploited for labor, while 42 percent had been sexually abused. The report notes that it is "very likely" that trafficking for forced labor is far below the reality, given that some jurisdictions include sexual exploitation in the definition of the forced labor crime. On the other hand, survivors of trafficking have asked authorities not to classify the crime as sexual exploitation, but rather as work or forced service, which they feel will help them to resume their lives without having to go through social stigma.

In this context, CARE proposes that to achieve significant changes to combat this problem, it is necessary to change the attitudes and behaviors of public and private actors, mainly decision-makers and public opinion-makers, so that they better appreciate the basic rights of children and condemn the worst forms of child labor (which includes trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation) as a phenomenon that not only threatens the well-being of children but also society as a whole. As such, CARE’s work involves influencing public policies and to strengthen civil society organizations and networks with a sectoral agenda for the eradication of child labor in all its forms, particularly addressing the crime of trafficking and sexual exploitation.

As part of our work to combat this problem, CARE aims to build on the efforts of our four-country *Primero Aprendo* (“First I Learn”) program in Central America, which funding from MD19 Lions supported in San Miguel, El Salvador over the past year to strengthen the capacities of students at risk of trafficking, sensitize employers to not hire child labor and build the skills of adolescents and civil society networks to facilitate dialogue with local authorities. During that time, funding from MD19 Lions made it possible for CARE and our primary partner, the Association of Salvadoran Women (locally known as AMS) to train 124 female and 26 male adolescents from a 10-school network in leadership and combating sexual exploitation, resulting in the creation of their own action agenda that they have used to propose solutions for authorities to support. The grant from MD19 also enabled CARE to establish relations with 32 employers in San Miguel, who, through a training process, acknowledged their responsibility to eradicate the worst forms of child labor, and we also organized two roundtable discussions and two forums with local authorities and social actors to raise awareness and take initial steps toward addressing the eradication of commercial sexual exploitation. These efforts have been important and necessary.

Meanwhile, CARE and AMS’s work with the National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labor in El Salvador as well as the National Coalition Against Human Trafficking identified the need to (1) scale up the level of work to influence decision-makers more broadly at the regional level in order to create and integrate a framework (at national levels) for the prevention of trafficking, especially of adolescent girls; (2) ensure the creation and consensus of a road map for the implementation of this regulation among legislative bodies in each country; and (3) support the efforts of civil society networks working in the areas of prevention and treatment care of this problem.

Based on the need – and that addressing the situation in San Miguel goes beyond the current capacities of local institutions and civil society organizations – CARE established coordination agreements with the Central American Legislative Forum and the International Organization for Migration so that together we can contribute to not only obtaining approved legal frameworks, but also provide a more comprehensive response to survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation, mainly children and adolescents in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Therefore, in the next phase of MD19 Lions support, CARE aims to strengthen civil society organizations and networks so they can, in turn, better articulate, defend and promote the rights of children and adolescents among policy decision-makers. Project efforts will also connect with local partners and institutions in the Central American region, particularly in El Salvador and Nicaragua, to address the prevention of trafficking and eradication of child labor.

Phase II Project (Activities Summary)

The overall goal of the project’s Phase II is to contribute to the implementation of a legal framework for the prevention of sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and adolescent girls in the Central American region. The project will build on our work with schools and businesses in San Miguel, El Salvador as well as support related efforts in Nicaragua and the Central American region on the whole. In particular, CARE and AMS will support the capacity-building for actions undertaken by the National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labor in El Salvador, which is comprised of eight civil society organizations and two public institutions. Likewise, in Nicaragua CARE will work to facilitate dialogue and coordination with the National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labor and the National Coalition Against Human Trafficking as well as, more broadly, with the Central

American Legislative Forum and the United Nations International Organization for Migration to highlight the problem, progress and challenges among key decision makers in order to build concrete actions that improve the rights of children and adolescent girls.

The two primary results we look to achieve over the next 10 months are:

1. The National Commissions for the Eradication of Child Labor in El Salvador and Nicaragua become stronger, understand approaches for the prevention of sexual exploitation and trafficking of children, and take action to improve public policy (*ideally achieving 90 percent of its action plan for this year*); and
2. The National Coalitions Against Human Trafficking and National Commissions for the Eradication of Child Labor (in four Central American countries) participate in and influence national and regional legislative bodies to define the agenda and legal framework that addresses sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and adolescents, including prevention and treatment care (*at least half of these institutions will include prevention and care in their 2014-15 programming*).

To achieve Result 1, CARE will implement the following activities:

- Organize and facilitate meetings with the technical committees of the National Commissions for the Eradication of Child Labor in El Salvador and Nicaragua in order to finalize and implement national plans for 2014-2017, including prevention and attention to the worst forms of child labor;
- Provide follow-up sessions/meetings with the National Commissions for the approval of 2014-2017 plans, including coordination actions with governing bodies, such as the Ministry of Security's National Council Against Trafficking, to address the crime of trafficking and sexual exploitation in children and adolescents;
- Support the regional leadership of the Central American Legislative Forum in defining the legal framework and roadmap for the implementation of protocols, disseminating information and coordinating activities among National Human Rights Commissions, especially in El Salvador and Nicaragua; and
- Design and layout protocols related to the offense of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, for dissemination to schools in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

To achieve Result 2, we will implement the following activities:

- Design and layout educational materials aimed at crime prevention and treatment care of trafficking and sexual exploitation in El Salvador and Nicaragua; these materials will highlight how to reduce vulnerabilities of individuals, families and communities through coordinated actions with existing protection networks;
- Support the agenda and work of civil society organizations in El Salvador and Nicaragua for follow-up and implementation of the roadmap defined by the Central American Legislative Forum; and
- Organize national and regional exchange forums with relevant governing bodies, civil society organizations and networks to review progress, challenges and lessons learned related to the prevention and attention to the crime of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, and mechanisms for the protection of the rights of children and adolescent girls.

Indicators for Results 1 and 2:

- Action plans developed by the National Commissions for the Eradication of Child Labor in El Salvador and Nicaragua for the prevention of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and adolescents.
- Track the number of national and regional civil society networks that influence public and private bodies in support of a regional-level legal framework for the prevention and treatment care of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and adolescents.

- A roadmap for the implementation of the regional-level legal framework for the prevention and care of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and adolescents is defined and approved by National Assembly Human Rights Commissions in the four Central American countries.
- Beyond the life of this project's efforts we look to generate a percentage decrease in the number of cases of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and adolescents, particularly in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Budget

Item	Total
Personnel	\$23,600
Travel and Transportation	\$2,400
Materials	\$14,114.59
CARE USA Administration @ 13% of total grant	\$5,994
Total	\$46,108.59

This plan represents an opportunity for CARE to support regional forums, national commissions, civil society organizations and networks in a push to truly affect public policy and significantly contribute to the prevention of sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and adolescent girls in Central America, particularly in El Salvador and Nicaragua. Over time, as a result of these efforts, we look to see a percentage decrease in the number of cases of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking. On behalf of innocent children and adolescent girls, CARE thanks the Lions of Multiple District 19 for your continued partnership and dedication to this issue.

December 2014