



**Obra Media Event and Learning Conference
Proceedings**

Hosted by:

International Youth Foundation

And

Instituto DEMOS

In partnership with:

The U.S Agency for International Development (USAID)



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SECTION I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Summary

The *Obra* Central American Media and Learning Event was organized by the International Youth Foundation (IYF) and Instituto DEMOS, and took place in Guatemala City and Antigua from July 21-23, 2010. *Obra* is an initiative under the Summit of the Americas, in partnership with USAID, who is also the primary financing partner of the program. This was the second conference of the *Obra* program, following the Launch and Learning Event in Kingston, Jamaica in April 2010.¹

Participation and Objectives

More than 180 people attended the half-day media event in Guatemala City on July 21 to highlight and celebrate the launch of the Central American *Obra* Partnership. Over 90 professionals – including many youth – participated in the Learning Event in Antigua on July 22 and 23. Attendance at both events included high-level representatives from the US Embassy; USAID Washington and USAID missions in Guatemala and Peru; the Guatemalan Ministries of Education and Planning; the European Union; and the UN and other multilateral institutions. Additional participants included youth leaders, local media, youth-focused civil society organizations, and public and private sector institutions from Jamaica, St. Lucia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Peru, Costa Rica, Honduras, Colombia and Guatemala.

The overall goals for the meeting were to:

- Communicate to a broad audience from Guatemala, Central America and the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region about the establishment of the Central American Partnership and advances made in the *Obra* program to date
- Deepen the shared understanding of the challenges youth face in navigating their adolescence, teenage and early adult years – often in the midst of violence – including obtaining a quality education and finding a decent job, with a particular emphasis on youth at risk in Central America
- Raise levels of awareness about strategies and initiatives that have had a positive impact on youth at risk
- Strengthen the Program Action Plans of the three *Obra* partnerships in Central America, South America and the Caribbean

Participants reported that the conference met or exceeded their expectations, and was particularly useful in providing opportunities to learn about initiatives which have had success in positively impacting youth. The event was also helpful to the partnerships themselves in providing a venue to present advances, lessons and challenges, and to receive input into how to strengthen their plans. Particularly interesting insights were offered about how to work with the private sector, as well as effective strategies and initiatives in working with at risk youth on violence prevention. Lastly, partners were able to deepen working relationships across the region, and lay the foundations for further dialogue and exchange.

¹ See http://www.iyfnet.org/learning-resources?field_program_nid=1048 for proceedings of the Kingston event.

I. Media Event and Keynote Address

The media event was designed to inform the Guatemalan public, as well as the audiences from other Central American countries and the LAC region about the establishment of the Central American *Obra* Partnership and advances made in all three partnerships to date. USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator, LAC Bureau, Mark Lopes, reminded the audience that youth bring important assets to the table with their energy, insights and creativity, and should not simply be considered “inexperienced.” Speakers also emphasized that investing in youth is commensurate with investing in a society’s future. Guatemala and other Central American countries are all faced with a demographic youth bulge in which the majority of the population is under the age of 30. The U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala, Stephen McFarland, underscored that it is in the interest of government as well as society to dedicate significant investments in its youth by ensuring, for example, that they can access expanded opportunities in education and employment. He is encouraged that *Obra* is working with a wide range of partners to help fulfill promises made by U.S. President Obama and other leaders at the 2009 Summit of the Americas to make sure youth have the skills they need to take advantage of such opportunities.

Minister of Education Dennis Alonzo gave an insightful keynote address, starting with the image that youth are a source of power in society. Tapping into that power through education and skills training will strengthen all of society. These efforts need to start early, as issues and challenges around youth start well before the age of fifteen. The Minister offered several ideas to enhance the educational environment, including a focus on increasing trust between parents and educators and developing partnerships across sectors.

Obra’s progress over the past three months was highlighted as the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ), CEDRO (Peru) and Instituto DEMOS (Guatemala) presented their respective visions and key strategies for the sub-regional partnerships in the Caribbean, South America and Central America. Some of those innovative strategies included:

- holding a youth festival to mobilize support for young people by providing a venue for entrepreneurship workshops, counseling, training on resource acquisition and a platform for networking with key actors in the private sector (Caribbean)
- providing spaces for youth-focused organizations to strengthen their collective impact on youth, influence political candidates in the upcoming electoral process and ensure youth are prioritized politically, socially and financially (South America)
- building a multi-sectoral platform for public, private and civil society organizations to reach consensus on key collective actions to be more effective in preventing violence and providing educational and job opportunities for youth (Central America)

II. Learning Event: Challenges and Successes

The Learning event shed light on youth violence and key factors which help create this unfortunate trend, with a focus on the particular challenges of youth at risk in the LAC region, especially in Central America. The media play a powerful role in how the public views violence, and how youth view themselves. Graphic images are regularly shown in news reports, and the power that gangs inflict on victims is visible. Without positive youth role models portrayed in a more compelling manner, youth who feel trapped in poverty and isolation may believe there is only one path available to them to gain power and meaning in their lives. Adults who see these images of youth violence often fail to see at-risk youth in any other context -- and accept this negative view as the norm. Media experts challenged their colleagues to show respect for victims -- not imply guilt without due process -- and portray conditions in

a balanced way. The vast majority of youth at-risk are law-abiding citizens, improving their lives and overcoming significant obstacles. Their positive accomplishments *are* news.

Youth-focused organizations highlight the real power youth have within our societies. By recognizing the possibilities in mobilizing this power, governments, civil society, private sector and other segments of society are embracing the challenge of working with youth who need a second chance. Whether they have dropped out of school or become involved in violent groups, these youth still hold the capacity to change their lives and be a positive force in society. Given the youth bulge, they will surely play a significant role in their communities; with adequate support, that role will be a healthy and successful one.

A number of models are showing promise, especially integrated approaches in the areas of employment and entrepreneurship, as key organizations reach out to youth in depressed and violent neighborhoods. These organizations provide business training and mentorship, job skills, life skills training, internships support for job seekers, remedial education opportunities, alternative education approaches, and much more. They meet youth where they are and provide support and build skills in culturally relevant ways, often using music and art. They focus as well on filling the gaps in areas like sports and recreation, including working with public authorities to recover public spaces. Most importantly, they provide an environment where adults believe that youth can and will succeed. The power of believing in youth cannot be overstated. As noted by IYF President and CEO Bill Reese, saying “I have confidence in you” to a young person is an undeniably powerful force in the process of unlocking his or her vast potential.

This confidence in young people is often expressed by the private sector as it partners with NGOs and government to offer at-risk youth opportunities. Chambers of Commerce and the Rotary Club have partnered with civil society organizations and training institutes to form a key linkage in identifying youth who have lived a violent life and who desire that second chance. They may still have tattoos and markings of where they came from, and desire to undertake the personal transformation critical to making a break with the past. This transformation often requires psychological support and even medical procedures to remove tattoos if that is what they choose. Change is often most pronounced when youth realize how empowered they are to make positive choices and plan for a bright future. Conference participants who work directly with youth were reminded of the need to work not only *for* youth but also *with* them, accompanying them as they make decisions and grow in their belief of their power to change both themselves and society.

Youth are the harbingers of the future -- especially in countries such as Guatemala where nearly 70% of the population is below the age of 30. Participants on the Youth Panel – and others who attended the conference – testified on how the challenges they eventually overcame seemed impossible at the time, especially when the violence that surrounded them presented them with difficult choices around whether or not to continue as part of a gang or to seek a better life. Those who found effective programs, engaged adults, and whatever else they needed to work their way out of poverty and violence found a new path and a new future. They learned to dream again, whether it was life after being the leader of a gang, working out of poverty to one day become a political leader, or finding meaning in new roles as parents and wanting more healthy lives for their own children.

Workshop: Partnership Development

Participants were briefed by the three *Obra* secretariats on progress to date, lessons learned and challenges they have been facing – in the spirit of open and collaborative learning. Since the formation of the partnerships at the Kingston Launch and Learning Event in April, partners have welcomed new members to strengthen each Alliance, developed draft Partnership Action Plans, formulated commitments and defined roles and responsibilities, and started to collect and document best practices. Partners are learning how to communicate more effectively, using their websites and other technologies to inform and invite. They are also strengthening their ability to coordinate across sectors.

Challenges are common across the sub-regions. Articulating effectively the aims of *Obra* can be a challenge, as organizations often expect a US government-funded program to have a central focus on reaching tens of thousands of direct beneficiaries, with significantly more resources. Coming together for reasons beyond resource acquisition is a new concept for many, and the partnerships are looking to demonstrate “quick wins” in order to provide impetus and increase cohesion. Secretariats are actively engaging organizations outside the “target” countries of Jamaica, Guatemala and Peru, and IYF has facilitated conversations and ensured a foundation of understanding as these organizations interact with the partnership. However, building these cross country linkages within the partnerships remains a challenge which IYF and partners will focus on in the months ahead.

Conclusion

At-risk youth in Latin America and the Caribbean face enormous challenges as they approach and reach adulthood, seek educational opportunities, and struggle to overcome violence and other risks that surround them. The conference demonstrated that a variety of approaches – with many common themes – can produce very positive results in working with such youth. Some of these programs – e.g., *Escuelas Abiertas* in Guatemala – are already operating at significant scale and having wide impact across a large percentage of the population. Other models that demonstrate impact at the municipal level or within local communities also show that services can be expanded as political will increases and resources become available. *Obra* partnerships have made significant progress in three months of operation. They are building collaborative models of partnerships across sectors, and opening up new lines of communication to generate fresh possibilities.

The results of this learning event will feed directly into the third conference, to take place in Peru in November 2010.

SECTION II: SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Wednesday July 21, 2010– Media Event

Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

- Frank LaRue, President, Instituto DEMOS
- William S. Reese, President and CEO, International Youth Foundation (at podium)
- (from left to right: William Reese, Kate Raftery, Wendy Cueller, Frank LaRue, Stephen McFarland, Dennis Alonzo, Mark Lopes)



IYF Vice President for Education and Citizenship Kate Raftery opened the media event by warmly welcoming more than 180 representatives from the public, private and NGO sectors, diplomats, and the media as well as partners from across the LAC region. After the Guatemalan and American national anthems, Ms. Raftery introduced Frank La Rue of Instituto DEMOS, who said he was very pleased to inaugurate *Obra* in Guatemala. This event would bring organizations together to address the many problems that youth face such as poverty, violence, and a lack of opportunities. He noted that *Obra* is fulfilling President Obama's call from the Summit of the Americas in 2009 to establish regional partnerships. Guatemala has begun to establish such a partnership for the prevention of youth violence, with eventual expansion throughout Central America. Emphasizing the importance of violence prevention, he compared violence to a sickness - it's much more effective to prevent it than to try to cure it. The best investment the government can make is in the prevention of violence, and the best mechanism to do so is through a partnership of state, civil society, private and public sector organizations. Mr. La Rue concluded that it was an honor to accompany IYF in launching the *Obra* program in Central America.

IYF's President and CEO William Reese welcomed guests and gave a brief overview of the organization, which was founded in 1990 to promote positive youth development around the world. IYF views young people as assets that need to be equipped with life skills so that they can make right decisions. One of IYF's main objectives is to forge regional networks, like *Obra*, in order to share positive youth development strategies with the private and public sectors. IYF's promotion of the exchange of best practices also resonates with one of *Obra's* main objectives.

Mr. Reese also highlighted some of the key programs IYF is currently leading, such as *entra21* which focuses on teaching ITC and life skills to young people in Latin America as a path to a successful future. Projects in the Balkans, Pakistan and Jordan have involved over 75,000 people in youth development programs. Sharing these successful experiences among partners will further enrich the *Obra* project. Mr. Reese expressed his unwavering support for youth and commented that the size of the youth population in the region cannot be ignored. He asked the audience to think about the type of life outcomes they want for youth. Ideally if everyone works together, youth will be educated, civically engaged, self-sustaining young people with a job or small business. Mr. Reese concluded by inviting the audience to continue the conversation about youth and the *Obra* partnership at the subsequent learning conference in Antigua.

Obra and the Summit of the Americas

Presenters addressed how Obra responds to the call for hemispheric partnership contained in the Declaration of Commitment signed by President Obama and other Heads of State at the 2009 Summit of the Americas, as well as the urgency of addressing at risk youth issues more effectively for a more prosperous Latin America and Caribbean region.

- Mark Lopes, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Latin America and Caribbean Bureau, USAID
- Wendy Cuellar, Coordinator of Public Policy (SEGEPLAN)
- Stephen G. McFarland, U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala (at the podium)
- Moderator: Kate Raftery, Vice President of Learning and Citizenship, IYF



Kate Raftery welcomed the next panel and introduced Mark Lopes, recognizing his experience in the Latin America Caribbean region, his work with civil society, the private sector, and the US government, and his dedication to youth in the region in his current position. Mr. Lopes commented how pleased he was that *Obra* was fulfilling the request from President Obama to create partnerships in the region to benefit youth. He noted that in President Obama's administration, being young does not mean that one is unqualified – President Obama himself is the 5th youngest president in US history. With this young energy, the Obama administration is fulfilling its promise to focus on youth in the region and around the world. During his visit to Guatemala, Mr. Lopes visited *Grupo Ceiba*, an organization that provides training and jobs for youth. In one of the trainings Mr. Lopes visited, there was an older man who had clearly not had an easy life. Despite his age, this man attended the workshop because he recognized there were still things he needed to learn and therefore was still young at heart. In conclusion, Mr. Lopes said the *Obra* partnership aims to promote and expand youth opportunities, like Grupo Ceiba.

Wendy Cuellar began by emphasizing why it is so important to support and invest in youth. Youth make up over 70% of the population in Guatemala. Given this demographic reality, the government should invest a considerable portion of the budget to support young people. There are government and civil society programs, like CONJUVE and APREDE that are working on a political agenda for youth and promoting collaboration between the Ministries of Labor, Health, Education, Government, Sports, and Culture. Ms. Cuellar noted that SEGEPLAN supports regional and municipal proposals and is challenged to ensure coordination among sectors. Noting that this is the International Year of Youth, Ms. Cuellar

highlighted the excellent opportunity to support youth and promote civic engagement so that youth can become strategic actors in development. To reach this objective, however, would require institutional responsibility, clear goals and adequate funding. The quality of life for youth can be improved, she said, by respecting their rights, facilitating their development and ensuring that new generations understand they are the actors that will shape the quality of the future.

Kate Raftery then introduced the U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala, Stephen McFarland. She highlighted his ample knowledge of the region, gained from living throughout Latin America and in various capacities – as a youth, a professional, and currently as a diplomat. Ambassador McFarland thanked the audience for their presence and said he wanted to focus on a few important points in relation to the initiative of President Obama and other leaders in the Summit of the Americas. The U.S. alliance with other countries is determined and based on what governments offer their citizens (i.e. democracy, human rights, sustainable economy, and opportunities for all society). It is important to ensure that employment and other benefits from the private sector and the state are available to everyone because we belong to societies that ensure societal rights. *Obra* will help facilitate these opportunities by sharing experiences and best practices and coordinating with organizations that work with youth daily. The Ambassador concluded by saying that by investing in youth we are investing in a better future.



**Keynote Address by Dennis Alonzo,
Minister of Education (at podium)**

Introduced by Anabella Rivera,
Director, Instituto Demos

Anabella Rivera introduced the Minister of Education, Dennis Alonzo, as a leader who has served Guatemala as a lawyer, teacher, and professor of human rights and who is dedicated to working with youth.

Minister Alonzo said that to act in the name of youth, it is necessary to view youth as a real power and know that they can be protagonists of something positive. It is necessary to develop sustainable programs so that youth have work and an education for the benefit of their families and society that

supports them. It is important to create a long term commitment through a public/ private partnership that focuses on the exchange of best practices among partners - a partnership like *Obra*. Such partnerships foster learning opportunities and allow best practices in education, technology, social integration, and employment to be shared among different sectors. The strength of the *Obra* Partnerships will be the building blocks for a better future.

Since youth problems do not start at 15 years of age, priority should be given to the family and children as a first step in violence prevention. It is also necessary to overcome years of colonization and armed conflict in order to move forward to a new era. The Minister suggested one way to do this is to organize parenting classes, develop inter-institutional partnerships, promote tolerance, and create environments where there is mutual respect among teachers, parents, and students. Youth deserve everyone's attention. They also need open spaces, and the tools to overcome obstacles so that youth do not fall into the hands of organized crime. The Minister concluded by congratulating DEMOS and *Obra* for the partnership initiative and for their efforts to ensure Central American youth have the best opportunities.

Obra Youth of the Americas Partnerships in Central America, the Caribbean and South America

IYF presented the vision of the Obra Program, followed by CEDRO and PSOJ presenting the partnership visions of South America and the Caribbean respectively. The session concluded with Instituto DEMOS laying out the vision of the Central American Partnership to address youth violence and unemployment issues and key approaches and strategies to address them.

Moderator: Kate Raftery, Vice President of Learning and Citizenship, IYF

(from left to right: Elohim Monard, Kate Raftery, Sandra Glasgow, Frank LaRue)



The presentation of the Youth of Americas Partnerships began with Sandra Glasgow, who represented the Caribbean partnership as CEO of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ). In the past months, a rise in violence in Jamaica encouraged the government to launch a campaign against crime. This initiative gave the private sector the opportunity to demonstrate its cooperation in the country's most affected communities. According to police records, 75% of crimes are committed by people less than 30 years old, and most unemployed people are youth. The prime objective for the Caribbean partnership is to prevent such violence by increasing employability, youth entrepreneurship, employment opportunities, awareness of the youth population, and by creating a dynamic partnership that supports youth development in Jamaica. PSOJ has been meeting with its partners to collaboratively develop such a strategy.

Partnership members are planning a youth festival and youth center that will encapsulate the objectives of the *Obra* Caribbean partnership. The youth center will offer career development counseling, workshops, and resources with available employment opportunities that will be showcased at the youth festival. The festival will expose youth to entrepreneurship ideas, and raise consciousness of civil responsibility and public awareness. The partnership will also support a proposal submitted by at risk youth to start a daycare center. Support will include microfinance and mentoring for two years while the business gets started. The partnership has also launched a fundraising initiative to support and extend the *Obra* Project. Ms. Raftery mentioned that every partnership has its own projects according to its needs. *Obra* supports each partnership according to the circumstances in the region.

Elohim Monard of CEDRO presented the plan for the South America *Obra* partnership. The partnership is strong because of its members and the involvement of the Ministry of Education. The vision of this partnership is to increase the opportunities youth have in employment, health and education. Even though it is an integrated process, it will emphasize education as a priority. The South American partnership will include topics in education such as: classroom learning, drop-out prevention, and technical education in order to increase opportunities for youth. It will focus on identifying successful

experiences that include youth testimonies during the process of project implementation which will then be used to raise public awareness; strengthening the connection between partners and others which will generate a culture of teamwork; and getting the topic of youth on the political agenda with the objective of amplifying the impact of best practices through replication, scalability and public policies. The goal is not to reinvent the wheel. If a program works, it should be shared for others to replicate.

Mr. Monard concluded by saying it is not the same to be young and to be young-at-heart (in Spanish, *ser joven* versus *estar joven*). To *be* young is a biological, cultural, and social process. To *be young at heart* is to retain power of youth, continuing to dream and generate future projects. In this sense, Mr. Monard commented that his father is 85 years old and is still young-at-heart; he dreams of projects to do when he is 100. In order for an older man to dream with Peru, it is important that youth can also dream. Latin America can dream when youth dream – but this requires that youth are not at risk and are transformed into agents of change. The South America partnership works in an intergenerational way, in a serious but fun dialogue within a climate of trust. If the partners cooperate and realize that together they can do more for youth, then they can generate real impact on the public policies they seek to influence.

Frank La Rue, representing the Central American *Obra* Partnership, began by recognizing his DEMOS team for making the event possible. Central America – especially Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras – is in a critical situation. Prevention of violence offers opportunities and alternatives to youth; it gives them a cause other than violence. The causes of violence are many, but three stand out. First, most violence is caused by youth who have been victims of violence during their childhood either within the family or at school. The second reason for violence is the high school dropout rate. Lastly, when youth reach age 15, they want to be independent but find they are not prepared for employment, which leads them to participate in reckless activities that lead to violence. The mechanisms to coordinate and work together are missing in Guatemala. If organizations work on a united front, they will be able to get much more accomplished for youth – and *Obra* will serve as a mechanism to do this. The strategy of the Central American partnership is to work at the same table and invite all sectors to design a strategy for youth. Mr. La Rue mentioned that the Partnership also includes members from El Salvador and Honduras, so that resources and ideas from outside Guatemala can influence the strategy. *Obra* gives youth organizations and initiatives the ability to combine forces and create a common strategy.

Cultural Presentation

The Folkloric Ballet of Guatemala performed three traditional Guatemalan cultural dances: *Son de Canastos de San Pedro* which represented the use of baskets by Guatemalan women in different activities wearing typical dresses; *Chichicastenango* which represented the devotion to Pascual Abaj, the god worshiped by the indigenous people in Quiche; and *Danza de Mayordomos y Ekbal Tiox* -- better known as *El Torito*-- a very colorful and festive dance.



Welcoming Remarks

This session welcomed participants, framed discussions for the learning event, and situated Obra within the larger Summit of the Americas context and commitment by President Obama and other heads of state in the hemisphere

- William S. Reese, President and CEO, International Youth Foundation (US)
 - Anabella Rivera, Directora, Instituto DEMOS (Guatemala) (at podium)
 - Felicia Wilson, Education Development Officer, USAID/Guatemala
 - Moderator: Elohim Monard, South American *Obra* Coordinator (Peru)
- (Left to right: Anabella Rivera, Elohim Monard, William Reese, Felicia Wilson)



Elohim Monard opened the Learning Conference by introducing the first panel, which placed the *Obra* program in the context of the Summit of the Americas. William Reese welcomed all the youth leaders present and explained that positive youth development is the framework for IYF. Society too often views youth as problems or pathologies (school dropouts, unemployed, gang members, pregnant teens). Positive youth development is all about helping young people find their own life skills and make their own decisions.

Obra grew out of the Summit of the Americas, with President Obama and other leaders of the region prioritizing employability. There was a commitment to unify agendas in two main aspects: academic and vocational, through formal and non-formal education. We need to reach children who drop out of school or must work part time. We must improve the ways young people learn, stay healthy, and are civically engaged. Young people should receive a package of skills that include teamwork, employment responsibility, problem solving skills, and social and civic skills. Mr. Reese commented that working in alliances is a comprehensive strategy that yields great results and that he hopes every organization in the room will at some point be part of the IYF global partner alliance. The first stage of *Obra* has started with the Guatemalan, Peruvian and Caribbean network, but ultimately in a later stage, this program will be a cohesive Latin American program. Reflecting on Mr. Reese's comments about youth as a positive change agents, Mr. Monard said this attitude is very empowering for them. Having this attitude shows

trust and confidence, and there is nothing more important than looking into a youth's eyes and saying "I have confidence in you." When you show you have confidence in youth, few will fail. Mr. Monard called on the audience to show their confidence in youth through their work.

Mr. Monard then introduced Felicia Wilson, USAID's Education Development Officer in Guatemala, who spoke about the *Obra* initiative in the context of the U.S. government. She began by reflecting on the presentations from the day before and how the media event served as an opportunity to see the level of commitment of IYF, DEMOS, and the other partner organizations, in addition to *Obra's* commitment with the Guatemala government to support and encourage youth development in the region. This set a strong foundation to move *Obra* forward by coming together as partners, developing a program of ideas and dialogue that will engage everyone in the room. With regard to a united vision for *Obra*, the secretariats articulated the change they seek: more opportunities for youth, policy with youth influence, a change in dialogue, a greater level of engagement within partner countries, and a change in international policy and the opportunities that are available.

Obra is the opportunity to lend a hand, to create a sustainable positive partnership, with results, and to empower and engage all present. USAID/Guatemala sees *Obra* as a collective opportunity to share values, knowledge and skills. Activities are already taking place in different countries like Colombia, El Salvador, and St. Lucia – and when we put all this knowledge in one room, it is a powerful driving force. Once this force is unleashed in a collaborative and progressive way, there is nothing that cannot be accomplished in this region. Ms. Wilson invited everyone to view *Obra* as a facilitator of best practices, as well as a partner where a common thread links all the partners together but with recognition of the differences of each region. She concluded by thanking everyone for their presence and their willingness to help build the strong foundation of *Obra*.

Before Anabella Rivera spoke, she invited a young woman from the *Escuelas Abiertas* program to say a few words. Irene called upon the youth and audience to take advantage of this opportunity to find solutions for youth, because they are the future of Guatemala. Ms. Rivera then presented the members of the Central America partnership present at the conference (Grupo Ceiba, Alianza Joven, POLJUVE, Escuelas Abiertas, DIGEEX and DEMOS along with its youth affiliate DEMOJOVEN). Ms. Rivera commented that youth are the key to the future, and the Guatemala partnership is starting this new path with them, realizing the good inside each and inviting young people to join in the alliance. The uniqueness of *Obra* is that it allows for participants to work together and deal with problems and situations together. Ms. Rivera recognized the great work that the partners were already doing, and said that as Guatemalans they can work together with *Obra* to construct a safe and productive country.

Youth and Media in Prevention of Violence

This session provided insights into youth violence and how it is reported in the media, and what role the media could play in addressing security and gang issues which face youth

- Claudia Navas, Coordinator of NANA, and Professor at Universidad Rafael Landívar (Guatemala) (with microphone)
- Haroldo Sánchez, Director of Guatevisión (Guatemala)
- Miguel González, Centro Civitas (Guatemala)
- Cecilia Santamarina, Fundación PROCINE (Guatemala)
- Moderator: Frank LaRue, Board Presidente, Instituto Demos (Guatemala)



Frank LaRue opened the panel explaining that the objective was to learn about the media and how violence and youth are perceived in the media from four well-known leaders in Guatemala. Cecilia Santamarina, an expert in film, began by mentioning it is very important to take into consideration that four generations ago, the images surrounding youth were very different than those today; too often now youth are not perceived in a positive light. A recent study shows that youth have fears of not being part of a social group, and fears of gangs, police, an abuser, or a violent parent. Television does not help this social reality; because it has too much meaningless content that influences youth and instills these fears. Reality shows, soap operas, and sports also give little opportunity for youth to open their imagination to create positive images and thoughts. The majority of characters geared toward youth audiences are negative images of youth or parents. Ms. Santamarina concluded that creative images like a Guatemalan superhero are what youth need to develop positive life images.

Haroldo Sanchez spoke about the media and youth by relating a realization he came to after the capture of a gang member known as Smiley, whose face was completely covered with tattoos. The day after Smiley's capture, his picture appeared on the front page of every newspaper and news program. As a member of the media, Mr. Sanchez wondered why violence is always the first thing to be reported. When a criminal is given so much fame, it provides the message to other youth that in order to get on the news, one has to become a criminal. Mr. Sanchez admitted that changing the way news is reported is difficult, but it is the first step to changing the stigma of youth. By only reporting youth in the context of violence, it gives the public the impression that violence is the only way youth can act. However, since ratings are always higher when the news is more dramatic and violent, consumers are also a part

of the problem. In his news show, Mr. Sanchez tries to present both the good and the bad, and to expand opportunities to youth. For example, everyone who works for his news station is a youth who has little previous experience -- thus providing them with the opportunity to learn and receive training.

Claudia Navas analyzed 11 articles about reported deaths caused by gangs. All were youth under age 18 and described in the news as having been shot in the head, burned, mutilated, sexually abused and/ or tortured. Although it is important to report this information, a thorough report should be made by questioning the police, firemen, family members, neighbors, specialists, and teachers to provide the context of the incident. An explanation of laws, treaties, and the government plan should be included to provide additional context. The language and words used to report are also important to consider. Details about a person who committed a violent act, such as having tattoos, long hair, or scars, cause people to group those images and associate them with violent people. Suddenly youth that have any of these physical qualities are considered violent. These collective images need to be reported in moderation. Ms. Navas concluded by saying that society, not just the media, plays a large part in youth violence – society supports what is convenient, and whatever is not convenient, is lamented. Too infrequently do people make a call for peace, solidarity, and responsibility for the good of all; this effort is for the benefit of everyone and should be a united effort.

Miguel Gonzalez began by saying that as human beings, all have the capacity to inform others and communicate in some way or another. However, it is the way this information is communicated that is important. Articles about youth are frequently found in the margins of the newspaper only when they have broken a law or social norm, or are victims of violence. Readers see the consequences of violence but it is rare that the causes or ways to prevent such violence are mentioned. Mr. Gonzalez claimed that Guatemala has become a country of citizens who want to know every day how many people were killed, a country that bets on terror. He asked the audience to not permit this, to change the social culture of violence, for youth. Journalists should also contribute to strengthening the community and enriching public debate on topics that promote integrated human development -- such as focusing news stories on successful youth programs (like *Escuelas Abiertas* and *Escuelas Seguras*). The youth voice needs to be taken into consideration – as well as their frustrations about lack of employment, their hopes to live in a better country, their worries and topics that grab their attention. Mr. Gonzalez emphasized that the media has the potential to contribute to youth empowerment in Guatemala and throughout the region.

Frank LaRue ended by saying that the press is a social service that guarantees the population is informed through freedom of expression. Violence in the media is a worldwide, not just a Guatemalan, problem. He then opened the floor for questions. One youth commented that youth are invisible in the press, especially indigenous youth who only appear when it is a situation of crisis and poverty. He commended Haroldo Sanchez, the only reporter to cover the story when this particular youth's group planted thousands of trees in one day. Velvet Castillo, from *Escuelas Abiertas*, commented that adults need to mix the fresh mind of youth with the mature mind of adults and that journalists should take into consideration the opinion of youth especially since many youth dream of becoming journalists. Susana Doñe shared that in the Dominican Republic, the media is owned by the most important businesses that are more inclined to respond to the needs of their own interests rather than those of society. The media needs to be more responsible, and the government needs to ensure this happens.

Proven Practices in Effective Youth Programming

This panel reviewed the most critical issues facing at-risk youth across Latin America and the Caribbean and offered key insights into proven approaches which have positively impacted youth education and employability issues.

- Ivan Mifflin, Peru Institute for Business Action (IPAE) (Peru)
- Carla Campbell, HEART/NTA (Jamaica)
- Jose Orive, Vice President, AMCHAM/Americas (Guatemala)
- Fr. Antonio Rodríguez, Youth Training Center Rafael Palacios (El Salvador)
- Claudio Magnífico, Program Director, Escuelas Abiertas (Guatemala)
- Moderator: Vivien Rueda, Alianza Joven (Guatemala)

(From left to right: Scott LeFevre (at podium), Vivien Rueda, Claudio Magnifico, Ivan Mifflin, Carla Campbell, Fr. Antonio Rodriguez, Jose Orive)



Ivan Mifflin began the panel by providing background on his organization. IPAE is a private nonprofit association that promotes and strengthens the business and education system in order to contribute to the sustainable development of Peru. IPAE's vision is to create employment programs for youth that come from troubled backgrounds. It includes a business training center that focuses on technical business and employment skills for youth. IPAE partners with various organizations that offer youth internships and employment, such as PROJOVEN's program for youth to learn about business and sales, as well as extracurricular sessions on theater, speech and sports. At the end of this particular program, 78% of the 150 youth gained internships in 19 different companies. Many youth even stayed at their jobs after the three month internship. Mr. Mifflin's suggestions to replicate this project included: maintain a level of variety in the project activities, involve educational institutions that have connections with the private sector, involve youth from all different backgrounds, and develop a way to transfer successful experiences and methodologies to youth participants.

Carla Campbell then explained that her organization, HEART/NTA, is a skills building program where youth can access a variety of training options: community-based training, institution-based training and enterprise-based training. The latter includes the areas of apprenticeship, workforce development, and a school leavers' program. One of the most successful programs is the Learning for Earning Activity

Program Centre which was specially designed for youth at risk to provide immediate income while empowering healthy life choices. Components of the training include: rehabilitation/reintegration through crisis intervention, career counseling, sports, and parenting workshops; academic training through math, language and IT; and skills training (the learning and earning component). To date, 73% of learners say they are prepared with the right attitude for work, and 54% indicate that the training equips them with enough skills to start their own business.

Jose Orive then described the work of AACCLA, a very large organization that regroups all the chambers of commerce in the Americas and Caribbean. AACCLA also implements a range of programs designed for youth based on the needs of a specific country. Some of the common themes that AACCLA youth programs focus on are self-esteem, empowerment, social integration, and practical life skills. Some of the Guatemala programs include working with Rotary Clubs to reintegrate ex-guerillas and their families into society, and Businessman for a Day, which allows youth to shadow a business professional and see first-hand all that is accomplished in one business day. Habitat for Humanity is another successful program which recruits volunteers to build houses for those in need. Mr. Orive concluded saying that if we open spaces for youth to participate in these activities, then Guatemala, Peru and Jamaica and the region as a whole will be better countries.

Father Antonio Rodriguez began by talking about 13-year-old Ileana, whose father was a member of Mara-18 and killed by gang members, whose mother emigrated, and whose grandmothers sold drugs. Ileana subsequently started dating a boy from MS-18 who came to Fr. Antonio asking for birth control advice. He told the story to emphasize the exposure youth have to gang violence in El Salvador. Today's youth are highly diverse; they are gang members, gay, and punk. Few people know exactly what to do *with* youth, but they understand what needs to be done *for* them. Father Antonio leads an NGO called Servicio Social Pasionista which employs youth from all walks of life. Their methodology includes technical training, youth participation, workforce orientation, and comprehensive healthcare for youth. Father Antonio mentioned how many ex-gang members enter his program needing time for psychological recuperation, while others work towards getting their tattoos removed. His program is replicable as long as one element is included: youth empowerment. Empowering youth is both easy and a challenge -- but it's an adventure that is worth the effort.

Claudio Magnifico highlighted his successful program *Escuelas Abiertas* (Open Schools), which has 240,000 beneficiaries in 192 locations across the country. Based on a 2007 study that showed 80% of violence occurs on the weekends by youth and against youth, Mr. Magnifico implemented a weekend program for youth with Marco Castillo of Grupo Ceiba (another *Obra* alliance member). The program began with no resources and is now funded by the Guatemala government (\$25 million), and is implemented in part by the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and the Council for Social Cohesion. It offers art, sports, and cultural programs for 10 to 24 year olds. There are certain steps that need to be taken to open a school such as: complete a study of the possible location; do a community map to determine what they will encounter in the community; ensure that the school and fields are in good condition; promote the program in the community; select the workshops; and coordinate with the school. An example of this was demonstrated, as six youth did a break dance performance --s based on unity, peace, and fun for the country through positive and unique movement. The audience showed their support for the talent of these youth with much applause throughout the performance.

Vivien Rueda concluded by talking about the institution she represents, *Alianza Joven*, which has partnerships with the private sector. The program works with youth between the ages of 7-19 and

provides participants technical training, prevention programs for gang members, and social rehabilitation within communities. It has impacted 1,500 youth to date in some of the most dangerous areas of Guatemala. Ms. Rueda ended the panel by congratulating all the panelists for the success of their programs and for sharing their stories with the audience.

Youth Panel

Young speakers from the region talked about youth violence, how they have overcome obstacles and what programs and policies should be in place to address the issue.

- Shawn McGregor, RISE (Jamaica)
- Luis Alberto Lagurtegue Zevallos, Jesuit Network (Peru)
- Sandra Martinez, Latin American Youth Center, Washington, DC (USA)
- Azdrubal Corvera (El Salvador)
- Moderator: Elubia Velazquez, Association for the Prevention of Crime – APREDE (Guatemala)

(From left to right: Shawn McGregor, Luis Zevallos, Sandra Martinez, Azdrubal Corvera)



Scott LeFevre began the discussion by commenting that the spirit of the youth panel is a conversation with youth who are truly the experts on the topics of this conference. Elubia Velasquez, the facilitator, began by congratulating the youth for being selected to serve on the panel and asked each one to answer the question: “If you had to ride an elevator and found yourself in front of decision-makers in your country, what message would you give? You only have the amount of time it would take the ride the elevator (30 seconds).” The panelists responded as follows:

Shawn McGregor: “As youth we find ourselves in a crisis and at a crossroads, a period of great challenges but more so a period of tremendous opportunities, opportunities to transform this place into the promises that await us. Let us seize that opportunity and embrace our youth, the programs that will ensure effective transitions from adolescence to youth and from youth to successful adults.”

Luis Alberto Lagurtegue: “I would tell the leaders of my country that they should invest in education, sports, and the free time for youth; safe spaces for youth are lacking.”

Sandra Martinez: “I come from the Latin American Youth Center, Washington DC. In 30 seconds, what I want to tell our leaders, our community members is that we need people who can work with youth, and support them and their families and their determination to live, work, and study with dignity, hope and joy. We are the future; if we don’t have that it’s a lost cause.”

Azdrúbal Corvera: “If I had 30 seconds, I would say, ‘Hi, how are you? I am Azdrubal, I am a youth just like many other youth that are out there, waiting to be discovered. There are many youth with a lot of talent and they hope that you make decisions that support them, that you discover them, because one day these youth will be like you. Take advantage of this space so that these youth will one day know that there was someone that challenged them to be youth, and we want to be subjects of rights in order to make actual changes in our country.’”

The panel continued with other questions from Ms. Valesquez and members of the audience. The panelists talked about the greatest challenge in their lives and how they overcame it. Mr. Zevallos shared how his biggest challenge in life was being a part of a gang and then leaving it. He was the leader of the gang and he said it was difficult because his community did not trust him or his gang. Ultimately he decided to change his life and left the gang because he had to think of the lives of his children. He did not want them to continue on the same path he had started.

An audience member asked the youth what motivated and scared them about the future. Mr. McGregor mentioned how he is a very optimistic person. Even though he has not been involved in gangs, he has been surrounded by guns and drugs, which was not easy. He also said he has always thought of becoming Prime Minister of Jamaica, the first innocent prime minister, and that vision keeps him motivated despite his challenges of poverty. He has that vision on his wall and with it he does not fear the future.

A youth in the audience, who had also faced difficult situations throughout her life, wanted to know who/what in the panelists’ lives helped them to overcome obstacles. Sandra Martinez said that youth are not able to choose their families, and sometimes the families given to them are not the best influences. But as youth get older, there are other opportunities to find other families, like the youth in Escuelas Abiertas, and those are the people who help you through life. Being poor is not the end to all opportunities. Ms. Martinez mentioned that her motivational family has been the staff at LAYC; they gave her inspiration to do more than just graduate from high school.

Another participant asked to hear the panel’s suggestions on how to reach the youth who need to be reached but do not want to be reached. Azdrubal Corvera suggested that organizations should implement programs that are realistic according to the realities youth face. He gave the example that technical programs should not be based solely on filling out Excel spreadsheets but should contain substance aimed at bettering the lives of youth. Finally he said that the programs should promote participation, foment empathy, and inspire youth to be inquisitive and active citizens.

Obra to Date: Secretariat Presentations and Feedback

In this session, IYF and the three Secretariats presented progress made thus far on strengthening the overall program and the Youth of the Americas Partnerships, as well as challenges faced and opportunities on the horizon. Participants provided reactions and feedback.

Moderator: Scott LeFevre, *Obra* Program Director, IYF (at podium)



The next session included representatives from the secretariat organizations who described the progress, learnings, challenges, and opportunities they have faced while developing the partnerships in their respective countries and the issues they foresee as they move forward. Scott LeFevre mentioned three main areas that have been discussed among the secretariats: the vision and where *Obra* wants to go with the partnerships; definition of partnerships and how to establish interregional alliances; and the definition of best practices. Mr. LeFevre also shared challenges that the partnerships are experiencing – including strengthening the partnerships and developing a plan to expand the partnerships; involving other organizations and defining what their role will be; establishing expectations for the sub regional partners; and making sure the partnerships are transparent and can overcome regional barriers.

Sandra Glasgow spoke first, representing the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) -- the secretariat organization for the Caribbean partnership. She explained PSOJ's vision to be the unifying voice of the private sector working in partnership with the public sector and civil society. After the April launch of *Obra* in Kingston, the Caribbean partnership held several meetings including a potential stakeholder's meeting in June, and two partner meetings. To date, government agencies, NGOs, private companies, the media, universities, and churches have all been invited to join the Caribbean partnership. There have been 9 new requests for membership in the partnership and 23 confirmed partners to date. Currently the partnership is composed of 52% of NGOs, 26% public sector, and 22% of the private sector organizations. The NGO partners have direct access to the target group, the public sector has access to policy formulation and working with key government institutions, and the private sector has access to different industries and funds. The partnership plans to focus on youth employability, employment and entrepreneurship.

Ms. Glasgow said that thus far, the largest challenges faced have been ensuring effective communication with Caribbean partners outside Jamaica, and maintaining relevance for their participation. Another challenge has been explaining *Obra* to stakeholders, and understanding that this

program does not have a large amount of funding. The Caribbean partnership has also had several opportunities. One has been to serve as the facilitator for several agencies to meet for the first time and coordinate collaboration. This coming together of the private, public and NGO communities is a new concept for Jamaica. The partnership has decided to work as a cohesive entity to raise additional funds for its activities so that it will be able to demonstrate short-term “wins” that will provide impetus for sustaining the partnerships.

Anabella Rivera, from Instituto DEMOS, represented the Central America partnership. She explained that *Obra* is so important for Central America because organizations are not used to working together and increasing their collective impact through learning exchange. The Central America partnership includes organizations from civil society, government, and international entities. The biggest challenge to date has been to achieve the goal of elaborating on the National Youth Agenda and developing a comprehensive plan to decrease youth violence. Another challenge has been convening partners in the midst of huge demands, especially when there are emergencies (eg, volcanic eruptions, tropical storm Agatha) and communities to attend to. The Guatemala partnership aims to strengthen the public youth sphere, generate a space for youth dialogue, and make sure public policies directly respond to the needs of youth. The challenge is to be creative and to do more than just talk about the issues.

Elohim Monard from CEDRO said the challenges the South American partnership is facing are similar to those of Central America and the Caribbean. These include opening the partnership outside of Lima to include ideas and opinions from other regions of Peru, including more partners, establishing a method for how to include more youth organizations without generating expectations that they cannot fulfill, and developing a leverage strategy. The belief of the South American partnership is: “If Peru dreams, its youth dream, if Colombia dreams, its youth dream, and if Latin America dreams, its youth dream.” Mr. Monard said that the synergy the partners have demonstrated at meetings has been remarkable. There is an understanding that best practices exist and that alone, it is hard to have a large impact, but together it is easier to visualize, duplicate, have impact, and learn from one another. The main themes that the partnership will focus on are education, work, and healthy living. The partnership vision is to contribute together to amplify opportunities for youth in these critical areas. The objective is to increase the impact of the successful interventions with youth 14 to 29 years old through replication, scalability, and adoption of public policies.

Mr. LeFevre thanked the secretariat representatives and gave a brief synopsis of the day. The day was concluded by a theater presentation by youth from Ipala, which centered on profound themes that youth encounter daily such as domestic violence, school dropout and extreme poverty. After the presentation many of the youth groups asked if they could replicate the work that the theater youth group was doing. It was a true example of sharing best practices among youth organizations.

Welcome and Overview of the Day's Agenda

- Axel Marroquin, Director of CONJUVE, Office of the President (Guatemala) (*at podium*)
- Axel Romero, Director of Escuelas Seguras, Ministry of the Interior (Guatemala)

Introduction: Kate Raftery, Vice President of Learning and Citizenship, IYF



Ms. Raftery welcomed the audience to the second day of the conference and reminded participants that *Obra* is not only a call by President Obama to create regional partnerships, but a call supported by all the leaders of the Latin America and Caribbean region. She then introduced two important members of the Guatemalan public sector in order to better understand their experiences regarding the region's call for partnership with a youth focus.

Axel Marroquin represented CONJUVE; a government institution is a presidentially mandated entity in charge of directing all youth policies in Guatemala. CONJUVE supports and coordinates the initiatives that contribute to youth so that they can overcome social situations that would normally inhibit them from developing and succeeding. Mr. Marroquin highlighted Escuelas Seguras, Escuelas Abiertas and Becas Solidarias as programs that are supported by the government and are demonstrating success. In collaboration with SEGEPLAN, another government entity, CONJUVE is in the process of developing a National Youth Policy. However it has been difficult to create a stable institution that is able to include and coordinate with other institutions and organizations. Also, there is no action plan to carry out the Youth Policy. CONJUVE's main goal is to create a youth platform, based on the community's organization.

Axel Romero presented the government program Escuelas Seguras (Safe Schools) which aims to prevent violence in public schools across the country. The program – modeled on a program in Mexico and adapted for Guatemala – started with an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of the Interior, and the National Peace fund. The objective is to convert public schools into safe spaces, free of violence and addiction, and to create a favorable atmosphere for education. This is achieved by improving the

physical conditions of the school, improving the image of students, and managing the prevention of violence in the school. The program is directed at family members, students, teachers and key community members. To date, 49 schools have qualified as a “safe school”. The criteria considered when qualifying schools are: incidence of crime, reporting of violence within the school, and a school assessment. There must be collaboration between the school and community organizations to ensure criteria are met and they have truly established a “safe school”. Police play an integral role in ensuring that the school and community maintain safety by teaching youth workshops that teach positive vs. negative leadership and how to give peer advice. Extracurricular activities also help minimize violence.

During the Q&A session, one participant asked CONJUVE about its institutional strategy. Mr. Marroquin noted that although the government has a youth policy, and CONJUVE is mandated to implement it, he recognized that the agency has experienced some difficulty finding a consensus on what its exact role should be. Mr. Romero commented that CONJUVE must re-affirm its coordination role as well and facilitate partnerships in order to ensure that the youth policy is implemented across sectors.

Partnership Development

The three secretariats led discussions within the Partnerships to brainstorm on how they would overcome current challenges and take advantage of the opportunities at hand.

Partner report out on strengthening plans

IYF and Secretariat organizations reported on the discussion Thursday afternoon, and the concrete steps which will be taken to strengthen the program and the Partnership Action Plans.

Moderator: Scott LeFevre, *Obra* Program Director, IYF

(At podium: Sandra Glasgow)



Scott LeFevre asked participants to meet with their secretariats in order to further develop each region's action plan and to present their strategies to the audience at the end of the session. After the partner meetings, Mr. LeFevre said that one of the challenges discussed among secretariats is the focus on expanding beyond the target countries to have more of a regional focus. To date, the inclusion of new countries into the partnerships has been difficult. Mr. LeFevre mentioned that IYF will work with the secretariats and USAID missions to ensure that a clear strategy is developed. Another challenge is determining a better balance between developing the partnership and developing the action plan.

Mr. LeFevre then introduced Sandra Glasgow, who mentioned that one of the main challenges for the Caribbean partnership is overcoming language barriers with Spanish speaking partners. The solution will be for the partnership to define dates for partner meetings which will be held via Skype and will use Google translator to ensure that documents are translated into Spanish. The partnership also plans to form a subcommittee for financing and developing strategies to engage the entire Jamaican community. They also hope to organize a "Mediathon" in September. Susana Doñe from the Dominican Republic organized a similar event and will be sharing her experience. The subcommittees will be working in detail to plan the youth festival and entrepreneurship program and coordinate programs with the private sector. Finally the partnership hopes to meet with ministers of youth from St. Lucia and Jamaica to talk about a learning platform and progress being made with youth initiatives.

Elohim Monard spoke about the South American partnership. The main objective of the partnership is to increase impact by influencing youth public policy with *Obra* proposals. One of the projects will be to have youth make videos sharing their experiences, to be posted on YouTube as part of the youth campaign. The partnership also hopes to create a synergy between the organizations that work with

youth which will in turn strengthen learning. Also the partnership wants to visit the other partners' projects and understand what each one is doing. Youth will be the primary focus of the agenda while taking into consideration education, work, and healthy living. The goal to impact youth policy will be carried out by influencing candidates and campaign messages, identifying which department of the government to target, and using a lot of creativity and resources. The first step will be to work with the Ministry of Education, as there are already partners in the *Obra* partnership working for the Ministry.

Anabella Rivera, representing the Central America partnership, explained that the goal of the partnership is to help with the design of the national youth policy, to make the policy actually viable, and to convert the agenda into a national law for youth. The partnership also aims to involve different organizations from different sectors (i.e. academic, religious, and media) to add to the initiative. The partnership will involve these sectors over time as it sees fit. With these different sectors, the partnership will start a national dialogue with the government, congress, and judicial sector to establish a national youth agenda as a mechanism to implement public policy. The Guatemalan partnership would also like to work with other Central American countries to expand the partnership and increase the exchange of ideas to support youth.

Panel Discussion: Prevention of Youth Violence

Panelist discussed the issues facing youth across the sub-region, especially youth at risk – e.g., those growing up in violent neighborhoods – as well as programs which are working to provide youth viable options to build their future

- Mayela Coto (Costa Rica)
- Marco Castillo, Director, Grupo Ceiba (Guatemala)
- Claudia Bueno, Fundación Restrepo Barco (Colombia)
- Roger Ordoñez, Representative of the Torture Victim Center for Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation (Honduras)
- María del Pilar Espinoza, Center for the Prevention of Violence (Nicaragua)

Moderator: Isabel Aguilar, Regional Coordinator, PONJUVE/Interpeace (Guatemala)

(From left to right: Mayela Coto, Marco Castillo, Claudia Bueno, Roger Ordoñez, Maria del Pilar Espinoza)



Mayela Coto started by sharing the experience of a pilot program, COPAZA, which was being implemented in a growing tourist community that was based on agriculture and fishing but was dealing with a high school dropout rate, unemployment, and lack of job opportunities. During the tourism boom, the community experienced problems of delinquency, drug trafficking, and different forms of violence that caused insecurity and fear among community members. Some problems that stemmed from social institutions were conflicts with the municipality due to a disconnect between institutional programs and actual needs of the community, the lack of initiative from apathetic community members who believed the government should handle everything, disintegration among community members, lack of safe spaces for youth and misdirected blame towards the new businesses and hotels. Eventually a violence prevention plan was created. The program aimed to get the government sectors to work together, reclaim public spaces, and encourage art, recreation and culture for youth. A community dialogue developed with actions aimed at strengthening social organization and making the community into one in which values, opportunities, and traditions could thrive. The community succeeded in regaining recreational spaces, forming youth theater groups, opening a communal theater, starting a community festival, and developing a strategic partnership between private sector and community organizations, increasing the confidence of institutions in general. The community also created a security commission and criminal offenses declined by 20%.

Marco Castillo shared his experience of working with youth at risk and providing alternative trainings for youth to gain employment. He told the audience that “prevention” is irrelevant, because usually it means a reaction to a very complicated problem. He prefers to use the word “anticipation” of youth

violence. Inside urban violence, most youth do not have economic problems; in the neighborhoods they have survived from a livelihood of drug trade and gangs. Grupo Ceiba, Mr. Castillo's program, offers an alternative for these youth. Grupo Ceiba discovered that technology was attractive to youth and that it boosted self-esteem and youth's profiles. The program offers Business Education which supports youth training through a process of business and cooperative technology training. The workshops are for youth 15 to 24 years old and are offered in the morning, evening, and on weekends. Areas of training include: office IT, computer repair, graphic design, and a 911 bilingual call center. Youth are allowed to apply for a job after six months of training and can stay for as long as eighteen months. Prevention is no longer a reaction but rather a product of anticipation.

Claudia Bueno, as a representative for Fundacion Restrepo Barco, continued the panel and explained how she works on impacting youth public policy in Colombia. She mentioned that despite the violence and conflict in her country, the government has successfully created a Youth Council. The government also had success when it passed the law "Penal de Infancia" in 2006 which is supported by public policy and civil society. The law has changed the image that youth are the cause of violence. It works around the recognition of the victims and the presence of children in armed groups. The law was necessary to understand and recognize that adolescents (14-18 years old) are able to discern, reason, and know the consequences of their actions, but they also deserve a different treatment than criminal adults. It was also necessary to give recognition to the victims of the crimes committed by children and adolescents, as well as find ways that would attend to the special cases and circumstances in which a child commits a crime. After this law was established, there was a noticeable reduction in crime.

Ms. Bueno explained the projects that Restrepo Foundation implements to support the new law. These included 50 youth projects promoting coexistence in communities and 300 trained youth who act as active agents in promoting community coexistence through the following concepts: inclusion, recognizing differences, respect for other cultures, and the promotion of equality. The Foundation also works on a project which focuses on children's rights in seven municipalities in Montes de Maria. This program first conducted a community map to outline risks, threats, and opportunities, then established a dialogue with local leaders regarding youth public policy. The project resulted in a greater credibility of the local government on the part of the community, an increased participation of organizations with child protective programs, support from families for their children's education and also an increase in youth groups among others.

Roger Ordonez continued the panel discussion by talking about the situation of youth in Honduras; where 70% of the Honduran population lives in poverty and two-thirds are below the age of 25. A highly patriarchal culture, there exists a sense of irresponsible paternity, violence against women, alcoholism, family disintegration, and a culture of violence with access to weapons and gangs. Youth are migrating more and more to the city where there is availability of drugs and alcohol and as a result, youth pregnancies and HIV is prevalent. Social participation is limited as are sports and cultural activities. Some projects that Mr. Ordonez works on to combat these problems include studies on youth, who are sentenced to prison for homicide, to determine the cultural objectives and interests of such adolescents. He also conducts workshops to assess youth's perception of the work police are doing to prevent violence in their communities and to encourage an honest relationship between youth and police. Finally his organization has a project called Project Fenix which contributes to the rehabilitation efforts of ex-gang members in the penitentiary so that when released, they do not return to gang life. Mr. Ordonez concluded by saying that the youth make their own decisions and when they are given the

means, they will do whatever comes their way. Violence stems from both families and the schools. Employers, too, have a social responsibility to society to help with these efforts to reduce violence.

Maria del Pilar Espinoza represented the Center for Prevention of Violence (CEPREV) in Nicaragua whose mission is to promote a peaceful culture through the prevention of youth, family, school, and institutional violence. For the past thirteen years, CEPREV has applied and validated an integrated model of violence prevention that combines the reintegration of gang members into society; community organization; programs for teachers, police, and public officials; and the influence of public policy. The results from this method include: improvements in community security, decrease in crime where the program is taking effect, reintegration of thousands of youth into society, formation of community networks and youth groups and a strengthening of public institutions. This program as well as workshops that linked families with cultural models and social practices, have shown proven results of decreasing violence where implemented. These results include a high percentage of youth that have given up the sale/consumption of drugs, an increase in community sports groups, and a population that is more aware of the causes and consequences of violence. Ms. Espinoza concluded by saying CEPREV reaches out to all networks and brings changes to the community through social and psychological attention. It is trying to change the authoritarian models to democratic and violence free models.

State of the Art: a Holistic Community Experience in Santa Tecla

An expert presented holistic methodologies and approaches utilized in Santa Tecla to address at risk youth issues outside of San Salvador, and the integral role of cross-sectoral partnerships to ensure successful outcomes in the community

- Alberto Enríquez, Director Grupo AFANCA (with microphone)
- Moderator: Dani Roziewski, Program Director, IYF



Dani Roziewski introduced Mr. Alberto Enriquez as an expert on sustainable development at the local and regional level in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Mr. Enriquez shared his experience in Santa Tecla, El Salvador and suggestions for how to work with youth and influence public policy.

Sixty percent of the population in Santa Tecla is youth, and over 73,000 of these youth have been involved in either sport, cultural, educational, political or environmental activities. The community has had overwhelming success since the 2001 earthquakes -- when its citizens decided to rebuild the town using a Participatory Strategic Plan. The mayor realized that Santa Tecla would only have a future and be sustainable if youth were the primary protagonists of development for the community. The first step was involving youth in the policy making process. Santa Tecla is the city and municipality that has transformed the most in El Salvador in the past decade due to the democratic nature of the community, an increase in citizen participation, a violence prevention plan, and a government entity with a vision of development.

This vision of local development is the hardest element to find in other communities. It is a process driven by certain political figures with the ability to coordinate community entities outside the government. The incorporation of citizens, adolescents, and even children has been a key to success. Incorporating youth in the process has always been a political, methodological, and practical challenge but when they are given a responsibility as citizens in the community, their responsibility and innovation is undeniable.

The Santa Tecla model is based on the premise that violence and insecurity are a central threat to development; violence should be addressed mainly through prevention, and complementary through coercion. The police's role is crucial in taking preventive measures. In order to accomplish this, a strong institutional plan is required. Santa Tecla's strategy is: inter-institutional coordination, intra-institutional coordination, control and prevention, citizen participation, quality public spaces, promotion of values,

and the fostering of opportunities. Inter-institutional coordination opens up the possibilities to connect youth with jobs. Some of these programs include: School Scholarships, Youth Volunteering, Environmental Youth Groups, and Sport's Schools among others. Santa Tecla has a well planned budget to coordinate all these programs which Mr. Enriquez emphasized is very important in order to influence public policies. He concluded his discussion by telling the audience that if they do not take youth into consideration as political and local actors, then they are not focusing on prevention. The recovery of public spaces is also vital to community development. Santa Tecla is not a recipe for success but rather an invitation to be creative and innovative.

Monitoring & Evaluation, Gender, Leverage

This session focused on developing a common understanding across the partnerships regarding the Obra M&E framework, gender criteria and expectations as well as leverage targets and approaches

- Dani Roziewski, Program Director, IYF
- Scott LeFevre, *Obra* Program Director, IYF

Dani Roziewski opened the session by telling the audience she would discuss the *Obra* learning platform, leverage, gender, and the monitoring and evaluation plan in a brief summary. She explained that when the learning platform is complete, it will be found under the *Obra* link on the IYF website: www.iyfnet.org. Each audience member had a copy of the draft learning platform and was asked to email any suggestions or comments they might have. Ms. Roziewski then gave an overview of the Monitoring and Evaluation plan for *Obra* which includes a Results Framework, Intermediate Results, Indicators, and Indicator Reference Sheets. These elements are based on *Obra*'s goal which is to ensure that youth at risk have better access to the services and programs necessary to be more prepared for citizenship, work, and life. The intermediate results that are expected in the *Obra* project include: multi-sectoral partnerships mobilized to support youth at risk; youth at risk more prepared and productively engaged; and better informed youth at risk programs and policies. Ms. Roziewski then went into further detail about the specific indicators and outputs that correspond to the intermediate results.

Scott LeFevre continued with an explanation of leverage within the *Obra* program. Leverage is the obtainment of resources, either monetary, in-kind, materials, or voluntary, that strengthen, expand or sustain the results of the program. Leverage can be volunteer time, or institutional operations that help the program, such as calculating the employee's time and the cost of operation. Leverage is different from compensation in that leverage cannot be audited, it is more programmatic, and should be documented. Leverage should be reported to the secretariat, who in turn reports to IYF. Secretariats should create a plan for how they will leverage resources and also for how they will keep track of those leveraged resources.

How to work with the Private Sector

This session offered perspectives and approaches to working with the private sector in programs which address youth education, employment and in violence prevention

- Sandra Glasgow, The Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ)
- Juan Carlos Paiz, CACIF (Guatemala)
- Andres Cano Sierra, Un Techo Para Mi Pais (Guatemala)
- Moderator: Kate Raftery, Vice President of Learning and Citizenship, IYF

Participants divided into sub-regional groups to formulate plans to engage at least two specific private sector organizations in their sub-regions; and concretely outlined what their approaches and messages would be.

(From left to right: Kate Raftery, Sandra Glasgow, Juan Carlos Paiz, Andres Cano Sierra)



Ms. Raftery began by saying that as institutions we should be “trilingual,” able to speak the same language that the private sector and NGOs speak. Sandra Glasgow then gave some recommendations for working successfully with those constituencies. First she provided some recommendations for the preparation of project proposals to be submitted to the private sector. These recommendations included making clear project objectives that are smart, specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and with time lines; identifying how much money is needed and the projected impact of the project; creating a public relations and brand building plan; providing a clear explanation of how the project links with the company’s CSR activities; and engaging the private sector as a main advocate for the project. When presenting the proposal, Ms. Glasgow recommended identifying a key decision maker in the company to review the project such as the head of the foundation, the marketing manager, or the CEO. The proposal should also be very concise because in the private sector time is money. When showing up for a meeting with the private sector, the NGO/organization should be efficient, on time, and expect the meeting to be brief. After the meeting it is important to follow up. The organization should call the person, thank him/her for the meeting and the opportunity to share the project plan, and discuss next steps. Finally, if support from the company is received, it is important that the organization send regular reports of how the company’s support has helped the project advance. If the initial objectives are met, an organization will likely continue receiving support.

Juan Carlos Paiz, a businessman, talked about how he has dedicated his life to finding how the private sector can encourage investment and decrease poverty in Guatemala. He began by providing some

suggestions to the audience for working with the private sector. Any organization that helps a community needs to start by defining the people they want to help and the results they hope to achieve in the process. Mr. Paiz mentioned that he has seen millions of dollars wasted because the right actors were not involved in the initial process of implementation. The project, “GuateAmala” is proof of the success NGOs can have reaching out to the private sector – having raised US\$250 million. Mr. Paiz emphasized that he has seen many people without good projects receive a lot of money primarily because the better projects often do not ask for money. If a project wants participation from businesses, it is important to study the benefit for the company, so that it adds value. If money is awarded to the project it is important to share the results of the project with the donor company; everything grows out of credibility and trust. If an NGO loses the trust or confidence of a company, it loses the relationship, and loses the resources. Mr. Paiz concluded by mentioning that one of the most successful projects working with the private sector in Guatemala is “Un Techo para mi Pais” – which has a clear objective and target population.

Andres Cano, a youth entrepreneur, spoke about the success his project has had working with the private sector in Guatemala. “Un Techo para mi Pais” aims to involve Guatemalan youth to help construct emergency houses for the neediest communities. The project also works with families to help with community social habilitation with the goal that the efforts will be sustainable and will empower the community. The project is made possible by youth volunteers and the private sector. Mr. Cano noted that the most difficult task he faces is to transmit the youthful idea of changing the country to the companies and businesses. He then asked the audience to stand up and he had them participate in an energizer that he often uses with businessmen and personnel. It is also important that the company feels included in the project, which is why Mr. Cano puts a phrase in his proposals that says for every two houses the company donates, the company can build one with its employees. However he does not want to undermine the involvement of youth in the process. Mr. Cano concluded by giving some last minute advice, saying that attitude is very important when asking a company for financial support. That attitude should reflect the voices of the people that the project aims to help.

Kate Raftery wrapped up the session by telling the audience that partnering with the private sector can bring in a lot of resources for a project. And having a youth leader leading a project brings an influential energy to other youth. When asking for resources from the private sector, you need to do your homework, get to know the priorities of the company, and understand the business culture. She concluded by thanking the panelists for such a rich conversation and their advice. She then asked the regional partnerships to discuss two companies/businesses they can invite to work with their projects.

Closing Remarks

- Kate Raftery, Vice President of Learning and Citizenship, IYF
- Anabella Rivera. Director. Instituto DEMOS



In her concluding remarks, Ms. Raftery asked the audience to share their experience, positive or negative by answering what each one is taking back with them in his/her suitcase when they leave this workshop. Some of the answers are listed below:

"I'm taking with me that we live in a region where we want to do good. In partnership and sharing what we know, we can make a difference." **-Heidi Clarke (Sandals Foundation, Jamaica)**

"I want to thank everyone, in name of Colombia; it was great to learn the experiences of other countries, because there are similar elements in the region; it was very enriching." "Quiero agradecer en nombre de Colombia, fue bueno conocer las experiencias de otros países, porque hay elementos parecidos en la región, fue muy enriquecedor." **-Claudia Bueno, Fundación Restrepo Barco, Colombia**

"I will take with me the experience, the friendliness, and the motivation. We know that the best practices are there, I want to bring them to my country and also I see that there are more people working towards the same goal." "Me llevo mucha experiencia y simpatía, motivación. Sabemos que las prácticas están allí, quiero llevarlas a mi país y también veo que hay más gente trabajando en el mismo fin." **-Azdrúbal Corvero, El Salvador.**

Ms. Raftery said she would take home many memories with her and thanked the IYF and DEMOS team as well as the members of USAID and the interpretation team for their good work. She then invited participants to the Peru conference in November. Scott LeFevre also thanked Ms. Raftery for her leadership, sense of humor and support. He said it was a pleasure to be in Guatemala and to see the energy of the participants and their patience and interest in working with each other in partnership. Anabella Rivera closed the event thanking every-one for sharing their talents and for being part of the dreams of *Obra*. She thanked Scott LeFevre and Kate Raftery for their hard work and hoped everyone took with them a good memory of the event.

Event Evaluation

Upon conclusion of the *Obra* media event and learning conference, participants were asked to complete an evaluation form and provide feedback about the sessions and the speakers. Overall the feedback was positive – with about half of the participants completing the evaluation. The results showed that the most useful sessions during the conference included the proven practices panel, the youth panel, partnership development and the panel on how to work with the private sector. The majority of respondents thought that there could have been more discussion opportunities; a comment that will be taken into consideration for the next event. Ratings of the overall conference were positive; over half the participants said that their overall learning experience was “excellent.”

Finally, the evaluation allowed for participants to comment on topics they would like to see addressed at future conferences. These suggestions included: the promotion of youth entrepreneurship, sexual diversity, proven strategies for youth program sustainability, and general themes like “what is an alliance” and “objectives for the alliances.” Partners also listed future trainings that might be helpful for the partnership in areas such as training in the fundamentals of youth work and identifying basic principles; linkages between employment and youth violence; public policy; and methods/examples in lobbying and advocacy in the region. At the end, the evaluation invited participants to list suggestions for future *Obra* conference.

A complete review of the results is available upon request. Please contact Jenna Balkus at j.balkus@iyfnet.org.

Media Report

Activity Date & location: *Obra Media Event and Learning Conference July 21-23, 2010, Guatemala City and Antigua, Guatemala*

Brief Activity Description (e.g. type of activity i.e. site visit, press conference etc; purpose of activity)

This was a three day event to both launch the Central America Obra Partnership and continue building and strengthening the Youth of Americas Partnerships. Obra is a two-year initiative that is a direct response to President Obama's call at the Summit of Americas in 2009 for more focus on helping at-risk youth. Obra will create multi-sector alliances, develop mechanisms for identifying and sharing best practices so that successful experiences may influence the design of programs and policies, and apply these practices in specific education and employability projects will directly benefit Latin American and Caribbean youth.

Two days were spent in a learning workshop with Youth of Americas partners from each of the sub-regions, USAID, IYF, and other key stakeholders reviewing the socio-economic context and challenges which youth face in the Latin America and Caribbean region, analyzing the most salient issues and opportunities for youth, sharing best practices from programs having impact, learning about strategies for working with the private sector, and strengthening partnership action plans for each sub-region.

TV

7/21/2010 – Interview with Andrea Henry of 1850 TV about the importance of the media event and Obra program and its uniqueness. IYF rep: Scott LeFevre

7/21/2010 – Interview with Kate Raftery in Channel Antigua, in the program “8:45” with Juan Luis Font about the context of the *Obra* program and its impact.

7/21/2010 – Advertisement on “Guatevisión” covering the three day event of Obra.

INTERNET

7/21/2010 – Article on Prensa Libre website “Presentan programa de apoyo a la juventud”

http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/politica/Presentan-programa-apoyo-juventud_0_302369950.html

7/22/2010 – Article on Siglo XXI website “Lanzan Nuevo Proyecto Juvenil”

<http://www.sigloxxi.com/nacional.php?id=15629>

7/22/2010 – Article on Prensa Libre website “Alianza por la prevención”

http://www.prensalibre.com/opinion/Alianza-prevencion_0_302969725.html

7/22/2010 – Article on Prensa Libre website “Quieren educación y empleo para jóvenes”

http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/Quieren-educacion-empleo-jovenes_0_302969738.html

Agenda

Wednesday, 21 July 2010 – Media Event

Westin Camino Real: Salon Plata

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 8:00–8:45 am | Check-in and Coffee |
| 9:00–9:15 am | Welcoming Remarks and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Frank LaRue, President, Instituto DEMOS ▪ William S. Reese, President and CEO, International Youth Foundation |
| 9:15–9:45 am | <i>Obra</i> and the Summit of the Americas <p><i>Presenters will address how Obra responds to the call for hemispheric partnership contained in the Declaration of Commitment signed by President Obama and other Heads of State at the 2009 Summit of the Americas, as well as the urgency of addressing at risk youth issues more effectively for the good of the Latin America and Caribbean region</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mark Lopes, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Latin America and Caribbean Bureau, USAID ▪ Wendy Cuellar, Coordinator of Public Policy (SEGEPLAN) ▪ Stephen G. McFarland, U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala ▪ <u>Moderator</u>: Kate Raftery, Vice President of Learning and Citizenship, International Youth Foundation |
| 9:45 – 10:00 am | Keynote Address by Dennis Alonzo Minister of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced by Anabella Rivera, Director, Instituto Demos |
| 10:00–10:30 am | <i>Obra</i> Youth of the Americas Partnerships in Central America as well as the Caribbean and South America <p><i>IYF will present the vision of the Obra Program. DEMOS will then describe the vision of the Central American Partnership to address youth violence and unemployment issues as well as key approaches and strategies. The Private Sector Organization of Jamaica will present the vision and key strategies of the Caribbean Partnership; and CEDRO will do the same for the South American Partnership</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Moderator</u>: Kate Raftery, Vice President of Learning and Citizenship, International Youth Foundation |

10:30–10:45 am	Wrap-up and Closing Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kate Raftery, Vice President of Learning and Citizenship, IYF ▪ Frank La Rue, President, Instituto DEMOS
10:45–11:00 am	Cultural Presentation
11:00 am	End of Media Event
12:00 pm	Bus leaves for Antigua
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Lunch
3:00 – 6:00 pm	Secretariat meeting
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Dinner

Thursday, 22 July 2010

Hotel Soleil Antigua: Salon Zunil B and C

7:30–8:30 am	Registration and Coffee
8:30–9:15 am	Welcoming Remarks <p><i>This session will officially welcome participants, frame discussions for the media and learning events, and situate Obra within the larger Summit of the Americas context and commitment by President Obama and other heads of state in the hemisphere</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ William S. Reese, President and CEO, International Youth Foundation ▪ Frank LaRue, President, Instituto DEMOS ▪ Felicia Wilson, Education Development Officer, USAID/Guatemala ▪ Silvia Palomo, Secretary of Social Welfare Office of the President ▪ <u>Moderator</u>: Elohim Monard, South American <i>Obra</i> Coordinator (Peru)
9:15–10:30 am	Youth and Media in Prevention of Violence <p><i>This session will provide insights into youth violence and how it is reported in the media, and what role the media could play in addressing security and gang issues which face youth</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Claudia Navas, Coordinator of NANA, and Professor at the Universidad Rafael Landívar (Guatemala) ▪ Haroldo Sánchez, Director of Guatevisión (Guatemala) ▪ Miguel González, Centro Civitas (Guatemala) ▪ Cecilia Santamarina, Fundación PROCINE (Guatemala) ▪ <u>Moderator</u>: Anabella Rivera, Director, Instituto Demos (Guatemala)

10:30–10:45 am	Coffee Break										
10:45–11:00 am	Logistics										
11:00–12:15 am	<p>Proven Practices in Effective Youth Programming</p> <p><i>This panel will briefly review the most critical issues facing at-risk youth across Latin America and the Caribbean and offer key insight into proven approaches which have had positive impact on youth education and employability</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ivan Mifflin, IPAE (Peru) ▪ Carla Campbell, HEART/NTA (Jamaica) ▪ Jose Orive, Vice President, AMCHAM/Americas (Guatemala) ▪ Fr. Antonio Rodríguez, Youth Training Center Rafael Palacios (El Salvador) ▪ Claudio Magnífico, Program Director, Escuelas Abiertas (Guatemala) ▪ <u>Moderator</u>: Vivien Rueda, Alianza Joven (Guatemala) 										
12:15–1:00 pm	<p>Small Groups</p> <p><i>At the tables, event participants will discuss what resonated in the previous discussions regarding issues youth face and “what works”.</i></p> <p><u>Table Facilitators:</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>▪ Wilfredo Gonzalez</td><td>▪ Edgar Ortiz</td></tr> <tr> <td>▪ Claudio Magnifico</td><td>▪ Marta Pixtun</td></tr> <tr> <td>▪ Elohim Monard</td><td>▪ Eugenia Rodriguez</td></tr> <tr> <td>▪ Monica Muñoz</td><td>▪ Karen Towers</td></tr> <tr> <td>▪ Cristina Olive</td><td>▪ Felicia Wilson</td></tr> </table>	▪ Wilfredo Gonzalez	▪ Edgar Ortiz	▪ Claudio Magnifico	▪ Marta Pixtun	▪ Elohim Monard	▪ Eugenia Rodriguez	▪ Monica Muñoz	▪ Karen Towers	▪ Cristina Olive	▪ Felicia Wilson
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▪ Monica Muñoz	▪ Karen Towers										
▪ Cristina Olive	▪ Felicia Wilson										
1:00–2:00 pm	Lunch										
2:00–3:45 pm	<p>Youth Panel</p> <p><i>Young speakers from the region will talk about youth violence, how they have overcome obstacles and what programs and policies should be in place to address the issue.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shawn McGregor, RISE (Jamaica) ▪ Luis Alberto Lagurtegue Zevallos, Jesuit Network (Peru) ▪ Sandra Martinez, Latin American Youth Center, Washington, DC (USA) ▪ Azdrubal Corvera (El Salvador) ▪ <u>Moderator</u>: Elubia Velazquez, Association for the Prevention of Crime – APREDE (Guatemala) 										
3:45–4:00 pm	Coffee Break										
4:00–4:30 pm	Obra to Date: Secretariat Presentations and Feedback										

In this session, IYF and the three Secretariats – PSOJ, CEDRO and DEMOS – will present progress made thus far on strengthening the overall program and the Youth of the Americas Partnerships, as well as challenges faced and opportunities on the horizon. Participants will provide reactions and feedback.

- Moderator: Scott LeFevre, Obra Program Director, IYF

4:30–5:15 pm

Partnership Development

Based on challenges noted and feedback heard in the previous session, and having listened to the progress of the other secretariats, the three secretariats will lead discussions within the Partnerships to brainstorm on how they would overcome current challenges and take advantage of the opportunities at hand. Output will be a series of action items to be presented Friday morning.

5:15–5:30 pm

Wrap-up summary of the day’s discussions

- Marco Castillo, Director of Grupo Ceiba

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Theater Presentation by El Amanecer youth group

6:30 – 7:30 pm

Dinner

Friday, 23 July 2010

8:00–8:30 am

Coffee

8:30–9:00 am

Welcome and Overview of the Day’s Agenda

- Introduction by Kate Raftery, Vice President of Learning and Citizenship, IYF
- Axel Marroquin, Director of CONJUVE, Office of the President (Guatemala)
- Axel Romero, Director of Escuelas Seguras, Ministry of the Interior (Guatemala)

9:00 – 9:30 am

Partner report out on strengthen plans

IYF and Secretariat organizations report out on the discussion Thursday afternoon, and the concrete steps which will be taken to strengthen the program and the Partnership Action Plans

- Moderator: Scott LeFevre, Obra Program Director, IYF

9:30-11:00 am

Panel Discussion: Prevention of Youth Violence

Panelist will discuss the issues facing youth across the sub-region, especially youth at risk – e.g., those growing up in violent neighborhoods – as well as programs which are working to provide youth viable options to build their future

- Mayela Coto (Costa Rica)
- Marco Castillo, Director, Grupo Ceiba (Guatemala)
- Claudia Bueno, Fundación Restrepo Barco (Colombia)
- Roger Ordoñez, Representative of the Torture Victim Center for Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation (Honduras)
- María del Pilar Espinoza, Center for the Prevention of Violence (Nicaragua)
- Moderator: Isabel Aguilar, Regional Coordinator, POLJUVE/Interpeace (Guatemala)

11:00-11:15 am **Coffee Break**

11:15–11:45 am **Small Groups**

Groups at tables will discuss: what resonated, common threads of success, what are their “take-aways”, i.e., the innovative aspects which participants will bring back to their programs.

Table Facilitators:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wilfredo Gonzalez ▪ Claudio Magnifico ▪ Elohim Monard ▪ Monica Muñoz ▪ Cristina Olive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Edgar Ortiz ▪ Marta Pixtun ▪ Eugenia Rodriguez ▪ Karen Towers ▪ Felicia Wilson |
|---|--|

11:45–12:30pm **State of the Art: a Holistic Community Experience in Santa Tecla**

An expert will present the holistic methodologies and approaches utilized in Santa Tecla to address at risk youth issues outside of San Salvador, and the integral role of cross-sectoral partnerships to ensure successful outcomes in the community

- Alberto Enriquez, Director Grupo AFANCA
- Moderator: Dani Roziewski, Program Director, IYF

12:30–1:30 pm **Lunch**

1:30–2:00pm	<p>M&E, Gender, Leverage</p> <p><i>This session will focus on developing a common understanding across the partnerships regarding the Obra M&E framework, gender criteria and expectations as well as leverage targets and approaches</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dani Roziewski, Program Director, IYF ▪ Scott LeFevre, Obra Program Director, IYF
2:00–3:30 pm	<p>How to work with the Private Sector</p> <p><i>This session will offer perspectives and approaches to working with the Private Sector in programs which address youth education, employment and in prevention of violence</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sandra Glasgow, The Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ) ▪ Juan Carlos Paiz, CACIF (Guatemala) ▪ Andres Cano Sierra, Un Techo Para Mi Pais (Guatemala) ▪ <u>Moderator</u>: Kate Raftery, Vice President of Learning and Citizenship, International Youth Foundation
3:30 - 3:45	Break
3:45 – 4:45	<p>Small Groups</p> <p><i>Participants break into sub-regional groups (2 for Central America) to formulate plans to engage at least two specific private sector organizations in their sub-regions; and concretely outline what their approaches and messages would be.</i></p>
4:45 – 5:00 pm	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kate Raftery, Vice President of Learning and Citizenship, IYF ▪ Frank La Rue, Board President, Instituto DEMOS
5:00 – 5:15	Evaluation
5:30 – 7:00 pm	Cocktail Reception
