



Interoffice Memorandum

Date: January 13, 2016

To: Susan McDade
Deputy Director
Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

From: Rebeca Arias 
Director
Regional Hub - LAC

Subject: Request of a **non-cost** extension of DIM authorization for the Regional Project: 00085479 "Integral Security and Prevention of Violence that Affects Children, Adolescents and Youth in Central America"

I am pleased to request your consideration and approval of an extension of the Direct Implementation (DIM) authorization for the Regional Project: "Integral Security and Prevention of Violence that Affects Children, Adolescents and Youth in Central America", funded by Spain and implemented in Panama Regional Hub (by the CPR Unit). Atlas AWARD Number UNDP1- 0085479 with its corresponding Outputs: 00093110, 00093111, 00093112, 00093113, 00093114, 00093115, 00093116, 00093117, 00093118, 00093119, 00093120 and 00093121; to be implemented from January 2015 until December 2017. This extension is requested to finalize project activities.

Brief summary of the project objectives

The "Integral Security and Prevention of Violence that Affects Children, Adolescents and Youth in Central America" aims to contribute to the overall outcome of reducing factors associated with insecurity and violence in SICA countries. Particularly the specific and different types of violence affecting children, adolescents and young men and women in Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Dominican Republic. It will make an explicit strategy to address all types of violence affecting target populations in both the public and private sphere, based and gender, intergenerational and others socioeconomic and cultural dynamics. In this framework, it is a direct contribution to the priorities of the Central American Security Strategy (ESCA, Spanish acronym) and Youth Violence Prevention project (BB1).

The project will achieve four main outputs: (1) SICA and its countries formulate and implement comprehensive, censurable and evidence-based citizen security policies with a clear link to ESCA. (2) Plans and institutional capacities developed and implemented to improve social prevention violence that affects children, adolescents and youth. (3) Innovative solutions and best practices in violence

prevention are promoted systematized, evaluated and transferred in the region. (4) Project adequately managed, monitored and evaluated.

Project deliverables will include: national citizen security policies; national youth violence prevention plan; institutional strengthening plans and training for violence prevention entities; secondary and tertiary violence prevention programs; SICA regional violence prevention intervention model; systematizations of youth violence prevention best practices and intervention models; new and innovative approaches and methodologies tested through seed funded pilot initiatives; and south-south cooperation knowledge transfers, among others.

2015 Progress Summary

During the first six months of 2015, the implementation of the project was oriented to the monitoring and preparation of the national work plan 2015-2016 of the eight SICA members, in coordination and with the participation of government institutions, national counterparts, project national leaders designated by SICA and the Technical Office of Spanish Cooperation (AECID). Target populations at local level in seven of the eight countries (Nicaragua has not confirmed the targeted areas) were also identified.

In addition, the project started a regional process for the development and harmonization of indicators for monitoring and evaluation of national work plans which include the definition of regional baselines to be implemented by the national and regional components. As well, the project began a research for a systematic and comprehensive review of security policies framed in the Central America Security Strategy (ESCA), along with best practices and lessons learned in Latin America and the Caribbean that has been implemented successfully in the last decades.

At national level, two South-South initiatives and knowledge transfers were made: (i) a Regional Seminar of Mesoamerican successful experiences and integral policies in Citizen Security with the participation of senior representatives of the 8 SICA governments, the Government of Spain, UNDP, AECID and SICA, in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia; and (ii) one delegation from Honduras learned the successful experiences against violence and the best practices in social prevention of Medellin, Colombia.

Belize initiated the diagnosis for the development and formulation of the new National Plan of Action for Children and Youth (NPA) led by the National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC), with technical support from UNICEF and PREVJUVE project. It will support the coordination mechanism of prevention and care for Children, Adolescents and Youth at risk and in conflict with the law. Costa Rica also initiated a proposal for developing a national policy on violence prevention with care for children, adolescents and youth.

Justification of DIM extension

The Direct Implementation is advisable for the following reasons:

1. The project operates with different components as well as a wide array of regional partners such as SICA, governments, national and international stakeholders, academic entities,

universities, and civil society organizations. Therefore, the executing agency must have the capacity to continue mobilizing resources and convene a wide variety of national and international actors, as well as ensuring that the regional logic and coherence within ESCA is maintained.

2. The Regional Hub has the operational and technical capacity in Citizen Security to successfully implement the project and guarantee its expected results. Moreover, the project requires an implementing agency with the ability to coordinate various internal UNDP stakeholders (regional technical teams, country offices, network of experts) and the capacity to promote alliances and partnerships through its offices and focal points both in Central America and among the whole of Latin America and the Caribbean region.
3. The project seeks to add value to and improve the effectiveness of UNDP technical assistance in the region. A regional approach is required to systematically capture lessons, methodologies and strategies; to develop permanent mechanisms for identification, systematization, analysis and evaluation initiatives; to support SICA regional efforts for resources mobilization, benchmarking and supporting the work of policy-makers and country office programme areas.
4. The implementing agency is UNDP/RBLAC with the RSC in Panama as responsible party for administrative support. RBLAC will closely monitor the regional project from RSC-Panama (Cluster A) and is responsible and accountable for the achievement of the project results and targets.

Consequently, we would appreciate your authorization to extend the DIM modality for the regional project "Integral Security and Prevention of Violence that Affects Children, Adolescents and Youth in Central America".

Attached documentations:

- Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2016
 - Regular Budget Revision (ATLAS AWP and ATLAS cover page)
 - Progress Report 2015
- AWARD 00085479, Project ID: 00093110, 00093111, 00093112, 00093113, 00093114, 00093115, 00093116, 00093117, 00093118, 00093119, 00093120 and 00093121. DIM authorization from January 2016 until December 2017.

Cleared and Approved by: _____

Susan McDade

Deputy Director

Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

Date: 20-1-2016