




Memorandum

Date: 23 February 2015

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

From:  Rebeca Arias
Director
Regional Hub - RBLAC

Subject: Request for Direct Implementation authorization for the Regional Project "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 the Direct Implementation (DIM) authorization for the Regional Project "**Comprehensive Security and Prevention of Violence that Affects Children, Adolescents and Youth in SICA countries**" funded by Spain. The Atlas Project Number is UNDP1-00085479 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.

Brief description and objectives of the project

The "Comprehensive Security and Prevention of Violence that Affects Children, Adolescents and Youth in SICA countries" 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 all eight SICA countries: Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and the 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 on gender, intergenerational and other 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 its Youth Violence Prevention project (BB1).

The project will achieve four main outputs: (1) SICA and its countries formulate and implement comprehensive, measurable and evidence-based citizen security policies with a clear link to ESCA; (2) Plans and institutional capacities developed and implemented to improve social prevention of 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; and, (4) Project adequately managed, monitored and evaluated.



Project deliverables will include: national citizen security policies; national youth violence prevention plans; 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.

The project will draw upon more than two decades of UNDP experience in strengthening citizen security and violence prevention policies, plans, capacities and mechanisms, and will harness its collective knowledge, tools and convening capacity into the project so it can become a platform for the state of the art in youth violence prevention in the region. The project will also build upon and reinforce the results of previous interventions implemented by UNDP in Central America with SICA and at national level, particularly the Central American Security project SICA-PNUD-AECID and national youth violence preventions projects.

The project will be executed by UNDP through a project unit based in El Salvador in full coordination with SICA and the eight Country Offices, and will combine both regional and national implementation to promote the development of national capacities as well as a regional holistic and strategic perspective. The project will take advantage of UNDP's presence and expertise in all countries of Central America and the Dominican Republic, and its excellent working relationships with key national and regional stakeholders including SICA, ESCA partners, other UN Agencies, national and regional civil society organizations and state institutions. The project will tap into the knowledge and technical support provided by UNDP regional and national experts, particularly in the areas gender, poverty reduction and economic development, governance, knowledge and capacity development, south-south cooperation, and monitoring and evaluation.

The duration of this project is three years (January 2015 – December 2017). The proposed budget is \$6 million.

Justification for Direct Implementation

The Direct Implementation is advisable for the following reasons:

1. The project, which is a direct contribution to a regional strategy (i.e. ESCA) led by a regional entity (Central American Integration System-SICA), and framed under the ESCA youth violence regional project (BB1), requires an executing agency with the capacity to coordinate 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. In addition, the executing agency must have the capacity to mobilize 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. In this manner, the project will ensure that common lessons are drawn, knowledge is constructed collectively and youth violence prevention interventions models are built based on the diversity of successful practices around the region.
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 also 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 of initiatives; to support SICA regional efforts in promoting coordination in violence prevention; to complement national efforts for resources mobilization, benchmarking and supporting the work of policy-makers and country office programme areas.
4. The Direct Implementation of the project facilitates the provision of technical assistance to meet emerging clients' demands. Combined with country office capacities, DIM implementation will enable the project to seek and secure new business opportunities, providing an effective mechanism to meet national demands and donor needs for quick response and implementation.
5. The Regional Center for Latin America and the Caribbean has the required experience to coordinate the regional project as demonstrated through its management of other regional projects, particularly the previous Security in Central America SICA project.
6. All 8 SICA countries have endorsed the project with official letters (Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and 2 letters from the Dominican Republic). All 8 countries and the SICA system approved the project in the framework of SICA's Central America Security Commission (see attached letter and minutes).

Consequently, we would appreciate your authorization under the DIM modality for the Regional Project "Comprehensive Security and Prevention of Violence that Affects Children, Adolescents and Youth in SICA countries".

Attached documentation:

- Project Document which includes:
 - o Project Document cover page signed
 - o Link to the Strategic Plan and the Regional Programme Document for LAC 2014-2017;
 - o Results and Resources Framework;
 - o Annual Work Plans 2015-2017;
 - o Risk Log;
 - o Link and contribution in results and budget to the Central American Security Strategy (ESCA) and the ESCA Youth Violence project BB1 matrix;
 - o Social and Environmental Screening Template
- Letters of endorsement by Governments;
- Minutes from the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC)
- Budget Revision Clearance Slip duly signed
- ATLAS AWP and Cover Page of the budget revision



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Award 0008549, Project IDs: 93110, 93111, 93112, 93113, 93114, 93115, 93116, 93117, 93118, 93119, 93120, 93121. DIM authorization from February 2015 until December 2015.

Cleared and Approved by: _____

Susan McDade
Deputy Director

Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

Date: _____

17 March 2015