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MINUSTAH

Mission des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation en Haïti

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Section de la communication et de l'information publique

Fact Sheet MINUSTAH

Community Violence Reduction Section

Mandate

In its resolution 1702 of 15 August 2006, the United Nations Security Council requested the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti to "*reorient its efforts (...) towards a comprehensive community violence reduction programme adapted to local conditions, including assistance for initiatives to strengthen local governance and the rule of law*".

Targeting crowded areas and marginalized neighborhoods under the influence and partial control of armed gangs – and / or historically politicized – the Community Violence Reduction Programme aims to provide employment opportunities to former gang members and at-risk youth, as well as women and other vulnerable groups in order to contribute to stabilize the country.

This unique approach within peacekeeping operations has become a model for intervention that may be adapted to multiple contexts.

Mode of operation and scope of activities

Since 2007, MINUSTAH's Community Violence Reduction Section (CVR) has been mandated to implement this strategy. Together with community representatives and local authorities, the CVR Section identifies security concerns and community needs in order to conceive projects aiming at the social integration and empowerment of people who are vulnerable to the potential influence of gangs. Since the earthquake of January 2010, the CVR Section has expanded its scope of intervention in areas particularly affected by the earthquake, where communities were severely weakened.

The various programs are the result of a joint assessment with the communities as regards with their situation, so that sustainable structures and initiatives can be put in place.

The main pillars of the CVR Section are:

- **Job Creation and Protection of the Environment**, through the rehabilitation of community infrastructure
- **Reintegration of Vulnerable Youth**, via training, socialization and psychosocial support



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- **Social Reintegration of Ex-prisoners**, preparing inmates for their socio-economic and community reintegration by reducing their potential for violence
- **Gender**, as women are one of the most vulnerable groups in communities affected by violence
- **Legal and Judicial Assistance**, as violence is often linked to a lack of access to justice.

The CVR Section operates in most parts of the country; North (Cap-Haïtien), Artibonite (Gonaïves - Raboteau / Descahos - St. Marc), West (Cité Soleil, La Saline, Wharf, Jérémie, Bel Air, Delmas 2, Carrefour Feuilles, Martissant, Fontamara, Gressier, Léogane, Petit-Goâve, Grand-Goâve), South (Les Cayes), and South-East (Côte de Fer, Bainet, Vallée de Jacmel, Marigot, Belle-Anse, Grand-Gosier).

Achievements

2007-2009: 76 executed projects (total budget 2007-2008 and 2008-2009: USD 6.7 million)

These projects allowed 21,678 unemployed people to find work in labour-intensive projects. Over 120,000 people participated in 102 activities for social mobilization and awareness. 1,200 people living in fishing communities received machinery and equipment, and 125 women victims of violence benefited from medical and micro-finance assistance to set up small businesses. The CVR Section has also allowed 325 former gang members and their families to benefit from social and economic reintegration packages, and 200 at-risk youth in four urban neighborhoods have received vocational training. Thanks to the CVR programme, 500 primary school children who were victims of violence were able to pursue their studies, and 700 prisoners benefited from training and behavioral therapy. Finally, 14,200 ml of drainage canals were cleaned and rehabilitated – or constructed anew – and 140,000 m³ of waste was removed.

2010-2011: 100 executed projects (total budget 2009-2010: USD 14 million)

As a result of these 100 executed projects, 53,000 young people (men and women) at risk were temporarily employed in the rehabilitation of 56 drainage canals in Port-au-Prince, and the reconstruction of a wing of the National Penitentiary housing 200 inmates and the Jacmel prison. 2,400 street children benefited from medical, social and educational programmes. 34 micro-enterprises were created by women living in slums and 200 young people already trained found employment in the private sector in Haiti.

2011-2012: 28 projects started in early 2012 (total budget 2010-2011: USD 9 million)

Through CVR projects, 1,110 at-risk youth found employment after receiving vocational training and another 30,000 participated in the execution of 26 environmental labour-intensive projects. In addition, 2,333 women and girls who were victims of gender-based violence benefited from psychosocial support and medical care as well as hundreds of children in conflict with the law. 3,000 youth were sensitized on the risks inherent to alcohol and drug abuse; and 550 peer educators were trained. Three prisons were rehabilitated and three new Legal Aid Offices (BAL) were built, bringing to 20 the number of BAL in the country, with a team of 32 specialized lawyers. In addition, over 6,300 water filtering systems were provided to vulnerable communities to support their fight against cholera, including at the Jacmel prison. Finally, 128 solar street lights were installed in areas targeted by the program, including 110 in Cité Soleil by Brazilian peacekeepers.

2012-2013 : 35 approved/ongoing projects (total budget 2011-2012 : USD 9 million)

Through these projects, 12,000 vulnerable youths will be employed in high-intensity jobs building dry walls for soil conservation in exposed ravines and rehabilitating canals in Port-au-Prince,

Gonaïves and Cap-Haïtien. 4,000 others will be involved in building a school and maintaining roads on a regular basis, and another 530 will be trained in job skills such as telephone or motorcycle repair. CVR's ongoing job placement scheme will also be continued throughout the period and 2,000 trainees will have access to sensitizations against drug and alcohol abuse.

Impacts and challenges

Since the onset of its programme, CVR efforts led to a significant drop in crime in different marginalized neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, Gonaïves and Cap-Haïtien. However, the earthquake of 12 January 2010 severely damaged many of these neighborhoods, which led to internal displacement and overcrowded IDP camps located at times in places where MINUSTAH's CVR Section was already operating.

The CVR Section thus contributed to address violence in several IDP camps in the capital, and then returned to the regular intervention areas on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. By working on both fronts, MINUSTAH has been able to continue to fulfill its mission while providing youth and people affected by the earthquake the opportunities to actively participate in rebuilding their communities and their country.

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