

# Report to ICDP

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ICDP MOCHILA ADAPTED FOR PROJECTS IN EL SALVADOR

## INTRODUCTION

El Salvador has made important progress in the institutional strengthening of the ICDP programme, which is referred to as "I Am a Person" in El Salvador. During 2016 there was total openness in responding to the needs of the facilitators of the methodology, as well as responding to the needs of the families and children in the country.

In this context, and bearing in mind that the Salvadoran Institute for the Integral Development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA) is the leading institution in El Salvador, it is worth mentioning that the institutionalization of the programme "I Am a Person" in the country has resulted in official consideration of the methodology to be included in the Violence Prevention Programme Area within the Sub-Directorate for the Promotion of Rights of ISNA.

#### IMPLEMENTATION IN 2016

As part of its role in coordinating la Red de Atención Compartida-RAC (the Shared Care Network), ISNA must strengthen the governmental and non-governmental institutions that make up the network. This strengthening role opened doors for good quality work, at a national level, regarding the care of children and their families.

In this context, during the year 2016, there were 7 awareness-raising events held on the content of the "I am a Person" programme, with the aim of informing the decision-makers of the different institutions that are part of the RAC. As a result of these events the decision makers designated the staff from their institutions to be integrated into the training processes and their commitment to replicate the methodology with families. In this process a total of 240 people participated, among them directors of institutions, municipal mayors, heads of institutional departments of childhood, women, etc.

After completing 7 awareness raising events, the training process in "I am a Person" was carried out in 7 different parts of the country to guarantee representativeness throughout the national territory. Each process involves 5 training days. The technical teams from different institutions participated in the training, with a total of 320 people, who were obliged to later replicate the ICDP methodology with the families. At the end of the replication process, 13,214 families were sensitized.

In addition, in 2016, the process of preparing, designing and printing of the "Manual of Complementary Themes for the Methodology I Am a Person" was also completed. The manual consists of four main themes, which are included in the process of delivery of the methodology: the children's rights approach, self-esteem, gender equity, and crisis management. The elaboration process included validation days with 30 people from the core team of the team I Am a Person.

#### PROJECTIONS FOR 2017

In view of El Salvador's need to ensure access to the public network of social services and to quality early childhood care programmes, as well as the need to universalize training programmes for families and caregivers of children in early childhood issues, such as health and nutrition, stimulation and good parenting practices, a new strategy was devised in 2016 called the "Territorialization of comprehensive care for early childhood, with a focus on social inclusion", which was led by the different government institutions, including municipal town halls. This strategy focuses on strengthening local actors in training methodologies aimed at families, as well as coordinating the process, so that successful practices can lead to the establishment of protocols or inter-institutional and inter-sectoral agreements that will allow the appropriation of the processes and their scaling up.

ISNA is added to this strategy in the municipalities of Ciudad Delgado, Mejicanos, Santa Ana, Sonsonate and Soyapango, and this was an excellent opportunity for institutionalization and expansion of the methodology "I am also a Person". In 2017, it is planned to establish a national coordinating team that will give guidelines and systematize the good practices developed in different territories of the country.

In 2016, talks with the National Civil Police - La Policia Nacional Civil (PNC) of El Salvador are initiated to establish an alliance between ISNA, PNC and UNICEF, through which they will also be able to replicate the I Am A Person within the PNC staff.

On the one hand, the team of psychologists and social workers of the Police Welfare Unit at national level will be trained to replicate the methodology with the families of the police officers; On the other hand, the staff of the Violence Prevention Unit of 26 selected municipalities will be trained with the objective that " I Am a Person" is institutionalized as a methodology for prevention of family violence and can be replicated by the agents of this Unit with the families present in the territories they serve.

As an additional and permanent effort by El Salvador to adapt the methodology "I am a Person" to the characteristics and needs of our population, in 2017 we aim to adapt the methodology to two new target groups: i) Families of adolescents and ii ) Adolescents and young people who replicate it with their peers. This initiative will be used to include also a process of strengthening of the core team of trainers in El Salvador.

In 2017, El Salvador will host the 2nd Regional Gathering of ICDP, as a follow up to the first one held in Colombia in 2015.