



## Promoting Alternatives to Incarceration for Drug-Related Offenses

Alternatives to incarceration programs (ATIs) help reduce recidivism, optimize governmental resources, and alleviate prison overcrowding. ATIs are particularly effective for justice-involved individuals with substance use disorders and for minor and non-violent drug-related offenders, addressing underlying issues that incarceration may fail to address and resolve. The OAS Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD, by its Spanish-language acronym), part of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, promotes alternatives to incarceration (ATIs) through its Institutional Strengthening Unit. This approach addresses the drug problem from a public health, human rights, and gender-responsive perspective.

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# 1 Innovative Approaches to Justice: A More Humane Approach

We support OAS member states with innovative ATIs that address the root causes of drug-related offenses. We promote access to evidence-based treatment and social integration services under judicial supervision, enhancing multi-sectoral collaboration among criminal justice system, public health, and social services.

## OUR MISSION

Assist member states to implement humane, culturally and gender sensitive ATIs for minor and/or non-violent drug-related offenses, promote proportional sentencing, and develop evidence-based evaluation mechanisms.

## WHAT WE OFFER

- Technical assistance for developing, implementing, evaluating, and monitoring ATIs, including gender-responsive approaches.
- Advise on ATI models across the justice spectrum, recommending optimal interventions based on each country's legal framework, priorities, and cultural context.
- Support research, policy design, and pilot programs for adults and juveniles.
- Facilitate best practice exchange and multi-sector collaboration to reduce recidivism and promote social integration.
- Develop tools and trainings to improve ATI program effectiveness and proportionality in sentencing.

# 2 Gender-Responsive Alternatives to Incarceration

The proportion of women incarcerated for drug-related offenses in Latin America and the Caribbean has surged since 2000. Yet, few interventions address the gender imbalances in access to justice, services, and other issues that impact men and women differentially. CICAD partners with the OAS Inter-American Commission of Women to promote gender-sensitive ATIs.

## OUR MISSION

Develop gender-sensitive alternatives to incarceration for drug offenses through research, training, and policy innovation.

## WHAT WE OFFER

- Generate and disseminate promising practices.
- Train and sensitize criminal justice, health, and social services professionals.
- Develop and monitor pilot initiatives integrating gender perspectives in ATIs.

# 3 Optimizing ATI: Streamlined Selection, Enhanced Monitoring

We pilot tools to match individuals with suitable ATI programs, reducing preventive incarceration, facilitating rehabilitation, and lowering recidivism through community reintegration. We promote monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of ATI programming to ensure effectiveness and societal benefits.

## OUR MISSION

Develop evidence-based tools to reduce recidivism through optimal ATI placement. Strengthen gender-responsive M&E for ATIs to improve social outcomes for participants and communities.

## WHAT WE OFFER

- Develop and test assessment instruments for the justice system.
- Train criminal justice professionals to use these tools.
- Assess M&E needs and resources for drug treatment courts and ATIs.
- Provide M&E training and technical assistance.
- Raise awareness on evidence-based ATI models.
- Develop data-driven tools for ATI programs.

## 4 Rehabilitating Through Therapeutic Justice for At-Risk Populations

CICAD promotes innovative therapeutic justice programs for adolescents and adults with substance use disorders, offering clinical and legal assessment and access to evidence-based treatment and rehabilitation programs under judicial supervision as an alternative to incarceration. These interventions for at-risk populations are tailored to respond to individual unique needs, focusing on responsibility, education, and family dynamics to break the cycle of substance abuse and reduce recidivism.

## OUR MISSION

Empower OAS member states to establish effective therapeutic justice programs for at-risk populations, with interventions for both adults and minors.

## 5 Enhancing Social Integration for Justice-Involved Individuals in Recovery

CICAD enhances ATI programs by fostering cooperation among the justice, social services, and health sectors. It promotes culturally sensitive, age- and gender-appropriate approaches for effective reintegration of justice-involved individuals with substance use disorders, emphasizing comprehensive care to sustain recovery.

## OUR MISSION

Contribute to the development of policies that work towards the prevention of low-level drug-related crime, the reduction of prison populations, and the effective social integration of low-level offenders with substance use disorders.

## WHAT WE OFFER

- Train professionals on program implementation and evaluation.
- Technical assistance for new and existing programs.
- Raise awareness about the benefits of evidence-based therapeutic justice.
- Assist with the integration of social services and therapeutic justice programs.
- Develop therapeutic justice program curricula.

## WHAT WE OFFER

- Training and technical assistance for professionals in ATI program to enhance care, leading to successful social integration.
- Technical tools for assessments of strengths and needs of ATI participants, leading to increased life-skills, employability and resilience.
- Support M&E inclusion in social integration programs to evaluate the medium- to long-term results of reducing recidivism and relapse, and to measure increased job employability and job mobility.



## OUR IMPACT

### ATI/Justice Innovation

- **14 countries** received-participated in ATI training and technical assistance.
- **10 high-level study visits** conducted.
- **Over 6,000 professionals** trained in ATI.
- **More than 50 courts-models** launched.

### Gender-Responsive Justice

- **5 diagnostic studies** in Latin America.
- **1,500+** professionals trained.

### ATI Monitoring & Evaluation

- **M&E protocols** in 7 countries.
- **785 DTC operators** trained.

### Social Integration

- **10 countries** taking part in exchange of good practices.
- **5 countries** trained in Case Care Management.
- **+230 professionals** trained in multisector collaboration.
- **+100 trained** in M&E for social programs.



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