



Strengthening Prison Systems across the Americas: Why It Matters?

Strengthening penitentiary systems is crucial for public safety. Many prisons face overcrowding, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of rehabilitation programs, which hinder the primary goals of incarceration: rehabilitation and successful reintegration. Prison reform can reduce recidivism, improve public safety, and ultimately contributes to safer communities.

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OAS | More rights
for more people

1 Institutional Strengthening for Effective Prison Systems

The OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, through its Department of Public Security, supports nations in strengthening their institutions to achieve the goal of social reintegration for those serving criminal sentences.

OUR MISSION

To enhance national institutional capacities for more effective prison systems.

WHAT WE OFFER

- Assessment of national prison systems to identify improvement opportunities.
- Comprehensive strategies and action plans to strengthen prison systems, focusing on human resources, rehabilitation and reentry programs, transparency, management of prison systems.
- Communication and dissemination of strategies to relevant stakeholders.



2 Innovative Youth Rehabilitation and Reentry Programs

In response to the challenges of recidivism and youth crime, we've developed comprehensive rehabilitation and reentry programs. These initiatives focus on equipping young offenders with the skills and support needed for successful reintegration into society, ultimately contributing to safer communities.

OUR MISSION

To reduce recidivism, crime, and violence by enhancing reintegration services for youth in juvenile correctional facilities.

WHAT WE OFFER

- Assessment of rehabilitation capacities in prison systems.
- Standardized methodologies to monitor and evaluate social reintegration programs.
- Technical assistance for rehabilitation policy development, including:
 - Educational and vocational training, such as life skills and skills development on agriculture, domestic economy, music, sports, or arts and crafts.
 - Employment and internship opportunities.
 - Individualized psychosocial and emotional support.
- "A New Path," program offering alternatives for at-risk youth.



3 Breaking the Cycle: Post-release Support

We support Member States with post-release programs that bridges the gap for young offenders transitioning back into society, providing personalized guidance and opportunities to build productive, crime-free lives. By combining personal support with economic opportunities, we aim to reduce recidivism and empower youth to become productive members of the community.

OUR MISSION

Facilitate successful reintegration of young ex-offenders through social support and economic empowerment.

WHAT WE OFFER

- Personalized Mentorship: dedicated social worker for 6-12 months post-release, individualized guidance during reintegration.
- Back to school support: promoting reincorporation into schools for releases.
- Economic opportunities: connect to internships, apprenticeships, and mentoring, and fostering skill development and professional growth.
- "Pitch Your Idea!" Entrepreneurship Initiative: entrepreneurship training and micro-credit funding.

4 Elevating Youth Rehabilitation Through Staff Development

At the heart of successful rehabilitation lies a well-trained, capable staff. We support member states with a comprehensive professional development program that equips justice personnel with the skills and tools needed to create nurturing environments that facilitate genuine youth transformation and successful societal reintegration.

OUR MISSION

To foster positive youth development by enhancing the capabilities of juvenile justice staff.

WHAT WE OFFER

- Community Engagement Training: equip local organizations to effectively support at-risk youth.
- Comprehensive Staff Development: Implement train-the-trainer programs for correctional staff, enabling engaging vocational, educational, and recreational activities.
- Modernizing Case Management: develop and deploy an electronic case management system.

OUR IMPACT



JAMAICA


- Assisted nearly **2,500** youth in conflict with the law.
- Trained **380+** correctional staff in reintegration and case management.
- Built/renovated **3,900+** sqft of educational facilities in correctional centers.
- Provided **2,000+** youth with post-release psychosocial support.
- Facilitated job opportunities for **150+** releasees.
- Certified **1,600** youth in educational and vocational training.
- Diverted **3,000** at-risk youth to alternative reintegration programs.




HONDURAS

- Assessed prison system conditions.
- Developed human rights-focused Penitentiary Strategy.
- Created Action Plan with **71** validated initiatives.

COUNTRIES WHERE WE HAVE WORKED


 Barbados


 Costa Rica


 Honduras

 Panama

 Chile

 Dominican Rep.

 Jamaica


 Uruguay



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