



Overview of main development results in Central America in 2014

Summary Multi Annual Strategic Plan (MASP)

The Central America Programme was designed for the 2012-2015 period. The programme is based on two pillars: 1) citizen security and the rule of law and 2) human rights. Through the programme the Netherlands aims to promote regional cooperation to prevent violence, strengthen the rule of law, improve access to justice and fight human rights violations, thus creating an environment in which economic development and social inclusion can be stimulated. The programme is coordinated from the regional Dutch embassy in Costa Rica. Under the programme, nine regional projects are being implemented, three of which came to an end in 2014. Four projects will end in 2015 and two will be extended budget-neutrally until the end of 2016.

Priority themes

- Security and rule of law
- Human rights

Embassy contribution to changes at regional level

■ Access to justice and trust in police & justice system through the OAS (Organization American States) Judicial Facilitator program: 1,699 JF appointed (40% women), who have made more than 125,000 recommendations. In 1,200 municipalities people gained access to JF, directly affecting 200,000 people.

■ Prevention of violence against women & human trafficking with Central American Integration System (SICA): over 7,000 women, men, NGO and civil servants were involved and over 1,100 persons were trained. More concrete results are expected in 2015, but improved cooperation was already visible in 2014.

■ Centre for the Prevention of Youth Violence: crime has decreased up to 50% in Nicaragua through dialogue with 96 youth groups/gangs. In 36 communities campaigns against the use of weapons led to a positive shift in perceptions. In Guatemala and El Salvador the programme lowered tensions in prisons.

■ Regional Human Rights Fund supported 22 NGOs. 34,597 people benefitted directly. Five NGOs produced a manual on protecting journalists. Several NGOs and their target groups have been trained in lobbying and advocacy. Closer link with private sector resulted in app to report violence against women.

■ Project for the prevention of youth violence and improving opportunities for youngsters: over 5,200 young men and women benefitted in 25 training institutions. 160 have benefitted from traineeships at 80 local companies. At schools 711 teachers have been trained and 28,000 pupils participated.

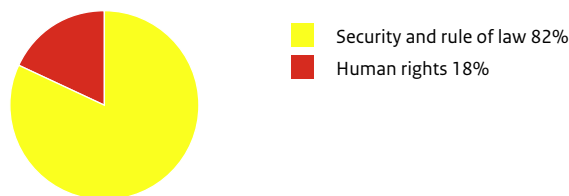
respondents are highly positive and enthusiastic. The effect of preventing domestic violence is hard to measure, but highly valued and key for development.

Implications for planning

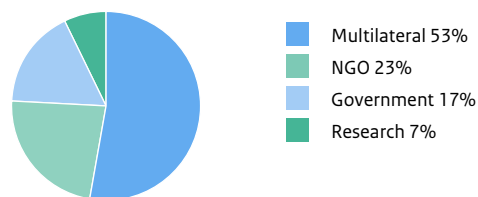
The regional embassy in San Jose is helping its partners find new funding for projects after 2016, e.g. by organising joint donor meetings. The OAS and SICA projects will be extended budget-neutrally until 2016. The regional Human Rights Fund will be given another EUR 1 million per year.

Expenditures 2014 per theme

Total expenditure Embassy €13,647,000



Expenditures 2014 per channel



Clarifications of results achieved

Most of the projects are on track. The Judicial Facilitator programme and the SICA project are slightly delayed because of lack of capacity to implement them in the countries, despite a high level of commitment.

For the outputs, only results achieved with support of the programme were taken into account and not the overall situation in the region. Most programmes did not make a baseline study before starting; an exception is the SICA programme, which started in mid-2013 but has not yet achieved many results. Another problem is that preventive programmes are often harder to assess. Based on interviews and mid-term assessments, most

Programme developments in Central America

- On track
- Progress, but not on track
- No progress

