2022 IMPACT REPORT

JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVOCATES







JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVOCATES INTERNATIONAL

https://www.jjadvocates.org/



CHIHUAHUA
CHILDREN BENEFITTED: **851**

MEXICO CITY
CHILDREN BENEFITED: **186**

DURANGO
CHILDREN BENEFITTED: **210**

MOBILIZE AND EMPOWER: 445

JJAI seeks to minimize the deprivation of children's liberty, protect their rights and promote positive youth development through policy advocacy, technical assistance and training, community engagement and family mobilization. We currently operate in 3 sites, **Chihuahua**, **Durango** and **Mexico City**.

ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION





Our Alternatives to Detention project seeks to minimize the deprivation of children's liberty, protect their rights and promote positive youth development through policy advocacy, technical assistance and training, community engagement and family mobilization.

Chihuahua

Re-Entry Services

When children in conflict with the law leave the system, they lack the support needed to reintegrate into society. Our Re-Entry Services Project provides children with the necessary follow-up and services. Implemented state-wide in 2022, this project ensures that children successfully reintegrate into society. More children complete their education and are employed more quickly, while reducing recidivism and improving their future and that of their families.

Monitoring of Conditions in Confinement

At the CERSAI 1 detention center in Chihuahua City, we conducted an in-depth evaluation of all policies and procedures, and through center visits and interviews in order to improve the conditions in which children are living. The goal is to certify that the detention center is using the best practices, providing appropriate services, and protecting children's rights.

Probation Transformation Project

Since 2021, this project has strengthened the capacity of the juvenile justice system to supervise children in probation through a personalized and hence more effective follow up. It reduces to a minimum the contact children have with the system and allows them to complete their sentence in their communities rather than in detention. It has reduced youth recidivism by 85%.



CHILDREN BENEFITTED: 851

Durango



CHILDREN BENEFITTED: 210

Probation Transformation Project

Replicated after successful implementation in Chihuahua state, the Probation Transformation Project in Durango provide tools allowing the authorities to provide strategic support to children on probation. This reduces probation violations, ensuring children are not locked up again and results in successful social reintegration as children and families get access to community-based services.

Re-Entry Services

After our successes in Chihuahua implementing our Re-Entry Services project, the team in Durango began replicating it, expecting the project to be fully implemented in 2023. A key part of the Re-Entry Services project is providing support to parents of children in detention, which is particularly important after many of these parents lost their jobs due to the pandemic.

Reducing Time to Trial Working Table

Beginning in 2022, this Working Group meets every four months. Led by our Durango Coordinator, local court officials, judges, and magistrates meet to eliminate unnecessary delays. This Working Group also includes authorities from Chiapas, and Campeche States as they review and compare statistics that help reduce waiting times for children in pretrial detention.

Mexico City

Monitoring of conditions in confinement

Reinstated after being on pause for two years due to the pandemic, this project allowed 186 children at the CEIPA pretrial detention center to benefit from improvements in the quality of medical and psychological care and increased contact with families through more phone calls and visits. Monitoring is expected to begin in another four detention centers in Mexico City during 2023.

CHILDREN BENEFITED: 186



ANNUALLY IN CEIPA, WITH A FORECAST TO BENEFIT 260, ONCE IT IS REPLICATED IN THE OTHER DETENTION CENTERS FROM MEXICO CITY



MOBILIZE AND EMPOWER

The Mobilize and Empower Project helps hundreds of children maintain their family ties, receive an education and the necessary personal hygiene items to lead a dignified life in detention centers; and ultimately reduces recidivism. Mobilize and Empower is integrated into all three of our project sites, Chihuahua, Durango and Mexico City, and includes support for:

- **Family Reunifications -** transportation, shared meals, emotional supports.
- **Family Councils -** support groups to help incarcerated children's' families through this difficult time.
- **Workshops and classes –** providing educational enrichment for children.
- **In-kind Donations –** including personal hygiene items, clothing, baby items.
- **Holiday Celebrations –** Facilitates the positive emotional wellbeing and increases the mental health of the children.

CHILDREN BENEFITED: 445





CHRISTMAS MARATHON PROGRAM

156 children from 8 detention centers participated in the 3rd edition of our "Christmas Marathon".

The children participate in fun and healthy Christmas-themed competitions as a leisure activity, during a time of the year when it is usually very difficult to cope with not being surrounded by their family.

Recreational material such as board games and sports equipment was donated and support was provided for the celebration of different family gathering events with food, drinks, decorations and transportation.

For JJAI, it is extremely important to support the children's moments of fun and recreation, particularly if they can be carried out together with their families, since all these activities help reduce depression and enable adolescents to cope with their detention in a healthier way.





NATIONAL COLABORATIONS

PREVENTION OF RECRUITMENT OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

JJAI was invited to participate in a work table to generate public policies focused on stopping the recruitment of children and adolescents by criminal groups in Mexico. The youths in detention are extremely vulnerable to this recruitment as their ties to their communities, families and society are fractured when they are detained. It is imperative to support these young people so that their future, once released from detention, is different. A child successfully reintegrated into his community is one less adult in the ranks of organized crime.







COLLABORATION WITH KEY FEDERAL JUVENILE JUSTICE OFFICE

The Decentralized Administrative Organ for Prevention and Social Readaptation or "PYRS" is the Mexican institution in charge of organizing and managing the Federal Detention Centers for Social Readaptation, this includes juvenile detention centers. JJAI has maintained a close relationship with this institution to share successful models, create tools that will improve practices in detention centers and disseminate best practices to state authorities; guaranteeing uniformity in the support we offer to all juvenile detention centers.

We are working with PYRS to finalize a joint work agenda for 2023.

INTERNATIONAL COLABORATIONS

At the Honduran government's invitation, in November of 2021, our National Project Director, Sarahi Martínez, visited Honduras. In January of 2022, five delegates from the Honduran juvenile justice system visited Mexico to sign an agreement that will allow the implementation of our **Alternatives to Detention Projects** in Honduras in 2023.

Sarahi Martínez also participated in the World Congress on Justice for Children, where she presented the study carried out by JJAI "Responses of the Justice System in Latin America During the COVID-19 Pandemic" which exposed the failures in the juvenile justice systems across the region to protect incarcerated children during the pandemic.





