Project: Don Bosco Industrial Triangle

Project Description:
To understand fully the features of the Don Bosco Industrial Triangle (PIDB) in El Salvador, it must be recognized that it has been built up gradually, with various programmes that respond to different problems being added to it step by step.

The history of the PIDB started with the creation of an Enterprise Complex that brought together cooperative enterprises founded by members of the community. This project started in 1987, and was the point of departure for launching the integrated project that the PIDB is now pursuing.

The idea of having a programme for young people living on the streets, now being pursued by the Miguel Magone programme, arose in 1991. By 1993, the programme was reaching a large number of youth, many of whom were living in unstable circumstances, on and off the streets. For women who wanted to escape from the gang life style, the programme Laura Vicuña was started in 1995.

In 1993 the Worker-Entrepreneur Technical Institute (ITOE) was set up to meet the need for academic training for those in firms and in response to the community’s demand for education.

Now, the PIDB is made up of various components: the ITOE, Laura Vincuña and Miguel Magone programmes already mentioned, along with new projects being carried out at other locations (Morazán, Chalatelango). At the same time, the PIDB is a component of a more general strategy under the general coordination of the Salvadorean Foundation for Education and Labour (EDYTA).

The PIDB grew out of a context of poverty, misery and marginality, as a tool to address the challenges of Salvadorean society, with a focus on the most needy youth. It is a private, non-political institution, promoting education and entrepreneurship, led by followers of the Congregation of De Sales, with the goal of promoting the development of marginalized communities in El Salvador.

The target population with whom the project is considered to be at high risk because they are confronted by drugs, prostitution, arms trafficking, gangs and other situations.

The other sector of the population that is addressed by the project involves youth with criminal records, under an agreement between UNICEF, the Supreme Court and the PIDB. The Supreme Court, through judges imposing sentences on minors, is to select a few youth from all over the country who display good behaviour so that they can be given the chance to become part of the PIDB programme.

The support for the organizational structure of the PIDB rests on an organization based on self-sustainability, with participatory democratic principles and a social mission, involving both specialization of, and connections between, the various areas in the project.

At the same time, an agreement was signed at the national level with the Supreme Court, and PIDB is working with the National Council on Public Security with a view to receiving support for more scholarships. In addition, there is an agreement with INSAFROP for the implementation of projects. The ILO’s CINTERFOR training institution has been tracking the experience through provision of technical advice on training and evaluation of the programmes implemented.
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