Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales
Programa El Salvador

FLACSO
EL SALVADOR

Research Report

Innovative Institutional Strategies to Prevent Violence Associated with Young People in El Salvador

In collaboration with:

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Innovative Institutional Strategies to Prevent Violence Associated with Young People in El Salvador

Abstract

This research study was carried out by Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, FLACSO Programa El Salvador, in coordination with the Conflict and Development Foundation (CDF) and the Center on Conflict and Development at Texas A&M University (ConDev). The overall objective was to identify the initiatives that are being conducted from different institutions with regards to security or related areas and that have an impact on violence associated with young people (especially related to violence prevention).

The methodology was based on a qualitative-quantitative study of exploratory nature, non-experimental, with non-probabilistic sampling (survey) which helped to describe the living conditions of the Salvadorian youth and to study the institutional response to violence associated with young people. The units of analysis included a sample of 63 surveys aimed at young people, as well as in-depth interviews with key actors from 10 institutions that conduct youth programs, In order to gather information, the corresponding instruments were created (a survey questionnaire and a semi-structured interview guide, jointly developed). The information collected from the survey is compiled in a database in SPSS and Excel.

The data obtained in this study will be used for other studies to be conducted by FLACSO, CDF, ConDev and their collaborators.

Key words: conflict, prevention, young people, living conditions, youth violence, El Salvador

INDEX

Contents	Pág.

"Innovative Institutional Strategies to Prevent Violence Associated with Young People in El Salvador"

INTRODUCTION

According to data obtained from the 2013 Household Surveys for Multiple Purposes "Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (EHPM)" from the 6,290,420 total population of El Salvador, 28.4 % are in the 15 to 29 age range. As per the General Youth Law of El Salvador, they belong to the youth group and 48.8 % are male, 51.2 % are female and the majority, 61.1 % lives in the urban area (Ministry of Economics, MINEC and general Directorate for Statistics and Census, DIGESTYC, 2014[1]).

In El Salvador, mainly during the last few decades, young people have been one of the population groups creating most interest. However, emphasis has been placed on matters of insecurity, violence and gangs. Despite that, young people and their living conditions have gained a positioning, which has allowed a greater understanding of youth, through the elaboration of diagnostics and surveys, as well as studies, plans and programs promoted by international organizations, governmental and non-governmental entities, the academy, among others.

Nationwide, over the years, different campaigns, programs and initiatives have emerged from the central government, through its different ministries and state agencies, also from cooperation agencies and organizations of different kinds, to accomplish actions to prevent violence and increase security on various areas. However, these interventions have a limited range and low coverage and they do not respond to the extent of the phenomenon. Then, there are difficulties of inter-agency coordination, which affect the possibility of promoting comprehensive interventions that include several areas of the life of young people, such as: health, education, work, poverty, etc.

In order to formulate policies and effective programs of prevention of violence associated with young people, it is necessary to understand the factors related to the situation where young people become victims or perpetrators of violent acts. To achieve that, they must be included in the analysis and implementation of solutions, as a valuable contribution to the programs and to stimulate attitude transformations. It is also necessary to consider, on one hand, that he situation of

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[1] The information that has been submitted in the following document has been complemented by data directly obtained from the EHPM on 2011 and 2012 database.

young people should be viewed from a comprehensive and broad perspective, going beyond the exclusive subject of violence and on the other hand, that the emphasis on violence has generated and reinforced a stigmatized image of the young, as a producer of violence, assuming that happens because of the very condition of being young, condition that limits the possibilities for them, such as job opportunities.

Currently, a program that is being led by the Center on Conflict and Development at Texas A&M University, to help with conflict prevention efforts, is the Transformative Solutions program, TS. Transformative Solutions are novel research based ideas, or variations on existing ideas, that can cause a shift in thinking, inspire change, and influence outcomes cost-effectively with the ultimate goal of scaling up across multiple countries and/or disciplines. In a world where new information and communication technologies are increasingly on the rise and in continuous updating, it is children and youth who use these technologies more skillfully and frequently, presenting a challenge to those who plan and develop programs aimed at youth.

This document contains an introduction and a section which briefly describes the methodology used to conduct the study, followed by a section on the living conditions of young Salvadoran people that contains aspects on national legislation and data from different areas of the young Salvadoran population. Results from a survey carried out with young people are also presented, and the contributions of institutional youth representatives and violence prevention initiatives; then shows a summary of programs and actions of prevention of violence associated with young people, that are being conducted in El Salvador, to conclude with a section of final comments. This is complemented with references and annexes.

1.   RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The objectives and stages of development of this research are described below.

1.1.   Research Objectives

The *overall objective* of the study is:

To identify the initiatives that are being carried out from different institutions with regards to security or related areas and initiatives that have an impact on violence associated with young people (especially related to violence prevention).

The *specific objectives* are the following:

1. To characterize the living conditions of the Salvadoran youth in different areas: education, health, work, poverty, technology, legal framework, etc.
2. To present the situation of violence associated with young people in El Salvador, both as victims and as perpetrators.
3. To identify the initiatives that are being carried out by different institutions to keep young people from getting involved in acts of violence, that could serve as examples for other areas of the country or other countries.
4. To establish a research agenda that derives from the research findings

1.2. Procedure

Once the work plan was developed and approved by CDF, the following stages were developed:

Revision of bibliographic information and institutional information request

The main activity of this stage was to review reports and documentation produced in relation to youth, violence and institutional intervention in El Salvador. Data and statistics which reflected the living conditions of the young Salvadoran population were requested to institutions, such as: Policía Nacional Civil, PNC; Instituto de Medicina Legal, IML: Dirección General de Estadística y Censos, DIGESTYC; Ministerio de Educación, MINED; Ministerio de Trabajo y Previsión Social, MTPS; Ministerio de Salud, MINSAL; Registro Nacional de las Personas Naturales, RNPN; among others.

Collecting information from institutional representatives and young people

It includes the gathering of information, mainly through a semi-structured interview with people working on institutions, whose work is related to young people and violence. In order to do that, a script guide was created, where the following topics were explored: perception of the situation of violence associated with young people, prevention interventions known from their own institution and other institutions, programs that were considered successful, use of the new technologies in violence prevention, what remains to be done with regards to prevention in El Salvador, geographic areas to cover or which are priority, and implementation of public policies for the benefit of youth, see annex 1.

In addition to the information provided by institutional representatives, and to obtain data on experiences and opinions of young people, in relation to security, the

instrument used by the SHIP/CDF was adapted: Survey on Conflict, see annex 2. The applied version includes 19 questions. Initially, it was intended that the ballot was downloaded by young people, through the institutional website (http://flacso.org.sv/?q=node/409), promoting it through institutional social networks. Given the low response, support from institutions of higher education was asked, so that they implemented surveys to their students. This information was entered in a data capture program and then a database was obtained with SPSS, see annexes 3a and 3b, from which frequency charts were developed to be further analysed.

Data Analysis

At this time, institutional data, information obtained from the survey applied to young people, interview transcripts and documentary information on initiatives related to prevention of violence associated with young people was taken into account. From all of the above, the final report was written.

2. SITUATION OF THE SALVADORAN YOUTH

This section presents information obtained from several sources: documentary. data and institutional statistics, results from a survey applied to young people and contributions provided by institutional representatives, through interviews.

2.1.   Regulatory framework on youth

In relation to the existent regulatory framework on youth in El Salvador, this consists of a series of legal entities of different nature: international treaties, constitutional text, codes and special laws; in addition to sectorial policies and programs that develop within the institutional framework that embodies the actions regulated by legal texts.

Legislation on children, adolescents and young people

At the moment of establishing the "Ley General de Juventud"[2] which states that young population is the group of people aged between 15 and 29 years, this age range population is overlapped to the population that according to other

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[2] http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/ley-general-de-juventud

instruments, is considered to be children and adolescents. Therefore, the following standards are set up, which apply to minors, from 15 to 18 years old.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, CRC, adopted on November 20th, 1989, as an international human rights treaty, was taken within the United Nations. El Salvador signed it since January 26th, 1990, and ratified the treaty on the 10th of July the same year.[3] This states that any person younger than 18 years old, has to be considered a child.

At a national level, there is the Constitution of 1983, which is the guiding regulatory framework of the Salvadoran legal system, and relies, primarily, on respect for the human being as the beginning and the end of all State affairs. Among the general principles, article 38 establishes the prohibition that children under 14 years old are given any kind of work, unless it is considered that their occupation is essential for the survival of their families. In any case, if any kind of work is authorized, it will take place under conditions that consider the age and special needs of the child.[4]

On the other hand, article 35 of the Constitution establishes the creation of a special legal regime, for those minors who have committed any crime or infringement. In response to the constitutional mandates, children and adolescents who have broken the law must be subject to a special justice system. This article justifies the existence of special frameworks that regulate juvenile criminal justice. In a chronological order, they are the following:

- *"Código de Menores"* (Legislative Decree No. 516 published in *"Diario Oficial"* Nº. 21, Vol. 242, dated 31 January, 1974)[5]
- *"Ley del Menor Infractor"* or "Ley Penal Juvenil" (Legislative Decree Nº. 863 of April 27, 1994)[6]
- *"Ley Transitoria de Emergencia contra la Delincuencia y el Crimen Organizado"* (Legislative Decree No. 668 dated 22 March, 1996)[7]
- *"Ley Antimaras"* (Legislative Decree No. 158 dated 10 October, 2003)[8]
- *"Ley de Combate de las Actividades Delincuenciales de Grupos o Asociaciones Ilícitas Especiales"* (Legislative Decree No. 305 dated 2 April, 2004)[9]

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[3] http://www.sipi.siteal.org/pais/438/el-salvador

[4] http://www.csj.gob.sv/constitu/images/pdf/con_vige.pdf

[5] http://www.isna.gob.sv/ISNA/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=49&Itemid=84

[6] http://www.iin.oea.org/badaj_v/docs/d863sv94.htm

[7] http://www.iin.oea.org/badaj_v/docs/d668sv96.htm

[8] http://www.diariooficial.gob.sv/diarios/do-2003/10-octubre/10-10-2003.pdf

[9] http://www.diariooficial.gob.sv/diarios/do-2004/04-abril/02-04-2004.pdf

- *"*Ley de Proscripción de Maras, Pandillas, Agrupaciones, Asociaciones y Organizaciones de Naturaleza Criminal" (Legislative Decree N°. 458 dated 1 September, 2010)[10]

"*Código de Familia", in regards to minors as the family members who deserve special protection, stipulates responsibility and justification for providing a special rights protection system for this specific group, which guarantees their well-being and comprehensive development.*[11]

National rights protection system

There is a category of national legal precepts which could be defined as a national rights protection system for children, adolescents and young people (NNAJ, by its initials in Spanish), including those standards and legal entities that respond to the protection system approach of this population group. Some of the most relevant are:

- Some reformed provisions from "Código de Trabajo" of 1972, concerning children and adolescents[12]
- "Código de Familia", 1993[13]
- "Ley Procesal de Familia", 1994[14]
- "Ley del Instituto Salvadoreño para la Protección de la Niñez y la Adolescencia, ISNA" ,1993[15]
- "Ley contra la Violencia Intrafamiliar", 1996[16]
- "Ley especial integral para una vida libre de violencia para las mujeres"[17]
- "Ley de Protección Integral de la Niñez y la Adolescencia" better known as "LEPINA", which is a legal instrument that intends to be a broad,

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[10] http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/ley-de-proscripcion-de-maras-pandillas-agrupaciones-asociaciones-y-organizaciones-de-naturaleza-criminal

[11] http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/codigo-de-familia

[12] http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/codigo-de-trabajo

[13] http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/codigo-de-familia

[14] http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/ley-procesal-de-familia

[15] https://www.oas.org/dil/esp/Ley_Instituto_Salvadoreno_para_el_desarrollo_integral_de_la_ninez_y_la_adolescencia.pdf

[16] http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/ley-contra-la-violencia-intrafamiliar

[17] http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/ley-especial-integral-para-una-vida-libre-de-violncia-para-las-mujeres

comprehensive system of rights protection for children and adolescents. It is based on the constitutional precepts related to the protection of minors, the commitments made in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the understanding that children and adolescents are full subjects of rights. It is the result of a struggle of more than a decade, formulation and reformulation of projects, the "LEPINA" was approved in Legislative Decree N°. 839 on March 26, 2009; which had to come into force a year after its adoption. However, its full implementation was until the beginning of the year 2011. Even if the law is quite recent and the institutional process is still underway to ensure its implementation, the LEPINA is a breakthrough in itself when it comes to its inclusive vision, a unique legal attempt from a true protection system.[18]

Regulations on Youth

Regarding policies and institutionalization specifically related to young people, in 2004, during the presidential term of Elías Antonio Saca, the "Secretaría de la Juventud" was created as the government entity that would be responsible for the implementation of the presidential plan for the benefit of young people.

According to a document called "País Seguro: Plan de Gobierno 2004-2009"[19], "Programa JovenES", would be chaired by a Presidential Commissioner who would take the name of "Secretario Nacional de la Juventud". It was intended to coordinate the inter-institutional efforts that would develop programs for young people, including municipalities. The main areas of work included: art and culture, computer science, scholarship programs, sport and recreation, volunteering, health prevention and education on sexuality, addiction prevention, conflict and violence prevention, alternative education programs; vocational training, employment and business basics, education for life, and strengthening of self-esteem and values.

The "*Plan Nacional de Juventud 2005-2015*" was based on a national survey applied to young people between 15 and 24 years, during 2005. In the Plan, the obtaining of three main objectives was proposed: improving the quality of life of young people, promoting youth development and addressing the vulnerable or excluded youth groups (Dirección Nacional de Juventud, Secretaría de Inclusión Social, SIS and Gobierno de El Salvador, GOES, 2011).

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[18] http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/ley-de-proteccion-integral-de-la-ninez-y-adolecencia

[19] http://www.lib.utexas.edu/benson/lagovdocs/elsalvador/federal/presidente/Plan%20Pais%20Seguro .pdf

At the beginning of President Mauricio Funes government, not only the policy that regulates the issue of youth changed, but also the institutions responsible for its implementation. The "Secretaría de Juventud" became the "Dirección Nacional de Juventud", under coordination of the "Secretaría de Inclusión Social". In March 2011, the "Dirección de Juventud» started a consultation process at a national level with several youth sectors, in order to create the "*Política Nacional de Juventud"* and as a complement to this, the results found by "Instituto Universitario de Opinión Pública, IUDOP" in the "Encuesta Nacional de Juventud"[20] in the year 2008, were also included for policy design.

The policy proposes actions that benefit the population under the age of 30, in seven key areas: employment generation, access to education, comprehensive health care, culture, violence prevention, youth participation and sports. In order to achieve the goals defined in the policy, the creation of an institutional system that includes: "INJUVE", "Comisión Interministerial de Juventud", "Red Interdepartamental de Juventud", "Comisión Parlamentaria de Juventud", "Red Nacional de Organizaciones Juveniles", NGO Network and experts in youth, and "Red de Comunicaciones Especializada en Juventud", is proposed. (Dirección Nacional de Juventud, SIS and GOES, 2011).

In 2011, after ten years of reviewing of various juvenile law drafts, the Legislative Assembly Commission passed the "Ley General de Juventud" [21] y [22], which represents the legal framework for the rights of young people and establishes the institutionalization that will guide the actions of the State in terms of public policy, programs and plans aimed at young people. The Law defines as a young person to those who are in the age range of 15 to 29 years. This law allows the creation of the "Instituto Nacional de Juventud", "INJUVE" and the "Consejo Nacional de la Persona Joven, CONPEJ".

INJUVE is created as a decentralized institution of the "Presidencia de la República" and aims to formulate, manage, execute, and monitor the implementation of the "Política Nacional de Juventud" and sectoral policies; to coordinate the implementation of public policies with governmental and non-governmental organizations, international organizations, youth organizations, municipalities, etc.; as well as coordinate with the "Consejo de la Persona Joven" the design, implementation, execution, and evaluation of public policies for young

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[20] http://www.uca.edu.sv/publica/iudop/libros/LIBROINFORMEJUVENTUDIUDOP09.pdf
[21] http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/comisiones-legislativas/permanentes/comision-de-juventud-y-deporte/legislatura-2009-2012/2011/2011/11-noviembre/dictamen-no.-10-favorable-ley-general-de-juventud/
[22] y http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/ley-general-de-juventud

people. The organizational structure of the Institute consists of a Board of Directors, the Directorate General and sectoral divisions.

Policies aimed at young people

In terms of public *health* policies directly aimed at violence prevention, although they are not designed that way within the "Ministerio de Salud", there are documents with specific aspects where the topic is: "Política Nacional de Salud Pública del 2008", in which one of the national priorities is health promotion, prevention and attention to risks and damage to health caused by domestic violence, through the implementation of a comprehensive assistance model based on family health and its surroundings,. As part of this, the objective is to also strengthen the actions of comprehensive care for victims of violence. On the other hand, it is intended to protect mental health and healthy lifestyles through various strategic guidelines, among which are: designing and implementing programs that promote, raise, educate and inform the population on issues related to the prevention of violent behaviors and addictive behaviors (MINSAL, 2008).

Among the changes to be carried out from the "Política Nacional de Salud", is the structural and functional reorganization of health care programs, divided by groups: children, teenagers, women, male adult and the elderly. This is done in full coordination with support units to health benefits, which include: nursing, community health unit and oral health unit. This is done in full coordination with support units to health benefits, which include: nursing, community health unit and oral health unit[23].

To ensure this comprehensive care, the implementation of activities included in plans and integrated and coordinated programs that pay attention to the Salvadoran family, focusing on the life-cycle is required, whereby strategic components such as: sexual and reproductive health, morbidity, health and nutrition, mental health, oral health, the comprehensive care of disability, occupational health and others, are a priority.

In the field of *education* in the country, quality remains one of the most important challenges to ensure inclusive development. When education is fulfilled as a fundamental human right, as it is established in the Constitution, it becomes an act of justice that helps to overcome inequalities and social exclusion.

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[23] http://www.salud.gob.sv/index.php/temas/servicios-de-salud/prog-atencion-en-salud

With the installation of the Government of President Funes, MINED launched a new educational policy with the "Plan Social Educativo 2009-2014": "Vamos a la escuela", which refers to the need to train within a framework of human consciousness, that promotes the development of inclusive education in the system. The policy defines inclusive education as an institutional effort with long-term vision and as a process that must respond to the diversity of educational needs of all, an integration between school-family-community, strategic investments, technological adaptations, improvement of educational practices, among others. The "Plan Social Educativo" also addresses aspects of attention to violence in several of its programs: "Programa de Recreación y deporte, arte y cultura", "Programa Escuela Inclusiva", "Programa Seamos productivos", among others (MINED, n.d.).

As for policies related to coexistence, security and prevention of school violence that have been taken, there are: "Programa Educando en Derechos Humanos", "Campaña Aprender sin Miedo", "Convenio Prevención y Protección Escolar 2010", "Plan de prevención escolar 2011" both in coordination with PNC; and the "Pacto Interamericano para la educación en Derechos Humanos" (Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos, IIDH, 2011). For 2011, the following projects were carried out: "Escuela Segura" and "Batalla por la Paz", which intended to reduce violence and crime through awareness-raising lectures and talks on different topics, continuous surveillance near schools and other provisions within the school premises, such as non-use of cell phone, among other strategies.[24]

On the other hand, "Ministerio de Justicia y Seguridad Pública" implemented at the beginning of the 2012, the "Plan Policía de Protección Escolar", in coordination with PNC and the MINED, in order to prevent violence in schools and its surroundings (FESPAD, n.d.).

The "*Plan de acción nacional de empleo juvenil 2012-2024*" (MTPS, n.d.), falls within the strategy of the "Política Nacional de Juventud", however, it is a strategic part of other plans and policies of the Funes administration that are responsible for the important role to be played by young people for the development of the country, trying to alleviate the major problems affecting them on the labour issue, such as the lack of jobs, precarious employment and the participation in low productivity activities.

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[24] http://www.concursoperiodistaescolar.com/2011/edicion2011/epapernoticias/749-pnc-proyecto-escuelas-seguras.html

Referred to two areas, at a goal level, minimal achievements and goals that may depend on contextual or external factors, can be differentiated; and at the level of temporary space, two stages are recognized: the immediate implementation of 2012-2014 and another medium-term on 2015-2024.

The Plan is based on four pillars for whose construction, the foundation were the strategies proposed by the "Red de Empleo Juvenil de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas", United Nations, World Bank, WB and the International Labour Organization, ILO. The pillars are: employment, employability, entrepreneurship and cross-cutting aspects (sustainability, awareness, window of integrality and equal opportunities). The strengthening of the institutional capacities of the MTPS is based on the above-mentioned.

The objective pursued by the Plan is to develop and implement strategies that allow young people to build a path of decent work. Their implementation and monitoring is supported by: "Comisión Interinstitucional de Gestión del Empleo Juvenil" (which brings together the MTPS; MINED; Instituto Salvadoreño de Formación Profesional, INSAFORP; MINEC; Ministerio de Obras Públicas, Transporte, Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano, MOP; Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, MAG; INJUVE"; youth groups, the business sector, trade unions, NGOs) whose work is in conjunction with the "Equipo Técnico Nacional" and the leading instance of employment of the MTPS. The direct implementation of the Plan is in charge of the "Unidad de Empleo Juvenil", an instance that is formed in the "Departamento Nacional de Empleo de la Dirección General de Previsión Social y Empleo". The implementation of this plan is still in incipient form.

2.2. The Salvadoran youth in figures

This section is an overview of the situation of Salvadoran youth. The information presented in the various tables, corresponds to the age range of young people, as established in the "Ley General de Juventud" (15-29 years).

Socio-demographic characterization of young people

On socio-demographic conditions of Salvadoran youth, from the database of the "Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, EHPM, 2013"[25], the young population was made up of 1, 784,978 people between 15-29 years, which is

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[25] Dirección General de Estadística y Censos, DIGESTYC. Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, EHPM. 2011 and 2012 databases.

equivalent to the 28.4% of the total population. By gender, the 48.8% were male and the 51.2% female; while according to area of residence, 61.1% lived in urban areas and 38.9% in rural areas, see table 1.

Table 1. Socio-demographic data of the young population, by gender and area of residence

Characteristics	Year	Total		Gender				Area of residence			
				Female		Male		Urban		Rural	
		N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
Young population	2011	1,746,364	28.1	887,873	50.8	858,491	49.2	1,084,019	62.1	662,345	37.9
	2012	1,757,009	28.1	896,576	51.0	860,433	49.0	1,088,061	61.9	668,948	38.1
	2013*	1784,978	28.4	913,648	51.2	871,330	48.8	1090,732	61.1	694,246	38.9
Married or accompanied young people	2011	496,294	28.4	291,860	58.8	204,434	41.2	288,312	58.1	207,982	41.9
	2012	477,053	27.2	278,542	58.4	198,511	41.6	274,446	57.5	202,607	42.5
	2013*	506,861	28.4	299,215	59.0	207,646	41.0	282,390	55.7	224,471	44.3
Young people that are heads of households	2011	201,203	11.5	42,337	21.0	158,866	79.0	119,104	59.2	82,099	40.8
	2012	194,649	11.1	44,306	22.8	150,343	77.2	117,035	60.1	77,614	39.9
	2013*	201,697	11.3	45,055	22.3	156,642	77.7	116,858	57.9	84,839	42.1

Source: Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, EHPM, 2011 and 2012 databases, Dirección General de Estadística y Censos, DIGESTYC
*Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples 2013, MINEC and DIGESTYC, 2014.
Note: The total percentages have been calculated on the basis of the total young population.

About the familial status of the young population, it is found that by 2013, the married or accompanied young people were 506,861, being women (59.0%) and urban youth (55.7%) who made family commitments in higher percentage with respect to men (41.0%) and young people in the rural area (44.3%). The figure of married or accompanied young people by 2013 is higher than it was on the previous two years.

It can also be seen in table 1, that 201,697 young people were heads of household by 2013, which means the 11.3% of the total of young people; mainly men (77.7%) and urban residents (57.9%); while there is an increase in the percentage of female heads of household from 21.0% in 2011 to 22.3% in 2013.

Regarding young people occupations, in a national survey to 5,041 young people between 15 and 29 years of age, Ramos (Coordinador, 2011) found that 33.9% of respondents was only focused on studying, another 28.7% was only working, 25.2% was involved in household chores, 6.1% worked and studied and 5.6% was neither studying nor working. Likewise, it is noted that while women were mainly engaged in household tasks, the majority of men spent their time in work outside the home, see figure 1.

Figure 1. Distribution of young people, according to activity
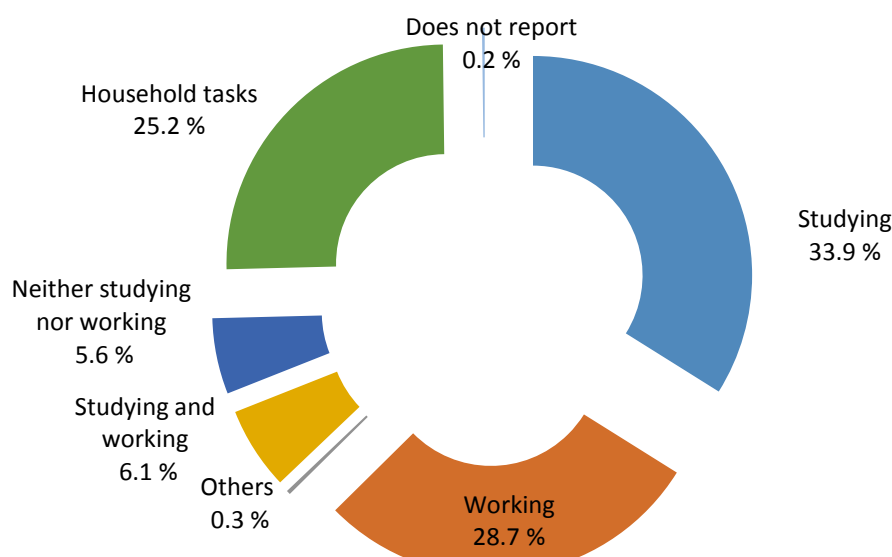
Source: Survey "Identidades, prácticas y expectativas juveniles a inicio del siglo XXI". Taken from Ramos (coordinador, 2011).

The large majority of young people are engaged to study first and secondly to work, while a low ratio is involved in both activities. Women excel in categories related to study and household tasks, while men excel in work.

From the EHPM databases in 2011 and 2012, it is noted that the young population in poverty increased from 31.0% to 38.9% from 2011 to 2012, despite the fact that the number of households in poverty fell from 40.6% to 34.5% respectively. Being women (53.4%) and urban youth (54.7%) the groups most affected by poverty in the year 2012, see table 2.

Table 2. Young people in poverty, by gender and area of residence

Year	Total		Gender				Area of residence			
			Female		Male		Urban		Rural	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
2011	542,010	31.0	285,232	52.6	256,778	47.4	319,083	58.9	222,927	41.1
2012	683,591	38.9	364,927	53.4	318,664	46.6	374,043	54.7	309,548	45.3

Source: Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, EHPM, 2011 and 2012 databases, DIGESTYC.
Note: The total percentages have been calculated on the basis of the total young population (2011: 1, 746,364 y 2012: 1, 757,009).

The condition of youth poverty has tended to increase, according to the EHPM, in 2012, one-third of the young population was in poverty. If poverty is often considered a high vulnerability situation, as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC points out, then poverty and social exclusion in which so many Salvadoran young people live, places them at high risk, because it does not only make them vulnerable in essential aspects of their life (health,

education, employment, etc.) but also to attacks and/or coercion of all kinds (gangs, criminal organizations, among others) (ECLAC, 2011).

A phenomenon of great interest is the one about young people who do not study or work, so-called "ninis". According to the "Red Social de la generación NINI", there are various factors that can explain this phenomenon. One of the most common is the frustration that these young people feel about the inconsistency between their expectations and the reality they live in[26].) In the study of Ramos (Coordinador, 2011) it was reported that 5.6 percent of respondents neither studied nor worked, and that these were mostly men aged between 18 and 29 years old, residents of urban areas and lower social strata.

The 2011 and 2012 EHPM databases, show that for 2012, 21.5% (378,182) of the young population, did not study or work, and was not looking for work, with a higher proportion of women (83.8%) than men; while quite similar percentages are observed by area of residence (rural 51.0% and urban 49.0%), see table 3.

Table 3. "Ninis", by gender and area of residence

Year	Total		Gender				Area of residence			
			Female		Male		Urban		Rural	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
2011	378,910	21.7	316,999	83.7	61,911	16.3	188,134	49.7	190,776	50.3
2012	378,182	21.5	316,810	83.8	61,372	16.2	185,445	49.0	192,737	51.0

Source: Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, EHPM, 2011 and 2012 databases, DIGESTYC.
Note: The total percentages have been calculated on the basis of the total young population (2011: 1, 746,364 y 2012: 1, 757,009).

It is of relevant importance to know and address the situation of the "ninis" in the country, because we have to counteract the circumstances that drive out or make it difficult for young people to remain within the educational system and enter completely into the labour market, since this violates their rights and exposes them to the influence of gangs or criminal organizations, and this is because they are expelled from the areas of study and work, which provide a sense of belonging and identity to the person.

Education

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[26] http://www.ninis.org/2010/11/los-ninis-un-nuevo-fenomeno-social/

In addition to being a fundamental human right, education is one of the most important mechanisms of social inclusion and a significant factor for development, because it allows people to develop their skills and abilities for later access to opportunities and the labour market, social protection, it also promotes their life projects and exercises their rights and freedoms (ECLAC, 2008, cited in Ramos coordinador, 2011).

As shown in table 4, the 2011 and 2012 EHPM databases recorded that in 2012, the 96.6% of the young population knew how to read and write; remaining similar to the previous year (95.8%). In both periods, the female group (2011: 51.0% and 2012: 51.2%) and residents of urban areas (63.3% and 62.8% respectively) were the ones that were literate, in higher percentage.

Table 4. Literate young people, by gender and area of residence

Year	Total		Gender				Area of residence			
			Female		Male		Urban		Rural	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
2011	1,673,229	95.8	853,307	51.0	819,922	49.0	1,059,964	63.3	613,265	36.7
2012	1,696,493	96.6	868,950	51.2	827,543	48.8	1,065,907	62.8	630,586	37.2

Source: Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, EHPM, 2011 and 2012 databases, DIGESTYC.
Note: The total percentages have been calculated on the basis of the total young population (2011: 1, 746,364 y 2012: 1, 757,009)

Ramos (Coordinador, 2011), found that the 98.4 percent of respondents had achieved some degree of formal education, a 46.1% had completed some level of basic education, the 34.9%, secondary education and 15.7%, some university education. By gender, women slightly exceeded men in basic education (women: 46.9% and men: 45.4%), with minimal differences. On the contrary, men exceeded women in secondary education (men 35.5% and women 34.2%), same as in higher education (men 16.0% and women 15.5%). By area of residence, young people living on the urban area outflank the ones of the rural area, on all levels, see figure 2.

Figure 2. Percentage of young people, according to academic level (completed or not)
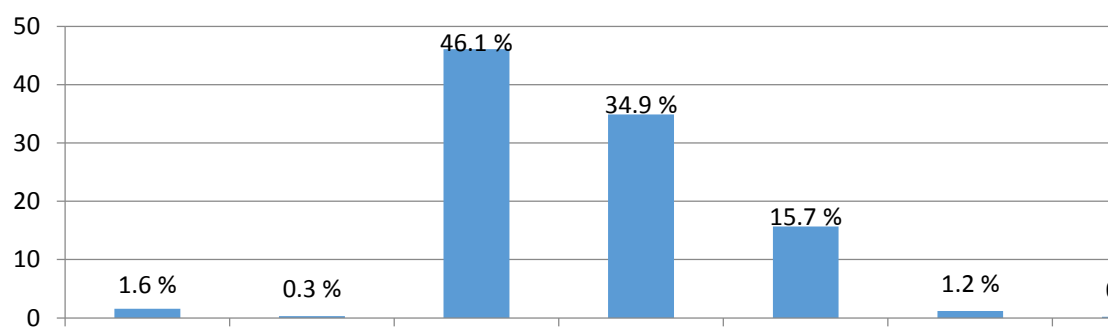
Bar chart showing percentages by academic level:
- None: 1.6 %
- Preschool: 0.3 %
- Basic: 46.1 %
- Secondary: 34.9 %
- Higher: 15.7 %
- Technical: 1.2 %

According to the MINEC and DIGESTYC data (2014), for the year 2013, there were 245,447 (13.8%) Salvadoran young people who were studying some degree of secondary education, while 185,430 (10.4%) were studying higher education. Being women the ones who excel in both study levels, see table 5.

Table 5. Young people in middle and higher education, by gender

Characteristics	Years	Total		Female		Male	
		N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
Young people enrolled in secondary education	2011*	184,595	10.6	94,120	51.0	90,475	49.0
	2012*	198,861	11.3	100,695	50.6	98,166	49.4
	2013**	245,447	13.8	125,863	51.3	119,584	48.7
Young people in higher education	2011	131,266	7.5	71,031	54.1	60,235	45.9
	2012	137,457	7.8	74,183	54.0	63,274	46.0
	2013	185,430	10.4	96,541	52.1	88,889	47.9

Taking into consideration the above, 199,721 people who are 14 and older, were in secondary education by 2013, while 137,4577 (7.8%) of 15-29 years old, were enrolled in higher education; figures considerably low if it is estimated that at age 15 they should be finishing their basic education and starting secondary education and between 24 and 29 years old, it is expected that they would be finishing their college career or already incorporated into the workplace. On the other hand, the data also indicates that as the level of education increases, the amount of young people who have access to them decreases.

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[27] Information sent via e-mail on April 02, 2014

It can also be seen in table 6, ―that the proportion of young people leaving secondary education decreased, from 8.9% in 2011 to 6.0% in 2012, and increased in 2013 to 8.2%. According to the last reported year, those who drop out are especially young men (57.7%) and those who live in urban areas (86.5%). In general, a slight increase of young people living in the rural area who drop out of middle school education, can be seen from a period to another.

Table 6. Young people who left secondary education, by gender and area of residence

Year	Total		Gender						Area of residence			
			Female		Male		No data		Urban		Rural	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
2011	16,603	8.9	7,201	43.4	9,310	56.1	92	0.5	14,683	88.4	1,920	11.6
2012	11,871	6.0	5,309	44.7	6,367	53.7	195	1.6	10,312	86.9	1,559	13.1
2013	16,304	8.2	6,667	40.9	9,403	57.7	234	1.4	14,101	86.5	2,203	13.5

Source: Gerencia de monitoreo, evaluación y estadística, Misterio de Educación, MINED.
Note: The total percentage of young people leaving secondary education was calculated from the total population registered at that same level.

According to Ramos (coordinador, 2011), the main reason why young people abandon their studies is lack of money (56.5%). Other reasons mentioned were that they do not like to study and the lack of support from their parents or those responsible for them (13.6% and 13.3% respectively), also because they make work or family commitments (10.0%), etc.

On the other hand, the "Gerencia de monitoreo, evaluación y estadística", Ministerio de Educación, MINED"[28] pointed out that to 2013, there were 10,906 young people repeating school year. Among them, men (6,921) and residents of urban areas excelled (9,716), while the laggards[29] were 20,688, these are characterized by being mostly male (12,118) and from the urban area (17,421).

In the EHPM 2011 and 2012 database, it was registered that for the year 2012, 357,639 young people had a high school diploma, equivalent to 20.4%. While the number of young people with a university degree was 32,653, amounting to 1.9%; the data shows that there were not any major changes in this area, because in 2011 it was 1.6%, see table 7. Women were the ones who had obtained titles, in higher proportion. On the other hand, there is a significant difference between young people who live in urban areas and the ones who live in rural areas, in terms

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[28] Information sent via e-mail on April 02, 2014
[29] "School lagging is the proportion of students that are enrolled in a level (or degree) and whose age is greater than the established for that level. It refers to the proportion of students who are two years older than the official age in relation to the initial enrollment" (MINED, 2009, p.53).

of the percentage of those who had obtained their title, either high school or college, which favors the first.

Table 7. Young people who have a high school or university degree, by gender and area of residence

Characteristics	Year	Total		Gender				Area of residence			
				Female		Male		Urban		Rural	
		N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
Young people with a High School Diploma	2011	337,856	19.4	181,663	53.8	156,193	46.2	251,039	74.3	86,817	25.7
	2012	357,639	20.4	193,083	54.0	164,556	46.0	256,444	71.7	101,195	28.3
Young people with a University Degree	2011	27,464	1.6	17,454	63.6	10,010	36.4	25,630	93.3	1,834	6.7
	2012	32,653	1.9	22,134	67.8	10,519	32.2	30,038	92.0	2,615	8.0

Source: Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, EHPM, 2011 and 2012 databases, DIGESTYC.
Note: The total percentages have been calculated on the basis of the total young population (2011: 1, 746,364 y 2012: 1, 757,009)

As seen in table 8, the average education of the young population increased 8.8 degrees subtly in 2011 to 9.0 for 2012, at a national level. In the last year, women reached 9.1 degrees, while men reached 8.9 degrees. ECLAC (2008) estimates that the minimum of formal education that a person must reach in order to have the necessary skills and be able to face the challenges of the labour market is 10 to 13 years. For that matter, the situation of Salvadoran young people places them at a disadvantage, when it comes to entering the labour market, since the majority of them are below that minimum of studies.

Table 8. Average schooling of young people, by gender and area of residence

Years	Total	Gender		Area of residence	
		Female	Male	Urban	Rural
2011	8.8	8.9	8.7	9.8	7.2
2012	9.0	9.1	8.9	9.9	7.5

Source: Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, EHPM, 2011 and 2012 databases, DIGESTYC.

Data by area of residence show that there is a gap between the educational level of people living in the rural and urban area. The average schooling of urban youth in 2012 (9.9 degrees) was superior to the rural area (7.5). This difference might exist because there are still difficulties in access to school in the rural area and the appreciation given to education in these areas.

Currently, studying one more year is worth less than it did in 2011, in terms of performance or future benefit expected from this investment, since the return rate[30] for a year more of study for the population between 15 and 25 years in the period 2000-2011 was 8.6% and for 2012, it was 6.5% (UNDP, 2013a).

In the same direction, the UNDP, indicates that the paradox of more education but fewer jobs applies to Salvadoran youth, since the average educational levels of unemployed young people are higher than the levels of the employed population, a pattern that does not correspond to the assumption that better training leads to greater job opportunities, as shown in table 9. Similarly, it points out that "this paradox also results in the overrepresentation of young people among the underemployed and unemployed, in the greater incidence of underutilization by competencies in this age group: 13.0% is in situation of apparent underutilization and 9.4%, at risk of underutilization" (UNDP, 2013a, p. 195).

Table 9. Average PAES schooling years[31], according to occupancy condition, according to gender and age (2012)

Age group	Occupied			Unocuppied			Underemployed		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
16-25 years	8.4	9.5	8.8	9.6	10.8	10.0	7.9	8.5	8.1
26-35 years	8.8	9.3	9.0	9.8	11.7	10.5	7.2	7.5	7.3
36-45 years	7.9	8.0	8.0	6.8	11.1	8.1	5.7	5.9	5.8
46-55 years	7.0	7.0	7.0	5.7	4.3	5.5	5.0	4.7	4.9
56 or above	4.7	4.0	4.4	3.4	1.0	3.3	3.1	2.9	3.0
Total	7.6	7.9	7.8	8.0	10.7	8.8	6.0	6.2	6.1

Source: EHPM (MINEC and DIGESTYC, 2012). Taken from: Informe sobre Desarrollo Humano El Salvador 2013, UNDP, 2013a.

On the other hand, referring to the results of the "Prueba de Aprendizaje y Aptitudes para Egresados de Educación Media, PAES"[32], according to UNDP, are data that show the challenges El Salvador faces with regard to the improvement in learning in order to enhance competences and cognitive skills of its population. Many Salvadoran young people complete their educational experience without

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[30] For UNDP, the return rate must show how the skills and knowledge acquired results in greater productivity and better wages in the labour market.

[31] "Prueba de Aprendizaje y Aptitudes para Egresados de Educación Media, PAES".

[32] Standardized test that is applied to all students who complete their High School education in El Salvador, as a requirement to prove completion of the secondary formation level, in compliance with Article 57 of the "Ley General de Educación (LGE)", which establishes it as a mandatory test aimed at measuring the student's learning and skills, to establish its performance and effectiveness in different areas of curricular attention. LGE may be consulted at: http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/ley-general-de-educacion

having acquired the necessary skills that will help them to integrate more effectively into the labour market or jobs that allow them to achieve an adequate standard of living. UNDP concerns that when analyzing the quality of education, the results are poor because "while it is impossible to compare results between years, given the procedures for the standardization of scores, there is evidence that the global note for the system has been 'failed' (less than 6) since the implementation of the test in 1997" (UNDP, 2013a, p. 150). These low results are a sample of the level of learning that does not seem to improve over time, as well as a reflection that there are serious problems in the work that the school is doing to stop the reproduction of inequalities of socio-economic background. The result for 2013 was 5.3, remaining similar to the previous period (5.0), on a scale of 1 to 10. The average score for females was 5.2, while the male obtained 5.4[33]. The private sector students' average is higher than the one from the public sector (5.8 and 5.1 respectively).

Employment

According to data from the MINEC and DIGESTYC (2014), the Economically Active Population, EAP, of young people consisted of 922,521 people in 2013, which corresponds to 51.7% of young people. With a greater percentage of men (62.1%) and residents in the urban area (59.8%).

In general, the young EAP remained without greater variation during the reviewed years. However, there has been a slight increase in the female group (36.3% in 2011 and 37.9% for 2013) and young people in rural areas (39.3% in 2011 to 40.2% for 2013), see table 10.

Table N° 10. Young economically active population, by gender and area of residence

Year	Total		Gender				Area of residence			
			Female		Male		Urban		Rural	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
2011	903,350	51.7	328,338	36.3	575,012	63.7	548,576	60.7	354,774	39.3
2012	907,183	51.6	335,176	36.9	572,007	63.1	550,981	60.7	356,202	39.3
2013	922,521	51.7	349,457	37.9	573,064	62.1	551,762	59.8	370,759	40.2

Source: EHPM, 2011 and 2012 databases, DIGESTYC; MINEC and DIGESTIC, 2014.
Notes: Due to the fact that the working age is defined from the age of 16, the data contained in this table refer to young people between 16 and 29 years of age.
The total percentages are calculated on the basis of the total population of young people (2011: 1, 746,364, 2012: 1, 757,009 y 2013: 1, 784,978).

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[33] For more details on the results of the PAES, consult: http://www.mined.gob.sv/index.php/novedades/avisos/item/6741-resultados-paes-2013.html

For 2013, the occupied young people were 826,474, equivalent to 89.6 % of the economically active youth. When broken down by gender and area of residence, it is observed that the occupied were mainly men (62.3 %) and young people from the urban area (59.4 %) Although there is a slight increase in the percentage of occupied women (36.7 % in 2011 and 37.7 % in 2013), see table 11.

Table N° 11. Occupied young people, by gender and area of residence

Year	Total		Gender				Area of residence			
			Female		Male		Urban		Rural	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
2011	806,734	89.3	295,919	36.7	510,815	63.3	482,379	59.8	324,355	40.2
2012	811,282	89.4	301,792	37.2	509,490	62.8	484,710	59.7	326,572	40.3
2013	826,474	89.6	311,509	37.7	514,965	62.3	490,692	59.4	335,782	40.6

Source: EHPM, 2011 and 2012 databases, DIGESTYC; MINEC and DIGESTYC, 2014.
Notes: Due to the fact that the working age is defined from the age of 16, the data contained in this table refer to young people between 16 and 29 years of age.
The total percentages are calculated on the basis of the EAP of young people (2011: 903,350, 2012: 907,183; 2013: 922,521).

With regard to underemployed youth, these were 193,335 in 2012, which represents 23.8% of the occupied young people; the majority being men (55.8%) and all of them from the urban area, see table 12.

Table N° 12. Young people who are underemployed, by gender and area of residence

Year	Total		Gender				Area of residence			
			Female		Male		Urban		Rural	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
2011	216,449	26.8	95,048	43.9	121,401	56.1	216,449	100.0	-	-
2012	193,335	23.8	85,437	44.2	107,898	55.8	193,335	100.0	-	-

Source: EHPM, 2011 and 2012 databases, DIGESTYC.
Notes: Due to the fact that the working age is defined from the age of 16, the data contained in this table refer to young people between 16 and 29 years of age.
The total percentages were calculated on the basis of the total of occupied young people (2011: 806,734 y 2012: 811,282).

For its part, the UNDP (2013a) observes that those who manage to enter the labour market, do so in activities that are not qualified, since the percentage of young people in these jobs increased between 1992 (10.9%) and 2012 (42.4%), while another group does not have permanent jobs.

There were 96,047 young people in 2013, which is equivalent to 10.4% of the economically active youth. The majority of the unemployed were male (60.5%) and residents of the urban area (63.6%). An increase is observed for women and

young people in the rural area, regarding unemployment figures in the reviewed period (women 2011: 33.6% and 2013: 39.5%; rural area 2011: 31.5% and 2013: 36.4%), see table 13. According to the MINEC and DIGESTYC (2014), the youth unemployment rate (16 to 29 years) was 10.6%, while that of the 30 to 44 age group was 4.0%.

Table N° 13. Unemployed youth, by gender and area of residence

Characteristic	Year	Total		Gender				Area of residence			
				Female		Male		Urban		Rural	
		N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
Unemployed youth	2011	96,616	10.7	32,419	33.6	64,197	66.4	66,197	68.5	30,419	31.5
	2012	95,901	10.6	33,384	34.8	62,517	65.2	66,271	69.1	29,630	30.9
	2013	96,047	10.4	37,948	39.5	58,099	60.5	61,070	63.6	34,977	36.4

Source: EHPM, 2011 and 2012 databases, DIGESTYC; MINEC and DIGESTYC, 2014.
Notes: Due to the fact that the working age is defined from the age of 16, the data contained in this table refer to young people between 16 and 29 years of age.
The total percentages were calculated on the basis of the young EAP (2011: 903,350, 2012: 907,183 y 2013: 922,521).

Another related aspect are young people who are inactive,[34] as shown in table 14, there were 690,232 in 2012, being women (70.2%) and the young residents of the urban area (64.0%) who were in this condition, in a higher percentage.

Table N° 14. Young people who are inactive, by gender and area of residence

Year	Total		Gender				Area of residence			
			Female		Male		Urban		Rural	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
2011	694,981	39.8	489,657	70.5	205,324	29.5	447,999	64.5	246,982	35.5
2012	690,282	39.3	484,476	70.2	205,806	29.8	441,941	64.0	248,341	36.0

Source: Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, EHPM, 2011 and 2012 databases, DIGESTYC.
Notes: Due to the fact that the working age is defined from the age of 16, the data contained in this table refer to young people between 16 and 29 years of age.
The total percentages were calculated on the basis of the total young population (2011: 1, 746,364 y 2012: 1, 757,009).

In regard to the relationship between the young labour force with the adult workforce, it is believed that the young EAP represented 33.3% of the total EAP in 2012, which showed a slight decline over the previous year (2011: 34.3%).

Occupied young people in 2012 amounted to 31.7% of the total employed population, that is to say that approximately 32 of every 100 employed people were

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[34] The DIGESTYC, has conceptualized the economically inactive population as the group of people who are of working age, but do not work, and those who are not actively looking for a job. Among them are the housewives, students, retirees, etc.

young, a figure lower than that reported in the previous year (32.7%). While the unemployed youth represented 58.0% of the total number of people in that condition, showing an increase of the percentage found in 2011 (55.3%). More than half of unemployed people in the country are young.

According to data from MINEC and DIGESTYC (2013), the youth unemployment rate (16 to 29 years) was 10.6%, while that of the 30 to 44 age group was 4.0%.

On the other hand, the "Sistema de Intermediación Laboral del Ministerio de Trabajo y Previsión Social de El Salvador, MINTRAB"[35], indicates that the number of young people who enrolled in the job market and job fairs at a national level, increased in the last few years, which means that for 2012, there were a total of 42,316 people between 18 and 35 years, and 47,889 in 2013. In the first six months of 2014, 29,375 young people between 18 and 35 years had registered, which represents more than half of the previous year, recording the largest increase in the group of women for three periods, see table 15.

Table 15. People enrolled in job markets and job fairs, and people placed in sources of employment, by gender

Characteristics	Year	Total	Female		Male	
			N°	%	N°	%
Enrolled in job markets and job fairs	2012	42,316	21,158	50.0	21,158	50.0
	2013	47,889	25,860	54.0	22,029	46.0
	2014*	29,375	17,006	57.9	12,369	42.1
Placed in job positions	2012	12,324	5,257	42.7	7,067	57.3
	2013	17,762	7,815	44.0	9,947	56.0
	2014*	11,102	5,085	45.8	6,017	54.2

Source: Sistema de Intermediación Laboral del Ministerio de Trabajo y Previsión Social.
Notes: * This year includes data from January to July 2014.
The data contained in this table refer to people between 18 to 35 years of age.

As for young people who enrolled in job markets and fairs and who were placed in job positions, they also showed an increase, from 12,324 in 2012, to 17,762 in 2013. In mid-2014, 11,102 had been occupationally placed, more than half of the ones placed the previous year. The largest increase in the number of people who were placed can be seen in the female group over the three years.

It is important to note, that despite the fact that there were more women registered, in the three years that were reviewed, they were the ones that were less incorporated in a job position, in relation to men.

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[35] Information sent via e-mail on August 08, 2014.

The International Labor Organization, ILO, based on data from the EHMP 2012, notes that the Working Age young Population, WAP, represented 45.8% of the total WAP, the 13.8% are male and 14.3% are female. By area of residence, 10.7% are located in the rural area and 17.4% in urban areas. It also indicates that young people who belong to the EAP represent 53.8%, while the 46.2% was part of the Economically Inactive Population, EIP (International Labor Organization, ILO, 2012).

This same organization mentions that the youth employment rate is 89.6% and the unemployment rate is 10.4%. It also indicates that the employment situation of young people living in the rural area is better than the urban, since their participation rate (56.8%) and employment (91.8%) is higher when compared to the urban areas (53.0% and 88.2% respectively). In relation to the unemployment rate, the organization points out that it is higher for urban youth (11.8%) with respect to the rural. In terms of social security coverage, the ILO indicates that the 83.7% of young people do not have any coverage, being young people in the rural areas the most excluded, with respect to urban youth (Ibid.).

Health

When consulting the EHPM of the years 2011 and 2012, on whether young people had health coverage or not, and which type[36] a decrease among those who responded affirmatively was found, going from 35.3% in 2011 to 28.7% in 2012, being higher the percentage of men (55.0%) in this last year, and young people of the urban area (80.5%) the ones who had health coverage, as compared to women (45.0%) and residents of rural areas (19.5%). The percentage of women declined by 6 percentage points from one year to another, see table 16.

Table 16. Young people with health insurance coverage, by gender and area of residence

Year	Total		Gender				Area of residence			
			Female		Male		Urban		Rural	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
2011	284,993	35.3	145,440	51.0	139,553	49.0	230,758	81.0	54,235	19.0
2012	232,683	28.7	104,596	45.0	128,087	55.0	187,373	80.5	45,310	19.5

Source: Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, EHPM, 2011 and 2012 databases, DIGESTYC.
Notes: Due to the fact that the working age is defined from the age of 16, the data contained in this table refer to young people between 16 and 29 years of age.

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[36] Medical coverage refers to having health insurance, as a service provided by "Instituto Salvadoreño del Seguro Social, ISSS" as contributing member, beneficiaries or retired, teachers' welfare, "Instituto de Previsión Social de la Fuerza Armada, IPSFA", collective insurance, individual (private) or other type.

The total percentages were calculated on the basis of the total young population (2011: 1, 746,364 y 2012: 1, 757,009)

Although young people in general tend to have good physical condition and a low tendency to get sick, they are very prone to exogenous risks that affect their health, such as: drug use, poor eating habits, road accidents, unprotected sexual activity, among others.

When investigating in this regard, the study conducted by Ramos (coordinador, 2011) found that according to the surveyed young people, the diseases that affected them the most were: the flu (39.2%), headaches (20.0%), respiratory problems (19.1%). It also indicates that given health problems, the first thing they do is using self-medication, followed by going to the public health system and consulting with family and friends.

According to data from the "Sistema de Morbimortalidad en línea, SIMMOW, of the Ministerio de Salud, MINSAL"[37], the causes of medical consultation in young people aged 15 to 19 in 2012, in the first place were respiratory system diseases, for both sexes. Secondly, for young women were diseases of the genitourinary system, whereas for men were injuries, poisoning and other consequences of external causes. Thirdly, for women it was pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium, and for young men, it was contagious and parasitic diseases. As for the causes of death in that same year for female, there were: toxic effects of substances of non-medicinal origin, diseases of the genitourinary system; while for the male group were head injuries, followed by diseases of the genitourinary system, among others.

From January to June 2014, the main diseases for which young people went to the health system were: the urinary tract infections, acute rhinopharyngitis (common cold), other acute infections of multiple sites of the upper respiratory tract, acute pharyngitis, not specified and acute vaginitis. While the five leading causes of deaths were the not specified multiple injuries, poisoning by organophosphate insecticides and carbonates, intracranial trauma, not specified, injuries from elsewhere and the unspecified of the abdomen and disease by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) without any further specification.

According to data from the MINSAL, there were 497 cases of young people infected with HIV for 2013, which corresponds to 34.9% of the total number of infected people. The majority of young people infected with HIV were male (64.0%) and residents of the urban area (70.4%), see table 17. The percentage of young

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[37] Information sent via email on August 08, 2014.

people infected with HIV increased each year, from 31.0% in 2011, to 33.3% in 2012, reaching 34.9% in 2013.

Table 17. Young people infected with HIV, by gender and area of residence

Year	Total		Gender				Area of residence			
			Female		Male		Urban		Rural	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2011	524	31.0	208	39.7	316	60.3	354	67.6	170	32.4
2012	512	33.3	203	39.6	309	60.4	336	65.6	176	34.4
2013	497	34.9	179	36.0	318	64.0	350	70.4	147	29.6

Source: Sistema de Morbimortalidad en línea (SIMMOW) of MINSAL.
Note: The total percentage has been calculated on the basis of the total of people infected with HIV (2011: 1,693; 2012: 1,540 y 2013: 1,424).

Regarding the topic of youth suicide, see table 18, the data obtained from "Instituto de Medicina Legal, IML"[38], indicate that the number of suicides decreased, from 221 (43.9%) in 2011 to 169 (36.3%) in 2013; being men (65.7%) and the young residents of the urban area (56.2%) who mostly committed suicide.

Table 18. Youth suicide, by gender and area of residence

Year	Total		Gender				Area of residence					
			Female		Male		Urban		Rural		No data	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2011	221	43.9	66	29.9	155	70.1	99	44.8	88	39.8	34	15.4
2012	233	43.4	69	29.6	164	70.4	125	53.6	86	36.9	22	9.4
2013	169	36.3	58	34.3	111	65.7	95	56.2	66	39.1	8	4.7
2014*	74	37.0	23	31.1	51	68.9	45	60.8	29	39.2	0	0

Source: Instituto de Medicina Legal, IML
Notes: * This data includes information from January to July 2014.
The total percentage has been calculated on the basis of the total suicides at a national level (2011: 503; 2012: 537, 2013: 465 y 2014: 200).

It is important to see that there is an increase of 4.7 percentage points of young women who committed suicide from 2012 to 2013. While from January to July 2014, 74 young people had committed suicide, that is, 37.0% of the total of suicidal people at a national level (200).

On the issue of youth deaths[39], according to data provided by "Registro Nacional de las Personas Naturales, RNPN", the number of deaths of people between 15 and 29 years tended to decrease from 3,392 in 2011 to 1,733 in 2013, see table 19. In relation to the total number of deaths in the country, young people represented 5.2% for 2013.

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[38] Information sent via e-mail on March 14 and on August 29, 2014.
[39] Information sent via e-mail on 30 January, 2014.

Table 19. Deaths of young people, by gender

Years	Total		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
2011	3,392	10.0	728	21.5	2,664	78.5
2012	2,578	7.7	537	20.8	2041	79.2
2013	1,733	5.2	384	22.2	1,349	77.8

Source: Registro Nacional de las Personas Naturales, RNPN.
Note: The total percentage has been calculated on the basis of the total deaths in the country (2011: 34,063; 2012: 33,178 y 2013: 33,231)

In both phenomena (youth suicide and deaths) are recorded more cases in the group of men and young people who are in the urban area. It may be noted, however, that the data show a slight increase in the percentage of female suicides and deaths, which it is important to pay attention to, before it continues to increase.

On the other hand, in the "VI Censo Nacional de Población y V de Vivienda 2007", there were 29,880 young people with disabilities, with a greater percentage of men (59.0%) than women (41.0%). Depending on the area of residence, people with disabilities were more in the urban area (58.8%) than in rural areas (41.2%)[40].

In terms of drug use, Ramos study (coordinador, 2011) found that 39.1% of respondents reported having used drugs once, being more men (56.5%) than women (22.9%). The most mentioned drugs were alcohol (30.9%) and tobacco (25.6%).

According to data from the "Encuesta Nacional de Salud Familiar, FESAL, 2008", the percentage of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 who are sexually active, at a national level, was 50.0%, with a higher proportion in the rural areas (53.7%), compared to urban areas (48.1%). The average age of the first sexual intercourse was 16 years old. It also notes that from the total number of women between 15 and 24 years, only 28.2% reported using some method of contraception, which showed an increase of 18.5 percentage points from 1998 to 2008, being the reasons for not using these methods: unexpected intercourse, and lack of information about the methods (Asociación Demográfica Salvadoreña, ADS, 2009).

According to (Ramos, coordinador, 2011), the respondents mentioned that the age at which their peers become sexually active was at the age of 15, being the condom the most used contraceptive method (69.3%).

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[40] Information sent via e-mail on September 19, 2013.

According to data provided by the SIMMOW and the "Sistema Estadístico de Producción de Servicios, SEPS of MINSAL", there were 353,559 users of temporary and permanent contraceptive methods in the range of 15 to 49 years, to 2013, a figure greater than the one reported in 2012 (341,071). In 2013 the majority of users were women (94.8%). Halfway through 2014, there were 254,358 users of these methods in total, see table 20.

Table 20. Contraceptive methods users, by gender*

Year	Total	Female		Male	
		N°	%	N°	%
2012	341,071	328,015	96.2	13,056	3.8
2013	353,559	335,195	94.8	18,364	5.2
2014**	254,358	245,533	96.5	8,825	3.4

Source: Sistema de Morbimortalidad en línea, SIMMOW and Sistema Estadístico de Producción de Servicios, SEPS del Ministerio de Salud de El Salvador, MINSAL.
Notes: * The information refers to users of the public health system aged between 15 to 49 years.
** This year only includes data from January to June 2014.

In another aspect, "Ministerio de Salud" reported that by 2011, from the total number of women enrolled in prenatal care, the adolescents aged from 10 to 19 years accounted for 31.4%. The departments with the highest number of pregnant adolescents registered for maternal care were: Usulután, with 34.0%; La Unión, with 32.9%, and San Salvador, with 32.7%. Also, it recorded that from the total of institutional births, the percentage of teen births was 29.4% in 2010 and 29.2% in 2012[41].

This same institution noted that the number of childbirths in young women (15 to 29 years) attended in 2013 was 61,877, of which 58.0% happened in the rural area, while a 42.0% occurred in the urban area. For the months of January to June 2014, the number of births attended by the hospitals networks of MINSAL was 31,449, which corresponds to 77.0% of the total deliveries, see table 21.

Table 21. Young women childbirths, by area of residence*

Year	Total		Gender				Area of residence			
			Female		Male		Urban		Rural	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
2013	61,877	78.1	61,877	100.0	N/A	-	25,994	42.0	35,883	58.0
2014**	31,449	77.0	31,449	100.0	N/A	-	13,367	42.5	18,082	57.5

Source: Sistema de Morbimortalidad en línea, SIMMOW and Sistema Nacional de Vigilancia Epidemiológica, VIGEPES, MINSAL.
Notes: *The information relates only to the data of the public health system.

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[41] http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTLACREGTOPHEANUTPOP/Resources/832436-13632008 77627/Informe_SSR_FINAL.pdf

**This year only includes data from January to June 2014.
The total percentages were calculated on the basis of total births (2013: 79,201 y 2014: 40817).

With respect to maternal deaths, MINSAL reported that by 2011, there were 28 deaths of young mothers, falling to 22 in 2012, which remained the same in 2013. From January to June 2014 there had been 20 deaths. It is observed that in all the reviewed years, the majority of deaths occurred in the rural area, with the exception of 2013, in which the higher percentage was in the urban area, see table 22.

Table 22. Maternal deaths in young people, by area of residence*

Year	Total		Area of residence			
			Urban		Rural	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
2011	28	58.3	11	39.3	17	60.7
2012	22	59.4	7	31.8	15	68.2
2013	22	59.4	12	54.5	10	45.5
2014**	20	62.5	9	45.0	11	55.0

Source: Sistema de Morbimortalidad en línea (SIMMOW) y VIGEPES del MINSAL
Notes: * The information relates only to the data of the public health system.
** This year only includes data from January to June 2014.
The total percentages were calculated on the basis of the total maternal deaths (2011: 48; 2012: 37, 2013: 37 y 2014: 32).

According to MINSAL, 2013, in 2011 among the causes of young mothers' deaths were: pesticide poisoning, postpartum hemorrhages due to different causes, septic shock, pregnancy-induced hypertension, and others.

Youth Participation

Youth participation means to get involved in activities, processes and community organizations to have an impact on the decision-making on the aspects concerning its own development. According to FLACSO (2007, citado en Caritas El Salvador, 2013a), in order for this to happen, civic culture is necessary, i.e. the customs, actions or rules that are generated through behaviors, a sense of belonging and cohesion with the community.

One of the most common ways to participate is by organizing into groups that look for different objectives and forms of advocacy. According to the "Coordinadora Intersectorial Pro Juventudes de El Salvador, CIPJES (2012)", in the case of El Salvador, during the mapping carried out in the 14 departments of the country, 86 youth organizations and networks were found, at a national level. The 48.0% corresponded to the central area, the 22.0% to the eastern area, a 17.0% to the

western and 13.0% to the paracentral area. The 79.0% (68) have emerged by projects or initiatives driven by governmental and non-governmental organizations, municipalities or religious leaders and a 20.9% (18) by young people's own initiative

CIPJES also states that the 86 youth organizations identified emerged between 2008 and 2011 (2008: 12.0%; 2009 to 2010: 32.0% and 2011: 9.0%). As for the type of youth organizations, these were distributed in networks (23.3%), collective (22.3%), committees (19.2%), associations (18.2%) and other such as councils, coalitions, and youth groups (1.1% each). During this mapping process, it was also found that on the basis of the work approach, those who work in violence prevention represent the highest percentage (28.0%), as shown in table 23.

Table 23. Distribution of youth organizations on the basis of their work approach

Work Approach	Percentage (%)
Violence Prevention	28
Youth Participation	17
Cultural	14
Community Development	12
Rights, sexual orientation and gender	10
Environmental	9
Sex Education	5
Protection against sexual abuse	4
Historical Memory	1

Source: taken from Mapeo Nacional de Organizaciones y Redes Juveniles, CIPJES, 2012.

On this same subject, Ramos (coordinador, 2011) noted that young Salvadorans had very little participation in organizations, however, the ones with more participation were organizations of a religious character (30.5%), sports (23.5%), and the students related (10.3%), see table 24.

Table 24. Participation of young people in youth organizations

Type of organization	Percentage (%)
Religious Organization	30.5
Sports Club or Organization	23.5
Students Association	10.3
Community and Neighborhood Organization	6.7
Organization or Volunteer Group	6.2
Artistic Organization or Group	5.0
Labor Organization	4.6
Green/Environmental Organization	3.5
Political or Party organization	3.3
Professional Organization	1.9

Scouts or Girl Guides	1.6
Other	0.3

Source:"Identidades, Prácticas y Expectativas Juveniles" Survey.
Taken from: Identidades, prácticas y expectativas juveniles a inicio del siglo XXI, Ramos (coordinador, 2011).

According to data collected by Ramos (coordinador, 2012) in a survey conducted with young, urban residents in municipalities of the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador , AMSS, most of them believed that youth organizations should be directed by young people (85.3%) and that all members should have equal rights (98.0%). However, it was found that young people were intolerant to the diversity of thoughts within organizations, since most of them agreed that, in order for an organization to operate it is necessary that all its members think alike.

With regard to youth participation in elections, as shown in table 25, according to "Tribunal Supremo Electoral, TSE"[42], young people enrolled in the electoral register were 1, 464,953 for 2013, representing 30.4 % of the total of registered people; similar to the percentage reported in 2012 (30.5%) and somewhat lower than the one for 2011 (31.0%). With a slightly higher percentage of women registered with respect to men.

Table 25. Young people enrolled in the electoral register, by gender

Year	Total		Female		Male	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
2011	1,414,751	31.0	721,055	51.0	693,696	49.0
2012	1,437,768	30.5	729,459	50.7	708,309	49.3
2013	1,464,953	30.4	742,561	50.7	722,392	49.3

Source: Tribunal Supremo Electoral, TSE.
Note: The total percentage has been calculated on the basis of the total people enrolled in the electoral register (2011: 4, 564,969, 2012: 4, 706,796 y 2013: 4, 812,689).

In the elections of 2012, the young people who voted were 626,229, which is equivalent to 26.4 % of the total number of voters. Women (54.4%) were the ones who exercised that right the most, in relation to men (45.6%), see table 26.

Table 26. Data of young people who exercised their right to vote in 2012, by gender

Total		Female		Male	
N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
626,229	26.4	340,574	54.4	285,655	45.6

Source: Tribunal Supremo Electoral, TSE.
Note: The total percentage has been calculated on the basis of the total people who voted in the elections (2, 369,450).

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[42] Information sent via email on January 8, 2014

Ramos (coordinador, 2011), found that 84.0% of respondents said that if they had the conditions to vote, they would do it, while only 16.0% said they would not. Among the main reasons to vote were: to elect their governors (36.5%), because it is their right (31.5%), because it is a duty (21.7%), and because it draws their attention (5.2%).

In the study of Ramos (coordinador, 2012) it was found that 64.7% of respondents affirmed to be interested in politics, which matches the fact that the majority of young people (60.0%) believed that politics is also a matter that concerns young people, while 40.0% said that it was something for adults.

Another aspect that contributes to the citizen participation of young people is the confidence that they have toward the different institutions and people or key actors in the country's life. In this regard, Ramos (coordinador, 2011), points out that young people are of the opinion that people or key players they trust ("much" and "quite") are educators (58.1%), followed by religious leaders (49.3%) and the president (33.1%) while the less-trusted were: trade union leaders, members and leaders of political parties. In addition, Ramos (coordinador, 2012), inquired about the perception that young people had of the institutions, showing that churches are the most highly valued (73.5% evaluating their performance as good or excellent), followed by the media (49.5%), the army (44.2%) and "Procuraduría de Derechos Humanos" (PDDH, 42.1%).

New information and communication technologies have generated significant changes in different societies and people's life style, especially in young people who have grown up in the technology era and have not made an effort to adapt to it because they have been "digital natives"; in this regard, the Internet use has gained an essential place in the lives of young people as a means of communication and information.

In El Salvador, the percentage of young people who use the Internet increased, from the 28.4% in 2011 to 36.7% for 2013, see table 27. When disaggregating the data from that last year by gender, it is found that men are the ones who used the internet the most (51.1%) and women (48.9%). By area of residence, it is more used in the urban area (81.8%) than in rural areas (18.2%), showing an increase in the internet use in the rural area, from one year to another.

Table 27. Young people who use the internet, by gender and area of residence

Year	Total		Gender				Area of residence			
			Female		Male		Urban		Rural	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
2011*	496,312	28.4	248,770	50.1	247,542	49.9	429,366	86.5	66,946	13.5
2012*	590,896	33.6	289,294	49.0	301,602	51.0	492,665	83.4	98,231	16.6
2013**	655,881	36.7	320,745	48.9	335,136	51.1	536,613	81.8	119,268	18.2

Sources: *Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, EHPM, 2011 y 2012 databases, DIGESTYC.
**Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples 2013, DIGESTIC 2014.
Note: The total percentages were calculated on the basis of the total young population (2011: 1, 746,364; 2012: 1, 757,009 Y 2013: 1, 784,978).

Migration

In El Salvador, both internal and external migration of Salvadorans have been taking place since ancient times, in search of a better quality of life. Youth migration is related to the same reason.

In the country, despite the fact that migration is very strong, there are no records of people who have migrated, including data of the young people that leaves the country. There is some dispersed information, which in some cases is obtained through surveys conducted in other countries or targeted research at the domestic level.

According to the "Mesa Permanente sobre Derecho de los Migrantes" convened by "Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos de El Salvador", 145,000 Salvadorans migrate without documents each year and it is estimated that each day, between 500 and 600 people migrate (Gaborit, Zetino, Brioso y Portillo, 2012).

"Cáritas de El Salvador" (2013a), indicates that a total of 4,208 people under the age of 18 years migrated in 2011, being 2,120 men and 2,088 women, while in the 25 to 34 age range, 4,046 people migrated (1,752 men and 2,294 women). It is mentioned that 31,782 Salvadorans were granted permanent residence in the United States in 2006, but this amount was reduced for 201, being 18,667, which implies that the number of illegal immigrants increases in that country.

As shown in table 28, according to the Center for Latin American Monetary Studies, CEMLA (2012), the main destination of Salvadorian migrants is the United States, with 1,214,049 migrants (88.8%), followed by Canada, with 49,801 (3.6%), Guatemala, with 14,855 (1.1%) and Costa Rica, 14,379 (1.0%), among other countries.

According to CEMLA, Salvadorans are the group with a greater presence in the United States, with 1, 829,798 people divided in two-thirds of immigrants (66.3%= 1, 214,049) and a third of native (33.7%= 615,749) in 2010. 51.2% of the Salvadoran migrant population were men, while 48.8% were women. In relation to young Salvadoran immigrants, CEMLA (2012) designated than the 5.3% was 18 years old or younger, a 4.9% were between 65 years and older, while the 89.8% was ranked between 18 to 64 years old.

Table 28. Data of Salvadoran immigrants by destination country, 2010

Destination countries	Number of Salvadoran immigrants	%	Destination Countries	Number of Salvadoran immigrants	%
1. United States	1,214,049	88.8	12. Panama	2,942	0.2
2. Canada	49,801	3.6	13. Sweden	2,899	0.2
3. Guatemala	14,855	1.1	14. France	1,119	0.1
4. Costa Rica	14,379	1.0	15. Venezuela	813	0.1
5. Australia	11,352	0.8	16. United Kingdom	788	0.1
6. Belize	8,257	0.6	17. Germany	768	0.1
7. Spain	8,130	0.6	18. Ecuador	717	0.0
8. Italy	7,989	0.6	19. Dominican Republic	546	0.0
9. Mexico	7,869	0.6	20. Brazil	483	0.0
10. Honduras	5,474	0.4	All other countries	10,298	0.7
11. Nicaragua	3,291	0.2	**Total**	1,366,819	100.0

Source: American Community Survey, 2010, for the United States data, and World Bank, for the rest of the countries. Taken from: Center for Latin American Monetary Studies, CEMLA (2012).

"Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, RREE (2014)", indicates that the main causes of migration were the economic conditions (employment and income level), the conditions of social integration (identity and belonging), as well as the lack of access to basic services, education, health and the consumer society. Ramos (coordinador, 2011) study, found that 51.6% of respondents said that they had thought about leaving the country and the main reasons for migration were: because they wanted to progress (50.9%) and because of the difficulty of finding a job (38.4%). This same study recorded than 69.6% of people surveyed had relatives abroad, the majority reported they had more than 4 relatives abroad (37.4%). In relation to the receipt of remittances, 50.0% said that they received.

As shown in table 29, according to the databases of the DIGESTYC, in 2012 there were 204,152 households with young people who receive remittances, which corresponds to 63.2% of the total number of households that receive remittances, this figure increased in comparison to the previous year. Households in urban areas were more often the recipients.

Table 29. Households with young people who receive remittances, by area of residence

Year	Total		Urban		Rural	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
2011	196,617	60.9	113,530	57.7	83,087	42.3
2012	204,152	63.2	119,542	58.6	84,610	41.4

Source: Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, EHPM, 2011 and 2012 databases, DIGESTYC.
Note: The total percentages were calculated on the basis of the total number of households receiving remittances (2011: 322,779 y 2012: 322,927).

Criminal activity associated with young people and justice

The lack of security that affects the entire population and especially, young people, has been highlighted in various surveys and studies, as one of the main problems of the country.

As seen in table 30, according to data provided by the "Centro de Operaciones y Servicios, COS", of the PNC[43], during 2013 there were 15,842 young people who were victims of various crimes, less than in 2012 (16,247). The distribution by gender is quite similar, however in 2013 women slightly excelled as the most frequent victims (50.0%), the previous year, men were the ones who slightly excelled. By area of residence, in 2013 the urban youth (67.2%) suffered more criminal offenses than residents of the rural area (32.8%). From January to July of 2014, there were 8,489 young people who suffered some criminal offense, being men (52.7%) and residents of urban areas (57.8%) the most affected.

Table 30. Young victims of various crimes, by gender and geographic area

Year	Total	Gender						Area of residence					
		Female		Male		No data		Urban		Rural		No data	
		N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%		
2012	16,247	7,989	49.1	8,246	50.8	12	0.1	10,413	64.1	5,834	35.9	-	-
2013	15,842	7;916	50.0	7,902	49.8	24	0.2	10,648	67.2	5,194	32.8	-	-
2014*	8,489	4,000	47.1	4,473	52.7	16	0.2	4,904	57.8	3,171	37.4	414	4.8

Source: Centro de Operaciones y Servicios, COS, Policía Nacional Civil, PNC.
Note: * Includes data from January to July 2014.

In relation to homicides committed against young people, in 2013, there were 1,268 cases, showing a slight decrease over the previous year (2012: 1,271). Men (92.8%) and the young residents of rural areas were highlighted as victims (53.6%), see table 31. From January to July of 2014, 957 homicides occurred in young people.

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[43] Information sent via e-mail, on September 16, 2014

Table 31. Homicides in the young population, by gender and area of residence

Year	Total	Gender						Area of residence			
		Female		Male		No data		Urban		Rural	
		N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
2012	1,271	140	11.0	1,130	88.9	1	0.1	590	46.4	681	53.6
2013	1,268	91	7.2	1,177	92.8	0	0.0	588	46.4	680	53.6
2014*	957	58	6.1	899	93.9	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Centro de Operaciones y Servicios, COS, Policía Nacional Civil, PNC.
Note: * Includes data from January to July 2014.

On this same topic, as table 32 shows, the "Instituto de Medicina Legal, IML"[44], registered an increase in the number of homicides committed against young people, since there were 1,302 for 2013, amount greater than the one recorded in 2012 (1,204). On the other hand, from January to June of 2014, 995 homicides were committed in young people.

Table 32. Young victims of murder, by gender and area of residence

Year	Total	Gender				Area of residence					
		Female		Male		Urban		Rural		No data	
		N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
2012	1,204	127	10.5	1,077	89.5	491	40.8	701	58.2	12	1.0
2013	1,302	94	7.2	1,208	92.8	544	41.8	756	58.1	2	0.1
2014*	995	69	6.9	926	93.1	395	39.7	595	59.8	5	0.5

Source: Instituto de Medicina Legal, IML.
Note: * Includes data from January to July 2014

The number of young victims of sexual violence was 1,433 for 2013; lower than the figure recorded in 2012 (1,562), and the majority were women (98.4%). By area of residence, young people from the urban area registered a considerable increase from 2012 (45.2%), to 2013 (77.9%), see table 33. From January to June 2014, 757 people between 15 and 29 years old women and young residents of the rural area had experienced this type of crimes, mostly.

Table 33. Sexual violence, whose victims are young people, by gender and área de residence[45]

Year	Total	Gender						Area of residence					
		Female		Male		No data		Urban		Rural		No data	
		N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
2012	1,562	1,488	95.3	74	4.7	-	-	706	45.2	856	54.8	-	-
2013	1,433	1,410	98.4	23	1.6	-	-	1,116	77.9	317	22.1	-	-
2014*	757	750	99.1	6	0.8	1	0.1	351	46.4	401	52.9	5	0.7

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[44] Information sent via e-mail on March 14 and on August 29, 2014.
[45] The following crimes are included in this category by the COS: rape, sexual harassment, statutory rape, support and incitement to prostitution, induction; promotion, facilitation and possession of pornography, corruption of minors without legal capacity, remuneration for sexual or erotic acts and sexual assault.

In relation to those crimes where the culprits or victimizers were young, the COS[46] registered that for 2013, 24,757 were committed at national level, this amount had been declining since 2011, see table 34. However, from January to July of 2014, 12,146 offenses had occurred, which means that around mid-year, almost half of the crimes of the previous year had been committed. The data show that the offenses were mostly committed by young male.

Table 34. Total number of crimes committed by young people, by gender

Year	Total	Female		Male	
		N°	%	N°	%
2011	33,256	2,381	7.2	30,875	92.8
2012	29,544	2,643	8.9	26,901	91.1
2013	24,757	2,162	8.7	22,595	91.3
2014*	12,146	1,060	8.7	11,086	91.3

As table 35 indicates, the most committed crimes by young people are: assault and battery, public disorder, damage and acts of terrorism, threats and theft. It is also observed that the number of crimes decreased in 2013 for the majority of cases, with the exception of rape and sexual assault, trafficking and possession of drugs, which increased. Also, the data show that the majority of people who committed crimes in the reviewed years, were young men, although there is an increase in the participation of young women in a number of crimes year-on-year.

Table 35. Data on various crimes committed by young people, by gender

Characteristic	Year	Total	Female		Male	
			N°	%	N°	%
Threats	2011	2,169	226	10.4	1,943	89.6
	2012	2,194	304	13.9	1,890	86.1
	2013	1,968	271	13.8	1,697	86.2
	2014*	745	118	15.8	627	84.2
Public disorder, damage and acts of terrorism	2011	2,700	147	5.4	2,553	94.6
	2012	2,030	137	6.7	1,893	93.3
	2013	1,515	85	5.6	1,430	94.4
	2014*	547	36	6.6	511	93.4
Extortion	2011	1,791	204	11.4	1,587	88.6
	2012	1,672	200	12.0	1,472	88.0
	2013	1,407	193	13.7	1,214	86.3
	2014*	663	76	11.5	587	88.5

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[46] Information sent via e-mail on September 16, 2014

Homicides	2011	1,845	72	3.9	1,773	96.1
	2012	1,928	87	4.5	1,841	95.5
	2013	1,312	59	4.5	1,253	95.5
	2014*	637	26	4.1	611	95.9
Rape and sexual assault	2011	549	9	1.6	540	98.4
	2012	472	5	1.1	467	98.9
	2013	521	8	1.5	513	98.5
	2014*	154	1	0.6	153	99.4
Assault and battery	2011	2,680	448	16.7	2,232	83.3
	2012	2,641	552	20.9	2,089	79.1
	2013	2,113	441	20.9	1,672	79.1
	2014*	730	172	23.6	558	76.4
Carrying and possession of weapons and explosives	2011	1,497	61	4.1	1,436	95.9
	2012	1,683	167	9.9	1,516	90.1
	2013	1,569	64	4.1	1,505	95.9
	2014*	1,058	45	4.3	1,013	95.7
Theft	2011	2,610	164	6.3	2,446	93.7
	2012	1,998	119	6.0	1,879	94.0
	2013	1,672	86	5.1	1,586	94.9
	2014*	594	42	7.1	552	92.9
Trafficking and possession of drugs	2011	1,049	91	8.7	958	91.3
	2012	1,349	51	3.8	1,298	96.2
	2013	2,291	180	7.9	2,111	92.1
	2014*	1,226	99	8.1	1,127	91.9
Other offenses	2011	16,366	959	5.9	15,407	94.1
	2012	13,577	1,021	7.5	12,556	92.5
	2013	10,389	775	7.5	9,614	92.5
	2014*	5,792	445	7.7	5,347	92.3

Source: Centro de Operaciones y Servicios, COS, Policía Nacional Civil, PNC.
Note: * Includes data from January to June, 2014.

With regard to those young people who have been prosecuted and received a judgment, either conviction or acquittal, the data provided by the "Fiscalía General de la República, FGR"[47], reflect that in 2013, 5,924 people were sentenced in total, more than in the previous years (2011: 5,120 and 2012: 3,813). The largest increase was observed in young males (2011: 88.5% to 2013: 90.2%).

For its part, the "Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo Integral de la Niñez y Adolescencia, ISNA", reported that from January to June 2014, the population served was a total of 1,898 adolescents and young people (under 14 to 24 years), being 1,259 the cases from the previous period (2013). In addition, 639 young people were attended in the first half of 2014, between admissions (486) and readmissions (153). It is noted that from the total served, 1,015 young people are in the centers of social integration and 883 are with alternate measures in open environment, see table 36.

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[47] Information sent via email on February 10, 2014.

Table 36. Population served in the social integration area of ISNA, by care unit, gender and area of residence (January to June, 2014)

Population Served	Total	Gender				Area of residence			
		Female		Male		Urban		Rural	
		N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
Active cases of the previous period	1,259	138	11.0	1,121	89.0	980	77.8	279	22.2
Admissions	486	43	8.8	443	91.2	358	73.7	128	26.3
Readmissions	153	22	14.4	131	85.6	120	78.4	33	21.6
Total	1,898	203	10.7	1,695	89.3	1,458	76.8	440	23.2
Population served by care unit									
Social Integration Centers	1,015	115	11.3	900	88.7	795	78.3	220	21.7
Alternative measures in an open environment	883	88	10.0	795	90.0	663	75.1	220	24.9

Source: Instituto Salvadoreños para el Desarrollo Integral de la Niñez y Adolescencia, ISNA, Subdirección de Investigación y Estadística, SIE and Sistema de Información para la Primera Infancia, SIPI/database.
Note: The data contained in this table refer to adolescents and young people under the age of 14 years up to 24 years old.

In relation to young prisoners, they are distributed in various agencies, according to their age, taking into account what the "Ley General de Juventud" stipulates, that defines young people from 15 to 29 years old[48]. Young people from 15 to 18 years are held in "Centros de Inserción Social de ISNA"[49], while the ones who are 18 to 29 years old, are in intermediate centers[50] and prisons[51]. For 2013, the young prisoners were 13,828, showing a decrease compared to previous years. Inmates were mostly men (91.1%), see table 37.

Table N° 37. Young inmates, by gender

Year	Total	Female		Male	
		N°	%	N°	%
2011	14,014	1,296	9.2	12,718	90.8
2012	14,626	1,325	9.1	13,301	90.9
2013	13,828	1,226	8.9	12,602	91.1

Source: ISNA, Dirección General de Centros penales, DGCP y Dirección General de Centros Intermedios.
Note: This table was elaborated by summing the data provided by the different sources, since each institution reported young people of different ages.

According to the FGR data[52] collected in table 38, in the first half of 2014, young people who received a sentence of acquittal or conviction were 1,326 ; 6.3 % of the sentences corresponded to women, while 93.2 % corresponded to men. By area of

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[48] According to the age range that the "Ley General de Juventud" establishes for young people, there are three types of institutions where they meet court judgments in internment.
[49] Information sent via e-mail on February 13, 2014.
[50] Information sent via e-mail on March 17, 2014.
[51] Information sent via e-mail on April 23, 2014.
[52] Information sent via e-mail on February 10, 2014.

residence, the percentage of young people judgments is higher in urban areas (67.3%).

There were 14 young people convicted of murders in the first half of 2014, the majority were male and mainly from the urban area.

Table 38. Young people who were sentenced and convicted of murder, by gender and geographic area

Characteristic	Year	Total	Gender						Area of residence					
			Female		Male		No data		Urban		Rural		No data	
			N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
Young people who were sentenced *	2011	3,813	382	10.0	3,376	88.5	55	1.4	2,542	66.7	988	25.9	283	7.4
	2012	5,120	398	7.8	4,567	89.2	155	3.0	3,289	64.2	1,293	25.3	538	10.5
	2013	5,924	438	7.4	5,344	90.2	142	2.4	3,795	64.1	1,440	24.3	689	11.6
	2014**	1,326	84	6.3	1,235	93.2	7	0.5	892	67.3	379	28.6	55	4.1
Young people who were convicted of murder	2011	291	14	4.8	271	93.1	6	2.1	165	56.7	110	37.8	16	5.5
	2012	396	17	4.3	370	93.4	9	2.3	230	58.1	116	29.3	50	12.6
	2013	417	13	3.1	392	94.0	12	2.9	248	59.5	137	32.9	32	7.7
	2014**	14	1	7.1	13	92.9	-	-	10	71.4	4	28.6	-	-

Source: Fiscalía General de la República, FGR.
Notes: * Data refer to the number of Young people who have been processed and received a sentence, either conviction or acquittal.
** It includes data from January to July, 2014.

For its part, "Red Feminista Frente a la Violencia Contra las Mujeres, RED-FEM (2013)", based on data from PNC reported 260 women disappearances from January to September, 2013. Until that date, by age group, adolescents under age 17 (157) and the women between 20 to 30 years old (47), presented the largest number of disappearance notices. From January to July 2014, "Observatorio de Seguridad Ciudadana de las Mujeres", based on data from the PNC, counted a total of 1,450 people who were missing, where women (493 cases) represent 66.0%. It is important to note that the majority of missing people corresponds to adolescents and young people between 12 and 30 years (65.4% of the total)[53]. For 2013, the PNC recorded a total of 215 murders of women and there was a reduction with respect to the two previous years (2012: 322 and 2011: 628)[54].

According to Red-FEM (2013), based on PNC statistics, girls, adolescents and young people were the highest percentages of violent deaths in 2013 (51.2%). In this direction and still on the basis of data provided by the PNC to "Observatorio de Seguridad Ciudadana de las Mujeres", between January and July of 2014, it was

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[53] http://www.observatoriodeseguridadciudadanadelasmujeres.org/seguimiento/personas_desaparecidas_2014.pdf
[54] http://www.observatoriodeseguridadciudadanadelasmujeres.org/documentos/FEMINICIDIOS_2013_SC.pdf

reported that 173 women had been murdered[55]. In regards to harm against women, in 2013 1,717 cases were registered, and it can be noted that a little more than half of the victims (51.2%) were girls, adolescents and young people from 0 to 30 years old (RED-FEM, 2013).

Food Safety

In regards to food safety, according to "Cumbre Mundial sobre Alimentación de 1996", "food safety exists when all people have access at all times, to physical and economic to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences, in order to lead an active and healthy life". (Programa Mundial de Alimentos, PMA, 2009, p. 17). Accordingly, hunger would be a consequence of food insecurity, which is often caused by poverty. According to the United Nations, the analysis of food and nutritional insecurity as a problem, can be divided into three categories: food availability, economic access to food, and use and adequate food intake (United Nations System, 2011).

Regarding this topic, due to the fact that there is no specific information on the population that we are dealing with in this document, the analysis will be based on data from the total Salvadoran population.

In El Salvador, there is a severe shortage in food availability and access. In relation to availability, due to the economic policies that have been promoted in recent years, the development of the agricultural sector was limited. Since this sector was marginalized, the national production of food was low, which puts the capabilities to meet the demand of the population at risk and causes a high dependency on basic food imports, such as: beans, corn and rice.

According to the United Nations System (2011) El Salvador has had the lowest growth rate in Central America, the agricultural production increased 1.6% per year between 1961 and 2009. The participation of the agricultural sector in the Gross Domestic Product, GDP decreased from 17.0% in 1990, to 13.0% in 2009.

Climate change threatens the ability of the population in poverty to be able to exercise their right to adequate food. Heavy rains and droughts that are increasingly affecting the country, puts food safety of the population at risk. Similarly, vulnerability to natural disasters affects in a direct way. In 1998, Hurricane Mitch caused damage to crops, destroyed 37.0% of beans production,

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[55] http://www.observatoriodeseguridadciudadanadelasmujeres.org/documentos/Femenicidios_01-07-14.pdf

19.0% of corn and 20.0% of sugar cane, it also caused great damage to the livestock, with a loss of 10,000 animals. "Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería (MAG)", announced that during the period 2010-2011, due to the tropical storms Agatha and Matthew, a loss in basic grains production between 30.0% and 60.0% was estimated (Consejo Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición, 2011).

The basic grains production in El Salvador is not enough to meet the dietary needs of the population. For this reason, a dependence on imports has been growing for several years, although it happens in different proportions: the demand for rice, 79.0% is met through imports, in the case of corn is approximately 4 of every 10 quintals, 20.8%, the demand for beans and 0.36% of sorghum (Bonilla, Centeno y Pérez, 2012).

There has been an analysis in the country, regarding food safety, since this not only depends on food availability that Salvadoran families may have, but also on access to these foods, which is strongly conditioned by household income. In El Salvador, ensuring the availability of adequate, timely and sufficient basic diet is a challenge, particularly in sectors with different levels of poverty, including groups at risk, such as school children, women, adolescents and elderly. Results from food consumption surveys, demonstrate that in El Salvador, in general terms "...diet for the metropolitan, urban and rural geographic strata is deficient in energy, protein, iron, folate, iodine, and vitamin A, which is a reflection of the small variation in food consumption and limited access of the population", recognizing that corn and beans are the main components of the national diet[56].

The Basic Food Basket, BFB, represents the set of basic food supply in appropriate amounts and enough to satisfy at least the energy and protein needs of a family or household. Table 39 presents a group of eleven daily food and grains, per person, that according to DIGESTYC, is required for energy consumption (the necessary proportion of calories to perform daily activities) (Bonilla, et. al., 2012). Also, the population in rural areas replaces many foods that are rich in protein (milk and meat) with carbohydrates (tortillas and beans).

Table 39: Basic Food Basket, according to quantity required daily, per person

Basic Food Basket	Urban Area	Rural Area
	Grains per person	Grains per person
French bread	49	-
Tortillas	223	402
Rice	55	39
Meat (beef, pork, poultry)	60	14
Fats (oil, margarine, vegetable shortening)	33	14

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[56] http://bvssan.incap.int/local/cambio-climatico/Cambio-Climatico-SAN.pdf

Eggs	28	30
Fluid Milk	106	31
Fruits (orange, banana, guineo)	157	16
Beans	79	60
Vegetables (potato, onion, green chili, , güisquil, tomato, cabbage)	127	-
Sugar	69	65

Source: Taken from DIGESTYC, 2011, taken from Bonilla et. al. (2012).

On this same subject, "Cáritas de El Salvador" (2013b), notes that according to the hunger map for 2011, of "Programa Mundial de Alimentos en El Salvador", approximately about 516,000 people are malnourished, representing 9.0% of the total population. In addition, several studies carried out in the country show that households in extreme poverty do not consume enough calories required to develop daily activities. The hunger map for 2012 recorded that 12.3% of the country's population is undernourished and places El Salvador in category 2: moderately low, in relation to the proportion of undernourished people, with regard to the total population[57].

In a study conducted in 2013, the World Food Programme, WFP, found that 50,000 families are vulnerable to food insecurity in the coffee-growing areas, and 12,871 of these Salvadoran families are already in a serious food insecurity situation, since these households reported an average income of $90.00 per family every month, which is 30.0% less than the cost of the rural basic basket ($126.00). 50.0% of these households reported a decrease in their income and the 70.0% states that they have not organized activities to complement their incomes. 80.0% developed agricultural production of beans and rice, while 20.0% did not; 3,286 families (26.0%) stated they do not have food reserves and the 74.0% has low reserves. On the other hand, access to markets is difficult for them because access roads and transportation are limited.

2.2. Opinion of institutional representatives

One of the essential sources of information on the actions that are being done to address young people in the country, are the referents of institutions that are developing actions, either through programs, projects, activities, etc. Consequently, 11 interviews were directed to this group, with informants from 10 institutions as listed below:

Government Sector:
   1. "Instituto Nacional de la Juventud, INJUVE".

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[57] http://es.wfp.org/content/mapa-del-hambre-2012

2. "Dirección General de Prevención Social de la Violencia y Cultura de Paz, PRE-PAZ" (2 people were interviewed).
3. "Policía Comunitaria Colonia El Pino, Santa Tecla. Policía Nacional Civil, PNC".

Civil Society Sector:
4. "MOJE-Coalición Centroamericana de Prevención de la Violencia, CCPVJ".
5. "Coordinadora Intersectorial Pro Juventudes de El Salvador, CIPJES".
6. "Sistema de Asesoría y Capacitación para el Desarrollo Local, SACDEL".
7. "Plataforma Seguridad Juvenil en Centroamérica, PSJ".

Academic Sector:
8. "Universidad Don Bosco, UDB".

International Cooperation Sector:
9. United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA
10. United Nations Development Programme, UNDP

The first issue that was examined was the *perception regarding the situation of violence associated with young people*, and representatives of institutions who were interviewed said that they considered that the various manifestations of violence have changed in recent years with regards to their dynamics and an increase in the intensity of the actions.

> "…I believe that the dynamics of violence have varied in recent years. Previously, violence was more associated to young people who wanted... to show certain identity, a sense of belonging to a group, and that is why they looked to be associated with the famous 'maras' or gangs, but in recent years… different factors play a role".
> (Interview with an informant from INJUVE, August 20, 2014).

> "...the manifestations of violence across the country in general and from young people in particular, have definitely changed... Dismemberment, rape and the most dramatic forms of violence... Unfortunately, I have to admit that the youth and especially, youth in exclusion, impoverished young people, have a particular impact on this".
> (Interview with an informant from SACDEL, August 26, 2014).

Some interviewees talked about the change in manifestations of violence from the perspective of the young person, as the perpetrator, mentioning that the situations presented in recent years have occurred with more cruelty and demonstrate an increased dehumanization, which leads to crimes, such as: drug and weapons trafficking, extortions, homicides (including contract killing) and organized crime. Moreover, there is mobility or territorialization gang-related violence. They point out that violence has become a way of life for some young people, because when they lack the possibilities to achieve their aspirations by legal means, they seek to achieve them through criminal activities.

"... the manifestations of violence have been related mostly to mobility, what being isolated and having to mediate all the time with a partner who reacts violently, causes, which would be the gangs in this case... young people cannot visit young people in their communities"
(Interview with an informant from PSJ, August 27, 2014).

"…their participation in these groups is being increasingly linked to subsistence, to those aspirational crimes that the 'Informe de Desarrollo Humano' states, which means that it is vinculated to the access to resources or goods, through the issue of drugs, the income and in some cases, also from contract killing".
(Interview with an informant from UNDP, August 25, 2014)

The issue of violence associated with young people is also noted, mentioning that in recent years, violence against young people has increased, from the state institutions. They state that young people are stigmatized and the population is led to believe that they are the main actors or generators of violence, when that is not entirely true. It is also said that due to the condition of being young, these people are mistreated, limited, they are denied education, denied being in groups, and using public spaces, as well as having opportunities to enter the labour market. When young people are excluded from the system, they are at risk, because institutions neglect them and also at risk of getting involved in "maras" or criminal actions. "Maras" can be an option for them, to get protection, satisfy their needs or just because they fear them, since they can physically hurt them.

".. .the situation of violence has been slightly increasing. In recent years, mainly against young people... there is systematized violence against youth, from State institutions".
(Interview with an informant from MOJE-CCPVJ, August 22, 2014)

"…we are one of the most vulnerable sectors to the different types of exclusion that exist, exclusion at the level of employability, at an educational level, at a level of health, at the level of spaces of participation, and that is triggering, from our point of view, that young people look for ways to feel, first of all, a sense of belonging, and finding some options that the State is not currently guaranteeing".
(Interview with an informant from CIPJES, August 26, 2014)

"Another way of looking at this is that with the phenomenon of gangs in recent years, nowadays not only adolescents are involved, but also younger population"
(Interview with an informant from UNFPA, August 19, 2014)

The interviewees agree to the fact the manifestations of violence associated with young people have changed and that the causes are many, some of them are: family disintegration, migration, domestic violence, poverty, mistrust, deportation policy, lack of job opportunities, inequality, exclusion, the media, stigmatization, the implementation of policies such as "Ley Antimaras, Mano Dura", as well as the issue of impunity in the country and structural violence exerted by the State.

"I think that the level of disintegration and social fragmentation has a lot to do with this issue…there is a decomposition of the social fabric and a family disintegration… it seems to me that the topic of migration… the topic of…stigmatization also… the stigmatization of the social group, of the group of young people… the influence of the media".
(Interview with an informant from SACDEL, August 26, 2014).

"…starting from the repressive policies of security forces, and from the State institutions that have been stepping up their violent actions against the youth, causing in many cases, reactions from young people, but they are being provoked, unfairly".
(Interview with an informant from MOJE-CCPVJ, August 22, 2014)

"…the policies adopted in the nineties and the beginning of the year 2000 [Mano Dura], the issue of impunity in the country, the access to justice for the victims".
(Interview with an informant from UNFPA, August 19, 2014)

Some informants expressed that violence is not only related to poverty, lack of opportunities, social inequalities and exclusion. They consider Nicaragua as an example, because although it is one of the poorest countries in Central America, gangs have not managed to infiltrate completely there, and they consider that something in that country has influenced this.

"Then, one can make an analysis, what happened in Nicaragua? Where there are equal or greater conditions of poverty than in El Salvador or Honduras, and why it has not reached the same dimension over there? Then, there is the evidence that the problem is not only poverty itself, or social inequalities, but also the way in which those causes are addressed at the right time, and how there was not citizen participation and community organization in order to prevent violence".
(Interview with an informant from UNFPA, August 19, 2014).

"I think there are other elements, but what happens? I believe that there is one instance, called 'policía comunitaria', I don't know, but there are other instances that are working well in the country and this is causing the young people to develop in another way… We have to…to analyze this topic well".
(Interview with an informant from INJUVE, August 20, 2014).

In summary, from the perspective of people from different types of institutions in El Salvador, it can be said that the manifestations of violence have changed in time, that the conditions of exclusion and the lack of an adequate institutional system has an influence on the fact that there is violence, that it remains or increases, and that when young people are stigmatized, this limits their possibilities of having opportunities for their development. The causes of violence are many, but in order to have a more comprehensive vision, it is necessary to keep exploring, to determine why it is not present in other countries, where in spite of having less favorable living conditions, they have managed to maintain low levels of violence associated with young people.

The second problem addressed was related to the *initiatives that institutions where he interviewees work, as well as other organizations or instances, were carrying*

out to prevent violence associated with youth. In this regard, several of them were identified, some are the following.

INJUVE has a comprehensive and focused model of violence prevention, with an intervention coordinated between the State institutions, community and local stakeholders. The actions conducted included: sports, art, education, family, environment and strengthening of community-based organizations, youth organizations, scholarships and infrastructure. This model is being implemented in 20 municipalities: some of them are from the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador, and others, such as San Vicente, Sonsonate, Ahuachapán, Santa Ana, Usulután, Ciudad Arce, Colón and Quezaltepeque. They also have the HIV/AIDS program, in which talks are given to young people, to raise awareness on the issue of sexual and reproductive health, so that they can also reproduce the information provided. In addition, they offer basic care through the health fair held at "Centros Juveniles" (Interview with an informant from INJUVE, on August 20, 2014).

MOJE, which is part of the CCPVJ, currently has a prevention approach to the issue of reintegration into the labour market. It develops the "Escuela de emprendedores y emprendedoras" program which seeks to develop the technical, business, creative abilities and life skills of young people. Their work is focused on the municipality of Ilobasco, but they receive young people from other municipalities in the departments of Cabañas and Cuscatlán (Interview with informant MOJE-CCPVJ, August 22, 2014).

For its part, UNFPA had an interagency program coordinated with five United Nations agencies. In this program, themes of youth and violence against women, leadership, development of safe public spaces, security polices and productive enterprises were covered, according to the expertise of the agencies involved. This initiative included an economic component of strengthening of young people, a component of personal development of psychosocial skills to make young people more resilient and develop leadership in violence prevention, a component of community-based public space management and organization, and a component for the improvement of services for young people. Their actions took place in the municipality of San Salvador, in the districts five and six, in 16 communities (Interview with an informant from UNFPA, on August 19, 2014).

UNDP supports the implementation of citizen security plans in the micro-region of Sonsonate, Nahuilingo, Acajutla, San Antonio del Monte and Sonzacate; also in the municipalities of San Salvador, Santa Tecla, Ciudad Delgado, and Zacatecoluca. The methodology is in accordance with the "Estrategia Nacional de Prevención". Plans are made on the basis of a diagnosis, to be sequentially

implemented in a coordinated manner. The creation of municipal committees for violence prevention is encouraged, the action is focused on strengthening the capacities of those who implement the plan, the promotion of community participation to achieve people empowerment, public resource revitalization and empowerment, youth participation and social inclusion of young people living in situations of risk, prevention of risk factors (drugs, alcohol and weapons), prevention of domestic violence and violence against women, the promotion of civic culture, community mediation, assistance to victims through restorative justice mechanisms. Another UNDP program is called "Jóvenes Constructores", an initiative of social inclusion of young people without criminal record, who live in contexts of risk. They perform actions that include the development of soft skills for personal growth, establishment of routines, habits of behavior review and is being implemented in Sensunapán in the Department of Sonsonate and in «El Pino» in Santa Tecla, Department of La Libertad. In addition, it includes the "Programa de Desarrollo de Proveedores de inserción laboral", conducted by "Cámara de Comercio de El Salvador". The intervention starts by defining which labour demand is required, subsequently, the potential there is in the group in order to develop this action is identified, and the kind of projects that have more chance to succeed are determined. There are five enterprises in Sonsonate and two in El Pino (Santa Tecla), six are agricultural and one is for the minor maintenance of roads (Interview with an informant from UNDP programme, on August 25, 2014).

"Universidad Don Bosco" has several initiatives of prevention, as processes of formation in culture of peace for the staff, and also with young people, such as: "Formarte Joven", which takes place in the coastal area (Costa del Sol and La Libertad), to train young people in entrepreneurship, organization, and literacy. There is also «Women Engineering (WISE, Women In Science and Engineering)» supported by AID, which seeks to insert and to facilitate access to college for girls in the area of intervention, in matters of engineering.

Another one is "Fundación Salvador del Mundo", with three locations: San Miguel, Plaza España in Soyapango and Santa Ana. The actions are directed to employability, entrepreneurship, culture of peace, they also serve several schools with extracurricular activities such as theater, computing, and others. On the other hand, they have the "Oratory", which are spaces that serve not only as social spaces, but also as public spaces of coexistence, contributing to a decrease in violence. In addition, the "Buscando un camino" program, seeks the social reinsertion of homeless children.

Universidad Don Bosco has a "Programa de Formación Continua" and a "Centro de formación Profesional". They work with young people who are unable to afford

college and they teach them a job that allows them to have an income for their sustainability. Finally, the "Programa de educación a distancia" is mentioned, this seeks the leveling of many young people who left their studies due to situations of violence, early pregnancy or because of the conditions of poverty in which they lived, among other reasons; so that they can be certified by the MINED. (Interview with an informant from UDB, on August 25, 2014).

In terms of prevention actions carried out by CIPJES, its work is primarily oriented to youth organizations leaders, training in inclusion, promoting spaces of participation, dialogue and exchange. Their approach aims to empower young people as strategic actors in their municipalities, to be able to generate the changes or transformations they consider necessary, becoming agents of change in their own realities and contexts. For example, in Zaragoza, Department of La Libertad, there are organizations from CIPJES that implement actions to promote spaces of art and culture where young people can be involved in artistic-cultural activities, offering the opportunity to be part of a group, developing sense of belonging. In the case of Jujutla and Guaymango, both in the Department of Ahuachapán, the "Red Torogoz" works the theme of entrepreneurship, providing young people tools to propose and implement entrepreneurship initiatives that allow their economic growth. Moreover, they are taught subjects of human rights or other topics of their interest, as well as problems of the municipality, offering elements that allow them to generate processes to propose and have an impact on municipalities, as agents of change. There are other organizations members of CIPJES who work in other municipalities of the country with a variety of actions (interview with an informant from CIPJES on August 26, 2014).

The "Plataforma de Seguridad Juvenil, PSJ", mainly develops formative actions and advocacy plans with youth protagonism in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. Among the preventive actions performed, a "Diplomado Regional en Seguridad Juvenil" has been created, using a rights-based approach. Furthermore, this effort received the backing of public policies at the local and national level, as well as methodological youth meetings, where knowledge and experiences are shared among young people from Central America. It has also accompanied the process of activation of the "Defensorías de Derechos Humanos de la Persona Joven", reporting cases of young people who have been jailed on an irregular basis, and teaching young people about police and judicial processes so that they know their rights at the time of being imprisoned or suffering police harassment.

PSJ currently has the project of conducting the "Diplomado Regional en Auditoria Social de Políticas Públicas" in a preparatory phase, in four countries of the region.

From this, it is expected to design advocacy plans and present an audit report of public policies, at a local or national level. It also aims to create the "Observatorio de Violación de Derechos Humanos de la Persona Joven". Another action that performs is the support of social enterprises in partnership with other institutions. Finally, it has published a document of best practices of violence prevention, from the partner organizations and conducts research in its areas of work (Interview with an informant from PSJ, on August 27, 2014).

The "Dirección General de Prevención Social de la Violencia y Cultura de Paz, PRE-PAZ", accompanies several projects that aim to create culture and actions of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, including the creation of young people networks at the municipal level. In Ilopango, it provides guidance and training to young people, and entrepreneurship activities are conducted in partnership with other institutions. In Zacatecoluca and Sonsonate, they support another program with UNDP for the inclusion of young people. In this way, they are trained and have their job skills evaluated. According to these, people are trained in trades such as: shoemaking, bakery, etc., and subsequently it is about bringing them to the labour market, with the commitment on their part not to get involved in criminal actions. Another joint action with UNDP is the "Proyecto Regional por la Seguridad Ciudadana Municipal en el Triángulo Norte de Centroamérica", supporting the component II, referred to the strengthening of national and local capacity for citizen security in the comprehensive approach. With USAID, three projects are being worked on: one is related to violence prevention in 55 municipalities from "Centros de Alcance", where actions of entrepreneurship are are performed; another one is about strengthening local observatories and there is another about technical assistance, performing diagnoses and municipal prevention plans with "Comités Municipales de Prevención de la Violencia (CMPV)".

With BID, they develop the "Parques de convivencia e inserción laboral" program, specifically aimed at labour insertion and integrating other components such as sports, culture, conflict resolution, etc. With GIZ, two offices for youth employment were created in San Miguel and Usulután. Also with the "Fondo de Fortalecimiento Institucional del Sector Justicia, año II" they are running a project funded by AECID, which promotes the training and employment of young people (training in computers, motorcycles repair, bakery), supporting prevention-oriented services. The municipalities prioritized for intervention are: San Vicente, Zacatecoluca, Cuscatlán and San Pedro Perulapán. In addition, they develop strategies for strengthening the citizen attention offices and the "Escuelas Seguras" program (Interviews with informants from PRE-PAZ on August 27 and September 11, 2014).

For its part, SACDEL performs actions in two directions: the strengthening of youth organization and the promotion of local spaces of violence prevention, such as "Comité Ciudadano de Convivencia Social Local", which later became the "Comité Local de Prevención de Violencia". It also develops artistic and cultural activities in schools, where lectures are given, it has a training program on peaceful coexistence program, conflict management and young citizens. The areas of greatest success have been Puerto el Triunfo and Santo Tomas, Jiquilisco, Concepción Batres, Alegría and Santiago de Maria, Department of Usulután (Interview with an informant from SACDEL, on August 26, 2014).

The "policía comunitaria" in "San José del Pino", mentions that in that area, several institutions develop prevention activities for youth, like entrepreneurship projects, mainly aimed at gang members. Among the institutions that were identified are: "Alcaldía Municipal", the police, NGOs, UNDP, "FUNDASALVA", and "INSAFORP". The model of "policía comunitaria" is a new policy government for the police, in that way, it is integrated into the community and joint actions are performed (Interview with an informant from "policía comunitaria", on August 20, 2014).

A third element that was reviewed concerns *the programs that are considered successful*, if there were any and which factors are required to ensure that they are.

The majority of respondents expressed that they did not know about many successful projects or programs and that they did not know for certain up to which point the programs are successful. Among the projects most frequently mentioned are: "Centros de Alcance" from USAID, "Jóvenes constructores" of Catholic Relief Services, "CRS El Salvador" and its partners, "PROJOVENES", of the "INJUVE", "Jóvenes para el cambio", from UNDP, FUSALMO's project and "Fútbol Forever" project. Others mentioned were: "Polígono Industrial Don Bosco", "PREVENIR", from GIZ, "proyecto de la Fundación Quetzalcóatl", "Fe y Alegría", "Familias fuertes de la OPS", and "Defensorías de la Niñez y Adolescencia", from "IDHUCA".

> "…PROJOVENES, USAID, along with Centros de Alcance, RTI, with 'Jóvenes Constructores', 'Jóvenes para el Cambio' from UNDP, 'PREVENIR'
> (Interview with an informant from INJUVE, on August 20, 2014).

> 'Fe y Alegría', that has been working with a "Jóvenes Constructores" program. The 'Fundación Quetzalcoatl", that has been working… generating capacities in young people within communities, as actors and through artistic, cultural expressions. FUSALMO... they are developing a process of extracurricular youth accompaniment».
> (Interview with an informant from MOJE-CCPVJ, on August 22, 2014).

With respect to the factors that make some interventions successful, the interviewees mentioned: generating participation and synergy among the involved institutions (governmental, non-governmental, and local actors) to coordinate among them and avoid duplication of efforts; the commitment and co-responsibility with concrete actions from the institutions, budget and human resources; having good leadership of key actors; ensuring community participation and ownership of the project, that way they do not feel used, and promoting that young people make their proposals; that the projects are comprehensive and focused; that the interventions have dynamics according to the stage in which its participants are, considering the levels of violence or risk where they are implemented; taking into account the temporary status of projects in order to measure social changes; focusing resources as required according to the diagnostic made; comprehensive view of the problem, going beyond violence, but also that the interventions go beyond just individual aspects, including the family and the community.

> "……that the institutions involved in the issue make a commitment, but not a commitment that is about the holder signing an agreement letter, it must be a budgetary commitment, we are committed as an institution and we are spending human and financial resources... that there are working groups, a technical roundtable".
> (Interview with an informant from INJUVE on August 20, 2014).

> "We have to think about projects that are not unilateral, joint projects, where there is more participation of organizations and local actors".
> (Interview with an informant from MOJE-CCPVJ, on August 22, 2014).

> "…So, if you have an specific case for each one, let's say, it can be achieved…that it is possible to obtain results for each one of them, for each particular case".
> (Interview with an informant from the UNDP program, on August 25, 2014).

Also, the interviewees mentioned some factors that hinder the success of the programs, these include: the lack of inter-agency coordination, possibly because there is no culture for it, ego and/or interests of the institutions; the lack of resources and budget, having an individualistic approach that does not take into account the family group and its surroundings. Another factor mentioned is the fact that citizen security is turned into a partisan political subject.

> '…the lack of inter-agency coordination. This generates little incidence, even misgivings among the stakeholders, the people who prevent'.
> (Interview with an informant from UDB, August 25, 2014).

> '…the resources…what is not budgeted, it is not done».
> (Interview with an informant from PRE-PAZ, August 27, 2014).
> '… What affects a lot is the subject of political campaigns…different programs are affected because they are related to the partisan part…young people do not like being involved in programs that are attached to a political party'.
> (Interview with an informant from PRE-PAZ, on September 11, 2014).

The topic about *what has been done in terms of prevention of violence associated with young people and what needs to be done*, from the perspective of institutional representatives was also explored.

With respect to what has been done, it is noted that many efforts have been made in terms of violence prevention, the technical-vocational training has been worked extensively, there are good efforts in educational activities of recreational type, there has been some success in seeking to know about the youth stage, which has raised awareness on violence associated with young people and has encouraged perseverance to work in this area. It is stressed that it has been possible to have a "Política Nacional de Justicia, Seguridad y Conveniencia", with a comprehensive view that includes prosecution of crime, prevention, rehabilitation, victim protection and institutional strengthening. On the other hand, it is expressed that in terms of violence, there is an approach that is predominantly oriented to repression and that the actions need to be truly integrated to achieve a greater impact.

> "… there has been a lot of work in technical vocational training, good efforts in activities, I mean, extra-academic activities of recreational type, that allow young people to develop other intelligences, culture of peace, outcome mapping…there has been progress in the conception of the youngster as a human being, that it is an age group that needs to be addressed".
> (Interview with an informant from UDB on August 25, 2014).

> "… Something that has been done very well is allowing ourselves to be affected by the problem…there is some sensitivity and stubbornness…perseverance, and goodwill in research centers, in communities, in violence prevention coordinators… [There is also] a 'Política Nacional de Justicia, Seguridad y Convivencia Ciudadana'…It is a comprehensive strategy…Sure, crime prosecution, of course, violence prevention, victim protection, rehabilitation and institutional strengthening"
> (Interview with an informant from SACDEL on August 26. 2014).

> "…Yes, we recognize that there are efforts, but we believe this repressive approach must be changed, and for example, invest in education... currently, there are some actions that are not comprehensive yet, or truly generate an impact... what has been done the most is this repressive approach, involving the 'Fuerza Armada' and the police in order to prevent violence".
> (Interview with an informant from CIPJES on August 26, 2014).

On what remains to be done in terms of prevention, it was mentioned that there is a lack of political will and the need to overcome partisan polarization. It is necessary to understand violence as a regional issue and also a greater involvement of citizens. It is important to do prevention at younger ages and take care of those departments and municipalities with less number of crimes, to avoid that these increase. The need to know what has been done and what is being done was mentioned and it was suggested to organize a national debate on the subject of safety and violence prevention for the construction of a State policy, as well as

investigating more deeply on the topic of violence to understand its nature, causes and effects. It is also suggested that there is an agenda for the country on the subject of prevention, leadership, responsibilities and resources allocated clearly, besides prioritizing actions and engaging young people in an active way. Prevention on three levels: primary, secondary and tertiary is designated as something necessary; first, to get in depth knowledge of the phenomenon, to then implement actions that respond to reality and have the involvement of local actors.

> "[it is still missing]…to do a little bit more exhaustive analysis… I believe that there are other elements in the analysis that are slipping from us… the rule of law still needs to be consolidated…democracy as such, needs to be consolidated… [it is needed] an agreement between both public and private sectors and they need to work together…this issue is not an insecurity issue in the country, it is a in issue of security in the region because of the issue of organized crime, the drug trafficking issue, all of that.
> …those departments, such as: Chalatenango, Morazán, they need to be worked on, a good job on prevention could be done there…"
> (Interview with an informant from INJUVE, on August 20, 2014).

> "…a national debate on the subject of security and prevention of violence, where the stakeholders and researchers are at first hand, so that they give us their point of view for the construction of a State policy on violence prevention…"
> (Interview with an informant from MOJE-CCPVJ, August 22, 2014).

> "[There is a]… conceptual and methodological confusion also, with regard to the preventive issue, defining prevention as the action that is done in municipalities that are stained red because of all the homicides. There is no prevention that can be done there, control needs to be applied there…an institutional framework that gives follow up to the issue is still missing, that generates the information needed…to promote the subject of coordination…with an agenda…that has specific products".
> (Interview from an informant from UNDP on August 25, 2014).

Moving on to the issue of *incorporation of technologies in violence prevention strategies*, it was found that there is little knowledge on the subject. Some of the technologies used for violence prevention that were identified are: digital cameras, computers with internet, radios for personal communication and video cameras.

A common indication among the interviewees was the video camera, as a strategy to discourage a person from committing crimes, as well as lighting public spaces. Moreover, the technology used by the observatories of violence was mentioned, although these are not directly aimed at work with the young population. It is considered that technologies can be useful in preventive activities with young people, depending on the approach, because in the same way that it can help, it can also generate more differences (technological gap) among young people. It is pointed out that guidance for a proper use must be provided, the use in formation processes is detailed, and as a valuable tool for interaction to build civic culture.

"… people in the municipal observatories…they have video cameras…technologies that can be positive because they contribute to dissuade people…They can be good auxiliary, add-on tools…these technologies have to be applied with a lot of discretion…they are tools that can turn into something that will have an opposite effect on a person…there is risk of worsening the differences".
(Interview with an informant from INJUVE, August 20, 2014).

"…being used to build networks that truly allow us to have a better life, to build civic culture… a Facebook page can make people talk and comment, or for example, about a sensitive issue, because of the lack of confidence".
(Interview with an informant from UNDP on August 25, 2014).

"… to install cameras and a lot of things can help to have a better control of the situation… That could undermine the social fabric, because then we deal with prevention initiatives, in which one already distrusts the population… I think…it is exclusive…it could be a tool…but not the purpose… that is regarding the matter of technologies used for security, but if we see it as the use of technology to motivate…if we canalize resources so that young people can use them for personal development…I think that is important… If we see it only from a perspective of security, I think it might be dangerous, but if we see it from the personal development approach, I believe that it can do a lot".
(Interview with an informant from UDB, August 25, 2014).

"…In a few cases, some young people have access to the internet, they [can] become self-learners in their formation process, the same tools that, for example, can provide us connectivity, through the use of the same technologies, we can meet online or share documents with greater ease, things like that… I consider that the use of technologies is essential, as a tool for fundamental change and transformation, but that must be accompanied by a training process for these people, so that they see the importance of the use of these technologies, and the democratization of these media too".
(Interview with an informant from CIPJES, August 26, 2014).

Another topic that was consulted was referred to *areas of the country that need interventions on prevention, the reason for that and what type of actions were needed*. To that issue, the informants indicated several municipalities and departments, among the most repeated are: Soyapango, Apopa, Ciudad Delgado, Lourdes-Colón, Tonacatepeque, San Salvador and Sonsonate. Among the reasons given for this, are: the high incidence of crime, greater gangs' presence, the lack of opportunities because of poverty, high population density, areas that are considered highly vulnerable, with high migration rate and family disintegration.

In terms of the type of interventions to be performed in these places, it is suggested: to do prevention work in schools and communities, to promote formal education, to teach tolerance, to promote entrepreneurship and reintegration of gang members, and to perform multisectoral strategies with comprehensive and unified approaches, that respond to the reality in which they are implemented.

"…I think three aspects would be really important, school reintegration or to ensure that young people finish their academic process, support or training interventions for social or economic entrepreneurship of the population, even young population; and precisely, an education in tolerance and management for a joint government in municipalities".

(Interview with an informant from UDB on August 25, 2014).

"…what we are proposing is an inter-institutional work, to be able to present these multisectoral strategies that allow to propose comprehensive and unified approaches toward common goals, adapted to Salvadoran reality and easily adapted to each department, depending on their reality".
(Interview with an informant from CIPJES on August 26, 2014).

"…to make public spaces lively, where the topic of education and participation of the State apparatus requires an active participation also… We need a program to care for gangs and young people who want to be involved in this reintegration process".
(Interview with an informant from SACDEL on August 26, 2014).

The last point on which institutional respondents were asked about, was the *implementation of public policies that benefit the young population*. The answer to this was that "Ley General de Juventud" still needs to be known, at the level of the country's 262 municipalities, institutions are still missing commitment to care for the young population. Although advice is given, some municipalities have not developed their policy in this regard, and sectorial policies associated with young people such as education, employment and health still have challenges to overcome.

It is noted that although policies are made in the country, there is not enough budget for their implementation. Additionally, sometimes there is little inter-institutional coordination to carry out the actions required by these policies. It is also indicated that policies are limited in duration, depending on election periods, both national and municipal. This makes radical changes that do not to allow to notice the achievements, because they are under ongoing construction; therefore, social audit is considered important since there are several policies, one is general and others are sectorial on youth, which is why accountability is required.

"…There has been a limited application and an unlimited conception on the issue of public policies and in the particular field of youth policies, I do not see results. I see an 'INJUVE' a little bit younger, fresh and else…with good ideas and intentions, but I'm afraid they are going to keep on repeating the same thing…concerning policies, what it is not on the budget, it is not done".
(Interview with an informant from 'SACDEL', August 26, 2014).
"…It is very limited, you see, because that support component is not there, from all political parties, to the policy, then it is born limited, because it is not born from a consensus or an agreement that supports it…it is a policy without funds, that is the problem".
(Interview with an informant from MOJE-CCPVJ, August 22, 2014).

"…There is a law now, but there are no plans… Up to this point, I don't know what 'INJUVE' is doing, besides the 'Juventour'… I cannot distinguish a true agenda for young people…there is a lack of regulation, a law without regulations…'Consejo de la Persona Joven' has to be activated…the employment issue, the law needs to be reviewed, the one that is about incentives for a first job, because it is a law that is focused on the company, not on the young person, how to turn it into something appropriate for the environment it requires, 'INJUVE' was not born to implement actions in the territory, it was born to have leadership…to rule, to lead the subject of youth and it hasn't yet.

"…there are young people who do not know that there is an 'Instituto Nacional de Juventud', they are unaware that there is a 'Ley Nacional de Juventud', those who know about it, still do not know its content, beyond knowing it exists…there is ignorance in the officials who must implement these youth policies, these laws"
(Entrevista con informante de CIPJES, 26 de agosto de 2014).

"…they managed to get a policy budget, but there is also a level of frustration when another government starts…frustration because there is nothing that gives a follow up to the public policy at the local level. Then, those efforts meet with very limited citizen participation, to the election periods…with a national plan beyond the five-year period, young people are also developing public policies, according to the period in which they are, we are not making a substantial change, but rather strengthening the models of public policy-making, to political times. Then, I think a change is needed, with respect to political citizen culture, to be known beyond this".
(Interview with an informant from PSJ, August 27, 2014).

In general, there is some frustration regarding the implementation of the "Política Nacional de Juventud" and sectorial policies that include youth, since it is noted that there are several situations that limit or prevent its execution, although it is recognized that they exist and there is a law, as well as institutionalization, but they are unknown by young people and officials. In addition, these instruments undergo modifications or they are replaced by new ones, as governors and political parties change, at the national, local and even institutional level, which does not allow to see clear and consolidated progress.

2.4. Survey Results

In order to have information coming from young people, the survey on conflict used by SHIP/CDF was adapted and applied. A document of instructions was drafted so that it could be applied via digital media.

The number of surveys collected was 63 in total, the profile of young people who responded is the following: they mostly are from the departments of San Salvador (47.6%) and La Libertad (46.0%), followed by Sonsonate (4.8%) and Santa Ana (1.6%). They were mainly female (61.9%), the 33.3% were men, and 3 informants (4.8%) did not respond to this question. 69.8 % were between 19 and 23 years of age, although in general there was response from young people between 15 and 29 years old, which corresponds to the range of youth as legally established. Respondents who said that they were not heads of household (95.2%) were predominant, and they were either son or daughter of the head of household (90.0%). Regarding the number of people living in the house, 5 was the most frequently mentioned (28.6%), followed by 4 (23.8%), 6 (15.9%) and 3 (14.3%). The predominant age of the house members was 18 years or older.

In terms of religion, the majority claimed to be Catholic (57.2%), followed by those who were Evangelical (23.8%) and those who do not profess any religion (19.0%). 87.3% declared that the monthly household income was more than US $300 on average, 2 young people said that the average was between $100 - $200 and 6 more said it was between $201 - $300. 81.0% pointed out that with the monthly household income, the costs of basic needs could be covered, while the 19.0% responded that it was not possible. Slightly more than half of respondents (52.4%, which is equivalent to 33 young people) mentioned that they know families or households in their place of residence, who find it difficult to acquire the basic food basket, of these, 66.7% (22 respondents) said there are few and 33.3% (11), said there are many.

On the main threat to their home, according to young people who were surveyed, thefts (49.2 %), followed by violence from "maras" and extortion (9.5 %) were highlighted.

When they were asked if they knew any institutions that perform actions for the development and attention to young people, 27.0% said they did, while the rest said they did not know (73.0%). From the ones that knew institutions with actions aimed at young people (17 respondents), identified 29 entities, since it was a question of multiple answers, each person could name all the institutions they knew. The most noteworthy were: "INJUVE" (8 young people), and "ISNA" (5), the other institutions were mentioned by 1 or 2 people. The actions that institutions conduct mostly noted are the ones aimed at violence prevention, mentioned by 13 young people, also education and//or vocational training, indicated by 7, and both recreational or cultural events, and young people training, were mentioned by 5 respondents. Of the 44 identified actions carried out by the institutions mentioned above, most were evaluated as "regular" (20) or "good" (20).

When asked if they knew "INJUVE", 49.2% responded affirmatively, of this group, 54.8% evaluated it as "regular" and 22.6% as "good". 69.8% knew about "ISNA", and valued it mainly as "regular" (52.3%) and "poor" (27.3%). "Centros Integrales de Desarrollo Juvenil" were known by 11.1% and evaluated as "poor", "regular" and "good" with 28.6% for each option. In the case of young people who knew the "Ley General de Juventud", 20.6% responded affirmatively and evaluated it as "regular" (38.5%) and "good" (30.8%). Finally, 17.5% of young people knew the "Política Nacional de Juventud", most of them evaluated it as "regular" (54.5%).

As shown in table 40, in relation to the situation that has affected young people's homes the most during the last year, the highest percentages were reached in the option "never" for all cases, except for theft. The second option selected was

"occasionally" and again, theft was highlighted (38.1%), followed by vandalism (33.3 %), threats and extortion (20.6 % each), as well as protests and violence of "maras" (14.3 % each).

**Table 40. Frequency of situations that have affected young people's homes during the last year**

Types of conflict	Never		Occasionally		Frequently		Always		Does not know	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
Armed conflict	55	87.3	3	4.8	1	1.6	1	1.6	3	4.7
Protests	52	82.5	9	14.3	1	1.6	0	0.0	1	1.6
Violence of "maras"	40	63.5	9	14.3	10	15.9	3	4.8	1	1.5
Theft	23	36.5	24	38.1	15	23.8	1	1.6	0	0.0
Vandalism	28	44.5	21	33.3	12	19.0	2	3.2	0	0.0
Fraud	50	79.5	4	6.3	4	6.3	0	0.0	5	7.9
Threats	39	61.9	13	20.6	8	12.7	1	1.6	2	3.2
Drug trafficking	46	73.1	5	7.9	5	7.9	3	4.8	4	6.3
Kidnapping	53	84.1	7	11.1	3	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
Extortions	39	61.9	13	20.6	7	11.1	3	4.8	1	1.6
Police Abuse	53	84.1	8	12.7	1	1.6	0	0.0	1	1.6
Other_____	62	98.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.6	0	0.0

Source: FLACSO/CDF survey, 2014

When they were requested to choose among several options and they had to rank the causes of violence according to their level of importance, from highest to lowest, see figure 3, the option that was highlighted as the main one, was inequality (33.4%), followed by poverty (23.8%). The second cause indicated was the lack of education (30.2%), and corruption was in third place (25.4%).

It the options are added up, without considering their order, the most mentioned was the lack of education (23.3%), followed by poverty (18.5%), inequality (17.5 %), lack of employment (15.3%), corruption (13.8%), lack of access to public services (7.9%), food insecurity (2.7%) and other (1.0%).

Figure 3: Three main causes of violence, in order of importance
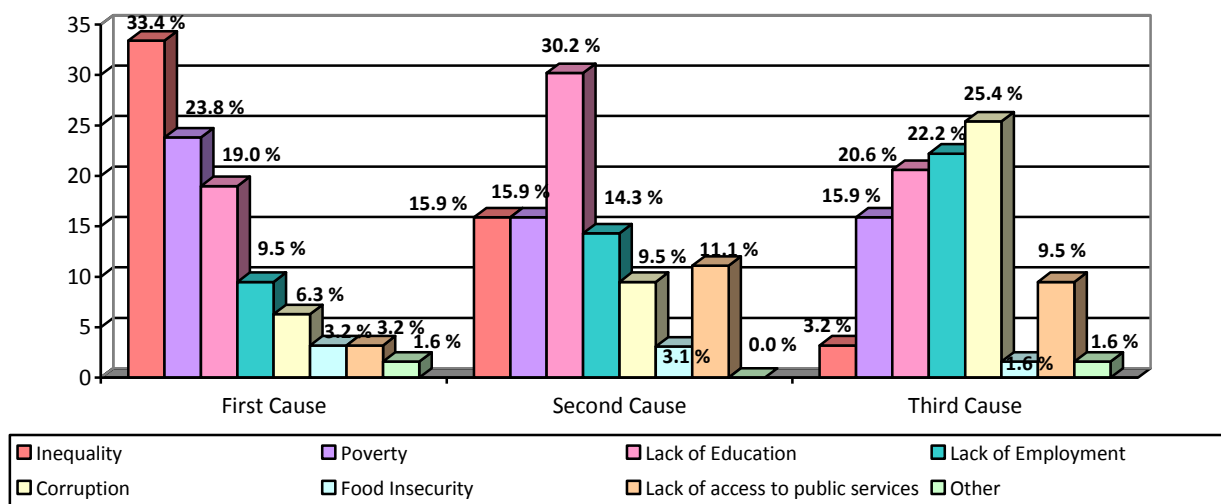
When presenting a series of phrases related to the topic of security and the context in which the respondents live, regrouping the response choices that appear in table 41, in the categories: agree, neither agree nor disagree, and disagree, it was found that young people were mostly in accordance with: "I feel safe when I am home alone at night" (76.2%), "the level of violence in the streets has increased in the past two years" (85.7%) and "adolescents go to school regularly" (61.9%). Whereas, they do not agree primarily with "feeling safe when walking around their neighborhood at night" (44.5%), "hearing gunshots in their neighborhood" (60.3%), "the police reducing the level of violence in the streets" (54.0%), "relying on the police" (50.8%), and "many people being unemployed in their neighborhood" (33.3%).

Table 41. Agreement and disagreement with phrases on security and living conditions

Phrases	Strongly agree		Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Does not know	
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
I feel safe when I walk around my neighborhood at night	8	12.7	14	22.2	12	19.0	15	23.9	13	20.6	1	1.6
I feel safe when I am home alone at night	15	23.8	33	52.4	7	11.1	6	9.5	1	1.6	1	1.6
The level of violence in the streets has increased in the past two years	37	58.7	17	27.0	6	9.5	1	1.6	2	3.2	0	0.0
Sometimes I hear gunshots in my neighborhood	5	7.9	11	17.5	8	12.7	16	25.4	22	34.9	1	1.6
The police reduces the levels of violence in the streets	1	1.6	8	12.7	19	30.2	17	27.0	17	27.0	1	1.5
I can rely on the police	1	1.6	7	11.1	23	36.5	17	27.0	15	23.8	0	0.0
There are many unemployed people in my neighborhood	9	14.3	9	14.3	11	17.5	18	28.6	3	4.7	13	20.6
Adolescents go to school regularly	12	19.0	27	42.9	10	15.9	9	14.3	2	3.2	3	4.7

Source: FLACSO/CDF survey, 2014

When asking about technologies that young people identify as being used to prevent violence associated with youth, the most mentioned was: the Internet (8 youths) computers (5) and security cameras (4).

3. INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH YOUTH

Nationally, various campaigns, programs and initiatives run by the central government through its different ministries, as well as other State agencies, cooperation agencies and organizations of various kinds have emerged, which have intended to perform actions for violence prevention and increase security in different areas.

This report has compiled information on projects and programs for the prevention of violence associated with young people, as well as on youth development. Information has been collected through a review of the documentary material found available, considering to the extent possible, only those interventions that have been made in recent years, see table 42.

It is worth pointing out that documents, media releases, reports and technical sheets have been revised. For that reason, the data collected are not consistent in all cases, in some documents there is more detailed information than in others, which is one of the first elements that should be noted, since the information that is made public is not entirely complete in the majority of cases. Many programs or

projects that seem interesting to share were not included in this report because it was not possible to obtain specific data from them.

Violence Prevention and Young Population Group

In general, there is a large number of programs and projects aimed at the issue of violence and security associated with young people, both conducted by the government and NGOs, private institutions, and international organizations; all of them either being executors, articulators and funders, or playing more than one role at a time. This shows the importance that the subject has gained in recent years and the strong relationship that is made between violence and youth, finding that most of the initiatives considered this population group as its direct beneficiary.

However, it can also be seen that institutions are increasingly taking into account other actors in their work: families, communities, organizations, local institutions, etc. Even though they still place young people at the core of everything they do, they are guiding actions that also involve and benefit the environment in which they are, with the purpose that the interventions have greater impact. In this regard, it is worth noting that the attention provided is mainly aimed at young people and adolescents are included in some cases, but there is no consensus on a definition of the age of beneficiaries who are being worked with, which is why there are participants belonging to various age ranges. It is not clear to what criteria responds their selection.

Speaking of other actors involved in violence prevention work, school is one of the main elements and a variety of projects have considered it as the center of their actions. For that matter, activities in schools are focused on coexistence, training in life skills, conflict solving, technical-vocational training, values and establishing of standards, use of leisure time, parents training, community participation of children, adolescents and young people, improvement of schools infrastructure, among others. These actions often involve the education community in a broad sense, in other words, they involve local entities that are in contact with schools and are within the surroundings (family, community, teachers, community leaders, enterprises, governmental institutions, etc.). Some programs run by the government have involved security institutions such as the police and the army, into work that is more oriented to protection in schools surroundings. These institutions have also been involved in activities where they have been trainers, for example, the talks that PNC gives to students, primarily in those centers located in areas considered at high risk due to gangs' presence.

Systematization of efforts and information available

It was mentioned before that it is difficult to access detailed information about the programs or projects, information that allows to know the source of the intervention, how it was planned, the institutional history of those who run it, specific activities, indicators taken into account, etc. However, it should be clarified that there are some interventions with very complete information. The work accomplished by "FUSALMO" is one of the examples that can be mentioned, having been able to review a model systematization they created, where they explain how the structure behind the initiative works, a broad description of the associated projects, what their focus is, and the main components of their actions.

The importance of systematizations, is that whether the interventions are sporadic or they are not long-standing, as well as permanent and with an extensive trajectory, learning about the history that lies behind the project allows a better assessment of the kind of actions that have been prioritized and the reasons for it. Moreover, this allows to understand and visualize the impact or results in a better way. The latter is quite difficult to define, for those programs of which the only information that is available to the public are notes from the media, that often provide little information and this is not always clear or reliable.

Diagnostics and intervention in the prevention of violence

Some of the reviewed documentation on various projects and programs, details that these are based on the elaboration of diagnostics or baselines in the same areas where the intervention takes place, allowing a prior identification of the needs and problems that affect the population in the territory. It can be seen that certain institutions are using research and studies on youth and security as the basis for planning their interventions. In this regard, it should be noted that the issue of youth has been widely studied in the last decades and there is a variety of data available in the country that the institutions should take into consideration. Agencies such as UNDP, for example, have given a great emphasis to community diagnostics, where participation goes beyond the community members, to include in the consultation other entities and to give priority to the population in the construction of knowledge.

These processes show the importance that is being given to the involvement of young people. Their opinion is being taken into account in the design of projects, since many institutions work with an intervention approach that sees young people as leading development actors. In this regard, in many cases, youth prominence

and active participation is being promoted, as well as the impact they have on their communities and their engagement on the improvement of their living conditions.

Lines of intervention

Among the main themes or areas of intervention included in programs and violence prevention projects are: citizen participation, employment, leadership, institutional strengthening, empowerment, entrepreneurship, training, life skills, capacity building, recreation, artistic expression, sports, culture of peace, coexistence, educational scholarships, volunteering; and others that either combine or complement the ones already mentioned.

Most programs and projects indicate that although activities come in a variety of topics and areas, the ultimate objective is to prevent violence, through training young people so that they can get a job or develop productive enterprises; though others are focused on keeping them busy with leisure and recreational activities, or development of other skills such as those related to art and culture. In general terms, the majority of interventions is concentrated in the prevention area and very little on research, criminal prosecution, imprisonment and rehabilitation.

Implementation period, intervention areas and financing

With regard to the periods of duration of programs and projects, most of the information shows that the execution period is at least two years, although it was found that some institutions are considering much longer periods, five years, for example. There are some long-standing programs that have been changing their shafts or lines of action according to the evolution of the phenomenon they deal with, the conditions of the environment they work on, and the population they serve, from which it can be inferred that there has been an internal assessment of the strategies and methodologies used. This has been able to provide an evaluation of what has worked and what has not, what kind of activities are becoming relevant according to reality, etc. This becomes an important factor when talking about implementation periods, because there have been interesting initiatives but they are developed for such a short time that it is difficult to establish the impact of their actions.

For the most part, projects or revised programs have interventions focused on specific areas, and they all have one thing in common: these areas are considered territories at risk, due to high crime statistics, socio-economic vulnerability and the strong presence of gangs. Because of these aspects, young people living in those areas are considered vulnerable and they must be addressed. Most of the actions

are concentrated in the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador, as well as in municipalities of La Libertad, Sonsonate, Ahuachapán, and San Miguel, but actions are also performed in other areas of the country.

At the national level, there is the "Estrategia Nacional de Prevención Social de la Violencia", which protects the security policy that articulates all the coordinated efforts between the central government, local governments, NGOs, private enterprise, among others, through its projects. Additionally, there are several regional initiatives focused primarily in Central America, with an emphasis in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, which although are important efforts, it is not clear how the actions are coordinated between countries, or if they are just projects with similar activities in each country, but they are not necessarily related.

According to the information found, much of the resources used for interventions in violence prevention are donations, though there are also loans and in smaller amounts, there are counterpart funds from civil society instances, from the central or local government and even from the same intervention beneficiaries.

Monitoring and evaluation

It was found that some projects or programs go beyond keeping a record of activities, there is also monitoring of their actions, a preview of the results, as well as their own statistics and indicators and the way these change in time. In some cases, there are systematizations of interventions and even baselines, diagnostics and evaluations of various kinds. "Escuelas para la convivencia" is one of the government interventions that has been highlighted for having a systematization, as well as impact analysis and results that were made in order to measure the validity of their actions; which implies a significant step forward with respect to other large programs developed by the government, whereof that type of information is not available. However, these documents are not always available to the public and it seems that they remain as internal processes of the implementing institutions, either for own estimations or for being a requirement of the funding agencies.

Interinstitutional Articulation

The interrelationship between actions can be seen with greater emphasis on the work done in co-operation with various institutions. In some cases, there are efforts with different roles, where components are assigned to the participating institutions, according to their experience and specialty, that is to say, to those who

have a better handling of any topic in specific. It is noted the combination of efforts on similar objectives and operational synergies that are producing intriguing results.

The creation of diagnostics at the local level ("Comités Municipales de Prevención de la Violencia, CMPV") has allowed municipalities to be aware of the amount of projects, programs, or initiatives in their territories. In this way, they can measure the set of technical, organizational and financial resources available in territories of which there is not always an accurate record. This helps to know if there is duplication of efforts, which items are being prioritized, in what areas an investment is being made, etc., which also provides the opportunity to analyze whether resources are being directed to places where there is a real need or if any changes should be considered in that regard.

Use of technologies

The information found does not allow to notice a particular use of technologies, programs or applications specifically directed to violence prevention, however, it cannot be said that they do not exist. In some initiatives, it could be noted, for example, the way in which digital cameras or video cameras have been used as a tool for conducting some activities within projects and programs, as well as the widespread use of computers and computer packages, although this is seen as something regular and it is not considered as an innovative technological orientation towards the prevention of violence.

The impression is that technologies are tools that assist in the establishment of innovative methodologies that draw young people's attention, because they are in contact with them on a regular basis, although there is not a vision from part of the institutions on how to get the most out of them yet. There are also programs such as the one from "Fundación Kriete", where training in relevant technologies becomes important, because the idea is to provide skills that prepare young people to face the existing reality and the new educational or work opportunities they are going to be given. In fact, many projects consider computer training as one of the key components. Also, in education areas, the line of information technologies is being included by the "Ministerio de Educación",since the use of these tools has become increasingly vital for personal and professional development.

New technologies have brought radical changes in the way that young people take part in society, bringing along a new form of interacting, communicating and creating social networks. While these changes are positively evaluated by adults, it is pointed out that they present risks and concern them because there is little

control over them. In some cases, the situation is that they are not aware of the possibilities and opportunities that these new platforms bring, in other cases, it is about the difficulty in monitoring this new technological reality that is hardly adjustable.

On one hand, there is a digital divide that limits the equitable access to technologies by all Salvadoran young people, which has been an issue that has been covered by many interventions at the local level and that is referred not only to the programs and projects reviewed for this report, but also to the projects aimed at young people in general, because the vast majority of them has some element related to access to computers or computer skills as one of their elements. On the other hand, even when some access to the media or devices such as a computer or the internet is ensured, there are also differences in the type of access and the use of technologies. An important factor in this discussion is related to the age and it contains what is known as "digital literacy", where there is a marked difference between adults and young people, where the young generation is characterized by being the first in history to grow up surrounded by digital media on a daily basis, which provides them with the advantage of knowing more than the previous generations on the issue of innovation and at the same time, they feel more comfortable than adults when they are around these technologies.

The outlook on the use of technologies in general varies depending on the perspective. There is a generation gap, that is to say, the vision that adults responsible for the planning and implementation of programs and projects have, concerning the way in which technology can be used and its purpose, does not necessarily match with the vision of young population who take part in prevention projects. In the case of adults, there is clarity with respect to the importance of making use of the benefits of technologies, however, they do not know how to handle them and they fear what their use implies. In some cases, there is even resistance to use them and on another hand, it is not clear how these technologies can be applied to the subject of prevention of violence associated with young people.

Including information and communication technologies in the projects and programs for violence prevention, requires the use of digital tools and devices that facilitate the performance of actions in some way. There is a need for more technical training for both the staff that carries out activities in the field, and for those who plan actions from the institutions. At the same time, people who will use the devices, the participants or beneficiaries need training. Without proper training in the use of technologies, there cannot be full use of their features and the resistance barrier to use them cannot be broken. In many cases, there is a

significant funding and investment in technological devices that are not entirely used because the population to whom they are directed do not have the necessary equipment in order to benefit from them. Because of this, technical training is strongly recommended. While this is a topic that is being considered in many of the revised actions, attention should be paid to the type of training that is being implemented in this line.

It should be noted that the world of technology is in constant change, update and evolution, which pushes the population to move relatively quickly in their adaptation to the use of it. Therefore, it is both a constant training in how to operate the access devices (computers, cell phones, tablets, etc.), applications, computer programs, Internet, etc., and training in how some tools such as social networks can be used more effectively. It is important that young people and the population in general learn how to use these devices, but equally or more important is that they have a general idea of their utility, what strategies can be used to apply them to actions of violence prevention, not only by the means of diffusion of what is being done, but for direct impact on the reality of insecurity in which people live.

The view that technologies can only be applied to the prevention of violence in a passive and traditional way (for example, through monitoring cameras or the use of weapon detectors) must be changed. It is suggested a strategy of alternative and innovative uses, which responds to what several studies indicate regarding the development of the digital experience of younger generations: they respond to a set of practical skills that are independent from the adult world, interacting with adults and with themselves in very different ways, transforming and redefining borders. Within this, shared learning between those who design and implement programs and the young beneficiaries, is of vital importance. Young people's feedback has to continue being taken into account, they need to participate in the design of possible solutions to the problems that affect them, to learn from their vision of reality, and above all, to develop actions that respond to their needs, using the resources and opportunities for innovation that new technologies offer.

Table 42. Violence prevention projects and youth development in El Salvador[58]

No.	Name	Institutions	Objective	Period/Duration
1.	Fortaleciendo capacidades participativas en procesos de integración centroamericana, desde un enfoque alternativo de seguridad integral juvenil	-Socios del Programa de Seguridad Juvenil Centroamérica (PSJ)	To contribute to Central American integration, from a young perception and through an alternative approach to youth safety	-------_
2.	Programa Ángeles descalzos	-Asociación Salvadoreña Pro Salud Rural (ASAPROSAR)	To promote children, adolescents and young people education (NNAJ)	Start: 2000
3.	Facilitar el acceso a nuevas tecnología en video participativo a jóvenes de Nicaragua y El Salvador que propicien su encuentro y participación para fortalecer la integración centroamericana	-Asociación de Capacitación e Investigación para la Salud Mental (ACISAM) -Centro de Comunicación y Educación Popular (CANTERA)	To give young people skills and abilities in the production and dissemination of audio-visual materials, in order to strengthen the involvement of youth and contribute to the construction of public policies that promote and defend the rights of young people	Duration: 9 months
4.	Jóvenes generando procesos para la construcción de paz en centros educativos	-Asociación de Capacitación e Investigación para la Salud Mental (ACISAM) -Ministerio de Educación (MINED)	To contribute, from the implementation of the psycho-social approach, to the promotion of the educational community participation, for the creation of a leading and integral citizen	Duration: 11 months
5.	Prevención de Violencia y Desarrollo Integral de Jóvenes	-Asociación de Capacitación e Investigación para la Salud Mental (ACISAM	To strengthen youth organizations so they can boost their own processes of political incidence related to violence prevention	Duration: 3 years (2013-2015)
6.	Fortalecimiento de redes regionales de iniciativas de emprendimiento e identidad cultural de jóvenes en la región occidental de El Salvador	-Asociación de Capacitación e Investigación para la Salud Mental (ACISAM) -Fundación para el Desarrollo Socioeconómico y Restauración Ambiental (FUNDESYRAM) -HORIZONT3000	To contribute to the strengthening of the youth capacities, its organization and identity and regional networks	Duration: 42 months
7.	Programa de Prevención social de la violencia juvenil	-Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)	To create opportunities for young people (with an age range from 15 - 24 years), who are not studying or working, through community-based programs designed for sport and artistic activities, as well as training in the areas of prevention of various types of violence	-------
8.	Programa Integral Juvenil Don Bosco (PIJDB)	-Fundación Salvador del Mundo (FUSALMO)	To help prevent violence and promote social harmony and solidarity in the NNAJ of sectors of influence in the "Centros Juveniles"	Start: 2004
9.	Proyecto piloto de prevención de violencia	-Cáritas El Salvador	To contribute to the reduction of social violence that affects the youth in the northern triangle of Central America	Period: 2012-2016
10.	Proyecto de Prevención del crimen y violencia	-Agencia para el Desarrollo Internacional de Estados Unidos (USAID)	Crime and violence prevention	Period: 2013-2018

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[58] See Annex 4 for more detailed information on each initiative.

No.	Name	Institutions	Objective	Period/Duration
		-Creative Associates International -Fundación de Apoyo a Municipios de El Salvador (FUNDAMUNI) -Centro de Investigación de Salud y Violencia (CISALVA) de la Universidad del Valle (Colombia)		
11.	Proyecto SolucionES	-Agencia para el Desarrollo Internacional de Estados Unidos (USAID) -Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo (FUNDE) -Fundación Salvadoreña para la Salud y el Desarrollo Humano (FUSAL) -Glasswing International -Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES) -Fundación Empresarial para el Desarrollo Educativo (FEPADE)	To apply an innovative approach in the crime and violence prevention in El Salvador communities, through a joint work with the private sector and local governments	Duration: 5 years
12.	Plan de prevención de la violencia	-Agencia para el Desarrollo Internacional de Estados Unidos (USAID) -Ministerio de Justicia y Seguridad Pública (MJSP) -Alcaldías	To promote the commitment of the municipalities, in reducing violence through leadership, the generation of life plans for young people, search for jobs, among others	Duration: 2 years
13.	Proyecto de Competitividad Municipal	-Agencia para el Desarrollo Internacional de Estados Unidos (USAID) -Asociación ÁGAPE de El Salvador -Asociación Centro de Capacitación y Promoción de la Democracia (CECADE) -Asociación Salvadoreña Pro Salud Rural (ASAPROSAR) -Centro Arte para la Paz (CAP) -Comité de Proyección Social El Salvador (CPS) -Complejo Técnico San Francisco de Sales (COMTEX) -CONEXIÓN El Salvador -Fundación para la Educación Social, Económico y Cultural (FUPEC) -Fundación Salvadoreña de Desarrollo y Vivienda Mínima (FUNDASAL) -Fundación Salvadoreña para la Salud y el Desarrollo Humano (FUSAL) -Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas (UCA)	To provide incentives to developing countries to mobilize financial resources to reduce corruption levels, reform tax systems and improve the management of their expenses	Start: 2010
14.	Programa de apoyo integral a la estrategia de prevención de la violencia	-Gobierno de El Salvador (GOES) -Ministerio de Justicia y Seguridad Pública (MJSP) -Fondo de Inversión Social para el Desarrollo	To contribute to the prevention of juvenile crime, through: improving the articulation of the prevention services at the national level by the MJSP, increasing the social and labor insertion of at-risk youth in the municipalities that are	-------

No.	Name	Institutions	Objective	Period/Duration
		Local (FISDL)	beneficiaries, and reduce recidivism among young people	
15.	Estrategia Nacional de Prevención de la Violencia	-Ministerio de Justicia y Seguridad Pública (MJSP) -Gabinete de Gestión para la Prevención de la Violencia -Secretaría de Asuntos Estratégicos de la Presidencia (SAE) -Subsecretaría de Desarrollo Territorial y Descentralización (SSDT) de la SAE -Policía Nacional Civil (PNC) -Consejo Nacional de Seguridad Pública (CNSP) -Fondo de Inversión Social para el Desarrollo Local (FISDL) -Dirección Nacional de Juventud y la Secretaría de Inclusión Social	To deploy a concerted and articulated action between the national government, local governments and citizens to reduce the risk factors and extend the protective factors associated with the secondary prevention of violence at the local and national level	Start: 2009
16.	Escuelas para la Convivencia	-Secretaría de Asuntos Estratégicos (SAE) -Presidencia del Gobierno de El Salvador (GOES)	To offer an attractive space of socialization and training at the community level, in a position of transferring values, skills and habits of coexistence	Start: 2010
17.	Plan Intersectorial para la prevención y atención de la violencia	-Ministerio de Salud (MINSAL) -Instituto Salvadoreño del Seguro Social (ISSS) -Fondo Solidario para la Salud (FOSALUD) -Organización de Mujeres Salvadoreñas por la Paz (ORMUSA) -Fundación para la Democracia, Seguridad y Paz (FUNDEMOSPAZ) -Asociación Movimiento de Mujeres Mélida Anaya Montes (Las Mélidas) -Foro Nacional de Salud -Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer (ISDEMU) -Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo Integral de la Niñez y la Adolescencia (ISNA) -Ministerio de Trabajo y Previsión Social (MTPS) -Ministerio de Educación (MINED) -Ministerio de Justicia y Seguridad Pública (MJSP) -Asociación de Capacitación, Atención y Prevención del Maltrato Infantojuvenil (ACAP) -Instituto Especializado de Educación Superior de Profesionales de la Salud de El Salvador (IEPROES) -Asociación Demográfica Salvadoreña (ADS)	To establish strategies and interventions for the prevention of violence and comprehensive care for the affected population, through social participation and the intersectoral approach	-------
18.	Fortalecimiento integral a jóvenes en situación de riesgo de maras y pandillas en la Microrregión del Gran San Salvador	-Fundación Escuelas para el mundo -Corporación La Pasión	To facilitate access to spaces of technical-vocational training, employment and community participation to vulnerable young people from socially excluded communities of the municipalities	Period: 2012-2013

No.	Name	Institutions	Objective	Period/Duration
			of Mejicanos, Ayutuxtepeque y Cuscatancingo, which constitute the Micro-region "Mélida Anaya Montes" located in the department of San Salvador	
19.	Proyecto "Fortalecimiento de las capacidades y el liderazgo de niños, niñas y jóvenes del departamento de Chalatenango"	-Fundación Escuelas para el mundo -Corporación La Asunción -Fundación de Apoyo a Municipios de El Salvador (FUNDAMUNI)	Strengthening of skills and child participation processes in four municipalities of the department of Chalatenango	Period: 2011-2012
20.	Proyecto "Educando a la niñez, para un futuro sin Violencia"	-Fundación Escuelas para el mundo -Corporación La Pasión -Servicio Social Pasionista	To contribute to the minimization of violence in early stage and to provide the children of the communities of the municipality of Mejicanos with a process of human development and knowledge, through recreational-educational workshops that facilitate their understanding and appreciation of their role as agents of transformation of their own reality	Period: 2011-2013
21.	Creando espacios de desarrollo Laboral para la juventud en situación de riesgo social (Programa conjunto de prevención de violencia y empleabilidad)	-Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS)	To contribute to youth and gender-based violence, through spaces of participation, social-labor guidance, technical training, with hinged labor intermediation and psychological assistance	Duration: 3 years
22.	Mejora del ejercicio y el respeto al derecho a la seguridad de la niñez, jóvenes y mujeres de 6 territorios con altos niveles de violencia en El Salvador. "MÁS DERECHOS, MENOS VIOLENCIAS"	-Corporación de la Pasión de El Salvador -Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) -Fundación de Ayuda contra la Drogadicción (FAD) -Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)	To facilitate the right to citizen security of children, young people and women of the municipalities of Mejicanos, Cuscatancingo and Ayutuxtepeque, through increased social cohesion in six "Núcleos de Cultura de Paz (NUCUPA)"	Duration: 18 months
23.	"Desarrollo de una cultura de paz, inclusiva e igualitaria, a través de la educación, la vertebración social y la participación ciudadana de niños, niñas y adolescentes en sus comunidades, fomentando los factores de protección frente a la violencia" El Salvador, Nicaragua y República Dominicana	-Corporación de la Pasión de El Salvador -Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) -Fundación de Ayuda contra la Drogadicción (FAD) -Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)	To contribute to the generation of a culture of peace through the exercise of the right to education and the right to human safety, from the respect for the human rights of children and youth, favoring the respect for diversity, gender equality and the exercise of citizenship	Period: 2010-2014
24.	Proyecto de prevención de la violencia y mejora de la calidad educativa: El poder que Transforma	-Fundación Pro Educación de El Salvador (FUNPRES)	To assist in creating an environment of healthy coexistence and social peace in schools with the purpose to prevent violence and promote the rights of children and adolescents	Duration: 3 years
25.	Atención y acompañamiento socioeducativo a niñez y juventudes que viven en condiciones de exclusión y vulnerabilidad social - Programa de "CASA"	-Asociación Nueva Vida Pro-Niñez y Juventud (ASONVIPRONYJ)	To facilitate educational and training processes to children and young people living in urban informal settlements through activities such as: school reinforcement, educational therapies, recreational, preventive health, bibliographic and library assistance, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), values and coexistence, sports and recreation	-------
26.	Educación socioambiental por la cultura de paz y la sustentabilidad, conocido como Programa "GLOBAL"	-Asociación Nueva Vida Pro-Niñez y Juventud (ASONVIPRONYJ) -Movimientos y redes como Siglo XXIII	To perform local and territorial work from an inter-generational perspective between youth and adults who accompany processes based on the concept of shared responsibility and reciprocity, doing the work in conjunction with social	-------

No.	Name	Institutions	Objective	Period/Duration
		Universidades Internacionales Libres Para la Paz -Comité Ecuménico de Estudiantes - Universitarios Salvadoreños (CEEUS) -Grupo Sin Cuenta (G50) -Red Global de Juventudes Río+Vos	movements that have their roots in the several territories of the country	
27.	Promoción sociocultural a niñez y juventudes de comunidades socialmente vulnerables, conocido como Programa de Comunidad	-Asociación Nueva Vida Pro-Niñez y Juventud (ASONVIPRONYJ)	To encourage artistic expression and communication (visual arts, music, dance, theater), cultural identity, historical memory, cultural management, cultural exchange, the traditional and ancestral knowledge and practices	-------
28.	Programa Regional de Prevención de la Violencia Juvenil en Centroamérica PREVENIR	-Agencia Alemana para la Cooperación Internacional (GIZ) -Secretaría General del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA) -Ministerio de Educación (MINED) -Ministerio de Trabajo -Instituto Nacional de Juventud (INJUVE) -Policía Nacional Civil (PNC) -Ministerio de Justicia y Seguridad Pública (MJSP) -Ministerio Federal de Cooperación Económica y Desarrollo de Alemania (BMZ)	To give advice to authorities that lead the national leadership in the framework of youth, in the formulation and implementation of policies that involve this population group, at the same time that special attention is given to the involvement of national networks in political processes	Period: 2010-2017
29.	Estrategias de Educación Sexual y Salud Sexual y Reproductiva para Prevenir la Violencia Sexual y Potenciar el Empoderamiento juvenil en El Salvador	-Instituto de Investigación, Capacitación y Desarrollo de la Mujer (IMU) -Asociación de Capacitación e Investigación para la Salud Mental (ACISAM)	To promote the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, from the promotion and defense of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)	Period: 2013 – 2015
30.	Jóvenes Emprendedores en Ciudades Seguras	-Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD) -Ministerio de Justicia y Seguridad Pública (MJSP) -Catholic Relief Services (CRS) -Cámara de Comercio e Industria de El Salvador -Alcaldías municipales	To develop and implement a model of socio-economic insertion of young people living in contexts of risk, including gang members and their families	Period: 2012 -2014
31.	Prevención de riesgos en población adolescente. Estrategia Familias Fuertes	-Ministerio de Salud (MINSAL) -Instituto Nacional de Juventud (INJUVE) -Ministerio de Justicia y Seguridad Pública (MJSP) a través de la Dirección General de Prevención de la Violencia y Cultura de Paz (PRE-PAZ) -Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS) -Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) -Ministerio de Educación (MINED) -Mesa Intersectorial de Violencia	To prevent risk behaviors in adolescents between the ages of 10 and 14, and their respective families, through learning and development of specific skills to develop a consistent discipline but at the same time provides young people with love, support and closeness	Start: 2004

No.	Name	Institutions	Objective	Period/Duration
32.	Programa Oportunidades	-Fundación Gloria de Kriete -Instituciones privadas	Strengthen employment opportunities for young students that come from underprivileged environments around the country, but that demonstrate academic excellence and great desire to excel	Start: 2012
33.	Programa de Apoyo Temporal al Ingreso (PATI)	-Secretaría Técnica de la Presidencia (STP) -Fondo de Inversión social para el desarrollo local (FISDL) -Instituto Salvadoreño de Formación Profesional (INSAFORP) -Ministerio de Trabajo (MTPS) -Comisión Nacional de la Micro y Pequeña Empresa (CONAMYPE)	Temporary protection of income of urban households in conditions of poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion, through participation in community projects and training	Start: 2010
34.	Prevención de la Violencia en Contra de Mujeres y Niñas en Guatemala y El Salvador	-Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)	To improve the efficiency and accessibility of security and justice systems in the field of violence against girls and women in five municipalities in Guatemala and El Salvador	Period: 2012-2013
35.	Programa prevención y rehabilitación de jóvenes en riesgo y en conflicto con la ley	-Ministerio de Justicia y Seguridad Pública (MJSP)	To contribute to the prevention of youth violence and the rehabilitation of youth in conflict with the law, through the provision of training, employability, the improvement of services dedicated to the awareness of public opinion	Start: 2014
36.	Proyecto Prevención de la Violencia Juvenil en Nejapa	-Asociación de Proyectos Comunales de El Salvador (PROCOMES)	To implement comprehensive youth development program with a gender approach	Period: 2011-2012
37.	Programa de Prevención Social de la Violencia con Participación Juvenil-PROJÓVENES	-Instituto Nacional de la Juventud (INJUVE)	To increase and improve opportunities for the comprehensive development of young people, that will contribute to the reduction in juvenile crime and this will improve citizen security in the municipalities of intervention	Period: 2011-2013
38.	Programa Conjunto Reducción de la Violencia y Construcción de Capital Social (Programa Conjunto)	-Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT) -Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA) -Fondo de Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF) -Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS) -Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD) -Consejo Nacional de Seguridad Pública (CNSP, ahora INJUVE) -Ministerio de Justicia y Seguridad Pública (MJSP) -Ministerio de Educación (MINED) -Fundación Salvador del Mundo (FUSALMO) - Soleterre-Strategie di Pace ONLUS	To create conditions that contribute to human development, to the strengthening of democratic governance and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's)	Period: 2009 - 2012

No.	Name	Institutions	Objective	Period/Duration
		-Alcaldía Municipal de San Salvador -Asociación para la Autodeterminación y Desarrollo de Mujeres Salvadoreñas (AMS) -Oficina Técnica de Cooperación Española en El Salvador (AECID)		
39.	Escuelas Inclusivas de Tiempo Pleno	-Ministerio de Educación (MINED)	The increase of time to expand the curriculum proposal in areas that require more development in children and young people, such as, citizenship education, art, culture, recreation, sports, among others	Start: 2011
40.	Programa Nacional del Servicio Social Juvenil (PNSSJ)	-Consejo Nacional de la Juventud (CONJUVE)	To strengthen processes led by high school students and promote spaces of youth participation that take advantage of the potential of these young people as strategic players in development	Start: 2011
41.	Proyecto Prevención de la Violencia en Guatemala, El Salvador y Nicaragua 2012 -2015	-Centro de Prevención de la Violencia (CEPREV) -Programa Centroamericano para el Control de Armas Pequeñas y Ligeras (CASAC) del SICA -Coalición Centroamericana para la Prevención de la Violencia Juvenil -Asociación para la Prevención del Delito (APREDE) -Equipo Nahual	To contribute to violence prevention in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, at the community, school, institutional and penitentiary environment, by supplementing better public policies and developing institutional capacities in the State and civil society	-------
42.	Programa Regional "Ana Frank y Nuestra Voces"	-Centro de Prevención de la Violencia (CEPREV) -Museo de la Palabra y la Imagen	Training young people in the region and turning them into a network of human rights defenders	-------
43.	Movimiento de Jóvenes Encuentristas MOJE	-Asociación MOJE	To generate opportunities for the youth with a comprehensive approach, by means of localized services at the "Centro Juvenil Casa MOJE", located in Cabañas	Start: 1994
44.	Programa Indicativo Nacional	-Comisión Europea-Unión Europea (CE-UE)	To promote social cohesion and citizen security in order to reduce social violence, as well as boost the youth sector and the human capital	Period: 2007-2013
45.	Estrategia de Seguridad de Centroamérica	-Red Centroamericana para la Construcción de la Paz y la Seguridad Humana (REDCEPAZ) -Instituto de Enseñanza para el Desarrollo Sostenible -Secretaría General del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericano (SG-SICA)	To contribute to the reduction of insecurity levels in Central America, to be able to create an enabling environment for the socio-economic development and greater regional integration	Period: 2013-2017
46.	Juventud en red para la justicia restaurativa en Centroamérica (JURCA)	-Soleterre -Comité Consultivo CCSICA	To contribute to the development and consolidation of democracy in Central America, strengthening citizen	Period: 2013-2015

No.	Name	Institutions	Objective	Period/Duration
		-Dirección de Seguridad Democrática de la Secretaría General del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SG-SICA)	participation of young people, with a gender-based approach with governmental bodies, through the exercise of the right to freedom, security, and personal integrity	
47.	Programa de Mujeres en Ciencia e Ingeniería (Women In Science and Engineering, WISE)	-Universidad Don Bosco (UDB)	To increase the number of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers (STEM) through linkage-related activities, recruitment, and retention with university students, as well as secondary education institutions	-------
48.	Programa de formación en artes y ciencia (FORMARTE JOVEN)	-Universidad Don Bosco (UDB)	To positively stimulate and guide the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of young people; through courses on creativity, music, handicrafts and creation of musical instruments; accompanied by academic reinforcement in mathematics, English and science	-------
49.	Futbol Forever	-Fundación Futbol Forever	To enable children and young people participating in soccer practice, to acquire knowledge they can apply to relationships with themselves, with their families, school and their peers.	Start: 2005

4. FINAL COMMENTS

On the basis of the information gathered and presented in this document, some closing points can be highlighted:

- Several challenges are found when looking at the institutional data on the living conditions of young Salvadorans, although in recent years the average of youth education has improved, it is difficult for them to enter the labor world, with proper conditions of remuneration and employment benefits. The level of underemployment and unemployment among young people reflects this situation. On the other hand, 4 of every 10 young people are in a condition of poverty in the country, which is often associated with situations of exclusion that encourage violence in their environment. In addition, generally, governmental institutions (education, health, employment, INJUVE, etc.) have few resources and programs designed to meet the specific needs of this population group.

- The understanding of youth has been stigmatized by the association of this population group with acts of violence. Nevertheless, while many of these acts are committed by people between 15 and 29 years old, this group is the most affected by violence, but playing a role as the victim. In addition, the traditional state actions to counter violence associated with young people has fundamentally been repressive, although it can be noted an extension of this vision towards the youth development approach.

- With regard to institutions specializing in youth, the constant changes they have experienced in the last decade, make it difficult to gain clarity about the progress made, due to the low systematization and continuity of work. In this respect, it must be taken into consideration that the continuous training of personal working with this population should receive special attention, since on one hand, this is usually changed when the leadership or the institution changes, and on the other hand, it would allow to keep them updated in regard to laws, policies, programs, etc., related to youth and in that way, to provide a better service that is more in line with the national reality of youth.

- On the basis of a review of various programs, it can be identified that the objective of preventing violence is too broad in some cases, without specifying exactly how it is proposed to perform actions that prevent violent acts and behaviors. It is not always clear how the activities that are performed contribute to the reduction in risks faced by young people in their

daily lives. Many of the actions listed seem to focus on keeping young people occupied, without a clear purpose for the activities they are assigned. Also, it is necessary to have a complementary approach to the relationship between violence prevention and personal development.

- There is a large production on data on young people and the security issue in general, by various institutions. However, this information is not always used for the targeting of preventive actions. The topic of concentration of efforts in specific areas is of great importance and it was pointed out by the experts interviewed in this study. It is understood that in most cases there are not enough resources to work in several areas at the same time. For that reason, targeting is necessary and that is where emphasis on developing effective methods to define which areas need to have certain types of actions relies.

- When it comes to the targeting of prevention efforts, on one hand actions of primary prevention need to be performed in those places where there are less violent acts and less presence or actions of "maras". The actions would be oriented to preventing these phenomenon from increasing. Furthermore, there is a need for intervention in those areas where violence and the presence of gangs and gang violence is strong, in order to provide rehabilitation to people involved and at the same time, to do an intervention that decreases the conditions of risk of new people getting involved in violence, which means extra work with the community and the family, not only with specific subjects.

- Data such as the recently presented by "Fundación Dr. Guillermo Manuel Ungo, FUNDAUNGO, 2014", reflect the need to resume the statistical information provided by institutions when planning preventive actions, because they state that the most victimized group is the one between 15 and 29 years old, that is, the age range of young people. In the same way, it is indicated that 60.8% of the homicides in 2013 were committed in 32 of the 262 municipalities of the country, being territories that need to be addressed urgently, understanding their dynamic and targeting policies for prevention and control of violence.

- It has been found that there is a large amount of specific interventions for the prevention of violence, mainly aimed at young people. However, generally, they are initiatives without a proper follow up and very few make the effort to systematize and evaluate, in order to make the information

available to the public, which would make it easier to know the actions that have been previously conducted and to identify what has worked and what has not worked in several territories, populations and areas of intervention. This would contribute to a plan to take advantage of the actions that have been proven to be successful and avoid repetition of actions that are not effective, and if possible, to improve these strategies.

- A very important thing to consider when scheduling actions of prevention are the institutional alliances with local authorities and the population itself, because political conjunctures (national or municipal elections) affect and many times make the initiatives stagnant or terminated because of partisan differences or inclination to promote actions different from the ones promoted by the new administration. Most probably, only if there is a more direct contact with the population and their involvement is achieved, the possibility of actions sustainability can be guaranteed.

- An element that is considered to be essential for the effectiveness of initiatives of violence prevention, is the promotion of the participation of young people, giving them power, since the survey's results show that this population is not so involved in the various organizations. This has been explained by referring to the recent history of repression in which student, religious, social movements, etc., were persecuted during the civil war, which seems to have established a culture of low participation and silence to protest because of injustices or to express demands. This is in addition to the role of some institutions that have used the image of young people to make a profit, without leading to concrete and positive results for youth, making them feel used and in consequence retreating as a group.

- The subject of programs and projects assessment is of great importance and it was something that, in addition to having been identified through documentary review, it also appeared in the interviews. There are very few evaluations, either of the results achieved through the actions developed, or of the impact that can be achieved with them. It is necessary to take it into consideration for the creation of programs, that way it can be monitored if the actions match with the planning, and also to have evidence that changes and impact are being made. Having this information would help to justify the investment of cooperating agencies and to give continuity to actions that have proven to be successful, and to design future projects.

- It is necessary to continue training and promoting evaluation as a relevant topic to the institutions that perform actions of violence prevention, and to continue efforts to establish criteria for determining an action of effective prevention. It is also important to create public spaces to share what the institutions are making on the issue of youth development and violence prevention, so that there is greater dissemination and reflection on what is being done, to achieve a collective learning that fosters better actions in the future.

- It would be recommended the construction of an institutional vision in relation to the topic of innovation and use of new technologies. According to the information collected from the perspective of the people interviewed, the use of technology in the topic of violence prevention is considered important and necessary, however, it must be determined how it can be done. For that matter, the institutions that work on the issue have the challenge of incorporating innovative measures, information technologies that they are already using in some way, but adapting them to their daily activities and trying to have more interaction with young people who are the beneficiaries. For those who are already experimenting with this use of technology, it is recommended the quest for a greater scope, since it could be seen that according to young people surveyed, they do not identify such inclusion within the violence prevention programs they know. A point to emphasize is the need to be updated with respect to the technologies that young people use, to be able to use them and that the new initiatives will be attractive to this group.

5. REFERENCES

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6. ANNEXES