

PANAMA

We Are Winners

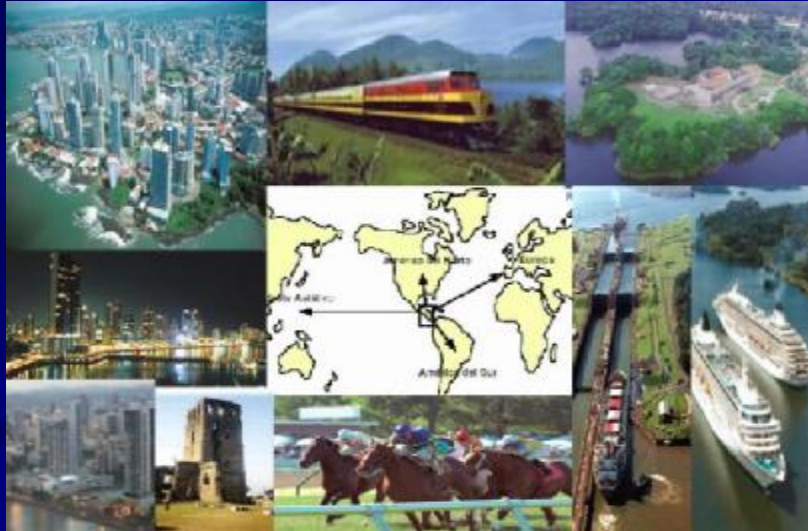
Integral Prevention Program

Republic of Panama

"Youth at the forefront of change"

Holda de Marré

Republic of Panama





Background

1984-2007

- Anti-drug Act
- National Anti-drug Strategy (1996-2001)
- National Anti-drug Strategy (2002-2007)
- Forfeiture of assets, securities, and money that are proceeds of drug trafficking

School prevention strategy

n Objective:

To strengthen school prevention by including all pertinent sectors – national and international, unifying criteria for integral school prevention education guidelines

Goals

- n Inclusion of integral prevention education topics in school curricula
- n Ongoing development of training programs for teachers, parents, and the community
- n Inclusion in teacher training centers of integral prevention education subjects, underscoring drug abuse

Lines of action

- n Legal aspect
- n Technical aspect
- n Financial aspect
- n Political aspect

Rationale

Political:

- n This program was developed as a measure to partially address the government's social policy.
- n It implements Panama's international commitments.

Social:

- n Violence, crime, and risky sexual conduct are on the rise in Panama, and the drug problem is worsening.
- n Adolescents are one of the main groups that initiate risk behavior (drug use, gangs, sexual conduct)

A comparison of 2002 and 2003

- n A rise in use of the following drugs was observed from 2002 to 2003 among students in the capital:
- n Cigarettes
- n Alcohol
- n Inhalants
- n Marijuana
- n Cocaine
- n Glue

National Student Survey 2003

	Life	Year	Month	Age/first use
n Cigarettes	36.9	22.5	17.8	(12.9)
n Alcohol	57.3	45.4	39.4	(13.1)
n Tranquilizers	6.5	2.5	2.0	(13.0)
n Stimulants	5.2	2.8	2.0	(13.0)
n Marijuana	8.1	7.1	4.8	(13.7)
n Ecstasy	1.4	1.3	0.9	(14.4)
n Cocaine	1.8	1.3	0.5	(13.8)
n Glue	4.9	4.5	3.6	(13.7)

The results of the 2003 National School Survey indicate that:

- n 48% of students believe it is easy to obtain illicit drugs.**
- n 42% believe that youth take drugs in order to forget their problems.**
- n There is a relationship between drug use, disciplinary problems, having to repeat years of schooling, and academic problems.**
- n There is a relationship between drug use and family dysfunction.**

Sexuality:

- n There were 30,723 live births in the population of young mothers of 12 to 19 years of age.**
- n The percentage of youth under 15 years of age rose from 3.1 to 3.9% per thousand.**
- n The percentage of youth from 15 to 19 years of age rose from 89.5 to 93.3% per thousand.**
- n Sexually transmitted AIDS increased. First appearance of AIDS transmitted by intravenous drug injection.**

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Based on life
skills

Objectives

- n To develop and implement a nationwide integral prevention education program as a means of strengthening among students the acquisition of knowledge, and the development of healthy lifestyles and positive personal and social skills.**

Program content

To develop a program designed to strengthen our children and youth in the following areas:

- n Self-esteem**
- n Handling of emotions**
- n Values**
- n Critical thinking**

Program content

- n Communication**
- n Positive, optimistic attitude**
- n Ability to handle group pressure and take decisions**
- n Perception of risk: drugs and sexual risk behavior**

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n Three stages:

1. Validation of materials
2. Implementation of Program
3. Evaluation

Implementation of Program

- n The program comprises weekly participatory workshops.
- n Its work method enables students to acquire skills and knowledge in a learning process they find pleasant and interesting.
- n 32 workshops have been scheduled for each academic year (6th, 7th, and 8th grades).
- n A training process has been established for teachers selected to participate in the program.
- n The program provides for inclusion of families in its activities.

Training for implementation of the 2005 Program

- n 13 regional Boards of Education
- n 260 schools (20 schools per regional Board of Education)
- n 3,120 educators (12 educators per school)
- n This training will enable 124,800 students to be reached nationwide.

Schedule

Activity	Aug. 04	Sep. 04	Oct. 04	Nov. 04	Dec. 04	Jan. 05	Feb. 05	Mar. 05	Apr.-Dec. 05
Preparation of validation instruments	■								
Printing of manuals		■							
Training (2 days)		■							
Implementation of validation in schools		■	■	■					
Compilation and analysis of information				■	■				
Changes and printing						■			
Selection of schools Pilot program			■						
Teacher training (40 hours)							■	■	
Launch of program								■	■
Monitoring and evaluation								■	■

Evaluation and Monitoring Board Technical Council

- n Office of the First Lady**
- n Ministry of Education**
- n Ministry of Health**
- n Ministry of Youth, Women, and the Family**
- n National Commission on Drugs
(CONAPRED)**
- n Civil society representative**

Program beneficiaries

- n Students from throughout the school
system (public and private schools)**
- n Teachers**
- n The family group**

Budget and financing

- n National Commission on Drugs
 - n Forfeited Drug Trafficking Proceeds Fund
 - n National Anti-drug Strategy
 - n First phase: \$300,000

 - n Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission CICAD/OAS
- Technical advice

Anticipated results

- n In 2005, under the pilot program, coverage of 124,800 students nationwide, providing them with knowledge to reinforce their healthy lifestyles and develop positive personal and social skills to be used to deal with the risks they face at their age and from their environment.

- n In 2005, 3,120 teachers trained in integral prevention education.

- n In 2005, involvement of parents in prevention tasks by means of the different workshops comprising the program, and reinforcing their involvement with the school environment.

Goals

- n For 2006: expansion of program coverage by including other grades.

Lines of action

- n Legal aspect
- n Technical aspect
- n Financial aspect
- n Political aspect

We are winners

Shoved along by a tremendous storm, the sea rose up like a giant and all night long pummelled the beach in fury. Fifteen-foot waves spewed from their depths snails, fish, seaweed, and a myriad other things.

At dawn, when the storm had subsided, the beach was carpeted in starfish throbbing gently in the pale morning light. An early morning beachcomber began to throw them back, a seemingly hopeless task, in view of their numbers.

“Good morning, ma’am,” said a tourist, who was watching her with amazement. “Could you tell me what you are doing?”

“I’m returning them to the sea. If I don’t do it soon, they’ll die from lack of oxygen.”

“But don’t you think that’s a futile and ridiculous thing to do? There are millions of them and it’s impossible to save them all. Besides, there may be hundreds of other beaches covered in starfish that are bound to die. Don’t you realize you won’t change anything?”

The woman smiled sweetly, bent down, picked up another starfish and, before throwing it into the water, said, “For this one, it made a difference!”

**“Educate the child and you won’t
punish the adult.”**



Thank you