

EXTERNAL INTERMEDIATE EVALUATION 2008
PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY OPERATION DAYSWORK (OD) 2006-2010
- SYNTHESIS DOCUMENT -

Introduction

This document aims to present an analytical synthesis of five external evaluations of projects supported by the Norwegian Students Campaign *Operation Dayswork* (OD).

In 2005, OD approved the project proposal from Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), on Human Trafficking as the main focus for a series of interventions in the lives of youngsters from Brazil, main victims of this problem. Based on the experience gained with work developed on this theme and with the youngsters, five partner organizations integrating the portfolio of NCA in Brazil were selected to receive support: Ação Educativa, Diaconia, Instituto Socioambiental, Serviço à Mulher Marginalizada and Viva Rio.

The implementation of the projects started in January 2006 and is to be concluded in December 2010. The evaluations carried out have, therefore, had an intermediate character and focussed four objectives, which can be summarized as follows: **i.** to examine the efficiency of the projects' implementation; **ii.** to identify the projects' impacts; **iii.** to examine societal changes that may have occurred in facing Human Trafficking; **iv.** to contribute with recommendations for the future orientation of the projects.

The accomplishment of these mid-term reviews was anticipated during the moment of conception of the projects as a contribution so that new alternatives could be devised in the face of the practical requirements of the social context in which each organization is inserted. A dialogue established between NCA, OD and the five organizations made it possible to define common Terms of Reference that have assured the use of uniform methodological resources appropriate for the work of the evaluators. There were used three main instruments of investigation: **i.** analysis of documents related to the project under evaluation and to the social dynamics of each context; **ii.** field research, with an average length of five days; **iii.** final meeting with each team under evaluation.

At the end of the process, a meeting was held in the city of São Paulo, Brazil, for a collective reflection on the main conclusions of this cycle of evaluations. The two-day-long meeting gathered together the three evaluators, members of the NCA team, and members of the organizations / projects under evaluation. That was a moment in which the discussion of common challenges and weaknesses was privileged, in search of strategies for a better qualification of the actions taken.

The evaluated projects

The five executive organizations have very distinct profiles, acting on different target audiences and different regions – which is reflected in the projects' approach.

- Ação Educativa: based in the city of São Paulo and with actions within the state of São Paulo, this project is dedicated to actions in the areas of education, culture and youth,

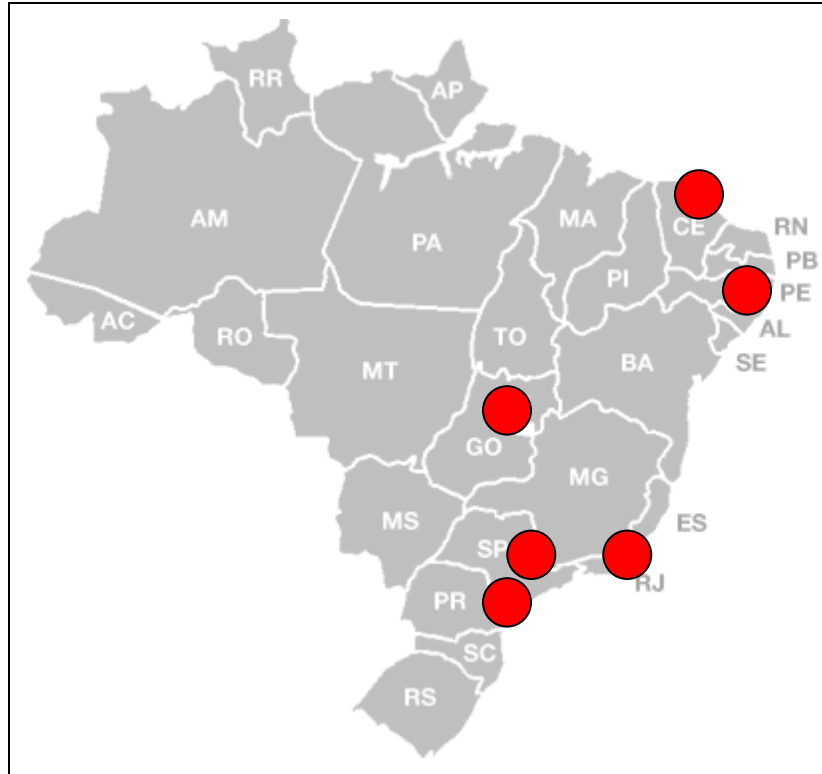
aiming at promoting the youngsters rights to education. The evaluated project focuses on the development of educational proposals, on offering support to youth groups in the development of their communities and on encouraging the participation of the youngsters in the definition and implementation of public policies dedicated to the youth.

- Diaconia: based in the city of Recife and acting in three states of the Northeast, this project is dedicated to actions in three areas: children and teenagers; offering support to family-based agriculture and offering support to the diaconal action of the Church. The evaluated project focuses on the training/empowerment of youngsters in the metropolitan regions of Recife and Fortaleza so that – through art, culture, communication and work – they can build new perspectives for their lives.
- Instituto Socioambiental: acting on a national level in order to integrate social and environmental issues, the Vale do Ribeira is one of the regions covered by one of its local programs. The project supported by OD focuses on the promotion of alternatives for sustainable development that may enable the young population of the *quilombos* to stay in their communities, decreasing the risks of exclusion and exposure to Human Trafficking.
- Serviço à Mulher Marginalizada: acting on a national level, it involves specially the commercial sexual exploitation of women and teenagers, participating and articulating the movements related to these populations. The evaluated project focuses on devising recommendations for policies and programs of prevention and training for enabling the youngsters to develop their individual and collective potential as well as their social identity, understood as the basis for citizenship, in fighting Human Trafficking.
- Viva Rio: based in the city of Rio de Janeiro and acting in this metropolitan region on the areas of Community Actions, Communication and Human Safety with the objectives of enabling the social inclusion of youngsters in situations of risk, reforming the sector of security and controlling the supply and demand of fire arms, this project focuses on youngsters at risk, the most exposed group to Human Trafficking. The project supported by OD, despite involving both genders by trying to improve their conditions of life, gives special attention to pregnancy and motherhood, offering alternatives to the youngsters who find themselves in vulnerable situations through integrated actions whose aim is their social inclusion.

The map on the following page allows the visualization of the geographic areas of action of each of the five projects.

The results of the evaluation were, in general, very positive. Although the projects are still in progress, the level of reach of the proposed objectives was considered to be high, due directly to: **i.** the coherence between the activity plans and the proposed objectives; **ii.** the efficiency in the execution and timing of the planned activities, having respected all deadlines, as well as in the many additional actions and products; **iii.** high ability of the executive organizations to establish new partnerships, multiplying and potentializing the activities of the projects supported by OD.

Evidently, the efficiency of the projects is varied among the proposed directions of intervention. Below, we will approach some of these successful stories and some limits to them, using, as a guideline, seven themes that seem relevant.



1. Human trafficking

Actions for the prevention and fight against human trafficking are a common ground in the evaluated projects, even though that may not be the main focus of all of them. In fact, from the five supported organizations, only SMM has trafficking as the focus of its institutional actions¹. The other four organizations are focused on very different problems and, despite involving youngsters in their actions, until 2005 they did not have any work experience on the issue of human trafficking.

Such situation gave human trafficking a considerably marginal position in the work plans at the moment of the conception of the projects to be supported by OD. The difficulty faced by these four organizations in approaching this problem may be observed in their initial proposals, which reveal lack of knowledge and information on the configuration of the issue in their specific areas of action. The actions proposed for the prevention and

¹ Founded in 1991, the SMM's mission is to fight all forms of commercial sexual exploitation of female children and adolescents. As of 1996, and in a pioneer fashion, human trafficking became the central point of its social intervention.

fight against human trafficking are also timid and, in general, they are too conventional and generic.

However, the context of execution of the projects was very favorable to an increase in how seriously human trafficking was addressed by the supported organizations. In fact, some developments which happened between 2005 and 2008 contributed to give national visibility to the issue, to demonstrate the urgency of approaching it and to make it become, maybe definitively, a part of the Federal Executive Power's agenda, not anymore being circumscribed only to actions supported by the international technical cooperation.

- In January 2004, Brazil ratified what came to be known as Palermo Protocol (November 2000)². It is worth highlighting that this ratification, four years after its approval, is the result of the actions of negotiation pressure made by organizations such as SMM. This same year, these organizations started acting in favor of the implementation of this Protocol, involving the review of the legal mark and the readequacy of the public agencies for the prevention and combat of human trafficking and services to its victims;
- In October 2006, the Brazilian state passed the National Policy to Combat Human Trafficking (Política Nacional de Enfrentamento ao Tráfico de Pessoas), containing guidelines, principles and actions for orienting the integrated intervention of the Federal Executive Power in this theme.
- In 2007, the Brazilian government started the creation of the National Plan to Combat Human Trafficking (PNETP, Plano Nacional de Enfrentamento ao Tráfico de Pessoas), involving the participation of many organizations of the civil society. The two-year long Plan was approved in January 2008 and, despite its admitted limitations to break down the problem, it has served as a relevant parameter for the action of the organizations of the civil society on public policies. Since then, for example, many organizations (like SMM) have collaborated in implementing and operating the state denunciation offices intended in the Plan.
- In 2008, networks of organizations dedicated to the issue are getting articulated in favor of developing the difficult work of monitoring the execution of this Plan, whose goals reached up to December 2008 will probably be below the expectations. The main objective is to gather knowledge to subsidize the Brazilian State once again in order to amplify and qualify its intervention.
- In 2007 and 2008, the theme of human trafficking gained a lot of space in the main communication vehicles of the country, due to xenophobic policies of Northern countries, of which the immigration containment measures adopted by Spain and by the USA should be highlighted.

The configuration of this context, associated to the support offered by OD/NCA to the projects involving the issue of human trafficking, as well as the frequent visits of their team to Brazil, echoed on the executive institutions. The evaluators highlighted, in particular, the role of NCA in promoting and incentivating actions against trafficking in

² Additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime related to the prevention, suppression and punishment to human trafficking offences (November 25th, 2000).

the supported projects and organisations. The most relevant in these terms are: **i.** promotion of meetings for capacity building and discussion on the issue of trafficking, an average of two meetings per year since 2005; **ii.** incentivating exchanges and dialogue between the five organisations, in some cases also with other local or thematically relevant organisations; **iii.** providing additional resources for the realization of specific actions/activities on the issue of trafficking.

The balance surprised the evaluators, not only due to the diversity and range of the activities carried out involving TSH (of which many had not been intended in the five-year plans), but also due to the verification that some partner organizations had become regional references on the theme. This is particularly relevant for three regions that formerly did not have any reference organisations on trafficking³: **i.** the city of Recife (Pernambuco), where the involvement of Diaconia in the Forum for Combatting Human Trafficking was significant; **ii.** the capital (Fortaleza) and cities in the hinterland of Ceará, in which the same organisation supported the Theatre Collective “Soltando A Voz”, whose educational activities about trafficking in schools and social spaces in the neighborhoods have had considerable repercussion; **iii.** in the region of Vale do Ribeira, where the growing involvement of ISA on the issue resulted in a large seminar, uniting 240 people (community leaders, representatives of the municipal tutelar councils, health and education directors, doctors, lawyers, teachers and directors of private and public schools etc.) from 15 municipalities. The main resolution to come out of the seminar was the establishment of the Regional Committee to Combat Human Trafficking in Vale do Ribeira.

In order to avoid repeating here the series of actions carried out by the five projects during the aforementioned period, we can group them into four main modalities: **i) the production and diffusion of information**: multiple activities (seminars, lectures, publicity material, etc.) dedicated to training and raising awareness of the youngsters, of their respective communities and of many social actors on the problem. It is estimated that these actions, as well as raising awareness, have contributed to break, even if partially, the instinctive and generalized fear of the populations from where the projects act on as far as the denunciation of human trafficking is concerned; **ii) the dialogue established with policy-makers**: as mentioned before, some organizations have contributed in creating public policies to combat human trafficking, through articulations with public agencies and authorities and a proactive participation in forums, networks and councils. It is also worth highlighting the participation of some youngsters in state Committees to Combat Human trafficking; **iii) the reduction of vulnerabilities to the problem**: social exclusion is the root of the human trafficking issue. Many of these youngsters are drawn into a negative chain of events marked by dropping out of school, unemployment, poverty, familiar fragility (teenage mothers), violence, prostitution and human trafficking. The many investments made by the projects in areas such as education and professional training contribute in keeping these youngsters in their communities and,

³ In the metropolitan region of São Paulo, the performance of SMM has made them a main reference on the issue; in the metropolitan region of Rio de Janeiro, the principal reference is Projeto Trama, a consortium of four organizations engaged in the fight against trafficking, which in partnership with Viva Rio, is stimulating the establishment of a State Committee for the Combat of Human Trafficking.

consequently, in reducing their vulnerability to trafficking; **iv)** development of new approaches in the work against trafficking. This is exemplified by the success of SMM in integrating the issue in the curriculum of selected schools, and the subsequent commitment of the São Paulo Secretariate of Education to implement this measure in all high schools of the São Paulo state.

If this level of action is maintained, the projects approved by OD, due to their diversity of actors and agendas, will make a relevant contribution to the way the issue of human trafficking is addressed in Brazil, formerly associated only to the sexual exploitation of women, but never thought of as a multi-faceted problem.

2. Juvenile Protagonism

The five evaluated projects work, even if through different approaches, with the perspective of strengthening juvenile protagonism. Although this notion and term has been polemical, we address it here as a perspective of social work that conceives the youngsters as a central actor in actions related to a common welfare.

Along general lines, there are three orientations that have been disseminated by the supported projects: **i.** to regard the youngsters not as a problem, but as part of the solution of social issues (that is, social, political, economical, cultural, and environmental issues, etc.) **ii.** to regard the youngsters as a factor for the local development; **iii.** to regard the youngsters as a protagonist in the public space, with the ability to work on policies dedicated to them.

The multiple contributions of the projects within these dimensions require a more in-depth analysis. Among the experiences to be highlighted are the formation processes, which made it possible for the youth to take the leadership of certain projects (e.g. telecenters in Recife and in Vale do Ribeira). It was stated that the investment in such processes has empowered these youth, not only in terms of management, but also on several thematic issues, such as: gender based violence, child labor, environment, integral protection, human trafficking, and communication as a human right. The constitution of networks of political training of the youth, in partnership with local organizations in other Brazilian states, strengthens the potential of this protagonism.

The use of innovative methodologies and means of communication that produce common generational frameworks within the diversity of youths from rural and urban Brazilian communities has proved to be efficient in the promotion of youth participation. As an example, we could highlight the initiatives of groups of artistic/cultural production (music, dance, theatre) promoted by Diaconia. These have succeeded in creating a bridge between the cultural-artistic dimension and the socio-political commitment of the youth.

The capacity building offered by Ação Educativa to the group Youth Agents for the Right to Education (JADE), enabled them to carry out a survey in their respective schools, and their protagonism in leading initiatives of socio-educative mediation. The evaluation gathered a series of indications of the strengthening of youth involvement in their communities and also of their participation in municipal forums. The incentive from ISA to broaden the technical and scientific knowledge of Quilombo University students made these youth protagonists and agents of development in their communities, and also enabled them to elaborate educational projects in relation with national cooperation

instances. The responsibility that is given to the youth and their subsequent capacity to initiate processes which lead to a true engagement was also seen in the favelas where Viva Rio is present. Here the youth have become agents and protagonists of new juvenile organizations, engaged in the fight against police violence and groups of drug traffickers.

As a concrete result of these actions, many spaces related to public policies have been occupied by youngsters integrated in the projects: committees to combat human trafficking, participative budget networks, councils for enforcing children's and adolescents' rights, youth conferences, environmental campaigns, etc.

Among the weaknesses, two must be specially highlighted. The first one concerns the organizational and financial weaknesses, not only of youth associations, but also, and which is graver, of the very local and/or communitary partner institutions. The field visits have verified that the generalized weakness in this sphere stands in stark contrast with the quality of the services rendered by the projects. The second weakness consists of the little ability of the projects to really involve the youngsters (as well as instances of the communities they belong to) in the management of the projects that have been implemented – revealing a certain contradiction with the perspective of strengthening the juvenile protagonism. The recommendation to all organizations is that they should pay more attention to these two gaps.

3. The generation of jobs and income

This is a relevant issue in some projects (ISA and Diaconia, in particular) due to the execution of professional training initiatives in many areas: tourism, telemarketing centers, etc. This is a theme that is particularly important in Brazil, for recent research indicate that, if on the one hand, poverty has diminished in the last few years in the country, on the other hand, it seems to be affecting adolescents harder now. Recent official research⁴ show, for example, that in 2007, the percentage of children and teenagers who lived on an income of up to 1/4 of the minimum wage⁵ had reached 19.6%, compared to 11.2% for the population as a whole. In that year, 30% of the Brazilians lived on a family monthly income of up to half a minimum wage per capita. In the range comprising 0 to 17-year-olds, the percentage of poor people was even higher: 45,7%.

This is also a complex and challenging theme, because in Brazil there are still not many successful experiences gained or much reflection on how to generate income and jobs for this specific social segment. In spite of that, the evaluation has verified that most of the projects have been trying to address the problem from a promising perspective: associating the generation of income to the creative potential of the youngsters, to valuing their culture, to environmental preservation and to the ability of thinking the world critically.

It has been observed, however, that in many cases success is mostly achieved in these transversal themes than in the generation of jobs or income itself. Indeed, the projects have been able to articulate important connections among the cultural, artistic, and

⁴ Synthesis of Social Indicators 2007, from Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE).

⁵ In 2007, the minimum wage in Brazil was R\$ 380.00, around USD 190.00.

environmental dimensions and socio-political commitment on the part of the youngsters, with no significant results in the economic sphere itself – which would be particularly relevant for this segment, and, above all, for combating the issue of human trafficking.

A common recommendation, in particular to these two projects, is that they should improve their approaches in the theme of generation of jobs and income, especially in their still limited capacity, either in the realm of the project or, more gravely, in the institutions themselves, to “integrate” these specific themes to other themes that are transversal to them (particularly visible in Viva Rio).

4. Schooling

Due to the particularities of the benefitted audience, a considerable part of the projects has chosen the school as a privileged space of intervention, either for the promotion of equal rights or for actions to combat and deal with human trafficking.

The evaluation has made evident that there is a discrepancy between the level of schooling of the youngsters and their awareness of the issue of human trafficking and their learning in the areas of culture, art, the environment and socio-political engagement. This is a problem that has been increasingly detected both by the projects and by school teachers and directors related to them. Indeed, official data indicates that 2.1 million Brazilian children and youngsters between 7 and 14 years old are illiterate, even though they are in school, forming a segment that came to be called the “schooled illiterate”. In a report published by the United Nations on Education, Science and Culture (Unesco) shows that, in 2005, only 53.8% of the Brazilian youngsters in school managed to finish the 8th grade, due to the high number of students failing the year and, above all, of school drop-outs. It is worth highlighting that the situation in 2005 was worse than the one diagnosed in 1999, when 61.1% of the youngsters finished elementary school.

This data indicates that, despite certain advances, there are situations of stagnation or even retrogression in Brazilian education. That is a complex problem rooted in the inequalities of the country’s social structure which, undoubtedly, reflect on the school. Since all projects involve youngsters who live in low income communities, this educational predicament contributes negatively in reaching the objectives and results proposed. Difficulties in reducing the pregnancy rates amongst youngsters with low levels of schooling, barriers to the access to jobs and an income and limitations of the awareness of the issue of human trafficking are some of the examples verified by the evaluators.

The solution to this problem is obviously connected to public policies in the educational realm, being the organizations of the civil society in charge of taking actions related to these policies so that they can promote the professional qualification of the youngsters, aiming at their inclusion in the labor market: the eradication of illiteracy, more investments in teaching, getting the youngsters back to school and good quality education and professional training, etc.

5. Religion

Although religion is a theme with growing complexity in Brazil, specially for the young population, it has been hardly addressed in the evaluative process. In the final evaluation

seminar, however, the theme pervaded many discussions, bringing about reflections that are worth recording.

It has been verified that the diversity of religions (as well as the different genders, ethnicity and sexual orientation) is part of the everyday life of the evaluated projects, all of which operate from a perspective of inclusion, understanding and acceptance of differences. That does not mean, however, that the projects consider the religious diversity an “issue” to be accordingly equated to a strategy to potentialize the actions and the results of the projects.

A considerable part of the organizational experiences existing in the poor “*communities*” where the projects act came from the social action of the Catholic Church. Many of the youngsters locally identified as leaders have had contact with such work (youth pastoral care, for example). Something that deserves attention is the fact that many times what is called “*local community*” is actually limited to this “*group*” of organized and active individuals, to the detriment of many groups and positions, sometimes opposed to one another.

Undue attention to such issues brings about at least two risks to the projects. The first risk is that they will keep empirically targeting only one “*part*” of the communities, exactly the one with the highest organization history. A second risk is that acting on only one “*part*” of the communities ends up legitimizing and strengthening that specific “*group*” before others, increasing pre-existing differences or even antagonisms – in an action that may get away from the perspective of valuing and establish dialogues among different parties.

A series of recent studies and research makes this issue even more relevant, for they show that the religious diversity has grown in Brazil in the last two decades. The aspect highlighted by this research is the growing rhythm of the increase in the number of evangelical followers and evangelical churches, especially in rural and peripheric areas of the big urban centers, acknowledgedly the poorest and most lacking in the country. Studies have also shown that a great part of the evangelical churches, notably the ones called pentecostal, have a conservative socio-political stand.

There are many spaces for the youngsters to meet and socialize in the communities: educational, sportive, cultural spaces, etc. The religious spaces are acknowledgedly among the main ones. That is why the perspective of a participative action on the part of the youngsters presupposes that the evaluated projects have religion as an important issue to be considered.

That brings forth a series of questions that must be better thought out by the organizations, such as: How to involve youngsters with different religions in the work that has been implemented? What media and what approaches should be used? How to prevent the entrance door to the communities (many times the social work of the Catholic Church) from closing others? How to enlarge and diversify relationships in spaces where there are groups and positions that are opposite to one another?

6. Gender, Race and Transversalities

The professionals that work with the young state that there are many issues that might bring formerly socially distant youngsters closer and issues that might bring formerly

socially close youngsters distant. Gender and race are two of them and the prejudice that lies in the Brazilian society is a strong obstacle for the insertion of the youngsters in many spheres (education, work, etc.).

As far as gender is concerned, the evaluation verified that the projects have been giving totally satisfactory attention to this point. There is a concern with the equilibrium of the genders in the target audience, giving attention to differentiated competences, efforts and the communitary insertion among youngsters of the female and male genders, including many activities dedicated to young women, main victims of the trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

The racial issue is more complex. Although Brazil is a country that is relatively new to discussions on race⁶, the debate on racial issues has been fairly heated in the present decade, due to three main reasons: **i)** the federal and state governments have taken on more directly quotas programs, adding fuel to the fire of the debate between opposite views on this type of policy⁷; **ii)** the schooling, income and poverty rates of the black population are still very inferior to those of the white; **iii)** the Brazilian society is going through a progressive process of re-ethnization, marked by the comeback of the ethnic identities of the so-called minorities (indians, *quilombolas*, etc.) who have increasingly started to affirm themselves as such. Scholars say, for example, that probably the percentage of white and black youngsters in the population census of 2000 (50% and 48%, respectively) will have changed dramatically in the 2008 census.

Despite some efforts made, the evaluated organizations know they still have a long way to go in their initiatives that try to intimidate social inequalities – which is valid including for one of the projects, focusing specifically on black youngsters remaining from *quilombos* (afro-descendants of slaves). Even without developing systematic actions in this field, the equity among races can be seen explicitly in the field visits to the areas of the projects. In fact, in choosing to work in low-income communities, the five organisations have target groups predominantly made up by black people, and are acting in different ways for the social inclusion of these. As a result of this, when considered as a whole, the projects have developed successful affirmative action politics. Nevertheless, the evaluation recommends that more attention be given to this issue, considering the persisting situation of racial prejudice and social vulnerability of the black youth population in Brazil.

It must finally be recorded that the social inclusion of youngsters with special needs (that is, with physical disabilities) has been addressed, even if not yet systematically, in some of the projects evaluated. Thus, it is recommended that more investments are made in this audience, although in general it is still relegated to a second plan in the actions of organizations of the civil society.

⁶ It dates back to the 1970s, for example, the foundation of the Movimento Negro Unificado (Unified Black Movement)

⁷ While the supporters of the affirmative actions see in it a remedy for evening out historically constituted inequalities, its opponents understand it as a resource that might generate radicalism, arbitrary classifications and a certain negative discrimination against the white.

Some evaluators have observed that the interchange activities have been an excellent strategy not only for the training of youngsters in specific areas (such as education, income generation, etc.), but also for the learning brought about by the coexistence of the cultural, sexual and religious diversity there is here. The diversification and qualification of activities like this one may be a good starting point for more qualified work with an interlocutor ever more multiple and complex.

7. Communication

The evaluation has verified that this was a successful emphasis of all projects, revealing an awareness on the part of the organizations of the importance of communication, information and culture when working with youngsters. Communication has been thought out by the projects aiming at three main objectives:

Professionalization: the projects have taken advantage of the ability of the youngsters to make new propositions and be creative, as well as of their interest in communication as an opportunity for getting professional training in co-related areas: photography, web-design, computing, video, etc. It has been verified that the professional insertion of the youngsters in these markets is not a perspective, but something that has actually been happening in most of the evaluated projects.

Education: the communication has also been thought of as an important element in the education of the socially excluded youngsters. The experimentation with new media and communication channels ends up undermining the dependency of these youngsters on the so-called mass-communication media, enlarging their “world view”, stimulating in them the desire for knowledge and, with that, contributing with the reduction of social inequalities in the access to information. The communication has proved to be a tool for real social inclusion and citizenship, enlarging, at the same time, the possibilities of insertion of these youngsters in professional sectors others than communication.

Methodological resource: the means of communication are also instruments used by the projects to get through to youngsters not yet directly involved in the implemented activities. It has been evaluated that the communitary radio stations, for example, have given enormous regional visibility to the work implemented when broadcasting it beyond the *youngsters involved in the projects*.

It is worth highlighting that these three modalities of use of communication have happened through partnerships with other organizations of the civil society and, above all, with the public powers (on the municipal, state and federal levels) for making it possible to construct communication centers, telecenters, nuclei for the production of audio-visual materials, etc.

The evaluation has recommended that the projects should give continuity to this search for the invention and reinvention of communication forms and channels in order to potentialize their multiple functions, using its staff, multimedia equipment, computing centers and, above all, the youngest in their learning process in this area, to their fullest capacity.

Conclusion

Due to its intermediate character, the main objective of this evaluation has been to contribute, in a critical way, to potentialize the positive effects of the work of the five

organisations on youth and in preventing and fighting human trafficking. On this basis, emphasis has been placed on identifying weaknesses and possibilities for strategic renovation within the projects – not least as a stimulus to the everlasting effort for improvement and qualification of the work. The disposition and openness of these organisations in confronting new (and old) challenges served as an inspiration in the work of the evaluators in identifying critical aspects concerning the structuration and functioning of the projects. It is exactly this that is the objective of evaluating something that is not concluded.

The main conclusion of the evaluation is that, until now, the projects have managed, in the great majority of the spaces where they operate, to establish themselves as a reference in the work with youth and on the issue of trafficking. As noted, the projects' effects have been beyond the ones foreseen in the annual work proposals and plans. There is no doubt that the extensive network of partnerships established and/or strengthened by the five organisations in the area of project implementation has increased the potential of the evaluated initiatives in reaching their main goal: to promote the Brazilian youth as agents of transformation.

In highlighting youth as a key actor in their work, the projects are dealing with the future of society as a whole – its paths and alternatives of development. In the end it is these youth “of today” – that, apart from being exposed to the challenges of social injustice and exclusion, find themselves in a historical moment of environmental and economical risks maybe without precedence. It is them who will have to deal with and influence changes in Brazilian society and, in extension, in a globalised world.

Rio de Janeiro, November 15th, 2008.

Luciano Nunes Padrão