

## Welcome to our website



Photo Credit USAID/Alcance Positivo

***Child at Jose Maria Barranto School in the outskirts of Panama City participates in a USAID and PanDeportes jointly sponsored activity. Using free time constructively is one of the five strengths necessary to avoid the risk factors in vulnerable communities.***

Our current \$18.2 million portfolio in bilateral assistance is opening more opportunities for youth from target vulnerable communities and neighborhoods, promoting sustainable community forestry in two forest dependent indigenous reservations, and facilitating the implementation of justice system reforms. In the process, our assistance is contributing to strengthening the capacity of governmental and nongovernmental actors to respond effectively to youth involvement in crime, violence, and gangs, advancing community development, supporting environmentally-friendly economic diversification, and strengthening local partner organizations to effectively advocate and support judicial and other key reforms. Geographically, opportunities for youth target violence-prone communities such as Panama City, San Miguelito and Colon as well as in the Darien Province. Sustainable community forestry assistance is directed to the Darien.

Our collaborative development initiatives in Panama continue to facilitate public-private partnerships and strategic development alliances to leverage local and external resources. As a result, the effectiveness of USAID assistance is enhanced, improving the prospect of sustainability of our joint activities with the people of Panama.

In February 2011, the decision to gradually phase out the USAID bilateral program in Panama was announced, a reflection of Panama's own great advances in development. By September 30, 2012 when the mission closes, the USG, through USAID and its predecessor agencies, will have provided \$1.2 billion in bilateral economic assistance to Panama over a 73-year span. We have had a rewarding partnership with a fundamental transformation in the lives of the Panamanian people taking place. After USAID-sponsored activities conclude, other sections of the U.S. Embassy in Panama and other U.S. Government elements will continue to partner with Panama, especially in promoting citizen security, with a strong emphasis on opportunities for positive development of youth, advancing sustainable environmental management in the indigenous lands in the Darien, and supporting justice system reforms.

Hopefully, this site will answer many of your questions about USAID/Panama. We look forward to receiving your comments at [usaid-panamainfor@usaid.gov](mailto:usaid-panamainfor@usaid.gov)

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