



## Partners News Bulletin:

An update for our clients and colleagues

**July/August 2006**

### **Introducing Socios-Peru: Creating Sustainable Development Solutions through Cross-Sectoral Collaboration**

**Partners for Democratic Change** is pleased to announce the establishment of its newest Center, **Socios-Peru: Center for Civic Collaboration**, which was founded as a national Center dedicated to advancing a culture of peaceful change and conflict management across the corporate, government, and NGO sectors. **Socios-Peru** is a locally staffed, managed, and registered not-for-profit organization. The director is Carlos Salazar.

Peruvian society and institutions are highly polarized and lack the capacity to forge consensus around pressing economic and political development issues. The **Center** was established as a neutral organization to address these challenges and build the trust and institutional capacity necessary to manage change and conflict. In particular, the Center will bring together stakeholders from the corporate, government, and NGO sectors to develop collaborative solutions to conflicts surrounding the extractive industries.

**Socios-Peru** emerges from the shared enthusiasm across sectors to move beyond dialogue and to create solutions to the problems facing Peru. The **Center** will work with diverse groups in both urban and provincial communities in the northern, southern and central regions of Peru. The **Center** will: build an institutional culture of change and conflict management, promote good governance at the municipal, regional, and national levels, and resolve contentious issues using Partners' model of multi-stakeholder consensus facilitation.

Specifically, **Socios-Peru** will:

- ✓ Implement programs to improve municipal government collaboration with communities to increase local capacity, accountability, and transparency;
- ✓ Train diverse groups in critical change and conflict management methodologies, such as negotiation, large-group facilitation, and consensus-building;
- ✓ Increase the capacity and expertise of national-level institutions to assess change and conflict;
- ✓ Deepen the breadth of knowledge within the change management profession in Peru;
- ✓ Resolve contentious issues through multi-stakeholder consensus facilitation; and
- ✓ Enhance university-level change and conflict management curricula to train the next generation of Peruvian leaders.

Jennifer Lofing is the Director of International Programs at **Partners**. She can be contacted at [jlofing@partnersglobal.org](mailto:jlofing@partnersglobal.org) for more information about **Socios-Peru**.



### Other Partners' news from around the globe:

- June marks the final month of the USAID-funded **Civil Society Strengthening Initiative** in **Tajikistan** and **Uzbekistan**, which Partners implemented in partnership with the **International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)**. One program participant from Tajikistan summed up the program by saying, "This program taught us to work with people so they can be involved in solving their own problems, and to work with government. So our goal now is to work with both sides and teach them how to work together." In late May, five program participants from Uzbekistan traveled to **Partners' Centers** in **Slovakia** and **Poland** to study successful examples of organizations that pursue a social mission while conducting business as commercial companies. As a response to the Uzbek government's campaign to forcibly close down NGOs, they established a company named Logic Consulting, LLC that offers a variety of research, training and other services to domestic and international clients.
- In cooperation with their local partner, **Noroeste Sustentable**, **Partners** and **Partners-Mexico** are currently working in the **Gulf of California** to build bridges between diverse local business, NGO, corporate, and government stakeholders to **promote sustainable economic policies that protect the environment**. This program addresses various issues, including sustainable fishing, the protection of endangered species, and the creation of a long-term binding pact to address economic and environmental concerns.
- During June Partners conducted a two-day Lessons Learned Conference for the **Yemeni Consensus Building Initiative**. Each of the four groups implementing small grant projects achieved significant results. In **Aden** participants on the **education project** secured support from local officials to staff a new secondary school, signed an agreement with a vocational training center to accept students who have dropped out of school, and pulled together a coalition to work on solving problems facing the education sector. In **Al-Jowf** participants started a self-sustaining micro-credit program that provides poor families with a number of sheep that can be used to generate income. One participant reported that this project made him realize **that community and tribal groups can work with government officials on resolving disputes**, and they don't have to resort to protests in the street to achieve change. Representatives from **Partners** and the participant groups gave brief presentations at a public session about the work undertaken by **Partners** in **Yemen**. More than 80 people, including media representatives and local and international NGO and government officials, attended this session.
- Partners conducted a workshop on "Effective Strategies for Resolving Conflicts in Communities" at a conference on **Corporate-NGO Partnerships** sponsored by the Ethical Corporation in May in **New York**. The focus of this workshop was to discuss **Partners' approach to effective community engagement**. Partners currently works with the corporate, local government and civil society sectors to develop effective strategies for working with stakeholders at the community level on issues of shared concern, such as environment, workforce, land use, security, human rights or issues related to effective revenue distribution.
- Over 50 individuals participated in the **Roma Integration Program** Regional Beneficiaries Meeting, held in Pecs, Hungary. Roma and non-Roma government and ministerial representatives, teachers, international donors, social workers, education experts and other committed individuals from the **Czech Republic, Hungary** and **Slovakia** came together to develop strategies for **improving education for Roma children**. They participated in education-oriented site visits, lectures about national Roma education policies, and interactive discussions about best practices in community-level education projects. An 'open space session' brought together participants to develop strategies and solutions for making change in their own communities. Ten diverse groups shared ideas, best practices and concrete next steps for improving Roma access to education on local and national levels.

For more information, please email Andrea Gibney at [agibney@partnersglobal.org](mailto:agibney@partnersglobal.org).