



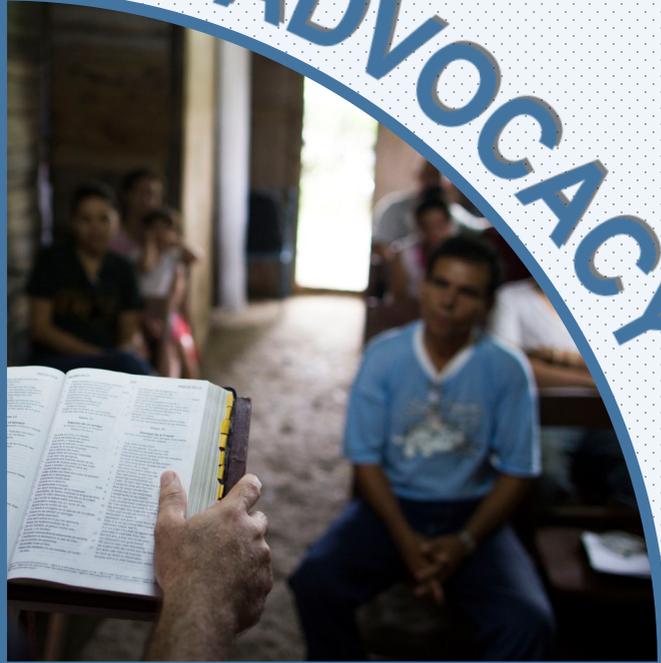
**OAA**  
OUTREACH AID TO THE AMERICAS  
ALCANCE DE AYUDA A LAS AMÉRICAS

# OUR WORK IN CENTRAL AMERICA

RELIEF



ADVOCACY



DEVELOPMENT



PARTNERSHIPS



# MAIN LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS



## El Salvador

Agape association in El Salvador is a human development institution that contributes to satisfying the needs of the most vulnerable sectors of the country. Agape seeks to give the people in these sectors access to a better living standard and the ability to develop their own environment through education, health and religious services.

- **San Francisco de Asis Clinic.** A workshop that teaches hundreds of children, youth, and adults practical skills such as homework reinforcement, English, computer, baking, cooking, music and cosmetology.
- **San Francisco de Asis School:** An internationally certified institution that offers a quality education for children in Sonsonate, El Salvador.
- **Agape Open Meal Center.** An open soup kitchen that provides food, health, and recreational services for homeless and senior citizens of the Sonsonate municipality and its surroundings.
- **San Francisco de Asis Nursing Home:** A safe and homely nursing that offers a better quality of life for the needy and Elderly.



## Honduras

Asociacion San Jose Obrero is a Private Organization that promotes a Christian and Sustainable Human Development. They generate jobs, produce goods and services that benefit the community, and create participation businesses, which seek to satisfy the community's needs of health, training, social welfare, evangelization, environment protection, and ecological tourism.

- **San Francisco de Asis clinic.** A community clinic that offers Hospitalization services, consultations, clinical laboratory services, X-Rays, general surgery, gastroenterology, pediatrics, among many other medical areas.
- **Ecology and Environment.** The ecological farm "La Chaparrosa" develops a culture of work towards a healthy ecology and environment among the children of Zona Sur Schools.
- **House Building.** A project that has helped around 7,000 families to either build or improve their housing.
- **Training.** San Jose Obrero provides their community with specialized training in plumbing, air conditioning, mechanics, computer skills, carpentry, and many other technical vocations. Other training programs include a women entrepreneurial school and self-employment skills workshops.

## MOODY MISSIONS

### El Salvador

Kenton Moody and his wife Eunice are transforming lives through community development initiatives in the city of Santa Ana, in El Salvador. The Moodys live and work in one of the most dangerous countries in the world, among gang members and at risk children. Their work includes different initiatives that all aim to improve the lives of individuals and families in the area, and to reduce the likelihood of more youths continuing the vicious cycle that has led so many young Salvadorans to join a gang. Their initiatives include:

- **The Hosanna School.** A private K-12 Christian school that provides quality values and education for at risk and poor children and youth.
- **The Center of Hope.** A workshop that teaches hundreds of children, youth, and adults practical skills such as homework reinforcement, English, computer, baking, cooking, music and cosmetology.
- **The Open Door Church.** With approximately 400 members, this church reaches hundreds more offering physical and spiritual healing through a great number of programs.
- **La Puerta Abierta Clinic.** An open medical clinic for low income families and individuals.



Hope of Life (HOL) is an ecumenical Christian ministry that brings the love of Christ to destitute families through a wide range of outreach services. HOL is led by a dynamic pastor, Carlos Vargas, who has a true heart for the poor, who founded the ministry to meet the material and spiritual needs of Guatemala's poorest families. HOL has over 300 workers who diligently work across several programs.

- **Rescue Center.** Located in Zacapa —This HOL program seeks to reduce infant malnutrition and child mortality among the poorest of the poor. Once the children are rescued, they are provided with food, medicine, prayer and loving care until their health is restored.
- **Clean water.** This program grants communities access to clean water since this improves their lives. School attendance goes up and families can raise children that aren't held back by constant sickness and stomach pain.
- **Total Village Transformation.** This program is changing dozens of impoverished villages by building projects, providing aid, and starting sponsorship programs which are allowing communities to live better.



# OAA

## OVERVIEW

The situation of vulnerable families in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua is somewhat unique in the humanitarian context in that a combination of factors—such as poverty, violence, food insecurity, and criminal activity—create forced displacement rather than the acute impact of a natural disaster or conflict. Known as “other situations of violence,” the conditions in the northern triangle and Mexico present what some experts regard as new causes for displacement that expand protection needs, particularly among the growing number of women and girls and among unaccompanied and separated children. Those who flee often lack protection and face dire circumstances, including recruitment into criminal gangs, sexual and gender-based violence, and murder. In addition we continue to be committed to serving vulnerable and disadvantaged people in rural areas by providing more meals and vitamins for thousands of children, women and elderly.



**Our purpose** is to provide aid; alleviate the suffering; improve the dignity and quality of life of individuals, families, and communities, and ferments positive change toward democracy and freedoms. OAA promotes citizen participation in developing community programs.

**Our key distinctive** – Our strength is the trust we have earned over more than 25 years of experience; OAA has proven methodologies and tools to provide capacity building and assistance to vulnerable people and communities through faith-based local partners. OAA targeted interventions improve the lives of the poorest and most disadvantaged people; people who permanently or during crisis do not have the resources to live active and healthy lives.



## IMPACT

The cost of natural disasters is high. As climate change and erratic weather patterns increase the risks of devastating storms, droughts and floods, we are helping communities identify, assess and reduce their risks. Creating response plans and resilient strategies now can help better protect people tomorrow. Our program of Community & Port Resiliency Program (C-PREP) seeks to provide technical, material, and strategic tools to support communities and airports facing complex challenges both during and after a crisis event. It is our vision that the program will be expanded to communities and airports throughout Central America and the Caribbean.

The overall purpose of our Relief Programs is to benefit disaster victims and reduce the suffering of the most vulnerable groups in the America's Region, and to provide tools and resources needed to increase their preparedness and self-sufficiency.

As an implementer of a Food for Peace program, we have been able to remove hunger and malnutrition for 20,000 persons in the Dry Corridor of Central America. We have helped save many lives and our food was a major incentive to vulnerable children and families who choose to stay in the area. The feeding program can provide a strong incentive for children to remain in schools where feeding programs are performed. Improved nutrition also favors worker productivity and the ability of a family to produce subsistence food.

## KEY GOALS

- Implement disaster resiliency workshops in communities and airports in the Caribbean and Central America.
- Provide disaster victims with food, relief aid products, hygiene kits, clean water systems & products, and building materials
- Participate in USAID's Food for Peace program to help vulnerable communities in the Dry Corridor of Central America.
- Create strategic agreements with key non-profit and corporate partners to help reduce the suffering of the most vulnerable groups in the Americas.





# ADVOCACY

**Areas of Work:** Human Rights; Promote Religious Liberty and Conscience in the Americas; Identify and Denounce Persecution on the Basis of Religious Belief; and Educate Individuals on Religious Freedom Issues Affecting the Region.

## IMPACT

Advocacy is at the heart of the existence of our organization. OAA brings awareness, promotes and equips partners on human rights and freedoms issues in the Americas Region with emphasis in Cuba. As an organization we are dedicated to promoting freedoms, including religious freedom and the ending of violations in Central America and the Caribbean. We provide resources, education and training to bring awareness, capacity building, and empowerment. We collaborate with civil society grassroots organizations, activists, victims, religious leaders, government, and with other like-minded stakeholders to inspire the public to “look beneath the surface” and help find a solution to end discrimination and violations.

One of OAA’s Key Programs has been advancing Freedom of Religion and Belief in Cuba. Inherent in religious freedom is the right to believe or not believe as one’s conscience leads, and live out one’s beliefs openly, peacefully, and without fear. Freedom of Religion or belief is an expansive right that includes the freedoms of thought, conscience, expression, association, and assembly. Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that: “Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching”. OAA defends this principal.

OAA also encourages greater learning about human rights and democratic values through formal and informal training and activities that engage a cross-section of the population, among them youth, women and vulnerable groups. Our initiatives leverage innovative techniques including arts, social media tools, and other interactive opportunities to promote discussion and collaboration.

## KEY GOALS

- Assist religious and human rights NGOs in promoting religious freedom in Central America and Cuba.
- Engage North American faith-based communities to learn about the situation of local FBOs, and invite them to participate in solutions.
- Create awareness that will empower people who are seeking freedoms and greater human rights.
- Conduct comprehensive analysis of the legal landscape and mechanisms used to curtail freedom of religion or belief.
- Create and implement strategic outreach and advocacy plans (SOAPs) to end the use of discrimination laws and bureaucratic measures used to repress the CSOs, Including the faith community.





# OAA

# DEVELOPMENT

**Areas of Work:** Empower Vulnerable Communities; Educate and Develop Youth & the Disabled; Civil Society Strengthening; and Self Employment Development.

## IMPACT

OAA serves vulnerable people in the Americas Region through sustainable community development. OAA knows that building strong CSOs and communities requires engaging people of diverse backgrounds and ages in a community and empowering them to face a wide range of development challenges. This is why OAA develops programs that include capacity-building classes, training and awareness-raising of key issues that are relevant to communities. These include violence, child and youth exploitation, human rights, gender inequalities, employment and productivity and many others.

### Empowering Civic Society and Communities

OAA has extensive experience strengthening civil society organizations throughout the Americas, building the capacity of local organizations, including faith-based organizations (FBOs) and municipalities by working alongside them to face many issues. This approach has developed much needed leadership and improved how organizations tackle community challenges. OAA also provides technical assistance and other resources which helps communities tackle local problems with efficiency, effectiveness and transparency, enabling grassroots democracy to grow.

### Youth Development

Many youths in the Americas Region are confronted with situations where they are out of school, out of work, and deprived of a chance to gain the independence and the opportunity they seek for self-advancement. As a strong advocate for youth, OAA works with local communities to ensure that they become stronger and more dynamic by providing youth with opportunities, development, and the right tools for them to succeed. This is why our initiatives focus on several areas, including: employment generation, leadership training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities, crime and violence prevention, and civic participation.

### Employment Initiatives

Employment generation is one of OAA's main priorities to enable self-reliance. Using a variety of approaches, our programs help support self-employment and small businesses, provide skills training to youth and vulnerable people. To assure maximum benefits, we work with local churches and residents who are disadvantaged because of economic disparity, civil conflict, racial, religious, or ethnic prejudices, and lack of access to basic opportunities. We ensure that our programs create the essential conditions for sustainable economic growth.

### Leadership Training

OAA provides innovative resources, leadership training, and support to youth with extensive experience in Cuba, where OAA has distributed a large number of laptops and e-tablets to seven FBO leadership training facilities in Cuba. The units are loaded with software that includes more material than available in an entire educational library. Thousands of students, teachers, pastors, and leaders have shared these electronic libraries.

## KEY GOALS

- Provide disadvantaged and at-risk youth with tools for productive employment, and provide tools to increase productivity.
- Improve technical training for youth.
- Increase youth impact by forming leaders through education and leadership training.
- Build strong communities by empowering them to face a wide range of development challenges and with programs that improve the quality of life.



# OAA

# PARTNERSHIPS

**Areas of Work:** Through the implementation of Relief, Advocacy and Development key programs & interventions, OAA partners with local faith-based organizations.

## IMPACT

Our partnerships help define how we do things differently. OAA works and strengthens its local partners to lead sustainable changes in their communities. We strongly believe that our ministry's success is hinged on relationships. It's what gives our work meaning. By working through local partners, OAA has proven to have the greatest sustainable impact by sharing knowledge, skills, and tools, while ensuring empowerment, capacity building, and addressing real needs of the communities and challenges. OAA has built a strong network of local partners, including faith-based development partners (FBOs) in Latin America and the Caribbean. For 24 years OAA has strengthened civil society organizations to manage humanitarian aid and development initiatives for vulnerable populations, including in countries with authoritarian governments such as Cuba. FBOs can be a platform for social mobilization. Churches bring people together in ways no other organization can. They are close to the people they serve and foster committed relationships.

We partner with local organizations including FBOs to help vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families to alleviate their suffering and improve their dignity and quality of life. FBOs play a crucial role in community service delivery, civil society development, and even political reform that advances democracy. FBOs provide services that the government cannot, or may not for budgetary reasons, and are permanently embedded in communities, and offer the best solutions for sustainability managing programs for vulnerable youth, elderly & the disabled care, and others.

## KEY GOALS

- Provide leadership and organizational capacity to local faith-based partners.
- Provide interfaith dialogue and networking opportunities for local faith-based partners and North American donors and service providers.
- Expand the number of implementing partners for violence prevention in Central America.
- Strengthen our relationship and build trust with our in-kind goods and services support partners.
- Create strategic agreements for key initiatives with non-profit and corporate partners to accomplish our mission.



## PROGRAMMATIC AREAS

OAA provides resources and expertise to local partners and civil society organizations, with a main focus on faith-based organizations (FBOs). OAA helps advance fundamental freedoms and democratic principles by building partner organizational skills, technical capacity, and social service delivery.

## FOCUS ON FBOS

FBOs play a critical role within society as they possess dense and large independent networks within most Latin America and Caribbean countries. Among other functions, they lead social service delivery programs, carry out educational activities, facilitate constructive democratic dialogue and advocate for the respect of fundamental rights. As a result, their communities view them beyond their religious role, and as conveners and platforms for discussion, and as trusted and respected sources of moral, intellectual, and democratic leadership.

## STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

Support to FBOs is a key priority for OAA's work within the overall objective of strengthening a country's civil society. Since FBOs are leading voices within the national dialogue on human rights, they are promoters of constructive and peaceful activities to promote positive change, and are increasingly important service providers for at-risk populations. For example, in many cases with OAA's support, FBOs have conducted outreach campaigns, dialogue forums, community service initiatives, and humanitarian aid activities.

Key areas of intervention include:

### **Building the capacity of FBOs.**

OAA provides technical assistance and training of FBOs to improve their performance and achievement of organizational objectives by building their capacity to work, collaborate effectively, and engage with vulnerable populations, while promoting human rights, democracy, transparency, and development work in their communities. OAA capacity building includes skills development in several areas including leadership, mentoring, communication, problem-solving, relationship-building, resources management, organizational development, accountability, and strategic planning. OAA's capacity building efforts have helped FBOs overcome daily work constraints, and extend their advocacy efforts and outreach to their communities.

### **Work with vulnerable populations including youth.**

OAA ensures that the design and implementation of activities integrate, engage and empower youth and vulnerable populations. Most FBOs have ministries and programs that reach out to vulnerable groups including women, the elderly, young children, and school-aged youth. OAA works with FBO partners to reach these groups, specifically youth, to ensure that they become stronger and more dynamic by providing the necessary protection and the right tools for them to succeed. OAA supports FBOs to develop youth development initiatives including leadership training, civic participation and volunteering, entrepreneurship and employment, among others.

### **Collaboration and Networking.**

OAA promotes and enhances cohesiveness and strategic unity among FBOs to maximize their potential so they can have a greater impact in their communities and society, by fostering effective collaboration, identifying potential synergies, promoting faith-based networks, and sharing of resources and best practices. OAA fosters dialogue and exchanges among FBO leaders to learn from each other and strengthen their own organization, while building relationships and networking, and furthering the impact of civic engagement and social services outreach.

## ROLE OF FBOs IN ADVANCING CIVIL SOCIETY

Supporting faith-based communities is a sound strategic path for strengthening civil society.

There is a misconception and lack of information regarding the faith-based community, their role, their capacity, their work and reach.

- **Church's/FBO's Role** - Besides the church's role to provide spiritual guidance, communities view FBOs as conveners and platforms for discussion, and as trusted and respected sources of moral, intellectual, and democratic leadership.
- **Church's/FBO's Capacity** – The religious community represents a cohesive, large and independent network of organizations. FBO's have the capacity to:
  - Carry out activities in a wide geographic scope.
  - Have the convening power to reach and gather large numbers of people.
  - Directly reach populations and groups that other groups can not access (e.g. prisoners).
  - Work and have members (capable professionals) within different spheres of society, such as: arts, intellectuals, journalists, media, medicine, lawyers, etc.
  - Promote and advocate for human rights, freedom of religion, freedom of expression, and democratic values.
  - Lead and facilitate the dialogue for constructive and peaceful reform.
  - Provide social services for communities and at-risk vulnerable populations.
  - Build capacity and develop skills (e.g. leadership, communication, relationship-building, organizational development, accountability, and strategic planning).
  - Promote networking and collaboration.
  - Work, engage and provide social services and humanitarian aid programs to at-risk, vulnerable and marginalized populations.
  - Distribute post-hurricane and other disaster relief assistance.
  - Monitor and report religious freedom violations.
  - Facilitate freedom advocate projects, including dialogue, debate, and forums.
  - Publish and distribute newsletters, blogs, and other publications to foster freedom of expression and religious freedom.



## **ROLE OF FBOs IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

In 2015, El Salvador's homicide rate hit 103 per 100,000 residents. It has since fallen, but remains the world's highest. El Salvador, a country of 6.6 million people, had a homicide rate last year of 60.1 per 100,000 inhabitants, nearly 12 times the rate in the U.S. Law-enforcement officials estimate that one gang, MS-13, operates an extortion racket with little pressure from authorities in 248 of the 262 of the country's municipalities. It battles for neighborhood control with another gang, Barrio 18, which runs its own protection scheme in nearly as many regions.

Latin America accounts for 8% of the world's population and a third of its homicides, which makes it one of the world's most murderous regions. Crime, violence, and homicide are at or near record highs in the northern triangle countries of Central America - Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. In the last decade multiple observers have ranked Honduras and El Salvador among the most violent countries in the world. Street gangs in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala profit from extorting businesses and residents in their own neighborhoods. The protection rackets are enforced with violence and threats of violence that far exceed U.S. levels.

OAA's local partners provide educational and vocational opportunities for at-risk youths. But the gangs are strong, for example, in one of the schools in Apopa where OAA provides food assistance to various children, many of the students start working for one or the other gang as lookouts when they are as young as 10 years old.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE**

Outreach Aid to the Americas, Inc. (OAA) is a non-profit, faith-based organization (FBO) incorporated in the State of Florida on June 28, 1994. OAA is funded by both private sector donations and grants from the U.S. Government (at various times USAID, DOS/DRL and NED).

OAA maintains a successful democracy and human rights program management record, having proven methodologies, tools, and training modules used for over 20 years in Cuba and Central America. Through our expertise in networking, coalition building, and advocacy, OAA introduces key tools to local civil society organizations to enable them to take on a larger role in the governance of their society by providing resources and knowledge. One of OAA's successful programs was a DOS/DRL funded activity to empower and mobilize Cuban religious organizations and individuals to advocate for their right to practice religion freely.

For over 25 years, OAA has demonstrated a strong capacity to achieve meaningful programmatic success with a special emphasis in Cuba. OAA has been fully dedicated to the implementation of programs defending human rights and fundamental freedoms. OAA is one of the few organizations in the world with proven successful experience working within Cuba and managing effective programming in a repressive and closed society environment. OAA has created meaningful partnerships, uniquely encompassing the entire island with the support of USAID, DOS/DRL, and NED, strengthening civil society. Through these programs, OAA has supported 1,800 faith-based partners and demonstrated sound ability to achieve programmatic objectives and deliver measurable results, while developing a trusted network of religious groups who together form the largest sector of Cuba's civil society. OAA has strategically forged partnerships with home-grown FBOs that emerged from their communities with mission, vision, and organization.

**Crossroads Alliance and Ministries**  
*(El Progreso - Yoro)*

**Iglesia Comunidad Cristiana**  
*(Tela - Atlantida)*



**HONDURAS**

**Asociacion San Jose Obrero**  
*(Choluteca)*

**Centro Cultural Cristiano de Guatemala**  
*(Tablitas, Boqueron, Agua Caliente, Nacimiento Tebernal, & Las Flores - Izabal)*

**Centro Cultural Cristiano de Guatemala**  
*(Antigua Guatemala - Sacatepequez)*

**Hope of Life**  
*(Mayan Villages - Zacapa)*



**GUATEMALA**

**Iglesia Evangelica de Jesucristo El Buen Samaritano**  
*(Villa Nueva - Guatemamala)*

**Centro Cultural Cristiano de Guatemala**  
*(El Dormido, El Cebollito, La Curvina, Buenos Aires, San Antonio, & Agua Dulce - Santa Rosa)*

**Centro Cultural Cristiano de Guatemala**  
*(Las Flores - Esquintla)*

**Moody Ministries**  
*(Santa Ana - Santa Ana)*

**AGAPE El Salvador**  
*(San Francisco Menendez - Ahuachapan)*



**EL SALVADOR**

**AGAPE El Salvador**  
*(Acajutla, Izalco, & Sonsonate - Santa Rosa)*

**AGAPE El Salvador**  
*(San Juan Opico - La Libertad)*

**Iglesia Bautista de Apopa**  
*(Apopa - San Salvador)*

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