

# Intellectual Disability in Community Activities 2014

## *Inception Report*

Accepted participants are requested to send an Inception Report to ①JICA Tokyo and ②The Japan League on Developmental Disabilities (JLDD) **by May 15, 2014**, preferably by e-mail to ① [ticthd@jica.go.jp](mailto:ticthd@jica.go.jp) and ② [jlmr@ca.mbn.or.jp](mailto:jlmr@ca.mbn.or.jp).

### 1. General Information

- (1) Name of Country  
Republic of Panama is the southernmost country of Central America. Situated on the isthmus connecting North and South America, it is bordered by Costa Rica to the west, Colombia to the southeast, the Caribbean to the north and the Pacific Ocean to the south. The capital is Panama City.
- (2) Area (sq. km)  
75,517 km<sup>2</sup>
- (3) Life expectancy  
total population: 78.13 years  
male: 75.35 years  
female: 81.04 years
- (4) Infant mortality rate  
total: 11.01 deaths/1,000 live births  
male: 11.77 deaths/1,000 live births  
female: 10.21 deaths/1,000 live births
- (5) Maternal mortality rate  
92 deaths/100,000 live births (2010 est.)
- (6) Literacy rate  
total population: 94.1%  
male: 94.7%  
female: 93.5% (2010 est.)
- (7) Population  
3,405,813

broken down by

a) Province

Bocas del Toro	125,461
Coclé	233,708
Colón	241,928
Chiriquí	416,873
Darién	48,378
Herrera	109,955
Los Santos	89,592
Panama	1,713,070
Veraguas	226,991
Region Guna Yala	33,109
Region Emberá	10,001
Region Ngöbe Buglé	156,747

b) age (10 years)

0 - 9	654,671
10-19	635,398
20-29	550,912
30-39	496,437
40-49	417,808
50-59	289,223
60-69	192,490
70-79	109,494
80-89	47,730
90-99	10,648
100 +	450

c) income level (rich, middle, poor, poorest)

Percentage of National total income per fifths of the population:

Poorest 1.5

Poor 5.3

Middle 10.5

Rich 20.2

Richest 62.5

(8) Education System (Number of schools & students in each

district)

Number of students in each province

Total	841011
Bocas del Toro	43986
Coclé	59645
Colón	62086
Chiriquí	103207
Darién	14369
Herrera	24390
Los Santos	16077
Panamá	366694
Veraguas	58095
Guna Yala	10786
Comarca Emberá	3269
Comarca Ngöbe Buglé	78407

(9) Health System (Number of hospitals in each district)

**Total 38**

Bocas del Toro	4
Coclé	2
Colón	1
Chiriquí	3
Darién	3
Herrera	3
Los Santos	4
Panama	12
Veraguas	3
Guna Yala	2
Ngöbe Buglé	1

Documental source: Listado de instalaciones de Salud de las Regiones de Salud

(10) Major Industry (Number of people working for each industry)

**agriculture:** 17%

**industry:** 18.6%

**services:** 64.4% (2009 est.)

- (11) Employment rate  
95.6% (2012 est.)

## 2. Intellectual Disabilities

- (1) **Laws concerned with persons with Intellectual Disabilities**  
In Panama, we have laws guaranteeing equal opportunities for people with disabilities, these laws relate to health services to which they are entitled, transport facilities, conditions of the buildings so that these people have easy access, education services and working conditions. But we do not have specific legislation for people with intellectual disabilities.
- (2) **Financial Assistance for persons with Intellectual Disabilities**  
Our institution provides financial assistance to families of people with disabilities living in poverty and attend some school, but in our country there is no specific category for people with intellectual disabilities.
- (3) **Services including CBR available for persons with Intellectual Disabilities**  
The government is responsible for ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to all the services they need, such as health services, education, steps shift in their communities and employment opportunities. Currently there are not specific CBR activities available for people with intellectual disabilities.
- (4) **Number of services and those beneficiaries in each district (province)**

## 3. Outline of your organization

- (1) **Background, vision, strategy**  
Background: Panamanian institute special empowerment is created in November 1951. It's the pioneer and leader in providing services to people with disabilities, it's guarantees access to the education system in equal opportunities as indicated by our laws.  
Vision: Be an innovative institution in strengthening processes

enable children and adolescents with disabilities who access the education system through training, research, resource production and use of technologies thereby bringing attention to diversity.

Strategy: Enable children and youth with disabilities who need specialized services. Building services, resources and support to facilitate the inclusion of children and youth with disabilities in schools

- (2) Major programs, covered areas, covered population, number of beneficiaries

IPHE (Instituto Panameño de Habilitación Especial) is the major government institution dedicated to bring services to the people with disabilities. Next table bring information about their programs and covered population in whole country.

Escuela, Programa y Extensión	Number of beneficiaries
Total	13,914
Escuela de Enseñanza Especial	1,231
Escuela Vocacional Especial	1,157
Escuela Nacional de Sordos	951
Escuela de Ciegos Helen Keller	214
Programa de Autismo	273
Programa de Estimulación Precoz	578
Programa de Parálisis Cerebral	389
Extensión	
Bocas del Toro	350
Aguadulce	250
Antón	265
Penonomé	574
Colón	807
Chiriquí	1,460
Darién	308
Herrera	649
Los Santos	644
Panamá Este	508
Panamá Oeste	1,285
Tocumen	1,014
Veraguas	897
Guna Yala	110

- (3) Your position and duty  
Position: Psychologist  
Duty: To provide psychological support to both children with disabilities and their families during the schooling process.

4. Community Development program which include Intellectual Disability issues as one of the activities.(If you know any)

5. Situation of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

- (1) Diagnosis (professional responsible for diagnosis)  
Psychologists are the only qualified professionals to diagnose intellectual disability.
- (2) Education (Special Education and/or Integrated Education)  
There are both special and integrated educational programs in most of the schools throughout the country.
- (3) Vocational training and Job Opportunity  
Our organization provides vocational training through a specially devoted school created for this very purpose.
- (4) Support Organizations
- a) governmental agencies  
MITRADEL (Ministry of Labor and Workforce Development) in Panama provides support and assistance to people with intellectual disabilities that are searching for job opportunities.
  - b) number of NGOs concerned with Persons with Intellectual Disabilities  
Panama counts with the Goodwill Industry that helps disseminate information, raise awareness and develop educational programs nationally, among other services.

6. Based on the information above, what are the issues to solve to conduct effective supports for persons with Intellectual Disabilities?

One of the main issues to solve is the counter productivity we as professionals must face regarding the lack of information and the lack of means of spreading this information among the general population so that every person in the

community can find the support they need for themselves and their families.