

The World Bank Group conducts evaluation of Glasswing International’s “Sanando Heridas” program

Preliminary results finds the program reduces recidivism of violence by up to 30%

Washington, DC, USA November 2019 - The World Bank Group completed an evaluation of Glasswing International’s “Sanando Heridas” program, which was funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through the Japan Special Fund. Preliminary results from the evaluation found that survivors of violence who have been treated by a “Sanando Heridas” specialist trained in trauma-informed care reduce their likelihood of committing a violent act by up to 30%.

Context

Globally, high rates of violence and poverty lead to trauma, irregular migration, and poor educational, social, and economic outcomes for entire communities. Latin America is largely a mental health desert, where access to mental healthcare is extremely limited, especially at the community level (Igarape Institute, 2018). Latin America is home to only 8% of the world’s population, but 37% of the world’s homicides. The region’s homicide rate is more than three times the global average and has increased 3.7% annually over the course of a decade — three times the population growth rate of 1.1% (Igarape Institute, 2018). Less than 2% of the healthcare budget in Latin America is allocated to mental health, leading to vast mental health deserts (WHO, 2018).

Methodology

The “Sanando Heridas” impact evaluation was conducted by The World Bank Group. The impact evaluation of the program used non-experimental methods to analyze the effect of the program on recidivism of violent acts. It was conducted in two hospitals (Enf. Angélica Vidal de Najarro National Hospital, San Bartolo, San Salvador, and Dr. Juan José Fernández National Hospital, Zacamil, San Salvador) in the central area of El Salvador during the 2016-2019 period.

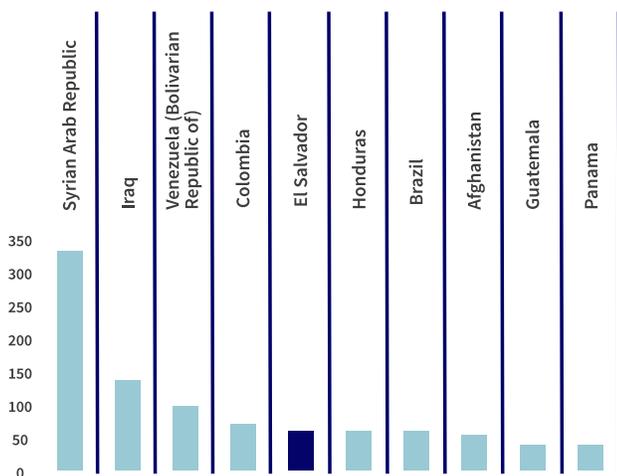
To provide evidence on the impact of the intervention, an econometric strategy of instrumental variables was applied. The expected result of the intervention was to reduce the likelihood of retribution, in order to help break the cycle of violence and thereby contribute to the efficiency of public health services.

Impact Evaluation Preliminary Results

Preliminary results of the impact assessment reveal that the “Sanando Heridas” program has the following effects:

1. People who have been victims of violent acts and who have been treated by “Sanando Heridas” specialists trained in trauma-informed care reduce their likelihood of committing a violent act by up to 30%, compared to patients not receiving intervention. This may suggest that those treated with trauma-informed care increase their emotional regulation and are less likely to be re-traumatized in the future.

2. Las estadísticas nacionales indican que en el período de 2016 a 2019, 3.499 pacientes fueron atendidos en el sistema hospitalario público por lesiones causadas por



Ten countries with the highest mortality rate (deaths per 100,000) due to homicide and collective violence among boys aged 10 to 19 years, in 2015

Fuente: UNICEF (2017). “Violence in the lives of children and adolescents.”

violencia social e interpersonal. Si se suman los costos de atención médica y los daños emocionales y psicológicos, el costo por víctima asciende a \$3,180 USD. Sin ningún tipo de atención, esto genera \$11.3M USD en costos para el Estado. Según resultados preliminares, la intervención podría prevenir aproximadamente 1.050 casos, lo que implica una reducción del costo del 27.2% (\$3.3M USD). Por lo tanto, un análisis preliminar del costo-beneficio de la intervención indica que el beneficio neto de este programa es de \$2.45M USD.

3. The preliminary results of the evaluation also indicate that training health personnel in trauma management increases the likelihood, by 58%, that they will refer a victim of violence to additional comprehensive trauma care, continuing the process of healing beyond the hospital doors.

About the Program

The “Sanando Heridas” program model is an adaptation of successful programs in the United States. In El Salvador, “Sanando Heridas” completed its first stage in two hospitals: San Rafael National Hospital, La Libertad and Dr. Mazzini Villacorta National Hospital, Sonsonate. Currently, the program is implemented at Enf. Angélica Vidal de Najarro National Hospital, San Bartolo, San Salvador, and Dr. Juan José Fernández National Hospital, Zacamil, San Salvador. In 2020, work will start in San Rafael National Hospital, La Libertad. The program is currently being expanded to Guatemala and other countries in the region.

Program components

- Comprehensive trauma care is offered to people who enter hospital emergency rooms, with the aim of initiating a restorative process and strengthening their coping skills. People who have experienced a traumatic event are provided with resources to understand the effects of trauma and tools to build up their mental resilience.
- Health personnel, organizations, and institutions that are in contact with people who have suffered a traumatic event as a result of social and interpersonal violence are trained, focusing on comprehensive trauma care that seeks to offer various complementary and non-traditional tools, educating beneficiaries on emotional intelligence,

assertive listening, non-violent communication, social skills, and psychological first aid.

- Post-care needs are met by linking beneficiaries to entities in a reference ecosystem. They provide services and programs to support the transition back into regular life. After the trauma care intervention, the person who suffered the event and/or their family are linked to the reference system, where they connect with other public or private institutions that offer different programs and services depending on the needs of the person and/or their family.

About Glasswing International

Glasswing International is a non-profit organization whose mission is to address the root causes and consequences of violence and poverty through education and health programs that empower youth and communities, and strengthen public systems.

Through evidenced-based practices and strategic programming, Glasswing seeks to transform communities by building resiliency, fostering civic participation, and providing opportunities for children and youth to thrive despite adversity.

Glasswing forges cross-sectoral partnerships with local and regional stakeholders, and leverages the human, capital, and material resources that are already present in our communities in order to make impactful and sustainable change. In 13 years, Glasswing has impacted the lives of more than 1.1 million people in Latin America, the Caribbean and New York City. For more information visit www.glasswing.org