



1.3 Million Students 32,000 Teachers 2,600 Schools/Centers 16 Countries



Encouraging Civil Society Participation in Educational Policy in the Dominican Republic



About Fe y Alegría:

The International Federation of Fe y Alegría (IFFyA) is the largest and most successful education provider in Latin America and the Caribbean outside of public education systems.

IFFyA is a Jesuit-sponsored network of schools, vocational training centers, and community services that reaches over 1.3 million of the poorest and most isolated members of society. It works in close partnership with the Education Ministries of 16 countries.

The first Fe y Alegría organization was founded by much-loved Jesuit José María Vélaz of Venezuela in 1955. It has inspired similar programs all over the world, including the Cristo Rey Catholic schools in the U.S.

Background Information

Public education in the Dominican Republic is severely deficient on both qualitative and quantitative levels. Only 52% of students finish primary school, and only one out of every four completes high school.

Because of this challenging educational deficit, Fe y Alegría - Dominican Republic (DR) was founded in 1990 to create opportunities for the most disadvantaged to access high-quality education. Today there are 43 FyA educational centers located in marginalized communities throughout the country. Each center plays a primary role in promoting civil society and public authorities' involvement in the quality of public education.



Project Description:

This project is part of the International Federation of Fe y Alegría's "Program 8," a region-wide initiative called "Public Action". The objective of Program 8 is to influence educational policies and programs that promote the right to quality education for all, the eradication of poverty, and the end of social exclusion. Therefore the main goal of this projects is to promote and generate social platforms and dialogues between civil society and the State that lead to inclusive and participative public educational policies.

Consequently, Fe y Alegría DR intends to continue energizing civil society and the State in order to develop among them the conviction that high-quality education must be made available to everyone in society, especially to the most vulnerable members of the countries.

Cost of the Project:

\$25,000	Research and publishing
\$45,000	Regional forums between community members and government
\$30,000	Administrative costs
\$100,000	TOTAL

Impact:

- Formalized channels for civil society to build relationships with the Government through sustainable participative mechanisms.
- Stronger relationships between FyA and the community, built on local development initiatives and civil networks.
- An informed and empowered community in issues of public educational interest.