Good Practice Analysis - Spain

CONTEXT

This project started with the expectation of being a positive proposal in the Region of Murcia for the fostering of unaccompanied migrant minors with ages ranging from 13/14 to 18 years old, requiring specific protection.

The protection centre Ankaso, is located at Calle 2 de Mayo 12, in the town of Alguazas (Murcia). This is a local resource framed in a small town with a rural character, but very close to the city of Murcia.

OBJECTIVES

For reasons of space we will only mention the general objectives pursued in the centre:

- Facilitating the compliance with protective measures in custody or guardianship.

- Organizing the home reception coexistence according to the purposes stated in the current juvenile law, safeguarding the rights of the child.

- Promoting the social and cultural integration of minors, in their alternative usual relationship environment (town, district, parish) and progressively, based on their Individual Educational Project, incorporating them to the standardized services and activities.
In addition to these objectives, in the centre other specific and operational objectives related to each of the areas of intervention with the minors are set, for instance improving the psychosocial competence of minors, by learning several fundamental cognitive skills for an adequate social and personal adjustment.

**DESCRIPTION**

The services of the protection centre are the following:

- **Residential care**: Residential service, subsistence, clothing and personal hygiene.

- **Health care**: Monitoring the health development of the minors, early detection of potential physical and psychological problems, hygiene and health habits, nutrition control, vaccination control and coordination with local health institutions.

- **Education follow-up**: Individual educational development process monitoring with minors at schooling age, supporting on school work-home and providing of all the necessary resources, materials and equipment for being part of the educational system. In those cases in which, due to their age, the minor is not attending school, all the necessary resources for a vocational training will be provided.

- **Occupational activities**: Programmes of good employment habits are created, and the minors will participate in occupational programmes for their social employment inclusion, according to their age.

- **Psychosocial and therapeutic support**: Support to psychological and psychiatric conflicts that obstacle the development of the minors’ personality, maturity process or socialization capability. For this, all the normalized local resources will
- be used, as well as the services of the Department of Family, Equity and Childhood for assessment, diagnosis and therapy.

- **Family work and social care**: Working with the family will be promoted, adapted to the age and characteristics of the minors, taking into account that the minors who are in residential care are unaccompanied and migrants, and they usually do not have relatives in Spain. Nevertheless, contact with the family in the country of origin will be encouraged.

- **Cultural and leisure activities**: Activities with the minors that promote leisure and culture are planned and carried out.

The daily life of the centre revolves around a set of planned educational and structured activities to cover the different areas of personal and social development of minors.

The set of activities carried out can be grouped into different areas depending on the objectives that want to be achieved. The different activities are in relation to the following areas:

- Residential area.
- Health area.
- Education area.
- Occupational area
- Psychosocial and therapeutic area.
- Family and social environment area.
- Cultural and leisure area.
OUTCOMES

During 2013, a total of 33 minors were attended in Ankaso-Alguazas centre. The age range goes from 15 to 17 years old.

With regards to the country of origin of the minors, the following table shows the statistic:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of origin</th>
<th>Total of minors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivory Coast</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>33</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
During 2013 there were a number of minors who left the centre for several reasons:

- Being over 18 years old: 8
- Family reunification: 1
- Voluntary leaving of the centre: 3
- Prosecutor resolution: 2

**PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED**

The educational team is comprised of qualified professionals with university degrees, such as, degrees in psychology, education, social work, social education, etc. The professionals involved are:

a) The coordinator or head of the centre.

b) Team of educators for the educational performance, working directly with the minors.

c) Specialized professionals in direct care, in the school, occupational and labour, psychological, educational and social areas, as well as any other areas deemed necessary for the best performance of the functions of the centre.

**INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS**

The public institution with a direct link to the functions covered by the Ankaso-Alguazas centre is the Minors’ Protection Service of the General Department of Social Policy of the Government of the Region of Murcia.