Paamiut Asasara: Building community resilience on Cultural Values.

Presented by Peter Berliner, Heidi Jeremiassen & Soren Lyberth

Funded by Bikkuben Foundation, Sermersooq Kommuneqarfik and Greenland Self Rule.
High level of violence and sexual abuse
High level of suicide
Abuse of alcohol or/and cannabis
Unemployment
A lot of people with a personal history of violence and abuse
Single parent
Mental problems
Lack of social support (marginalisation)
Paamiut Asasara – a community resilience program

The overall goal is to strengthen wellbeing in families – through the following objectives:

(1) to enhance quality of local education.

(2) 50% decrease in criminality, including violence and domestic violence.

(3) to increase transparency in public administration.

(4) to abolish child neglect.
Activities

(1) Theatre, photos; hunting/fishing summer-camps; art workshops; sport.
(2) Multi-family support workshops; alcohol abuse rehab; cultural events; and sport.
(3) Local radio; open access to counseling and information;
(4) Community meetings; motherhood groups; parents association; a council for children; a family center; animation films; sport; concerts for children.
Methods of documentation

- **Quantitatively**: Statistics; Surveys on violence, social services, and social network

- **Qualitatively**: Interviews (202 citizens and 82 hours with professionals); Participatory observations.

- **Comparison** to other cities in Greenland.
Results: the four objectives

1. more teachers with formal education; more young people in school; more self-esteem; less bullying in the school.

2. 45% decrease in criminality.

3. Direct democracy in the program; high level of participations, access to counseling and information; radio; websites; facebook; high level of knowledge on the program. Visibility in the local community and in Greenland.

4. No cases of child neglect in the last year; parents association; a council for children.
# Criminality

## All crimes

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<tbody>
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<td>Paamiut</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>-45%</td>
<td>-114</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Greenland</td>
<td>5807</td>
<td>5998</td>
<td>5540</td>
<td>5141</td>
<td>5251</td>
<td>5348</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-192</td>
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## Violence

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<tr>
<td>Paamiut</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>-11%</td>
<td>-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Greenland</td>
<td>813</td>
<td>851</td>
<td>863</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>852</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-23</td>
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## Domestic violence

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<tbody>
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<td>Paamiut</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>146</td>
<td></td>
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<td>-47%</td>
<td>-128</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Greenland</td>
<td>3712</td>
<td>2788</td>
<td>3685</td>
<td>3077</td>
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<td>-17%</td>
<td>-635</td>
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Paamiut Asasara: Building community resilience on cultural value

Peter Berliner, Heidi Jeremiassen & Soren Lyberths

22.6.2012
Impact

› Less violence - More security – children given back to families – a drop of people on probation from 13 to 2 – unemployment low (3-6 %) – more young people in a back-to-education program (5 in 2008 – 30 in 2012 and more on a waiting list) – more social support – in 2011-2012 no cases of abuse of children – many children and young people in sport activities.

› More social support – more security – more mutual support – more commitment, caring and compassion, cooperation – more self-efficacy – a sense of belonging – proudness/self-esteem – values of the community are now visible and achievable.
It was great what we did in the theater - that is: to tell our stories. I feel that telling the story was what I had to do. I had to tell it to other people so that it can help them to find hope, give them courage. The important thing was to tell the story to other people and to help other people. That's what really matters.
What worked – lessons learned

Efficiency relies on respecting the free contribution of people in their own timing and with their own resources and possibilities.

The program supported people in following their own dreams and visions together – and to develop their own knowledge and ideas together.

The program opened options for participation in activities which strengthened the sense of community – an example: the football team.

Distributing access to social interaction, physical activities, and equipment in a more equal way – example: summer camps, sport equipment, art, theatre.
The program is based on values of peacefully living together and respecting each other.

Focus on social reciprocity (social support and).

The program promotes social responsibility – in the daily interaction of people.

Basic democracy with respect for everyone.

Giving options for sharing concerns and challenges – and findings solutions together ("You are not alone").
In summary:

The program is successful
as it has
a high level
of respect
for the free
reunion of
desires for
improving life
together.
Qujannaq😊 - Thank you😊 - Gracias😊