



# BELOW TEN



## MOBILIZING BORDER COMMUNITIES TO ADDRESS GUNS, DRUGS, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### PROJECT FACT SHEET

Law enforcement and the communities they protect in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California face overwhelming challenges regarding human<sup>1</sup> and drug trafficking as a majority of the drugs coming into the United States comes across the Mexican border.<sup>2</sup> In 2009, the Tucson HIDTA Intelligence Support Center estimated that based on seizure rates, approximately 8 million tons of marijuana, 133,000 lbs. of cocaine, 29,000 lbs. of meth, and 7,000 lbs. of heroin made it across the Southwest border.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, they estimated 70% of all persons trafficked into the United States come across the US-Mexico border. "Labour trafficking networks often merge with organized crime networks that traffic in drugs, weapons, pornography, and other contraband."<sup>4</sup>

Beyond the national impact the border issues have on crime, the impact on local border communities is breaking down the capacity of local government infrastructure to respond to the human face of the problem locally. Schools, social services, healthcare and other infrastructure are stretched beyond their ability to adequately serve the needs of victims, undocumented individuals and residents.

Efforts to address these problems have focused heavily on enforcement strategies. Nevertheless, there is extensive evidence that comprehensive, community oriented policing has the greatest impact on crime. Yet, efforts to involve comprehensive community strategies have not been fully attempted.<sup>5</sup>

Efforts to address border challenges must involve the whole community and utilize community policing and comprehensive planning principles.

In response, Strategic Applications International has launched the "Below Ten: Mobilizing Border Communities to Address Guns, Drugs and Human Trafficking" (Below Ten) initiative. This two-year project, funded by the Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing (COPS), will develop community collaborations in 3 of the 10 border cities on or below Interstate 10, in the four Southwest Border States. "Below Ten" will mobilize local, state, federal and tribal stakeholders to implement innovative, integrated community policing strategies to improve public safety and quality of life and fully integrate local communities into the national strategy to address guns, drug trafficking and human trafficking on the Southern Border.

"Below Ten" will build the capacity of local law enforcement in border communities to build partnerships that fully mobilize the local government, business sector, faith-based and community organizations, non-profits and foundations in an integrated strategy.

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"Below Ten" will build the capacity of local law enforcement in border communities to build partnerships that fully mobilize the local government, business sector, faith-based and community organizations, non-profits and foundations in an integrated strategy. In addition, "Below Ten" will address the cultural, ethnic, racial, and language differences that impact the relationship between federal law enforcement and the border communities. The goal of these locally-focused comprehensive community policing problem solving activities is to have a national impact on security and public safety be impacted nationwide. SAI will support and build from existing efforts both within the selected border communities and between local, state, and federal efforts, while engaging the private sector and local coalitions. The key to success is engaging local leadership on the front end.

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*"Border collaborations will generate new and innovative solutions using multi-disciplinary strategies, partnerships and problem solving, all key community policing principles."*

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As a result of this initiative, SAI will guide and support participating communities in developing:

- a comprehensive, integrated local, county, state, federal, and tribal approach to create a collaborative response to border security, crime, and human trafficking;
- strategies to facilitate trust and information sharing between residents, local businesses, community and faith-based organizations, city leaders and law enforcement;
- border communities and local stakeholders able to identify and implement joint, cross-cutting solutions to crime, violence, and drug use;
- innovative problem solving best practices for border cities to reduce crime and the fear of crime,
- improved local infrastructure that is able to respond to the needs of both legal and illegal residents, particularly women and children;
- decreased cultural, ethnic, racial and language barriers to effective interagency collaboration through a culturally competent workforce.



## ABOUT SAI

SAI is an innovative, passionate, and mission-driven consulting group that supports organizations, communities, and governments in developing strong humanitarian programs. SAI has worked extensively in the crime, violence and substance abuse fields in partnership with ONDCP, the DEA, COPS and Substance Abuse Mental Health

Services Administration (SAMHSA) to mobilize the nation's response to illicit drugs at the local, state,

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*SAI pursues great ideas, promotes action, and effects change with demonstrated results.*

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federal, tribal and international levels. We have facilitated more than 35 local, state, and national summits around crime, violence and substance abuse with an emphasis on comprehensive, integrated solutions. We have worked with the DEA to train more than 200 community teams on how to mobilize communities through comprehensive planning and coalition building. We have done extensive work in the Southwest over the last 5 years on border issues related to drug trafficking. Visit us at [www.sai-dc.com](http://www.sai-dc.com).

<sup>1</sup>Definition of Human Trafficking for purposes of this initiative is the movement of the undocumented citizens of other countries into the United States including those who are smuggled to perform illegal activities, indentured service, seasonal labor, or domestic labor.

<sup>2</sup>2010 National Drug Control Strategy states, "The United States-Mexico border region is the current primary locus for drugs being trafficked into the United States". The 2009 National Drug Control Strategy states that the majority of marijuana and much<sup>3</sup> of the meth, cocaine, heroin, and come across the US-Mexico border.

<sup>3</sup>Data source: EPIC.

<sup>4</sup>Tiano, S., Uliban, B., Ramos, C. Trafficking on the US-Mexico Border. Freedom from Fear Magazine. June 30, 2010.

<sup>5</sup>United States National Institute of Justice (1992, 1993).

For more information about the Below Ten initiative, visit [www.methpedia.org/below-ten](http://www.methpedia.org/below-ten) or send an email to [info@sai-dc.com](mailto:info@sai-dc.com)