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31 Years of Work in Danger: Help Us Prevent SOCIEVEN from Closing

SOCIEVEN PROJECT (2026): "SOLUTIONS FOR DEAFBLINDNESS IN VENEZUELA: WEAVING A FUTURE OF FREEDOM FOR WOMEN WITH DEAFBLINDNESS"

II PARTIAL REPORT

(June – September 2026)

I.- CONTEXT AND INSTITUTIONAL URGENCY CALL

SOCIEVEN, A.C., is a recognized institution that for 31 years has built knowledge, experience, programs, methodologies, networks, and specialized capabilities around a population that has historically faced major barriers to being identified, cared for, understood, and included: individuals with deafblindness. Its emphasis is on the defense of human rights with the purpose of improving communication, accessibility, and inclusion for this community. Its programs serve this group with unique sensory disabilities, their families, professionals, and institutions.

However, due to the country's current context, there is greater social and economic instability alongside constant changes following the Humanitarian Emergency Situation post-earthquake, which affects us profoundly. The economy is taking very slow steps toward recovery and growth, making it difficult to secure support and resources to cover expenses and ensure institutional strengthening.

Today we reach out to you with heavy hearts and from a place of the most extreme urgency: SOCIEVEN is facing a critical financial crisis that seriously threatens to close our foundation.

Our fundraising event, called **THE ECHO OF THE HANDS**, was an ambitious, far-reaching project involving plastic artists and individuals with deafblindness. Based on textiles crafted by them and volunteers, unique works of fine art were created to be auctioned for the benefit of SOCIEVEN to maintain our mission. However, **this immense effort**

failed to achieve its fundraising goal due to the devastating double earthquake, as the silent auction of the artwork was scheduled between June and July 2026, precisely when the tragedy struck. This has created an unprecedented crisis within the foundation, putting our ongoing survival at imminent risk.

During this second period (June – September), despite the devastating blow of the earthquake and the lack of resources, SOCIEVEN carried out the Project *"Solutions for Deafblindness in Venezuela: Weaving a Future of Freedom for Women with Deafblindness"* through the National Network and various programs with the support of organizations, parents, individuals with deafblindness, professionals, and the community at large, while concurrently developing an emergency plan in response to the earthquake situation in Venezuela.

Through this II Partial Report, we reflect the results of the objectives and activities carried out within the Project in the framework of Deafblindness Month (June – July) and the Post-Earthquake Emergency Crisis.

II.- SPECIFIC RESULTS OF THE TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT AND THE SOCIEVEN NATIONAL NETWORK:

General Impact: Direct reach achieved included 419 visitors to "The Echo of the Hands" Exhibition, 144 professionals, 82 individuals with deafblindness, 38 individuals with other disabilities, 43 representatives, and 6 students, totaling approximately **732 people**.

1) 447 supports provided directly and indirectly through the SOCIEVEN National Network (RNS):

- **Response to RNS user needs:** 283 products (92 food items, 107 hygiene and supply items, 50 basic and pediatric medicines, 16 eye drops, 1 ear drop, 1 white cane No. 48, and 16 traditional and sensory toys), 202 direct and indirect advisories and assistances, 3 weaving sessions in Caracas, 5 medical consultations (4 ophthalmological and 1 otolaryngological), 1 institutional report, and 1 Usher Syndrome Digital Kit.

2) Results based on project objectives:

- **a) Strengthen operational structure and sustainability:**
 - The Textile Exhibition and Silent Auction *"The Echo of the Hands"* along with the Dinner of the Senses at the Centro de Arte Los Galpones, held within the framework of Deafblindness Month and Deafblind International's (DbI) *Create & Connect* Campaign, was this year's primary fundraising initiative. However, **it was drastically affected due to the Humanitarian Crisis Situation caused by the double seismic event**, failing to produce the expected resources. This has led to severe difficulties in sustaining our labor commitments, retaining staff, and ensuring the basic operations of the institution. Faced with this critical situation, meetings and outreach with strategic allies have been conducted.
- **b) Promote empowerment, socio-labor inclusion, and economic autonomy:**
 - 2 weaving sessions at Shed 17 of the Art Center with the participation of: 8 people, 1 adult with acquired deafblindness due to Usher Syndrome Type II, 2 volunteers, and 3 master weavers. Total: 14 attendees.
 - Public Weaving Day *"Tranquilamente 360°"* held within the framework of the SOCIEVEN Weaving Program and Deafblindness Month in the gardens of the Centro de Arte Los Galpones, with the participation of 34 people: 15 professionals, 6 students, 3 adult women with deafblindness due to Usher Syndrome Type II, 3 volunteers, 3 team members, and 2 master weavers.
- **c) Guarantee effective access to rights, educational and health inclusion, and accessibility resources:**
 - 5 medical consultations (4 ophthalmological and 1 otolaryngological) secured through the SOCIEVEN National Network.
 - Update of the Population Database for Capital District and the states of Aragua, La Guaira, and Miranda based on SOCIEVEN National Network data (1st Semester 2026).
 - Online advisory to 10 adult women with deafblindness regarding ophthalmological and auditory support needs; to 2

young people with deafblindness and 2 representatives to clarify doubts regarding scholarship applications for the First World Camp for Deafblind Youth "Global Voices of Youth" in Davos; and to one adult with hearing impairment, alongside in-person advisory to another adult with acquired deafblindness following cataract surgery.

- Channeling of cataract surgery for an adult woman with deafblindness due to Usher Syndrome Type II at Dr. Domingo Luciani Hospital.
- Population characterization, data collection, and entry into the SOCIEVEN Post-Earthquake Emergency Situation Database using FUNVAPE's Kobo tool and the SOCIEVEN georeferencing form.
- Installation of a tactile floor path at "The Echo of the Hands" Exhibition in Shed No. 8 of the Centro de Arte Los Galpones for the inclusion of individuals with deafblindness and visual impairment.
- Direct contact with 128 users of the SOCIEVEN National Network during the diagnostic phase with a survey of actual post-earthquake needs: 39 individuals with deafblindness, 7 with visual impairment, 3 deaf individuals, 51 family members/representatives, and 28 allies from Capital District, La Guaira, and Miranda.
- Contact with disability organizations and allies to locate more population with deafblindness and respond to their needs in Aragua, Caracas, La Guaira, and Miranda.
- Participation of the technical team in the inaugural meeting convened by CONSORVEN in coordination with the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and CONAPDIS to exchange experiences, understand support needs and capabilities, and articulate actions with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs).
- Participation in the teacher survey "Regional Panorama on digital accessibility and the use of Information and Communication Technologies by students with visual impairments in Latin America" by ICEVI Latin America and Tifloloabs.
- Visit to La Guaira and Donation of 31 kits of food, hygiene items, medicines, supplies, and toys to 14 people with

disabilities, 14 family members, and 3 volunteers with the support of Venezuela sin Límites, Evenpro, and the Venezuelan Autism Organization (OVA) at the José María Vargas Polideportivo in La Guaira State, CANNES in Catia La Mar, and El Junquito.

- Delivery of eye drops (Clarasol) to the medical care service of the Temporary Camp located at the José María Vargas Polideportivo in La Guaira.
- **d) Guarantee the right to knowledge, specialization on Deafblindness, Usher Syndrome, and social awareness:**
 - Conclusion of the Course *"Approach to Pre-linguistic Communication in children, youth, and adults with deafblindness and/or congenital multiple disability from an inclusive, accessible, and responsible vision"* by ICEVI Latin America, led by María Luz Neri de Troconis and coordinated by Nelly Ramírez, with the participation of 20 professionals from 8 countries: Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Spain, El Salvador, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela.
 - Delivery of the Digital Kit on Usher Syndrome and related invitations to a student with Usher Syndrome Type II from Mérida.
 - Exhibition *"The Echo of the Hands"* at the Centro de Arte Los Galpones with visits from over 419 people, including 3 adult women with acquired deafblindness due to Usher Syndrome Type II, 1 adult with visual impairment, and 1 with hearing impairment.
 - Participation in the Consultation on Needs and Challenges of Impact Hub Caracas, assessment of needs for Venezuela sin Límites, and identification of allied organizations with Funvape.
 - Report, Donation List, and Action Plan for the Earthquake Emergency Situation (SES) and SOCIEVEN Affected Population Data.

3) Strategic Alliances:

Activation of contact and joint activities with **50 institutions:** Neri Design Group, Elvira Neri Arte, BNC (Banco Nacional de Descuento), Melao Br, Centro de Arte Los Galpones, Caracas Design Week, Agencia



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Mar, Taurel, Danubio,, Acción Solidaria, ACIVA, International Disability Alliance (IDA), Apoye, Asociación de Sordos de Caracas, ASODECO, ASOIVE, Buena Voluntad, CAIDV La Guaira, CANNES, Caritas, Centro de Arte Los Galpones, National Council for Persons with Disabilities (CONAPDIS), CONSORVEN, Red Cross, Deafblind International (DbI), Delegation of the European Union, Digitel, FARMATODO, Fe y Alegría, FEVIC, FUNDAPROCURA, FUNVENACC, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Funvape, Global Empowerment Mission (GEM), Dr. Domingo Luciani Hospital, Handicap International (Humanity & Inclusion - H&I), ICEVI Latin America, Special Education Institute (IEE) Colonia Tovar, Intejuris, Dr. JJ Arvelo Rehabilitation Institute, Neri Design Group (NDG), Impact Hub (IPH) Caracas, Venezuelan Autism Organization, ORVES, José María Vargas Polideportivo, RIADIS, SENACOA, SOVENIA, Venezuela sin Límites, Mujer 5 Estrellas.

4) Successful SOCIEVEN Outreach Campaign (Achievements):

- **Digital and social media Campaign "THE ECHO OF THE HANDS"** developed by **Neri Design Group** within the framework of Deafblindness Month, with reach in Venezuela and abroad, linked to Deafblind International's "Let Me In" Campaign.
- **States contacted:** Anzoátegui, Apure, Aragua, Carabobo, Falcón, La Guaira, Lara, Mérida, Miranda, Nueva Esparta, Táchira, and Capital District.
- **Countries contacted:** Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Panama, Peru, United Kingdom, European Union Delegation, and USA.

III.- GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN AMIDST THE CRISIS

We are extremely concerned about the foundation's financial crisis and our ability to retain the human resources working within it. SOCIEVEN is entering a phase of addressing this critical emergency to make vital decisions regarding this difficult situation that threatens our closure.

While we fight to define SOCIEVEN's continuity and overcome this breaking point, we will remain steadfast in our objectives to:

- Continue pursuing the objectives of the Project *Solutions for Deafblindness in Venezuela: Weaving a Future of Freedom for Women with Deafblindness (2026)*, developing various programs for and with parents, individuals with deafblindness, institutional and professional allies, and society at large, training professionals, parents, and the community, and strengthening SOCIEVEN's financial structure at the Deafblindness Model House.
- Define urgent new strategies to relaunch the Silent Auction **THE ECHO OF THE HANDS**.
- At the training level, continue offering in-person and virtual courses on deafblindness and multiple disabilities for professionals nationwide and regionally in collaboration with ICEVI Latin America with SOCIEVEN's support.
- Empower the Weaving Program as a means to encourage participants with deafblindness toward entrepreneurship through woven products, serving as a sustainable development tool for the ongoing project.
- Continue carrying out actions that promote the rights of individuals with deafblindness throughout 2026.
- Conduct visits to La Guaira under the Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) approach as a strategy to assess population conditions and provide direct support.
- It is of vital importance to continue providing guidance to families, youth, and adults with deafblindness, offering follow-up, evaluations, and functional plans to guarantee educational, social, and labor inclusion for our users, as well as the "Five Senses in Action Donation" Operation (medicines, supplies, clothing, food, and special devices).
- Urgent strengthening of fundraising and sustainability mechanisms through proprietary events, private donations, and strategic alliances at both national and international levels.

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Prepared by: Technical Director, Nelly Ramírez and María Luz Neri de Troconis, Board of Directors.