

CONSTRUCTING PUBLIC SAFETY WITH CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

Promoting Public Safety for All



ABOUT US





The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is the principal multilateral source of resources and knowledge for the development of the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region. Together with the governments, businesses, and civil society of our 48 member countries, we support the efforts of the region in the fight against poverty and inequality, and the achievement of sustainable growth. We facilitate regional dialogues and the sharing of experiences and good practices. We also provide technical assistance, financial support, and applied knowledge on the region's major development challenges.

To accomplish our mission, we have line departments that specialize in the public policy and private sector issues that affect the region. These include social issues, integration and trade, infrastructure and the environment, and public institutions and finance. The Institutional Capacity of the State Division is responsible for public institutions and finance, leading the work of the IDB on public safety and justice.

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WHY IS THE IDB INVOLVED IN PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE ?

Violence and crime constitute a serious obstacle for the LAC region's economic and social development, and are of great concern to the region's citizens.

CRIME AND VIOLENCE:

- Assume multiple forms, with complex and changing dynamics and specific characteristics that vary from region to region, from country to country, and from city to city.
- Have expanded to reach epidemic proportions.
- Mainly affect the most vulnerable populations, especially youth and women.
- Erode governance of the States and weaken the police, judicial, and penitentiary systems.
- Generate major financial and social costs, leading to decreased competitiveness and discouraging productive investment.

STATISTICAL DATA:

- Eight of the 10 countries in the world with the largest number of kidnappings are in the LAC region.
- Every four minutes, a person is murdered in the region.
- Thirty-one percent of the Latin American population has been victimized.
- Nine of the 10 most violent cities of the world are located in the LAC region.
- The most profitable routes of the drug market cross Latin America and the Caribbean.





“The Inter-American Development Bank has a deep commitment in the prevention and the fight against violence, crucial and conditioning aspects for the economic and social development of the countries of the region.”

Address of Luis Alberto Moreno, President of the Inter-American Development Bank, at the Public Safety Conference of the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA). Guatemala City, June 20, 2011.

THE IDB, A PARTNER AT THE SERVICE OF THE CITIZENS AND THE COUNTRIES AGAINST CRIME AND VIOLENCE, CONTRIBUTES:

- **Experience** as a pioneering agency in technical and financial assistance in public safety programs since 1998.
- **Knowledge** of the region and of the sector, which includes applied research, diagnoses, technical notes, and monographs.
- **Access to a broad network of experts** inside and outside the region, consisting of research centers, specialists, academics, and practitioners.
- **Financial capacity as Latin America's principal multilateral institution**, making possible the approval of loans that total US\$371 million, as well as non-reimbursable technical assistance projects and consulting and knowledge services that amount to US\$14 million, a figure that exceeds that of any other multilateral agency.
- **Multidisciplinary action** as a development institution whose structure covers multiple sectors. The IDB is able to support member countries in confronting the challenge of violence and crime from an interdisciplinary perspective. This allows the IDB to address not only the symptoms but also the causes of violence and insecurity in a comprehensive manner, and from numerous perspectives, encompassing sectors such as employment, education, police, and criminal justice. IDB programs can be adapted to the specific needs of each of its member countries, with a results-based approach visible to their citizens.
- **Facilitation of South-South cooperation**, through opportunities for dialogue and strategic partnerships among governments, civil society, and the private sector. Such cooperation seeks the sharing of experiences and lessons, and the articulation and coordination of comprehensive, effective, and sustainable policies on citizen security.





- **Rigorous project monitoring and evaluation mechanisms** that make it possible to strengthen the management and governance of public safety. These are effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the results of public policies, which imply continuous learning on what works, what does not, and why, thus optimizing the impact of public actions.
- **Experience in the management of citizen security**, through support in the design and implementation of comprehensive citizen security policies, and the institutional strengthening of the agencies responsible for public safety.

AREAS IN WHICH WE WORK



- Institutional strengthening
- Social prevention
- Situational prevention
- Preventive police
- Criminal justice
- Rehabilitation



OUR SUPPORT INSTRUMENTS

- Loans for investment and public policies
- Non-reimbursable technical assistance in operational support
- Technical assistance services
- Opportunities for regional dialogue on policies
- South-South cooperation platform



BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES OF CITIZEN SECURITY PROGRAMS





RESULTS





- Support for **crime and violence prevention** at the local level in 15 communities in Nicaragua and 18 in Jamaica, which included police training, generation of employment opportunities, and supervised leisure and sports options for young people.
- Establishment of 24 crime and **violence observatories** at the national and local levels.
- Creation of the “**Partnership of cities for the prevention of violence**” for the purpose of promoting and sharing good practices among 40 mayors of the region.
- Creation of **citizen security forums** to promote policy dialogue and share expertise and experiences among officials, experts, academics, civil society, and practitioners from 15 LAC countries.
- Support for the design and implementation of citizen security **policies and national strategies** in Chile, Colombia, and Panama.
- Promotion of sports activities and juvenile orchestras in the cities of Bogota, Cali, Medellin, Montevideo, and Rio de Janeiro, as well as in Costa Rica, for primary violence prevention, with an **emphasis on developing educational and social capabilities**.
- Completion of precursor studies on the **financial cost of crime in the region**.
- Organization of contests on **good practices with regard** to crime prevention in the LAC region, with the participation of more than 20 LAC countries.

SUCCESS STORIES

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1. BRAINPOWER STRENGTHENS CITIZEN SECURITY

Bogota's Observatory Gives Policymakers Informed Choices

A team of 50 researchers, statisticians, and analysts in Colombia's capital has become an essential tool in the constant battle to reduce crime and delinquency, combat domestic violence and alcoholism, develop safe driving habits for motorists, and address other issues that may affect citizen security.

Known as the Bogota observatory, the unit systematically gathers and provides government authorities with correct, up-to-date information that will be used to create well-informed policies that can improve the quality of life in the region. The unit's staff includes field personnel who study and collect information in the capital's poorest and most dangerous neighborhoods.

The observatory contributed to the design of public policies that resulted in a drop in Bogota's homicide rate from 80 per 100,000 in 1994 to around 20 per 100,000 in recent years—a rate that now compares well with other LAC cities. Among the projects and policies pioneered by the observatory are mobile police stations that are assigned to high-crime areas; education campaigns to keep streets clean; stricter enforcement of seatbelt regulations for motorists; gun control programs; and social investments such as free school lunches, youth sports activities, and the creation of parks and green spaces.

The IDB supported strengthening the observatory as part of a US\$57 million loan to Colombia in 1998 to promote citizen security. The financing supported diverse programs in Bogota, Medellin, and Cali, as well as national government programs.

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2. HIGH STAKES NUMBERS GAME

The LAC Region Unifies Its Citizen Security Statistics

Gathering statistics on crime may appear simple at first glance. To calculate the number of homicides in a given city, for instance, the logical first step is to obtain the data from police files. In reality, however, it is not that simple.

For example, in 2007, Honduras listed six different categories of homicide: assassination, simple homicide, homicide with prejudice, parricide, other crimes against life, and traffic accidents that result in death. This kind of statistical scattering makes it difficult to determine the country's homicide rate and compare it with other countries that list a single, unified homicide rate. Without an accurate international comparison, a country may have a handicap in developing effective government policies to protect and promote citizen security.

To remedy the statistical challenge, Honduras has joined 14 other countries in the LAC region to construct a uniform statistical system on issues that affect citizen security.

The IDB provided a grant of US\$1.8 million to help an initial six countries modernize and standardize their citizen security statistics in 2007. This amount was later increased by another US\$750,000 as the program expanded. The project is coordinated by the CISALVA Institute of the Universidad del Valle in Cali, Colombia.

Countries in the unified system will have a standardized method for gathering statistics on 22 citizen security indicators.

The IDB is supporting the Regional System of Standardized Indicators in Peaceful Coexistence and Citizen Security through a financial window known as the Regional Public Goods Program, which provides grant resources to programs that encourage regional collective action and improve the quality of life.

3. JAMAICA'S PRIORITY: RECLAIM NEIGHBORHOODS FROM LAWLESSNESS

Comprehensive Strategy for Citizen's Security

With some of the world's finest beaches and the benefit of the perennial Caribbean sun, Jamaica is a popular tourist destination and a country rightly concerned about preserving its image as a prized attraction for visitors.

Yet that vision is scarred by a persistent subculture of violence, centered mainly in low-income neighborhoods in the capital of Kingston and other cities. The national homicide rate of 53 deaths per 100,000 persons is high by world standards.

After years of frustration, the government is responding to the challenge.

A first step was to develop a citizen security strategy and action plan, which called for investments in all areas that may curb violence, including the justice system; law enforcement; and educational, vocational, and counseling services in low-income communities that are main crime areas.

The government has concentrated prevention and rehabilitation investments on 39 high-crime neighborhoods that have long resisted a law enforcement presence and have historical and cultural allegiances to the "dons," or drug lords. The goal is to improve residents' perception of safety and willingness to report crime in these neighborhoods by offering them advisory services, provided by counselors from nongovernmental agencies and official institutions. The counselors and community action officers provide parental counseling services and peaceful conflict resolution mechanisms. They also try to promote a better dialogue between residents and police to increase the level of crime reporting and crime intelligence. Youths in the vulnerable neighborhoods are offered job training opportunities and high school and college scholarships.

The IDB has taken the lead among the many international organizations financing Jamaica's campaign to reduce violence. It provided a loan of US\$16 million in 2001 that led to the establishment of the Jamaican Citizen Security and Justice Program. The program carries out multiple projects, including the development of a national citizen security strategy and action plan, institutional strengthening of the ministry and other law enforcement agencies, and social development and infrastructure investment incentives in the targeted, low-income neighborhoods.

At Jamaica's request, a second IDB loan of US\$21 million was approved in 2009 to deepen and broaden the program.

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4. PANAMA MOBILIZES SOCIETY TO REDUCE VIOLENCE

Comprehensive Plan Includes Prevention and Youth Outreach

In recent years, the growing crime rate in the Caribbean city of Colon, Panama, has set off alarm bells. The number of homicides soared from 61 deaths in 2005 to 133 deaths in 2009.

Panama is addressing the challenge with a comprehensive plan that includes developing a citizen security policy, establishing the National System of Criminal Statistics and Information, and creating an integrated program to prevent violent crimes committed by at-risk youth. Also, the country has recently established a model detention and rehabilitation facility for minors, following consultations to share ideas and identify best practices with Chile, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic.

Supported by a US\$22.7 million IDB loan approved in 2006, the plan also includes modernizing the Ministry of Interior and Justice, investing in police training to improve skills in working with youth and the community, and strengthening the action and response capability of municipal governments.

The plan stresses prevention. The target community consists of 100,000 at-risk youth, aged 12 to 18, living in low-income, high-crime neighborhoods—where the upsurge in violence has been greatest—in the municipalities of Colon, David, Panama City, and San Miguelito.

The plan calls for investing in education, sports facilities, parks, and family counseling services, and developing an innovative system of student leaders, called “monitors,” who are given short-term training in communicating with their peers.

Monitors offer advice to other students on issues such as peaceful dispute resolution, job and recreational opportunities, and cultural activities.

The results were immediate. The number of homicides dropped from 92 deaths in the first nine months of 2010 to 46 deaths in the first nine months of 2011.

BECOMING MORE EFFECTIVE IN IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY FOR ALL





Public Safety

IDB INITIATIVE: GREATER EFFECTIVENESS TO ACHIEVE PUBLIC SAFETY

The IDB is launching a Public Safety Initiative to support governments address one of the main challenges on international development agendas: curbing a rising tide of crime and violence and achieving greater citizen security. This initiative is focused on contributing to transition towards public management models that will offer a roadmap for greater program effectiveness when applied and tested. For this purpose, the IDB will establish a multidonor trust fund, supplemented by Bank resources, to provide grants for projects with significant demonstration value.

The proposed projects are expected to address three essential issues: development of high quality information, improvement of public management systems, and promotion of a framework for cooperation at both the local, national, regional and international levels.

Information is bedrock of policy programming. Without informational tools, such as accurate and timely statistics, policy makers are placed at a severe disadvantage and investments more likely be less successful. Likewise, the best information and planning is of little use for carrying out a project if the personnel in charge lack management skills and institutional tools.

Cooperation among various government agencies, civil society, and the private sector is essential to successful projects. Much can also be gained from the experiences of neighboring countries and from the resources and standards of the international community.

Under the framework of the initiative, modest initial investments are expected to produce promising projects and results that will attract additional resources from donors around the world, who will help construct new platforms to address public safety with the potential to deliver big payoffs when brought to scale over time.



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