

## TC ABSTRACT

### I. Basic Project Data

Country/Region:	CCB/CCB
TC Name:	Violence Against Women in the Caribbean
TC Number:	RG-T2450
Team Leader/Members:	Team Leader: Arnaldo Posadas (IFD/ICS); Alt. Team Leader: Inder Ruprah (CCB/CCB); Members: Nathalie Alvarado, Heather Sutton, Mary Vriniotis and Alicia Alvarez (IFD/ICS); Diether Beuermann and Desiree Mitchell (CCB/CCB); Clara Alemann and Adria Armbrister (SCL/GDI); Monica Lugo (LEG/LEG).
Type:	R&D
Date of TC Abstract:	June 22, 2014
Beneficiary:	Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname
Executing Agency:	Inter- American Development Bank, IFD/ICS
IDB Funding Requested:	\$990,000
Disbursement period:	24 months
Required start date:	July 30, 2014
Types of consultants:	Firms and individuals
Prepared by Unit:	IFD/ICS with support from CCB/CCB
Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	IFD/ICS
GCI-9 Sector Priority:	Institutions for Growth and Social Welfare - Citizen Security and Social Policy for Equity and Productivity – Gender and Diversity

### II. Objective and Justification

**Justification:** Insecurity is severely undermining public governance in the Caribbean. Of seven Caribbean countries surveyed by UNDP, TT spends the highest proportion of its budget on security (14%; 12% of GDP).<sup>2</sup> Jamaica, with the sixth highest homicide rate in the world and the highest in the Caribbean,<sup>3</sup> spends 7% of its GDP on crime and violence.<sup>4</sup> Understanding the root causes of violence is critical for developing effective prevention policies, which are more cost-effective than investments to cope with violence after it has occurred.<sup>5</sup> There is strong evidence that perpetration of violence is learned at home, as children are abused by and/or witness the abuse of family members, in particular their mothers. Violence against women (VAW) is not only a violation of a basic human right for 50% of the population, but it impedes the ability of women to care for their children, as well as traumatizing the children themselves. Exposure to violence during childhood is a major risk factor for violence perpetration. Childhood exposure to domestic violence is associated with increased aggression and emotional problems, and lower social competence and academic performance, all of which predict violence perpetration later in life.<sup>6</sup>

Nearly 30% of women in LAC experience violence in her lifetime, typically at the hands of an intimate partner.<sup>7</sup> What data exist on VAW in the Caribbean indicate the problem is particularly acute there. UN data indicate rates of VAW across the Caribbean are among the highest in LAC.<sup>8</sup> In the Caribbean there is widespread acceptance of traditional gender norms: Jamaican women are more than twice as likely as their Latina peers to agree women have an obligation to have unwanted sex with their husband (30% vs. <15%).<sup>9</sup> The prevalence of VAW is more difficult than other types of violence and crime to measure well, for multiple

<sup>2</sup> UNDP (2012). *Caribbean Human Development Report 2012*. New York: UNDP. p.148.

<sup>3</sup> UNODC (2013). *Global Study of Homicide*. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/homicide.html>

<sup>4</sup> Clayton, A (2012). *A New Approach: National Security Policy for Jamaica 2012*. Available at: <http://www.cabinet.gov.jm/files/NATIONAL-SECURITY-POLICY-for-JAMAICA-2012.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> WHO (2009). *Violence prevention: The evidence*.

[http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/4th\\_milestones\\_meeting/publications/en/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/4th_milestones_meeting/publications/en/)

<sup>6</sup> Fantuzzo J and Mohr W. (1999). *Prev and effects of childhood exp to dom viol*. *The Future of Children*. 9(3): 21-32.

<sup>7</sup> WHO (2013). *Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence*. p 17.

[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625_eng.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> UN Crime Trends Survey <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/data.html>

<sup>9</sup> Bott S, Guedes A, Goodwin M, Mendoza JA (2012) *Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Washington, DC: PAHO. <http://www2.paho.org/hq/dmdocuments/violence-against-women-lac.pdf>

reasons.<sup>10</sup> Surveys on crime do not take the extra steps needed in terms of survey design and implementation to address these barriers, leading to significant underestimation of the prevalence of the problem. Experts on VAW agree the best data come not from police data or crime surveys, but instead from surveys on women's health. Such surveys are able to avoid labeling VAW as a crime, increase the likelihood that a husband will allow his wife to complete the survey and to do so in private, and increase a woman's own comfort with discussing personal topics with a non-family member.

The World Health Organization conducted a multi-country study that surveyed 24,000 women in 10 countries.<sup>11</sup> This survey has yielded higher estimates of the prevalence of physical, sexual and emotional violence against women than estimates obtained from surveys on crime or other topics. It has enabled the association of partner violence with a range of health outcomes, identified factors that may either protect women from or put them at risk of partner violence, and documented strategies and services that women use to cope with violence by an intimate partner. The WHO methodology demonstrates that a well-written survey in an appropriate context combined with extensive training of administrators can overcome many problems related to measuring VAW.<sup>12</sup> However, while this survey has been done in several Latin American countries, this methodology has yet to be applied to the Caribbean (outside of a similar survey in Jamaica in 2008).

Bringing this survey to the region would enable: the first true assessment of the scope of this problem in the Caribbean, comparisons to both Latin America and the world in this regard, and the development of evidence-based policies and programs via an informed dialogue with governments, NGOs and other stakeholders. It would significantly further the work of the Bank's Citizen Security Cluster by investing in both prevention and women—two critical areas to making meaningful reductions in crime and violence.

**Objective:** The objective of this project is to provide quality data on VAW in the Caribbean through the one-time administration of three national surveys. These surveys will constitute the first regional study of VAW in the Caribbean and will complement the Bank's existing data collection on citizen security<sup>13</sup> in the region by specifically addressing a type of violence that hugely impacts women and children yet cannot be adequately measured in a traditional victimization survey or in police data. This study, which may be augmented by ICS loans to The Bahamas and Guyana that include VAW surveys using the same methodology, will enable the IDB to produce the first regional report on VAW in the Caribbean.

### III. Description of Activities and Outputs

**Component 1- Data Collection:** This TC will finance the administration of household surveys of women's health in Jamaica, TT, and Suriname following the WHO format. This includes extensive training of survey administrators<sup>14</sup>, the hiring of a technical coordinator (to implement the TC, lead data analysis and report writing, and make any needed adjustments to the WHO instrument for Caribbean implementation), the selection of the firm (to design the sample, implement the survey, and prepare the dataset for analysis), and consultations with experts on VAW. The expected output of this component is a comprehensive dataset that will help authorities tailor policies, services and strategies accordingly.

**Component 2- Data Analysis:** Three country-level studies in addition to a cross-country report will be produced in order to obtain cross-fertilization between technical experts and policy makers. These analyses will describe the scope and depth of the problem, as well as the impact of various local VAW policies, which

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<sup>10</sup> Women are less likely to report crimes to the police, not all forms of violence against women are illegal and thus able to be reported to police, women themselves may not view violence perpetrated by a spouse as a problem, women may worry about losing the family's wage earner if he is arrested for domestic violence, women may be unwilling to be labeled as victims, etc.

<sup>11</sup> Garcia-Moreno C, Jansen H, Ellsberg M et al. (2005). *WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women: Initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses*. [http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who\\_multicountry\\_study/en/](http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study/en/)

<sup>12</sup> For example, it is not good practice to ask very sensitive questions early in the survey, before trust between administrator and respondent has been established. Instead, the administrator gradually progresses from easier questions to more difficult ones, without putting loaded labels on the behavior. So instead of asking a woman if her husband is abusive, the administrator would say "Sometimes people get upset or angry. When your husband was upset, did he ever call you a name?" and work your way up to "Did he ever hit you?" "Did he ever kick you?" etc.

<sup>13</sup> See RG-T2196 "Crime and Violence in the Caribbean" and RG-T1525 "Improving Caribbean Competitiveness by Addressing Crime and Violence".

<sup>14</sup> Due to the sensitivity of the subject matter, survey administrators must receive three full weeks of training, as opposed to 1-2 days typically required for surveys. The training provides: strategies for keeping all parties safe, coping mechanisms for secondary exposure to trauma (from women recalling their abuse as well as interviewers potentially being reminded of their own trauma history), and means of putting women at ease and increasing disclosure of violence. In addition, all interviewers must be female, but may need 1-2 others to accompany them for safety and/or to conduct a dummy survey with other members of the household present.

will facilitate the mainstreaming of population-specific prevention and treatment approaches. The studies will combine existing information with the newly generated data. The expected output is a comprehensive analysis/diagnostic with policy/program ramifications for three countries in the region.

**Component 3- Results Dissemination:** This component will promote within country, between countries, and IDB-country dialogue and dissemination on this issue through (i) a regional seminar, (ii) various publications using primary and secondary data that will serve as input for country strategies (e.g. policy briefs, working papers, journal articles) and (iii) a knowledge repository to facilitate data access by third parties interested in the topic.

#### IV. Budget

Activity/Component	Description	IDB/Fund Funding	Total Funding
<b>Component 1.1</b> Data Collection	3 national surveys administered <sup>15</sup>	<b>738,000</b>	<b>738,000</b>
<b>Component 1.2</b> Technical Assistance	Advice re: survey and sample design, firm selection	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Component 1.3</b> Regional Coordination	Technical Coordinator to manage & execute the day-to-day TC activities (0.5 FTE)	<b>98,000</b>	<b>98,000</b>
<b>Component 2</b> Data Analysis	Researcher to assist with data analyses & report writing in yr 2	<b>80,000</b>	<b>80,000</b>
<b>Component 3</b> Dissemination	One regional seminar Printing/dissemination of materials	<b>64,000</b>	<b>64,000</b>

#### V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

As this TC will generate knowledge and dissemination products originated by the Bank, the operation will be implemented by IFD/ICS with support from CCB/CCB. The project team will obtain non-objection letters from the countries in advance of local activity. The TC will be implemented over 24 months. The IDB will conduct the procurement of consulting services required for TC implementation, according to the Bank's policies and procedures.

#### VI. Project Risks and Issues

This is a fiduciary and governance low-risk project. There is a risk of inadequate quality of data generated due to sensitivity of the topic (e.g., women may be unwilling to participate or to answer questions honestly). To mitigate this, 1) the world's foremost expert on surveying VAW will both select survey administrators and train them over an extensive three-week period on proper protocol to safely maximize the response rate and disclosure of victimization, as well as approve the final survey instrument and 2) local women likely to engender trust from respondents will be selected for survey administration. Secondly, there is a risk that results of the survey will not be used by governments or other local stakeholders. This will be mitigated by 1) obtaining letters of no-objection from the governments, 2) involving at least one government employee and one local NGO member (both working in the area of VAW) in the implementation process, and 3) a variety of dissemination strategies that maximize the reach of the results and include recommendations for changes in policy and programs as applicable.

#### VII. Environmental and Social Classification

There are no environmental or social risks associated with the activities outlined in this TC, therefore its environmental classification is "C" (See [IDBDOCS-#38879752](#) and [IDBDOCS-#38879729](#)).

<sup>15</sup> 24% research personnel, 22% survey personnel, 17% training, 17% travel, 10% Androids, 10% local collaborators