

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic project data

- Country/Region: México
- TC Name: Understanding and Preventing youth violence in Mexican Juvenile Centers
- TC Number: ME-T1253
- Team Leader/Members: Karelia Villa, Team Leader; Lina Marmolejo; Andrés Restrepo (IFD/ICS); and Alicia Alvarez (IFD/ICS).
- Indicate if: Research and Dissemination
- Reference to Request: N/A
- Date of TC Abstract: June, 2014
- Beneficiary: México
- Executing Agency and contact name: Fundación Cauce Ciudadano
- IDB Funding Requested: US\$ 500,000
- Local counterpart funding, if any: US\$20,000
- Disbursement period (which includes execution period): 24 months
- Required start date: October 1st, 2014
- Types of consultants (firm or individual consultants): individual consultants
- Prepared by Unit: IFD/ICS
- Unit of Disbursement Responsibility: IFD/ICS
- Included in Country Strategy (y/n): Yes TC included in CPD (y/n): Yes
- GCI-9 Sector Priority: Institutions for Growth and Social Welfare; Citizen Security

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 Understanding the dynamics of Mexican Preventive Centers is crucial as it is one of the components of the juvenile justice system for that require the most attention. The way prisons and also Preventive Centers are used in Mexico are from the ideal of having the institutions work to reintegrate inmates into society, to rehabilitate them and transform violent behavior. The rate of prison population has increased to 124% occupancy. One of every three inmates in the country is located in the Centers located in the Federal District, State of Mexico and Jalisco, this has led to overpopulation and overcrowding in the centers. This dynamic, associated with the high rates of violence inside the Centers are part of everyday dynamics, are often creating fights and riot. Therefore, there is the need to generate processes prevent and decrease of these events and provide youth with the necessary skills and tools to face conflict and violence from a different perspective.
- 2.2 The general objective of this technical cooperation is to generate applied knowledge and methodologies for crime prevention and reduction of violent and aggressive behavior for at-risk youth in Mexico. The specific objectives are to: (i) determine the effectiveness of the Cauce-Cure Violence prevention/Interruption model through an intervention in three prevention centers¹ and their associated neighborhoods in Mexico, and (ii) the development of a learning agenda and a combined strategy for North-South and South-South cooperation efforts to strengthen youth violence prevention.
- 2.3 These objectives will be met by a series of exchange visits over the course of the TC which will include assessments, trainings, implementation, and evaluation of the effectiveness of the collaboration.
- 2.4 This TC builds upon similar activities undertaken by the Bank in Trinidad and Tobago and in Barranquilla,² to generate applied knowledge and methodologies for crime prevention targeting particularly at-risk youth in urban areas. The main focus of these interventions is to detect and interrupt violence and in communities affected by youth violence and gang confrontations, as well as,

¹ Criteria to select Prevention Centers include: geographical proximity to Mexico City; demonstrated needs (concentration of youth population involved in gang activity); identification and participation of credible messengers and leaders; willingness to implement the intervention (Cauce Ciudadano has already been working to ensure buying of correctional authorities).

²A Feasibility Study and Adaptation Evaluation of the Cure Violence model in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Barranquilla, Colombia (RG-T2210).

offer different instruments to mediate conflict and change attitudes and social norms that promote violence.

- 2.5 The Cure Violence intervention to be adapted is a scientifically proven³, cost-effective⁴, public health approach that anticipates and interrupts transmission of risk events and changes the social norms and behaviors that perpetuate violence. Cure Violence, which employs a public health approach, works to interrupt the cycle of violence and to change norms about behavior. This is achieved through its three core activities, interrupt transmission; identify and change the thinking of highest risk transmitters; and changing group norms. Additionally, data and monitoring are used at all levels to measure and provide constant feedback to the system. The Cure Violence adapted the model to the context of prison in a pilot program at Cookham Wood Youth Detention Center with a local British community partner Surviving Our Streets in January-December 2013. According to an evaluation performed by London Metropolitan University, the program saw and a 38% reduction in overall violent incidents, 95% reduction in group attacks, 44% reduction in adjudications, and a 74% reduction in “keep apart lists” (groups and people having to be separated because of ongoing conflicts).
- 2.6 The Cauce Ciudadano model works to prevent and confront the vast and growing crisis of youth violence and crime in Mexico. Cauce Ciudadano’s vision is to transform youth involved in violent activity into nodes of nonviolent and leadership, through a vision of social change, alternative mechanisms for conflict resolution and positive role models. Because the Cauce methodology focuses on gang leadership within specific bodies (schools, preventive centers, prisons, etc.), many of the individuals it targets have significant influence over large numbers of other youth who participate in organized violence. A young person who goes through the criminal system in Mexico has a 92% probability of relapse. Through its programs, Cauce reduces this relapse index to 26%.

III. Description of activities

- 3.1 Component 1: Design and pilot of the Cauce-Cure Violence model intervention. The objective of this component is to adapt the Cauce-Cure Violence, violence prevention/Interruption model in three prevention centers and their associated neighborhoods to reduce the number of violent incidents both inside the centers and in their associated neighborhoods in Mexico. Specifically, this component will finance the following activities: (i) pre-implementation and assessment; (ii) knowledge exchange and study tours; and (iii) training, technical assistance and implementation.
- 3.2 Component 2: Monitoring and Evaluation. The objective of this component is to measure the effectiveness and impact of the program, and test its potential replicability in other Mexican prevention centers. This component will finance technical assistance to: (i) manage the overall program; (ii) design and develop a rigorous evaluation of the implementation of the Cauce-Cure Violence model; (iii) conduct an analysis report and dissemination of the evaluation including recommendations for the replication of the program in other Mexican prevention centers.
- 3.3 Component 3: Knowledge Management and Dissemination. The objective of this component is to improve knowledge and evidence about violence interruption models and interventions for at-risk youth. It will also support north-south and south-south cooperation on the prevention of crime and violence. This component will finance the following activities: (i) conduct an analysis, documentation and systematization of the activities and results of this initiative extracting lessons learned; (ii) carry out a regional seminar for the exchange of experiences and good practices among different countries of the LAC region where similar activities have been implemented.

³ External evaluations of Cure Violence’s programs in Chicago, Baltimore, and New York have demonstrated significant reductions in shootings and killings in the target areas. In Chicago, for example, all seven of the communities analyzed experienced reductions in shootings in the range of 27% to 73% with 16% to 28% of these specifically attributable to Cure Violence. In Baltimore, the evaluation found statistically significant reductions in all four communities studied, with reductions in homicides as high as 54% and reductions in shootings as high as 44%. In New York the evaluation found that Cure Violence areas had 20% lower shootings and killings.

⁴ The cost savings to the City of Baltimore during the Ceasefire evaluation period were estimated to be US\$5.1 million. (April 27th Congressional Briefing on Youth Violence. Baltimore Public Health Department, Washington DC 2012). It is expected that, in addition to reducing the number of violent incidents, implementation of the CeaseFire program in Trinidad and Tobago can potentially lead to savings for the respective governments because of less money spent on hospitalizations from gunshot wounds, police investigations, and incarceration.

IV. Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	Description	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding ⁵	Total Funding
1. Design and pilot of the Cauce-Cure Violence model intervention		330,000		
	Pre-implementation and assessment	50,000		
	Knowledge exchange and study tours	70,000		
	Training, technical assistance and implementation	200,000		
2. Monitoring and Evaluation		160,000		
	Management	10,000	20,000	
	Impact Evaluation Design	40,000		
	Impact Evaluation Implementation	100,000		
	Results Study	10,000		
3. Knowledge Management and Dissemination		20,000		
	Documentation	10,000		
	Regional Seminar	10,000		
Total		500,000	20,000	520,000

V. Executing agency and execution structure

5.1 This TC will be implemented by Cuce Ciudadano, which already has extensive experience in implementing youth violence prevention programs. Cauce Ciudadano will assign a general manager for this TC in order to coordinate strategic actions and conduct the procurement of consulting services required for the implementation of the TC, according to the Bank’s policies and procedures. This TC will be implemented over a period of 18 months with a disbursement period of 24 months, effective from the date of signature of the TC agreement.

VI. Project Risks and issues

6.1 A preliminary risk assessment may include: (i) a lack of sustainability of the project past the two years of IDB funding. This risk will be mitigated by the involvement of the executing foundation, which has a long history of working in the beneficiary communities and extensive experience in the implementation of youth violence prevention programs; (ii) a lack of incentives and motivation of youth to participate in the program, and embrace it. This risk will be mitigated by developing the activities in the prevention centers in which Cauce Ciudadano has already worked and built a relationship with the youth and also with the surrounded communities.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

7.1 This TC is not anticipated to have direct environmental or social impacts and is expected to be classified as a “C” according to the Safeguard Classification Tool. No environmental impact is foreseen as the initiative is limited to the implementation of software based services. No Bank resources will be used to finance investments in infrastructure or large scale equipment.(IDBDOCS-#38893258 y IDBDOCS-#38893278)

⁵ Counterpart funding will be in kind contribution.