

TC ABSTRACT
Improving Analytical Capacity for Crime and Violence Statistics in Belize
BL-T1056

I. Basic Project data:

- Country: Belize
- TC Name: Improving Analytical Capacity for Crime and Violence Statistics in Belize
- TC Number: BL-T1056
- Members: Alexandre Veyrat-Pontet (ICS/CPN), project team leader; Andrés Restrepo (IFD/ICS), co-team leader; Jennifer Peirce (IFD/ICS); Vanessa Lynch (CID/CBL); Blanca Torrico (IFD/ICS)
- Indicate if: Operational support
- Reference to Request: [*](#)
- Date of TC Abstract: 25 June 2013
- Beneficiary (countries or entities which are the recipient of the technical assistance): Belize
- Executing Agency and contact name (Organization or entity responsible for executing the TC Program): Inter-American Development Bank.
- IDB Funding Requested: US\$180,000
- Local counterpart funding, if any: US\$20,000
- Disbursement period (which includes execution period): 30 months
- Required start date: July 2013
- Types of consultants (firm or individual consultants): firms and individuals
- Prepared by Unit: IFD/ICS
- Unit of Disbursement Responsibility: ICS/CBL
- Included in Country Strategy (y/n); TC included in CPD (y/n): Yes
- GCI-9 Sector Priority: Institutions for Growth and Social Welfare; Citizen Security

II. Objective and justification:

As part of both Central America and the Caribbean, Belize has experienced an increase in crime and violence rates, particularly in the last decade; this increase constitutes a regional trend. For Belize this increase in violence is manifested in a dramatic rise (150%) in the homicide rate (from 16 homicides for every 100,000 inhabitants in 2010 to 41 homicides for every 100,000 inhabitants in 2010)¹. Given Belize's small population (approximately 330,000), any increases in crime and violence affect most people. In addition, Belizeans have been hit by growing unemployment (8% to 14%²) and a higher poverty rate (22% to 42%³), while 32% of youths are considered "unattached" ("ni-ni")⁴. It must be noted that the greatest concentration of crime and violence in the country is in urban areas: while the national homicide rate for 2012 was 46.7 for every 100,000 inhabitants⁵, in Belize City it is 106, and it is even higher for the Southside area of the city⁶. This increasing trend also applies to other types of crimes, which have increased in 2.6% since 2011⁷. There are also significant challenges in terms of the functioning of security and justice institutions, as well as citizens' trust in these public institutions. It has been estimated that only 57% of

¹ Julie López. Organized Crime and Insecurity in Belize. Inter-American Dialogue, January 2013. p. 1.

² Central America Integration System (SICA), Secretaria de la Integración Social Centroamericana (SISCA), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and Interpeace. National Public Policy Proposal: Prevention of Youth-Involved Violence in Belize, 2012-2022. p 26.

³ This refers to youth who are neither in school nor employed. National Human Development Advisory Committee – Ministry of Economic, Trade and Industrial Development and Consumer Protection (2010). Belize Poverty Evaluation. User-friendly version.

⁴ SICA. p 27.

⁵ Joint Intelligence Coordinating Centre, Belize Police Department. Annual Statistical Report 2012. February 6, 2013. p. 16.

⁶ UNODC 2010; Government of Belize (2009). National Consultation of Draft 9 Poverty Assessment.

⁷ Joint Intelligence Coordinating Committee, Belize Police Department, 2012, p1.

crimes are reported to the police due (primarily due to the public's lack of trust in institutions)⁸, while at the same time the conviction rate from 1999-2007 was 1 in 10 murders, due to weaknesses in the investigative process, such as lack of planning, targeting and information sharing, among others.⁹

The Government of Belize (GBL) has made great efforts to address insecurity through juvenile violence prevention projects and multi-sector policies such as the Horizon 2030 Long Term National Development Framework, the National Youth Policy Proposal (2011)¹⁰, and the RESTORE Belize Program and Strategic Plan (2011-2015), among others. As part of these efforts, the GBL requested support from the Bank in order to strengthen their institutional response for violence prevention. In response to this request, the "Community Action for Public Safety" (CAPS) (BL-L014) loan was approved in December 2010 for an amount of US\$ 5 million. The objective of the CAPS is to contribute to the reduction of youth involvement in major violent crime in Belize City by: (i) reducing youth involvement in criminal activities and youth violent behavior in the schools which are beneficiary of the program resources; (ii) reducing recidivism among youth in the intervened juvenile rehabilitation institutions and (iii) enhancing the government's capacity to formulate and implement evidence-based policies on public safety through the Interagency Public Safety Management Information System (IPSMIS).

For the IDB, citizen security is a crucial issue for the overall social and economic development of Belize, as the high rates of crime and violence have serious effects on the business environment, tourism, public expenditures, and generalized public trust in government institutions.¹¹ Although it is not an explicit priority in the IDB Country Strategy for Belize, citizen security continues to be an important topic in IDB-GBL dialogue, particularly related to institutional strengthening and social protection. One of the central challenges identified in most analyses of the security situation in Belize is the lack of basic data about crime and violence, as well as links to other data such as on social and individual risk factors, the actions and impacts of different prevention interventions and the functioning of the police, justice, and corrections systems. The Belize government has set out some important policy plans, but evidence-based policies (much less impact evaluations) are not viable without reliable, complete, updated information or without the expertise to comprehensively analyze such information. Given this, CAPS includes the development of an information system as the base for implementing sound public policies – the Interagency Public Safety Management Information System (IPSMIS).

Nevertheless, there is an identified need in Belize for further technical and financial support specifically focusing on the effective implementation of the information system, in particular in terms of management and analysis of data. Even once the IPSMIS is operational, there is an ongoing need for stronger capacity to analyze connections between basic incident information and important information about context and risk factors (e.g. social, education, and family situation of perpetrators and victims), the management of cases (e.g. response of different agencies, victim services, status in justice system, eventual recidivism of perpetrator, etc.). The GBL has requested the design and implementation of an Observatory of crime and violence indicators (as a way to organize and apply IPSMIS and other data), as well as training to build expertise in analyzing and disseminating the information collectively gathered by the IPSMIS system included in CAPS. The CAPS only covers the establishment of the IPSMIS, and in order for the information

⁸ United Nations Development Program, UNDP (2009). Opening Spaces to Citizen Security and Human Development. Human Development Report for Central America, 2009-2010. UNDP 2009, op. cit, p. 245

⁹ Crooks Report for Police Reform, http://www.belizepolice.bz/download/crooks_report.pdf

¹⁰ The Youth Policy has five priority goals set by youth: participation, socio-economic opportunity, education, health and well-being, and protection. See SICA et al, 2012, p. 14

¹¹ IDB Technical Note: Citizen Security in Belize. May 2013.

system to be useful in policymaking and measuring trends and impacts, additional investments are needed in the quality of the information and in government officials' ability to use that information.

This proposed technical cooperation responds to the two of the IDB Citizen Security Initiative priorities: information and analysis on security challenges, and institutional management and evaluation (in particular using information systems to build and evaluate evidence-based policy). This is a crucial foundation for the broader objectives of the IDB-funded CAPS project, and for Belize's public policy development on citizen security more generally. Additionally, this proposal will provide much-needed technical expertise and capacity-building for public officials that will support the execution of all elements of the CAPS project – beyond just the information system.

Objective: The objective of this TC is to improve the quality, analysis, application, and dissemination of information related to crime and violence in Belize, as well as to support the implementation of the IDB CAPS loan operation, through the design and implementation of an observatory for crime and violence and through data analysis and application training for public officials and other stakeholders.

This Technical Cooperation (TC) is aligned with the Bank corporate priorities regarding: (i) the Regional Development Goals GCI-9 to contribute to poverty and THCH reduction and to and benefit come cities with the citizen security programs implementation, (ii) the Growth and Institutions for Social Welfare (GN 2587-2) Sector Strategy, (iii) the Operational Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of Programs in Public Safety (GOSC) (GN-2535-1). It is also aligned with the priorities of the SICA Regional Security Strategy (Estrategia de Seguridad para Centroamérica, ESCA), particularly in its institutional strengthening component¹². It also aligns with the parameters of the CAPS operation and the general lines of dialogue between the IDB and the GBL on citizen security issues.¹³

III. Description of components/activities:

Component 1: Improvement of the quality of information provided by the IPSMIS. The objective of this component is to improve the specificity, consistency, and reliability of the information on crime and violence provided to the IPSMIS by government entities and analyzed by the Observatory. The following activities will be financed by his component: (i) a study that will identify existing voids in or problems with the information provided to the IPSMIS and the corresponding information flow through the IPSMIS (including how frequently the information is updated and which entity provides what information), and also provide a set of recommendations; (ii) based on the recommendations, development of guidelines for standardized registration of information about incidents of crime and violence; and (iii) design and delivery of training for relevant personnel of the IPSMIS, the Observatory, and other relevant entities (such as the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports (MoEdY), Ministry of Human Development and Social Transformation (MHDST), Ministry of Health (MH), Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) and the Ministry of Police and Public Security (MPPS)) on how to collect and organize different types of information in a more standardized way.

Component 2: Strengthen institutional capacities for the management and analysis of the data on crime and violence. The objective of this component is to train the Observatory's personnel to enable them to analyze information in a comprehensive, regular and reliable way. The activities to be financed under this component are: (i) Design of training material (including on-line material) for the observatory's personnel

¹² Hacia una Centroamérica Segura, Estrategia de Seguridad de Centroamérica, SICA 2011.

¹³ As outlined in the May 2013 Technical Note and the May 2013 Policy Dialogue event.

in data processing and analysis (including international best practices); (ii) Training workshops for the observatory's personnel based on the aforementioned material and following international best practices on indicators; (iii) Design (and printing, in the case of paper material) of dissemination products for policy-makers as well as relevant stakeholders in order to raise awareness about the observatory and its mandate; (iv) final evaluation in order to assess the how the availability of data and more trained personnel expected to be achieved through this TC has affected the design and implementation of evidence-based policies on public safety.

IV. Budget

Activity	Description	IDB	Counterpart	Total
Component 1		45,000		45,000
	• Diagnostic study for the identification of existing voids in the information provided by the IPSMIS and recommendations;	10,000		10,000
	• Development of guidelines for standardized registration of incidents of crime and violence	15,000		15,000
	• Design and delivery of training for relevant personnel of these entities on the collection and organization of data.	20,000		20,000
Component 2		50,000	20,000	80,000
	• Design of training material (including on-line material) for the observatory's personnel in data collection, processing and analysis;	10,000	5,000	20,000
	• Training workshops for the observatory's personnel based on the aforementioned material and following international best practices on indicators	20,000	10,000	30,000
	• Design of dissemination products for policy-makers as well as relevant stakeholders in order to raise awareness about the observatory and its mandate;	10,000	5,000	20,000
	• Evaluation of training.	10,000		10,000
Incidentals		10,000		10,000
Project Coordination and Management		75,000		75,000
	<i>*These resources will also support, complementarily, the acceleration plan for BL-L1014.</i>			
	• Coordination activities with all agencies and actors providing or handling crime and violence data and information;	15,000		15,000
	• Consultant fees – coordination and management of activities and resources, and support to acceleration and implementation of BL-L1014;	35,000		35,000
	• Workshops and technical dialogue with international experts on Observatories in the region (Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay, Chile) and internationally.	15,000		15,000
	• Final evaluation.	10,000		10,000
TOTAL		180,000	20,000	200,000

V. Executing agency and structure

The TC will be executed by the Inter-American Development Bank (ICS/CPN and ICS/CBL) with the support of a consultant to be hired for the overall Project Coordination and Management (in Belize). The consultant will report to the Team Leader and ensure the coordination among all the institutions involved.

The IDB will be the executing agency, in accordance with the Operating Guidelines for Technical Cooperation Products (GN-2629-1), which establish that the Bank can be the executing agency for Technical Cooperations when there is a requirement for rapid access to technical support and expertise, previously justified. This helps to diminish the risk of delays in the timeline of the TC and in the Bank's programs.

VI. Projects risks and issues

The main risk associated with this TC is to the complexity of its execution due to the variety of local stakeholders to be engaged in the different components. In particular, the successful implementation of the TC will require effective and timely coordination among personnel from MoEdY, MHDST, MH, SIB and the MPPS because they all contribute to monitoring crime, play a crucial role in reporting crimes, and will have to be engaged in the trainings and in the understanding of the indicators. Such complexity can result in delays in the delivery of trainings and dissemination of the use of the platform.

This risk will be mitigated through the hiring of a Consultant for the overall project management and coordination. Among other things, the consultant will ensure the effective engagement of all the relevant institutions by facilitating the communication among the focal people as well as through informal periodical steering meetings.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

No negative environmental or social impacts are expected. According to the document "Environment and Safeguards Compliance Guidelines" (PO-703), this TC is classified as category "C". [IDBDOCS# 37856527](#)