

Technical Cooperation (TC) Abstract

I. Basic project data

▪ Country/Region:	REGIONAL
▪ TC Name:	Open Dialogue and knowledge exchange on Citizen Security
▪ TC Number:	RG-T2658
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Norma Peña (IFD/ICS, team leader), Karelia Villa (IFD/ICS), Rodrigo Serrano (IFD/ICS), Arnaldo Posadas (IFD/ICS), Florencia Cabral (IFD/ICS) y Mónica Lugo (SGO/LEG).
▪ Indicate if: Operational Support, Client Support, or Research & Dissemination.	Research and Dissemination
▪ Reference to Request:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	June 4, 2015
▪ Beneficiary:	26 IDB borrowing member countries.
▪ Executing Agency and contact name:	Inter-American Development Bank
▪ IDB Funding Requested:	US\$145,000
▪ Local counterpart funding, if any:	N/A
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months (execution period: 18 months)
▪ Required start date:	July 2015
▪ Types of consultants:	Firm
▪ Prepared by Unit:	IFD/ICS
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	IFD/ICS
▪ Included in Country Strategy:	N/A
▪ TC included in CPD:	N/A
▪ GCI-9 Sector Priority:	Institutions for Growth and Social Welfare

II. Objective and Justification

2.1 There is little doubt that elevated levels of crime and violence are top priorities for Latin American and Caribbean governments. To date, most of the research and debates about violence have focused on homicide rates per 100,000, in large part because this measurement, while not uniform, provides the most reliable indicator of violence and allows for a comparative regional, and even global, ranking¹. Additionally, the economic and social impacts of this violence, as well as perceptions of insecurity and trust in government², have been widely studied.

2.2 This project proposes to move beyond the study and impact of homicides to explore a critical underlying factor that appears to be contributing to violence, particularly youth violence³. Specifically, we propose to study the dynamics around domestic violence,

¹ The homicide rate for Latin America and the Caribbean is 23.7 homicides per 100.000 inhabitants, while the global average is 6.2 homicides per 100.000 (UNODC, Global Study on Homicide, 2013). LAC has 8% of the global population but accounts for 31% of global homicides.

² Public opinion surveys such as those conducted by Latinobarómetro and LAPOP have included systematic information on the perception of insecurity and levels of trust. Insecurity is the main concern for citizens; it surpassed unemployment in 2009 (nearly 30% of citizens consider crime as the main problem of the region). Sixty percent of people in the largest cities think that security has worsened in the past five years.

³ In LAC, both the perpetrators and the victims of crime and violence are mainly young people between 15 and 29 years of age (UNODC, Global Study on Homicide, 2013).

primarily against women⁴ and children⁵, with an eye toward determining its role as a driver of other forms of social violence as well as membership in youth gangs. Based on empirical research, we propose to develop new approaches to addressing the chronic problem of domestic violence that is too often invisible and has pernicious effects in feeding cycles of violence⁶.

2.3 The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will work jointly with the Latin American Program (LAP) of the Woodrow Wilson Center (WWC) to conduct research, roundtables, and public discussions on the issue of domestic violence and its relevance as an incubator for greater social violence. Together, the IDB and the WWC will identify leading experts who can develop empirical research that addresses 1) the factors (cultural, socio-economic, situational) that drive domestic violence; 2) the linkages, if any, between domestic violence and youth gangs; and 3) innovative policy approaches to reduce violence within families. The WWC has decades of experience in conducting research, conferences, and publications aimed at deepening the understanding of the Latin American and Caribbean context, and within it, the citizen security and justice situation. It possess a variety of scholars as well as a global network of experts, alumni, and partners, and influential actors in the US and LAC. An active social media presence and online tools extend its outreach to a global audience.

2.4 These studies will constitute the basis of an informed policy discussion in a geographically diverse number of countries. A series of three roundtable discussions and public for a will be organized in Latin America and Washington, D.C., targeting government authorities from a range of ministries, policy experts, representatives of non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and advocacy groups, to debate and refine the policy implications of the commissioned research. This discussion will generate a set of policy lessons and approaches that the IDB and Wilson Center would disseminate using a variety of mediums, including active use of social media. Consideration will be given to enlisting the support of celebrity actors, musicians, and other cultural figures in campaigns against domestic violence.

2.5 This project is a fundamental step in an ongoing process of research and dialogue around strategies to raise awareness about domestic violence as a key aspect of the debate about improving citizen security. We will aim to bridge knowledge gaps; strengthen consensus-building among relevant actors and institutions; and build a more technical and practical

⁴ In Latin America and the Caribbean, the World Health Organization has estimated that one out of every three women has been victim of physical or sexual violence by a partner ever (WHO, 2012). Four out of ten murders of women in the region are the result of violence from an intimate partner or family member (UNODC, 2013).

⁵ Children exposed to domestic violence (DV) show impaired socio-emotional functioning and educational outcomes in adolescence and lower job performance, job stability, and earnings in adulthood (Holt, Buckley, and Whelan 2008). Children exposed to DV present higher infant mortality rates (Jejeebhoy 1998), lower vaccination rates (Kishor and Johnson 2004), and lower birth weight (Campbell 2002) than children (and their mothers) without exposure to DV.

⁶ Children exposed to DV face a greater likelihood of being abused themselves, increasing their risk-taking behaviors in adolescence, including alcohol consumption, drug use, and early sex initiation (World Bank 2003). Girls who witness their mothers being victims of DV are twice as likely to experience DV (and intimate partner violence) later in life, and boys show an increased risk of becoming perpetrators when they grow up (Kishor and Johnson 2004).

dialogue around this issue and its relevance for other more visible forms of crime and violence. In short, we aim to improve the knowledge base about domestic violence and its multiplier effect of as a driver of broader societal violence, and to consider possible policy approaches for reducing both.

III. Description of activities:

- 3.1 Component 1. Establishing an empirical basis for understanding the relationship between domestic violence and broader social violence and criminality: the objective of this component is to contribute to the knowledge base about violence and homicides in Latin America by examining the links between domestic violence and other forms of violence, particularly youth gangs. Domestic violence is often understood as a cultural factor that does not merit the involvement of law enforcement authorities, while youth gang violence is rarely understood as a by-product of other social factors that can be effectively engaged. In seeking to establish these links, this research will enable a richer and more informed policy discussion about ways to reduce violence in a region that has the perverse distinction of being the most violent in the world. The first six to nine months of this technical cooperation agreement will be devoted to identifying authors and generating research on domestic violence in six countries where levels of homicides are high or youth gangs are prevalent, focusing on the adequacy of information, the existing legal and policy frameworks for addressing domestic violence, and the contribution domestic violence makes to other manifestations of social violence. The research should help identify aspects of a public policy agenda as well as potential future areas of IDB work in the region.
- 3.2 Component 2. Encourage greater dialogue among policy makers, the international donor community, and civil society about the importance of addressing domestic violence: the purpose of this component is to foster greater dialogue and collaboration among policy makers in key countries already experiencing a high degree of violence. During the second half of the project we will organize public meetings in the region and in Washington, D.C., to discuss the findings of the commissioned research and its principal policy implications. Drawing on their contacts and networks in Latin America and the Caribbean, the IDB and the Wilson Center will organize meetings in diverse sub-regions (the Caribbean, Central America, Andes, and Southern Cone), bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders and seeking maximum media coverage and visibility.
- 3.3 Component 3. Generate new policy approaches to address domestic violence and break the cycles of violence it unleashes: The objective of this component is to generate a policy framework for addressing domestic violence based on the knowledge generated through the research and dialogue phases of this project. Activities under this component include: (i) publication of a summary document about lessons learned; (ii) preparation of short policy briefs in key areas such as the role of law enforcement, promising approaches to prevention; and how to engage the public; and (iii) external dissemination of research results. Project research, policy briefs and lessons learned documents will be distributed in print and electronic format to all relevant authorities in Bank borrowing member countries. The project team will also work with the Bank's KNL office to systematize and disseminate knowledge products and with the EXR team to promote events through press releases, Infolinks, and other media instruments.

3.4 Expected results: (i) Documentation of the multiplier effect domestic violence has on broader social violence; (ii) Greater public and government awareness about the multiplier effect of domestic violence via the organization of roundtable discussions (one in Washington and two in the region). Roundtable discussions will include governmental authorities at the highest levels, local experts, civil society and private sector actors to consider the research results and to exchange knowledge, experiences, and policy alternatives; and (iii) Generation of actionable ideas for reducing domestic violence and mitigating its long-term effects. This policy framework will be based on the “lessons learned” document as well as on the policy briefs focusing on critical areas for public policy.

3.5 Main outputs: (i) Foundational empirical research and case studies to identify the multiplier effect of domestic violence; (ii) Three roundtable discussions to present research results and gather additional knowledge via dialogue with local experts; and (iii) Development of a policy framework supported by lessons learned and policy briefs publications.

IV. Indicative Budget

Activity/ Component	Description	IDB/Fund Funding	Total Funding
Component 1: Deepening understanding of the multiplier effect of domestic violence			
Commissioned empirical research	Literature review to identify knowledge gaps and define research questions Foundational empirical research and empirical research and case studies	50,000 – includes editing, translation, layout and design	50,000
Component 2: Fostering dialogue with policy makers and civil society			
Roundtable discussions	Three roundtable discussion including one in Washington and three regional meetings (logistics, travel)	75,000	75,000
Component 3: Developing a policy agenda for reducing domestic violence			
Publications	Production and dissemination of case studies, policy briefs, and lessons learned document for print and electronic dissemination	20,000	20,000
Total:		145,000	145,000

V. Executing agency and execution structure:

5.1 This TC will be executed by the IDB through the Institutional Capacity of the State (IFD/ICS) division. The Bank has been selected as an Executing Agency for the following reasons: this is a research and dissemination TC originated by the Bank with the purpose of deepening the knowledge on domestic violence and citizen security. Also the Bank has valuable experience in promoting and carrying out these types of public forums and

dissemination activities in this area, and can link this TC with other exchange scenarios such as the Regional Policy Dialogue and the Training Clinic. Violence against women, youth violence, and domestic violence are embedded in the pillar of social prevention of violence of the Citizen Security Framework, and then, constitute a priority for the IBD's knowledge and operational work. The Woodrow Wilson Center will support the Bank in the selection of the experts for the preparation of the publications. Taking into account the WWC's network on the topics of the TC, the WWC will support the Bank in the dissemination and preparation process of the roundtables.

VI. Project Risks and issues

- 6.1 When tackling citizen security and justice topics, there is usually a risk of political controversies among some actors in LAC beneficiary countries. This potential risk will be mitigated by sharing the publications and planning the events in consultation with the directly involved countries including the EXD of the IDB. Yet, violence against women, domestic violence, and youth violence are over time more present in the agendas of the countries as well as in the public opinion, the media, and other actors. Therefore, not much resistance or controversy is expected around these topics.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

- 7.1 According to the Environment and Safeguards Compliance Policy (OP-703), the TC has been classified as category C. No potential negative environmental and/or social impacts of the TC were identified and therefore no mitigation strategy is required to address any impact. See [IDBDOCS-#39665358](#).