TC ABSTRACT

I.   BASIC PROJECT DATA

▪ Country/Region:	Regional
▪ TC Name:	Promoting Citizen Security through Social Innovation: Technology platforms to develop high-impact solutions for youth crime prevention in LAC
▪ TC Number:	RG-T2671
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Carlos Guaipatin (IFD/CTI), team leader, Liora Schwartz (IFD/CTI), Mariela Rizo (IFD/CTI) and Rodrigo Serrano (IFD/ICS)
▪ Taxonomy:	Knowledge and Dissemination
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	June 15, 2015
▪ Beneficiary:	Countries of the Southern Cone (CSC) and the Andean Group (CAN)
▪ Executing Agency and contact name	Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
▪ IDB Funding Requested:	USD 350,000
▪ Local counterpart funding, if any:	No
▪ Disbursement period (which includes execution period):	24 months
▪ Required start date:	September 1, 2015
▪ Types of consultants:	Firms and individual consultants
▪ Prepared by Unit:	IFD/CTI
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	IFD/CTI

II.   OBJECTIVE AND JUSTIFICATION

2.1 Social problems arise when people do not have access to labor markets, products, and public services, and thus have no means to reveal their preferences and challenges, either to the market or to the government. Today there is increasing awareness and recognition that innovation and breakthrough technologies are a force to be reckoned with to solve social problems, and that working directly with the final beneficiaries and civil society is an essential component of social innovation.[1]

2.2 Since 2008, the Innovation Lab (I-Lab),[2] born out of the Competitiveness and Innovation Division (CTI) at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has been promoting innovative solutions that were developed directly with and for the excluded communities: people, who find themselves outside of markets and who are often marginalized. The I-Lab has worked extensively on issues of inclusion and technology, exploring the potential of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and other technologies in increasing the inclusion of

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[1]   Especially the economic crisis of 2008 showed the importance of using innovation to produce not only economic benefits, but to solve other challenges of society, where the traditional approach to innovation was inadequate (OECD, 2011).

[2]   The I-Lab is a platform that identifies the major development challenges faced by the region, and then, through the exchange of ideas, identifies high-impact solutions to these challenges. For more information on the I-Lab please go to www.bidinnovacion.org/en

marginalized and vulnerable groups. These experiences have led to a greater focus on the topic and the freestanding initiative has now morphed into a multi-pronged umbrella that engages technology and innovation methodologies to reduce poverty and promote inclusion.

2.3   Technology is an essential tool to facilitate and build channels of collaboration among different groups. The first step in the I-Lab's approach has been to design technology-related tools that enable marginalized people to communicate their challenges and needs. Particularly this has been achieved through a series of calls for problems and solutions, using "crowdsourcing"[3] to identify the needs of the beneficiaries and implementing the knowledge of universities and the private sector to promote new high-impact social innovations. Through this process we have provided beneficiaries with the opportunity to voice their knowledge and perspectives and provided them the space to communicate their challenges.[4]

2.4   The mechanism of creating a contest for problems and solutions is an effective means to generate high-impact solutions, primarily because low-cost technologies such as websites or cell phones can generate knowledge between geographically and socially dispersed groups (e.g., crowdsourcing), allowing beneficiaries, universities, and businesses to turn a problem into an idea, which consequently becomes the key to the solution.

2.5   Though the I-Lab experience CTI has learned that scaling up social innovations can be a big challenge. Developing a solution without considering a model to scale it up in the future can lead to a great innovation but that does not reach the beneficiaries. This is why is necessary to incorporate the private sector in the development of the social innovation, as defining which innovation can be scaled and what is the best way to do it requires knowledge and private sector expertise that are beyond the public sphere.

2.6   **A new approach to public policy.** The realm of the Region's problems that can be tackled and approached through innovation is vast. Governments in LAC are recognizing the importance of designing social policies with the active participation of the beneficiaries and are working with CTI's Innovation Lab to develop loan components that structure social innovation platforms to create bridges between civil society, the challenges faced and the private sector to develop solutions. Through the Technical Cooperation RG-T2348 "Social Innovation: a knowledge-based, private sector lead approach" the CTI division is supporting the region, especially Peru, Chile and Colombia, in the implementation of social innovation programs, using the experience and methodology developed through the I-LAB´s work.[5]

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[3]   Crowdsourcing is the process by which a large group of people, through a call, participates in performing a task. This methodology has proven to be an effective working tool to identify problems and solutions.

[4]   For example, during the first "call for problems" of the I-Lab, carried out in 2008, a Peruvian woman, Fanny Quinspe presented the following problem: wheelchairs do not serve in rural contexts where the terrains have a lot of rubble and steep ascents.

[5]   One of the initiatives supported by this TC was a social innovation pilot in the Aysen Region of Chile. This pilot was implemented in collaboration with the National Council of Innovation for Development (CNID) and the Production Development Corporation (CORFO) and aimed at finding the most relevant problems faced by the community and the development of innovative solutions to address them. For more information please refer to: http://www.iadb.org/en/topics/competitiveness-technology-and-innovation/la-innovacion-social-llega-a-la-patagonia-chilena,18526.html

2.7 **Citizen security in Latin America and the Caribbean**. Crime and violence is a major obstacle to human, social and economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Youth violence, in particular, is one of the main concerns for the region where for those living in low-income settings, there is 1 in 50 chances that they will be killed before they reach the age of 31[6]. This phenomenon poses serious challenges because displays of violence make individuals and community more accustomed to aggressive behavior. It also has severe direct and indirect monetary costs for governments related to policing, judicial processing and corrective measures, as well as loss of earnings of incarcerated youth, loss of life among young productive citizens, lower economic growth.

2.8 Many risk factors trigger youth violence, at the individual, community and societal level, including the lack of socio-economic opportunities that make criminal activities financially attractive. Addressing the societal risk factors that trigger youth violence has been at the heart of many primary prevention strategies, focused on preventing criminal behaviors before they occur. Youth violence tends to be a phenomenon that mostly affects men, as victims and perpetrators of violence, but the increasing rates of women's incarceration in some countries in Latin America and the Caribbean[7], show the need to also deviate women from crime and understanding which are the push factor for women's delinquency is an important starting point to further address the issue of youth violence.

2.9 **Applying the social innovation methodology to address youth violence.** Given the prevalence of youth violence in the LAC Region and the complexity of addressing this multifaceted challenge, CTI proposes, in collaboration with the Citizen Security Initiative, to develop an initiative to generate knowledge creation technology platforms in countries of the Southern Cone (CSC) and the Andean Group (CAN), to identify and prioritize problems, risk factors and triggers of criminal behavior related to youth violence in the Region, with a particular emphasis on vulnerable groups such as at-risk youth and women. Following the identification and understanding of the challenges, the project will engage and develop high-impact solutions with private sector companies and universities, emphasizing the engagement of the final beneficiaries throughout the project cycle.

2.10 The I-LAB methodology has previously generated solutions to problems of citizen security in the Region. Through an internal IDB initiative that called on all IDB employees to pitch innovative ideas to development problems called "We Want You", an idea to combat violence against women was born. The idea, "The Soft Panic Bottom" was selected as the winner of the We Want You/Startup Weekend contest, and also won the Most Innovative Team Award. The IDB team that pitched the idea is currently developing and implementing a pilot project in Goiânia, Brazil.

2.11 ICT platforms in combination with the I-Lab's methodology of developing calls for problems and solutions offer a sustainable, problem-oriented approach to tackle the Region's youth violence challenge and can provide the basis to connect civil society, final beneficiaries and

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[6]　Muggah and Aguirre, 2013, "Assessing and responding to youth violence in Latin America: surveying the evidence". Background paper for The World We Want 2015.

[7]　Latin America and the Caribbean is affected by the fastest growing rates of women's incarceration in the world (23% between 2006 and 2012). International Center for Prison Studies, University of Essex, 2012)

the Region's poor and marginalized with the private sector and governments to tackle the permeating challenge of violence plaguing the Region.

2.12 Due to the above, the objective of this TC is to identify challenges related to youth in conflict with the law in LAC to generate high-impact innovative solutions with the private sector. To reach its objectives, the project will develop a multi-pronged methodology, with the first component supporting the development of a technology platform and call for problems in LAC that will be disseminated through social networks.[8] The second component will utilize the most relevant problems of the first component, selected by the vote of the public and a panel of experts (in topic such as: innovation, social inclusion, citizen security and private investors) to develop a call for solutions and will engage private sector actors to develop solutions to these problems, the top-voted of which will be financed. The third component will finance a pitch workshop where the pilot projects will be presented to a series of private investors in order to try to find financial support for the scaling up of the projects. The final component will promote the diffusion of the knowledge and the dissemination of lessons learned.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

3.1 **Component I. Identifying the main causes and elements of youth violence through a "Call for Problems".** This component will finance interactive technology platforms in LAC and will structure calls for problems, engaging civil society, the final beneficiaries and community organizations to communicate the problems they consider most relevant to youth in conflict with the law. Problems will be prioritized through votes by the very beneficiaries and a panel of experts from different fields such as innovation, social inclusion, citizen security and private investment. This call for problems will generate the knowledge needed for the development of the second component – the call for solutions.

3.2 **Component II. Developing innovative, high-impact solutions with private sector actors through a "Call for Solutions".** This component will engage the private sector through a call for solutions to the identified and priorities problems identified in the call for problems. The 3 most innovative and relevant solutions, prioritized through votes and involvement of the beneficiaries, will be financed in their pilot-phase.

3.3 **Component III. Pitch workshop for scaling up the social innovations**. This component will finance a pitch workshop where the pilot projects will be presented to a series of private investors in order to try to find financial support for the scaling up of the projects.

3.4 **Component IV. Knowledge Creation and Dissemination**. The dissemination strategy of this project is crucial in generating knowledge about the causes and factors that lie behind youth violence, as identified and prioritized by the very people that live with these challenges, and will stand as an essential component of strengthening the IDB's approach to tackling the challenge of violence faced by the Region.

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[8] The I-Lab experience with promoting calls through social networks as been very successful. We have used Facebook in the past, especially to promote a position for a consultancy to work in The I-Lab. We used to two avenues - the website of the IDB in Spanish (166,000 followers) where our publication had 1763 "likes" and "1253" shares. On the other hand we create a separate add that generated an influx of more than 200,000 people on Facebook (a pre-identified and selected by country, area of interest and public university) and generated additional 2700 "clicks" on the contest page.

IV. BUDGET

4.1 The total amount of funding needed for this TC is US$350,000. The allocations for each component are shown in the table below:

Indicative Budget

Activity/ Component	Description	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Component 1	Identifying the main causes and elements of youth in conflict with the law through a "Call for Problems"	50,000		50,000
Component 2	Developing innovative, high-impact solutions with private sector actors through a "Call for Solutions".	200,000		200,000
Component 3	Pitch workshop for scaling up the social innovations.	50,000		50,000
Component 4	Knowledge Creation and Dissemination	50,000		50,000

V. EXECUTING AGENCY AND EXECUTION STRUCTURE

5.1 The executing agency of this technical cooperation will be the IDB. This is based on the regional nature of the initiative, as well as the Bank's ability to execute technical cooperation, contributing with time of the project team and their knowledge to identify highly qualified international consultants based on their work experience in operations in different countries of the region and the implementation of similar activities. TC supervision will be provided by IFD/CTI.

VI. PROJECT RISKS AND ISSUES

6.1 No significant risks are perceived given the Bank's experience in this area.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CLASSIFICATION

7.1 Because of its nature, this TC will not have any negative direct environmental or social impact, and is classified as a category "C" according to the ESR Safeguard Classification toolkit.