

DOCUMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

HONDURAS

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF METROPOLITAN POLICE STATION REFORMS ON CRIME IN HONDURAS

(HO-T1486)

PROJECT DOCUMENT

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Operation Type:	Technical Cooperation
Sector:	REFORM / MODERNIZATION OF THE STATE
Subsector:	MODERNIZATION & ADMINIST OF JUSTICE
TC Taxonomy:	Client Support
Project Number under the Operational Support Taxonomy:	N/A
Technical Responsible Unit:	IFD/CIS-Citizen Security Division
Unit with Disbursement Responsibility (UDR):	CID/CHO-Country Office Honduras
Executing Agency:	Inter-American Development Bank

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Technical Cooperation (TC) is to support the Government of Honduras in strengthening evidence-based public policy and institutional capacity in the area of citizen security. Specifically, it aims to assess and inform the effectiveness of a policing reform implemented under IDB loan (HO-L1187) by evaluating whether the construction and upgrading of metropolitan police stations—alongside expanded personnel, specialized investigative units, and services for women victims of violence—reduce crime and gender-based violence in the targeted municipalities.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Financing Type	Fund	Amount in US\$
TCN - Nonreimbursable	W2C - OC SDP Window 2 - Institutions	140,000
Total IDB Financing		140,000
Counterpart Financing		0
Total Project Budget		140,000
Donors:	N/A	
Disbursement Period:	36 months	
Execution Period:	36 months	

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

N/A

I. JUSTIFICATION AND OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 **Diagnostic.** Honduras remains one of the most violent countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), despite a decline in homicide rates over the last decade. Persistent deficits in infrastructure, human resources, and specialized services limit the effectiveness of the National Police. In many municipalities, police presence was previously limited to small posts, with little capacity for criminal investigation or gender-sensitive victim services. This context has weakened public trust in law enforcement, hindered the resolution of criminal cases, and left victims—particularly women facing gender-based violence—without adequate protection or access to justice. To address these challenges, the Government of Honduras, with IDB support through loan 4518/BL-HO,4518/BL-HO-1, 4518/BL-HO-2,4518/BL-HO-3, is implementing a bundled, place-based policing reform. The reform includes the construction and upgrading of metropolitan police stations, increased staffing, the integration of specialized investigative units, and the provision of services for women victims of violence. The intervention seeks to improve police presence, investigative capacity, and victim assistance, ultimately contributing to reductions in crime, violence, and insecurity in the intervened areas.
- 1.2 **Request.** The Government of Honduras, through the Ministry of Security, formally requested the Bank’s support to evaluate the effectiveness of the metropolitan police station model being implemented under loan 4518/BL-HO,4518/BL-HO-1, 4518/BL-HO-2,4518/BL-HO-3 (see Annex I). This TC responds to the need to generate rigorous, actionable evidence on the effectiveness of the metropolitan police station model being implemented under loan 4518/BL-HO,4518/BL-HO-1, 4518/BL-HO-2,4518/BL-HO-3. It was competitively selected under the 2025 DEIF Call for Proposals, which supports evaluations that can strengthen the evidence base for Bank operations. The selection criteria were policy relevance, strong evaluation design, and potential to inform both national and regional debates on citizen security. The evaluation will provide credible information to guide future investments in police infrastructure and services, helping to ensure that resources are directed toward strategies that demonstrably improve safety and access to justice.
- 1.3 **Objective.** The objective of this TC is to support the Government of Honduras in strengthening evidence-based public policy and institutional capacity in the area of citizen security. Specifically, it aims to assess and inform the effectiveness of the bundled, place-based policing reform implemented under loan (4518/BL-HO,4518/BL-HO-1,4518/BL-HO-2,4518/BL-HO-3) by evaluating whether the construction and upgrading of metropolitan police stations—alongside expanded personnel, specialized investigative units, and services for women victims of violence—reduce crime and gender-based violence in the targeted municipalities.
- 1.4 **Complementarity.** The TC complements the ongoing execution of “Civic Coexistence and Neighborhood Improvement Program (4518/BL-HO, 4518/BL-HO-1,4518/BL-HO-2,4518/BL-HO-3)” by assessing the impacts of one of its key interventions. It will draw on administrative data and survey information collected through the program, adding value by structuring this information into a rigorous evaluation framework. The results will not only inform the results of the

program but will also contribute to the regional knowledge base on integrated policing models. Additionally, the evaluation will complement other Bank efforts in citizen security by providing evidence that can be applied in the design of similar interventions in other countries.

- 1.5 **Strategic Alignment.** The TC is directly aligned with IDB Group Institutional Strategy: Transforming for Scale and Impact (CA-631), particularly with the objectives of reducing poverty and inequality and bolster sustainable growth, by providing evidence on policies to reduce crime and violence, a major obstacle for inclusive development in LAC. The TC is also aligned with the operational focus areas of “Institutional Capacity, Rule of Law, and Citizen Security.” It advances this priority by assessing an intervention aimed at strengthening police infrastructure, enhancing investigative capacity, and improving victim services—key elements for consolidating the rule of law and increasing citizen trust in institutions. It also aligns with the operational focus area of “Gender equality and inclusion of diverse population groups” by focusing on the provision of services for women victims of violence. Likewise, this TC is also aligned with the Ordinary Capital Strategic Development Program (OC SDP) Window 2 – Institutions (W2C) (GN-2819-14), in particular with priority area 3: effective, efficient and transparent institutions, by promoting evidence to improve service delivery to citizens and strengthen enforcement of the rule of law. The TC is aligned with the IDB’s Citizen Security and Justice Sector Framework Document, as it seeks to generate evidence to guide and support more effective police institutions, one of its main lines of action. Finally, it is aligned with the Update to the IDB Group Country Strategy with Honduras (GN-2944-3), in particular with priority area “Human Capital Accumulation”, as insecurity has been identified as an obstacle to progress in this area.

II. COMPONENTS

- 2.1 **Component I. Data Collection (US\$125,000.00).** The objective of this component is to compile and prepare the administrative and survey data necessary for the evaluation. Activities will include: (i) collecting and cleaning administrative crime and violence records from the National Police and the Ministry of Security for the period 2018–2025; and (ii) implementing a new round of a victimization survey, following the experiences carried out in 2017 and 2019. The IDB will be responsible for overseeing these activities, in close coordination with the relevant government entities. Procurement activities will involve hiring specialized consultants and firms for survey design, fieldwork, data processing, and data quality review. The expected output is a comprehensive dataset —both administrative and survey-based—covering pre- and post-intervention periods, providing the empirical foundation for the impact evaluation of the policing reform.
- 2.2 **Component II. Analysis and Reporting (US\$15,000.00).** The objective of this component is to conduct the impact evaluation and prepare knowledge products to disseminate findings. Activities will include: (i) applying quasi-experimental methods, such as difference-in-differences and event-study models, to estimate the effects of the metropolitan police stations on crime and gender-based violence; (ii) carrying out robustness checks and sensitivity analyses to validate results; (iii) producing a detailed technical report that summarize the findings and implications

for citizen security and gender-based violence prevention and (iv) communicate and disseminate the report. Procurement activities will include hiring a research assistant or researcher to support the activities. The expected output is a set of rigorous, policy-relevant knowledge products that inform decision-making in Honduras and contribute to the regional evidence base on integrated policing models.

2.3 **Expected Results.** By the end of the TC, the project will deliver a validated dataset and a set of analytical outputs that provide robust evidence on the effectiveness of the metropolitan police station model in Honduras. The evaluation results are expected to assess whether integrated improvements in police infrastructure, staffing, and specialized services contribute to reductions in crime, enhanced safety for women, and increased public trust in law enforcement. These findings will help shape national policy decisions and inform the design of similar interventions in other countries in the region.

2.4 **Beneficiaries.** The direct beneficiaries of the TC are the Government of Honduras—particularly the Ministry of Security, the National Police, and agencies responsible for gender-based violence prevention and victim services—who will receive actionable evidence to guide policy and operational decisions. Indirectly, other countries in the region may benefit from the knowledge generated, as the evaluation’s findings can inform similar citizen security interventions elsewhere. Ultimately, the final beneficiaries are the residents of Honduras and the broader LAC region, especially women and vulnerable populations, who are expected to benefit from improved safety, justice services, and protection from violence.

III. BUDGET

3.1 The total cost of this TC is US\$140,000, fully financed with resources from the Ordinary Capital Strategic Development Program (OC-SDP) Window 2 – Institutions (W2C). The budget is distributed across two components as follows:

Budget in US\$				
Activity/Component	Description	IDB/W2C Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
1. Data Collection		125,000	0	125,000
1.a Administrative Data Cleaning	Compilation and cleaning of administrative crime and violence data.	5,000	0	5,000
1.b Victimization Survey	Implementation of the survey (fieldwork, data entry, and quality control).	120,000	0	120,000
2. Analysis and Reporting	Execution of the impact evaluation (statistical models, robustness checks), and preparation of technical report.	15,000	0	15,000

Total		140,000	0	140,000
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IV. EXECUTION STRUCTURE

- 4.1 Based on a request by the beneficiaries, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), through the Citizen Security Division (IFD/CIS), will execute this TC. The Bank has extensive experience managing technical cooperation projects in the areas of citizen security, justice, and gender-based violence prevention, as well as conducting rigorous impact evaluations of policing reforms in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its institutional structure allows it to undertake and effectively manage all phases of the TC, from technical design to coordination, procurement, supervision, and reporting, ensuring adherence to Bank standards and policies.
- 4.2 The Bank will carry out execution in line with the rationale provided in Section I, ensuring independence, technical rigor, and coordination across stakeholders. This arrangement leverages the Bank’s neutrality and methodological expertise, which are critical for the credibility of the evaluation and the policy relevance of its findings.
- 4.3 In accordance with the Bank’s Technical Cooperation Policy (GN-2470-2) and the Annex II of the Procedures for the Processing of Technical Cooperation Operations and Related Matters (OP-619-4), Bank execution is justified as it helps ensure impartiality. In this case, the independence and credibility of the evaluation of a government program is enhanced when conducted by an impartial entity. As the executing agency of the TC, the Bank will be responsible for: (i) coordinating the actors involved in the activities of the initiative/project; (ii) identifying the studies and technical work necessary to carry out the TC; (iii) selecting and contracting consultants to provide the necessary services; (iv) supervising the consulting services to which the beneficiary provides technical inputs; and (v) managing the execution and provision of consulting services.
- 4.4 **Procurement.** All procurement to be executed under this Technical Cooperation has been included in the Procurement Plan (Annex IV) and will be carried out in compliance with applicable Bank policies and regulations, as follows: (a) Hiring of individual consultants, as established in the regulation on Complementary Workforce (AM-650), and (b) Contracting of services provided by consulting firms in accordance with the Corporate Procurement Policy (GN-2303-33) and its Guidelines. These procedures will ensure transparency, competition, and the selection of qualified service providers to conduct the evaluation activities, including data collection, survey implementation, and analytical work.
- 4.5 **Execution and Disbursement Period.** The execution and disbursement period of this TC will be 36 months. This timeline will allow sufficient flexibility for procurement, data collection, analysis, and reporting, while ensuring that activities are completed within a reasonable timeframe to inform policy decisions.
- 4.6 **Monitoring, Reporting, and Supervision.** To ensure proper execution of the TC, the project team, in close coordination with the Country Office in Honduras, will organize kick-off, mid-term and final review meetings with the beneficiaries and

consultants for the activities contemplated in the components. The project team, led by Santiago Perez Vincent (IFD/CIS) and the focal point in Honduras' IDB country office, María José Schaeffer (IFD/CIS), will also comply with all annual or periodic monitoring requirements established by the Bank for this type of operation, such as Technical Cooperation Monitoring and Reporting System (TCM).

V. POTENTIAL RISKS

- 5.1 One potential risk is delay or limited access to complete and reliable administrative data from the National Police and Ministry of Security. Such delays could affect the evaluation timeline and the quality of the analysis. To mitigate this risk, the TC team is maintaining—and will continue to maintain—frequent communication with these institutions to resolve issues promptly.
- 5.2 A second risk is logistical and operational challenges in implementing the victimization survey, including potential non-response or fieldwork disruptions. These could affect data completeness and representativeness. Mitigation strategies will include contracting an experienced survey firm, piloting instruments, and incorporating contingency plans for fieldwork adjustments.
- 5.3 A third risk is institutional changes or shifts in priorities within the security and justice sectors, which could affect inter-agency collaboration or the relevance of the evaluation's findings. To address this, the TC team will engage multiple stakeholders from the outset and maintain regular briefings to sustain buy-in and ensure the evaluation responds to current policy needs.
- 5.4 Finally, the evaluation's reliance on multi-agency participation may introduce coordination challenges. The Bank's convening role and its established relationships with government institutions will seek to help maintain alignment and facilitate decision-making across agencies.
- 5.5 **Intellectual Property.** All products from this TC will be the intellectual property of the Bank. The Bank may grant use licenses and/or transfer the intellectual property rights of specific products derived from this TC to third parties, as permitted by Bank's policies and with the advice of the legal department. In particular, copyright of knowledge products produced will be assessed in accordance with Procedures for the Publication of Knowledge Products (AM-331).

VI. EXCEPTIONS TO BANK POLICIES

- 6.1 There are no exceptions identified.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

- 7.1 This Technical Cooperation is not intended to finance pre-feasibility or feasibility studies of specific investment projects or environmental and social studies associated with them; therefore, this TC does not have applicable requirements of

the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF).

REQUIRED ANNEXES:

- Annex I: Request from Client
- Annex II: Results Matrix
- Annex III: Terms of Reference
- Annex IV: Procurement Plan