

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	REGIONAL/IDB
▪ TC Name:	Strengthening Evidence-Based Policymaking on Citizen Security and Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean
▪ TC Number:	RG-T3757
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Alvarado, Nathalie Tatiana (IFD/ICS) Team Leader; Serrano Berthet, Rodrigo (IFD/ICS) Alternate Team Leader; Forero Benavides, Daniela (IFD/ICS); Rivera, Katia (IFD/ICS); Manzur Madariaga, Michelle (IFD/ICS); Pena Arango, Norma Constanza (IFD/ICS); Posadas, Arnaldo Enrique (IFD/ICS); Cedillo Lopez, Barbara Paola (IFD/ICS); Villa Mar, Karelia (IFD/ICS); Aguilar Blandon, Maria Alejandra (IFD/ICS); Mendoza Benavente, Horacio (LEG/SGO)
▪ Taxonomy:	Research and Dissemination
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	09 Mar 2021
▪ Beneficiary:	<i>Países prestatarios miembros del BID</i>
▪ Executing Agency:	Inter-American Development Bank
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$250,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	IFD/ICS - Innovation in Citizen Services Division
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	IFD/ICS - Innovation in Citizen Services Division
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Institutional capacity and rule of law

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The objective of this TC is to support LAC governments in their efforts to improve evidence-based policymaking in citizen security and justice (CSJ) in a post-pandemic context by conducting rigorous research of crime prevention interventions, translating research into actionable evidence, and facilitating access to knowledge on what works and what does not in reducing violence and impunity.
- 2.2 Crime and violence are among the most important developments challenges faced by Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). With only 8% of the world's population, LAC has been arguably the world's most violent region, as it accounts for 37% of the homicides of the entire planet. Data from 2018 indicates that LAC homicide rate of 20 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants is four times the global average homicide rate of 6.1 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants. Additionally, the latest *Latinobarómetro* study reveals that 83% of the LAC population fear being a victim of crime and another 25% trusts that crime and violence is their main concern.
- 2.3 In this context, virtually all governments of the region have allocated significant resources in formulating and implementing crime prevention policies and programs. The number of crime prevention interventions in LAC has expanded rapidly over the past decade and recent research documented interested but scant results. For example, studies suggest that both hot spot policing and community policing are successful at reducing homicides and fear of crime in Chile and Colombia, while in

Brazil the integration of police force operations and social interventions can reduce crime. Also, electronic monitoring shows promising results at reducing recidivism in Argentina, a public health-based approach to youth violence reduces gang and gun related violence in Trinidad and Tobago and violence prevention and care centers for women have reduce the likelihood of domestic violence in Peru.

- 2.4 However, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the dynamics of violence and generated new challenges for citizen security in the region. The pandemic changed the nature of social interaction, economic activity and crime dynamics around the world and in LAC countries. It has produced a rearrangement of illicit economies, criminal organizations and the incidence of certain types of crimes. For example, human trafficking, migration, illegal economies, Cibercrime and the maintenance of public order. These new dynamics have widen the knowledge gaps about crime prevention efforts, and challenged government responses to effectively address them.
- 2.5 In the post-pandemic context there is an urgent need that the knowledge needed to apply evidence-based crime prevention policies in the region be developed and disseminated. Preventing crime under normal circumstances is usually costly and requires public spending on security, such as, police personnel, prison administration, and judiciary expenditures. It is estimated that crime imposes significant costs to LAC countries' economies, absorbing approximately 261,000 million dollars a year which is equivalent to 3.5% of their GDP. The short-term and long-term impact of the pandemic on crime dynamics will require an extraordinary influx of financial resources and the decisions taken today and the strategies implemented to face the social, economic and public health crisis in LAC will shape citizen security and justice policies in the coming years. Thus, it is essential that governments of the region expand their knowledge base in cutting-edge areas, increase the availability of information and the use of data for more efficient spending decisions, better allocation of resources, and effective and innovative responses.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Taking stock of existing evidence-based crime prevention and violence reduction strategies in LAC.** The objective is to generate an in-depth analysis of the state of the art in CSJ research. This component will finance activities related to: (i) screening evaluations of CSJ interventions based on robustness of the research methods and potential for replicability and practical use in LAC and (ii) conducting a knowledge and evidence gap analysis, to identify and prioritize areas in which LAC government could invest in the production of new knowledge to better inform evidence-based policies.
- 3.2 **Component II: Creation and consolidation of empirical knowledge in citizen security and justice.** The objective is to facilitate the development of cutting-edge research and knowledge exchange that guides governments efforts to develop evidence-based policies. This component will finance: (i) a series of calls for proposals to produce high quality evaluations of CSJ interventions (ii) workshops to promote multi-sector engagement in generation and exchange of knowledge, and (iii) creation of an international scientific committee and coordination group to ensure quality in knowledge generation
- 3.3 **Component III: Strengthening government's capacities to formulate and implement citizen security and justice evidence-based policymaking.** The objective is to assist governments in policymaking by creating mechanisms for information sharing and access to knowledge about what works in preventing crime and reducing impunity. This component will finance: (i) the design of a web-based clearinghouse of practical and rigorous knowledge, (ii) a series of working groups, to design the CSJ evidence-based clearinghouse, and (iii) scholarships for officials to attend the MOOC "Leaders for Citizen Security and Justice Management".

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	Total Funding (IDB)
Component 1: Taking stock of existing evidence-based crime prevention and violence reduction strategies in LAC	US\$30,000.00
Component 2: Creation and consolidation of empirical knowledge in citizen security and justice	US\$115,000.00
Component 3: Strengthening government's capacities to formulate and implement citizen security and justice evidence-based policymaking	US\$105,000.00
Total	US\$250,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 This TC will be implemented by the IDB through its Innovation in Citizen Services Division (IFD/ICS) and will benefit all IDB member's countries.
- 5.2 The Bank has a unique comparative advantage, as a knowledge broker in the CSJ field in LAC, to lead and implement this regional effort and to articulate the efforts between countries. It will also contribute to develop a strategic vision to face insecurity and crime in the region and produce cutting-edge knowledge based on evidence. In addition, this operation will benefit from the Bank's execution with regards to all the hiring and procurement processes, which will be done directly and exclusively by the Bank. All administrative and technical supervision procedures will be the responsibility of IFD/ICS. The IDB will conduct the procurement of consulting services required for TC implementation, according to the Bank's policies and procedures.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 First risk and most important one relates to the lack of tradition among public security and justice policymakers in the region to base decisions and policy formulation in rigorous evidence. To mitigate this risk, the Bank has been working with different stakeholders, including scholars and practitioners in the CSJ field who have expressed their interest in being part of the platform to build a knowledge bridge between policy making and academia. Particularly during the past few years, various regional policy dialogues hosted by the IDB have called up on the attention and need to have a one stop shop that allows a variety of users access evidence and practical tools that can better inform policy making. Second risk is associated with the sustainability of the online platform, both in terms of content and financial resources after this TC has been executed. To mitigate this risk, the Bank has built strategic partnerships with the private sector, including academic institutions and technology corporations, that are willing to support knowledge generation efforts.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

- 7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "undefined".