

Exchange of experiences on public policies and
national strategies for the prevention of violence
in **SICA** member countries



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Important notice

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Exchange of experiences on public policies and national strategies for the prevention of violence in **SICA** member countries

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SUMMARY

The Regional Conference "Exchange of experiences on public policies and national strategies for the prevention of violence in SICA member countries," was convened by the Sub-committee on Violence Prevention of the Central American Security Commission and held in San Jose, Costa Rica, on April 24-26, 2014.

The objectives of this meeting were to:

1. Promote a forum for the exchange of information on policy instruments for the prevention of violence that are being developed in the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA)
2. Generate inputs for building a regional model of national policies and strategies for the prevention of violence in the context of the SICA Central American Security Strategy (ESCA), based on best practices and experiences in the region

More than 30 officials linked to violence prevention policies in the various countries of SICA met at the Regional Conference to work dialogically on a three-day agenda that contributed to regional capacity for coordination and synergy.

On the first day, delegations from the Dominican Republic, Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Costa Rica presented a summary of major policies and strategies implemented in their respective countries for violence prevention. After each presentation, questions and reflections by the participants enabled further exploration of the critical policy issues presented. At the end of the day, the group discussed the composition of a desirable public policy model for violence prevention.

On the second day, the group engaged in a systematic exchange and consensus building process on the different thematic areas of violence prevention policies. The group worked in depth on the five thematic areas on Violence Prevention Sub-committee's agenda: (i) prevention of violence affecting children, adolescents and youth, (ii) prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) or violence against women, (iii) prevention of violence at the local level, (iv) prevention of armed violence, and (v) prevention of violence through coexistence, access to justice and the peaceful resolution of conflicts programs.

At end of the second day, the group worked on the major phases of the public policy cycle and built a framework of key criteria for good design, implementation, social communication, and evaluation of public policy for violence prevention.

On the third day, a field visit was organized to the new Civic Center for Peace [Centro Cívico por la Paz] in Jacó, municipality of Garabito, with areas for sports and recreation, a music school, facilities for performing arts and other artistic activities, a House of Justice, a Center for Child Development and Care, an interactive library, an Intelligent Community Center and a food and beverage school of the National Institute for Learning (INA).

The Civic Center for Peace represents the largest investment made in Costa Rica in terms of coexistence programs for the prevention of violence, and was made possible thanks to the collaboration between the Government of Costa Rica, the municipality, the International Development Bank (IDB) and the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation (APC-Colombia), under an innovative plan of South-South and triangular cooperation for building government capacities, human development and violence prevention from a holistic territorial approach.

To conclude the dialogic meeting, the group assessed the experience and discussed its relevance and applicability to their own contexts, the challenges encountered by SICA countries and communities, and the commitments to collaborative action in the near future. During the meeting, the group of officials advanced the construction of a shared conceptual framework and approach for public action to prevent violence.

This Regional Conference was co-organized and co-financed by the Central American Security Project SICA-UNDP-AECID, the APC-Colombia Regional Cooperation Programme with Mesoamerica, and the Prevenir Program implemented by the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ).

1 | BACKGROUND

The Central American Integration System (SICA) is the political and institutional framework of regional integration in Central America and is composed by the states of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. Belize and the Dominican Republic joined SICA as full members in 2000 and 2013, respectively.

The Central American Integration System was established on December 13th 1991, through the subscription of the Tegucigalpa Protocol to the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA), which amended the ODECA Charter originally signed in El Salvador in 1951. The SICA formally came into operation on February 1st 1993 with headquarters in the Republic of El Salvador and the fundamental goal of completing the integration of Central America and building a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development, firmly based on the respect, protection and promotion of human rights.

The creation of SICA was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10th 1993, approving the Protocol of Tegucigalpa. This allowed for the Protocol to be invoked internationally and for the regional bodies and institutions of SICA to be associated with the United Nations system.

SICA member countries seek to move towards a security model whose fundamental principles emanate from the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security of 1995. This Framework Treaty emphasizes the respect, promotion and protection of all human rights as essential pillars of security in addition to the creation of the conditions for individual, family and social development in peace, freedom and democracy in all countries.

In its effort to consolidate the new Democratic Security Model, SICA updated the Central American Security Strategy (ESCA) in 2011. This Strategy is the primary instrument used to guide the coordinated security actions adopted by countries of the region from a holistic perspective within their respective legal systems, and is the central reference for the harmonization and alignment of international cooperation with regional security priorities. The general purpose of the ESCA is to establish the components and activities needed to strengthen the security of citizens and their property in the Central American region, enabling the achievement of human development goals. Specific objectives include: (i) integration of the different regional efforts on security matters, to harmonize them and achieve better results; (ii) facilitating coordination, exchange of information and experiences among the different entities and operational agencies in the region, to tackle regional criminal activities more effectively; (iii) identification of the financial needs, resources and training required by the institutions responsible for security; (iv) development of policies, programs, strategies and actions for the prevention of youth violence, gender violence, armed violence, human trafficking; local security management; and improved Disaster Risk Reduction, particularly in terms of climate change.

SICA countries have made a notable effort in region to progressively adopt the reduction of insecurity as a public policy, and most of them now have a national security policy, although prevention has been integrated to varying degrees. In turn, countries have developed or are developing national policies and strategies specifically focused on the prevention of violence and crime, and important advances and valuable experiences have been seen in the region. The exchange and systematization of these experiences is paramount in order to build the common basis of a Central American security model that includes effective strategies for violence prevention as part of the process of regional integration.

In this context, the Central American Security Commission, the primary mechanism of SICA for security matters, approved the organization of a Regional Conference "Exchange of experiences on public policies and national strategies for the prevention of violence in SICA member countries", which was convened by the Sub-commission on Violence Prevention and held in San José, Costa Rica, on 24-26 April, 2014.

The strategic components of the ESCA are:

Combating crime: organized crime, drug trafficking, deportees with criminal records or ex-convicts, gangs, homicide, fight against illegal arms trafficking, terrorism, corruption, other police and legal issues.

Violence prevention: youth violence prevention, armed violence prevention, gender-based violence prevention, prevention of human trafficking, drug use, local level prevention, regional security and climate change.

Rehabilitation, reintegration and penitentiary security.

Institutional strengthening: coordination and monitoring of the regional strategy.





2 | OBJECTIVES OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The following objectives were achieved at the Regional Conference:

- Promote a forum for the exchange of information on policy instruments for the prevention of violence that are being developed in the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA)
- Generate inputs for building a regional model of national policies and strategies for the prevention of violence in the context of the SICA Central American Security Strategy (ESCA), based on best practices and experiences in the region

3 | OVERVIEW OF POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE IN SICA MEMBER COUNTRIES: DAY 1

1. Introductory session

The Regional Conference began on Thursday, 24 April, with opening and welcoming remarks by Mr. Nelson Rauda –Coordinator of the Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Penitentiary Security Component of the DSD/SICA–, Mr. Henry Castellanos – as Presidency pro Tempore of SICA and Vice-Minister of Security of the Dominican Republic– and Mr. Freddy Montero Mora –Vice-Minister of Governance and Police of Costa Rica, the Conference host country.

The welcoming remarks began by recognizing the support of the cooperating agencies APC-Colombia, the GIZ Prevenir Project and the UNDP Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean. The importance of this event for the General Secretariat of SICA was also highlighted since the prevention of violence and crime has been a historical concern for SICA member countries as enshrined in the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security and subsequent Central American Security Strategy (2007). It was noted that the mandates of the Presidential Summits have addressed the issue of violence prevention for several years.

The remarks emphasized that the Regional Conference is the culmination of an effort that began as a working committee, which recently became the Sub-commission on Violence Prevention, a subsidiary body of the Central American Security Commission. The issue of violence prevention is one of the cornerstones of the management policy currently faced by governments in the region.

In addition, the value of the exchange of experiences among SICA countries was highlighted, as well as the strengthening of a communication network to provide feedback at regional level. Finally, it was noted that the exchange within the conference framework was expected to be highly beneficial in advancing the construction of safer and more stable countries by analyzing and drawing lessons from the progress made, and visualize more clearly on what still needs to be done.

Then, all participants introduced themselves to the plenary and expressed their expectations for the event.

Expectations

- Progress towards a regional policy model to prevent violence
- Share national experiences, "fill our backpacks"
- Exchange, learn and evaluate what has worked and what has not
- Exchange on progress in the implementation and coordination with the local level
- Understanding what went wrong and draw lessons from it
- Activate our creativity
- Build synergies and strengthen our network
- Identify what we have in common



2. Country presentations of national strategies and policies on violence prevention

In the next first day session, each country proceeded to present their experiences in national strategies and policies for the prevention of violence, which were mapped and captured in country matrixes during and after the conference. Below are the country matrixes, each one followed by summary of the country presentation with the link to the corresponding PowerPoint file and the set of questions and answers in plenary.



COUNTRY | BELIZE

NAME: National Youth Development Policy 2012 – 2022

SCOPE (BENEFICIARY)		TIMEFRAME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All youth (15 – 29 years) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 years (2012-2022)
RECTOR ENTITY		INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports – Department of Youth Services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation (Youth Sector in Belize) Belize Family Life Association Community Policing Unit RESTORE Belize
FOCUS	CONTENT	CHALLENGE, ACHIEVEMENTS, LESSONS LEARNT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy clearly conveys the strong vision for the future of Belizean youth. It takes into account existing policies that affect young people, utilizes an integrated, cross-sectoral and coherent approach in its development and design, creates opportunities for young people to participate in all stages of policy development and implementation, and outlines concrete priority areas for policy intervention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The youth policy reflects the aspirations of young people in Belize and provides strategies in which to address issues related to youth well-being in the areas of: Participation, Education, Socio-economic Opportunity, Health and Wellbeing, and Protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to implement successful policies, Government must be able to define the level of coordination and clearly articulate roles and responsibilities of development partners for there to be shared ownership and for the implementation to be successful and easily monitored

REFERENCES

National Youth Development Policy (handbook)

NAME: Public Policy Proposal: Prevention of Youth – Involved Violence in Belize

SCOPE (BENEFICIARY)		TIMEFRAME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At-risk young men and women 15–29 years 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 years (2012-2022)
RECTOR ENTITY		INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports – Department of Youth Services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation Ministry of Health Ministry of National Security SICA (SISCA) Conscious Youth Development Programme Community Policing Unit
FOCUS	CONTENT	CHALLENGE, ACHIEVEMENTS, LESSONS LEARNT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy proposal builds on the Convention of the Rights of the Child and the Families and Children's Act (FACA), and expands the Government's scope from children up to 18 years to encompass youth up to the age of 29 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy proposal identifies specific interventions at the primary, secondary and tertiary level, and recognizes the necessary legislation and key stakeholders that are pivotal in the youth-involved crime prevention programs to fit within a development framework for an enhanced coordination approach in achieving youth development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In preparing a policy proposal, information dissemination and the process of drafting the document must be inclusive of all sectors, in an effort to facilitate greater ownership It is important to secure funding for policies to be implemented fully without overlooking priority areas

REFERENCES

Youth-Violence Prevention Policy of Belize – <http://www.interpeace.org/publications/central-american-youth-programme/368-national-public-policy-proposal-prevention-of-youth-involved-violence-in-belize-2012-2022-english>

NAME: National Gender-based Violence Plan of Action

SCOPE (BENEFICIARY)		TIMEFRAME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection, Prevention, Services for victims of GBV including the general population 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2010 – 2015
RECTOR ENTITY		INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's Department Department of Human Services Police Department Ministry of Health Ministry of Education Office of the Ombudsman Statistical Institute of Belize Civil Society 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Human Development (Women's Department, Department of Human Services) Police Department Ministry of Health Ministry of the Attorney General Ministry of Education Civil Society Other Ministries (Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Public Service)

COUNTRY | BELIZE

- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Public Service

- Women
- General Public
- Churches
- Media

FOCUS	CONTENT	CHALLENGE
<p>National Gender-based Violence Plan of Action was developed to guide a more coordinated effort that looks at all programmes which must put the safety and security of women and children first and ensure that confidentiality be guaranteed to all victims of violence against women</p> <p>This plan is focused and delegates clear responsibility for implementation and provision of adequate resources, and includes a mechanism for monitoring and evaluation. The Plan also makes the highest level of each system and ministry responsible for assuming ownership of the implementation of these plans. The focus continues to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guaranteeing a fast and effective police response to ensure women's confidence in this response through the implementation of mechanisms for external oversight of police actions • Civil society, and in particular women and women's organizations, playing a critical role in advocating for individual women in need of protection and support, as well as in advocacy for changes in public sector policies and practices. It also has an important responsibility in developing a deeper understanding of the roots and raising public awareness of violence against women • Government must demonstrate the political will to take action to address violence against women. A key part of demonstrating this political will is the provision of the human and financial resources necessary for an effective response 	<p>Goal 1: There is zero-tolerance for gender-based violence in Belize:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 1-1: Police response to survivors of gender-based violence is improved. Complaints concerning police response are reduced • Objective 1-2: Prosecution of acts of gender-based violence is strengthened. Attrition in reported cases that go to trial and result in convictions is reduced by 50% • Objective 1-3: Survivors of gender-based violence have access to justice, including adequate legal representation <p>Goal 2: Survivors of gender-based violence in both urban and rural areas are provided with adequate services and support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 2-1: All survivors of gender-based violence have access to adequate health services delivered in a supportive, respectful and confidential manner • Objective 2-2: All survivors of gender-based violence have access to adequate support and advocacy services • Objective 2-3: All victims of domestic violence in crisis have access to adequate shelter and financial support • Objective 2-4: Rural women who are victims of gender-based violence have access to justice and support • Objective 2-5: There is strong cross-sector collaboration in responding to survivors of gender-based violence <p>Goal 3: Gender-based violence in Belize is reduced, and ultimately eliminated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 3-1: Recidivism by perpetrators of gender-based violence is reduced by 30% • Objective 3-2: There is greater public understanding of the roots of gender-based violence • Objective 3-3: Men take greater responsibility for understanding the roots of gender-based violence and take action based on that understanding <p>Goal 4: It is possible to measure both the extent of gender-based violence in Belize and the effectiveness of strategies to respond to it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 4-1: Systems designed to measure reported cases of gender-based violence and capture all reported cases of both domestic violence and sexual offenses • Objective 4-2: A system to measure the incidence, frequency and severity of gender-based violence is in place • Objective 4-3: A method to assess the effectiveness of strategies to respond to gender-based violence is in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation has been slow due to ongoing sensitization of all stakeholders to ensure ownership by these stakeholders is achieved • Even though coordination is conducted by the Women's Department, the responsibility and full participation of various stakeholders still limit implementation due to their various responsibilities and programming areas <p>ACHIEVEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding through United Nations Trust Fund (UNTF) was obtained for implementation of man activities <p>LESSONS LEARNT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multisectoral approach of documents includes many stakeholders responding to gender-based violence (GBV) • Elaboration and ratification of document included many stakeholders • Areas of Plan are inclusive of services, personnel, legislation and programming to capture as many areas that may be access by victims and general public
<p>REFERENCES</p> <p>Situational Analysis of gender issues in Belize National Poverty Elimination Strategy and Action Plan Strategic T. 3 2009-2013 Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy 2006-2011 National Health Agenda and Strategic Plan 2007-2011 National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents 2004-2015 National Gender-based Violence Plan of Action 2010-2013</p>		

COUNTRY | BELIZE

NAME: Belize Gender Policy

SCOPE (BENEFICIARY)		TIMEFRAME	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Men, women, boys, girls		<ul style="list-style-type: none">2013 until a new revision	
RECTOR ENTITY		INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">National Women's Commission		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation<ul style="list-style-type: none">Women's DepartmentMinistry of HealthMinistry of EducationLabour DepartmentCivil Society	
FOCUS	CONTENT	CHALLENGE, ACHIEVEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To advance the achievement of de jure and de facto gender equality and equity in Belize within five priority areas: health, education and skills training, wealth and employment generation, power and decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To safeguard the rights of all persons to survival and the chance to maximize their full human potential, with special attention given to primary health care and the establishment of a Family and Community Health ProgrammeTo ensure that healthcare services are delivered in an integrated and decentralized manner and focuses on the physical and mental health and well being of women and men across the life cycleTo safeguard the rights of women, men, girls and boys to sexual and reproductive health information, education and quality health services that are affordable and accessible to them and that meet their gender specific needs across the life cycleTo open meaningful spaces for women and men in both urban and rural communities to participate in expressing their healthcare needs and in reporting on the quality of services provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Funding for full implementationReligious organizations in opposition to plan, misinformed general publicGreater involvement of civil society if needed	
		LESSONS LEARNT	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Challenge with churches provided opportunity for greater community interaction and policy dissemination	
REFERENCES			
<p>Situational Analysis of gender issues in Belize</p> <p>National Poverty Elimination Strategy and Action Plan Strategic T. 3 2009-2013</p> <p>Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy 2006-2011</p> <p>National Health Agenda and Strategic Plan 2007-2011</p> <p>National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents 2004-2015</p> <p>National Gender-based Violence Plan of Action 2010-2013</p>			

Questions and answers in plenary

Q. More information on shelters.

A. There are two shelters in the country. Since last year, they have had funding problems, and therefore women at risk and their children are sent to community spaces where they feel safe. Perpetrators are obliged to leave the home even if they are responsible for payment of the home. However, we need to improve the issue of shelters. One possibility to generate sustainability mechanisms is to establish a program that is interministerial and does not solely depend on the Ministry of Development.

Q. How do you handle the issue of border control?

A. We have partnerships with Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras. The police department has an interagency approach shared with immigration and custom authorities, working jointly through a unit called MIT (Mobile Interdiction Unit). In addition, the Ministry of National Security is coordinated with other ministries and other authorities such as customs, immigration, police and military; border controls and nearby areas are thus strengthened. Several memoranda of understanding were signed with Mexico and Guatemala. To solve the problem of border security it is very important to consider the humanitarian side of the issue and try to address it with a long-term view. Poverty is another element affecting border security. This is why we have mechanisms with Guatemala to work with the border communities in education, job training, etc.

Q. Can you expand on the topic of actions with young people?

A. There is a partnership between the local and municipal governments, and banks and the private sector as non-conventional strategic partners. The local council is a key stakeholder and articulates with the private sector. Another mechanism is working with young people through schools in which specific spaces are created to raise awareness among young people, for example, in terms of gender roles. The goal is to prevent schools from perpetuating traditionally-assigned gender roles. We also pay a great deal of attention to the issue of discrimination against children.

Regarding youth gender issues, we also seek to increase education for girls and teens to allow them for access to decent work as adults. Overall, there is some resistance to gender policies, but we are reducing it through education; for example, in terms of misinformation about homosexuals. The overall idea is that we all have access to all the services and opportunities.

Belize

- National Action Plan against Gender Violence, sectors and goals
- National Gender Policy, priority areas
- Legislation and Amendments
- Protocol for sexual violence, strategies, objectives and guiding principles
- Protocol for police officers to address domestic violence
- Proposal for national public policy: Preventing youth-related violence in Belize 2012-2022 (supported by SICA)
- Youth in Belize: current situation, factors related to violence, priority goals, national programs, action plans and next steps

COUNTRY | COSTA RICA

NAME: Violence prevention by local governments

SCOPE (BENEFICIARY)		TIMEFRAME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inhabitants of each canton 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 years by canton
RECTOR ENTITY		INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viceministry of Peace 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Development Plan Policy on Public Safety and the Promotion of Social Peace (POLSEPAZ) National Violence Prevention Plan Local Prevention Plans
FOCUS	CONTENT	CHALLENGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing risk factors from the local level 	7 steps of the local management model: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with stakeholders: local authorities and communities Establishment of the local facilitator team Development of assessment (2 phases: narrative assessment and participatory assessment) Strategic formulation Impact on local policies Implementation, monitoring and evaluation Cross-cutting theme: raising awareness and training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interagency coordination Resourcing (human talent and financial resources)
		ACHIEVEMENTS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 plans drafted Strengthening local networks Improving the perception of security in communities Involvement of non-traditional stakeholders Progress in coordination between the national and local levels
		LESSONS LEARNT
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership of the local government as a success factor Prevention management capacity installed in the territory Democratization of the process (plus participation plus information)

REFERENCES

<http://culturadepaz.mjp.go.cr/> - Local Management Office of the Vice Ministry of Peace: Yahaira Monge González. ymonge@mj.go.cr. Gustavo Salazar Jara. ozomatli03@gmail.com

NAME: Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

SCOPE (BENEFICIARY)		TIMEFRAME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the national level with emphasis on priority communities (vulnerable) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent
RECTOR ENTITY		INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice Ministry of Peace through the National Alternative Dispute Resolution (DINARAC) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Development Plan POLSEPAZ National Violence Prevention Plan Act 7727: Law on alternative dispute resolution and promotion of social peace Regulations to Chapter 4 of Act 7727
FOCUS	CONTENT	CHALLENGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting a culture of peace through ADR mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casas de Justicia [Houses of Justice] Program Dialoguemos [Let's talk] Program Awareness and Training Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interagency coordination Resourcing (human talent and financial resources) Positioning of DINARAC as the lead agency in ADR Ownership of community over DINARAC programs
		ACHIEVEMENTS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 Casas de Justicia [Houses of Justice] established Strengthening local networks. Community approaching justice Involvement of non-traditional stakeholders
		LESSONS LEARNT
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of ADR tools installed in the territory Local governments as promoters of DINARAC programs

REFERENCES

<http://culturadepaz.mjp.go.cr/> - Ibis Salas Rodríguez: legaldinarac@gmail.com

COUNTRY | COSTA RICA

NAME: National Plan for Prevention and Treatment of Violence Against Women in Couple and Family Relations and Sexual Harassment and Rape PLANONI-Women 2010-2015

SCOPE (BENEFICIARY)	TIMEFRAME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All resident population of the Republic of Costa Rica 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2010 - 2015
RECTOR ENTITY	INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Institute for Women as Technical Secretariat of the National System for the Prevention and Treatment of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Development Plan Policy on Violence Prevention and Peace Promotion (POLSEPAZ) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará) Act 8688, establishing the National System for the Prevention and Treatment of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence Act No. 6739 (of 04/05/82), Law of the Ministry of Justice Executive Decree No. 27228 - J (La Gaceta No. 170 of 09/01/98), creating the National Directorate on Violence and Crime Prevention (DINAPREVI) Executive Decree No. 33149-J (La Gaceta No. 109, 06.07.2006), creating the National Commission for the Prevention of Violence and Promotion of Social Peace (CONAPAZ) Executive Decree No. 33453-J (La Gaceta No. 237 of 11-12-2006), whereby the DINAPREVI is renamed Directorate General for the Promotion of Peace and Coexistence (DIGEPAZ) Executive Decree No. 35293-J (La Gaceta No. 118, 19-06-09), creating the Department of Justice responsible for the prevention of violence prevention and the promotion of social peace courts Act 7142, promoting the Social Equality of Women, May 2, 1990 Act No. 7739 on Domestic Violence Act No. 7739 of 02/06/98, Code of Children and Adolescents
FOCUS	CHALLENGE, ACHIEVEMENTS, LESSONS LEARNT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preventing and responding to situations of violence against women in various fields, and the commitment of all institutions of the National System for the Prevention and Treatment of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence to perform the duties and responsibilities assigned by law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the idea that prevention requires a new attitude toward the reality, which involves surmounting historically entrenched, visible structures in various state institutions of social control and in society in general, which still consider penal response as the only alternative to criminal and non-criminal offenses (more police, higher penalties, more closure) Raise awareness of the specific needs of women, so they are seen as rights holders and can project their development potential, instead of as victims; "rethink" the public sphere as a space of social coexistence that has been built without a gender approach, thus excluding, expelling and making women vulnerable Continue to promote the discussion and analysis about the everyday spaces where violence occurs (violence in road traffic, differential allocation of roles in the workplace, sports and recreation, sexual harassment, limited opportunities for children and adolescents, institutionalized forms of discrimination, gender stereotypes in advertising, among others) that limit and violate fundamental rights Effective action to address and prevent domestic violence and violence against women should be assumed as a task concerning the entire society. Working through local networks will enable the consolidation of a space for reflection in order to understand the actual magnitude of the problem, evaluate implications of and the responsiveness to the problem, and from this understanding, design strategies to address it Continue work towards the prevention of structurally-rooted manifestations of violence such as violence against women, by analyzing, demystifying, deconstructing and addressing deeply rooted cultural patterns Strengthen interagency work, in particular to influence institutions and organizations about the implementation of sustainable community work across the country and articulated by all sectors Continue prioritization of efforts that target minors, women, officials involved in prevention and treatment of manifestations of violence Making local governments assume ownership of issues related to the prevention of violence and the promotion of social peace issues, that stimulate social organization, not only through situational prevention (cameras, police, etc.), but with an urban design that is more invested in preventive actions Promote adequate ownership of public spaces by means of recreational activities that help establish links between neighbors, children and adolescents, that enable the identification of best practices to be adopted by other communities, where required to provide security for women, youth and children Promote the leadership and participation of children, adolescents and youth, as well as the participation of women in the workplace and community decision-making on security, to promote democratic control Promote the role of the media, in particular local media, and integrate them into the work proposals when these arise

COUNTRY | COSTA RICA

- Encourage the participation of national media and use of existing technological resources and the potential of social media to disseminate prevention messages to prevent the occurrence of violent events
- Develop a data collection tool to uncover the treatment of the image of women in the media to prevent them from being objectified, victimized and subjected to the perpetuation of violence
- Involve the private sector in preventive work, within the context of corporate social responsibility so that their contributions may support advocacy and community development projects

REFERENCES

Website - www.inamu.go.cr - Ana Hidalgo, Coordinator, Area of Violence, National Institute for Women. Email: ahidalgo@inamu.go.cr

NAME: National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity (PIEG) (2007-2017)

SCOPE (BENEFICIARY)

- Inhabitants of the Republic of Costa Rica

TIMEFRAME

- 2010 - 2017

RECTOR ENTITY

- National Institute for Women

INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE

- National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity (PIEG) (2007-2017)
- Executive Decree No. 34729-PLAN-S-MEP-MTSS
- National Development Plan
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará)
- Act 8688, establishing the National System for the Prevention and Treatment of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
- Law establishing the National Institute for Women (INAMU), 1998
- Criminalization of Violence against Women Act, 2007
- Act 7142, promoting the Social Equality of Women, May 2, 1990
- Act No. 7739 on Domestic Violence
- Act No. 7739 of 02/06/98, Code of Children and Adolescents

FOCUS

- Guides the national direction on gender equality and equity, and aims to contribute to the effective protection of the rights of women against all forms of violence

CHALLENGE, ACHIEVEMENTS, LESSONS LEARNT

- The PIEG relies on a universalistic conception of promotion and protection of human rights and gender equality. The policy is intended to promote national progress on gender equality, prioritizing strategic aspects that allow the closing of the gender gap between women and men, within 10 years, recognizing contributions to the achievement of an increasingly equitable national development
- The PIEG is geared towards the transformation of the institutional culture, promoting coordinated and concerted action
- It has been shown that the development of treatment and/or prevention policies cannot occur in isolation but in concert with other bodies to optimize the result of one's actions
- Effective intersectoral coordination requires: consensus on strategic goals, responsibility, concerted mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, regular mechanisms for the meeting of all stakeholders

REFERENCES

Website - www.inamu.go.cr

Questions and answers in plenary

Q. How have you worked with the media?

A. We are in a democracy and therefore we respect and tolerate the media. However, tabloids have a negative effect on the perception of insecurity. The fact that we record low levels of violence but high levels of fear is due to the work of tabloid media.

We've done a lot of work training journalists, publishers and others.

Colombia has supported us in this effort with international experts who are also communications specialists. On the other hand, we work to combine the general picture with parallel news or campaigns for peace, on the value of dialogue, justice, etc. We have oriented part of the international cooperation towards such campaigns. There are still many challenges ahead to achieve agreements with the media.

Q. Do you have programs on harassment, bullying?

A. Together with the Ministry of Communication, we prepare protocols to be applied in schools. There are also major campaigns against gender violence in the workplace, training, etc. All public institutions must have a gender commission by law, and the National Institute for Women monitors and follows up on this. There is also the Committee on Sexual Harassment, a mandatory body for addressing issues in this field. Additionally, all institutions must have regulations related to harassment. Also, there have been changes in the curriculum of the National Police Academy, which has incorporated masculinity management.

Q. How to know if suicide and homicide records are properly differentiated?

A. They are well classified as they are recorded independently and appropriately according to the two types of death. There are cases, especially in domestic violence, where the murderer commits suicide after the murder.

Q. What is the approach of the police from the preventive perspective?

R. There are specialized police units that even depend on different agencies. They are distinct entities, but work in a coordinated manner. The public force is the generic body that guarantees order and can act as a substitute for others. All delegations of the country's police have their preventive component, which must be reported. The people do not fear the police force in Costa Rica; in fact, their slogan is "¡Somos la gente que te cuida!" [We are the people who take care of you!]

Costa Rica - Viceministry of Peace

- Comprehensive and Sustainable Policy on Citizen Security and the Promotion of Social Peace as a key element to success
- Evolution of citizen security and social peace
- Components
- Local management office
- Plan "Convivir" in schools
- "Escuelas libres de armas" ["Weapon-free Schools"] Program
- "El arte de la paz" ["The Art of Peace"] Program
- "Deporte para la paz" ["Sports for Peace"] Program
- ICT Courses for prevention
- Youth Leader Camps to prevent violence
- Casas de Justicia [Houses of Justice] Program
- "Dialoguemos" ["Let's talk"] Program
- Communication for Peace
- Civic Centers for Peace

Costa Rica - Ministry of Governance and Police

- Preventive policing programs
- Citizen security committees
- Community security
- Commercial Security Program
- "Pinta seguro" ["Paint Safe"] and Intrafamilial Violence (VIFA) programs
- Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program
- Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Tool
- Recovery of public spaces
- Accountability
- Un día por mi comunidad [One day for my community]
- Supervision and training of Community Security Strategy
- Migration and social integration: For migration with a human face [Por una migración con rostro humano]
- National vision on migration and development
- Policies and programs of social integration: immigration procedures, education, health, access to justice
- Publications and manuals, educational campaigns
- Project BA1: Prevention of Violence Against Women
- Results

COUNTRY | EL SALVADOR

NAME: National Policy on Justice, Public Safety and Coexistence

SCOPE (BENEFICIARY)		TIMEFRAME	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Local GovernmentsVulnerable PopulationYouth at RiskWomen, children, youth, seniors.Municipal Committees for the Prevention of Violence		<ul style="list-style-type: none">2010	
RECTOR ENTITY		INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ministry of Justice and Public Security		<ul style="list-style-type: none">National LevelDepartmental LevelMunicipal LevelCivil Society	
FOCUS	CONTENT	CHALLENGE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Transform El Salvador into a permanently safe country where the constitutional rule of law is respected and where the individual and family develop free of fear. A country where the investment climate leads to the development of individual and social opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Priority 1: Crime Control and Law EnforcementPriority 2: Social Prevention of Violence and CrimePriority 3: Implementation of measures and penalties for rehabilitation and social reintegrationPriority 4: Attention to VictimsPriority 5: Legal Institutional Reform <p>FOCUS ON PRIORITY 2: Prevent and reduce the underlying factors and causes of violence and crime, identifying the resources and potential of the community, to enhance protection and promote social harmony, citizen participation and mechanisms for peaceful conflict resolution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Institutionalize coordination mechanisms with legal toolsPermanent and multidisciplinary training	
		ACHIEVEMENTS	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Position the issue of prevention on the national agendaHave a strategic framework for actionArticulation of some national government institutionsJoint work of national local governmentsTerritorialization of actions	
		LESSONS LEARNT	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Multilevel and intersectoral workCoordination mechanisms including cooperationConstruction of criteria for selecting communities	
REFERENCES			
http://www.seguridad.gob.sv/			
NAME: National Strategy for Violence Prevention			
ENFOQUE	CONTENT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contribute to the construction of a National System for the Prevention of Violence with a territorial perspective, based on the link between the State and society, that strengthens public security and democracy, in addition to raising the quality of life of the population	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Unroll a concerted and coordinated action between the central government, local governments and citizens to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors in different territories and populations particularly affected by violence and crime		

Questions and answers in plenary

Q. What were the main challenges for operating the prevention office?

A. The main challenge is to coordinate and articulate efforts already underway in the territory. There is no representation of civil society in the prevention office, and it still lacks articulation with the judiciary. The formulation of the strategy took two years and it was difficult to reach a conceptual agreement. Now we have to prepare a plan and implement it. We also lack an information system.

Q. Are the agreements with gangs considered as prevention policies?

A. They are not a ministerial policy, but all provide the support that the law allows and that the government requests.

Q. How were municipalities linked with penitentiary committees?

A. There is a link between local governments and the penitentiary system in general. Municipal prevention committees are advised by PREPAZ. The link with the penitentiary system consists of sharing information about prisoners.

Q. Is there an arms control program at the civil society level?

A. We have developed a policy that began with the support of UNDP and brought together justice, the army and others; the process was an initiative of the mayor to control weapons in his/her municipality.

Q. How is the situation with the reintegration of youth at risk and in conflict with the law of secondary and tertiary nature?

A. The main challenge is coverage because the funding is not able to cover all the needs. The selection criteria are impact and expectation. They are currently working in Sonsonate and Santa Tecla, where impact is being measured with other municipalities.

El Salvador

- National Policy on Justice, Public Safety and Coexistence: objective and priorities
- Priority 2: Social Prevention of Violence and Crime - Strategies
- National strategy for violence prevention (ENPV): content, improvements, rationale, conceptual approach, strategic principles, policy framework, international and national legal framework, purpose, objectives, priorities
- Policy for citizen participation in public management
- Structural risk factors
- Risk factors associated with youth violence
- Territories, population and priority areas
- Criteria for prioritizing communities and municipalities
- Actors and territorial policy areas
- Areas and levels of participation and coordination
- Institutions of the Executive that assist in prevention
- Guidelines in relation to resources
- Phases for implementation of the ENPV in territories
- Municipal Committee for the Prevention of Violence: establishment, definition and functions
- Evaluation and knowledge management

COUNTRY | GUATEMALA

NAME: National Policy for the Prevention of Violence and Crime, Citizen Security and Peaceful Coexistence 2014-2034

SCOPE (BENEFICIARY)		TIMEFRAME
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• From community to departmental level		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 years
RECTOR ENTITY		INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Viceministry of Violence and Crime Prevention		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rectory, Third Viceministry• Operationalization of the Unit for the Prevention of Violence-Community (UPCV)• Implementation, municipalities and community organization• Support to ministries of the Executive and other autonomous entities
FOCUS	CONTENT	CHALLENGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Violence and crime prevention approach• Citizen security approach• Peaceful coexistence approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic priority on prevention of Armed Violence• Strategic priority on prevention of Violence against Women• Strategic priority on prevention of Violence against Children• Strategic priority on prevention of Violence against Adolescents and Youth• Strategic priority on prevention of Traffic Violence and road traffic accidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ownership of the Policy by the mayors
		ACHIEVEMENTS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sector consensus and strategic and operational design applicable in the territory
		LESSONS LEARNT
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Importance of political will• Interagency coordination
REFERENCES		
Martha Chew, macjcm2@gmail.com - Ray Orantes, rayorantes@gmail.com		

Questions and answers in plenary

Q. In the pyramid of policy implementation, it seems that the coordination and strategy mechanisms are only designed for the top of the pyramid.

A. The policy has been created and agreed to by different sectors. There are guidelines in the policies that are fixed and cannot be changed. When pursuing a course of action, local governments propose plans and projects.

Q. On the map with the blue areas, do the departments with no reports of sexual violence have a larger or smaller indigenous population?

A. In terms of sexual offenses and domestic violence, there is higher incidence in regions that are mostly indigenous. A differentiated intervention is required.

Q. Is it possible to have disaggregated data?

A. Yes, by age and sex. Inside the Prevention Unit, there are reporting mechanisms. The Unit will also enable municipalities to publish official data themselves. We also have the 24-hour-0 Death Observatory at the Ministry of Interior whose analysis is more focused on violent deaths.

Q. Any other good practices?

A. Stadiums free of violence, safe schools, educational tips, "Vivo te quiero" [I want you alive] (traffic accident prevention program).

Guatemala

- National Policy for the Prevention of Violence and Crime, Citizen Security and Peaceful Coexistence
- Focus
- Objectives
- Ecological model for violence and crime prevention
- Dimensions of the policy
- Strategic priorities of the policy
- Pyramid of policy implementation
- Some roles in the policy
- Differentiated interventions
- Unified model of intervention

Q. On financing mechanisms.

A. There are various sources of funding, including international cooperation. For it to be sustainable, the goal is for mayors to assume ownership of policies to integrate the plans into their programming and promote them, since the municipal corporations are here to stay.

We must empower municipalities as well as the community. For example, participatory budgeting pilots have been developed in the Dominican Republic and community plans for violence prevention in Guatemala. It is not only about transferring power from one level to another, but about being more democratic. The dimension of citizen participation at the local level is crucial.

Q. On the national police.

A. As for the police, we are working on a gender-, age- and culture-sensitive model of community policing. Such a police would be subjected to social audit.

COUNTRY | HONDURAS

NAME: National Policy on Prevention of Violence against Children and Youth of Honduras

SCOPE (BENEFICIARY)		TIMEFRAME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children: 0 to 18 years Youth: 18 to 30 years Young boys: 12 to 14 years Young girls: 12 to 14 years Adolescents (men): 12 to 17 years Adolescents (women): 12 to 17 years Youth with special needs 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Executive Decree PCM-011-2013, published on March 18, 2013 in the official newspaper La Gaceta
RECTOR ENTITY		INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Council for Violence Prevention (COPREV) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretaries of State State Department Education Health Security Social development Labor and Social Security Interior and Justice Public Ministry (MP), Children's Court, Children's Attorney
FOCUS	CONTENT	CHALLENGE, LESSONS LEARNT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of human rights education, Civic Culture Promotion of institutional strengthening plans, programs and projects Promotion of municipal programs, projects and plans for the prevention of violence, crime and conflict Promotion of research processes applied by public and private academic institutions Public awareness strategies through systematic and permanent communication Dissemination, promotion and coordination of programs for recreation and leisure use at community level Coordination with individuals or institutions involved in protection, research, communication and education in human rights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the capacity and actions of the State in collaboration with civil society to adequately mitigate risk of the underlying factors of violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizational Promoting local participation processes Towards building the internal capacities of local governments Ownership, alignment, results oriented management, access and harmonization
		ACHIEVEMENTS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of First Public Policy on Violence Prevention by the Cabinet Installation and swearing-in of Office for Violence Prevention ruled by the Secretariat of the Presidency and Security 30% of security tax fund is dedicated to strengthen violence prevention processes. Swearing-in of the Interagency Commission of people displaced by violence Allocation of budget to the Commission against trafficking.
REFERENCES		
<p>Félix Arturo Alonzo - PNP Executive Summary / aalonzopnp@gmail.com / 99948151</p> <p>Douglas Urbina - Project Officer. / durk03esp@hotmail.com / 97114338</p>		

NAME: Design of the National Violence Prevention Plan

SCOPE (BENEFICIARY)		TIMEFRAME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children: 0 to 18 years Youth: 18 to 30 years Young boys: 12 to 14 years Young girls: 12 to 14 years Adolescents (men): 12 to 17 years Youth with special needs 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Executive Decree PCM-011-2013, published on March 18, 2013 in the official bulletin La Gaceta
RECTOR ENTITY		INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government of the Republic National Office for Violence Prevention National Council for Violence Prevention (COPREV) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government of the Republic National Office for Violence Prevention National Council for Violence Prevention (COPREV) Government of the Republic National Office for Violence Prevention Government of the Republic National Office for Violence Prevention National Council for Violence Prevention (COPREV)

COUNTRY | HONDURAS

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government of the Republic • Association of Municipalities of Honduras (AMHON), National Human Rights Commissioner (CONADEH), National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), Francisco Morazán National Pedagogical University (UPNFM), National Association of Private Universities (ANUPRIH), National Commission in Favor of Sporting Facilities and Sport Improvement (CONAPID), National Football Federation of Honduras (FENAFUTH) • Media associations and others
FOCUS	CONTENT	CHALLENGE, LESSONS LEARNT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights, gender equality, pluralism, culture of peace and social inclusion • Citizen and multicultural participation, intergenerational dialogue and democratic dialogue • Decentralization, transparency and accountability • Public awareness strategies through systematic and permanent communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Building peace, social equity, democracy and respect for human rights in Honduran society, reducing the existing high levels of violence, through the development of integrated processes, prevention campaigns, effective interagency coordination and deployment of relevant approaches in the various programs and projects" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges: organizational • Promoting local participation processes • Towards building the internal capacities of local governments • Ownership, alignment, results oriented management, access and harmonization
		ACHIEVEMENTS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of First Public Policy on Violence Prevention by the Cabinet • Monitoring of the actions of the Office for Violence Prevention governed by the Secretariat of the Presidency and Security • 30% of security tax fund is dedicated to strengthen violence prevention processes • Monitoring and support of the Interagency Commission of people displaced by violence. Allocation of budget to the Commission against trafficking • Monitoring and support of the Interagency Commission of people displaced by violence. Allocation of budget to the Commission against trafficking • Reforms to improve educational quality • Implementation of public policy for social development (Programa Para una Vida Mejor) [For a Better Life Program] • Comprehensive reforms in the field of the child and family to ensure an effective comprehensive protection of the rights of children • Appointment of prevention ambassadors -sport and world celebrities
REFERENCES		
<p>Félix Arturo Alonzo - PNP Executive Summary / aalonzopnp@gmail.com / 99948151</p> <p>Douglas Urbina - Project Officer. / durk03esp@hotmail.com / 97114338</p>		

Questions and answers in plenary

Q. Are there any agreements with the press on how violence is addressed? What has been achieved in this area?

A. Just some progress, since above all it is a business, and the media has to sell and generate revenue; they sell more if they publish a bloodbath. Relations are currently good with major media, and work has been done with journalists and media owners, but there is always opposition media.

Q. What has been and will be the role of young people in this process? Are they simply beneficiaries or managers as well?

A. They are part of public policy and participated in its development. If the community does not assume ownership of the projects, we will never get afloat. Therefore, we work with the trustees and community police to install capacities.

The Government of Honduras has a vision for the country and a plan as a nation. Currently, there are three presidential programs. One is called "Con Chamba Vivis Mejor" [You Live Better with a Job], which addresses employment for people ages 26 to 40; "Vida Mejor" [Better Life] for vulnerable groups; and a "Security" program.

Q. I am interested in the ambassador program. What message do these people transmit?

A. They positively encourage children and adolescents, they are ambassadors of peace.

Q. What is the community police?

A. Community police depends on the preventive national police. They form a special unit that approaches citizens to complete the triad: police-local government-citizens. The school police is part of the community police.

Q. You mentioned COPREV as the coordinating body of the policy. What are the main challenges as an ad hoc body? And, is it difficult not to have a governing body?

A. COPREV is the regulatory body according to the public policy adopted in September 2013. We have had three meetings to date, and we do not see it as an obstacle as long as there is a prevention office with the highest authorities. Civil society is very involved, as well as youth and human rights advocates. We are making a joint effort, but we have to organize ourselves first to monitor the policy.

Q. Does the "Con Chamba Vivis Mejor" [You Live Better With a Job] program address youth in general or youth at risk or in conflict with the law?

A. About the program, it is a presidential program, and its goal is to generate 100,000 beneficiaries during the government term. It includes public-private incentives and involves training, retention, social security and creating a secure workplace.

Q. Have you thought about working the issue of violent masculinity?

A. It is a priority, given that the largest number of complaints to 911 are due to domestic violence. Experts are working on this issue. We know the problem exists, and there are already plans to address it.

Honduras

- National Policy on Prevention of Violence against Children and Youth of Honduras: history, characteristics, purpose and objectives
- Alignment to the vision of the country and the security strategy of SICA
- Policy as a public good
- Policy approaches
- Strategic lines
- International and national legal framework in which the policy is based
- Institutional and governing framework
- Faculty of call and coordination efforts
- Municipalization of efforts
- Challenges
- Lessons learned
- Achievements of the Government of Honduras

COUNTRY | PANAMA

NAME: Country Strategy for Citizen Security

SCOPE (BENEFICIARY)		TIMEFRAME	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">National level, but focused on some districts with higher rates of crime according to official statistics from the Integrated Criminal Statistics System (SIEC)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">2011- 2014, but the government of President Juan Carlos Varela seeks to adopt it as State policy and ensure continuity during his rule	
RECTOR ENTITY		INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ministry of Public Security		<ul style="list-style-type: none">All government institutions, faith-based organizations, academic institutions, NGOs, private companies, civil society, international cooperation	
FOCUS	CONTENT	CHALLENGE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Comprehensive and focused	<p>The Country Strategy for Citizen Security is based on five guiding principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Respect for human rightsComprehensive approach to crime issuesCoordination, focusMonitoring and evaluation <p>Five strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Institutional strengtheningInformationPreventionCrime control and punishmentSocial reintegration and rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Integrate the strategy into a security policy for supportDevelopment of local prevention plans for community empowerment and recovery of public spaces	
		ACHIEVEMENTS	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Implementation of Community Prevention Units (UPC) of security agencies, as a bridge for state response and control of social peace	
		LESSONS LEARNT	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Creation and implementation of the Response Interagency Network for Prevention.	
REFERENCES			
<p>Ministry of Public Security, Corregimiento de Ancón, edificio 1220, entrada a la calzada de Amador.</p> <p>Contact: Livia Ambulo, lambulo@minseg.gob.pa, Tel: 316-2803 - Maybet Pérez, maybetperez@hotmail.com, Tel: 316-2822</p>			

Questions and answers in plenary

R. Q. Have you encountered resistance from the male society towards your work and what strategies have helped?

A. The trend has been the consent of civil society, not only the women's movement but organizations usually represented by men, and they have been integrated into the network. Instead, people designated in public institutions are those who have not demonstrated much willingness. The inclusion of young people has been positive. We managed to overcome resistance by well-defined local plans, work plans, providing people with instruments and documents and not just discourse. For example, the self-learning guide on how to organize is available online. People generally pay attention because we are talking about prevention, and men also have mothers, sisters, wives, daughters eligible for these programs.

Q. Have you worked on the issue of masculinity?

A. In all spaces they are collective constructs. We participated in the online course on masculinity conducted by Costa Rica. The law issue was not easy. It is an integrated law that criminalizes and creates prosecutors and includes prevention, treatment and punishment in a security strategy. Awareness sessions and training courses for youth, magistrates and trainers have been very important.

We are working to mainstream gender in all public policies.

Panama

- Public Policy of Equal Opportunities for Women (PPIOM)
- Construction process of PPIOM
- Definition
- Principles
- Approaches
- Thematic priorities, guidelines and strategic objectives: social media; legal equality; human rights of women; education; women and family; migration, trafficking and women prisoners; health; violence against women; gender-sensitive budget; statistics and census; indigenous, rural, afrodescendant groups and women with disabilities
- Institutional architecture
- Achievements
- Challenges
- Lessons Learned

COUNTRY | DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

NAME: Strategic Plan for the prevention, detection, treatment and punishment of violence against women and domestic violence (CONAPLUVI)

SCOPE (BENEFICIARY)

- To the entire Dominican population

TIMEFRAME

- April 2011 – December 2016

RECTOR ENTITY

- The Ministry of Women is the governing body of the National Commission for the Prevention and Fight Against Domestic Violence (CONAPLUVI), created by Executive Decree # 423-98

INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE

- Consistent with the Dominican legal framework, international agreements ratified by the country, the Ministry of Women and CONAPLUVI institutions, this Strategic Plan is an effort to advance the eradication of the social, cultural, educational and economic drivers of violence against women and domestic violence
- The clearest manifestation of the firm decision to take collective responsibility to strengthen mechanisms for prevention and deterrence of violent behaviors through various specialized educational programs in different areas and other intervention strategies

FOCUS

- Preventive and reactive comprehensive framework with a multisectoral and interdisciplinary dimension based on the international and national legal framework of the Dominican Republic

CONTENT

- Overview
- Legal base
- Composition and mission of CONAPLUVI
- Partner institutions and organizations
- Role of institutions
- Rationale of the Strategic Plan
- Strategic priorities
- General and specific purposes
- Activities

CHALLENGE

- Increased budgetary allocation
- Creating more specialized spaces
- Monitor and follow up the quality of services

LESSONS LEARNT, ACHIEVEMENTS

- Raising public awareness in the different sectors – including state institutions and civil society – and training for decision-makers and human resources about the comprehensive system of care and prevention, detection, and punishment
- Strengthening and broadening of expertise for the attention of the critical roadmap
- Assessment of the National Model for Comprehensive Care and Prevention of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
- Strengthen interagency coordination in program and territorial action and obtain the necessary resources to offer a service that respects dignity
- Campaigns and dissemination of information for the prevention of violence against women and domestic violence
- Investigations of cases of violence against women
- Strengthening local networks
- Self-Care Program for service providers
- Psycho-emotional recovery programs for survivors of violence
- Rehabilitation Program for offenders
- Coordinate efforts to establish by law a National System of Protection and Advocacy for the Rights of Victims and Witnesses, especially for victims of all forms of gender-based violence
- Direct efforts for the state, civil society employers to prioritize the definition and creation and strengthening of policies and actions for gender-based violence prevention and care and promoting a violence-free life

REFERENCES

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COUNTRY | DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

NAME: Vivir Tranquilo [Tranquil Living] Program

SCOPE (BENEFICIARY)		TIMEFRAME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National District, Santiago, San Cristóbal and Higüey 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2005 - ongoing
RECTOR ENTITY		INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Interior and Police 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program dynamics involve interaction with all civil society organizations operating in the neighborhoods involved, especially faith-based organizations, NGOs, neighborhood council, association of parents and friends of schools, and others registered with the Ministry of Interior and Police From these organizations, neighborhood development councils are formed on the initiative of the community members. Currently, 7 municipalities and 113 districts and Neighborhood Development Councils are part of the program and are, in turn, represented by 339 spokespersons, through which activities developed within the program are coordinated The program also interacts with many public institutions managing the fulfillment of community needs. These include the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology and the National Institute of Technical - Vocational Training (INFOTEP). Public institutions such as the Water and Sewer Corporation (CAASD), Ministry of Public Works, Municipalities, Ministry of Public Health, Production Financing and Development Institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture and the Reserve Bank
FOCUS	CONTENT	CHALLENGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce crime and violence in marginalized neighborhoods 	<p>Overview</p> <p>Includes 5 permanent sub-programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Sub-Program Promotion of Income Generation Sub-Program Housing Solutions Sub-Program Art, Culture and Sports Sub-Program Health and Food Sub-Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity-building in program neighborhoods for easy insertion into the labor market Encourage youth and adults entrepreneurship in neighborhoods by managing resources for the installation of micro enterprises Implement actions for the inscription of children and youth in the civil registry, allowing them to hold documents certifying their identity Promote youth participation in cultural, sport and recreational activities, thus contributing to reduce the likeliness for them to participate in unprofitable activities Solve specific collective problems related to utilities in neighborhoods Enabling mechanisms for the delivery of food and health services to the program population Coordination for the acquisition of housing for poor families selected according to pre-established criteria
REFERENCES		
www.mip.gob.do		

Questions and answers in plenary

Q. How are observatories connected, and are they available online?

A. They are on online. The Observatory for Citizen Security collects the stats of violent deaths and issues quarterly and annual reports that are confirmed by the National Police, the Public Ministry and the Ministry of Interior and Police. The data is published, including femicide figures and comparisons with the previous period. It is a breakthrough in terms of data as they are official and confirmed. This initiative involves many institutions such as the Ministry of Interior and Police, National Police, Public Health, the National Office of Statistics, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Public Ministry, the National Drug Control Agency, AMET, etc.

There are other observatories such as the Judiciary's where sentences are poseted. It is worth noting that the observatory has a virtual platform in which all institutions participate monthly and discuss one topic. The National District City Council also maintains an observatory and has a gender policy; it publishes training statistics, among others.

Q. ¿Vivir tranquilo [Tranquil Living] Program: priorities, focus, main action strategies?

A. It follows the National Security Plan in March 2013 and focuses on five provinces and 15 municipalities where crime rates are higher, coinciding with most deprived neighborhoods in the country. It is focused on the younger population. Its strategy is to coordinate with organized groups such as churches, development councils, local NGOs and civil society in general.

Q. What is the approach of the arms control policy?

A. The SISNA (National Weapons System) works on biometric issues with weapons carriers. Its registration system currently contains 210,000 registered weapons. It is a very modern system that is able to determine the location of weapons within the civilian population.

Q. How is the issue of violence prevention associated with natural disasters addressed?

A. The Emergency Operations Center is activated when the emergency is declared as well as on public holidays and during the hurricane season from June to November.

Q. Are there prevention programs led by and for young people?

A. There are many. For example, we have a program to prevent teen pregnancy. It builds on the synergy of various ministries and works on a youth-to-youth basis; trained multipliers disseminate and train in schools and colleges in communities with a focus on prevention.

Q. What elements of the new penitentiary system can be considered as best practices, and how do they relate to prevention?

A. First, the prison system is a complex issue in most countries. A new management model is being activated in the Dominican Republic aimed at training security personnel in a dedicated school, with staff that is neither military nor police, to achieve rehabilitation and reintegration. There is live-in center with daily activities including training courses, relaxation and work. These centers are capable of food self-sufficiency and income generation for families of prisoners (through the sale of surplus production). All these advances have been achieved with the least amount of investment globally. We had to overcome the skepticism of the people and the old punishment models from within. The aim is to empower prisoners with the values that society expects of a human being. In the first stage, a 2.7% reoccurrence rate was achieved. Currently, since the old system could not be displaced as

Dominican Republic

- International regulatory framework
- National regulatory framework
- Regulatory framework and public policies
- National Development Strategy
- Citizen Security plan
- Citizen Security plan priorities
- Vivir tranquilo [Tranquil Living] Program
- Peaceful resolution of interpersonal, community and family conflicts
- Program for the Prevention of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
- Programs: My Young Community, Entrepreneurship, Strategy for Youth Development and Culture of Peace, Extended Day Program, National Literacy Plan, the Science Corner, Education- Empowerment- Employment
- Advertising campaigns
- Ministry of Women

expected, the rate has remained at 5%. The old model had a rate 60%, which means that there is a greater advance in tertiary prevention.

Also, in view that many returnees in the country speak English, call centers have been set up as part of a private initiative that enable deported Dominicans to reenter the job market.

Q. Interagency coordination for security. How to coordinate so many agencies?

A. The Attorney General's Office is in charge of prevention, managing it with all ministries external to the Public Ministry. The Deputy Attorney General assumes the role of the Office of the Prosecutor-General. The prosecution aspects are managed by the Supreme Council of the Public Ministry, and once approved, the Public Ministry receives by law all the assistance it may request of any other entity on a case-to-case basis. Interagency coordination in preventive and prosecution efforts have continue to improve, and institutional supremacy has given way to a systemic commitment to common goals as these are State issues, and the State should ensure peace and good living for the whole of society.

With the Security Plan decrees, two elements that support public security were harmonized: the criminal policy by the Public Ministry and the citizen security policy managed by the Ministry of Interior and Police. Their satisfactory articulation has led to a reduction of crime and violence rates. Inner articulation has allowed for the development of synergies and prevented isolation, as well as contributed to joint effort towards prevention and human development.

Inter-sectoral coordination is a good practice. Regarding prevention, 15 ministries are jointly developing a national plan for preventing, addressing and combating violence against women. In addition, more than 20 civil society organizations are involved in the development and implementation of these plans. Other mechanisms exist for coordination with other institutions, such as shelters that provide comprehensive services. Regional and international level articulation is conducted through the Foreign Ministry.

We have learned that we must reach the local level and that we need to ensure the sustainability of the State.⁹

3. Reflections on key elements of violence prevention policies: Day 1 Results

- **Linking human development and human rights:** A way to support violence prevention policies is to integrate them into a national strategy for human development. Government tends to respond to short-term issues. There are public policies that link violence prevention with the obligation of States to guarantee fundamental human rights.
- **Comprehensiveness in addressing security:** In violence prevention, there is a fine line between prevention and control, for example, gun control is different from the prevention of armed violence. We should not try to separate but to integrate, establish linkages. Control generates negative peace, while violence prevention aims to build positive peace. It is important to improve coordination between prevention and control policies.
- **Institutionalization as a state policy:** Public policies must be institutionalized and not personalized because the latter does not lend itself to long-term sustainability. Decrees and laws have proven to be appropriate mechanisms for institutionalization. All stakeholders should agree on longer periods/terms than those of the Government.
- **Budgetary commitment:** It is crucial to support the institutionalization of policies, with laws to increase the probability of resource allocation. Often policies are well developed but funds are not available beyond international cooperation. The budget for the implementation of the policy must be ensured, as well as resource collection mechanisms.
- **Multi-level, multisectoral and interagency policies:** Multi-level work is crucial, not only at national and institutional levels, but at the local level to incorporate and work with communities. Community involvement gives legitimacy to violence prevention processes. Work must be multi-level, but also multisectoral. A permanent effort is required for the inclusion of different actors who have been traditionally absent or silenced; for example, youth, community leaders, the private sector and women. It is time to make room for other sectors. This also adds strength to and underpins the impact and sustainability.
- **Non-traditional prevention actors:** It is important to address the issue of the non-traditional strategic actors and partners in the security sector such as banks, private sector, etc.
- **Accountability, Monitoring and Evaluation:** Accountability to society as a whole is necessary to be able to correct the course of action in a timely manner. Monitoring and evaluation lead us to social audit and the continuous improvement of processes. It is also very important to ensure a budget for the measurement evaluations, monitoring and the measurement of impact, as well as knowledge management.
- **Gender-, cultural- and human rights-based approach:** It is not enough to only have policies for women. We should always mainstream gender, as well as multiculturalism and human rights, into all policies.
- **Targeting and sophistication of prevention:** All prevention policies should be accompanied by attention programs for persons leaving prison as part of tertiary prevention and reintegration. There are some initiatives and efforts, but more needs to be done in this regard.

- **Ethical and competent performance of the institutions:** Our organizations need people who are competent, but also ethical. Many economic interests rely on violence, and many people make a living from it. Commitments should always avoid personal leadership. We need a systemic approach carried out with commitment, ethics and true dedication. In terms of the functional performance of the institutions, there is a great need to develop better project management skills.
- **Negative incentives of prevention:** We should reflect on how to address the negative incentives of prevention, since crime is an industry; if prevention succeeds, this will affect many interests and illegal groups, capable of generating strong opposition, influence and pressure.
- **Positioning the issue on the agenda of cooperation:** It is important to prioritize the agenda of violence prevention at the level of international cooperation; for example, in the new Millennium Development Goals.



4 | **VIOLENCE PREVENTION BY THEMATIC AREA AND STAGE OF POLICY: DAY 2**

1. Working in thematic groups by thematic area

The methodology used in this session of the agenda was to form five working groups with one facilitator each for each of the following topics:

- 1 | **Prevention of violence affecting children, adolescents and youth** (facilitator Ana Lucía Cascante)
- 2 | **Prevention of gender-based violence or violence against women** (facilitator Glenda Vaquerano)
- 3 | **Prevention of violence from the local level** (facilitator Santiago Flores)
- 4 | **Prevention of armed violence** (facilitator Nelson Rauda)
- 5 | **Prevention of violence through programs for coexistence, access to justice and peaceful conflict resolution** (facilitator Claudia Gazol)

Then, a four-round conversation was organized in each thematic panel focused on the following areas of analysis:

- 1 | **Conceptual framework and policy content**
- 2 | **Architecture, institutional coordination and governance**
- 3 | **Main challenges, obstacles and opportunities for success**
- 4 | **Monitoring and evaluation of prevention policies**

To guide the discussion in each round, a series of guiding questions were displayed on the screen:

ROUND	AREA OF ANALYSIS	GUIDING QUESTIONS
1°	Conceptual framework and policy content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is meant by prevention of violence applied to the subject of your panel? • What are best approaches used to work on violence prevention policies regarding the subject addressed by your panel? • What are the characteristics of these policies and strategies? • Sharing examples of violence prevention policies associated with the subject of your panel, which ones should be given the highest priority? Why?
2°	Architecture, institutional coordination and governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the regulatory framework required to improve your work? • How do the powers and agencies involved in violence prevention policies associated with the subject of your panel articulate? • How do institutions work with other public and private actors to design and implement prevention strategies related to the subject of your panel?
3°	Main challenges, obstacles and opportunities for success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the challenges and opportunities found in the promotion, development and implementation of these policies? • What were the main obstacles? How were they overcome? • What remains to be done for it to feel that real progress is being achieved?
4°	Monitoring and evaluation of prevention policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the good experiences and the challenges to measure the status of prevention? • What are the good experiences and challenges to measure prevention policies (laws, processes, mechanisms, etc.)? • What inter-agency mechanisms exist and which ones work best for policy monitoring? • Lessons learned • Common lines of action • List of pending issues

After completing four rounds of conversation, the thematic groups proceeded to present their discussions and results in plenary, as summarized below.



Methodological framework and content:

Violence occurs in areas in which this population develops and spends the most time. We must work to promote positive action from home, schools, stadiums, community spaces. Regarding the approaches used, we agree on the importance of promoting inclusion through art, culture, sporting and recreational activities such as camps, championships, school bands; empowerment should result in significant levels of participation; enhance education through the improvement of life skills, mentoring and training with career counseling.

In terms of content, all countries have made progress and tried to integrate this population and networking, but we agree that there are weaknesses in achieving a sense of ownership from youth, adolescents and children of these programs, and that they feel the programs belong to them and are for them.

Architecture and articulation:

Regulatory and policy framework:

- In Costa Rica, there is the National Development Plan, national youth policies and supporting public policies.
- In Guatemala there is a bill to work on these policies, but they remain stagnant. The National Youth Council, the Ministry of Education and the National Physical Education Board make efforts but fail to establish a strong outreach network for youth.
- Belize has the National Policy for Youth Development, Horizon 2030, the national action plan for families and children, and the national proposal on the prevention of domestic violence affecting youth; there is interagency coordination between the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Human Development and Child and Family Committees.

Interagency coordination:

- In Costa Rica, there is coordination between the national commissions for project management, coordination at the ministerial level, and joint committees that include the private sector.
- In Guatemala, there are policy boards for decision-making and technical boards for monitoring the processes; the latter include the public and private sector.
- In Belize, there is a matrix of actors that allows for interagency coordination across institutions and subjects, the identification of key stakeholders and uniting them around common goals. Belize will soon have a National Youth Commission, which will ensure youth representation in all ministries.

Challenges and opportunities:

In Guatemala, the main challenges include: putting the policy into practice; the socialization of policies; outreach to the target population; and interagency coordination. In Costa Rica, the primary challenge is sustainability over time, both in terms of budget and political will. Legal support for the policy remains another challenge. However, there is a great interest in working with youth. In Belize, the budget is the main challenge. Opportunities identified in this country include the communication strategy, political will and for the voice of the youth to be exposed and heard. A common challenge is the monitoring and evaluation of policies and the instruments used.

Common challenges and obstacles:

- Institutions often establish objectives without accounting for the beneficiary population. This leads to rejection of the programs.
- The fact that funding often depends on international cooperation is another obstacle.
- This contributes to the lack of systematization of what does and does not work in terms of learning and ongoing improvement is an obstacle to development initiatives. Another concern is the lack of midterm evaluations to correct the course of action and improve programs.

Monitoring and evaluation:

Countries report a lack of baselines and funding to conduct internal and external evaluations. More than anything, there are work reports, comptroller reports, statistics, police reports, surveys of United Nations offices, observatories. However, there are no comprehensive mechanisms for the monitoring and evaluation of programs, and there are no qualitative measurements (quantitative only). It is suggested that national systems for impact measurement should prioritize youth policies and make them visible by separating them from other policies.



Methodological framework and content:

The prevention of gender-based violence consists of all the strategies and actions that seek equity and equality for men and women. The primary prevention of violence is related to gender awareness in women so they are able to identify and report events of violence through the media, churches, hospitals and places where women go. We seek to implement actions and behaviors to mainstream gender in all spheres, both public and private. Effective prevention of gender violence involves a shift in patriarchal paradigms and structures that subdue women. Prevention requires a mental shift for men and women to be seen as human beings, before they are seen as men and women.

The approaches used are: human rights, gender mainstreaming at all levels of security, specific national and international tools on women's issues (CEDAW), human development, empowerment, multiculturalism, inter-generationalism and sustainability.

It is important that policy-making includes other women-related issues in the context of other actions to ensure linkages with health, labor, agriculture, security, education, culture, sports, children, adolescents and youth issues, citizen participation, politics and access to justice. It is also important that policies have gender-sensitive budgets. Violence prevention policies target the most vulnerable population groups.

Architecture and articulation:

There should be a strong supporting regulatory framework: international instruments and conventions. There must be coordination with governmental and women's institutions, civil society, tripartite committees which involve the participation of all sectors.

Positive incentives: resources, partnerships, ownership, empowerment, each institution's commitments and agreements. Negative incentives: limited resources, scattered statistical data that is not disaggregated, low inter-institutional coordination and poor monitoring and follow-up.

Institutions work with other public stakeholders through agreements and strategic alliances. Plans and projects are developed jointly, until an outcome is achieved, and civil society and the state have responsibilities at each level. Civil society organizations should be strengthened and made more sustainable.

Challenges and opportunities:

We must be inclusive, involving both men and women from all sectors. It is essential to work with the aggressor on the issues of masculinity, and this must be an inter-agency effort. Structural

and cultural changes are a challenge for every country. The main obstacles to implementation include: limited budgets, institutional weakness, the low incidence in other government agencies, and the institutional weakness at regional level.

The challenges have been overcome through strategic alliances between the public and private sector, women's movements, institutes, universities; the adoption of laws and legal frameworks; training and awareness; and political will.

In order to truly feel progress, people need to be empowered and demand their rights; governments must take more affirmative and concrete actions for these rights to be achieved; and Ministries of Health and all State institutions must effectively take responsibility for the achievement of gender mainstreaming in all areas. Moreover, policies should become State policies rather than government policies and all strategic lines should include an understanding of the existence of women's inequality, because gender considerations should be present across all public policies for violence prevention. Violence against women must be assumed as a crosscutting issue in all policies. Finally, more work is needed in non-traditional areas such as female prisoners and their families, migrants and refugees.

Monitoring and evaluation:

Every public policy should be subject to monitoring and evaluation. The systematization of experiences, studies and research are invaluable for learning and improvement. The electronic dissemination of information is important to showcase the work being done. To confirm progress achieved, we need to have a good baseline for monitoring and evaluation of prevention policies, and conduct midterm and final evaluations. We need progress indicators on the Convention of Belém do Pará and CEDAW, outcome indicators, as well as different thematic and situational policy assessments.

There are not many specialists prepared to evaluate public policies; budgets are limited; each institution collects data differently; and it is difficult to gather data at the municipal and sub-national level. A budget for monitoring and evaluation should be included from the outset.

The Boards of Directors allow monitoring, as in the case of safehouses in the Dominican Republic.

Finally, we have learned that it is important to collect specific data, that we need to work on an interagency basis and as a team, and that public consultation is part of the women's movement.



Methodological framework and content:

We work with local governments and stakeholders that are present in the territory. We share a large umbrella that covers the conceptual framework of violence prevention, including rights, human security and citizen security approaches. Each country has its own approach to working in the territory, and we understand the prevention of violence in terms of addressing risk factors and promoting protective factors. The idea is to anticipate and prevent the offense. We also understand the complementarity between prevention and combat or control. All countries work on prevention at multiple levels, with national bodies that have a leading role, but that also reach the local level. We agree on the importance of citizen participation and the inclusion of non-traditional actors such as NGOs, academia and the private sector. Finally, all countries value the issue of building social capital.

Architecture and articulation:

By working with local governments, we focus on primary and secondary prevention. Currently, we are not working at the tertiary level since there are national bodies already doing this. However, work at tertiary level is being carried out in Guatemala in cases of violence against women. We agree that we should start to venture into that level and also that the definition of a model for tertiary prevention at the local level is pending.

There are differences between countries in terms of managing prevention at the local level. However, in all cases there is a supporting legal framework that enables national, local and sectoral coordination. As in the case of the Dominican Republic, often time executive orders have transitioned into the development of a law. In Costa Rica, in addition to the institutional framework, there is a 10-year State policy, POLSEPAZ. However, there is still a preponderance of government policies (as opposed to State policy) in local level prevention.

In terms of articulation, national institutions are represented at the local level. However, many processes still depend on the willingness of local authorities, unlike the Colombian model. In our countries, local governments are only "invited" to work on violence prevention,

particularly in the development of plans. Finally, we found that we all work with municipal or local committees with the objective of establishing a structure in the territories. Here, political will makes a difference.

Regarding the inclusion of civil society, a mapping of existing stakeholders at the local level is conducted, and they are invited to be part of the validation process and actions performed.

Challenges and opportunities:

The main challenge is related to the leadership of the local government in transferring the benefits to the entire population. Institutional strengthening is another challenge to effective work on violence prevention at both the national and local level. There is also the empowerment of civil society to give them a voice and a vote. As for social control, we must overcome the fear and promote the open participation of the community. Finally, we are concerned about the disparity of local capacities, both in terms of budget and personnel and resources.

Monitoring and evaluation:

We found major weaknesses in this area as there are no mechanisms and indicators. Our proposal is to review regional indicators in the framework of SICA, given that they exist, but could be revised. The other proposal is that each country include the issue of indicators and monitoring mechanisms in the design of local plans.



Methodological framework and content:

We understand the prevention of armed violence as the promotion of peaceful coexistence, and the restriction, control and discouragement of the use, possession and acquisition of firearms. Approaches that have proven useful include the identification of areas with a presence of firearms and associated crime; control of firearms throughout the whole process and training; the creation of a regional register of firearms and ammunition; and a community policing model.

Architecture and articulation:

The Security Ministry or the Defense Ministry regulates the issuance of firearms, in coordination with the national police, prosecutors and the judiciary. It is important to have information and control of arms sales and private security companies.

Challenges and opportunities:

Challenges include the unification of criteria for firearms; the political will to regulate and restrict the use of arms; and separation between public security and private security management.

We found opportunities such as the strengthening of the institutional structure in charge of the control of firearms; domestic and international social advocacy regarding violence involving firearms; and integration of programs such as the Central American Programme on Small Arms Control (CASAC).

Monitoring and evaluation:

These policies are poorly monitored and there is limited access to information. The population has no knowledge of best practices.

As for best practices, we can mention the the Central American Programme on Small Arms Control (CASAC) project, disarmament programs, targeted weapons bans or "closed seasons", violence observatories, the Observatory 24/0 in Guatemala and the National Weapons System (SISNA) in the Dominican Republic.



Methodological framework and content:

These programs should aim to create social fabric as a measure to prevent violence. They should foster community ties, trust and facilitate conflict resolution. It is very important that beneficiaries are empowered and part of the solution because they know their problems and can make self-assessments; this will allow for program ownership. Civic pride and responsibility should be encouraged and community self-organization promoted. Programs should raise awareness of specific community problems. Cultural, sporting and civic activities prove to be factors of social cohesion. These programs should be promoted at the family, community, and neighborhood level, encouraging local public spaces for coexistence.

It is important to identify legitimate trusted partners that can play preventive roles; for example, community police, local governments, community leaders, networks, mechanisms for conflict mediation. This involves a preventive rather than corrective approach, since the aim is to deactivate violence.

To ensure access to justice, it is necessary to sensitize justice agents/operators so they can provide adequate justice services, and to clarify the perception of the role of the State, which must be proactive. Inter-agency coordination is also needed to ensure a coherent and articulated approach throughout the justice chain, as well as a multidisciplinary perspective.

Architecture and articulation:

It is necessary to have a mapping of the stakeholders involved in the chain. Then, it is necessary to create a permanent articulation mechanism with intercommunication protocols, fields of action, functions and responsibilities of each stakeholder, verify the regulatory framework of each and avoid the overload and duplication of efforts. The need for a unified information system was also identified. A good practice in this regard was identified in Belize: a unified information system where each stakeholder in the chain uploads information related to the complaints, the investigation, the judicial process, etc. and see what has been done in other stages of the process, which allows for a more comprehensive security and justice service.

Negative incentives include the distortion of information, changing or hiding figures about the direct benefits that prevention programs generate for some stakeholders. Another negative practice identified was that institutions use the lack of resources to justify poor performance in order to obtain higher allocations. Positive incentives include actions to strengthen the ethical framework, teamwork and shared success at the institutional level instead of the individual level.

Challenges and opportunities:

Challenges include achieving political commitment, placing the issue on the public agenda, using the media strategically, improving poor efficiency and the effectiveness of programs and projects, and misinformation. More specifically, these challenges and opportunities include:

- Visualize that investing in prevention avoids spending on prosecution, through the development of cost studies of persecution versus prevention policies, and thereby supporting advocacy for prevention.
- It is also necessary to raise the awareness of decision-makers, technicians, operators, and implementers on the multi-causal approach to prevention, making the work in this area a collective responsibility.
- It is important to maintain prevention on the agenda of international cooperation — an orderly cooperation that generates articulated and coordinated action. Effective joint work is required to prevent resources from being invested in non-priority issues for the country.
- Additionally, the population should be properly informed about the appropriate channels for seeking help and filing their cases.
- Accountability and qualitative evaluation of programs and projects is crucial to focus on what is really working.
- It is essential to create and develop local and national capacities to ensure the sustainability of efforts at the institutional level. At the social and individual level, early education to foster coexistence is central, and the issue should be included in the formal curriculum.

Monitoring and evaluation:

Studies should be conducted to monitor the population's perception of prevention, as well as factors specifically related to peaceful coexistence, the bonds of trust and the social fabric. This requires both a clear definition of the indicators, as well as important parallel work with the media on the perception of insecurity and the culture of coexistence.

Together with the definition of appropriate indicators, the need for periodic monitoring processes (pre, during, post) to guide programs was identified.

Positive experiences such as Secure Communities in Guatemala and Fearless Communities in Costa Rica were shared.

2. Key elements of the cycle of public policy for violence prevention

The methodology used for this session of the agenda of Day 2 consisted of a dialogic carousel with four fixed discussion stations. A public policy cycle approach was adopted, examining each major phase of the policy within that cycle. The first station focused on *the design of policies to prevent violence* (facilitator: Ana Lucía Cascante); the second, on *implementation* (facilitator: Santiago Flores); third, on *social communication* (facilitator: Nelson Ortega); and the fourth, on *evaluation, learning and continuous improvement* (facilitator: Claudia Gazol). The purpose of the dialogue, during which the groups rotated through all four stations in order to contribute to all the thematic areas, was to identify the key elements of success for each stage of the violence prevention policy cycle, based on the experiences and lessons learned from the participants.

KEYS TO SUCCESS FOR THE DESIGN OF PUBLIC POLICY ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- A public policy on violence prevention must respond to the identified and planned needs. Public policy does not respond to a problem raised from a desk, if there is not a prior identification of needs of the population before they emerge.
- The design of public policy should be coordinated by a single actor, provided by law as governing body. However, several actors should be involved in the construction.
- Design should be transparent, participatory and inclusive.
- Participatory construction involves the socialization of the public policy in formulation, and this socialization must target and be adapted to different population groups.
- The target population of the policy must be clearly defined.
- The following instruments should be incorporated during the development of public policy:
 - Participatory assessment
 - Baseline
 - Collection of objective data
 - Development of indicators
 - Definition of human and financial resources
 - Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms
- Public policy must be validated through the legal framework and a participatory process involving civil society and beneficiaries.
- The design should be inclusive, both in terms of population and content. This will help validate and legitimize the public policy.
- The policy document should include:
 - Name
 - Conceptual framework
 - Approach
 - Scope
 - Principles
 - Objectives
 - Themes
 - Beneficiaries
 - Responsible person
 - Monitoring and Evaluation
 - Budget
- There must be a clear definition of roles and responsibilities. Implementation should not start without this prior definition.

KEYS TO SUCCESS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC POLICY ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- There must be clear levels of intra-agency, inter-agency and inter-sectoral coordination.
- The implementation should rely on sustainable State funding.
- Implementation should also be based on a strategic plan and a long-term perspective (beyond the current term).
- During implementation, timely and scheduled measurements should be applied throughout the monitoring process and the necessary adjustments made.
- Best practices and lessons learned should be systematized throughout the implementation process.
- Implementers should have the right profile (professional and personal) and be duly empowered by institutional strengthening and training and timely access to relevant information.
- It is important to clarify the different roles of the institutions during implementation.
- The will and support of decision makers is instrumental to a successful implementation of public policy.
- In addition to the prioritized elements, the following key elements were also identified:
 - Coherence with the real capacity of responsiveness
 - Socialization (link between implementation and social communication)
 - Retention of implementors
 - Partnerships with the private sector when the government is unable to carry out the full implementation
 - Roundtables of cooperation agencies accompanying implementation
 - Operational, administrative and financial instruments
 - Monitoring and evaluation mechanism
 - Database of project profiles related to the public policy
 - Maintain the focalization of action plans during implementation
 - Timeline of action plans
 - Add agreements, partnerships and cooperation agreements
 - Social audit
- Implementation accompanied by good communication to avoid creating false expectations; and reports for documenting the process.

KEYS TO SUCCESS FOR THE SOCIAL COMMUNICATION OF PUBLIC POLICY ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- Social communication allows the public administration to share results with society.
- Communication should be carried out in phases, at different levels and through all media available (social media, press, radio, television, community-based communication methods, popular education).
- The message must be clear and credible.
- We must avoid the distortion of messages and divergent approaches. There should be uniformity of content in the messages transmitted.
- It is important to be cautious with the appropriate profiles for the selection of spokespeople. Spokespeople must have the technical and political capacity to present the policy and adequately respond to inquiries and questions. They must also have charisma and presence to communicate. The selection of spokespeople at the political level will depend on the type of policy to be communicated.
- The timing of the communication must be clearly identified to avoid saturating or boring people.
- In multi-cultural countries, the social communication of a policy should take into account the cultural characteristics of the target population.



KEYS FOR THE SUCCESS OF EVALUATION, LEARNING AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC POLICY FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- The appropriate design of indicators is the basis of an effective evaluation that truly measures the impact of the prevention policy.
- We must ensure that the evaluation process also encourages a learning process that allows subsequent redirection and improvement of policy actions.
- An evaluation should be a participatory process involving the institution or institutions evaluated and the target population (the beneficiaries).
- The timing of evaluations is very important and should be allowed to consider political cycles and changes in government administration.
- There is no conceptual consensus on the type of indicators. Some think that we should speak of objective and subjective indicators. Others believe they should be more technical and call them quantitative and qualitative indicators.
- There is consensus on the importance of indicators for critical levels: impact, process and policy management indicators to assess the different dimensions of policy.
- In order to measure the different types and levels of indicators, the evaluation process should be done at different levels and with different timings.
- There is a proposal to create an independent and specialized State entity in charge of conducting evaluations, with a budget allocated by the State to ensure that evaluation processes are carried out. This entity should be independent of the institutions that lead and implement the policy.
- An alternative and/or complementary proposal is that the State establishes a directive stating that the budget for all policies designed and implemented must include a percentage for monitoring and evaluation (M&E). This will provide a sustainable source of resources to ensure that funds are available for evaluations.
- The evaluation methodology must be rigorous, based on data and evidence, participatory and use mixed tools.
- The direct external evaluator should be an objective and impartial entity and should not be the implementer of policy.
- Depending on the duration and scope of the policy, the timing of evaluations can vary, but it is recommended to conduct at least one midterm and one final evaluation.
- After the evaluation, there should be a learning and systematization process (lessons learned, challenges, success factors, etc.).
- It is recognized that there is a deficit in skills and experience for policy evaluation, which makes the development of M&E capacities in countries imperative.

3. A regional view: Strengthening SICA member countries to improve violence prevention

The plenary discussion revolved around one key question: *What do SICA member countries need at the regional level to strengthen their internal capacity and articulation, to make them more effective when implementing violence prevention policies?*

It was explained that the inputs included in this final session of the agenda would serve as inputs for the Violence Prevention Sub-commission to develop an agenda for training, dialogue, articulation and coordination.

- It is recognized that all countries are making significant efforts to prevent violence, and there is political vocation and will.
- The challenge is that the Sub-commission continue to have the right framework in order to carry on with these kinds of constructive exchanges and dialogues among countries. It is very important to continue efforts to build and identify regional consensus within the framework of the Sub-commission.
- We should continue to prioritize the issue of prevention and the main thematic areas addressed to date. The road map of the Violence Prevention Sub-commission is sound and should be consolidated.
- The permanence of stakeholders in the decision-making spaces of the Violence Prevention Sub-commission is very important and should take into account the fluctuations of political cycles.
- The Summit should maintain the agreements that allow overcoming the cyclical changes in the Presidency pro Tempore and the Administration, and ensuring the continuation of the thematic agenda.
- When responding to their invitations, Foreign Affairs ministries must ensure that delegations have an adequate level and thus increase dialogue capacity for learning.
- Propose guidelines to the Security Commission to always prioritize resources to follow-up on the issue of prevention and ensure funding for technical and policy experts for countries to have dual participation in regional meetings.
- Training is very important to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders involved in these processes and share the conceptual framework on violence prevention.
- It is crucial that the Sub-commission on Prevention is able to respond at the regional level to specific technical needs at the national level. An example is the established conceptual framework being agreed upon (work in progress).
- There is a concern about one risk factor is considered when discussing prevention: the consumption of alcohol and controlled substances, which is closely related to crime and violence. It is a driver of violence and should be a matter of prevention.

- Because the official language of Belize is English, documentation, decisions of the Summits, technical inputs, among others, should also always be available in English. All events should have simultaneous English interpretation to facilitate the participation of Belizean delegations. This event was the first attended by the Belizean delegation where simultaneous interpretation was provided.
- There is concern about the delay between the time a document is sent and a response received. It is important to reduce these delays, to meet the requirements of the demand for information with a response. The quality of communication between countries and SICA must be improved.
- Ministries of Foreign Affairs should clearly establish the bodies to which applications and proposals should be addressed, as well as their responsibilities.
- It is important that agreements generated in the framework of the Sub-commission are properly socialized and disseminated at the national level by the authorities and agencies involved.
- The Sub-commission should establish a virtual reservoir to enable all countries to access literature, presentations, documents and other links. It would also be helpful to share UNDP's tools on knowledge management.

VISIT TO THE CIVIC CENTRES FOR PEACE INITIATIVE

On Saturday the 26th of April, the group made a field visit to the Civic Center for Peace (CCP) in Jaco, Garabito, Where it toured the facilities of an infrastructure designed with the purpose of generating conditions of inclusion, comprehensive social promotion, and the prevention of violence in a local context. The targeted protagonists of this center are the youth and the local community in accordance to their needs and use of space.

The visit was guided by the Mayor Mr. Marvin Elizondo Cordero and the Deputy Mayor Karla Gutiérrez Mora, together with Ana Lucía Cascante, Adviser to the Vice-Minister of Peace of the Ministry of Justice and Peace, who presented the philosophy of the Center, its strategic design, functionalities and governance scheme.



"The aim here it is to make an 'epicenter' and a real movement that deploys a number of actions, radiates energy and stirs the foundations of communities in an attempt to recover the most beautiful thing that Costa Rica has always had: social peace and coexistence in harmony".

Presidenta Laura Chinchilla during the inauguration of Garabito Epicenter

This Civic Center for Peace is 1 of 7 Civic Centers for Peace (CCP) that Costa Rica is establishing throughout the country, in the framework of the Program of Violence Prevention and Promotion of Social Inclusion. The other six Epicenters will be built in Guararí Heredia, Desamparados in San José, Cartago center, Pococí in Limón, Aguas de San Carlos Zarco and Santa Cruz, Guanacaste. The program includes infrastructure for productive units for prisoners, police stations in strategic areas of the country and a Training Agency on citizen security issues for public officials, as well as social interventions in prevention.

The total investment of this program exceeds \$187 million dollars, which included \$55 million of counterpart resources from the Government of Costa Rica, and was approved in the year 2012. This is the first center of its class in Central America, although its design was inspired by the experience of the Medellín municipality, an experience Costa Rican authorities were able to visit by invitation of the International Cooperation Agency of Colombia.

The design of the center reflects an integral violence prevention perspective. The group was able to tour the facilities which included, among others, areas for sports and recreation, a music school, facilities for performing arts and other artistic activities, a House of Justice, a Center for Child Development and Care, an interactive library, an Intelligent Community Center and a food and beverage school of the National Institute for Learning (INA).

With this center, a coordinated team from the municipality and the participation of public and communitarian institutions will be in charge of its organization and functioning. One of the most salient characteristics was its incorporation of youth organizations as members of its institutional management, making youth participation a central element of the Epicenter.

The authorities presented the center and explained its design based on the characteristics of the local community. In this sense, given that Garabito was a purely touristic canton, the programs of socio-productive insertion had to be in tune with this productive profile. This is the reason the establishment of a food and beverages school was chosen, aimed at training more and better workers for the hotels, restaurants and other touristic services, thereby improving the attention in the sector and the economy of the canton. "It is to work on the coexistence of the citizen and the family", assured Mr. Marvin Elizondo. "I feel it is going to be a success. Now it is up to us to make it work and maintain it", he added.

SUMMARY OF PLENARY REFLECTIONS ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION POLICIES

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION POLICIES

- Public policies on violence prevention must be properly institutionalized as State policies and not rely on specific government administrations or terms. These policies should be linked to the State's obligation to guarantee the fundamental human rights of all its citizens. It is also important to ensure that these policies fall under the framework of a regional and national human development strategy and full observance of the constitutional framework. The implementation should be financed with sustainability criteria to ensure domestic public resources without relying solely on international cooperation.
- Violence prevention policies must articulate properly with the crime control and sanction policies. The governing body charged by law with the implementation of violence prevention policy must be coordinated with the platform of State agencies involved in public policy, and with clarity, leadership, commitment and openness to ongoing dialogue with society civil.
- Violence prevention policies must be approached in a multi-level (national, institutional, local) and multi-sectoral fashion throughout its lifecycle, ensuring the inclusion of remote or invisible actors, such as women, youth, adolescents, children and community leaders, as well as non-traditional strategic partners such as academia, NGOs, banks and the private sector. Multi-level, multi-sectoral and inclusive work provides robustness to the policy and underpins its impact and sustainability.
- There are valuable experiences in the region linked to violence prevention policies. However, countries report a lack of information and indicators, so it is necessary to invest in data collection and generation of standardized, comparable and duly disaggregated data as well as in the strengthening and implementation of evaluation mechanisms to assess the processes and impacts of these policies, so that they may be compared and analyzed from a regional perspective.
- It is important to prioritize the agenda of violence prevention at the level of international cooperation; for example in the new Millennium Goals. Similarly, it is important to make efforts for cooperation to be provided in an orderly and structured manner that is coordinated with national and local priorities.
- It is very important that the budget for violence prevention policy includes sufficient resources to carry out regular M&E processes, as well as knowledge management activities; these activities yield better results if conducted in a participatory and inclusive manner.
- Community participation gives legitimacy to violence prevention processes, while monitoring and evaluation can lead to continuous improvement of the design, implementation and adaptation of violence prevention policies.

- It is not enough just to have policies for women. It is crucial to always mainstream gender, as well as multiculturalism and human rights, into all policies in a systematic and comprehensive manner.
- All prevention policies should be accompanied by care programs for persons leaving prison. Currently, there are some initiatives, but more needs to be done in this regard.
- There is a great need for training in project management at the local and national levels as well as in monitoring and evaluation tools.
- It is important to support articulation work with the media and multi-stakeholder advocacy efforts to highlight prevention as multi-causal and therefore a collective responsibility.

PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AFFECTING YOUTH

- It is important to include not only youth in general, but also adolescents, girls and boys, in a differentiated manner.
- The establishment of a national governing institution for prevention of violence aimed at youth, adolescents and children, to coordinate and articulate the various administrative levels and sectors of society, has been identified as a good practice.
- There is a need to strengthen mechanisms aimed at strengthening ownership over violence prevention programs aimed at youth, adolescents and children.
- It is suggested that national systems for impact measurement should give special attention youth policies, separating them from others to ensure their visibility.

PREVENTION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Make continuous efforts to mainstream gender in all spheres, both public and private, including budgeting.
- It is also important to include these policies in the framework of other actions to ensure linkages with health, labor, agriculture, security, education, culture, sports, children, adolescents and youth issues, citizen participation, politics and access to justice.
- It is essential to enhance the work with the aggressor on the issue of masculinity with a multi-cultural approach.
- More work is needed in non-traditional areas such as women prisoners and their families, migrants and refugees.
- The countries identify the need to have progress indicators on the Convention of Belém do Pará and CEDAW, and thematic and situation assessments.

PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE FROM THE LOCAL LEVEL

- The countries agree on their territorial approach, addressing risk factors and enhancing protective factors, complementing prevention with combat or control. However, they highlight the need to change the tone of articulation with local authorities, shifting from a "suggestion or invitation" approach to "commitment and duty" approach.
- The need to build a model of tertiary prevention locally has been identified.
- Governments should maintain efforts to reduce the disparity in municipal capacities related to human and financial resources.
- A review of the regional indicators existing in the framework of SICA is proposed.

ARMED VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- The importance of having information and control of arms sales and private security companies was highlighted.
- Further work is needed for the unification of criteria for firearms and the separation between public security and private security management.

PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE THROUGH PROGRAMS FOR COEXISTENCE, ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- It was agreed that programs should raise awareness on specific problems of each community.
- It is a good practice for programs to have a unified information system, as well as legitimate and respected spokespeople to exercise a preventive role.
- Regarding the collection of information for prevention policies in this priority, the need for studies to monitor the perception of the population was highlighted.



7 CLOSURE OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Mr. Henry Castellanos, as pro Tempore Presidency (PPT) of SICA, thanked the host country, cooperation officials and facilitators for this very uplifting experience for all countries. He said that the PPT would like to continue to strengthen this activity, which achieved its objectives. He also expressed his commitment to addressing the suggestions made by the group and welcomed the active participation of all national delegations.

For his part, Vice Minister Montero said that this event had opened a door and that the proper importance should be given to violence prevention policies in our region. The outcomes of this conference must be submitted to the Security Commission as soon as possible. Country follow-up by each of the delegates will be instrumental in the adoption of recommendations and a permanent platform for cooperation on prevention issues.

8 PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS: WHAT DID WE LEARN FROM THE EVENT?

"We can testify that when you want to, you can. In record time we have shaken up neurons, and we have tried to produce reference documents that serve as regional standard and highlight the niches for South-South cooperation in the field of violence prevention. If we invest in prevention from the start, we could avoid spending on persecution and would not let violence cause social harm. Repairing the damage at the persecution level is very expensive. Although balance is always pursued and sought, the compensation to the victim remains almost a chimera. Let's avoid casualties through timely prevention. Let's prevent events that could be avoided. This event contributed formulas for policy-making and, more than policies per se, the sense of commitment, the importance of coordination and of having a reference guide for our work, tools to measure the impact of our efforts and generate good practices. I had never participated in an event in which we could so quickly address and produce outcomes around such complex issues as planning. If well planned, implementation will be easy. If poorly planned, implementation will be challenging."

"During the time that I have worked on this issue, I could see how trends have evolved in some subjects. At first, it was about approaches to community-based intervention; and assessments, citizen security, etc. Later on, it was about mainstreaming gender, youth issues. And today we're talking about public policy, national policy, which covers more and involves greater commitment as well. I can also see a regional trend and that's pretty good. Thanks to this exchange experience, I realized that we have shared problems; for example, the issue of planning and monitoring and evaluation. But the realization is itself a step forward and creates an expectation of what the next trend at the regional level will be."

"I am very satisfied with the event because I have witnessed a great deal of enthusiasm in all the people and that shows great commitment by those who have participated in this meeting at different levels. I take home the joy of having shared with you all, but also some concerns, because I think we have to visualize an even more sophisticated type of prevention. The issue of prevention by men is something that has worried me for years, and we are taking some steps in that sense. We should definitely include this in the plans. The issue of addressing violence in the workplace is another concern (violence and sexual harassment in the workplace and schools at all levels). I think we are not yet looking at these issues for their inclusion in a prevention agenda. And the last concern is that those who work in the field also need to be seen as agents of violence prevention in ourselves because of the field in which we work. There are many people working in violence prevention, care, punishment and persecution who are sick or are becoming sick. This has to be taken into account and translated into the plans i.e., prevention in order to care for those who care for others."

"The activity itself has been excellent since it managed to bring together and unite the thinking of SICA countries and allowed us to share best practices and advance a regional policy with common frameworks. I am concerned about the fact that we cannot separate prevention from other areas if we are to have the desired effect."

"A planning process involves many steps including data and input collection. We can say that the workshop met that goal. Moreover, it was a very good idea to have the opportunity to visit the Epicenter experience."

"It was hard work, but this allowed us to see how far we've come and how much has been done in all countries. It was also very important that we have identified all the challenges we face, most of which are shared by all. Our task back home is to begin to work on these challenges, knowing that we are supported as a region and that we have more technical elements."

"I want to also talk about the process and congratulate the whole group of 'preventionists'. I was fortunate to participate in the design of the ESCA and ESCA projects, and here we found that all countries are taking specific actions in the field. Now we see that there are already concepts, approaches, selection criteria, etc. in place. This is a great qualitative leap. I want to encourage you, as we continue to move forward on the right track, to rush a little bit but let's keep walking. And congratulations to the group, as it managed to ground itself in a short but intense time."

"I want to emphasize that it was a pleasure to meet all these high quality technicians who are working toward policies that will benefit the region. I take note of the experiences that each country shared with us and will see what we can do to adapt and implement them in our own country."

"For me, sharing with you at all levels, from vice ministers, attorneys, technicians, and even during a mourning period has been rewarding and personally enriching. I believe that to address these issues we need this vocation, this mystique, this dedication to the subject. We have shared both formally and informally. I work at nights as a technician in communities and having chosen a good way to help others is very rewarding. I will continue to encourage others with these experiences, spreading the word among our colleagues and the authorities within of our institutions. I thank the hosts in Costa Rica, the support and facilitation team and agencies. We take this experience back in our hearts. For me it will be unforgettable."

"I thank each and every one here for allowing us this opportunity to share with different people at different hierarchical levels. I am taking away many skills to implement them in my country. I am part of the implementation area, and this motivates me to create better things in my area of expertise."

"For us as UNDP, it has been a very rich experience to have the opportunity to learn from you, what you are doing and the major challenges you face because this is what allows us as an organization to find out how to support you and meet your needs in a much more targeted, specific way. This event is part of a larger process that we have been trying to start for a couple of years now; an effort to pursue much stronger work in the field of public policies on security



and specifically on prevention. This has been a great learning process through concrete experiences and things that countries have achieved in such a short time. We are seeing a truly qualitative leap and, in particular, great enthusiasm and commitment by everyone, and this greatly motivates us to continue and redouble our efforts so that you can go even further. I'm very pleased with the event, and I hope that it is not an isolated moment but part of a process of exchange in the region and joint and collaborative work."

"As GIZ, we are especially committed in this area of public policy to the eight countries, and hopefully we will learn of other relevant sectoral policies and practices that address prevention. But it is also important to translate all of this into practice. We cannot simply collect inputs and more inputs. We need to move forwards to justify the investment."

"It is satisfying to see the outcome of these regional meetings. Sometimes these spaces are slow, since it is not easy to tune and bring harmony to different countries trying to build a regional vision. But I think this is a useful starting point and international agencies and governments like Colombia have generated an important opportunity for the region. Many made important contributions, not only in terms of progress, but also on issues that sometimes generate crises in countries but could move forward by adopting a regional approach. In our case, over the past four years we have been conducting cooperation efforts in the region and facilitating these kinds meetings, and it is when we address the territory, that really find the harmony and consistency of the policy. I agree with Ana Lucia that anyone who seeks to develop public policy can find their place in this project. This project clearly identifies the needs against a baseline, and the initiatives involve the community and empower the territory. I'm very satisfied and doubly pleased because, in terms of cooperation, we can see that the internship opportunities we provide for officials of countries to stay in different institutions and learn from a similar experience to that of our country, this somehow serves to change their understanding of the situation, it gives them hope and encourages them to develop their own initiatives and enhance innovation. Seeing the Mayor so excited and committed and with such a deep understanding of the process, this is something I will tell others. Colombia is investing a great deal in security in the region; roughly 60% of aid resources go to security issues, not only in the traditional core issues, we are also investing on other complementary part with a holistic view, which is related to violence prevention. The different backgrounds of the participants also feeds the activity as the various technical and policy approaches allow for interesting exercises. Special thanks to Claudia and UNDP, as she really was our fairy godmother and solved every logistical impasse to move forward with this process, and also our friend Santiago. I also congratulate Ana Lucia who, on behalf of Costa Rica, has shown us that the country is a land of peace; we have much to learn from them."



"For the General Secretariat of SICA, the workshop has been a real success despite the time constraints. We highly appreciate the GIZ, UNDP and APC-Colombia cooperation agencies and the support provided. To the rest, thank you for the enthusiasm, the passion demonstrated in the panels and your work. That speaks highly of the dedication and effort, passion and intensity of your efforts once you go back to your jobs. All this encourages the Secretariat to maintain this enriching exchange of opportunities. We realize that there are other countries that share the same problems. Sometimes we tend to feel alone, unsuccessful in terms of prevention because the results are not immediate. I think your patience, clarity of thought and passion predict excellent results for all the efforts you are going to carry out in your countries and the region."

"As a Costa Rican, I am very grateful for your visit, the large turnout, in spite of the time constraints, we had the response and participation of invaluable people. I am glad to have met you. For Costa Rica, this meeting was extremely important and we wanted this as the starting point for the systematization of good practices in violence prevention in Central America. To see that we already have achieved this starting point is very satisfying. We thank the cooperation agencies who have supported us, all the Central American countries, in many opportunities and who, on this occasion, made this event possible. We also thank the PPT for their excellent representation, attendance and active participation. Thanks also to the facilitators, Pablo and Anai, who ensured the success of the event. We needed good facilitation to obtain a good result."

"Costa Rica, as the host country of this wonderful event for the region, would first like to thank the cooperating agencies who made it possible. Thanks also to the facilitators who graced the activity and allowed it to be an active experience, and reinforced the strengths and experience of the participants on Violence Prevention. Special thanks go to Ms. Ana Isabel Garcia, Coordinator of Prevention Component of SICA, who made great efforts to make this event possible. Unfortunately, her work commitments didn't allow her to join us in this activity. Thank you for your perseverance, dedication and effort to have this valuable event in Costa Rica."

ANNEX

1. List of participants

#	NAME	COUNTRY	POSITION	INSTITUTION	EMAIL
1	Ethel Abarca Amador	Costa Rica	Head of the Office of International Cooperation	Ministry of Interior and Police	ethelmelania@yahoo.com.mx
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17	Max Loria	Costa Rica	Vice Minister of Peace.	Vice Ministry of Peace, Ministry of Justice and Peace	
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2. Work agenda

THURSDAY APRIL 24	
Introductory session	
9h00 – 9h20	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening remarks by the Secretary General of SICA Mr. Nelson Rauda – Coordinator of Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Penitentiary Security Opening remarks by the President pro tempore of SICA Mr. Henry Castellanos – Vice Minister of Security of Dominican Republic Remarks of the Host Government, Costa Rica Mr. Freddy Montero Mora – Vice Minister of Interior and Police Welcome of the facilitators
9h20 – 9h40	Introduction of participants
9h40 – 9h50	Coordination of expectations and purposes of the Regional Conference
9h50 – 10h00	Setting of dialogue principles and review of agenda
Presentations by countries	
10h00 – 10h40	Dominican Republic
10h40 – 11h00	Coffee Break
11h00 – 11h40	Belize
11h40 – 12h20	El Salvador
12h20 – 12h30	Break
12h30 – 13h10	Guatemala
13h10 – 14h30	Lunch
14h30 – 15h10	Honduras
15h10 – 15h50	Panama
15h50 – 16h30	Costa Rica
16h30 – 17h00	Coffee Break
17h00 – 18h30	Results of Day 1
19h30	Dinner

FRIDAY APRIL 25	
9h00 – 9h30	Introductory session
9h30 – 10h30	Working in thematic groups by thematic area
10h30 – 10h45	Coffee Break
10h45 – 13h30	Working in thematic groups by thematic area
13h30 – 14h00	Plenary
14h00 – 15h30	Lunch
15h30 – 16h30	Dialogic carousel: Key elements of the cycle of public policy for violence prevention
16h30 – 17h00	Plenary
17h00 – 17h30	Coffee Break
17h30 – 18h30	A regional perspective
18h30 – 19h00	Closure Mr. Henry Castellanos – President pro tempore of SICA and Vice Minister of Security of Dominican Republic
19h30	Dinner

On Saturday April 26 the group made a field visit to the Civic Center for Peace in Jaco, Garabito, where they could understand the philosophy of the project linked to civic centers for peace, their structural and functional model and confirm ownership at municipal level.

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