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UNIDAD PARA LA PREVENCIÓN COMUNITARIA DE LA VIOLENCIA (UPCV), MINISTERIO DE GOBERNACIÓN DE GUATEMALA

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Agency: Unidad para la Prevención Comunitaria de la Violencia (UPCV), Ministerio de Gobernación de Guatemala
Sector: Law Enforcement (Prevention)
Project title: Prevention of Violence through Inclusive and Participatory Methodologies
Project Location: Department of Guatemala, Guatemala

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project seeks to implement a citizen security program with a community approach in urban areas of the Department of Guatemala. The strategic objective of the project is to strengthen capacities to prevent violence, taking as a starting point the "Approach Model" (*Modelo de Abordaje*), a model approved by the Vice-Ministry for the Prevention of Violence and Crime. The Unit for Community Prevention of Violence (UPCV) will create a more participatory and inclusive version of the existing model by focusing on improving three phases of model. This includes the creation of new local prevention commissions, carrying out participatory security assessments, and developing Community Plans for Violence Prevention.

To implement and evaluate this intervention, the UPCV will work with 60 communities: 30 randomly assigned to a control group that will receive no intervention and 30 assigned to a treatment group that will receive an improved version of the methodology. The new model is expected to motivate community involvement in the process of developing citizen security policies, thus increasing citizen ownership of the process. This will enhance the quality of the information available to UPCV and improve its ability to design preventive public policies, increasing confidence in the government and diminishing perceptions about insecurity in the treated communities. In the long term, the intervention seeks to improve local security levels.

3. IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

The UPCV is under the supervision of the Vice-Ministry for the Prevention of Violence and Crime, which is part of the to the Ministry of the Interior of Guatemala. The purpose of the UPCV is to organize and develop civic participation and involvement in the process of designing public policies at the local level, with a specialized focus on violence prevention. The Unit aims at creating a culture of prevention, generating early warnings of violence outbreaks, and encouraging the crime reporting. To date, the UPCV has participated in the formation of 294 active prevention commissions throughout the country.



4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. PUBLIC POLICY PROBLEM

Despite the downward trend in the homicide rate since 2009, Guatemala continues to face considerable problems of violence. To implement the National Policy on Prevention of Violence and Crime 2014-2034, the UPCV promotes a methodology known as the *Modelo de Abordaje*, which focuses on reducing community risk factors. Although in Guatemala these factors differ from community to community, there is not much evidence on how this variation manifests itself at the local level.

To generate local knowledge of this type, the UPCV relies on citizen collaboration, which is sometimes hampered by low levels of confidence in security institutions. Traditionally, citizens have been excluded from the decision-making process and there is little rigorous evidence regarding the impact of community involvement in the development of public policies on security. The proposed project will be implemented with the methodology of a randomized controlled trial (RCT), which will allow for the identification of the causal effects of the program.

B. PUBLIC POLICY OBJECTIVES

To comply with the National Policy and confront the problems described above, the intervention of the UPCV proposes the following strategic objectives:

1. Gather local knowledge, identifying risk factors and developing prevention alternatives through a participatory process
2. Include and empower community members in the decision-making process on local citizen security policies with the support of various state institutions and civil society
3. Increase confidence in the government as a violence prevention mechanism

C. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The UPCV will implement the *Modelo de Abordaje* using different methodologies and will evaluate them using a randomized controlled trial (RCT) in 60 communities divided into treatment and control groups of thirty communities each. To this end, the Unit will carry out the following activities:

1. **Local commissions, trainings, affiliations and alliances:** The UPCV will create 60 Commissions for the Prevention of Violence (COCOPRE) in the Department of Guatemala. Next, it will randomly select 30 communities for the treatment group, which will receive the participatory version of the model, and 30 communities for the control group, which will receive no intervention. After creating these 60 COCOPRES, the UPCV will train the delegates in charge of the communities in the treatment group.
2. **Participatory Public Security Diagnosis:** The UPCV will implement a series of tools to collect information in order to produce citizen safety diagnoses in the 30 COCOPRES from the treatment communities. These tools will include focus groups, citizen conversations, and exploratory walks. The tools will be implemented in the 30 communities of the



treatment group, while and the 30 communities in the control group will not be exposed to any of these tools.

3. **Planning and Implementation:** Based on the citizen safety diagnoses, the UPCV will develop Community Plans for Violence Prevention in the 30 communities in the last phase of the pilot. The 30 control communities will not produce a citizen safety diagnostic.

D. EXPECTED RESULTS

Results will be measured at the community level, comparing aggregate administrative data, and at the individual level through surveys.

Short-term results:

1. Increase public participation in the development of citizen security policies
2. Increase trust in government
3. Reduce perceptions of insecurity

Long-term results:

1. Increase citizen security at the local level
2. Prevent spikes in criminal violence

E. POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

The main implementation challenges include ensuring the homogeneous implementation of the proposed intervention, timely compliance with the scheduling of activities, and data collection. To minimize these risks, the program will have a supervisor who will coordinate the implementation of the program together with the delegates of the UPCV. Likewise, the project will have university interns to support the delegates.

F. PRELIMINARY TIMELINE

	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Select 60 communities for the intervention	█							
Create 30 new commissions (COCOPRE) for the control group		█						
Develop improved tools for the COCOPRE		█						
Perform baseline survey			█					
Create 30 new commissions for the treatment group			█					
Train members of the new commissions			█	█				
Develop logistics for meetings and events of the COCOPRE				█				
Implement participatory methodology in selected communities					█	█	█	
Second session of the Academy for Security Analysis								█
Perform final survey								
Analyze preliminary data								█



G. BUDGET

Item	Project costs		Cost sharing		Grand total
	JJ for UPCV	UPCV	Other		
<i>Personnel</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Travel</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Equipment</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Supplies</i>	\$ 1,004	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,004
<i>Contractual</i>	\$ 37,203	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,203
<i>Other</i>	\$ 16,793	\$ -	\$ 8,396	\$ -	\$ 25,194
Total Direct Charges	\$ 55,000	\$ -	\$ 8,396	\$ -	\$ 63,401
Indirect Charges	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 55,000	\$ -	\$ 8,396	\$ -	\$ 63,401

