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SUBDIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE PREVENCIÓN DEL CRIMEN, POLICÍA NACIONAL CIVIL DE GUATEMALA (PNC)

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization: Subdirección General de Prevención del Crimen, Policía Nacional Civil de Guatemala (PNC)
Sector: Law Enforcement (Prevention)
Project Title: Crime Prevention and Improvement of Confidence in Law Enforcement: School Based Interventions in Guatemala City.
Location: Guatemala City, Guatemala

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project focuses on crime prevention linking communities and government institutions through school-based interventions carried out by the Subdirección General de Prevención del Delito [General Sub-directorate for Crime Prevention] of the Policía Nacional Civil de Guatemala (PNC) [National Civil Police]. Based on previous youth empowerment programs, this project aims to keep Guatemala's youth away from security problems and risk factors. The program will offer different types of recreational, athletic, cultural, and informative activities to students during the school day. These activities are meant to increase the opportunities and capacities of youth to resist gang recruitment. The program will also help generate positive interactions between police offices and the youth in order to promote trust. Although other projects have sought to build community ties with the police through school-based activities, such efforts have not been rigorously evaluated in Central America. By randomly selecting the schools that will receive the intervention, the PNC will be able to rigorously evaluate the impact of the program on building trust in the police and on reducing youth involvement in gangs, violent behavior within and outside of schools, and drug use.

3. IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

Guatemala's the Policía Nacional Civil (PNC), through the General Sub-directorate for Crime Prevention, will be implementing this program. Its main relevant functions are to promote the efficient and coordinated work with police stations at the national level, design and implement crime prevention policies in the entire institution, promote the police model for comprehensive community security, and implement prevention policies focused on children and youth. The team in charge of the implementation of the project has various years of experience managing violence prevention projects. In 2016, they have interacted with more than 275,000 children and teenagers.



4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. PUBLIC POLICY PROBLEM

Trust in the Guatemalan police has been historically low. According to the 2012 survey carried out by USAID, in cooperation with Vanderbilt University, trust in police only reached 34.9 points out of a 100 point scale, which highlights an extraordinary deficit in citizen trust of the police. Furthermore, youth involvement in gangs is considerably high and levels of crime victimization are equally high. For instance, in the mentioned survey, 33.5% of the respondents declared to have been a victim of a crime in the previous year.

Altogether, these patterns demonstrate the importance of a youth-focused crime prevention strategy. The proposed intervention seeks to prevent gang recruitment, reduce levels of victimization, and increase trust in the police to facilitate law-enforcement activities. It is important that the crime prevention activities carried out by the police are evaluated rigorously to ensure that programs that have an effect are appropriately catalogued and replicated while those that do not are suspended. Because of this, the proposed intervention will be accompanied by a monitoring and evaluating strategy that includes a randomized controlled trial (RCT) that will allow for the identification of the causal effect of the program.

B. PUBLIC POLICY OBJECTIVES

To address the problems pointed out in the previous section, PNC proposes an intervention with the following strategic objectives:

1. Establish a bond of trust between police and youth in schools
2. Raise youth awareness about violence and risky behaviors

C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The team will use a list of the approximately 100 schools in the 11 police stations of Guatemala City (located within zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9) and will randomly select a combination of 50 schools to receive the intervention, while the reminding schools will constitute the control group. The activities associated with the program include:

1. Athletic events
2. Arts education
3. Discussion groups about community security
4. Provide self-control and risk-management lessons

The project involves hiring specialized staff to complement the presence of PNC agents in the 50 schools selected to receive the treatment. This external staff would assist in the implementation of athletic events and arts education activities (e.g., soccer referees, trainers, art educators, among others), ensuring that the project has the necessary specialized personnel to carry out all scheduled activities.



D. EXPECTED RESULTS

The program will be implemented and evaluated with a randomized controlled trial (*RCT*). The intervention will be assigned randomly to schools in order to measure the causal effects of the activities associated with the program. The evaluation plan of the program will measure results both at the school level, comparing aggregated data from schools that receive the treatment with those that do not receive it, as well as at the individual level, through surveys administered to students. In order to avoid biases that result from sensitive questions, the surveys will use techniques designed to obtain truthful answers to sensitive questions, including list experiments.

Short-term results:

1. Reduce levels of youth participation in gangs
2. Reduce levels of school violence
3. Reduce levels of drug use among students
4. Increase levels of citizen trust in the police
5. Reduce perceptions of vulnerability and insecurity
6. Collect intelligence information in zones where the intervention is implemented

Long-term results:

1. Improve public safety at the local level
2. Improve citizen perceptions of security institutions

E. POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

If security conditions change, it could be difficult to conduct all of the activities in each of the selected schools, or to administer the survey to all the students in the schools of the control group. To minimize this risk, the team will have a replacement protocol to select alternative schools that have similar characteristics. It may also be challenging to secure a sufficient number of police agents trained in school and youth interventions to carry out the proposed activities.



F. PRELIMINARY TIMELINE

	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Select schools for the intervention						X	X	
Define the randomization strategy						X	X	
Develop measurement instruments						X	X	
Select elements of the PNC that will be assigned to the schools						X	X	
Develop a plan of precise activities						X	X	
Develop teaching materials						X	X	
Begin the intervention in selected schools in the treatment group						X	X	
Monitor the program activities						X	X	
2 nd session of Academy for Security Analysis						X	X	
Preliminarily data analysis						X	X	
Note: The X indicates months in which the PNC will be busy carrying out operational work with the end of the year festivities.								

G. BUDGET

Item	Project costs		Cost sharing		Grand total
	JJ for PNC	PNC	Other		
<i>Personnel</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Travel</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Equipment</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Supplies</i>	\$ 51,438	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,438
<i>Contractual</i>	\$ 3,562	\$ -	\$ 15,00	\$ -	\$ 18,562
<i>Other</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Direct Charges	\$ 55,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70,000
Indirect Charges	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 55,000	\$ -	\$ 15,00	\$ -	\$ 70,000

