

Urban crime and violence prevention

While not a new phenomenon, crime and violence have dramatically increased in recent decades and are now more recognized as serious economic and social problems, particularly in urban areas. This growing problem is often attributed to unmanaged rapid urbanization, persistent poverty and inequality, political turmoil, post-conflict disorder, organized crime, and the emergence of the illegal drug trade.

Crime and violence affect all members of society, regardless of sex, age, and income but are more evident in urban areas, especially poor and marginalized neighborhoods.

Our approach

We recognize that crime and violence have multiple, inter-related causes which require well-planned, integrated prevention strategies and responses. Successful techniques target the underlying causes of violent behavior: spatial environments, family structure, and educational backgrounds. Our program helps local governments and city officials develop an integrated strategy for crime prevention through a comprehensive learning program, drawing on successful practices from the United States, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean. This is complemented by an emerging knowledge exchange platform.

Our program

Learning Program. WBI Urban practice offers Urban Crime and Violence Prevention e-learning course, based on the



operational manuals of World Bank's Latin America and Caribbean region, and adapted to the African and English speaking Caribbean contexts. The course uses internet-based learning technologies and interactive features that are made available to a wide audience across the world. Encompassing 60 hours of on-line instruction distributed over 10 weeks, the course is supported by tutors and accompanied by discussion forums to facilitate active learning and knowledge sharing.

The course provides local government officials with specialized "how to" guidance to design, implement, and manage effective and sustainable programs to reduce and prevent crime and violence. The course targets urban practitioners, policymakers, and a variety of actors working on crime and violence prevention, primarily in Africa and English speaking Caribbean, including civil society organizations, private sector, academia, media, and international organizations, among others. We emphasize engagement

with local communities where city practitioners can focus on critical issues, assess risk factors, boost prevention techniques, and improve crime resilience among the youth through effective education and social programs.

The course offers six conceptual modules and four practical modules where participants learn and apply a five-stage methodology to design, implement and evaluate a crime and violence prevention strategy:

Conceptual frameworks

- Module 1 – Introduction to crime and violence prevention
- Module 2 – The environmental aspect of crime and violence prevention
- Module 3 – Prevention of violence against women at the intra-family level
- Module 4 – Youth violence prevention
- Module 5 – School-based violence prevention
- Module 6 – Community policing

Application

- Module 7 – Stage 1: Laying the groundwork
- Module 8 – Stage 2: Assessing violence and safety in our community
- Module 9 – Stage 3: Developing a violence prevention action plan
- Module 10 – Stage 4: Implementing and managing our violence prevention action plan; and Stage 5: Monitoring and Evaluation

The course was successfully piloted from March to May 2011 and included participants from over 18 countries (Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico, Mozambique, Honduras, Guatemala, Namibia, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Pakistan, Belize, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, and Brazil, among others). The course will be offered twice per year through WBI's new e-Institute and its network of global, national and regional learning institutions. Upcoming deliveries are as follows:

- October 3–December 12, 2011
- April 2–June 11, 2012

Knowledge Exchange. We complement the learning program with a series of knowledge exchange dialogues and an interactive web-based portal to capture and disseminate knowledge and good practices and create a community of practitioners within and across Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa. The platform was launched on May 21, 2010 through a global dialogue on Youth Crime and Violence Prevention, linking experiences from Latin America (Brazil, Mexico, Nicaragua) with South Africa.

Contacts

Sabine Palmreuther

spalmreuther@worldbank.org



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