



CREATIVE

Project Overview



# Crime and Violence Prevention Project

## Quick Facts

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The Crime and Violence Prevention project has worked in more than 60 municipalities to date.

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148 active Outreach Centers give young people opportunities to play, learn and develop new skills.

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More than 600 families with high-risk youth have received family counseling.

With gangs creating a culture of violence, El Salvador has one of the highest homicide rates in the world.

These high levels of violence have led to a public health crisis with youth at the center—both as victims and perpetrators. Creating positive opportunities for them is a critical step toward enhancing citizen security and restoring hope in vulnerable areas. The El Salvador Crime and Violence Prevention Project is mobilizing partnerships with municipalities, governments, the private sector and others to take ownership of prevention and create safer, more resilient communities in which at-risk youth can thrive.

Funded by USAID, the project works in close partnership with the Ministry of Justice and Public Security to support implementation of the national policy framework Plan El Salvador Seguro (Safe El Salvador Plan).

The project uses evidence-based programming to build the capacity of high-risk municipalities to respond to and prevent crime and violence. Seeking out innovative nongovernmental organizations as partners and grantees, the Crime and Violence Prevention Project seeks to advance the field of violence prevention and reach vulnerable youth with targeted interventions and family-based support.

### Seizing windows of opportunity for prevention

With a focus on flexibility, the Crime and Violence Prevention Project takes a holistic, public health approach to support children and youth at varying levels of risk. At the low "primary" risk level, USAID's network of

nearly 150 active Outreach Centers provide thousands of young people with respite from the gang-dominated streets, as well as positive life and job skills and opportunities for volunteering, tutoring and recreation.

Youth at a higher, "secondary" level of risk and their families work with trained counselors to reduce risk factors using an evidence-based model that has proven results in other countries experiencing high levels of violence.

Finally, the project supports cutting-edge "tertiary" prevention models through a wide range of grants aimed at stopping cycles of violence and providing rehabilitation and reinsertion services to those who have previously been involved with gangs or the justice system.

This multifaceted and coordinated approach has proven effective in building communities' and youths' resilience to crime and violence while giving municipalities and

local organizations the tools to scale up.

### Partnerships for sustainable change

The success of the Crime and Violence Prevention Project is built on its lasting relationships with key international, national and local partners. These relationships, and the exchange of knowledge, ideas and support, will ensure the sustainability of the project's work and support to communities on their journey to self-reliance.

For example, the project has partnered with the Salvadoran government, the municipality of San Salvador, communities, the private sector and regional experts on an ambitious plan for revitalizing the violent historic center of the capital city. This plan for urban renewal will transform a large swath of San Salvador, reclaiming public areas and giving families a safe space to enjoy.

Without direct support from USAID, 14 Municipal Employment Units, 13 vocational training centers and nine Microsoft academies established through the project have demonstrated their self-reliance by continuing to provide local youth with opportunities to develop skills and start careers.

The project has also facilitated more than \$4.3 million in public-private partnerships that encourage local ownership and lay the foundation for continued collaboration and funding.



# 119k

More than 119,000 people have benefited from the project since its start in 2013



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