

# IIP Digital | U.S. Department of State

## IN BRIEF

---

TRANSLATED: [English](#) [Español](#)

---

### Crime-Prevention Programs Help Central Americans Feel Safer



The U.S. Agency for International Development’s community-based crime and violence prevention programs in Central America help residents feel safer, perceive less crime and murders, and express greater trust in police, a recent study shows.

The three-year study, considered the gold standard of randomized control trials, was conducted by Vanderbilt University’s Latin American Public Opinion Project in Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Panama and released October 30.

“Gangs and citizen insecurity are hindering Central America’s economic growth and progress,” said USAID Associate Administrator Mark Feierstein. “The evaluation findings show the need for and impact of prevention. We call on Central American governments, the private sector, and multilateral organizations to work with us to ensure a cohesive approach to reduce crime and violence in these countries.”

Through the Central America Regional Security Initiative, USAID builds resilience to insecurity in high-crime, urban communities by improving access to public services, jobs, and justice. With 50 percent of the Central American population under 25 years old, USAID focuses on youth at particular risk of being victims or perpetrators of violence, the agency said in a press release.

The [impact evaluation](#) and a related [fact sheet](#) are available on the USAID website.

Above, Salvadoran police receive instructions during the start of presidential-election security operations in February.

KEYWORDS: [USAID](#), [Honduras](#), [El Salvador](#), [Guatemala](#), [Panama](#), [law enforcement](#), [police](#), [crime prevention](#), [Vanderbilt University](#)

---

TRANSLATED: [English](#) [Español](#)

---

SHARE [Delicious](#) [Digg](#) [reddit](#) [Facebook](#) [StumbleUpon](#) [Twitter](#)

---

## MORE COVERAGE

[USAID's Lopes on Crime in Latin America, Caribbean](#)

[White House Fact Sheet: U.S. and Central America Citizen Security](#)

[Central America Regional Security Initiative: State Presence](#)

[Central America Regional Security Initiative: Safe Streets](#)

[Central America Regional Security Initiative: A Shared Partnership](#)

This site is managed by the U.S. Department of State. External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views or privacy policies contained therein.