

***Violence prevention initiatives
in international development cooperation***

**Deutsche gesellschaft für internationale
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From: Claudia Heinzemann and Erich Marks (Eds.):
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Christine Brendel, Alejandro Christ, Christiane Erkens, Rubeena Esmail-Arndt, Tanja Kasten, Timm Kroeger, Philipp Kuehl, Christine Müller, Jens Narten, Marion Popp, Gerhard Schmalbruch, Tina Silbernagl, Sabine Wenz, Abdoulaye Zono

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Experience gained by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

With representatives of seven projects/programmes from Latin America, Africa and Asia, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH took part in the German Congress on Crime Prevention in Frankfurt am Main in 2015 and gave an account of the wide-ranging experience it has gained in preventing violence among youth and against women in urban and municipal areas and at local, national and international level. Besides outlining the general challenges and approaches, this article cites specific case studies from international cooperation.

Challenges in global violence prevention

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights assures all people the right to a life without violence. About half of the partner countries of German development cooperation are, however, afflicted by violence on their national territory or in sub-regions. Violence is partly a consequence of rapid urbanisation, which is why it particularly impacts megacities in Latin America, Africa and Asia, as well as large cities in the industrialised countries. Youth violence and organised crime pose new challenges for international cooperation.

Violence destroys the foundation for co-existence and mutual trust, but it also causes physical, emotional, social and material harm and incurs costs. Violence, conflicts and fragility severely impair national development prospects. Curbing violence is therefore essential for sustainable, inclusive social development.

Violence is, however, a very complex phenomenon. GIZ largely subscribes to the definition of violence as specified by the World Health Organization (WHO): ‘The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.’ The definition includes interpersonal violence as well as suicidal behaviour and armed hostilities. It does not take systematic account of aspects such as institutionalised violence or the legitimate use of force by the state, but violence prevention measures do cater for these.

Initiatives in international and German development cooperation

International cooperation attaches great importance to promoting interdisciplinary approaches in violence prevention: The World Bank's Cluster of Social Cohesion and Violence Prevention sees civilian security, strengthening community resilience and cooperation with the judiciary as making major contributions to preventing and reducing fragility. Under the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention (Plan of Action 2012-2020), WHO provides long-term support for exchanging information and upgrading and evaluating strategies, schemes and initiatives in comprehensive violence prevention. Since 1996, UN Habitat's Safer Cities Programme has been supporting multisectoral initiatives for violence prevention in 77 cities and 24 countries worldwide. The strategy paper drawn up by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in 2013, Development for Peace and Security, highlights the multifaceted, reciprocal effects of fragility, violence and conflict.

Development cooperation addresses both the institutional causes of violence in all its forms and also security, socio-political and regulatory aspects so as to deal with the attendant risk factors and strengthen protective factors with the aim of preventing and curbing violence.

Role of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

As a federal enterprise, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) assists the German Government (particularly BMZ, but also other commissioning parties) to achieve its international cooperation goals for sustainable development – in more than 130 countries throughout the world.

GIZ is engaged in many fields of activity – ranging from economic development and employment promotion, food security, health and basic education to environmental and resource conservation, climate change mitigation, statebuilding and democratisation, and, of course, the broad thematic cluster under review here: promoting peace and security, reconstruction and civil conflict resolution.

For the most part, GIZ is involved with primary and secondary prevention and combines measures in situational, social and institutional violence prevention. A central concern here is imparting abilities to resolve conflicts peaceably at all levels and advocate a culture of dialogue, drawing on traditional methods. This calls for overarching cooperation across various disciplines to be able to provide adequate advice and support for basic social service delivery, the inclusive participation of citizens in local development processes and the non-violent resolution of conflicts. Effective measures against violence must intervene at several levels and across disciplines. Strategies are based on a precise analysis of the causes of violence in a specific context.

GIZ advises partner governments in framing strategies for violence prevention and adheres to the principles of multipartiality, do-no-harm, inclusion and the human-rights based approach as an essential foundation for our work. It provides a variety of intersectoral services that can complement and be combined with each other:

Measures in situational violence prevention:

- Providing advice in devising inclusive urban development schemes to prevent violence
- Providing advice on renewing local social blackspots

Measures in social violence prevention:

- Setting up systems and networks for child protection and early assistance for particularly deprived and vulnerable parents and children
- Providing early-childhood education and care
- Advising educational actors in mainstreaming violence prevention measures in school and out-of-school educational institutions as a societal task (curricula development, teacher training, for example)
- Providing advice on systemic measures in youth violence prevention (e.g. training social workers, non-formal educational facilities for children and youth)
- Advising on campaigns to fight within family violence and violence against women

Measures in institutional violence prevention:

- Advising academic institutions in establishing violence research facilities
- Advising partner governments in drafting national strategies for violence prevention (urban, rural)
- Advising the design and adoption of inclusive local violence prevention policies
- Imparting methodological know-how in analysing risk factors to government and non-governmental institutions
- Providing advice on institutionalising mechanisms for non-violent conflict resolution (prevention councils, non-judicial settlement of disputes, dialogue mechanisms, transparency initiatives)
- Providing process advice in developing interministerial cooperation
- Providing advice on establishing protective mechanisms for women (protective and care services)
- Providing advice in setting and applying standards for the operations of security forces in discharging their protective and regulatory tasks

- Assisting in police reforms (for instance, advice on framing de-escalation strategies for demonstrations, strengthening criminal police capacities, instruction on compliance with human rights standards during arrests and interrogations)
- Providing advice for judicial reforms to reduce the risk of relapse among violent offenders
- Providing advice on small arms control measures (for example, their registration, secure storage and controlled destruction)

GIZ has a broad portfolio in violence prevention, including programmes for youth violence prevention and civilian security, especially in Latin America, measures for the prevention of violence against women and girls in various countries of Latin America and Asia, and programmes focussing on the ‘safe city’ theme, such as in South Africa.

Below, we outline some GIZ initiatives and experience as presented in three topic boxes and two lectures at the 2015 German Congress on Crime Prevention:

Topic box I: Violence prevention: a global perspective – Key approaches and principles of violence prevention and urban safety in German development cooperation

The causes of violence are multifaceted and complex. This is why planning effective prevention calls for integrated approaches aimed at better combining the contributions of actors from various sectors and at different levels. In the face of the massive potential for violence in regions such as Africa, Asia and Latin America, establishing violence prevention as a communal task and not just leaving it to the police and the judiciary poses an enormous challenge. How can we bring the various actors together to find sustainable solutions? Here are some examples of experience gained from selected projects.

Violence prevention in South Africa

Safe communities play a growing role as an issue in South Africa’s development efforts. At national level, there are numerous policies, some of them progressive and far-sighted, that address the widespread phenomenon of violence and crime, but their implementation poses a challenge, above all for local authorities, which is why South Africa still numbers among the countries with a high crime rate.

Because much of South African society has been neglected and deprived of adequate social services for decades and due to persistent social challenges, such as the lack of prospects for young people, the breakdown of family ties and a segregated settlement policy, violence is still prevalent in the everyday life of many people. Recently published crime statistics recorded 17,805 murders in the country from April 2014 to March 2015. About 50% of deaths among youth aged between 15 and 24 are due to violence. The persistent high homicide rate is alarming, but even more disturbing is

that violence for the most part, that is in four out of five cases, occurs among people who know each other. Violence often erupts in social settings. It happens in families, between partners and among friends and acquaintances. Sexual and domestic violence is part of everyday life in many relationships, with women, children and youth particularly severely affected. All this points to deeply rooted social problems that can only be solved by taking a long-term and inclusive approach.

In response to this, since the beginning of 2012 GIZ has been implementing a project on behalf of BMZ in South Africa called Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention (VCP). It focuses on preventing violence, because despite sound national strategies providing for integrated action and more prevention work, the main response to the violence problem in South Africa has in the past been repression. Neither strengthening police capacities nor imposing harsher penalties nor expanding the private security sector has improved the actual security of a large part of the population. On the contrary, it is now obvious that the problem of violence must be tackled at its roots.

As the causes of violence are multifaceted and complex, GIZ applies a so-called systemic approach in South Africa, which aims at better combining the contributions of actors from various sectors and at different levels. One of its central concerns is therefore to mainstream violence prevention as a communal task and not just leave it to the police and the judiciary. A particular focus is placed here on local municipalities, which play a key role in creating safe communities. The impacts of violence make themselves directly felt at local level in particular and the different challenges in individual municipalities call for diverse prevention initiatives. It is, however, local municipalities that most lack the requisite capacities to adequately carry out their ambitious mandate of creating safe communities. The project objective is therefore together with national and provincial actors to strengthen the operational capabilities of local authorities by demarcating roles and functions and allocating resources within the government system, for example, to enable them to implement national policies at municipal level. It also promotes cooperation between government and non-governmental actors and between metropolitan regions and governmental tiers, including via multisectoral exchange platforms, networking and joint learning and further training measures. Moreover, it seeks to strengthen youth engagement in community prevention work.

As initial success stories attest, South Africa is quite prepared to head in new directions. Together with partners, the project has set up new networks, such as a coordination platform for the metropolitan regions on the issue of urban safety or the online portal SaferSpaces (www.saferspaces.org.za) as an effective way to enhance the operational capabilities of relevant actors. In addition, it has helped to mainstream violence prevention in relevant government programmes, such as the inclusive Community Work Programme for job creation or in integrated development planning (IDP) by local municipalities. In connection with this, municipalities have also been assisted

in incorporating security to a greater extent in their local planning procedures and then carrying out specific measures together with civil-society actors. Practical activities here include participatory safety audits and the use of geographic information systems (GIS) to collect relevant information on local security and discuss this as part of civil dialogues. In the course of policy advice provision, violence prevention has also been assimilated into the new National Urban Development Policy and jointly implemented for demonstration purposes with partners. Moreover, the project has enabled more young people to engage in violence prevention in their communities. This includes training youth to raise awareness among their peers in schools and neighbourhoods and mobilise them in low-threshold prevention projects and simultaneously enter into dialogue with local municipal actors on their security needs. Using new media at events, the project has also managed to reach up to 2 million people, besides municipal and provincial authorities.

Violence prevention in Central America

Central America, and especially the countries of the so-called Northern Triangle, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, is one of the most violent regions in the world. The violence takes different forms, involving youth in particular, at home and at school, for example, and in the local community and municipality. The causes of violence differ widely, ranging from fragile family and community relations to the influence of the international drug trade. Extreme violence brings about the social and economic isolation of large parts of the population and gives rise to marginalised urban districts lacking elementary social services.

There is still too little cooperation among government institutions in various sectors (security, youth, education and employment, for example) and between government and civil society and the national and local level, which hinders efforts to combat violence. Central American countries seldom share experience and good practices are hardly documented for application elsewhere.

The aim of PREVENIR is to enable regional, national and local actors to develop their prevention capacities and apply tools for improving their interdisciplinary cooperation in preventing and helping to reduce youth violence.

PREVENIR promotes cooperation among various sectors and government authorities, civil society and the private sector, so that these can develop and effectively carry out joint prevention approaches. For example, the programme provides advice on collaboration among national, departmental and local levels (multilevel approach) with the aim of supporting the localised implementation of prevention strategies and feedback of local experience to the national level.

It adopts a systemic approach to youth violence prevention and cooperates primarily with mediators and key contact persons who exert an influence on the lives of young people, which is why it also involves teaching staff and parents, for example.

In addition, PREVENIR concentrates on prevention methods that have proved effective (evidence-based approaches).

PREVENIR has three components:

- Municipal prevention strategies with youth participation
- Promoting the employability of socially disadvantaged youth
- Violence prevention in school and out-of-school education

The lead executing agency of the programme is the Secretariat General of the Central American Integration System (SICA), with PREVENIR helping to implement the Central American Security Strategy. On the one hand, PREVENIR conducts regional activities involving all eight SICA member states. On the other, at national level – in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua – it collaborates with the respective security, education and labour ministries and police and youth institutions. At local level, it conducts measures in cooperation with municipal authorities, schools, youth networks and organisations and municipal associations.

PREVENIR also works with civil-society organisations engaged in violence prevention and companies. A particular focus is placed on cooperation with universities and other educational institutions seen as key actors for the sustainable institutionalisation of training measures instigated by the programme in the partner countries.

An educational measure for violence prevention (Miles de Manos) in schools has been developed and successfully tested at pilot schools (for details, see below in Topic box III). Overt physical violence among youth in these schools declined by 20% in six months. Communication has improved between teachers and pupils and learning and behavioural problems are solved in partnership. In 2014, Miles de Manos was introduced by the education ministries in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador in another 160 schools and school networks.

With the support of PREVENIR, youth employment plans have been drawn up in selected municipalities. With the involvement of all relevant local actors, the programme succeeded in drafting 29 of these plans, which make up the strategic basis for allocating funds to the municipalities and selecting training courses. As a result, it has been able to tailor courses for youth to meet market needs and 5,200 young people have already received further training. A modular further training course for staff at mediator institutions has been designed and successfully carried out together with partner institutions to enable local actors to jointly frame and implement intersectoral prevention plans. Twelve mediator teams (251 individuals) have been further trained in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, and two additional groups (59 individuals) are currently undergoing further training in Nicaragua. Thanks to further training in El Salvador and Honduras, multipliers have been able to set up prevention councils in 31 municipalities and are assisting them in successfully carrying out their prevention plans.

Violence prevention in Guatemala

Apart from regional cooperation for violence prevention in Central America, the German Development Cooperation supports the implementation of an integrated programme for citizen security and transformation of social conflicts (abbreviated FOSIT) in Guatemala. It aims at strengthening and interlinking public and civil society institutions and organizations as well as the corporate sector to promote non-violent approaches of conflict transformation, to share good practices, to increase transparency, inclusion and participation in local processes of social and economic development (e.g. by consultation and dialogue between mining or energy companies, state and local population) and to build capacities for prevention of social violence.

Since 2014, FOSIT supported the development and implementation of the *National Policy for Violence and Crime Prevention, Civil Security and Peaceful Coexistence*. At the same time, the programme intervenes on local and departmental level in Quiché, Baja Verapaz and Alta Verapaz. On departmental level, it strengthens coordination and capacity development for networks and actors engaged in violence prevention, while on local level pilot approaches for non-violent coping with social conflicts are taken into focus. This includes the support to the inclusive and participatory elaboration of prevention plans in 16 communities in the above mentioned departments, advice for transformation of social conflicts in the context of envisaged large public construction projects as well as the improved inclusiveness of existing networks for coordination of violence prevention activities through public and private actors.

Topic box II: Costs of violence against women, positive experience with prevention - including in Germany

In Peruvian companies alone, partner violence against women incurs immense losses of 70 million working days and USD 6.7 billion a year (3.7% of Peru's gross domestic product). One study in Germany estimates costs at EUR 36 billion. This shows that this is not just a grave public health problem and one of the most widespread violations of human rights, but also a serious, largely neglected, obstacle to national social and economic development, whose prevention is worthwhile in every respect. In our example from Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay, an exact figure can be placed on business losses due to partner violence.

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defines violence against women as 'any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.'

Due to its global scope and current relevance, this issue is a major and serious matter that also incurs costs for both the public and private sector. These costs are not,

however, confined to Latin America; they are also incurred in Germany. Based on large-scale studies in various countries, the aim of German development cooperation with its regional programme, Combating Violence against Women in Latin America (ComVoMujer), carried out by GIZ in Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru, was to provide scientific proof of the number of affected women of partner violence and to estimate the resulting follow-on costs. The results showed that businesses also pay a heavy toll, which projected onto the national level ranges between 3.1% and 6.4% of the respective gross domestic product. In response to these findings, over 100 enterprises supported by ComVoMujer/GIZ have already undertaken various measures to prevent violence against women.

The costs of all kinds of violence for low-income and middle-income countries amount to 11.16% of global GDP. Of these, 47% is accounted for by violence against women in couple relationships, 38% by child abuse, 13% by interpersonal violent crimes and 2% as a consequence of collective violence (wars and terrorism). Depending on country, the annual costs of violence against women range between USD 1 billion and USD 25 billion. Various sectors must bear these enormous costs. Violence against women not only constitutes a violation of human rights with individual consequences (such as impaired quality of life for women, impoverishment, increased vulnerability to illness or early death), but also gives rise to higher government expenditure for the judiciary and the health and education sectors as well as costs for the economy (less economic growth and lower productivity).

The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that working hours lost due to violence and stress make up approximately 1% to 3.5% of gross national product, which, as we shall see, comes short of the actual figure. An Australian study proved that an average 39% of costs resulting from acts of violence are borne by companies, while the criminal offenders account for only 15%, not to forget violent employees, who pose an in-house security problem and whose employment harms the firm's reputation.

To raise awareness among businesses of how important it is to take measures to prevent violence against women as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR), ComVoMujer decided to carry out a nationwide, representative study on the issue in Peru in cooperation with the University of San Martín de Porres (USMP).

This was conducted by the Faculty of Administrative Sciences and Human Resources at USMP. It adopted a descriptive research design with structured interviews to ascertain the prevalence of partner violence against women in medium-sized and large-scale enterprises and its effect on work performance and business productivity.

More CSR measures have been carried out to address violence against women in Peru as a result of the findings, but they have also awakened keen interest in other

partner countries of the programme, so that national studies have been conducted in Bolivia and Paraguay as well. In Peru, interviews were conducted with 1,309 female and 1,881 male employees in 211 enterprises from the services, trade, production and transport/infrastructure sectors in the five most economically advanced cities (Lima, Cuzco, Iquitos, Puno and Juliaca). Data from national surveys was also taken into account. Estimated losses for businesses came to almost USD 7 billion, 3.9% of national GDP.¹ In 31 medium-sized to large-scale private enterprises from the financial, insurance, information and communication service sectors as well as trade and production in Bolivia, a total of 7,343 employees (2,705 women and 4,638 men) were surveyed. The costs incurred totalled nearly USD 2 billion for Bolivian businesses, equivalent to 6.5% of GDP.²

In Paraguay, 3,491 women and 3,966 men were surveyed in 25 firms from the services, trade and industry sectors. Losses for Paraguayan enterprises amounted to USD 891 million, equivalent to 3.9% of national GDP.³

These studies were the first of their kind anywhere, not only in the region. They are based on primary data and the interviews were not just carried out with women, but also with their male colleagues. This way, they were able to examine previously under-researched aspects, such as presenteeism, workplace accidents and also the male perspective.

In Germany incidentally, the costs of violence against women are estimated to total as much as EUR 36 billion.

It is important to stress here that these studies ‘only’ look at partner violence and no other forms of violence against women. If all forms of violence were to be taken into account, the costs would be even higher. The consequences of violence include physical and emotional injury, so that the women very frequently fall ill and suffer from work disabilities, resulting, for example, in unpunctuality, absenteeism, presenteeism or the replacement of personnel. This is not confined to women suffering from violence, however: Perpetrators and witnesses also cause losses in working hours. These incidents ultimately impair business productivity.

The study outcomes have led to responses and measures for preventing violence against women in different sectors: After Peru, the cost study was initially also carried out in Bolivia and then Paraguay with the involvement of the Ministry for Women’s

¹ The complete study is available for download at: <http://star-www.giz.de/fetch/9X00rbogg001PQPW09/giz2014-0387de-costos-violencia-mujeres-empresas-peru.pdf> or an executive summary at: <http://www.giz.de/de/downloads/giz-2013-de-gewalt-u-finanziellen-folgen-peru.pdf> (German only)

² An English summary of the study is available at the following link: [http://info.comvomujer.org.pe/catalogocomvo/productoscatalogos2015/56_ComVoMujer_Executive_Summary_Violence against women and its financial consequences for businesses in Bolivia_BO_2015 \(2\).pdf](http://info.comvomujer.org.pe/catalogocomvo/productoscatalogos2015/56_ComVoMujer_Executive_Summary_Violence%20against%20women%20and%20its%20financial%20consequences%20for%20businesses%20in%20Bolivia_BO_2015%20(2).pdf)

³ The study is currently in the process of being finalised.

Affairs. In the public sector, the Peruvian Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations has introduced an accreditation certificate entitled 'Safe Business - free from violence and discrimination against women'. A national study has also been commissioned on the topic of violence among female owners of small and micro enterprises. A completely new research discipline has arisen in the academic sector. The methodology was transferred from Peru to Bolivia and Paraguay and interest in the findings has grown worldwide. For example, the study was presented at the 23rd conference of the International Association for Feminist Economics in Ghana and the 48th annual assembly of the Latin American Council of Management Schools (CLADEA) in Brazil. The National University of Ireland has also voiced interest in adopting parts of the methodology to conduct similar surveys in African and Asian countries.

The evidence and the figures have convinced the private sector: Within five years, direct cooperation has taken place with more than 100 enterprises, and indirectly with over 400.

In Guatemala, the FOSIT programme has taken up the approach of ComVuMujer and advised local community organizations on the implementation of the anti-violence campaign 'Letters from Women'. Between other measures this contributed widely to make violence against women a public issue on local level and to initiate a debate on a topic which had been characterised beforehand by silence. Local business owners and governmental services agreed to place the sealed boxes for receiving the anonymous letters from women on their premises. In 6 months 647 letters were received comparing different forms of violence and aggression against women of all ages at home as well as in the public domain. The analysis of the anonymous letters showed that around 80% of the violent acts related to domestic violence. The campaign led to recommendations of women groups for the improvement of local violence prevention policies.

Lecture: From the field: Border security from a development cooperation perspective (Police programme)

Years of armed hostilities, weak government institutions and legal uncertainty are part and parcel of everyday life for the populations in many African countries. Since 2008, GIZ has been providing support in setting up (restoring) police capacities in adherence to rule-of-law principles. A priority of police work in West Africa is the prevention of cross-border crime. To prevent illegal migration, drug smuggling and human trafficking and possibly even identify and capture potential terrorists, border security forces have to operate reliably and effectively. A balance must, however, be struck here between effective control and the free flow of border traffic to prevent trade from coming to a standstill. Is biometric identification enough? Is there a need to apply more robust forms of control? Does the civilian population in a border region play an important role or does it pose a risk?

Due to years-long armed conflicts and weak government institutions, populations in many African countries frequently live in a climate of violence and legal uncertainty. It is the responsibility of states to ensure the security of their citizens. The security sector and especially the police force are, however, often not or insufficiently capable of coping with this task. Police institutions are poorly staffed and underequipped and many police officers are insufficiently trained and prone to corruption. Additional cross-border problems then often completely overstretch the capabilities of police institutions in developing countries. Another frequent problem is the insufficient institutionalisation of human rights and rule-of-law principles. Instead of a protective force, the population therefore often perceives the police as more of a threat. In these cases, guaranteeing (reinstating) security and the rule of law requires the support of the international donor community.

The objective of the Police Programme Africa is to support police forces to improve their professionalism, motivation and effectiveness so that they can ensure a safe environment for their citizens and also set a good example in respect for human rights. To do this, the programme strengthens the capacity of national police institutions, especially in post-conflict countries, supports civilian security institutions in finding joint solutions to regional problems and strengthens the police components of the African Union (AU), its regional peace brigades and peacekeeping missions. The Police Programme cooperates directly with the AU Commission, the respective commissions of the regional peace brigades and national police authorities and ministries for internal security in the partner countries. Moreover, it collaborates with the police missions of the European Union and the United Nations (UN) and coordinates with other international and civil-society actors.

To achieve this objective, the programme adopts three main approaches:

- organising and advising on strategic and operational processes of change in institutions, departments or individual units of national police institutions;
- providing comprehensive support for developing professional capacities in further training: from framing a strategic design for a training institution to conducting and financing training courses;
- carrying out equipment and construction measures to lay the foundation for effective police operations and improve working conditions.

Together with the police in Niger, Mauritania and Chad, the programme largely concentrates on three intervention areas: improving police border management, strengthening forensic capabilities and upgrading training capacities. A focus is placed here on setting up cooperation platforms in the West African countries to exchange knowledge and information.

Case study: Chad

After decades of armed hostilities between Muslim groups in the North and Christian groups in the South, the political climate in Chad has stabilised since 2010, but due to destabilisations in neighbouring countries the national security situation remains tense. The civil wars in Libya, Sudan and the Central African Republic have resulted in an ongoing influx of refugees, displaced persons and their livestock herds. On top of this, terrorist organisations, such as al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and Boko Haram in Nigeria, pose a significant threat to national political stability and socio-economic development.

While security in Chad has been improved by new and more strictly regulated border posts that control goods and livestock imports and the entry of persons, escalating disputes over resources due to the ongoing influx of refugees is placing mounting pressure on security institutions.

The police in Chad has very limited ability to discharge its responsibility for ensuring the security of the population. It is poorly equipped and officers are often insufficiently trained. There is virtually no police infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. The programme objective here is therefore to enable the national police in Chad to better guarantee the security of the population.

Improving border security is a central aspect of the Police Programme in Chad. Infrastructure measures, such as the construction of a new border station in N'Djamena, are carried out in compliance with modern standards in border management and with the human rights of refugees and migrants. The present building work at Chad's most heavily used border crossing is a major measure to help better stem illicit cross-border activities by smugglers and terrorist organisations (such as Boko Haram). The construction work is accompanied by basic and further training in border management. Police officers receive further training in detecting forged documents, information technology, codes of conduct and English.

Case study: Niger

The Republic of Niger is a landlocked fragile state in one of the most politically volatile regions on the African continent, which places a constraint on its development potential. The West African nation has to struggle with particularly large challenges in terms of security.

On the one hand, the conflicts between the Niger Government and the population groups fighting for autonomy, the Tuareg in the North and the Toubou in the East of the country, remain largely unsettled. On the other, the 5,700 kilometres of external border cannot be adequately secured, and so Niger has increasingly become a transit country for refugees from sub-Saharan Africa, but also for arms and narcotics. Islamist terrorist organisations operating in the region, such as al-Qaeda in the Islamic

Maghreb (AQIM), Ansar Dine in Mali or the Nigerian Boko Haram, pose a special threat to future security, and the conflicts in Libya and Mali have exacerbated the security situation.

The police in Niger is hardly able to cope with these challenges and cannot assure the safety of the population nationwide. It lacks adequate personnel and physical resources to be able to conduct professional police operations.

The objective of the Police Programme in Niger is to enable the national police force to better cope with its tasks, secure the borders and prosecute cross-border crime. It conforms with the national security policy and the European Union's Sahel Strategy. Project measures are planned and carried out in close consultation with international donors in Niger.

Together with the national partner, police border posts are being built at the frontier with Nigeria for the proper management of border traffic. A central police vehicle repair shop is also being reconstructed in the capital Niamey. The measures are complemented by special training courses for police officers in border policing tasks.

Measures in forensics and suspect identification are aimed at building competencies and resources to ensure that evidence is properly secured for use in a court of law so that criminal cases are brought in compliance with rule-of-law principles.

Case study: Mauritania

The security situation in Mauritania has worsened in recent years due to religious radicalisation, the spread of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and the crisis in the neighbouring country of Mali. Added to this is the growing burden posed by the large number of West African migrants. The Mauritanian Government is keen to control the desert and border regions, which are also major drug and human trafficking routes. As a key government executive body, however, the police lacks adequate personnel, operational capacities and strategies. It is only partly able to regulate border traffic.

The Police Programme collaborates closely in Mauritania with other national and international actors, so that measures for improving security reinforce each other. It strengthens the capacity of the national police force by providing advice, conducting further training measures and procuring material and equipment. Border security measures concentrate on constructing border posts, installing modern equipment and conducting training for border officials.

Five border posts are now fully operational: One border station has been built and together with four others has been fitted out with special equipment, for checking and recording identity papers, for example. Police officers deployed there took part in IT courses. The construction of two additional border posts is reaching completion.

Another cooperation priority is expanding police training. The Directorate General for National Security (DGSN) is assisted in developing, setting up and coordinating a comprehensive and professional further training system for border police officers. With advisory services, further training measures and working materials, forensic police units in Nouakchott and other selected regions are enabled to perform their tasks more effectively and efficiently and bring their operations up to international standards.

A national police training strategy was drafted in 2013, which has since been implemented by DGSN in cooperation with its international partners. Twenty-two training modules have been designed for criminal and border police. DGSN and GIZ have jointly drawn up a training syllabus for border police officers and trained instructors. A pool of eight trainers are now in place, who will carry out further training for border police officers and compile competency profiles of more than 300 border police officers.

The department responsible for further police officer training and the rehabilitation of the police academy has been supported with further training measures and equipment supplies.

Topic box III: Tools and methods in global youth violence prevention

Youth violence and the impacts of social violence jeopardise the sustainable development of many countries and are increasingly seen as challenges for German development cooperation. The high propensity to violence among youth is a complex phenomenon that calls for multifaceted and intersectoral solutions. This is why effective strategies for preventing youth violence adopt systemic approaches that bring together actors from various disciplines, the aim being to address the contextual causes of youth violence.

Systemic approaches in youth violence prevention require practical tools and methods for involving local actors and citizens in communities where violence prevention measures are planned. GIZ prepares and applies aids for planning and conducting systemic violence prevention measures in a variety of forms and contexts. Examples will be cited below to illustrate experience from Central America and South Africa, including a mediation programme at schools and initiatives in youth violence prevention in South Africa.

In recent years, GIZ has compiled its experience with initiatives in youth violence prevention in detail and has drawn up a set of guidelines for planning related measures. The guidelines are designed to help planning based on an assessment of the specific context and go step by step through participatory data collection and analytical and planning procedures. The intention is to help practitioners grasp and manage the complexity of youth violence and they draw on a clear frame of reference that can descri-

be the cause-effect chains. The methodological approach supports civic participation and intersectoral cooperation as the foundation for effective prevention and seeks to bring about a shift in perspective among all stakeholders. In their main section, the guidelines centre on the following procedures: contextual, participatory and gender-sensitive assessment of the causes, scale and impacts of youth violence and planning tailor-made prevention measures. They provide two different workshop approaches for this with specific methods and exercises. They also propose a selection of tried and tested approaches and methods for youth violence prevention as options for possible activities in prevention measures. Finally, they contain a range of practical tips and planning aids for their use.⁴

As part of the aforementioned programme, Preventing Youth Violence in Central America (PREVENIR), a systemic and intersectoral approach to improving peaceful co-existence in families and schools is implemented called Miles de Manos. The Miles de Manos (English: Thousands of Hands) method aims at strengthening the educational and communicative skills of teachers and parents and their cooperation for the benefit of schoolchildren. Innovative training units with several consecutive meetings and events help the adults to better perform their role as guiding figures for children and youth.

Actors at national level are decision-makers in education ministries, teacher training institutions, universities and non-governmental organisations in the education sector. At provincial and district level, staff of education ministries and local non-governmental organisations are trained as multipliers. The training programme itself is directed at teaching staff and parents. The intention is for teachers and parents to treat children and youth respectfully, responsibly, constructively and democratically without employing violence. This entails taking a critical attitude towards traditional, authoritarian education methods, playing a more conscious role as guiding figures and setting limits.

Miles de Manos is based on various educational prevention models that have provided scientific proof that they reduce risky behaviour among children and youth. These have been evaluated, amalgamated and adapted to the local context in four Central American countries. National support committees have been formed with key actors from the education sector to supervise the educational measures, provide feedback on them and prepare for their incorporation into national in-service teacher training and school curricula. Finally, three specific training modules have also been developed for parents, teachers and mixed (parent-teacher) groups.

Miles de Manos trainers have been subsequently trained and support given to conducting the training schemes in selected pilot schools. Thanks to the phased implementa-

⁴ The guidelines can be viewed and downloaded at: <http://epflicht.ulb.uni-bonn.de/content/titleinfo/196880>.

tion of Miles de Manos at pilot schools in various countries and results evaluation, it was possible to make ongoing detailed adjustments to the approach. The experience gained has been transferred to school networks and new schools and channelled into an upscaling strategy.

The Miles de Manos meetings are directed by trainers with the principal task of creating an atmosphere of trust and cooperation: The participants should feel free to also talk about unpleasant experiences in their childhood education and analyse these together. They learn methods to help them articulate their expectations of the children. They are also taught how they can reinforce desirable behaviour in children, set limits and decide on responses to undesirable conduct. The meetings afford the participants the opportunity to reflect on their role as parents and teachers and try out new ways of relating to children, in role play, for example. At the end of one meeting, a teacher put it this way: 'We learnt gradually from various examples and experience. I've come to recognise my strengths and weaknesses. We should get rid of the 'negative culture' in our thinking and put positive ideas into practice.'

During the reflections and discussions prompted in the Miles de Manos meetings, many parents and teachers become aware for the first time of the protective role they can play for adolescents in a violent society. At the same time, they are given practical tools to be able to better perform this task. By practising the new methods, first in the group and then as 'homework' (which is evaluated in the next meeting), the participants see a direct bearing on their real life.

Initial evaluation findings indicate that the children whose parents and teachers have taken part in the Miles de Manos programme are less anti-social or aggressive in their behaviour, which is seen as a precursor of youth violence. This has been underlined by studies on the impacts of prevention models that were taken as a frame of reference when designing Miles de Manos. Studies on the positive behaviour support (PBS) method currently applied in almost 3,000 schools in 34 US federal states show, for example, a 20% to 60% decline in school disciplinary measures, a heightened awareness of school safety among schoolchildren and a drop in the number of pupils in need of out-of-school assistance.

In addition, the Miles de Manos programme fosters relations among participant parents and teachers through local prevention councils and school networks to disseminate and network the approach on a broader scale.

The aforementioned programme, Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention (VCP), in South Africa also attaches priority to involving youth in its initiatives and activities, as young people are more frequent perpetrators but also the main victims of violence worldwide. Strengthening youth is therefore essential for effective violence prevention. This is very important in South Africa in particular, where the average national

age is 25. Most young people want to make a positive contribution to life in their communities and to national development. The facilities and opportunities for harnessing the potential of youth are often lacking, however. With youth-sensitive measures, the programme seeks to encourage their social engagement, which has a beneficial effect on social cohesion in communities and harnesses the special potential of youth for the sustainable implementation of violence prevention measures, but also affords them future prospects and improves their employability.

One of these measures supported by GIZ is the project Youth for Safer Communities. GIZ is carrying out this intervention jointly with a local non-governmental organisation, Masi-funde, in Port Elizabeth/Nelson Mandela Bay. In the course of the intervention, so-called peer educators, who form part of the youth groups of local NGOs, have devised a workshop scheme that they are carrying out at schools throughout Nelson Mandela Bay. During each workshop, ideas are developed together with the pupils for making their respective communities safer and selected project ideas are then implemented. Altogether, these workshops have been held at 40 schools and over 4,000 young people reached directly.

Leading up to the workshops, peer educators gain a general picture of violent crime in their respective precincts in interviews and visits. The young people ask the police, community representatives and residents for relevant information, which they then discuss along with their own experience and also with reference to violence prevention approaches and the special role of youth at the respective schools in the city on South Africa's East Coast. Besides an interactive workshop segment, the young peer educators make use of various media to reach the pupils. They have written and recorded a song, for example, filmed a documentary on so-called local heroes for more safety in their suburb, Walmer Township, and issued several special editions of their magazine, Walmer's Own, on the subject of safe neighbourhoods and communities. These media are now propagating the knowledge gained.

An outstanding feature of these initiatives is that the young people hold the workshops at a whole range of schools in different social settings. This traverses the boundaries and disparities between different population groups and cements social cohesion. The project is also unique, because it is planned and carried out by youth for youth. To awaken interest in similar measures among other non-governmental organisations, GIZ and Masi-funde are preparing support mechanisms to replicate the approach.

GIZ also supports youth promotion and violence prevention measures in the post-conflict fragile state of East Timor, where more than two-thirds of the population is under 30 years of age. With high youth unemployment, a lack of employment opportunities and insufficient education prospects in the formal and non-formal sector, young people have little hope of social advancement. Confrontation with violence in public places and personal experience of it in the family and at school exacerbate their propensity to commit violent acts. Youth work lacks an adequate institutional infrastructure and is not extensively

networked; hardly any youth support actors are professionally qualified, with almost no courses of study or further training available so far in East Timor. There are very few established national and local coordination mechanisms to effectively harmonise the youth work of government and non-governmental institutions. The general conditions are not conducive to non-violent conflict resolution among youth and few preventive measures are undertaken.

Together with the implementing partners, the State Secretariat of Youth and Sports (SSYS) and the Convention against Corruption (CAC), the project trains government and civil-society youth promotion institutions to enable youth to settle conflicts peacefully in their everyday life. It targets female and male youth aged between 16 and 30 in rural and urban areas. Special attention is paid to ensuring that girls and young women benefit as much from the measures as their male contemporaries.

The project adopts a multi-level methodological approach. On the one hand, it comprises measures to expand the capacity of government and non-governmental partners. On the other, it includes youth promotion measures facilitated through finance for organisations and local initiatives. Youth promotion measures agreed on in youth sector networks are conducted by the actors as pilot measures in four districts of the country and experience evaluated and compiled for subsequent dissemination.

The present project of the Peace Fund follows on from its predecessor (2008-2013). More than 40,000 Timorese youth have been reached here with peacebuilding projects and further training, over 40% of them young women. About 90% of the 4,000 participants surveyed indicated that the respective measures had made a tangible contribution to peacebuilding effects in their community. The current project is now conducting more measures to upgrade the capacities and competencies of government and non-governmental partners (non-governmental organisations) in the youth sector (capacity development). Local initiatives for youth are also being specifically promoted with finance for organisations. Primarily in the rural districts of Ermera, Aileu, Manatuto and Baucau, the participant actors jointly plan youth promotion measures in networks. Based out of selected youth centres, these are then implemented as pilot measures.

Lecture: From the field: Violence prevention and (social) media - good practices from Latin America, South Africa and East Timor

With funding from the German Government and other donors, the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) supports measures for the prevention of various forms of violence directed against disparate social groups in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Citing examples from South Africa, Latin America and East Timor, we shall describe the complexity of the problem of violence, the various prevention approaches and resources using modern means of communication and the alliances with government and private partners in violence prevention.

New media, such as Internet, smartphone apps or YouTube videos not only help to appeal to new, often younger target groups, but also make information and messages on relevant issues of violence and conflicts permanently available at reasonable cost. For example, the short film on the poster in the village shop or the latest performance of the theatre group is available at any time on YouTube for interested viewers. Apps and role play are used to influence values and give peaceful co-existence cult status. Monitoring Facebook comments on acts of violence provides insights into social acceptance or rejection and ideally, networking users can have a positive influence on behaviour. Another aspect of Internet and smartphone use is providing information on violence and conflicts in real time. The idea of public agencies making crime and violence and traffic radio available online in real time may seem strange to people in Germany, but these kinds of measures are not alien to countries with high rates of violence.

Gender-specific violence against women is still widespread in the Andean Region and Paraguay. The above-mentioned regional programme, ComVoMujer, applies several strategies in its work. By means of campaigns, media participation, studies and information, it exerts influence on socio-cultural attitudes and behavioural patterns that legitimise violence against women and social gender inequality. It supports various government, non-governmental and private-sector actors in carrying out preventive initiatives and instructs them on the issue in participatory discussions tailored to target-group needs and conditions.

The social media campaign ‘I am Katja’s hand’, for example, seeks to draw attention to the problem of female homicide by recounting the fate of Katja Cabezas from Ecuador, who had one of her hands cut off during an attempt by her partner to murder her.⁵

Similarly the FOSIT programme in Guatemala supported the campaign ‘I say no to violence against women’, where males of all ages and origin from the community bring forward the message for behavioural change in respecting women rights by radio and in TV and YouTube spots. The radio spots were transmitted not only in Spanish but in 3 Maya dialects.

The costliest form of violence is against women in couple relationships. Most affected are young women between 13 and 20. The costs of all kinds of violence for low-income and middle-income countries account for 11.16% of global GDP. Although most companies have so far viewed partner violence against women as a private matter, for which they bear no responsibility and which does not concern them, a gradual shift is taking place. A growing number of firms are aware of the diverse impacts of violence against women on their business and have taken appropriate measures.

In their work on violence prevention, companies increasingly aim at a younger public, for one thing because, like German enterprises, they want to attract new young personnel

⁵ Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/Yo-soy-la-mano-de-Katia-799795253442470/timeline/>.

and for another acquire new, primarily young clients who are more concerned with social issues.

Thanks to their expertise in using social networks, companies in particular offer great potential for reaching many people through broad prevention measures and campaigns, above all a young public. This potential is already being put to intensive use in South America, but there is still more scope there and in Germany. Businesses approach their clientele via modern social and traditional media by associating their core business with messages criticising violence against women, for example, or motivate their personnel to create a culture of zero tolerance towards violence against women inside and outside the company. For this, they make use, for example, of advertising clips, Facebook sites, smart-phone applications and in-house information networks. These measures and products can be simply adapted to various contexts and successfully implemented everywhere, including in Germany.

ComVoMujer advises the firms in devising campaigns and products, including in social media. One example of this is the partnership with Ecuadorian telephone company CNT to jointly develop an application for smartphones. This is used to inform a broad public on forms of violence against women, and also enables users to seek and find rapid assistance. This help can be requested via the application with a direct, anonymous emergency call. Alternatively, trusted individuals can also be contacted quickly by means of specific text messages (SMS).⁶

Another example is cooperation with the pharmaceuticals company, Bagó, in producing videos.⁷ In addition, an online certification scheme has been developed with companies in response to demand.⁸

ComVoMujer itself also makes intensive use of social media to inform and mobilise. It circulates its own and partner publications and information on forthcoming events via Facebook. A blog discusses specific topics with readers, and also invites them to write texts themselves.⁹

The above mentioned programme for citizen security and social conflict transformation (FOSIT) in Guatemala focuses on the utilization of “new media” in two ways. On the one hand, the programme supports video and radio spots to promote the already mentioned prevention of violence against women as well as – through cartoons – to illustrate ways of how to deal with social conflicts.

⁶ For examples, see <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.artech.appinfoemp.informativo> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V90LwkJ_P3o

⁷ Example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bme5AbBVZU>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzSragAgCE8>

⁸ Example: <http://www.empresasegura.org/>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8wNBCAiyC4>

⁹ YouTube: Canal Libre de Violencia; bloqueandolavcm.org; Twitter: @ComVoMujer

On the other hand, FOSIT promotes the utilization of web-based applications to increase capacities and knowledge for violence prevention, for example through a GIS-based mapping system to localize sites and types of violence, or through the establishment of a distance learning course on violence prevention.

The project in East Timor described above makes use of innovative means of communication to convey non-violent messages. After decades of violence, the nationwide film campaign ‘Superwoman for Peace’, for example, was met with a very favourable societal response. The films show young people peaceful ways of resolving conflict. This medium is flanked by road shows, where the actors also show the films in provincial districts and discuss them with young people. This has reached over 10,000 urban and rural young people locally. From an interview with the leading actress: ‘More and more people recognise me on the street. Children shout ‘Superwoman’ after me or the motto of our films: ‘Attack problems, not people!’ This is unique. I can see that people do not just recognise me, they also understand the content of the film.’

The programme ‘Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention’ in South Africa uses memorable video sketches to illustrate the challenges for violence prevention and its own initiatives.¹⁰ Via YouTube or the above-mentioned platform for violence prevention in South Africa (www.saferspaces.org.za), these videos are broadly circulated and well received. In addition, the Safer Spaces platform applies additional interactive methods to promote exchange and public discussion on issues of violence prevention, including blogs, extensive sets of resources and further links as well as contacts to a growing community of practitioners in violence prevention.

In many different ways, GIZ contributes to limiting the potential for violence and to its prevention in various forms. Different contexts call for individually appropriate, systemic and intersectoral solutions. Growing urbanisation and migration, resource depletion and the progressive merging of international organised crime syndicates will pose even greater challenges in future, but a range of experience and good practices shows that prevention measures can mitigate violence, which is certain to remain a highly relevant issue: The Sustainable Development Goals only recently adopted at the UN General Assembly at the end September 2015 will also afford many different intervention points in future for various approaches to prevention initiatives in developing countries as well as in Germany. Goal 16, Peace, justice and strong institutions, provides the main guideline of course, but the targets of Goal 1 (No poverty), 3 (Good health and well-being), 4 (Quality education), 5 (Gender equality), 10 (Reduced inequalities) and 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) also have a direct bearing on violence prevention and attest to the efforts of the international donor community to continue to actively address the many different facets of violence and its prevention.

¹⁰ Example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEfxOFiHXzE>

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