

National Programme for the Prevention of Violence and Crime

Comisión Intersecretarial para la Prevención Social de la Violencia y la Delincuencia

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Organisation: Under Ministry of Crime Prevention and Citizens' Engagement

Country:

Level of government: Central government

Sector: Public order and safety

Type: Other

Launched in: 2013

Link to the innovation's website

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Description

The National Programme for the Prevention of Violence and Crime – launched by President Enrique Peña Nieto in February 2013 - focuses on crime prevention as the government's core strategy in fighting crime. This represents a shift from previous criminal justice policies in that:

- It puts citizens' well-being and safety as the number one priority (as opposed to security and viability of the State).
- It deals with the crime phenomenon from a holistic perspective and incorporates different policy approaches (whereas before criminal policy was mostly limited to law enforcement actions).
- It takes into account how people experience crime.
- It acknowledges the importance of positive government engagement to prevent crime.

The programme was designed following a vertical (operates in all of the country and involves all levels of government) and horizontal coordination model (brings together crime-prevention related policies from nine federal ministries). Coordination with civil society is also incorporated in the programme.

To allow for replication at local level, all actions are focused:

- In limited territories known as polygons which are chosen based on criminal risk factor indicators as delineated by criminological theory.
- In three priority social groups: children, youth and women.

Why the innovation was developed

It was created in response to a problem (e.g. service gap or failure): As previously mentioned, criminal policy in Mexico was mostly limited to law enforcement action; it did not follow a multidisciplinary approach; it lacked adequate coordination among government entities; its outreach to civil society was limited; and its resources were not spent efficiently. As a result, crime rates and fear of crime started increasing in an exponential manner.

Objectives

Enhance public trust, Improve effectiveness, Improve efficiency, Improve service quality

- To improve the efficiency of crime prevention programmes at the local level by directing them to concrete risk factors identified through evidence-based methods.
- Maximise existing but broken efforts in crime prevention through coordination and programme integration.
- Maximise the impact of programmes by bringing together resources in limited territories and populations.

Main beneficiaries

Civil Society, General population, Government bodies, Government staff, Young people

In the long term, the programme is set out to have an impact on the Mexican population as a whole by substantially reducing crime rates, victimisation and fear of crime all across the territory. Note that achieving these objectives is also a goal of other crime policies in the law enforcement and judiciary branches of government.

Existing similar practices

Todos Somos Juárez Project

In public administration of my country

National Centre for Crime Prevention (Federal Government) and the President's Chief of Staff Office.

The Crime Prevention Programme launched in Ciudad Juarez between February 2010 and July 2012 was the first inter-agency coordination and resource combining programme in Mexico. Existing evidence shows that the programme contributed to a dramatic decrease in violence in Ciudad Juarez between 2011 and 2012.

http://www.mesadesseguridad.org/?page_id=7

Results

Results not available yet

Development

Design

The idea emerged and was inspired by a few things such as international experiences, lessons learned from successful programmes implemented at a smaller scale in Mexico and from various rounds of consulting with national and international experts.

Design time: 7 months

Testing

Previous experiences at the local level worked as pilots for overall programme design. However, the programme is still piloting different sub-projects, as new (and most times inexistent) information is generated by its diagnosed divisions.

Testing time: Ongoing

Implementation

Tools used:

- Risk management approach.
- Inter-agency management programmes.

Resources used:

In 2013, the programme had a combined budget of almost MXN 118 000 million.

The core institution in charge of its implementation is integrated by approximately 150 individuals.

Implementation time: Ongoing

Diffusion

- Know-how and experiences are transmitted through coordination mechanisms.
- Providing training to stakeholders within relevant bureaucracies.
- Fostering exchanges between participating agencies, and national and international experts and institutions.
- Direct exchange of materials between organisations.
- Publication of specialised (indexed) articles as well as contributions in selected media outlets and blogs.

Diffusion time: Ongoing

Challenges and solutions

One of greatest challenges so far has been the lack of information about crime risk factors and crime incidence and prevalence at the level in which the programme operates. This challenge has been met by introducing innovative data generation and analysis processes based on crowdsourcing and data mining methodologies. Also, analytical models incorporating data residing in institutions dedicated to labour, health and other such topics within the realm of social policy have been used to build the programme's crime prevention indicators.

The other major challenge faced so far has been the introduction of the crime prevention paradigm within agencies that were not used to look at crime as a multifactorial problem that requires holistic answers. To overcome this problem, the Ministry has launched an ambitious training programme and diffusion campaign with a strong social network and internet component.

Finally, vertical and horizontal coordination has also been challenging. The programme has installed working groups at all levels of government in which civil society is included. These working groups, although different in scale depending on how local they are, mirror the Inter-Ministry Commission in its integration and working method.

Partnerships

Partners in the private sector

Private sector

Government has partnered with the private sector in recuperating public spaces with social cohesion and collective efficacy purposes.

Local partners in civil society

Civil Society

Civil society has provided advice, local know-how and has assisted implementation efforts at the local level.

Universities

Universities have provided studies into different crime problems, given advice into the design of the programme, assisted in the design of evaluation tools, and participated in the implementation of projects at the local level.

Many different partners within government

Other

There was intensive vertical and horizontal coordination involved in this innovation.

Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned

- Invest in generating, collecting, consolidating and analysing information. Having good information is key to having a good programme design, good parameters for comparison and, eventually, successful implementation.
 - Bring down as many information sharing barriers as possible between participating agencies.
 - Do not be afraid of innovation in information technologies, but always understand its limitations.
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Conditions for success

It is necessary to adapt the existing legal framework to the needs of the Programme to facilitate the materialization of many of its core components. For example:

- Adapt the rules of engagement of participating agencies in order to be able to operate at the polygon level.
- Adapt funding requirements to be able to incorporate projects designed by civil organisations with poor funding or limited funding options.
- Incorporate the “crime prevention” concepts in every agency’s objectives, etc.
- Reform policing bodies at the local level as their full engagement in crime prevention strategies.

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