PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Maritime Security Program assists Member States to comply with international maritime security standards and best practices as well as to improve their overall maritime security capabilities on a national and regional level. This is accomplished by training maritime/port security officials to protect passenger transportation and trade; strengthen port capabilities to comply with the ISPS (International Ship and Port Facility Security) Code and other international port security standards/procedures; and identifying the vulnerabilities to mitigate the potential consequences in key ports of the region. The program has two different projects. The first project focuses on assessing vulnerabilities and training needs in target ports and promotes follow-on trainings to mitigate vulnerabilities identified during the assessment process. The second project includes a suite of activities on a national and sub-regional level on key areas of maritime security and national policy level crisis management exercises. The first set of activities, referred to as National and Regional Capacity Building and Training in Key Aspects of Maritime Security, include (1) strengthening maritime domain awareness and port state control; (2) enhancing supply chain security and risk assessment and management; (3) bolstering maritime resilience and commerce resumption; (4) improving the design, planning, and execution of drills and exercises; and (5) systematically addressing the critical matter of security IT systems in the maritime domain. The second set of activities consists of a series of National Crisis Management Exercises (CMEs) in the form of table-top exercises, placing special emphasis on resilience and post-crisis recovery.

OBJECTIVES

Contribute to strengthening maritime/port security in Member States by identifying vulnerabilities and training needs through assessments, organizing workshops to prompt inter-agency and regional collaboration, and measuring the impact on the application of new strategies to improve maritime security overall in the Americas.

RESULTS

In 2017, the Maritime Security will implement a National Supply Chain Security Workshop in The Bahamas. This workshop aims to strengthen the country's capabilities to secure its supply chain, maritime transportation infrastructure, and broader maritime domain through effective risk management and the development of comprehensive supply chain security strategies. Emphasis will be placed on increasing information-sharing and inter-agency coordination, and the activities will facilitate the development of policies and mechanisms to foster inter-agency risk analysis, and the formulation of integrated national supply chain security strategies. Furthermore these workshops overall aim to train maritime and port security personnel in the aforementioned topics, to increase inter-agency collaboration on a national level, and to promote cooperation among OAS Member States on a sub-regional level.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Program was created in order to support Member States in promoting citizen security through a comprehensive and multidimensional prevention strategy aimed at reducing and mitigating risk factors of violence and crime, especially among Youth. All of its actions are supported by intersectoral articulation, evidence base, community participation, youth leadership, and the promotion of peace, from a gender and human rights perspective.

The Program seeks the constant mobilization of different sectors of society for the optimization of its results, with the ultimate goal of pushing a prevention approach in the countries agendas. It has four phases of implementation. The first one is an evaluation of the prevention entities in the jurisdiction where the Program is to be implemented (executive, judicial and legislative powers, and the civil society). The second one is the elaboration of a series of recommendations for the public sector aimed at optimizing the work of the evaluated prevention entities, including the selection of possible interventions for implementation (from the Program’s catalog of a regularly updated evidence based interventions). The third one is the development of an action plan in collaboration with local actors, taking into account their priorities and the recommendations made. The last one is the implementation of the chosen interventions adapted to the local context, with a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan.

All of the Program’s actions are supported and disseminated an ongoing communications strategy. The information obtained at the end of each execution cycle is used for the elaboration of a series of final recommendations and for the optimization of the Program’s later editions.

OBJECTIVES

To develop a hemispheric strategy for the prevention of violence and crime through an integrated and complementary set of actions aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to act in a coordinated manner, fostering international cooperation.

RESULTS

The Program’s interventions are implemented in three areas: institutional, situational and community.

At the institutional level, it seeks to strengthen coordination among agencies working on violence and crime prevention, and to build capacity of public administrators, especially from the security, justice, health and education sectors.

In the situational context, the aim is to reduce criminal opportunities in urban spaces by improving areas for community coexistence and through interventions in premises that sell alcohol.

At the community level, it seeks to increase protective factors for violence in communities, particularly within vulnerable groups. Its particular focus is on youth: social empowerment, life skills development, and strengthening of links with their environment, especially school and family.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Department of Public Security (DPS) has created the Inter-American Network for Police Development and Professionalization as a mechanism for international cooperation to strengthen the police capacity to address security challenges. The Police Network seeks to generate police skills adapted to new security situations in the region and to promote the exchange of best practices and lessons learned. The structure of the Police Network is based on a needs-assessment carried out by DPS, with the support of AMERIPOL, which allowed the identification and understanding of the main challenges and knowledge gaps regarding police training.

The Interamerican Police Network is structured in four main pillars: (i) development and implementation of a training curriculum, with on-site courses and virtual courses, that seeks to answer the knowledge needs identified in the needs-assessment and to reduce the asymmetries among the police forces in the Americas; (ii) creation of a permanent network for cooperation with the goal of strengthening the training process through the continuous exchange of information and knowledge between police officers and the training institutions and instructors; (iii) horizontal cooperation that promotes the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices among police institutions; (iv) certification of police forces in excellence management.

The Interamerican Police Network has partnered with universities of the Hemisphere, coordinated by the University of São Paulo, with the goal of promoting the exchange between academic knowledge and police practices.

OBJECTIVES

To contribute in a systematic and ongoing manner to the strengthening of professional development of OAS Member States’ police institutions. Its specific goals are: (i) to develop a police knowledge management system based on on-site and virtual training; (ii) to promote a comprehensive and holistic approach that includes continuous training and exchange of knowledge and best practices among police institutions, as well as certification in police management; (iii) to generate greater coordination among Member States to address present and future public security challenges; and (iv) to add scientific value in the professional development of police officers through accreditation of the courses by renowned universities.

RESULTS

In the framework of the Interamerican Police Network, with the support of strategic partners, the DPS has carried out a needs assessment to identify the main challenges and gaps in police training; an educational guide for the on-site police training was developed based on the conclusions of the needs-assessment. The curriculum and the material for this training are being finalized and they will be validated by the strategic partners of the Police Network. Simultaneously, the first edition of the training is being organized and it is expected to take place at the Police Academy of Honduras in 2017. The DPS has also elaborated a mapping of the police institutions and their processes certified in quality management in the hemisphere.

It is expected that in the following years the Interamerican Police Network trains at least 340 police officers to promote the program in the OAS Member States during a one-month on-site police course and 200,000 officers on the virtual platform, who will be connected through a network for police cooperation and exchange of experiences. The police network also aims to add scientific value in police professional development through accreditation of the courses offered by renowned universities and foster horizontal cooperation among police institutions in the Americas.