



## Executive Summary: The Belize Crime Observatory (BCO)

The operational framework for the development of a Belize Crime Observatory (BCO) was created through the Inter-American Observatory Project, which began in **October 2011** in the country of Belize. This project was funded through the Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program of Canada, and facilitated by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) of the Secretariat of Multidimensional Security of Organization of American States (OAS). The fundamental aim of the project is to strengthen:

- a) Information Management Systems
- b) Strengthen Analysis of Crime and Violence Data
- c) Improve Public Security in the Region

**In May 2013**, the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of National Security, with the support of the National Security Council (NSC) agreed to have the Belize Crime Observatory included as part of the larger expanding National Intelligence Framework of the Ministry of National Security; specifically, the BCO would be integrated as a support agency which would provide added value to the Joint Operations & Intelligence Center (JIOC). The BCO will **fall under the mandate of the National Security Council Secretariat**, and would be staffed by technicians within the NSCS, and supported by the Belize Police Department Statistical Unit.

**In August 2014**, a Technical Cooperation Agreement for the establishment of a Crime Observatory in Belize was approved by the Inter-American Development Bank, and as such, the Ministry of National Security was awarded US\$100,000 to further develop the BCO; additionally, in **April 2015**, the Ministry of National Security was also awarded additional funding through the **Infosegura Project**, which is a three year regional project (2015-2017) aimed to provide support for the strengthening of evidence-based policy decision making in the Central American region. The InfoSegura project is being executed locally by the National Security Council Secretariat and the UNDP.

The Belize Crime Observatory is scheduled to launch on **October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016**, with the objective to provide data and information, for both public and internal use.

### Mission Statement:

The Belize Crime Observatory: supporting improvements in citizen security by informing, interpreting, and influencing the understanding of crime.

- **Informing** – a central hub for the collation, use and publishing of information relating to crime.
- **Interpreting** – an analysis and research service that examines and interprets data relating to crime.



- **Influencing** – a central depository of accessible information and analytical findings on crime for the purpose of influencing decision-making on strategies and policies relating to policing and public safety, and promoting improvements in citizen security.

### General Goals and Objectives:

1. To improve public safety and national security by facilitating the development of research-based State-level public policies and programs that addresses crime and violence in the country of Belize.
2. To provide a platform that promotes systematic and consistent information sharing, research, dialogue and debate about crime, violence and public safety issues in the country.
3. To promote the strengthening of information management systems within the criminal justice system of Belize by providing technical support and recommendations for the collection and processing of data within those agencies.