



# CIPREVICA

Centro de Investigación para la Prevención de la Violencia en Centroamérica

The Research Center the Prevention of Violence in Central America (CIPREVICA) is a Non-profit association established in Guatemala City, which began operations in January 2011.

## MISSION

To be a non-governmental organization that, based on scientific research, seeks to promote a comprehensive and inter-sectorial approach to violence from the prevention perspective, through training and technical assistance to civil society and State entities, as well as enabling its articulation in Central America.

## VISION

We are a sound community of knowledge and practice that, based on its own model for prevention of violence, contributes to building a dignified and violence-free Central America.





## Regional context and issues

The Central American region – and especially the countries comprised in the so-called Northern Triangle – continues to be one of the most violent regions of the world, despite efforts conducted by several civil society organizations and insufficient government actions aimed at reducing violence rates in this territory. Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala occupy the first places in Central America with the highest homicide rates. It should be highlighted that most of these homicides entailed the use of fire arms.

On the other hand, surveys on victimization and perception of violence show **that inter-personal violence is the main dimension of violence** and in addition, affects all social stratum in the Northern Triangle. This type of violence is linked and takes place in the framework of other serious social problems that affect these countries, as a result of inequity and exclusion<sup>1</sup>.

Extortions are a phenomenon that is affecting people every day, regardless of their social stratum, and which is taking many lives in the region.

Evidence collected in the past three years of working in the region have led us to think that governments, altogether, do not seem to be willing to acknowledge the historical and structural nature of violence and its close relation to socio-economic inequalities and marginalization of most of the population, and consequently, they experience serious difficulties to lead definition and implementation of comprehensive and sustainable policies to face the issue. Scarce advances are as unstable as power structures and political variations, and have not become stakes in the medium and long-term that could go beyond the imposition of the “Tough Hand” (model that has proven to be inefficient). In this context, it is clear that the civil society must assume and is assuming a significant role in the social transformation of the reality of violence, mainly based on the implementation of initiatives to prevent violence, which articulate the efforts of the *holders of rights* and *duty bearers* linked to addressing the issue in municipal territories.



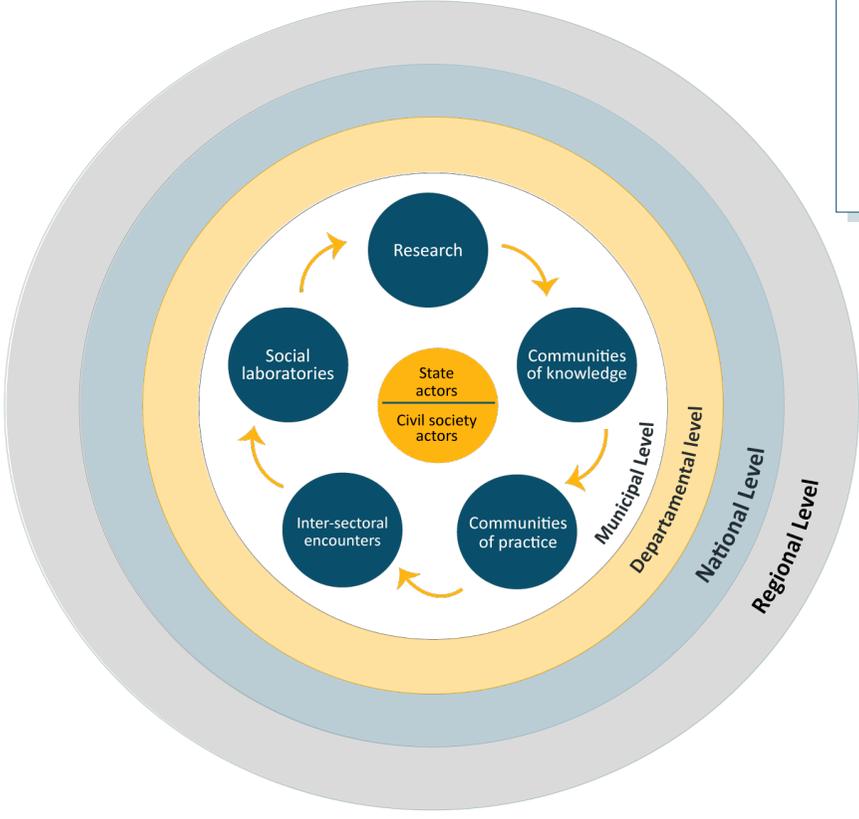
<sup>1</sup> Racism, land conflicts, environmental conflicts, migration due to economic reasons, violence against women, violence against children and adolescents, political violence, electoral violence, occupation of land by organized crime and drug traffickers, forced disappearances, proliferation of networks of human trafficking (women and children) for labour and/or sexual exploitation, trafficking of weapons, organ trafficking, freight traffic, social cleansing, homophobia, trans-phobia, and, overall, all crimes against life and patrimony.

# Intervention model



Scientific-social **research processes** that are aimed at constructing evidence that enable deeper knowledge of the different dimensions, trends and dynamics of violence in target municipalities

The **communities of knowledge** implemented by CIPREVICA seek to foster and/or build knowledge, capacities and skills to prevent violence, among key stakeholders of the civil society and the State



Creation of **social laboratories** where multiple actors that had been benefited by CIPREVICA's intervention, design joint initiatives for the prevention of violence at local level, with the organization's strategic accompaniment



CIPREVICA 2016

Enabling spaces of **inter-sectoral encounters** and dialogue between State and civil society key stakeholders



The **communities of practices** favor the emergence of local research proposals, training and formulation of public policies, programmes, projects and/or actions to prevent violence at municipal level, with CIPREVICA's technical assistance

# Regional programmes

CIPREVICA implements two programmes to address the issue of violence:

## Programme for the Prevention of Urban Violence

The main objective of the Programme for the Prevention of Urban Violence is to foster capacities for collective resilience to address the issue of violence in urban territories, with an aim to increase active, purposeful and articulated citizenship of holders of rights and duty bearers, to address the issue of violence with a rights-based approach. It is also aimed to build urban municipal spaces with improved conditions to ensure a dignified life, lower violence rates, and sustainable development in the countries of the so-called Northern Triangle of Central America.

## Programme for the Prevention of Violence against Women

The main objective of the Programme for the Prevention of Violence Against Women is to make visible violence against women as a social issue that prevails in all strata of society, and to promote active and purposeful participation of holders of rights and duty bearers to promote gender equity at local level, based on building knowledge and capacities, fostering dialogue and inter-sectorial articulation, to enable the creation of conditions to address the issue of violence against women, from a multi-dimension and evidence-based perspective; which makes women's access to a dignified and violence-free life viable, as well as the advance of society towards sustainable development.

## Main achievements up to date

01

In the 2011-2018 period, the Centre has generated social-scientific knowledge on diverse aspects of the issues of violence in Central American societies, with emphasis on the so-called Northern Triangle, by conducting several quantitative and qualitative investigations, aimed at building empirical evidence and theoretical reflection on the characteristics and behaviour of violence in the region

02

Between 2013 and 2018, the Centre managed to create and/or build capacities for the prevention of violence among multiple actors of the civil society and the State in Central America, through the implementation of seven virtual technical courses at regional level through educational platforms and four face-to-face diplomas in Guatemala and Honduras. Some of these courses entailed academic certificates from the National University of Honduras (UNAH – for its name in Spanish) and the University Institute for Women of the San Carlos de Guatemala University (IUMUSAC – for its name in Spanish).

03

During 2017, the Centre implemented in Guatemala the “For a dignified and non-violent Cuilapa” face-to-face diploma, to 129 people among multiple actors of civil society and State: teachers, women, public officers, and young people; which was accredited academically by the University of San Carlos de Guatemala (USAC – for its name in Spanish)

04

During 2018, the Centre implemented in Honduras the “For a dignified and non-violent Danlí” face-to-face diploma, to 122 people among multiple actors of civil society and State: teachers, women, public officers, and young people; which was accredited academically by the University of San Carlos de Guatemala (USAC – for its name in Spanish)

05

The Centre has promoted exchange of knowledge and experiences for the prevention of violence, among diverse key stakeholders of the civil society and the State, by holding five international seminars (Honduras – 2011; El Salvador – 2011; Nicaragua – 2012 and Costa Rica – 2013; Guatemala – 2018) and two regional encounters (Honduras – 2014 and El Salvador – 2015)

06

Since 2013, the Centre is a regional member (America) of the World Alliance for the Prevention of Violence (VPA) of the World Health Organization (WHO).