

## Hot Spot Policing in Bogota, Columbia

### Introduction

Incidents of homicides continued to remain high in Bogota, Columbia despite attention of the police and availability of basic public services there. Safety and security have been of major concern to the residents, owing to increasing crime rates. In the year 2015, the Economist Intelligence Unit ranked Bogota third with respect to worst quality of life. Two per cent of the streets accounted for the majority of the homicides in the city.

### Intervention

In order to reduce the incidents of crime, the police and mayor's office conducted an evaluation of citizens. Post the activity, more than 1900 streets were identified for one of the following initiatives based on the requirement.

- Hot spot policing: In certain streets, the deputation of the police increased from 90 to 180 minutes for a period of eight months. Patrolling in nearby bars and clubs increased to three times respectively during day and night while certain hot spots were monitored five times a day and once at night.
- Municipal clean-ups: Contractors in charge of municipal maintenance were recommended to map loopholes in municipal services and provide services such as cleaning of garbage, clearing graffiti, installing lights, etc.
- Hot spot policing and municipal clean-ups: The Mayor's office also recommend certain streets for both Hot spot policing and municipal clean up.

### Impact

It was observed that no positive impacted was noted in streets where hot spot policing and municipal cleaning were individually implemented. Incidents of crime spilled over to the adjacent streets (250 m away). When calculated, less than two per cent reduction in crime rates was observed in these cases. With respect to spill over crimes, it was observed that crime displacement was observed mainly in the case of property crimes. Significant reductions were recorded in the case of violent crimes, a 5 per cent reduction was recorded in cases of rapes and homicides. In total, a 57 per cent reduction was observed in the streets subject to combined hot spot policing and clean ups.

Source: JPal, (2020), [Improving Security through Concentrated Policing in Bogotá, Colombia](#)