

CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO

SESSION # AAJ157CD

Prison Reform in Central America through prison design : The practical vs. ideal

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Agenda

1. Status Quo in LAC
2. Challenging the status quo
3. Case study: Costa Rica
4. Dignified and humanitarian design



Course Description

International standards and the protection of human rights are central to the promotion of prison reform in Central America. National legislation, policies and practices guided by international standards ensure the protection of the prisoners' human rights and the acquisition of the skills and experience necessary to gain opportunities upon release. As the region moves towards reforming prison systems, it faces a lack of strategic planning, inadequate information collection and management systems to inform policy and programmatic decisions, as well as scarce human and financial resources. If not properly addressed, these challenges can distort official response so that rather than serving prison reform, new prison projects could turn into a prison industrial complex expansion.

Prison facilities in Costa Rica and elsewhere are severely overcrowded, have become outmoded and in some opinions inhumane, making prison reform almost impossible. The pressure from the media and reform elements is to reduce overcrowding as well as improving conditions to an acceptable level. This panel will discuss the challenges faced by policy-makers and design professionals in Central America. A case study will discuss how Costa Rica grappled with these issues and decided to move forward with a major prison improvement project partially funded by the IDB.



Learning Objectives

1. Prison conditions in Central America.
2. International standards and the role they play.
3. Current prison reform trends in the Central American region.
4. Costa Rica's prison reform strategy: a case study



1

STATUS QUO

Inter-American Development Bank

Supporting Corrections Reform in Latin America and
the Caribbean

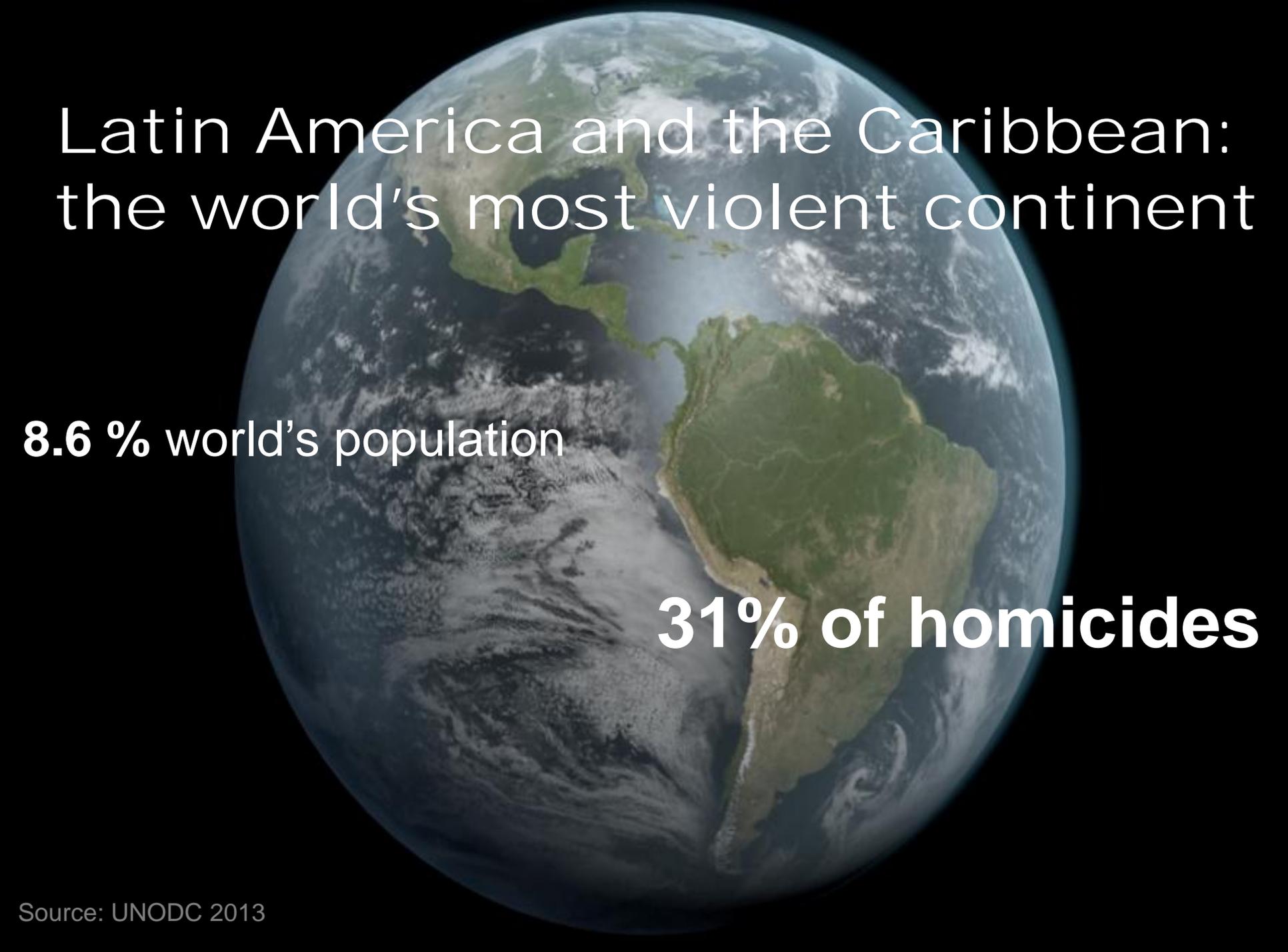
Beatriz Abizanda

Modernization of the State Specialist

Post of duty: Costa Rica

beatrizab@iadb.org



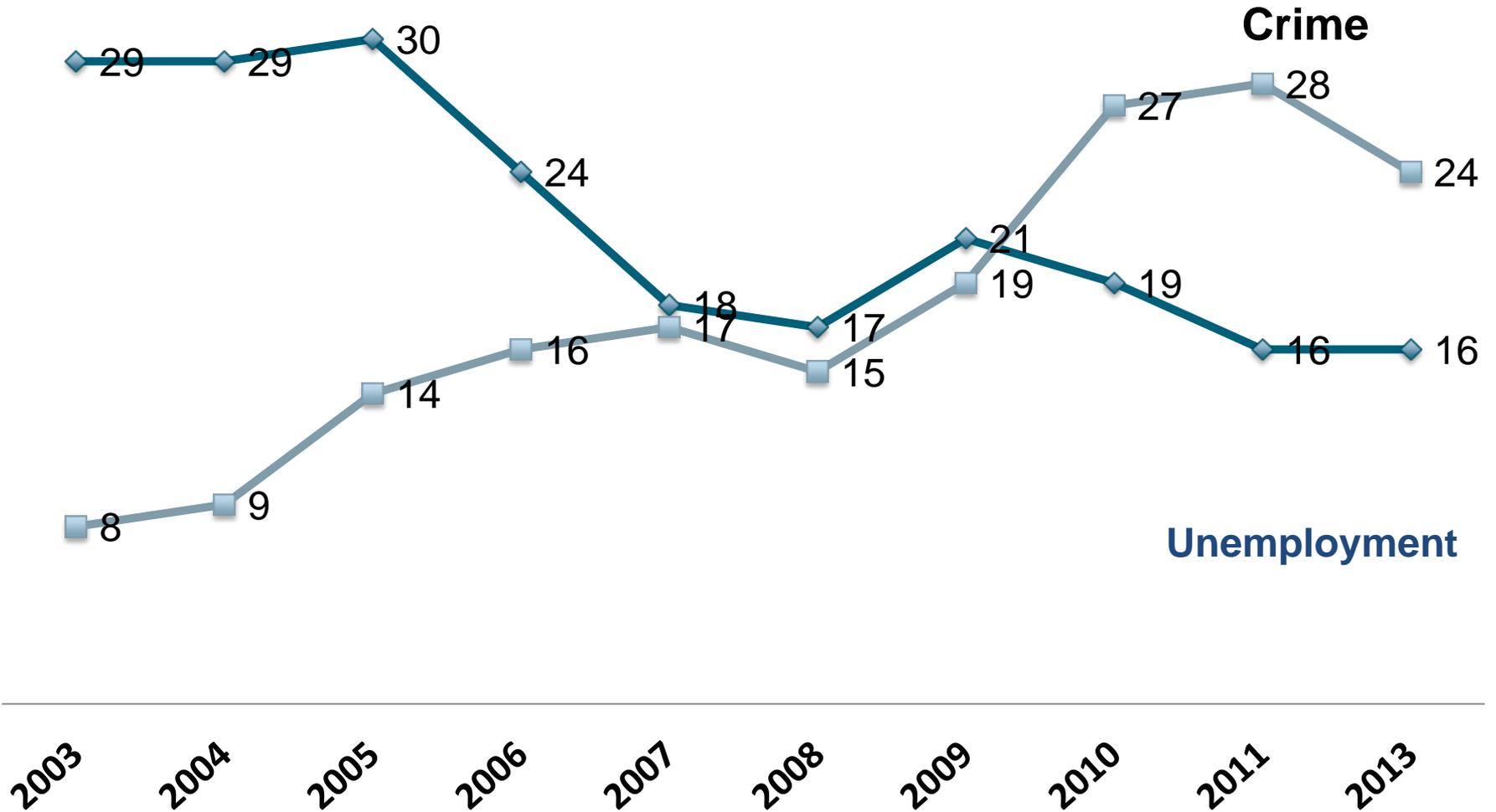


Latin America and the Caribbean: the world's most violent continent

8.6 % world's population

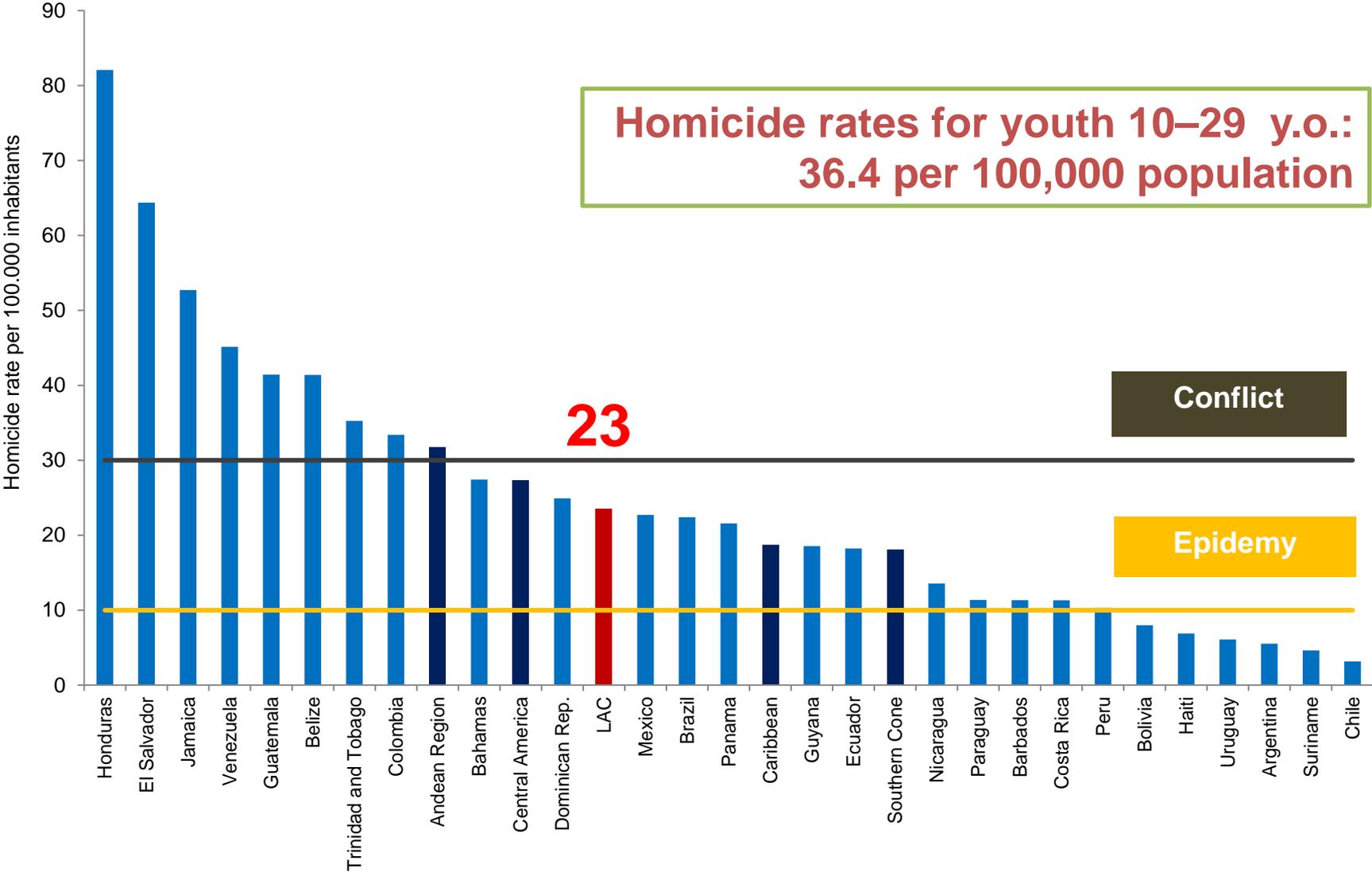
31% of homicides

Insecurity is the population most pressing concern

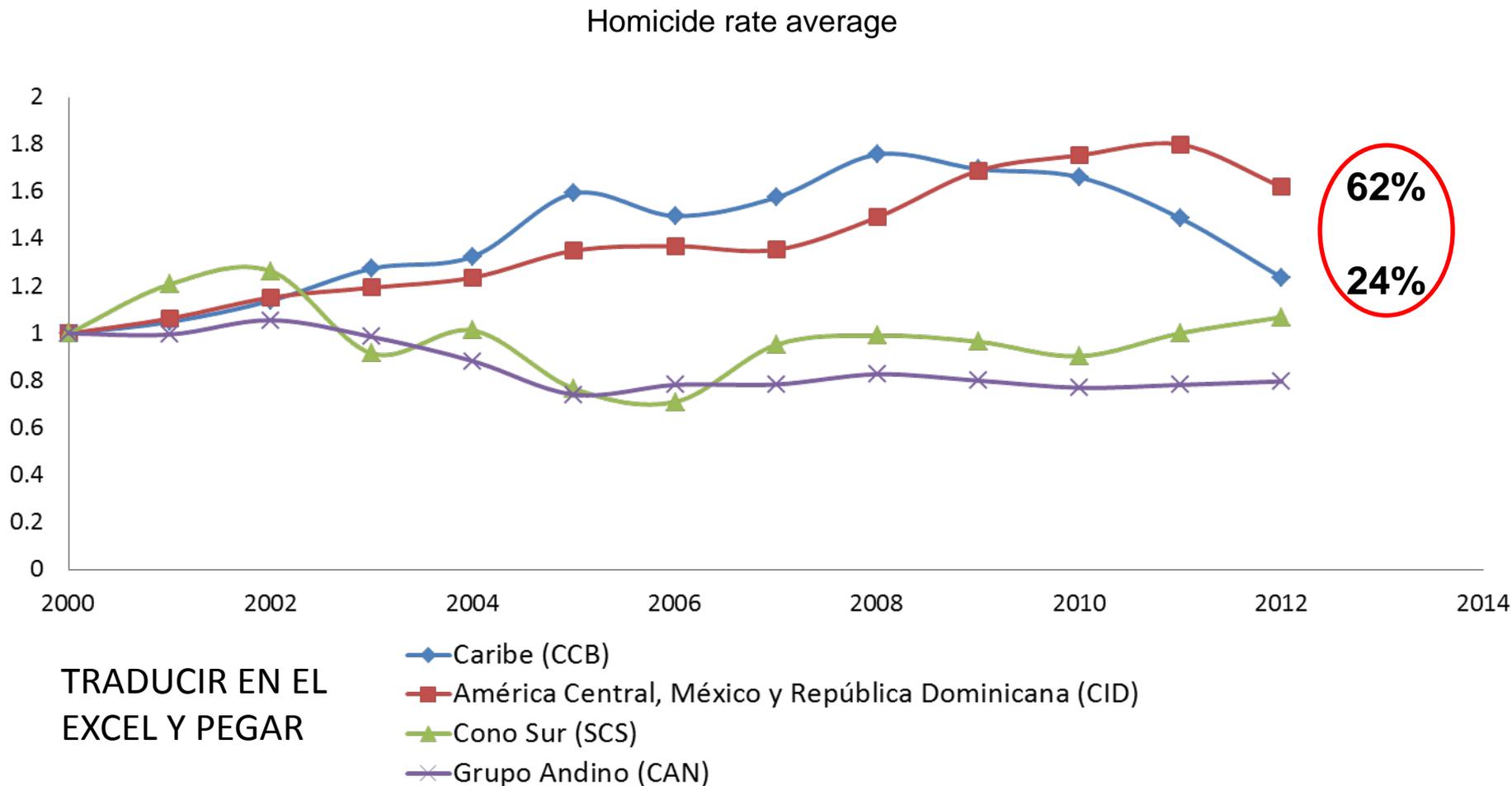


LAC has some of the world's highest homicide rates

Homicide rates for youth 10–29 y.o.:
36.4 per 100,000 population



But rates are not uniform across the continent



TRADUCIR EN EL
EXCEL Y PEGAR

Averages based on data from the Global Study on Homicide, UNODC, 2013.
Baseline: 2000.

A satellite view of Earth showing the Americas, with the text overlaid on the image.

43 out of the 50 most violent cities in the planet are located in LAC

1 in 5 citizens has been a robbery victim in the last year



Cost of Crime in Central America

7-10% GDP

Private firms' security
expenses

2.6% sales

A major paradox

GDP per capita

US\$4,415

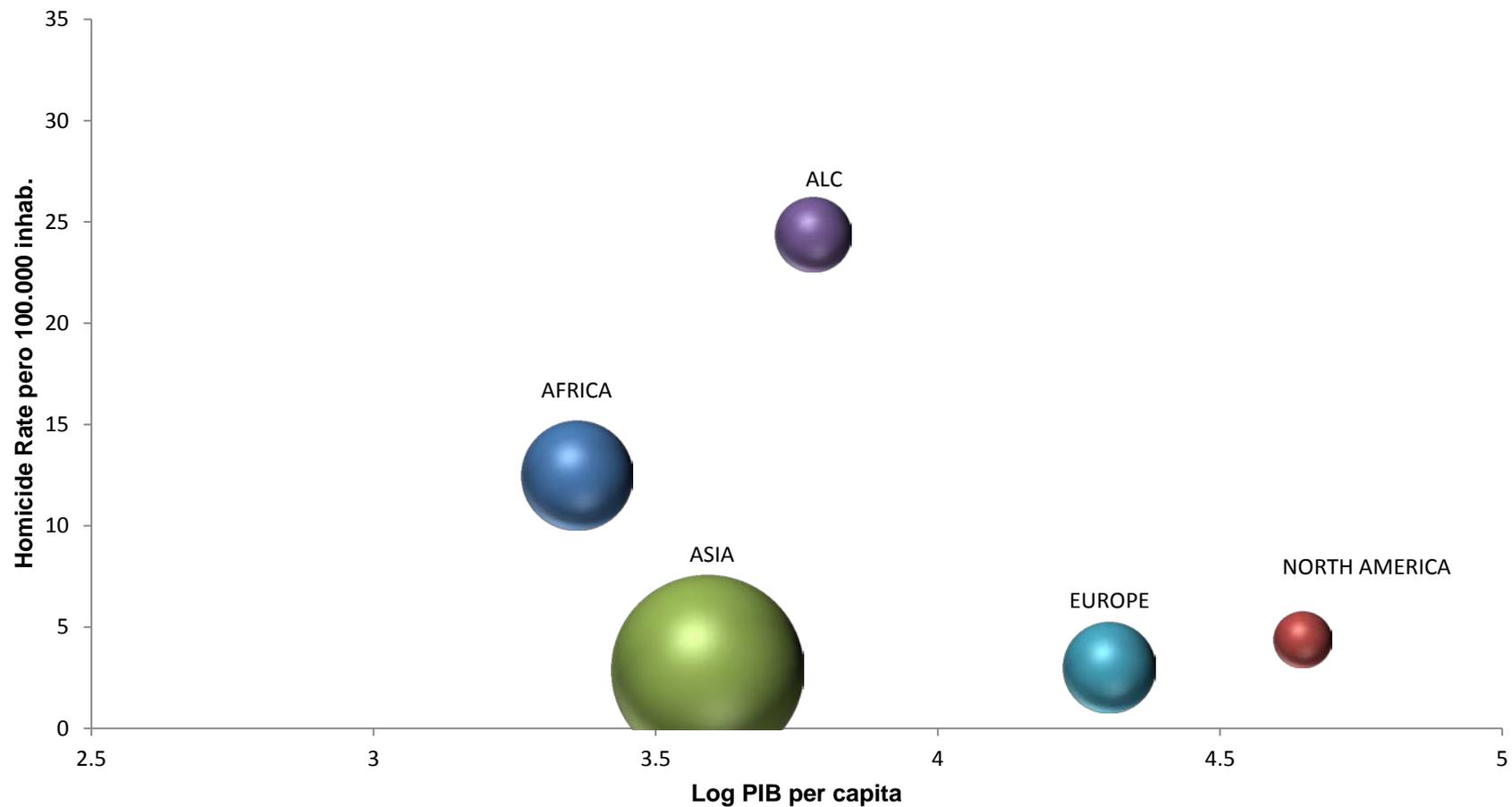
2005

US\$9,536

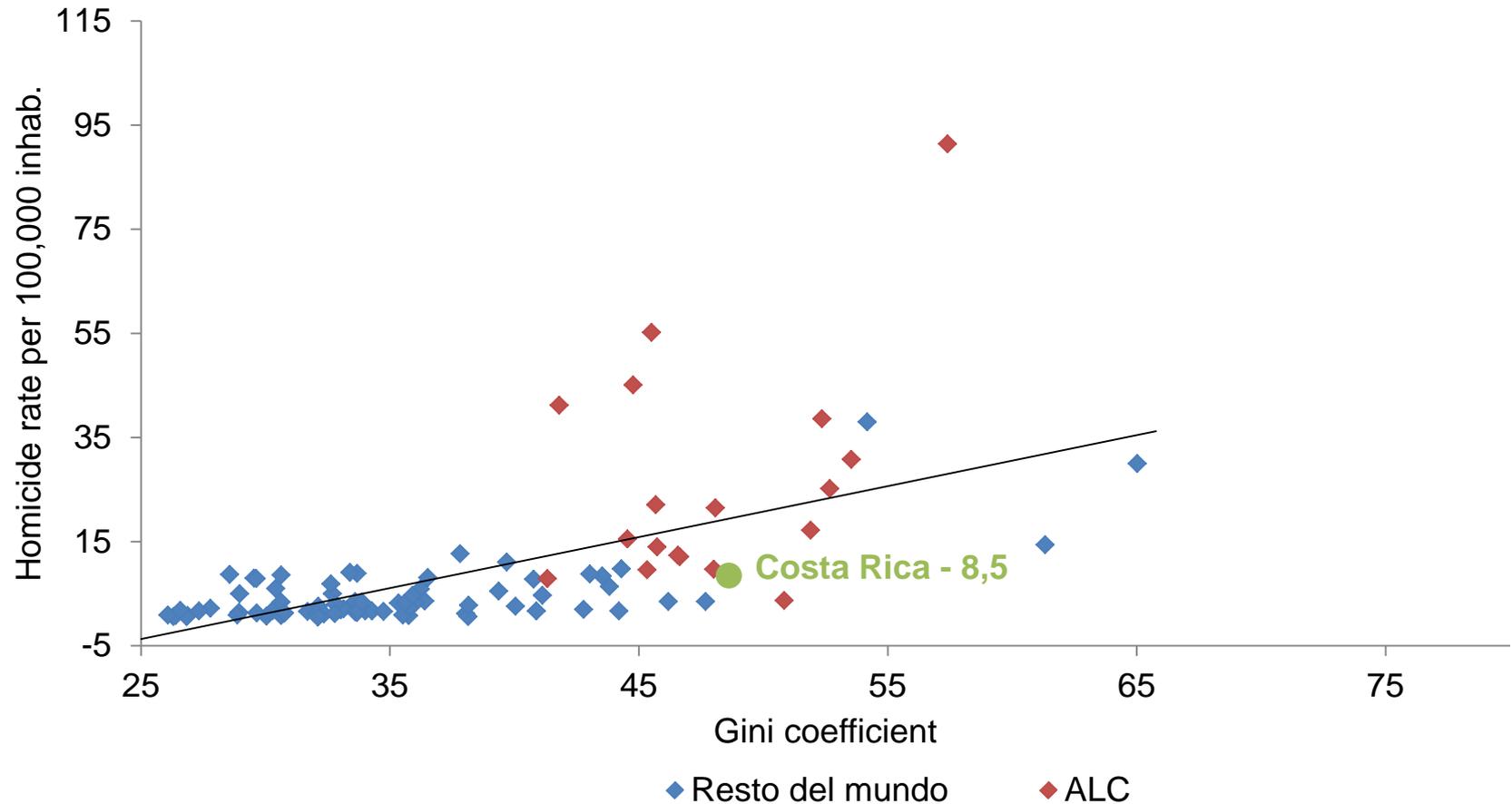
2013



A violent middle income region



With the highest income inequality rate (on the rise...)



Plausible Causes for a Perfect Storm



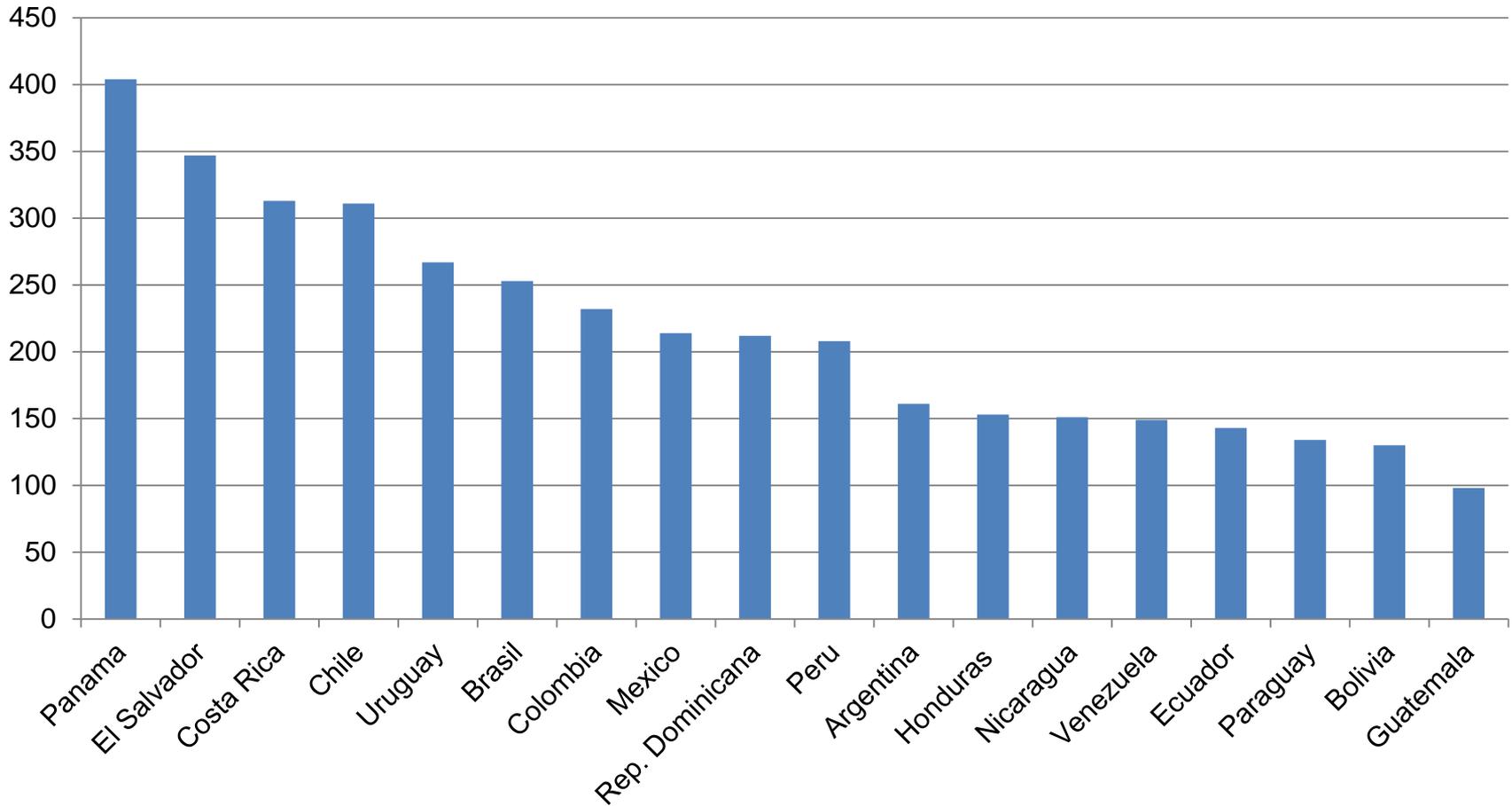
Disorderly urbanization

Social inequality

Organized Crime

**Disorganized and
weak criminal justice systems**

Over-reliance on prisons

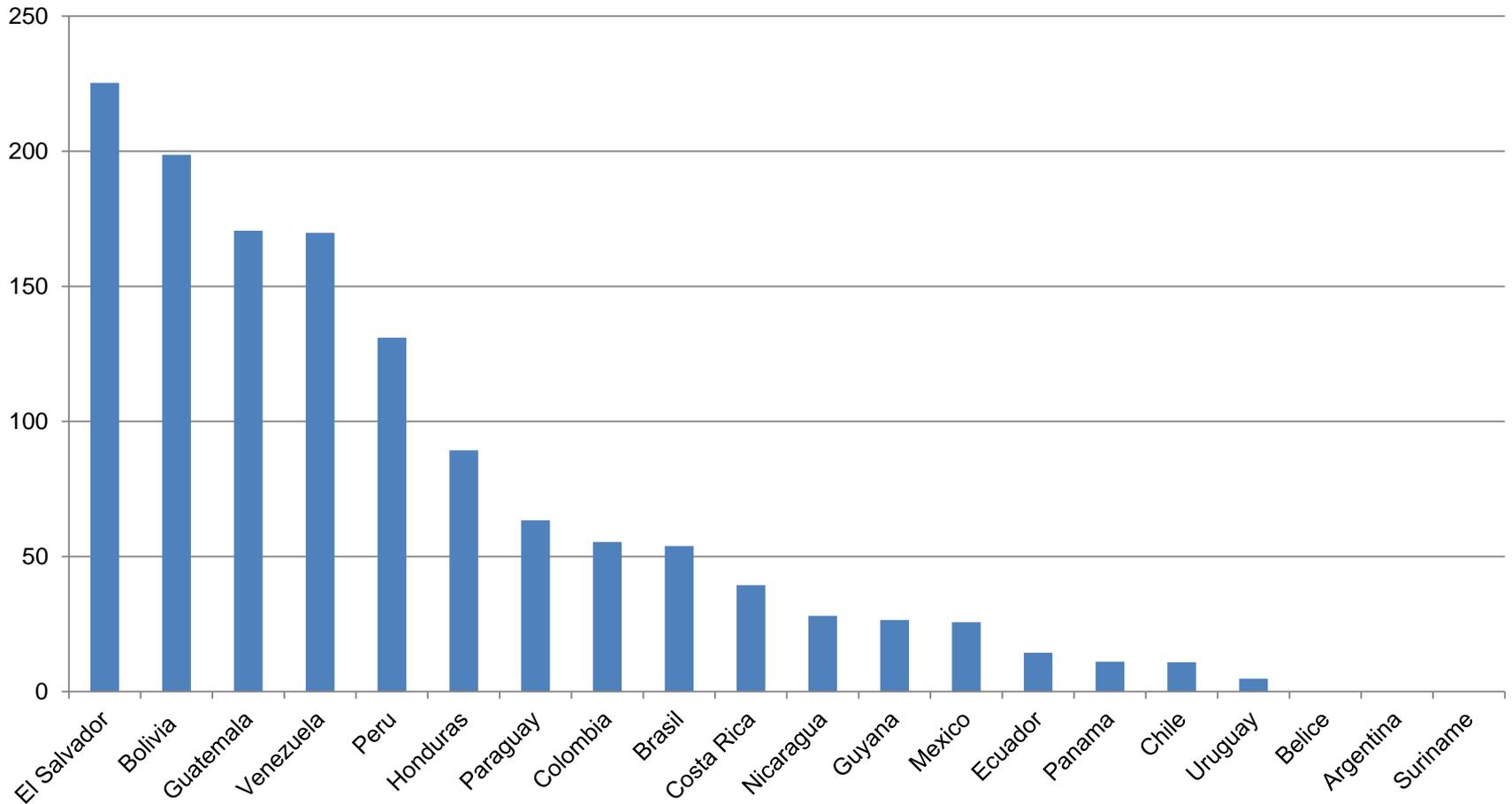


Source: E. Carranza ,ILANUD, 2013.
Official correctional and police data
Demographic data CELADE, 2013 or most recent year

152% average prison occupation

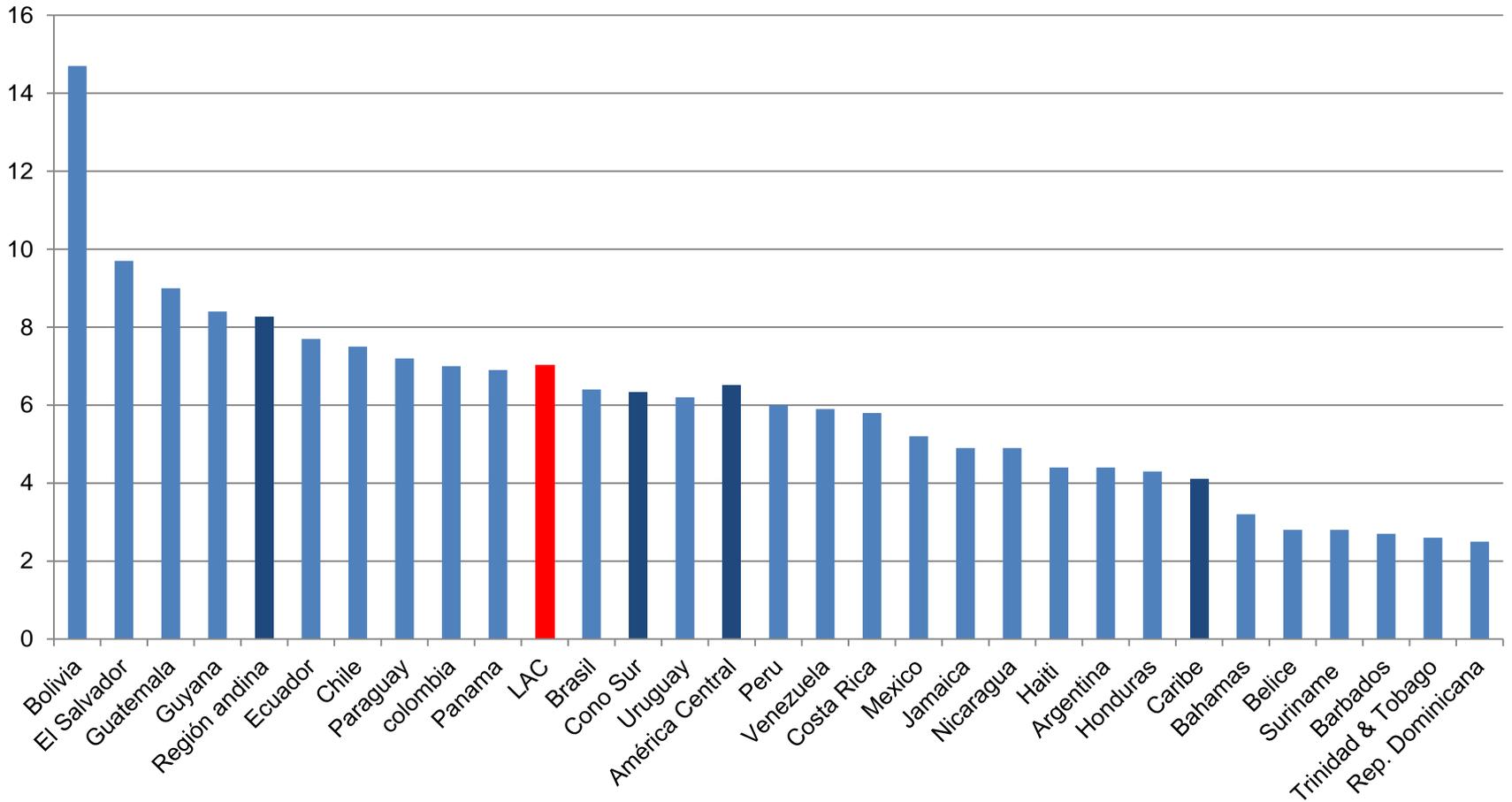
Source: World Prison Brief (2015, or latest year available)

A humanitarian crisis in LAC prisons

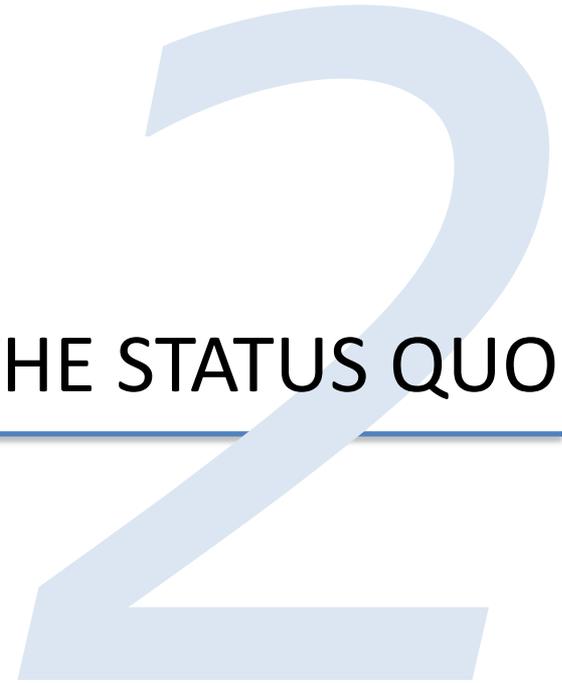


Source: Own calculations based in official capacity data
Institute for Criminal Policy Research, ICPR, 2014.

Feminine incarceration on the rise



CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO



Criminal justice reform has become a development issue

IDB Citizen Security Projetcs 1998-2014



US\$930 M

Corrections



Recidivism prevention



INTERVENCIONES
SOCIALES



PREVENCIÓN
SITUACIONAL



PREVENCIÓN
POLICIAL



SISTEMA
JUDICIAL



REHABILITACIÓN
PENITENCIARIA

More rehabilitative corrections



1. Better programming

Elementary and middle education
Vocational training
Mental health and social work

2. Re-entry support

3. Non-prison sanctions, pre trial, electronic monitoring

4. Facilities (only if



INTERVENCIONES
SOCIALES



PREVENCIÓN
SITUACIONAL



PREVENCIÓN
POLICIAL



SISTEMA
JUDICIAL

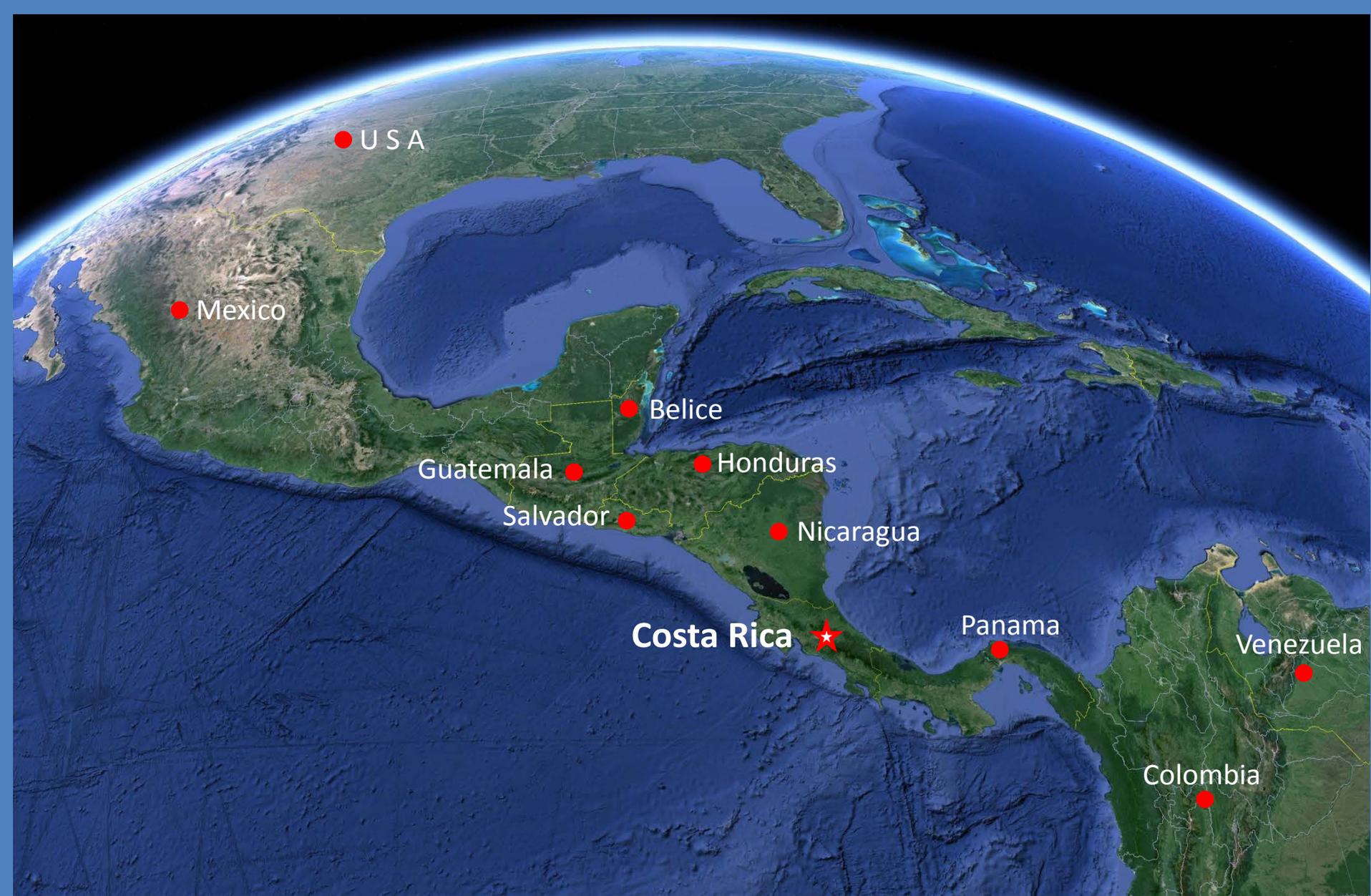


REHABILITACIÓN
PENITENCIARIA



Enhanced security in LAC requires all parties' commitment

CASE STUDY: COSTA RICA



Third-highest incarceration rate in Central America (314), after El Salvador (424) and Panama (383)



Prison System “In crisis”

Inadequate capacity:

- Rapid prison population growth (50% in the last 10 years):

Tough anti-crime measures

Drug sentencing laws

Flagrancy courts

Province	Design Capacity	Inmate Population	Over Capacity %
Cartago	362	565	56%
Limón	1,328	2048	54%
Alajuela	4,563	6821	49%
Guanacaste	876	1011	15%
San José	2,398	2763	15%
Puntaneras	639	693	8%
Overall Overcrowding Rate			33%



Prison System “In crisis”

Inadequate infrastructure:

- Overcrowding
- Insalubrity, inadequate sanitation
- Safety and security concerns



Prison System “In crisis”

Limited resources allocated to provide attention, academic and vocational education, training, and re-entry services resulting in high recidivism rates



Costa Rica “recipe” for reform success

- Relatively strong state structure
- Relatively low crime rate
- Relatively well-established respect for the rule of law
- Less abusive prison conditions
- Political will for prison reform, government support, and strong institutional leadership
- Local business support



Prison Reform Within

- Creation of an external oversight body to protect rights of the inmates
- Enhanced training of penitentiary system police and staff
- Loan from IDB to expand the country's prison capacity through a new model of correctional facility: "Productive Units"



The “Productive Units” Model

- Rehabilitation-oriented facilities
- Modern and respectful of human rights
- Centers for the provision of social services to inmates and their families
- Focused on education, job training and reintegration initiatives



Pre-design Phase

- Toured existing properties and new sites
- Conducted user interviews/focus groups



Collaborative, Participatory Effort

Client / Users



Bank



Ministry of Justice



PROGRAMA PARA LA PREVENCIÓN
DE LA VIOLENCIA Y PROMOCIÓN DE
LA INCLUSIÓN SOCIAL

DGAS



Penitentiary Police



Consortium



Pre-design Phase

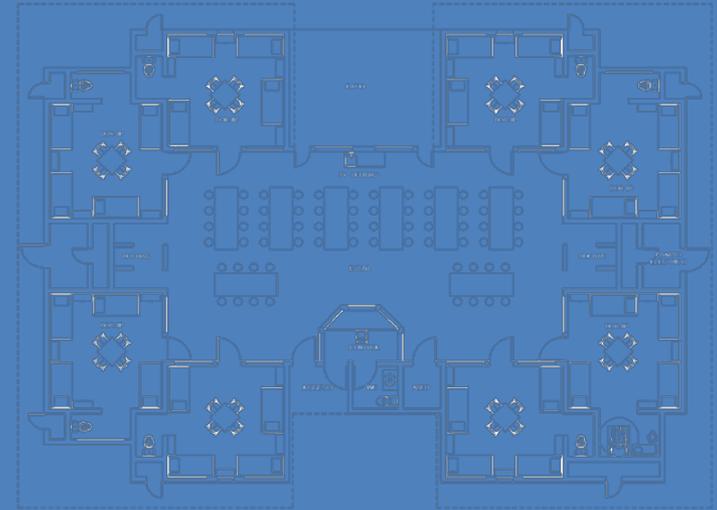
- Developed guiding principles
- Programmed 7 facilities
 - Size
 - Security level
 - Population

UP	Poblacion	Capacity
La Reforma	Male/Low	480-540
Nicoya	Male/Low	480-540
Liberia	Male/Low	200-240
Perez Zeledon	Male/Medium	200-240
Pococi	Male/Medium	320-360
Pococi	Young Males/Low	200-240
San Luis	Women/Low	200-240



Design Approach

- Good neighbor
- Small scale facilities
- Small size housing units
- Diversity and variety of spaces
- Humane and humanitarian
- Normative environment



Not just more beds, but the right type of bed

10,166 bedspace capacity

13,584 people in prison

- Male (95%)
- Ages 21-35
- Property (41%) and Drug-related (21%) crimes
- 6 years > sentences (61%)
- Low levels of education (5% illiterate)
- High levels of unemployment



Not just more beds, but more services and programming

Housing

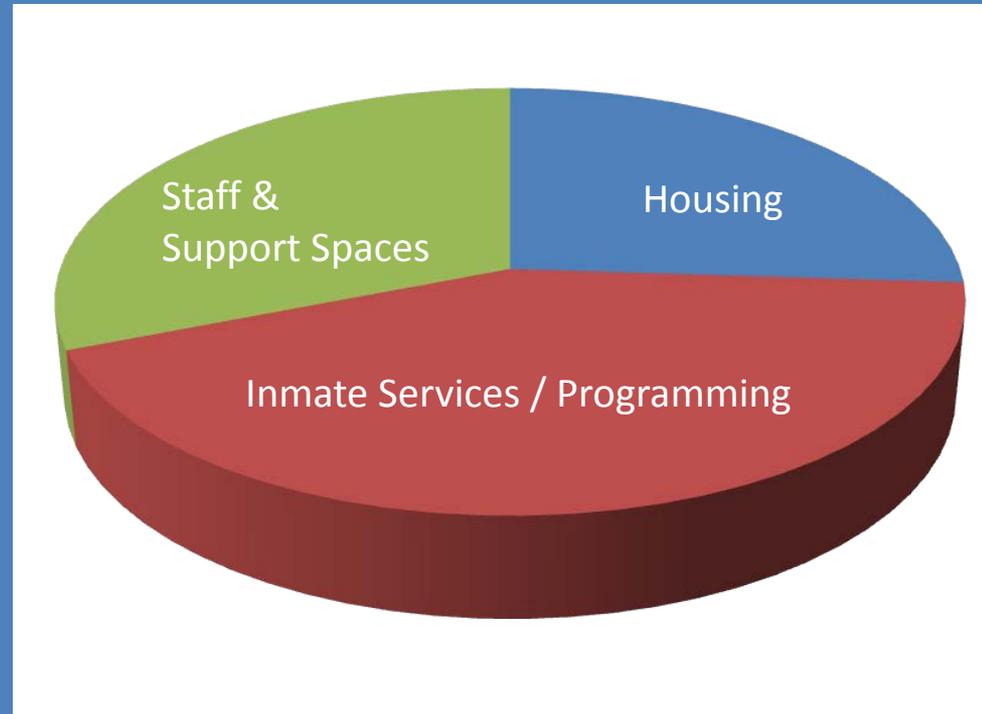
- **14,500 m² (26%)**

Inmate Services / Programming

- **24,500 m² (43%)**

Staff and Support Spaces

- **18,000 m² (31%)**



Self-sufficient Facilities

“A gated community”



Expected Outcomes

- + Overcrowding reduction
- + Modern prison infrastructure
- + Release planning for successful reentry
- + Idleness reduction
 - o Education
 - o Vocational training
 - o Job readiness
 - o Job opportunities



Idleness Reduction

Education

- **924 PPL**

Vocational Training

- **735 PPL**

Prison Industries

- **460 PPL**



More educated, market and release-ready inmates =
More productive, crime-free citizens



Dignified and Humanitarian Design



Client / Users



Bank



Minister of Justice



PROGRAMA PARA LA PREVENCIÓN DE LA VIOLENCIA Y PROMOCIÓN DE LA INCLUSIÓN SOCIAL

DGAS



Penitentiary Police

Consortium



Sub Consultants



DESDE 1973



Tel. (506) 256-7020 Fax. (506) 256-5608



TALLER DE PAISAJE Y AMBIENTE



arambulo arquitectos s.a. de c.v.



an Aliaxis company



Team

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NICOYA
576 Beds
106,000 SF
\$ 24.3 M



POCOCÍ 2
192 Beds
61,900 SF
\$ 18.0 M
Young Adult



SAN RAFAEL
576 Beds
99,500 SF
\$ 22.5 M



SAN LUIS
192 Beds
69,000 SF
\$ 16.5 M
Female



POCOCÍ 1
576 Beds
103,500 SF
\$ 26.5 M

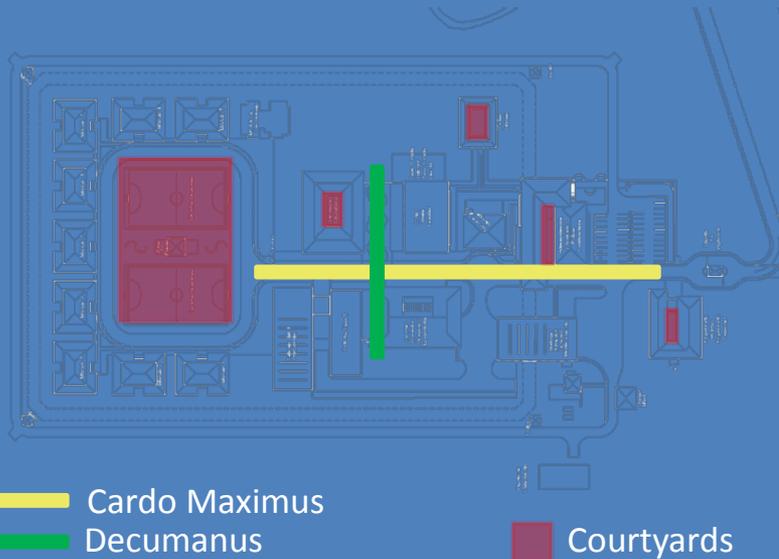


PÉREZ ZELEDÓN
192 Beds
65,500 SF
\$ 17.0 M



Design Principles and Concepts

1. Facility as Small Town
2. Normative Environment
3. Regional and Vernacular Architecture
4. Sustainable Design
5. Maximizing Budget (Dollars)
6. Kit of Parts / Standardization



External Zone

1. Administration, Police and Access.
2. Warehouse.
3. Police and staff dorms.
4. Gym / Visiting.
5. Conjugal Visiting.
6. Medical.
7. Education / Counseling
8. Industries / Vocational
9. Kitchen, Laundry ,
Central Dining and Staff
Dining halls.
10. Housing.
11. Recreation / Sports

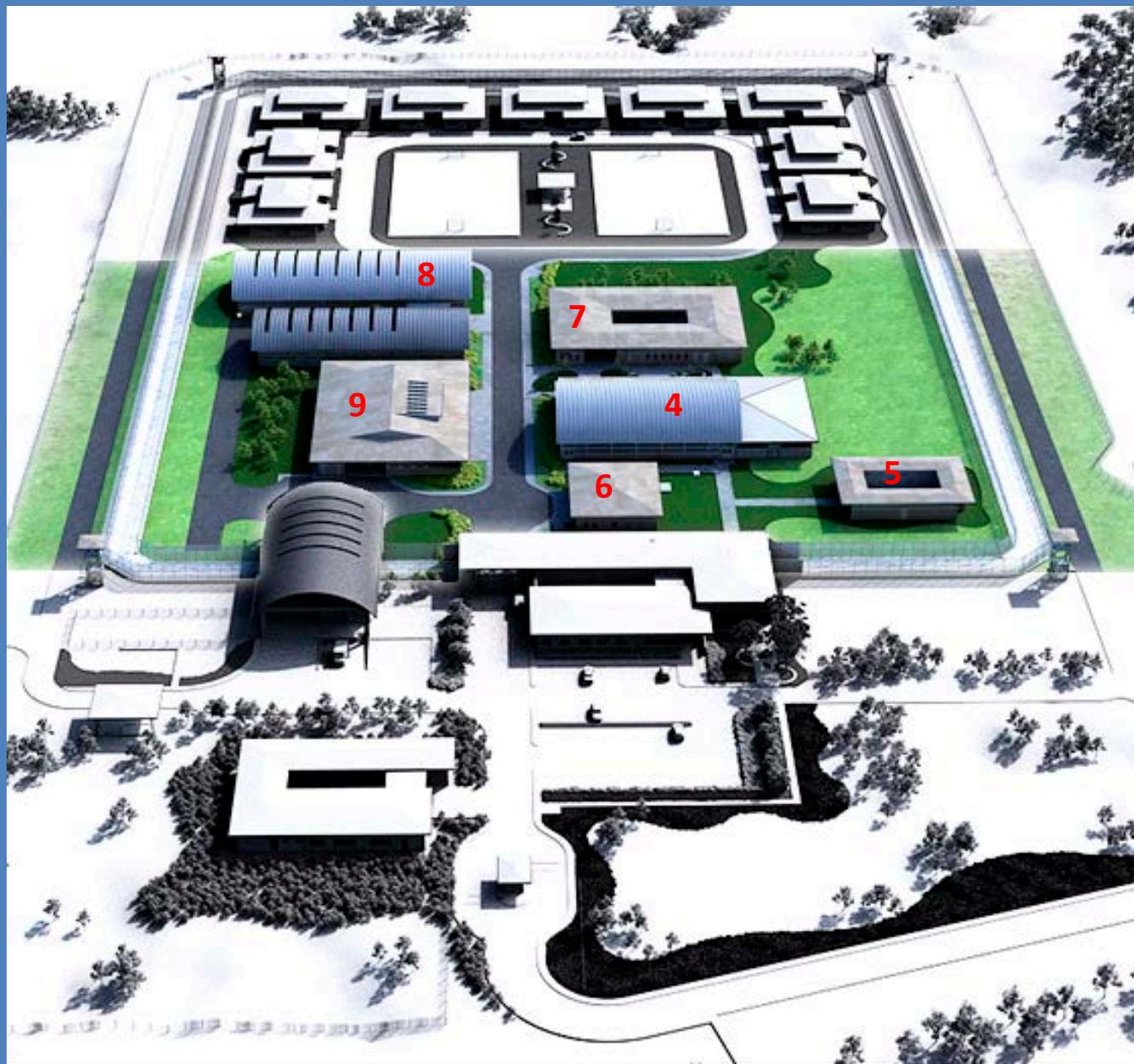


1.- Concept –Project Zones



Program / Services Zone

1. Administration, Police and Access.
2. Warehouse.
3. Police and staff dorms.
4. Gym / Visiting.
5. Conjugal Visiting.
6. Medical.
7. Education /Counseling
8. Industries / Vocational
9. Kitchen, Laundry , Central Dining and Staff Dining halls.
10. Housing.
11. Recreation /Sports

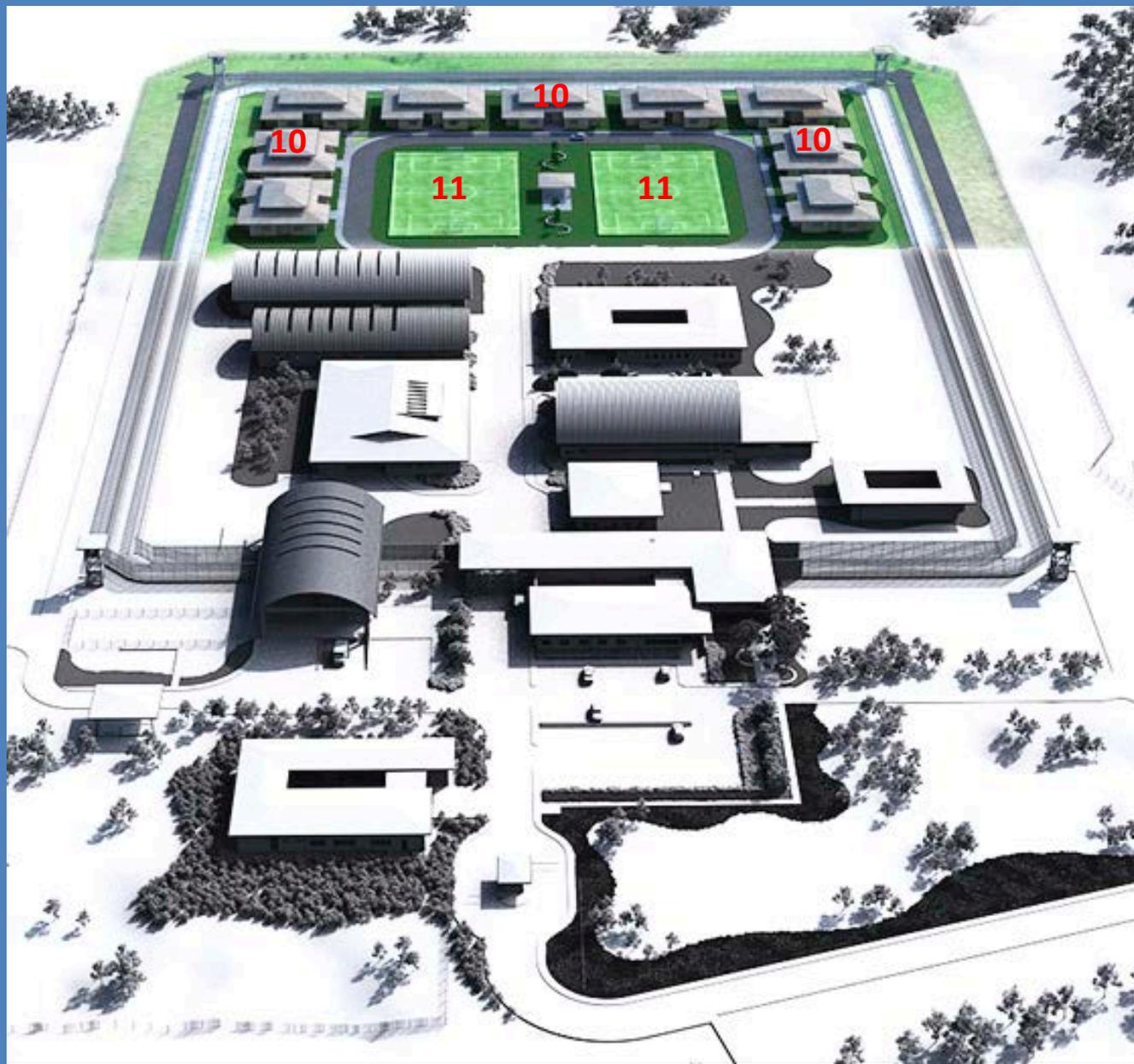


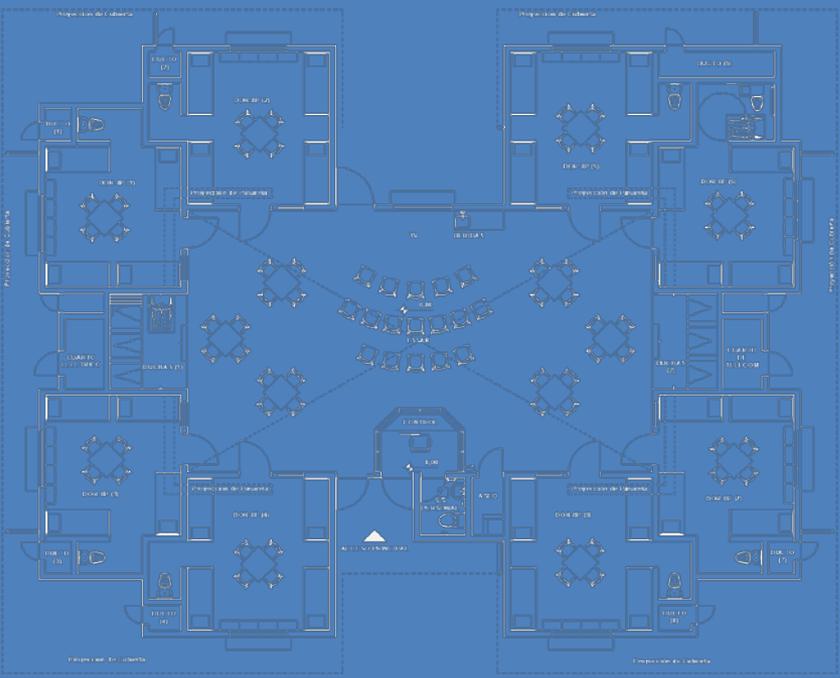
1.- Concept –Project Zones



Housing Zone

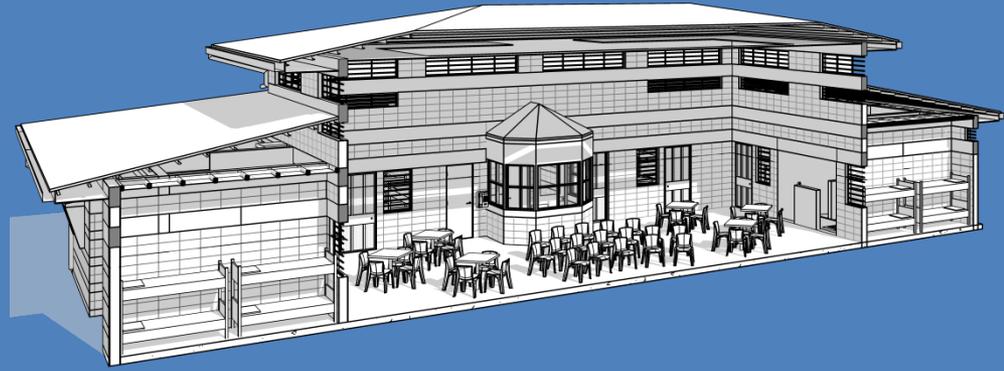
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6. Medical.
7. Education /Counseling
8. Industries / Vocational
9. Kitchen, Laundry ,
Central Dining and Staff
Dining halls.
10. Housing.
11. Recreation /Sports





Medium Security

- 8 person dorms
- 64 bed housing unit
- Dayroom
- Indirect supervision (medium security)
- Natural light / Natural ventilation





1.- Housing



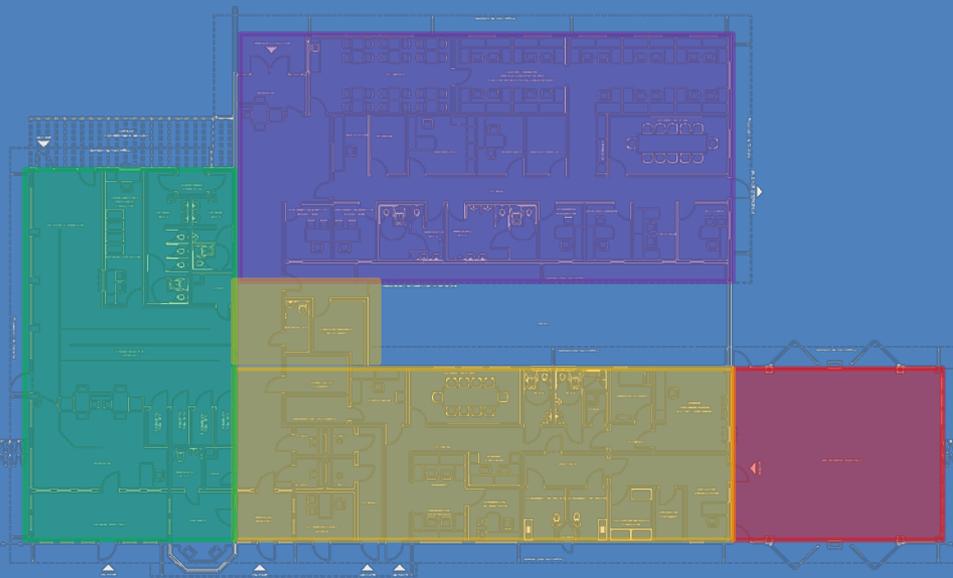


Photo By: Dave B.



1.- Housing – New image





- Visiting Access Zone
- Police Zone
- Administrative Zone
- Vehicular Sally Port

- Multipurpose building - 4 zones
- Secure building
- Separation of staff & Visitor circulation



1.- Admin / Police / Visitor Access





1.- Admin / Police / Visitor Access

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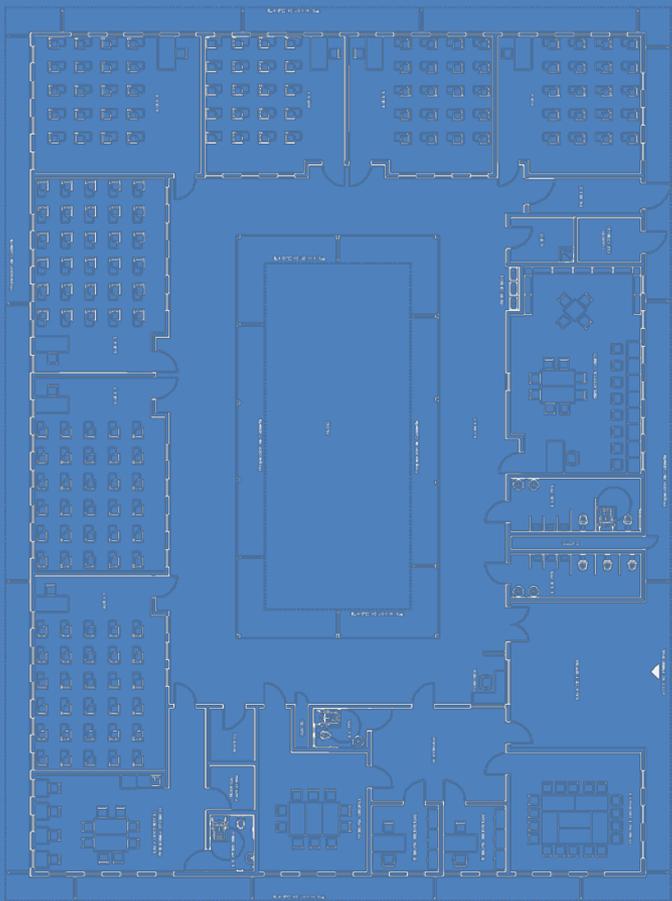




1.- Admin / Police / Visitor Access

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OF ARCHITECTURE FOR JUSTICE



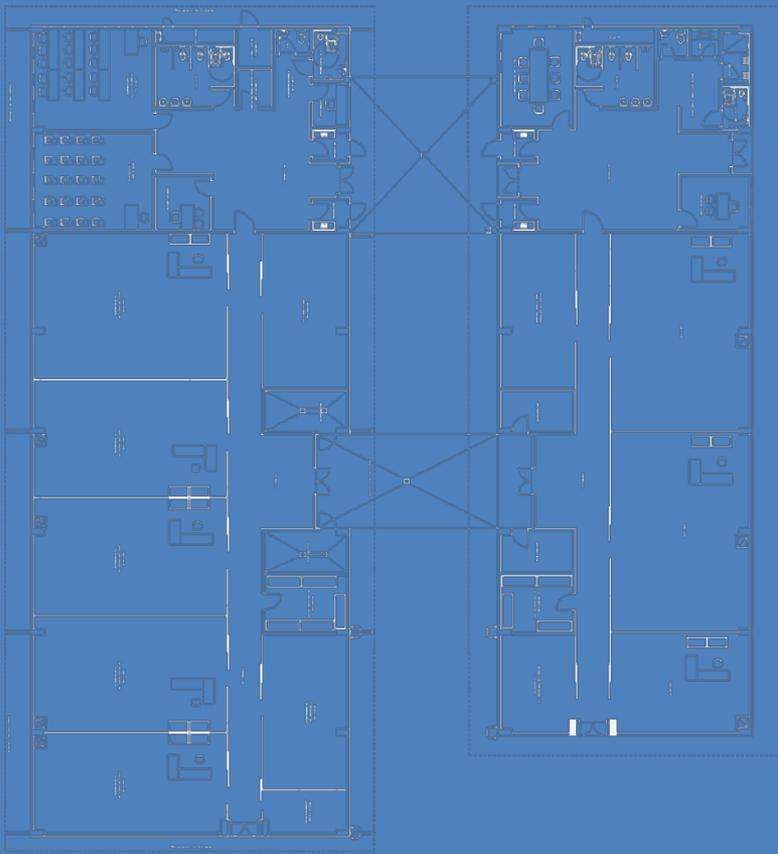


- Classrooms for 20 students
- Classrooms for 30 students
- Library / UNED Computers
- Individual and group therapies



1.- Education

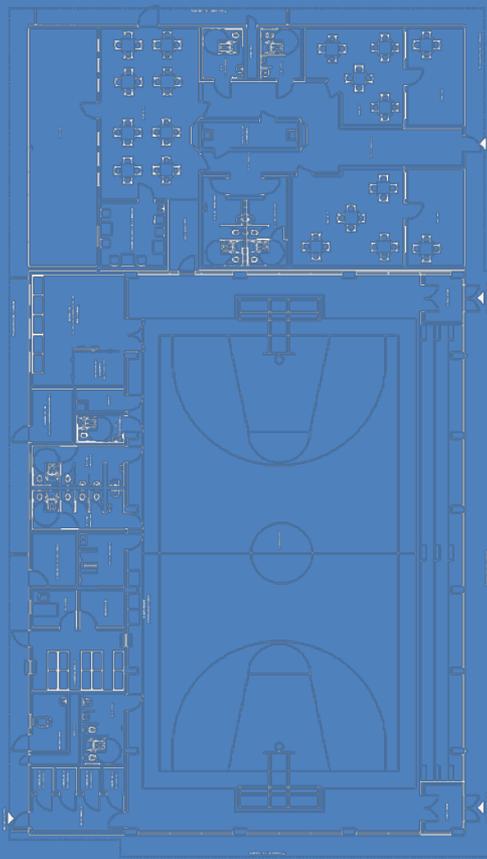




- Vocational training workshops
- Prison industries workshops
- Computer room
- Classroom

1.- Workshops

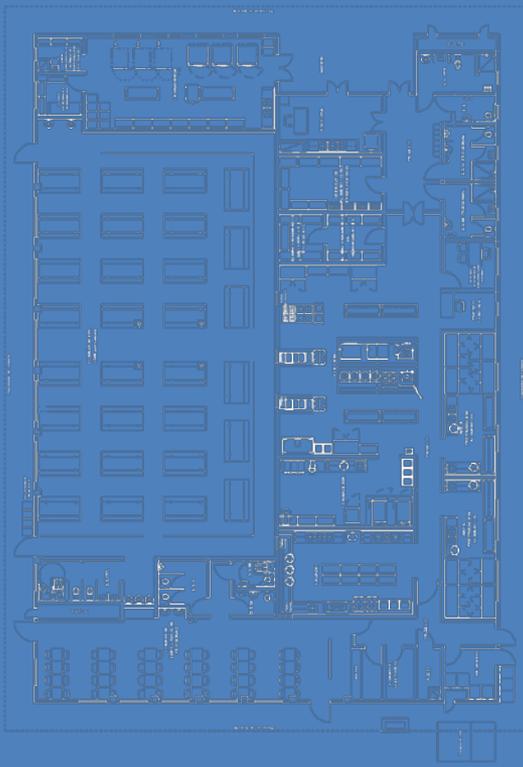




- Gymnasium during week days
- Visiting during weekend
- Prisoner services
 - Commissary
 - Barbershop
- Family visiting with young children

1.- Visiting / Gym

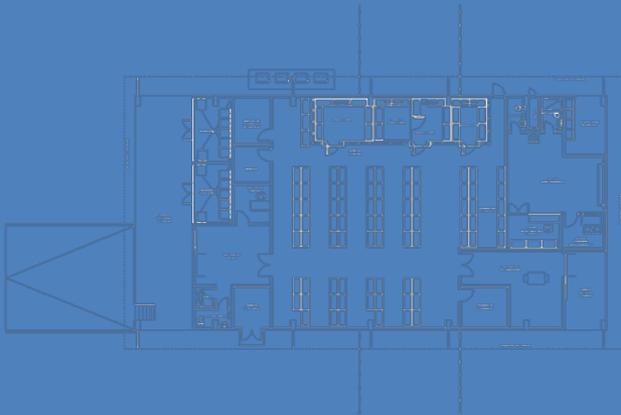
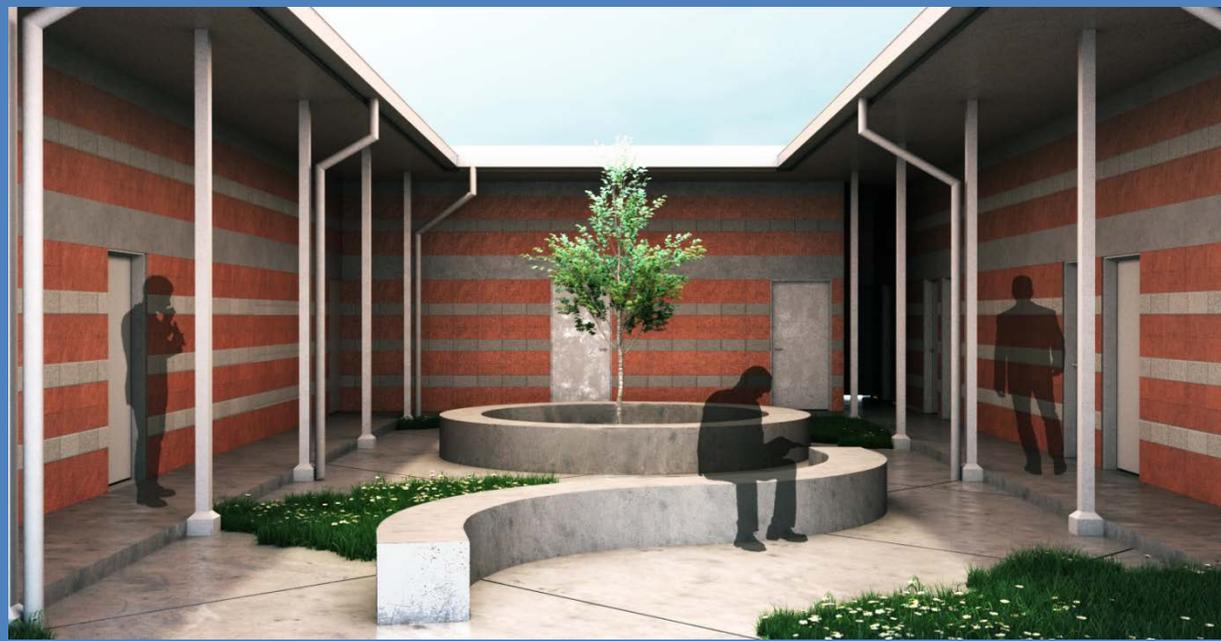
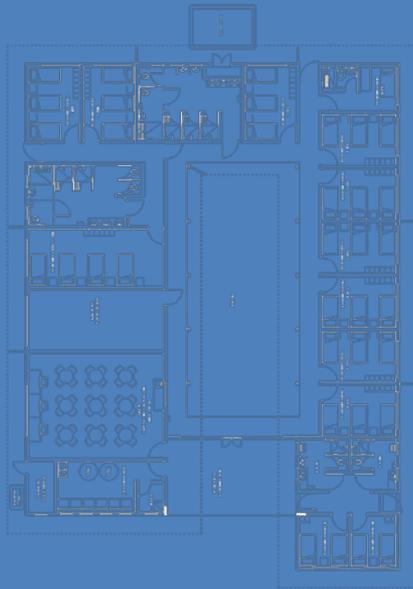




- Services zones
 - Kitchen
 - Inmate dining hall
 - Staff dining hall
 - Laundry
 - Bakery
- Capacity for two inmate shift

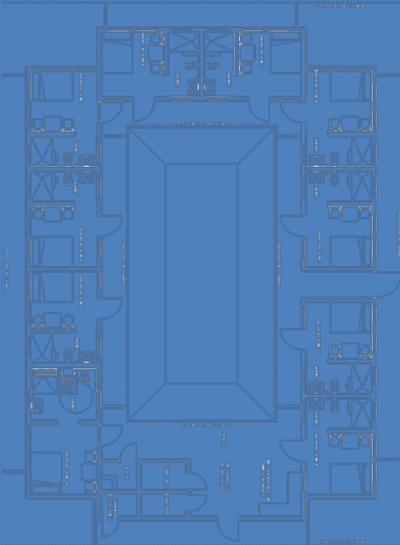
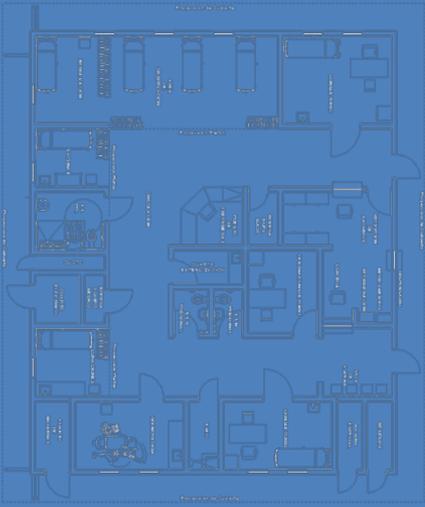
1.- Kitchen / Central and Staff Dining halls / Laundry





1.- Police and Staff Dorms / Warehouse





1.- Medical / Conjugal Visiting





2.- Normative Environment





2.- Normative Environment

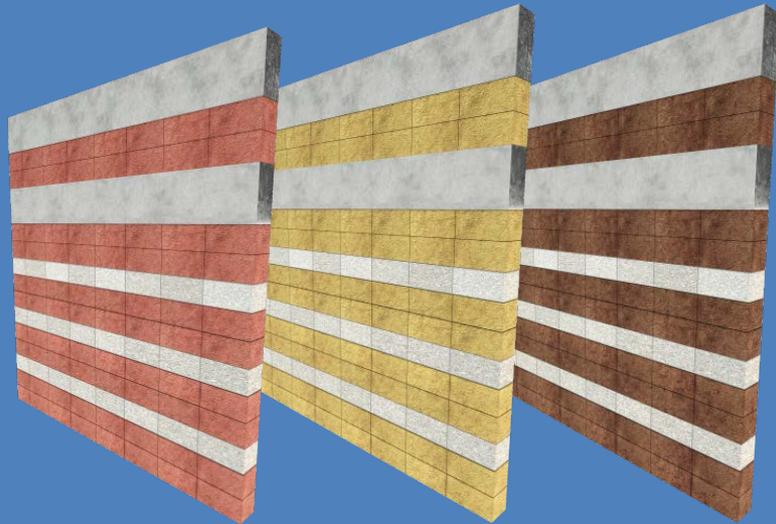


Concrete Color Blocks

Red

Yellow

Brown



Gutter

Overhang

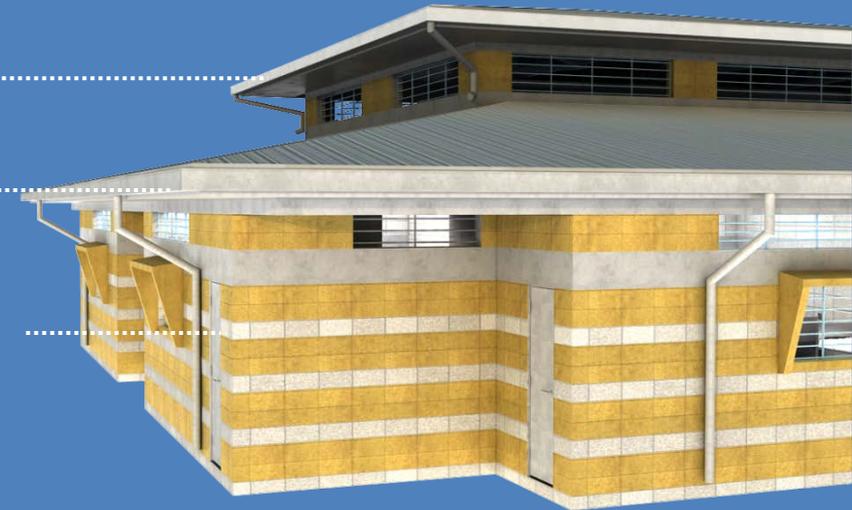
Downspout



Gutter

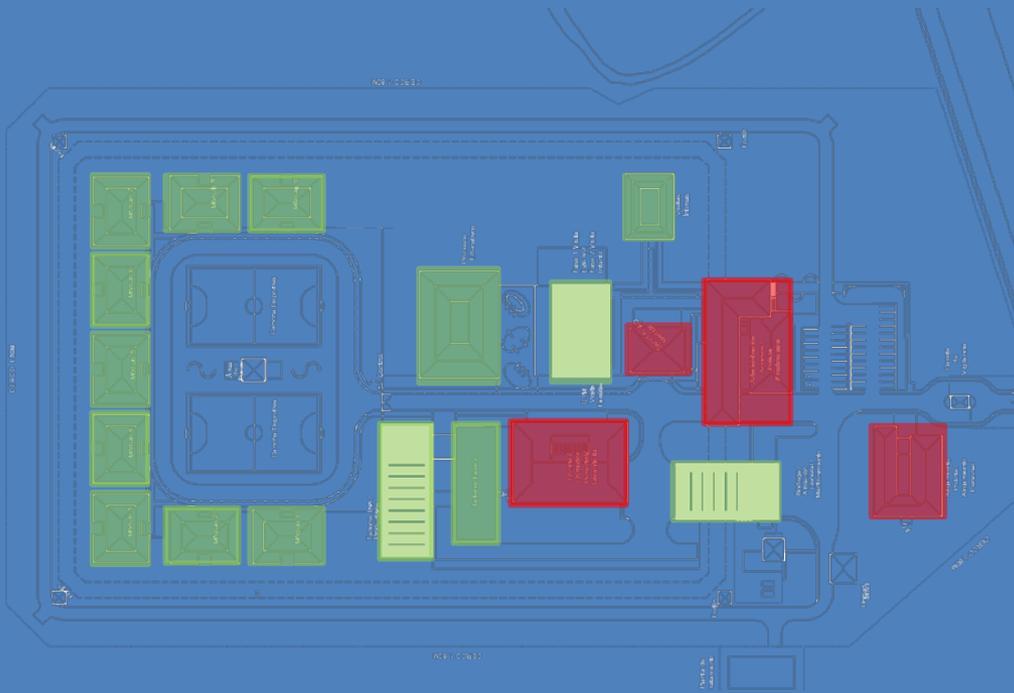
Overhang

Downspout



3.- Construction – Local Materials





Natural Ventilation

1. Warehouse.
2. Gym / Visiting.
3. Conjugal visiting.
4. Education / Counseling
5. Industries / Vocational
6. Housing.
7. Central Dining and Staff Dining.

Air Conditioning

1. Administration, Police and Access.
2. Police and staff dorms.
3. Medical.
4. Kitchen, Laundry ,
Central and Staff Dining halls.



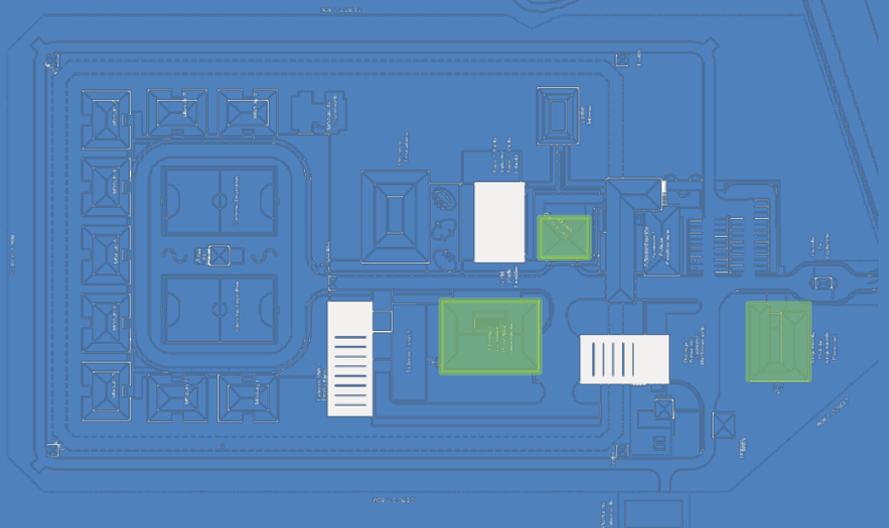
4.- Sustainability – Natural Ventilation





4.- Sustainability – Natural Light

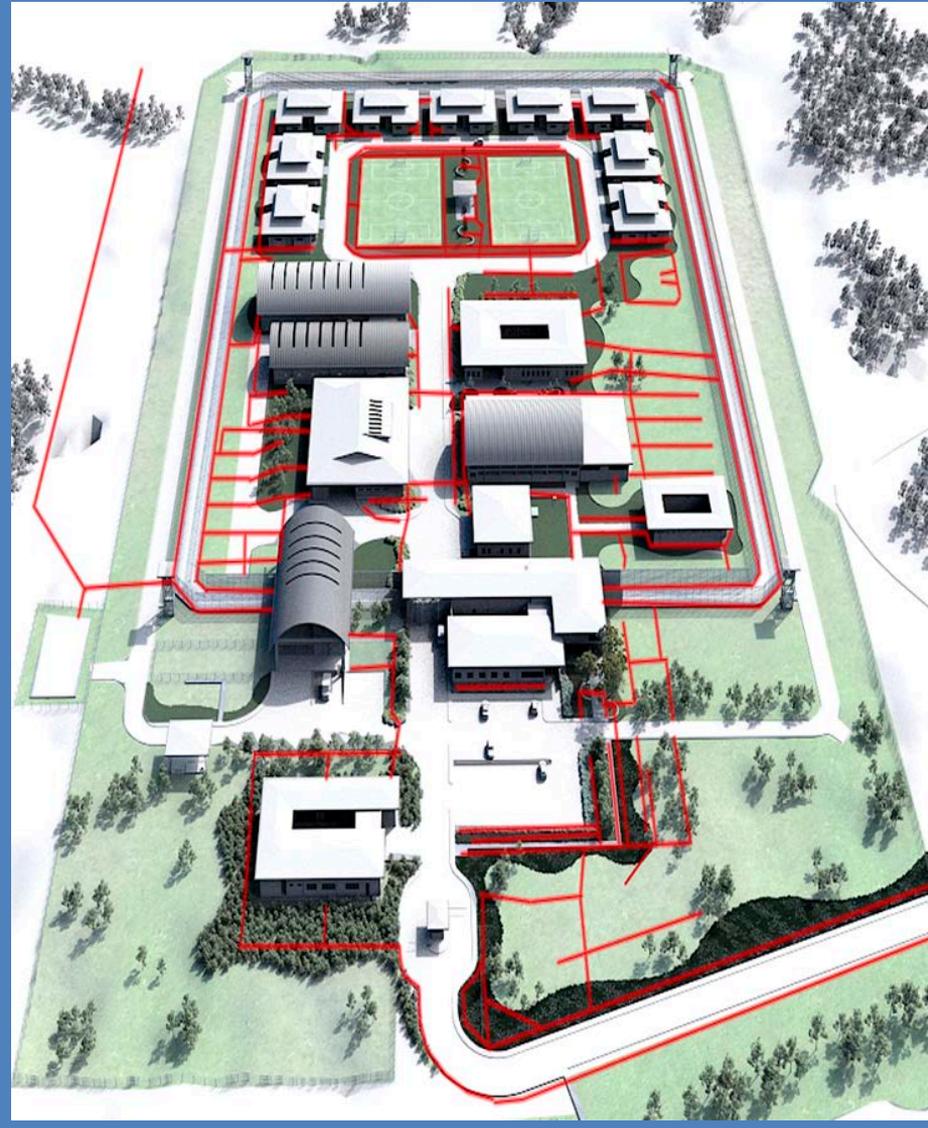




- Buildings with Solar Panels**
- Medical.
 - Police and staff dorms.
 - Kitchen, Laundry, Central and staff Dining halls.



— irrigation treatment plant



4.- Sustainability – Solar Panels/Sustainable Irrigation



-
- Challenges
 - Opportunities
 - Lessons learned



THANK YOU

