

Community and Institutional Articulation Strategy for the Improvement of Citizen Security in Córdoba Municipality, Táchira State

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Publication Date: 2026/09/17

Abstract

This article addresses the issue of citizen security in Córdoba Municipality, Táchira State, under a governance and participatory public management approach. The general objective was to propose a strategy for community and institutional coordination to improve citizen security in the municipality. Methodologically, it framed within a quantitative approach, using a non-experimental, cross-sectional design at a descriptive-correlational level. A structured Likert-scale questionnaire, validated by experts and showing high reliability (Cronbach's alpha > 0.79), was administered to a representative sample of 379 inhabitants selected via stratified probabilistic sampling. Results show that 64.4% of respondents perceive public policies at a medium level, reflecting a management model still under consolidation, hindered by limitations in inter-institutional coordination and low active participation. It is concluded that implementing a structured coordination strategy between security agencies and community organizations optimizes crime prevention, strengthens social cohesion, and builds public trust.

Keywords: Citizen Security, Public Policies, Institutional Articulation, Community Participation, Public Management.

I. INTRODUCTION

Citizen security constitutes one of the fundamental pillars of the democratic and social state of law, guaranteeing the free exercise of citizen rights and fostering ideal conditions for comprehensive development. In the Latin American context, this area represents a complex challenge due to socioeconomic and structural factors that negatively impact quality of life. In Venezuela, difficulties associated with economic restrictions have affected institutional response capacity, demanding endogenous, sustainable solutions based on social co-responsibility.

Specifically, in Córdoba Municipality of Táchira State, an operational gap has been identified between the centralized design of security policies and the local realities of the environment. The lack of adapted strategic planning, lack of coordination among competent agencies, and limited community participation generate institutional vulnerability and a perception of insecurity. Given this reality, this study justifies the need to design a strategic plan for community and institutional articulation to optimize local public management regarding preventive security.

In addition to this, the border condition of the Córdoba Municipality imparts a particular geopolitical and socioeconomic complexity. The dynamics of human mobility, territorial porosity, and the presence of informal economies generate additional pressures on the social fabric and the operational capacity of security forces, demanding a public management model that goes beyond simple police reaction and transitions toward proactive, comprehensive border governance based on community co-responsibility, as pointed out by Pérez (2021) in his analysis of prevention policies in border areas.

II. METHODOLOGY

The research was developed under the parameters of the quantitative approach, employing a non-experimental, cross-sectional design at a descriptive-correlational level.

➤ Population and Sample:

The population consisted of 29,718 inhabitants of Córdoba Municipality, aged 18 and over. Based on the finite population formula with a 95% confidence level ($Z = 1.96$) and a 5% margin of error ($e = 0.05$), a representative

sample of 379 subjects was determined, selected through stratified probabilistic sampling by zones and parishes.

➤ *Techniques and Instruments:*

The data collection technique was the survey, implementing a structured questionnaire using a Likert-type scale (Always, Almost Always, Sometimes, Almost Never, Never).

➤ *Validity and Reliability:*

Content validity was obtained through expert judgment. Internal consistency was measured via Cronbach's alpha coefficient, obtaining 0.793 for the Public Policies variable and 0.801 for Citizen Security, indicating a very high level of reliability.

➤ *Data Processing:*

Analysis was executed using descriptive statistics (absolute frequencies, relative frequencies, and percentages) supported by SPSS software, systematically

organizing findings into statistically consistent tables and figures.

Framed within the postulates of New Public Management, this study adopts the approach of the coproduction of security. From this perspective, citizen security is no longer conceived as a good provided unidirectionally by the State, but rather as a shared public value, where the effectiveness of public policies depends directly on synergy, reciprocal trust, and the constant flow of information between security agencies and organized community grassroots.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

➤ *Perception of Public Security Policies*

The analysis of the public policies variable showed that current management is perceived moderately within the locality.

Table 1 Frequency Distribution of the Perception of Public Security Policies

Category	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Cumulative Percentage (%)
Low public policies	68	17.9%	17.9%
Medium public policies	244	64.4%	64.4%
High public policies	67	17.7%	100.0%
Total	379	100.0%	

Source: Own Elaboration Based on Research Data (2025).

Data reflect that 64.4% of respondents rate public policies at a medium level, while 17.9% perceive them as low and 17.7% as high. This demonstrates that, although normative and administrative bases exist (such as constitutional mandates and sectoral plans), their practical execution lacks the necessary force to radically transform the security environment. These findings align with the postulates of Verjel and Guerrero (2023), who point out that government strategies require technological, methodological, and managerial updating to transcend mere bureaucratic formality and generate a real impact on citizens.

places them at a medium level, 22.7% at a high level, and 21.6% at a low level. This reveals a polarization in public opinion due to a lack of uniformity in executing preventive programs and scarce technical feedback between state institutions and community bases.

➤ *Evaluation by Dimensions of Public Management and Citizen Security*

To deepen the structural diagnosis, three critical dimensions comprising the research construct were evaluated, reflecting the weighted average of responses from the 379 surveyed subjects under a metric scale (where 1 represents deficient and 5 excellent).

➤ *Formulation and Implementation*

Regarding formulation and implementation processes, results indicated that 55.7% of the surveyed population

Table 2 Evaluation of Dimensions and Indicators of Public Management and Citizen Security

Evaluated Dimensions	Main Indicators	Obtained Mean ($\bar{X}$)	Perception Level
1. Inter-institutional Articulation	- Coordination among mayor's office, police, and national entities. - Fluid and operational communication channels.	2.48	Low - Moderate
2. Community Participation	- Involvement of Communal Councils in security plans. - Creation of citizen early warning networks.	2.15	Low
3. Local Preventive Efficacy	- Timeliness of response to criminal situations. - Impact of social crime prevention programs.	2.62	Moderate
Global Management Index	General Construct Average	2.42	Moderate / Developing

Source: Own Elaboration Based on Data Processed via SPSS (2025). Scale: 1.00 - 2.33 (Low); 2.34 - 3.66 (Moderate); 3.67 - 5.00 (High).

➤ *General Discussion of Results*

Results shown in the dimensions table corroborate that Community Participation presents the lowest mean ($X=2.15$), evidencing a critical disconnection between Popular Power structures (such as Communal Councils) and operational security plans designed by municipal authorities, a recurring challenge in regional public management as noted by Quintero (2020). This institutional weakness coincides with theoretical proposals stating that citizen security cannot be conceived unilaterally by the State, but rather through a collaborative governance model.

Likewise, Inter-institutional Articulation ($X=2.48$) reflects bureaucratic barriers and failures in synchronizing efforts among different security bodies and the local administration, a reality where coproduction and local governance emerge as essential pillars to overcome traditional bureaucratic models, as supported by Martínez and Silva (2022) and Rivas and Gómez (2023). All of this fully justifies the proposal for an articulation strategy aimed at building stable operational bridges to raise the global management index toward optimal levels of governance and social peace in Córdoba Municipality.

The statistical predominance of the medium level across the evaluated variables (ranging between 55% and 64%) exposes the existence of an institutional trust gap. This evidences that while the normative infrastructure and security forces operate within the territory, the lack of effective feedback channels generates a perception of disconnection between desk-designed public policy and the citizen's daily reality. Overcoming this medium threshold requires institutionalizing the proposed training workshops and risk maps as permanent bridges for dialogue.

IV. PROPOSED INTERVENTION STRATEGY: COMMUNITY AND INSTITUTIONAL ARTICULATION FOR ENHANCING CITIZEN SECURITY IN CÓRDOBA MUNICIPALITY

Based on the quantitative diagnosis reflecting a medium level of perception regarding security management and citizen participation in Córdoba Municipality, an intervention proposal is designed to consolidate local governance and co-responsibility. This strategy is structured around three sequential formative and operational axes:

➤ *Workshop I: Participatory Diagnosis and Local Risk Mapping*

- *Objective:*

To train community leaders, communal council spokespersons, and security forces in the geospatial identification of criminogenic factors and specific vulnerabilities within the border environment.

- *Methodology:*

Collaborative working tables focused on the construction of social cartography and community risk matrices.

➤ *Workshop II: Strengthening Communication Channels and Early Warning Systems*

- *Objective:*

To reduce the institutional trust gap through the design of direct operational communication protocols between peace quadrants, municipal police, and citizens.

- *Methodology:*

Rapid response simulations, establishment of information flowcharts, and the creation of neighborhood alert networks endorsed by competent institutions.

➤ *Workshop III: Governance and Co-responsibility for Citizen Coexistence*

- *Objective:*

To consolidate a culture of peace through community integration in the design of coexistence plans and comprehensive crime prevention.

- *Methodology:*

Deliberative forums and plenary sessions for the creation of local public policies oriented toward citizen oversight and management auditing.

The coordinated implementation of these workshops aims to transform citizen perception from a medium threshold to an optimal level of institutional effectiveness, consolidating Córdoba Municipality as a benchmark for the coproduction of security in border zones

V. CONCLUSIONS

➤ *Situational Diagnosis:*

It was diagnosed that citizen security and public policies applied in Córdoba Municipality are at a medium stage of consolidation, characterized by operational deficiencies, limited impact evaluation, and still incipient inter-institutional coordination.

➤ *Participation Gaps:*

A low structuring of active participation mechanisms between citizens and security bodies was evidenced, weakening the social fabric and limiting the effectiveness of local preventive plans, as demonstrated by the community dimension ($X= 2.15$), thereby highlighting the importance of active neighborhood organization to safeguard the social fabric against local risk factors, as backed by Mendoza (2021).

➤ *Conditioning Factors:*

Risk factors associated with a lack of technical follow-up, weaknesses in municipal administrative management, and the need to optimize human rights and mediation training programs for public and police officials were identified.

➤ *Strategic Proposal:*

The imperative need to design and implement a community and institutional articulation strategy acting as a guideline in the strategic planning of public management

is justified, guaranteeing co-responsibility, democratic governance, and increased quality of life in Córdoba Municipality, Táchira State.

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