



GRANTS FOR GLOBAL
INTERNATIONAL FUNDING PARTNERS

SAMPLE PROPOSAL · 2023

Operation Meridian: Strengthening Cross-Border Intelligence and Interdiction Capacity to Disrupt Illicit Drug Trafficking Networks

A comprehensive initiative to enhance regional security and interdiction capabilities through advanced technological integration, inter-agency intelligence sharing, and specialized law enforcement training.

Executive Summary

Illicit drug trafficking continues to pose a severe threat to regional stability, public health, and economic development, driving transnational organized crime and undermining governance. Operation Meridian is a targeted 24-month initiative designed to strengthen the operational and analytical capacity of frontline law enforcement and border security agencies in targeted transit corridors. By deploying advanced surveillance technologies, establishing a secure multi-agency intelligence fusion center, and delivering specialized tactical training, this project aims to significantly disrupt drug supply chains, intercept illicit shipments, and dismantle mid-to-high-level trafficking syndicates. The project is grounded in human rights compliance, inter-agency collaboration, and sustainable institutional capacity-building.

Background and Context

The expansion of global supply chains and digital communication networks has enabled transnational criminal organizations to adapt their trafficking methods with unprecedented agility. Border regions and remote transit corridors frequently suffer from critical resource gaps, including outdated communication infrastructure, limited forensic capacity, and fragmented information-sharing protocols among local, national, and international agencies. These systemic vulnerabilities allow large volumes of illicit narcotics to move across borders with minimal deterrence. Addressing these challenges requires a paradigm shift from reactive interdiction to proactive, intelligence-led enforcement that targets the structural and financial foundations of drug trafficking organizations.

Problem Statement

Frontline law enforcement and border control agencies in the target region are currently unable to effectively stem the flow of illicit drugs due to three primary systemic deficits: 1) Fragmented intelligence coordination, where local police, customs authorities, and national narcotics bureaus operate in silos without real-time data sharing; 2) Technological obsolescence, characterized by a lack of non-intrusive inspection tools, modern biometric scanners, and secure communication channels; and 3) Insufficient specialized training in digital forensics, financial tracking of illicit proceeds, and tactical interdiction. Without targeted intervention, these gaps will continue to enable transnational cartels to exploit regional borders, fueling localized addiction rates, corruption, and violent crime.

Goal

To sustainably enhance the capacity of regional law enforcement and border security institutions to detect, intercept, and dismantle transnational drug trafficking networks through integrated intelligence operations, technological modernization, and specialized personnel training.

Objectives

- Establish a fully operational Regional Intelligence Fusion Cell (RIFC) by Month 6 to enable real-time data integration and cross-agency communication among national and local authorities.
- Procure and deploy advanced non-intrusive inspection technologies and secure tactical communication hardware at four critical border crossing points by Month 12.
- Train 150 frontline law enforcement officers, investigators, and border security personnel in modern interdiction tactics, digital forensics, and financial asset tracing by Month 18.
- Increase the volume of intercepted illicit narcotics and dismantled trafficking cells by 35% relative to baseline figures by the conclusion of the 24-month project cycle.

Project Description

Operation Meridian takes a multi-tiered approach to disrupting drug trafficking by combining institutional reform, technological upgrades, and human capital development. The project centers on the creation of the Regional Intelligence Fusion Cell (RIFC), a centralized hub where vetted analysts from customs, national police, and border patrols will collaborate daily to synthesize intelligence and direct targeted interdiction operations. Complementing this structural upgrade, the project will equip key border checkpoints with state-of-the-art screening equipment and encrypted mobile devices, ensuring secure tactical coordination in the field. Finally, a comprehensive capacity-building curriculum will be delivered by international subject matter experts, focusing not only on tactical interdiction but also on rigorous adherence to human rights standards, chain-of-custody protocols, and anti-corruption measures.

Key Activities

- Conduct a comprehensive technical and operational needs assessment at targeted border posts and law enforcement agencies during Month 1.
- Establish and equip the Regional Intelligence Fusion Cell (RIFC), including the installation of secure servers, analytical software licenses, and communication links by Month 6.
- Procure, deliver, and commission non-intrusive inspection scanners, handheld biometric devices, and encrypted tactical radios at four priority border checkpoints by Month 9.
- Design and execute a specialized training curriculum covering intelligence-led policing, financial investigations, and human rights compliance for 150 officers across six cohorts between Months 6 and 18.
- Facilitate monthly joint-operation planning sessions between participating agencies utilizing the RIFC platform throughout the project lifecycle.
- Conduct mid-term and final project evaluations, including independent audits of interdiction efficacy, seizure rates, and human rights compliance.

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced institutional cooperation and information-sharing protocols established among previously siloed national and regional security agencies.
- Measurable improvement in the detection and interception capabilities of frontline personnel stationed at high-risk transit corridors.
- Increased disruption of criminal syndicate financing through the identification and freezing of illicit assets linked to drug trafficking.
- Strengthened adherence to international human rights standards and rule-of-law principles during law enforcement operations and suspect apprehensions.

Timeline

The project will be implemented over a 24-month period, structured across four distinct phases:

Phase 1 (Months 1–3) focuses on baseline assessments, stakeholder engagement, and initial procurement planning. Phase 2 (Months 4–9) involves the establishment of the RIFC, technology deployment, and curriculum development. Phase 3 (Months 10–18) centers on the rollout of specialized training programs, joint operational deployment, and intelligence-led interdictions.

Phase 4 (Months 19–24) encompasses project consolidation, impact evaluation, transition of management to local counterparts, and sustainability planning.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The project will utilize a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework based on quantitative metrics and qualitative assessments. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will track the number of joint intelligence reports generated, volume and type of narcotics seized, number of officers trained, and successful prosecution rates of detained suspects. An independent M&E specialist will conduct quarterly reviews and a comprehensive midterm evaluation to measure progress against targets. A secure data collection protocol will be enforced to protect sensitive operational information while ensuring full accountability to donor requirements and project stakeholders.

Risks and Mitigation

Recognizing the high-risk operational environment, the project has identified three primary risks and corresponding mitigation strategies: 1) Risk of institutional resistance to inter-agency data sharing; Mitigation: Secure high-level political buy-in and establish formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) protocols upfront. 2) Risk of technological equipment failure or misuse; Mitigation: Include comprehensive maintenance contracts, warranty provisions, and strict operational oversight in technology deployment plans. 3) Risk of human rights violations by participating personnel; Mitigation: Mandate rigorous human rights vetting and training as a mandatory prerequisite for all officers engaging with project-supported equipment and intelligence.

Sustainability

Sustainability is embedded into the core design of Operation Meridian. By embedding the RIFC within existing national law enforcement structures rather than creating a parallel entity, the project ensures that institutional knowledge, standard operating procedures, and technical infrastructure are fully absorbed by host-country authorities. Furthermore, the specialized training program includes a 'train-the-trainer' component, empowering local officers to independently instruct future cohorts of recruits. Maintenance schedules and operational budgets for procured technologies will be transitioned to national ministerial allocations by Month 24, ensuring long-term institutional ownership.

Project Management

The project will be managed by a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) comprising a Project Director, a Senior Technical Advisor on Law Enforcement, an M&E Officer, and a Procurement/ Finance Manager. The PMU will oversee day-to-day implementation, financial management, vendor relations, and liaison with partner agencies and oversight committees. Regular fortnightly steering committee meetings will be held with representatives from participating national ministries and law enforcement bodies to ensure transparent governance, adaptive management, and rapid resolution of operational bottlenecks.

Budget Overview

Personnel and Technical Advisors (Project Director, M&E Specialist, Security Consultants, Trainers)	\$280,000
Technology Procurement & Infrastructure (RIFC servers, non-intrusive inspection scanners, encrypted radios)	\$420,000
Training and Capacity Building (Curriculum design, venue hire, participant travel, training materials)	\$150,000
Operational Support & Joint Operations (Logistics, fuel, maintenance reserves, secure communications)	\$100,000
Monitoring, Evaluation, and Auditing (Independent mid-term and final evaluations, financial audits)	\$50,000
Total Requested Grant	\$1,000,000

Conclusion

Operation Meridian offers a strategic, holistic, and sustainable solution to the escalating challenge of transnational drug trafficking in vulnerable transit corridors. By uniting advanced technological tools, rigorous intelligence coordination, and comprehensive capacity building rooted in the rule of law, this project will deliver measurable disruptions to illicit networks while strengthening regional security institutions for the long term. Support for this initiative represents a high-impact investment in regional stability, public safety, and the dismantling of organized criminal enterprises.



GRANTS FOR GLOBAL

INTERNATIONAL FUNDING PARTNERS

© 2026 Grants For Global. All rights reserved.

This sample proposal is provided by Grants For Global as an educational reference for NGOs and nonprofits preparing their own funding applications. It may be adapted for your organization's own proposal writing.

www.grantsforglobal.com