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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910823808203321 |
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| Titolo | Achieving growth and security in the Northern Triangle of Central America // project director, Daniel F. Runde ; principal author, Christina Perkins ; contributing author, Erin Nealer |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Lanham : , : Rowman & Littlefield, , 2016 |
| ISBN | 1-4422-7981-8 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (47 pages) : color illustrations |
| Collana | CSIS reports |
| Disciplina | 338.9728 |
| Soggetti | Economic development - Central America Economic development - Honduras Economic development - Guatemala Economic development - El Salvador Central America |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Note generali | "A report of the CSIS Project on Prosperity and Development." "December 2016.' |
| Nota di contenuto | Introduction. -- Origins of the current crisis. -- International response to crisis in the Northern triangle. -- Enabling private-sector growth. -- Reducing gang involvement through workforce opportunities. -- Lessons from Colombia. -- Conclusion. |
| Sommario/riassunto | In order to break the current cycle of violence and limited economic opportunity, the Northern Triangle requires sustained attention from the United States to promote improved governance that can lead to sustained economic growth in the formal sector. While the issues leading to today's crisis are complex and unique to each country's political and social contexts, donors and regional governments can draw lessons from other countries in the region. In particular, the economic and social landscape of Colombia in 1990s exhibited similar insecurity and violence comparable to the Northern Triangle today. In response to this situation, the United States launched Plan Colombia--a multiyear security and economic assistance package--to support Colombian efforts to end the civil war, tackle spiraling violence, and create greater economic growth. For this reason, many observers, |

including Vice President Joe Biden, have suggested the implementation of "a Plan Colombia for the Northern Triangle." This is an imperfect metaphor, as Colombia's issues stemmed from a long-running civil war, in addition to violence resulting from organized crime. Additionally, Colombia benefited from impressive political leadership and a cohesive commitment among all levels of society to end the violence. It remains unclear if the governments of the Northern Triangle can exhibit this level of commitment to reform.
