

# One Safe Caribbean for Youth Development - Supporting Youth at High Risk of Gang Involvement (D2474)

## Description:

**GENERAL OBJECTIVE:** strengthen the capacity of Caribbean governments to design and implement evidence-based gang violence prevention policies.

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:** develop and test a comprehensive peer intervention model for youth, aged 13 to 18 years old, who are at high risk for gang involvement in five Caribbean countries (Jamaica, Barbados, Bahamas, Belize and Surinam). In particular, the program will adhere to an integrated case management model that will be delivered in part using digital tools to train youth peers working collaboratively with state social service agencies (eg. health, education, youth development and law enforcement).

**JUSTIFICATION:** data from the region's law enforcement agencies and public health facilities show that the perpetrators and victims of these serious violent crimes are disproportionately young men between the ages of 15 and 24 living in communities that experience high levels of social exclusion and interact in social networks typified by the presence of criminal gangs. These young men typically are members of gangs who engage in illegal practices such as drug trafficking, extortion and property crimes while using violence as their primary coercive method. Gang membership is not a dominant element of Caribbean youth culture. Comparative surveys in the sub-region indicate that only 7.7% of youth reported being a gang associate; and 6.2% reported being a current gang member. Directly targeting and thwarting the mechanisms through which at-risk youth engage and join these groups can therefore have an extensive impact on the crime control strategies within member states. Recent literature on preventing violence in the Caribbean suggests that public health interventions would have an even stronger treatment effect if attention was paid to an additional psycho-social factor – the peer-individual dynamic. The association with delinquent peers receives the strongest and most consistent support for being associated with gang membership in the Caribbean. Conversely, using peers in the case management process for chronic public health problems such as substance abuse or gang violence has been shown to improve outreach efforts, monitoring, and outcomes particularly for hard-to-reach populations.

The TC would provide much needed capacity building to national law enforcement and social service agencies seeking to reduce crime in the region by offering a collective response to a regional problem that is even more salient now as the free movement of individuals within the Caribbean Single Market and Economy in 2024 necessitates the need for greater standardization of social policies to support the most vulnerable within society, towards ensuring they are not excluded from opportunities to improve their lives. The program will also serve as a further example of public health approaches to violence prevention, further aiding their dissemination and replication across other countries in the wider Caribbean and beyond.

## Submitted by:

Rodrigo Serrano Berthet

## Submitted on:

11/30/2023

## Status:

Submitted

## Category:

Client Support

## Tags:

caribbean region violence prevention

## Linked Ideas:

## Whiteboard:

## Team Leader Name

Jason Wilks

## Alternate Team Leader Name

Rodrigo Serrano Berthet

## Has the proposal been discussed and authorized by the responsible sector or country department/division, as applicable?

Yes

## Team Leader Responsible Department

IFD

## Are there specific countries that will directly benefit from your proposal?

Yes

## Mark the specific countries that will be directly benefited from your proposal?

Bahamas

Barbados

Belize

Jamaica

Suriname

**Where applicable, describe how the proposal aligns with the respective country strategy (for each country selected)**

The Bahamas. The project aligns with the CS of the Bahamas (2018- 2022- extended to May 31, 2024) (GN-2920-1) in the Priority area of enhancing public sector effectiveness and addresses the Cross-Cutting theme of gender and dialogue areas on enhancing human capital development, including education and citizens security and justice.

Barbados. The project also aligns with the Country Strategy with Barbados 2019-2023 (BA-P1118) in the priority area (B) Safeguarding Social Outcomes with regards to human capital development. The project addresses the cross-cutting issues of gender and diversity given that "Sectors of the population, such as victims of gender-based violence and people with disabilities, are still underserved in the social protection system".

Belize. It also aligns with the CS for Belize in the priority area of Human Capital. It aligns with dialogue areas such as citizen security and cross-cutting themes such as gender and diversity and institutional capacity and rule of law

Jamaica. The project aligns with the Country Strategy with Jamaica 2022-2026 in the priority area of Addressing Social Gaps, particularly strengthening the social protection and labour system, addressing areas such as safety and security concerns. It also addresses Cross-cutting themes such as gender inequality, institutional capacity, and the rule of law.

Suriname. In addition, the project aligns with the Country Strategy for Suriname (2021 2025) (GN 3065) in the strategic area of promoting private sector competitiveness by developing a strategy for improving the skills of future generations. It addresses cross-cutting themes, including gender equality and institutional capacity, and the rule of law.

**Does the proposal align to one or more sector frameworks?**

Yes, the proposal aligns with at least one sector framework

**Identify and describe how the proposal aligns to the sector framework(s)**

This TC is aligned with the SFD of Citizen Security and Justice. It contributes to tackling "Challenge 1: Worsening risk factors among vulnerable populations are increasing the need for social policies for crime and violence prevention" by developing and implementing multi-sectorial approaches to crime prevention and reducing social violence. It also aligns with the "Line of action 1: Deliver crime and violence prevention and social services with an emphasis on vulnerable populations.

The TC is also aligned with the SFD of Skills Development. It contributes to addressing "Challenge 3 Ensure that all students graduate from secondary school with the intermediate cognitive, technical, and socio-emotional skills that allow them to keep learning throughout life, access high-quality jobs, and be good citizens" and "Challenge 4: Ensure that all young adults are equipped with the advanced cognitive, technical, and socio-emotional skills that will allow them to keep learning throughout their lives and be successful in the labor market" by developing and implementing institutional capacity building for crime prevention among young people. It addresses Line of Action 1, Ensuring access to high-quality and relevant learning opportunities throughout life. The project is intended to build institutional capacity in these countries to build the skills of young people to effectively address issues such as social violence with their peers in a positive manner. The development of these skills is expected to result in crime prevention and social violence reduction.

**Select the regional challenges and cross-cutting issues to which the proposal aligns to**

Social Inclusion and Equality

Institutional Capacity and Rule of Law

**Justify the alignment to each selection above**

This TC addresses the development challenge of (i) social inclusion and equality by improving the quality of public services to at-risk youth via therapeutic responses for violence producers as well as the cross cutting theme of (II) institutional capacity and the rule of law BY strengthening the technical capacity of state agents to develop collaborative models for violence prevention interventions that directly engage potential and existing youth offenders.

**What is the estimated funding that you need in order to implement this proposal?**

50000

**Select the expected outputs of this proposal**

Institutional Strengthening Deliverables (Training products, Management Information Systems, etc.)

**Are outputs strictly Knowledge Products?**

**Describe the motivation and main question(s) this TC intends to answer.**

**Describe the methodological approach to be used and the type of data (when applicable) which will be used**

**Please specify the type(s) of Knowledge Product (s) this TC encompasses:**

**Please provide a brief description of the output(s) selected above (The number of units planned, and the estimated cost). If you selected others, please specify.**

1 comprehensive peer intervention model for youth at high risk for gang involvement developed jointly with inputs from several Caribbean countries.

**Outcomes: If the outputs are delivered successfully, what is the change expected (in capacity, knowledge, behavior, etc.)**

Comprehensive peer intervention model for youth at high risk for gang involvement implemented and tested in at least one Caribbean country

(0) **Attachments**

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1 Comment

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**Comment by Daniel Fonseca Silva 01/17/2024**

The TC should be prioritized, however based on internal conversations, the amount would need to be adjusted to US\$130,000. Both the sector work and the focus on Caribbean are prime elements that highlight the merits of this TC, and therefore the activities will be most relevant for providing meaningful coordination and knowledge for the region.