

TC Document

I. Basic Information for TC

▪ Country/Region:	REGIONAL
▪ TC Name:	One Safe Caribbean for Youth Development: Supporting youth at high risk of gang involvement
▪ TC Number:	RG-T4523
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Wilks, Jason Malcolm (IFD/ICS) Team Leader; Serrano Berthet, Rodrigo (IFD/ICS) Alternate Team Leader; Jimenez Mosquera, Javier I. (LEG/SGO); Bueno Londono Daniela (IFD/ICS)
▪ Taxonomy:	Client Support
▪ Operation Supported by the TC:	.
▪ Date of TC Abstract authorization:	.
▪ Beneficiary:	Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas ¹ Government of Jamaica ² Government of the Republic of Barbados
▪ Executing Agency and contact name:	Inter-American Development Bank
▪ Donors providing funding:	OC SDP Window 2 - Institutions(W2C)
▪ IDB Funding Requested:	US\$50,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding, if any:	US\$0
▪ Disbursement period (which includes Execution period):	36 months
▪ Required start date:	October 2024
▪ Types of consultants:	Individual consultants
▪ Prepared by Unit:	IFD/ICS-Innovation in Citizen Services Division
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CCB/CBA-Country Office Barbados
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	Yes
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Social inclusion and equality; Institutional capacity and rule of law; Afro-descendants; Diversity

II. Objectives and Justification of the TC

2.1 The objective of this Technical Cooperation (TC) is to strengthen the capacity of member states within the Caribbean to design and implement evidence-based violence prevention policies targeting the youth sub-populations at highest risk of involvement in serious violence and gang activity. The specific objectives of this TC are to: (i) advance the design of social financing models for violence prevention; and (ii) develop integrated service delivery models for serious youth violence.

2.2 **Justification.** In 2021, the global homicide rate reached 5.8 per 100,000 population whilst the regional homicide rate for the Americas stood at 15 in 2021, almost triple the average global homicide rate (UNODC, 2023). Within this context, homicide rates in the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago have

¹ The Non-Objection Letter is in process of signature by The Bahamas Official National Liasson Entity and the activities included in this CT will only start upon receiving it.

² The Non-Objection Letter is in process of signature by Jamaica's Official National Liasson Entity and the activities included in this CT will only start upon receiving it.

increased over the 2019-2022 period, with Jamaica ranking the highest in the Americas region.³

- 2.3 In the Caribbean, young men are the most at-risk of engaging in violent, criminal behavior and are also most likely to fall victim to violence. In the case of Jamaica, between 2019 and 2022, 875 major crimes were carried out by perpetrators between 15 and 17 years of age. These included 256 breaches of the Firearms Act, 79 murders, 66 shootings, 175 rapes, 89 robberies and 65 cases of aggravated assault. It is estimated that there are 389 criminal gangs in Jamaica, 64% of which are active gangs. Research identifies that the combination of a weak economy, gang activities, as well as corruption, all contribute to the cycle of low growth, lack of economic opportunities, and higher crime rates that increase the likelihood of young people in the region either being victimized or perpetrating serious violence.⁴ For example, in Barbados, approximately 6,970 crimes were committed by youth between the ages of 15-29 between 2018 and 2021. Increasing levels of violent crime and gang activity in these countries then constitute an enormous challenge for both regional social and economic development.
- 2.4 Criminological studies for the region show that adolescence is a stage in which risky behaviors can develop before the individual matures, and such behaviors may not be maintained beyond that phase in their development life cycle.⁵ Evidence has also shown that young men of Afro-descent are disproportionately represented in crime statistics as both perpetrators and victims of crime.⁶ Given the predominantly Afro-descendant demographic compositions of Jamaica, Barbados and the Bahamas, the nuances of race and criminality take on even greater salience. Studies have highlighted the roles of over-policing and under-protection of vulnerable communities; and structural inequalities such as limited access to education, healthcare and social programs are more likely to have on the life trajectories of Afro-descendant youth, contributing to their increased risk of criminal victimization and perpetration. These youth and those who are already crime-involved (with or without criminal records) require multifaceted approaches for prevention, intervention, suppression, rehabilitation, and reintegration. Such targeted approaches permit agencies to deploy their resources more efficiently and effectively.⁷ As such, evidence has shown that tertiary-level programs, which target youth at the highest risk levels, have higher rates of effectiveness in reducing violent behavior and preventing recidivism than primary prevention programs.⁸
- 2.5 While global trends in criminal justice research may offer up several intervention models that can be replicated in the Caribbean region, leveraging existing models that are adapted to the socio-cultural and economic contexts of the Caribbean are more likely to have efficacy. Utilizing existing models from within the region is beneficial, as it demonstrates proven effectiveness, thereby reducing the risks associated with implementing untested methods such as the lack of stakeholder confidence and ownership. Additional benefit will also accrue when the existing regional model delivers

³ [UNODC \(2024\) Caribbean Gangs.](#)

⁴ [USAID \(2024\) Eastern and Southern Caribbean \(ESC\) Criminal Dynamics Study Regional Report.](#)

⁵ [USAID \(2019\) What Works to Prevent Lethal Youth Violence in the LAC Region.](#)

⁶ [ECLAC \(2019\) People of African descent in Latin America: Developing indicators to measure and counter inequalities.](#)

⁷ [Katz et al \(2023\) Delinquency, drug use, and gang membership in the English-speaking Caribbean.](#)

⁸ [USAID \(2024\) Crime and Violence Prevention for High-Risk Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean.](#)

innovations known to produce economies and efficiencies that reduce the burden that regional governments face with the increasing costs of public security services that are needed to protect their citizens. The Bahamas and Jamaica in particular are among the top three countries in the region that lose the highest percentages of their GDP to crime.⁹ This includes injury and damage but also costs associated with the response to crime, such as the cost of the criminal justice system. Further, approximately 23% of businesses, that is, almost one in four Caribbean businesses reported experiencing losses due to theft, robbery, vandalism, or arson.¹⁰ One such regional approach is the social financing model for violence prevention in Jamaica.

- 2.6 Social financing models for violence prevention have been used in Jamaica to strengthen under-resourced communities in Jamaica and mitigate a wide range of socioeconomic issues affecting youth involvement with crime and violence. One such initiative, Project STAR (Social Transformation and Renewal), is a social and economic transformation initiative created by the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ) in partnership with the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF). It is driven by communities to bring about societal transformation through targeted interventions in under-resourced areas of Jamaica. They consult and collaborate with community stakeholders to identify needs, then work with partners - public, private, NGOs, multilaterals, individuals in Jamaica and the Jamaican diaspora - to connect communities with the resources and services in need. As such, given the similarity of socio- economic issues experienced across the Caribbean, it is valuable to evaluate Project STAR to determine its fidelity and probability of being able replicable across the region. Project STAR's approach is underpinned by actions and strategies being community informed, community led, and community owned. They begin by engaging in mapping and community research followed by early engagement, then local stakeholder engagement, community wide information sessions which then lead into the identification of a local community-based team and the formation of a community leadership structure who then engages in visioning and planning, culminating in a community consensus approach in the implementation of initiatives. To date their projects have spanned the areas of job readiness programs, sports programs, school feeding & nutrition programs, parental initiatives, psychosocial support initiatives, business development and entrepreneurial programs, social protection services, job placement programs, and life skills training amongst others.
- 2.7 Highlighting such innovative approaches for collaboration and co-financing in the region can substantively complement government funding and encourage greater involvement of the private sector, community-based organizations and civil society to violence prevention. Therefore, leveraging an improved understanding of social financing mechanisms and engaging in diagnostics to develop national action plans through knowledge sharing exercises, present a promising avenue for reducing the prevalence of crime and alleviating the economic strain of violence on social and economic development.
- 2.8 **Complementarity.** This TC will complement existing and planned initiatives aiming at preventing serious violence in Caribbean countries. This TC will serve as a point of complementarity to RG-T4461 which will be executed by SCL/EDU to design a School-Based Violence Prevention Program across the Caribbean Community Member States including Jamaica, Barbados and the Bahamas. Both TCs target at

⁹ [Jaitman \(2015\) The Welfare Costs of Crime and Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean.](#)

¹⁰ [Compete Caribbean 2021 Innovation, Firm Performance and Gender Survey.](#)

risk youth of serious violence, which collectively contribute to a comprehensive strategy that strengthens institutional capacity and delivers integrated, evidence-based violence prevention models across the region. Beginning in Jamaica, the IDB has been working in the Citizen Security and Justice sector across the Caribbean for almost two decades through progressive iterations of the Citizen Security and Justice Programme (CSJP) ([2272/OC-JA](#),¹¹ [3191/OC-JA](#)¹²) that focused on social prevention interventions and institutional strengthening of law enforcement agencies. More recently the IDB complemented the work done under the CSJP by improving the effectiveness of police to prevent, manage and address crime through the Security Strengthening Project ([4400/OC-JA](#)¹³). In The Bahamas, the IDB contributed to reducing crime and violence through the recently concluded Citizen Security Programme (CSP) ([3499/OC-BH](#)¹⁴) that improved behaviors for non-violent conflict resolution in New Providence; increased employability and employment of the at-risk youth population in New Providence; strengthened institutional capabilities of justice services; and reduced the recidivism rate among persons within the prison system. Under the Public Sector Modernization Programme in Barbados ([4920/OC-BA](#)¹⁵), the Bank has also developed institutional capacity within the Barbados Police Service through technical assistance in the development of its digital strategy.

- 2.9 **Strategic Alignment.** The TC is consistent with the IDB Group Institutional Strategy: Transforming for Scale and Impact (CA-631) and is aligned with the first Strategic Objective to: (i) reduce poverty and inequality by offering viable alternatives for employment and pro-social development, through evidence-informed and context-specific interventions, to vulnerable youth who are most at risk youth of perpetrating or becoming victims of violence. This TC also contributes with the operational focus on “Institutional Capacity, Rule of Law and Citizen Security”, with its emphasis on improved policy and operation coordination among key stakeholders providing social, intervention, law enforcement and rehabilitative services to vulnerable youth in multiple countries across the Caribbean, and “Diversity” by incorporating a comprehensive understanding of existing interventions and gathering diverse perspectives from a wide range of stakeholders, ensuring that the developed policies and programs are inclusive and effective for all youth sub-populations at high risk of violence in the Caribbean. The TC is also consistent with the IDB ONE Caribbean Initiative (Partnering for Caribbean Development Framework) (GN-3201-5). Specifically, this TC will aim to promote safer communities which is a strategic objective under the Citizen Security pillar (ONE Safe Caribbean) of the ONE Caribbean initiative. This TC is also consistent with the Priority Area of "Effective, Efficient and Transparent Institutions" of the Ordinary Capital Strategic Development Program (GN-2819-14).
- 2.10 Finally, this assistance is in line with the IDB Group Country Strategy with Jamaica 2022-2026 (GN-3138), which includes crime prevention as a cross-cutting theme and the IDB Group Country Strategy with The Bahamas 2024-2028 (GN-3198-1), which prioritizes interventions that foster social development, improve citizen security and the quality of basic services under the Strategic Area Human Development and Citizen

¹¹ Approved in 2009 for US\$21,000,000, currently closed.

¹² Approved in 2014 for US\$20,000,000, currently closed.

¹³ Approved in 2017 for US\$20,000,000, currently in implementation (83.72% disbursed).

¹⁴ Approved in 2015 for US\$20,000,000, currently closed.

¹⁵ Approved in 2019 for US\$40,000,000, currently in implementation (42.12% disbursed).

Security. Whilst the IDB Group Country Strategy with Barbados 2019-2023 (GN-2953-3)¹⁶ excludes Citizen Security as a priority area, the Government of Barbados through its involvement with other international development agencies, is actively prioritizing efforts to address youth at high risk of serious violence, which has become more prevalent in Barbados over the past decade.

III. Description of activities/components and budget

- 3.1 **Component 1. Advance the design of social financing models for violence prevention (US\$30,000).** Under this component, the TC will finance the conduct of a process evaluation for at least one social financing model being executed in the region to determine its program fidelity and regional scalability. The process evaluation will involve: (i) assessing the current implementation of the social financing model to understand its components and procedures; (ii) collecting quantitative and qualitative data to measure how the model is being executed; and (iii) identifying any deviations from the planned implementation. The evaluation will include engaging with stakeholders to gather insights on their experiences thus analyzing the fidelity of the social financing model to its original design, and evaluating the context in which it operates. The evaluation will also involve examining resource utilization, identifying barriers and facilitators to implementation, and providing recommendations for improvements to ensure that the intervention's processes are well-understood and can be effectively adapted or scaled across the region, as appropriate. The process evaluation is expected to provide valuable insights to inform a possible design for a randomized control trial (RCT) to be undertaken later.
- 3.2 **Component 2. Develop integrated service delivery models for serious youth violence (US\$20,000).** Under this component, the TC will finance national and regional stakeholder consultations and knowledge sharing workshops at least two countries with government agencies, private sector, community-based organizations, and civil society groups to gather diverse perspectives and insights towards identifying collaborative approaches to reducing youth involvement in serious violence. These activities will collectively provide a detailed understanding of the challenges and opportunities, informing the creation of targeted, effective national action plans to engage high-risk youth, based on their specific socio-demographic, geographic and behavioral characteristics, towards their diversion or desistance from serious violence and gang involvement.
- 3.3 **Expected results.** The expected result of this TC is a deepened understanding of existing intervention in the Caribbean, informed by thorough process evaluation, to facilitate greater dissemination and use across the region. By identifying evidence-based strategies and collaborative practices tailored to the local contexts, and by understanding current gaps, it is expected that more effective policy choices and cost-efficient resource allocation will be undertaken by stakeholders. The direct beneficiaries include approximately 60 citizen security stakeholders across the three beneficiary countries, tasked with implementing or supervising institutional reforms towards improving life outcomes for youth at highest risk of violence victimization or perpetration.

¹⁶ The transition period of the Country Strategy (CS) with Barbados 2019-2023 was extended until May 31st, 2025.

- 3.4 The total amount for this TC is US\$50,000 (non-reimbursable), which is to be financed with resources from the Ordinary Capital Strategic Development Programme (OC SDP Window 2 – Institutions (W2C)).

Indicative Budget

Component	Description	IDB/Fund Funding	Total Funding
Component 1. Advance the design of social financing models for violence prevention.	Conduct of a process evaluation for at least one social financing model being executed in the region to determine its program fidelity and regional scalability.	US\$30,000.00	US\$30,000.00
Component 2: Develop integrated service delivery models for serious youth violence.	National and regional stakeholder consultations and knowledge sharing workshops with government agencies, private sector, community-based organizations, and civil society groups.	US\$20,000.00	US\$20,000.00
Total		US\$50,000.00	US\$50,000.00

IV. Executing agency and execution structure

- 4.1 As requested by the beneficiary governments, the Executing Agency will be the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through the Innovation in Citizen Services Division (IFD/ICS), in accordance with the guidelines and requirements established in the Technical Cooperation Policy (GN-2470-2) and Annex II of Procedures for the Processing of Technical Cooperation Operations and Related Matters (OP-619-4). The justification for the Bank as Executing Agency is due to IFD/ICS being well equipped to manage this operation and assure the coordination needed, owing to the involvement of state and non-state actors in the project and recent experience executing initiatives to strengthen the capacity of technical counterparts to reduce youth violence in the region. The hiring of external consultants to implement the components of this TC are in alignment with special circumstances established in Annex II of OP-619-4, specifically (iii) Impartiality, and (iv) Regional TC. The project team is led by Jason Wilks (IFD/ICS), Senior Public Management Sector Specialist who serves as focal point for IFD/ICS citizen security projects in the Caribbean, who will supervise the overall TC components. Operational support will be provided by colleagues from the respective country offices.
- 4.2 **Procurement.** The activities to be executed under this operation will be included in the Procurement Plan and carried out in accordance with the Bank's established procurement methods, namely: (i) Hiring of individual consultants, as established in the document AM-650 – Complementary Workforce; and (ii) hiring of consulting firms for services of an intellectual nature and the contracting of logistics services and non-consulting services, according to GN-2303-33 and its associated Guidelines.

V. Major issues

- 5.1 No major risks are expected in the execution of this TC. This TC supports the ongoing work in citizen security, providing implementing partners with an opportunity to expand and share knowledge across the region. Therefore, active participation of technical

counterparts is expected to complement the work carried out by consultants and the IDB to complete these activities in a timely manner. The beneficiary governments have supported previous work with the IDB on citizen security and positive youth development and, given the priority of addressing youth at high risk of gang involvement, preparation and execution of activities is anticipated to be efficient.

- 5.2 Given the broad scope of this TC across three countries, the team will prioritize cost-effective approaches and leverage partnerships to maximize impact. This includes a phased implementation plan to monitor expenditures closely, ensuring adjustments can be made if funds are expended prematurely. Mitigation strategies will include seeking supplemental funding if necessary to complete all activities.

VI. Exceptions to Bank policy

- 6.1 This operation does not foresee any exceptions to Bank policy.

VII. Environmental and Social Aspects

- 7.1 This Technical Cooperation is not intended to finance pre-feasibility or feasibility studies of specific investment projects or environmental and social studies associated with them; therefore, this TC does not have applicable requirements of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF).

Required Annexes:

[Request from the Client_60891.pdf](#)

[Results Matrix_38680.pdf](#)

[Terms of Reference_7080.pdf](#)

[Procurement Plan_23574.pdf](#)