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**PROJECT SUMMARY**

**Project STAR: STAR Economic Accelerator (SEA)** is a bold, data-driven initiative designed to unlock the economic potential of unattached youth in fragile communities across Jamaica and the Caribbean. Despite record-low unemployment rates, a significant portion of youth—particularly those aged 16 to 29—remain disconnected from education, employment, or training. These young people face systemic barriers including trauma, informality, digital exclusion, and limited access to finance and markets. Project STAR addresses these challenges by fusing citizen security with inclusive entrepreneurship, offering a scalable model for economic transformation in vulnerable urban and peri-urban areas.

The project is structured around three components. **Component 1** focuses on stakeholder coordination and community mapping. Through partnerships with the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), community leaders, and technology partner Yassuh Jamaica Limited, STAR will activate three communities on a geospatial platform and host 20 community hub events to align local priorities and improve service delivery. **Component 2** delivers a tailored incubation and acceleration program for 250 unattached youth, including early-stage business training, trauma-informed readiness support, digital skills development, and access to seed capital and supply chains. Of these, 125 youth will be incubated, 100 businesses formalized and receiving seed funding, and 20 targeted for integration into formal supply chains. **Component 3** ensures long-term sustainability and regional replication through rigorous evaluation, policy engagement, and knowledge dissemination, including a white paper and regional roundtable.

The project is implemented by the **STAR Foundation**, with support from **IDB Lab**, the **IDB's Citizen Security Division (IFD/CIS)**, and over 70 private sector partners. It aligns with IDB Lab's priorities in employment, talent, and financial inclusion, and contributes to impact challenges related to job creation, financial access, and SME growth. By bridging the gap between citizen security and economic opportunity, Project STAR offers a replicable model for inclusive growth and youth empowerment across the Caribbean.