Some Caribbean Best practices in Youth Engagement

The report contains the profile of some youth development initiatives that exemplify the defining characteristics of best practice models in youth participation.

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9/6/2012
REPORT ON CONSULTANCY TO SUPPORT YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Citizens’ insecurity has been identified as a new governance challenge that poses a threat to the strong democratic governance processes in the Caribbean and the well-being of the state and the citizens of Eastern Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). High levels of crime recorded among youth populations threaten positive and significant development gains recorded by Caribbean SIDS over the past decade. As rates of crime and violence continue to increase young people are being disproportionately represented as victims and perpetrators. The impact of these trends on national and regional development is well documented. From 2006 and 2007, the OECS Secretariat at its first Regional Conference on Youth, Crime and Violence and the joint World Bank and UNODC Report – “Crime, Violence and Development: Trends, Costs and Policy Options in the Caribbean”1 presented Crime and Violence data that confirmed that the high rate of crime and violence in the Caribbean is undermining development in all areas.

The January 2010 CARICOM Commission on Youth Development (CYD) Report “Eye on the Future: Investing in YOUTH NOW for Tomorrow’s Community” found that crime and violence is the number one concern of young people and is a major threat to national and regional development.

The UNDP Caribbean Human Development Report 2012, Human Development and the Shift to Better Citizen Security—highlighted that with the exception of Barbados and Suriname, homicide rates including gang-related killings have increased substantially in the last 12 years across the Caribbean, while they have been falling or stabilizing in other parts of the world. The report estimates that a reduction in the homicide rate by one-third could more than double the region’s rate of per capita economic growth.

Although murder rates are exceedingly high by world standards, the report says that Caribbean governments can reverse the trend, calling for regional governments to beef up public institutions to tackle crime and violence—including the criminal justice system—while boosting preventive measures.2 The report analyses youth violence in the region and recommends that Caribbean governments implement youth crime prevention through education, as well as provide employment opportunities that target the marginalized urban poor. A shift in focus is needed it says, from a state protection approach to one that focuses on citizen security and participation, promoting law enforcement that is fair, accountable, and more respectful of human rights.

In a region where 60% of the population is between 10 and 29 years old, there is a significant youth development infrastructure at national and regional levels. Youth programming is a key priority at both regional and national levels and there are many programmes to strengthen youth voice and aspirations. Despite these facts, weak participation, particularly by youth, in civic and governance processes is a challenge in the region. Limited youth participation in governance

1 TOR_UNDP Engaging youth CHDR process.pdf
contributes to their social marginalization and to feelings of isolation and a sense of loss about their futures.

Women and youth have always been active in national and regional development but there is a greater call for enhanced high-level participation of women and vulnerable groups in public policy and decision-making.

UNDP through the following projects “Fostering Youth Participation and Empowerment in Latin America and the Caribbean”; “Youth Innovation (Youth-IN): A Caribbean Network for Youth Development” and “Engaging Caribbean Youth: Actioning the 2012 UNDP Caribbean Human Development Report on citizens’ security” aims to enhance the participation of Caribbean youth in civic engagement and to contribute to the identified security sector needs and priorities. The aforementioned projects will support:

1. Modalities for young people to communicate and participate in policy making processes and the decisions that will impact their lives;

2. Incentives for the participation of young women;

3. Youth as agents of change through an innovative “youth oriented” communications campaign making the CHDR accessible to/by Caribbean youth. The campaign will use innovative communication tools, ICTs and media technologies;

4. Youth engagement to action the 2012 CHDR recommendations and in-country implementation support;

5. Youth engagement through facilitated dialogues and consultations to define ‘youth-friendly’ CHDR message dissemination;

6. Creation of CHDR messages to strengthen youth resilience, promote youth-led initiatives to address high-risk youth issues and strengthen community level interventions programmes;

7. Partnership with the private sector to deliver the messages to youth will be promoted to deepen collaboration of the Caribbean private sector and increase innovative use of ICTs to reach and communicate with youth.

Successful experiences/ programmes on youth engagement with emphasis on youth participation, youth rights and rehabilitation, and youth empowerment and employment will be identified and disseminated among youth leaders, relevant youth development practitioners and institutions to facilitate the knowledge sharing and the development of knowledge management tools as well facilitate evidence-based youth-led discussions across the region on best practices and lessons learnt on approaches that reinforce the role of youth as critical agents of development and change.

For this purpose, UNDP will support the contracting of services to identify, document and dialogue with youth on youth engagement experiences with emphasis on youth participation, youth rights and rehabilitation; youth empowerment and employment.
2. CONSULTANT’S DELIVERABLES

1. Map of best practices, institutions and actions. Including report cards as annexes
2. Report on potential partnership agreement discussed with partners
3. Report on potential partnership agreement discussed with regional initiatives
4. A 2 pages report with information on the set up for the face to face workshop (including information on participants and venue)

3. CONTEXTUALIZING YOUTH PARTICIPATION

“Young people hold the key to the future, with the potential to transform the global political landscape and to propel economies through their creativity and capacities for innovation. But the opportunity to realize youth’s great potential must be seized now… “ (Osotimehin, 2011, as cited in UNFPA Annual Report, 2011).

The above quote is a part of a message delivered by UNFPA Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin on 26 October, 2011, the day when the world population was expected to reach 7 billion. This message is relevant and very timely in an era where young people, despite their tremendous contribution and unlimited potential are still under-utilized as strategic partners in the development process.

Youth as a demographic group are extremely important. They make up approximately 50% of the world population and therefore, must be considered as a valuable resource for development. They are critical to the transformation of the global social, economic and political landscape. Research has indicated that young people are usually, disproportionately impacted by global development challenges (UN, 2007; UNFPA, 2005; World Bank, 2007, 2012; ILO 2012). Traditionally youth development strategies were mainly driven by a deficit paradigm and they, young people, were considered to have a finite number of needs to be addressed. If the youth development agenda is to enable positive youth development, then youth participation in policies and programmes is crucial (Inter-American Development Bank, 2009). Too often youth participation initiatives fail to reach a critical mass of young people. This may be due to the inappropriateness of some participation strategies, programs and funding frameworks to cater for diversity among young people. Similarly, the motivation for involving young people in the process is sometimes not clearly articulated and the welfare of the young people is not always perceived as paramount.

Fortunately, during the last two decades much effort has been expended to promote a more asset-based approach to youth development. This quest for a paradigm shift has been driven, mainly by the increasingly strident advocacy of young people and their respective networks supported by timely investments and interventions on the part of relevant partners, including the various international development agencies. A central theme of the proposed paradigm shift is the strategic engagement of young people as valued partners in development processes. A plethora of policy guidelines and action plans have been developed to facilitate this paradigm shift on the part of member countries of the International community. Some of these include (WPAY) the

4. Youth participation: Some theoretical considerations

The case has been made for greater youth participation in the development process (DFID/Maguire, S. 2007). There are issues around the forms of participation that exist, whether the quality or extent of the participation. The question arises in terms of whether the participation is tokenistic or a genuine recognition of the integration of youth in the development process (Hart, 1992). The significance and quality of youth participation can be examined through theoretical lens. This report considers best practices in youth participation from the perspectives of Appreciative Inquiry (Cooperrider, 1986; Cooperrider & Srivastva, 1987) and Critical Consciousness (Friere, 1970, 2005). The Youth Participation Model Three Lens Model (World Bank, 2007) will be used to explain youth participation.

4.1. Critical Consciousness

Youth participation in development can be justified from a critical standpoint using Friere (1970) transformational theory of critical consciousness. Although Paulo Friere (1970) looked at critical consciousness from an education standpoint, it can be applicable in the discourse of youth participation. According to Friere, critical consciousness is what can happen if members of a particular group in society feel that they are not integrated in a significant way in the development process. His theory speaks to consciousness as a fundamental aspect of transformation. Transformation, according to Friere, is about giving voice to individuals. He posited that knowledge is not static so therefore the dialogue is about recognising where the rot has set in and the need for transformation. Friere’s theory advocates empowerment of individuals; a central feature of any effective youth participation strategy. Participation is about the respect and justice. However, the challenge for the stakeholders is creating an appropriate framework for participation without compromising the dynamism of the relationship among the parties involved. As a consequence it is imperative to continuously reflect on, whether the relevant youth development programmes are meeting the needs of young people, while, at the same time facilitating development of critical consciousness. Does that consciousness allow young people to effectively perform their roles as transformational leaders and active citizens? Friere’s theory also accentuates the relevance of life experiences in transformation (Friere, 2005). The theory provides further justification for incorporating young people’s life experiences into development of policies and programmes through effective participatory frameworks. In conclusion the critical consciousness theory debunks the problem-based approach to youth development and provides strong justification for an asset-based or appreciative inquiry approach to youth development.
4.2. Appreciative Inquiry

Appreciative inquiry was conceptualized by David Cooperrider in the 1980’s to describe how organisations can be transformed. The approach is based on the premise that the direction of inquiry would determine the change in the organisation. He argued that if we are investigating problems we will find problems. However, if the organisation is looking for what is best in what they have then they will find what is good. This approach is conceptualised as "both a search for knowledge and a theory of intentional collective action which are designed to help evolve the normative vision and will of a group, organization, or society as a whole" (Cooperrider & Srivastva, 1987, p.159). Youth empowerment speaks to the existence of an enabling environment for young people to develop the requisite skills and competencies, to effectively manage the available, and create where necessary, adequate political space for their purposeful development. However, many of the youth development programmes are designed to fix perceived youth problems, instead of harnessing the collective strengths of the young people. Appreciative inquiry perspective speaks to the latter and further justifies the efficacy of investing in the engagement of young people as valued development partners.

4.3. Youth Participation: Three Lens Model

The three lens approach to youth participation accentuates the impotence of existing, tokenistic approaches to youth participation. It recommends the active participation of young people from the creation or the beginning of the process. The three lens approach described by the World Bank as working for youth as beneficiaries; engaging with youth as partners; and supporting youth as leaders (World Bank, 2007). The three lens approach must be taken as a whole and not seen as separate entities they are not mutually exclusive. The approach is dynamic and situational. Working for youth implies that the young people are the target group and the organisation must be cognizant that the primary focus of any intervention is youth. As a consequence, the young people must be adequately informed and involved in the process. Using critical consciousness they will indicate the inadequacies in their sphere; identify their needs; and articulate how best their needs can be met. This should be the underlying principle in the conceptualization of youth development programmes. Engaging with youth as partners speaks to collaboration with young people where they have a stake because they are not passive beneficiaries. They must be seen as strategic partners in their development. The three lens approach also seen as part of a process of developing young people leadership skills. It can also enhance their capacity to function as transformational agents in the development of their societies.

The Three lens approach is illustrated in figure one.
5. Research Method

The data collection strategy for this exercise included a review of relevant literature, the use of teleconferencing, email communication and web 2.0 tools such as Skype, Facebook and MSN Messenger.

One of the limitations however, was the inability to undertake field visits and/or face to face investigations to determine the veracity of information provided by the respondents. In the circumstances the Consultant’s knowledge of and professional experience in the youth development sector sufficed.

A review of the literature on youth development suggests that effective youth participation is most evident when an asset-based approach to youth development is practiced. The literature also reveals some of the ‘defining characteristics’ which are used to determine the effectiveness and efficacy of the youth participation ethos. Three most commonly cited are:

a. The extent to which young people participate in the conceptualization, development and implementation of the project or programme.

b. Does the project or programme facilitate the empowerment of young people to undertake leadership roles?

c. How inclusive is the project or programme? Does it facilitate the inclusion of the differently able and other usually excluded stratum of youth?

Those three ‘defining characteristics’ and the significant evidence of an asset-based contextualization of youth were key determinants in considering the best practices in youth engagement, within the Caribbean context.
6. The Caribbean Experience

The quality and effectiveness of youth engagement and participation in the Caribbean is largely influenced by the nature of the relationship between the State and the Citizenry, the existing power relationships and indeed the prevailing Governance ethos. During the period 1970-1985 the Caribbean experienced an upsurge in advocacy and ‘grass-roots’ political activity in support of the ‘democratization’ of governance processes. This movement towards ‘people’s participation’ and democratization coincided with the increasing engagement and participation of young people in the ranks and leadership of various mass movements. There was also an evident increase in youth-led, community based initiatives, organizations and the birth of state agencies (Departments of Youth) to coordinate national youth initiatives.

Despite significant milestones such as the formation of the Caribbean Federation of Youth (CFY), the ensuing decade (1986-1996) was characterised by a re-emergence of the deficit contextualization of youth and an evident decline in the quality and effectiveness of youth participation models. Since 2000, however there are signs of a resurgence of support for an asset-based contextualization of youth and paradigm shift in the regional youth development agenda. Increasing advocacy for more effective youth participation models have been supported by various guiding frameworks, including the ‘The World Plan of Action for Youth; 2000 and beyond’ (WPAY) and Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE). Caribbean governments and other youth development stakeholders, have in principle, indicated some degree of responsiveness. There is increasing evidence of the ‘3 lens’ and asset-based approaches to youth development. This has resulted in some examples of best practices in youth engagement and participation, under the broad thematic areas of youth governance, youth policy formulation, sustainable livelihoods, peace-building and citizens’ security. However, the regional youth development landscape is still too populated with examples of the deficit contextualization of youth and tokenistic approaches to youth engagement and participation.

7. Summary of Caribbean Best practice models in Youth Participation

This report provides a synopsis of some regional, national and community –based youth development programmes and initiatives which can be considered best practices in the context of the defining characteristics referred to in section 5 above.

7.1 REGIONAL

7.1.1. Commonwealth Caribbean Champions of Peace (CanaCaribe 2011)

The Carimentors and Cana-Caribe Peace-building and leadership training programme is an entirely youth-led initiative to develop young people as peace-builders and agents of change. Its vision is to equip and empower young people with the necessary skills to make a positive
difference in their generation. The target group are youth leaders between ages 18-29. The main objectives are:

1. To inspire, transform and motive youth leaders believe they have the talent and ability to change a generation.
2. To contribute to the reduction of violent conflicts in the Commonwealth Caribbean and Canada.
3. Peace building and leadership training programmes.
4. Trained in project planning and implementation.

Through this initiative over 30 youth leaders, between the ages of 18-29, from across the Commonwealth Caribbean were trained as trainers in Peace-building and conflict resolution. The trainees have utilized their newly acquired skills and knowledge to initiate and support peace-building initiatives within their communities.

The project ‘defined’ youth in the context of an asset-based perspective. It is youth-led and facilitated the empowerment of participants to undertake leadership responsibilities within their respective communities.

7.1.2. UNDP Youth Innovation (Youth-IN)

Youth-IN is a Caribbean Network for Youth Development established as a strategic response to the youth development challenges highlighted in the 2010 report of the CARICOM Commission on Youth. Youth-IN is expected to adopt an integrated approach to addressing the needs and challenges of Caribbean youth. The 3 year project was established in December 2010 with financial support of the Government of Italy. Youth-IN undertakes a variety of initiatives to promote youth participation, one of them being the Youth Think Tank (YTT). Another is the Youth-IN Entrepreneur

The YTT is a product of the UNDP Project Youth Innovation (Youth-IN) was launched on May 18, 2012. YTT main aim is to support Caribbean youth build the future they envision. The YTT is made of 14 motivated and talented young Caribbean leaders. The objectives Of YTT is to:

- Support dissemination of available research. The YTT will contribute to the dissemination of results of available research that captures the views and voices of young
people, to promote the inclusion of youth issues in local, national and regional policy agendas.

- Develop policy. The YTT will give a voice to the young generation by organizing regional, national and community dialogues on youth related issues as mechanisms to empower young people and strengthen policy formulation towards human development for youth and societies.

- Support the achievement of the Youth-IN goals. The YTT will act as a technical advisory group and will provide project assurance for the implementation of the Youth-IN project.

Youth-IN Entrepreneur is focused on delivering entrepreneurial training to Youth throughout the Caribbean. The programme is supported by the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT), an NGO associated to the OAS.

The objective is to promote youth entrepreneurship with the launch and institutionalization of the “Caribbean Innovation Challenge”. The objective will be achieved while promoting: i) Coordination among stakeholders; ii) An innovative public/private sector alliance; and iii) An ecosystem for young entrepreneurs.

Youth-IN Entrepreneur Implementation strategy is the promotion of capacity building for youth and mobilization of partners around the “Caribbean Innovation Challenge”. The challenge is a sub-regional competition that encourages young entrepreneur innovation and provides hands on support for youth to start up a business. The challenge will be a process built with partners and will create an ecosystem for young entrepreneurs.

The overall Youth-IN promotes an asset-based and inclusive approach to youth development. It also facilitates the development leadership skills and competence among young people.

7.1.3. Commonwealth Secretariat- Regional Youth Caucus (RYC)

The Caribbean RYC is part of a Commonwealth youth network which was mandated by Commonwealth Heads of Government. The main aim of the RYC network is to facilitate the participation of young people in governance, policy and programme development. The RYC participates in and contributes to the outcomes of Commonwealth Heads of Government, Ministers of Youth and Ministers of Education meetings. In the Caribbean they have contributed to the strengthening of national and regional youth networks. In many of the Commonwealth Caribbean countries they contribute significantly to the development and implementation of the various national youth development initiatives. As a consequence of the training and exposure they benefit from many have graduated to more senior leadership positions within their respective societies. Two examples which stand out are Ms. Emmalin Pierre who became Grenada’s Minister of Youth Empowerment and Mr. Jermaine Wade who is a member of Montserrat’s Legislature and Parliamentary Secretary.
The RYC programme is grounded in an asset-based approach to youth development. It is youth-led. It advocates for and facilitates the active participation of young people in development and empowers them to undertake leadership responsibilities. Each Commonwealth Caribbean country elects two young persons between the ages of 14-29 to serve as RYC and Alternate RYC member for the particular country.

7.1.4. CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Programme (CYAP)

The CARICOM Youth Ambassador Programme (CYAP) is a regional network of Caribbean young people established in 1993 following upon a mandate of the CARICOM Heads of Government. The main objective of the CYAP was to support and promote, from a youth perspective the benefits of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME). The CYAP has however played a pivotal role in improving the consciousness and commitment of Caribbean Governments on issues related to youth development. One of the major accomplishments of the CYAP was the central role they played in support of the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development and Caribbean Youth Development Goals. The CYAP has also played a significant role in supporting Caribbean Human and Social development objectives, through its active participation in the work of the CARICOM Council of Human and Social Development. CYAP is a youth-led initiative, promotes inclusiveness and facilitates the development of leadership skills for young people.

7.1.5. Caribbean Youth Empowerment Programme (CYEP)

The Caribbean Youth Empowerment programme is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Youth Foundation. The initiative is a dual customer approach that satisfies the needs of two different audiences: Youth (17 to 25) who are looking for work and employers who want qualified and competent employees in their entry level positions. The CYEPP focuses on providing a comprehensive package of IT and other technical skills that are combined with life skills to prepare young people for work. It also builds partnerships among NGOs, quasi-governmental organisations and other businesses to ensure the sustainability of the initiative. Young people are the focal point of the initiative because they are the direct beneficiaries. As a consequence during the proposal development process the young people were involved as one of the key stakeholders. During the implementation phase they were involved in different types of activities.

The main objective is to provide young people in Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia with positive youth development opportunities that include technical, vocational and life skills they need to be successful in pursuing sustainable livelihoods. The programme has adopted an asset-based approach to youth development. Young people were fully engaged in the conceptualization, development and implementation process.
7.1.6. Commonwealth Youth for Positive Living (CYPL)

The Commonwealth Youth programme Caribbean Centre was given the mandate by the Heads of Government and youth ministers to design intervention programmes to address the escalation of HIV/AIDS in the Region. The CYP identified best practice in the African Centre; Youth Ambassadors for Positive Living Programme established in 1997 and adapted some aspects for the Caribbean. In 2003 a partnership was formed between CYPCC and the Network of Guyanese living with HIV/AIDS to establish the Commonwealth Youth for Positive Living. It was made up of a group of young people who were committed to address HIV/AIDS in their country. The programme facilitated the development of leadership, advocacy and peer counselling skills among a cadre of young people, some of whom were directly or indirectly impacted by HIV and AIDS. After the programme was established in Guyana, it was introduced to other Caribbean countries, Bahamas, BVI, Saint Lucia, and Antigua and Barbuda. The main objectives are:

1. Create greater awareness and sharing of personal experiences by fostering the concept of positive living among young women and men in the Caribbean Region.
2. Encourage Caribbean youth to embrace behaviours that are beneficial to their physical, sexual, psychosocial and spiritual health.
3. Reduce the stigma and discrimination within the youth population.
4. Improve communication, collaboration and networking among organisations working with youth.
5. Encourage young people to take leadership roles.
6. Equip young people with knowledge of issues affecting them and life skills to rise above those challenges.

The CYPL’s have contributed to the development and implementation of youth –focussed HIV and AIDS and Sustainable livelihoods programmes within their respective countries and communities. Some have graduated to leadership roles and become active advocates at the regional and international level. The programme was asset-based in approach and facilitated inclusiveness. Much of the training of CYPL candidates are undertaken by young trainers who have graduated from the ‘Training of trainers’ component of the programme. It also empowered the participants to undertake leadership responsibilities within their respective communities.

7.1.7. POETA Youth Eastern Caribbean

The POETA project is an Organization of American States initiative. It offers an intensive training program in ICTs in six countries: Antigua and Barbuda; the Commonwealth of
Dominica; Grenada; St Kitts and Nevis; St Lucia; and St Vincent and the Grenadines. All of which have cited growing problems with youth unemployment and crime. the program facilitates a regional public policy dialogue to promote greater use of technology, recognize innovation and share best practices at the policy making level. The project also supports the development and implementation of a POETA Caribbean Web Portal to maximize the sharing of information and best practices, as well as a public website to raise awareness of the program and a Web-based civic education module for use in POETA centres. The main objectives:

1. To leverage and promote the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to support knowledge sharing among young people from participating countries of the POETA Eastern Caribbean initiative, by strengthening the integration of civic education and life skills training with ICT skills training, and raising awareness among policymakers of the critical role that ICTs play in development.

2. To conduct research in order to design and develop an interactive on-line civic education program, and promote values-based decision making and a greater respect for law among at-risk youth. Through the POETA Caribbean Web Portal, targeting at least 2,000 direct young participants and impacting more than 5,000 people from the selected communities during the first year.

3. To develop relevant and appropriate content related to the Program's core curriculum (ICT Training, Job Readiness, Civic Education) in order to strengthen the POETA Caribbean Web Portal, foster dialogue and knowledge exchange among youth participants from the six participating countries, and enhance their understanding of how ICTs impact their daily lives.

4. To design, develop and implement a monitoring mechanism and methodology for measuring the impact of ICT training on the lives and livelihood of at-risk youth participating in the POETA program.

5. To promote dialogue among Caribbean policy makers on the importance and potential leverage of ICTs as a tools to promote the goals of youth development in the Caribbean.

POETA is an asset-based approach to youth development. It facilitates the empowerment of young people to become active citizens within their communities and promotes the integration of youth perspectives through the use of ICT.

7.1.8. Revitalization of Regional Youth Council

Youth leaders from across the Caribbean have been actively engaged in efforts to re-establish a democratic regional youth network.
The impetus for the regional youth council came out of an inaugural Commonwealth Youth Leaders’ Summit in March of 2011. The Summit’s participants represented national youth councils and other democratic national youth networks. The summit concluded that every effort should be made to re-establish a democratic regional youth network.

Follow up discussions on establishment of the regional body were held during the Barbados Youth Festival and Regional Seminar during August of 2011. The main objectives are:

1. To facilitate and support organizational development among all NYCs across the Caribbean.
2. To ensure that NYCs maintain strong democratic and administrative structures.
3. To seek opportunities for the young people of the region to address issues affecting them.
4. To improve the representation of youth at regional and international levels
5. To foster cooperation and collaboration with agencies to facilitate youth development.
6. To safeguard the rights and interests of youth to ensure that they are not discriminated against or marginalized.
7. To act as a central point of contact and representation for all NYCs
8. To advocate for youth issues to be included on the agendas at the highest level of decision making of government, development and civil society agencies, as well as academia.
9. To serve as a central coordinator for regional and international youth days, and youth related observances.
10. To provide and disseminate information on youth work and issues in the region.

This initiative is youth-led and riven. It facilitates the development of leadership skills and is inclusive in approach.


**7.1.9. Young Americas Forum**

The Young Americas Forum is a program for young people to contribute to the progress of the Caribbean and Americas region. The forum usually coincide with the hosting of the Summit of the Americas and provides an opportunity for young people to discuss pertinent development challenges and opportunities, provide a youth perspective on the relevant issues and propose
viable solutions to the main summit, in the form of a Youth Declaration. With the exception of the 2009 Port of Spain Forum, participation from the Caribbean has been relatively limited. However, the forum encompasses some defining characteristics of best practice youth engagement models. It facilitates the development of leadership skills and responsibilities among the youth participants. It also promotes inclusiveness.

7.1.10. Support to the Netherlands Antilles Youth Development Programme

In 2003 the Government of the Netherlands Antilles (NEA) and the European Commission (EC), signed a Financing Agreement (FA No. 6564/NEA), under the 8th European Development Fund (EDF) entitled “Support to the Netherlands Antilles Youth Development Programme” (SNAYDP). SNAYDP is a completely EC funded € 4.5 million project, implemented under the procedural guidelines of the 9th EDF. The inception date of SNAYDP was February 1st, 2004. The duration of the EDF funded project foreseen in the FA and its Rider No.1 is six years; the actual completion date of the project implementation was April 30th, 2009.

The overall objective of the programme is to contribute to the strengthening of the integration of young people into the economic development and the socio-cultural fabric of the country, with a particular emphasis on the 16-24 year old group.

7.1.11. Caribbean Development Bank Youth in Development Project: VYBZING

VYBZING describes the platform for CDB’s communication and the unique youth-biased style of communication. VYBZING is an interactive, on-going process of communication among the youth and between the youth and CDB through various media. VYBZING is also a method of delivery that is dynamic and which provides young persons with an opportunity to discuss among themselves social and economic issues and their impact on youth. VYBZING sessions are high-energy, interactive encounters and utilise the best of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs).

Youth participation in this project has enabled the CDB to better integrate youth needs and concerns into the Bank’s various programmes its varTo date some 255 students from Cayman Islands (2002); St. Kitts and Nevis (2003); Trinidad and Tobago (2004); Guyana, Barbados and St. Kitts and Nevis (2005); Jamaica (2006); and Caracas (2007) have participated in this programme which addressed, among other things, the Bank’s key operational programmes for poverty reduction and the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF), the environment and disaster mitigation, agriculture and rural development, human resource development, private sector development, culture and development, economic infrastructure and its economic advisory capacity role.
VYBZING as a style of communication has evolved and will continue to evolve as it takes advantage of ICT developments. VYBZING, the project, is implemented by CDB’s Information Services Unit (ISU) and began over five years ago where the dialogue was targeted to secondary school students and aimed at disseminating information about CDB’s mandate, role and function in its Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs). The focus has gone beyond one-way dissemination and has allowed the youth to communicate to CDB, their perspectives on the priority issues that are impacting on their development.

7.2. NATIONAL

7.2.1 Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network (JYAN)

JYAN emerged out of an advocacy training workshop that was held in August 2006 at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. The Advocacy Training Workshop brought together approximately 40 young persons from youth serving organisation, youth clubs, church and community groups, including youths from some of the most volatile communities in Jamaica. At the end of the workshop the participants decided that they would move forward under the name - The Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network (JYAN). So far more than 150 young persons have been trained in advocacy and are registered members of the network.

Objective(s)

1. To facilitate the development of effective youth advocacy networks in Jamaica
2. To empower and equip Jamaica youth with the skills necessary to participate in the decision making processes that impact them
3. To increase the participation of youth in the decision making processes of the society
4. To have in place an established means by which information is effectively disseminated among members of the network and partners

Main Activities

1. Educate policy makers on the importance of increasing funding for youth development programmes
2. Educate policy makers on the importance of increasing the number of young people who are involved in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth development programmes as well as other initiatives which affect young people
3. Increase public awareness on the impact of HIV/AIDS, violence, unemployment, lack of educational & training opportunities on young people internationally

4. Educate local and international media on the issues affecting young people

7.2.2. Youth in Transition Project- Grenada

In the last fifteen years the island of Grenada has seen an increase in violent Crimes committed by young men between the ages of 14-25. These young men when convicted of their crimes are housed in the nation single prison: which is unsuitable to address their needs; they are exposed to older hard core criminal; overcrowded; and in short provide no form of rehabilitation. In fact, there is no established alternative to prison structure; therefore, our court system has no choice but to sentence these young offenders to Her Majesty's Prison\(^2\). The Youth in Transition Project is one of the Government of Grenada supported initiatives to mitigate the impact of crime on the youth cohort. The main objectives of the project are:

1. To reduce the number of juvenile offenders through psychological and social support by at least 10%, for participants involved, each year the programme is in session

2. To reduce recidivism in young offenders and rehabilitated participants from the prison by at least 10%

3. To foster greater partnership with stakeholders through consultations and to institute strong family perspectives that affects the health and overall well-being of young offenders.

4. To empower youths to become self-sufficient individuals, thus creating avenues for employment and self-development

5. To restore a sense of well-being and to reinstate participants involved in crime, imprisoned and at risk through individual and community support.

7.2.3. Rise Saint Lucia: The Road to Geneva (RTG) NGO- Youth Coalition Research

\(^2\) Source: Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Grenada.
The results of the Road to Geneva NGO-Youth coalition research on the state of the human rights of children and youth in Saint Lucia resulted in a collaborative action research project. In 2009 the government of Saint Lucia invited NGO’s to provide a shadow or alternative report to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children. Six NGO’s collaborated and engaged young people to investigate the extent to which the rights of children and young people are being realised in Saint Lucia. The main objectives are:

1. Heighten young people’s awareness on children’s rights
2. Provide a space where there is dialogue between the young people and other adults.
3. Facilitate collaboration alongside youth-supporting adults.

### 7.2.4. Belize National Youth Policy Consultation

According to the 2010 national census, 70% of Belize’s population (312,698) was under the age of 30, yet the country did not have a national youth policy. In an effort to develop a more strategic approach to youth development it was agreed that the formulation of National Youth Policy should be given priority. After considering various options it was decided that the National Youth Policy development process should be youth-led and youth driven. The goal was a policy that genuinely reflected the needs of the youth population. Under the auspices of the Youth for the Future programme, a task force comprising mainly young people was established to coordinate the process. Some of the key activities undertaken by the task force were:

- Meeting of Youth stake-holders in October 2010;
- Meeting with stake-holders to discuss evidence based approaches to National Youth policy;
- Strategic visioning session;
- Training of youth facilitators for the National Youth Policy;
- National Youth Policy consultations;
- Post consultations strategy session with stake-holders and Student Council representatives
- Meetings with student council representatives across the country

The approach has been very participatory and dynamic which has contributed to widespread interest in the process, among young people of Belize.
7.2.5. **Youth Skills Training Programme- Dominica**

The programme started in 1982 as a regional initiative funded by OAS/USAID. It was developed to equip young people with technical vocational competencies to ensure that they enter the labour market. It also provided micro enterprise development support to young people who wished to develop their own business. The programme targets unemployed and underemployed young persons between ages 16-35 and emphasizes development of inter-personal skills. The main objectives are:

1. To provide marketable and job entry skills for youth
2. To reduce unemployment among youth
3. To enhance the socio-economic conditions of disadvantaged youth
4. Teach of technical/vocational skills based on labour market.
5. Teach social, business and remedial skills, Health and Family Life Education.
6. Provide job attachment to youth who successfully completed the programme
7. Conduct a tracer study to determine the employment status of trainees and the overall impact
8. Provide micro enterprise development support for trainees who have completed the Programme and express a desire to start their own business.

To date 6703 young persons have benefitted from the programme and the majority have graduated to gainful employment.

7.2.6. **Suriname Youth Parliament and Youth Ambassador Corp**

Suriname has 3 official youth institutions. The National Youth Parliament, the UN MDG Youth Ambassadors Program and the CARICOM Youth Ambassador Program. The Ministry of Sports and Youth is responsible for those 3 institutions.

The objective is to express and to have a full experience of the right of participation of the youth on management level, so that the youth policy will be direct and efficient.

These programmes provide the government with information and insights about youth and youth matters; monitor the youth policy; take statements about youth matters; propose youth ambassadors and organize the annual National Youth Congress.

As a result of the success of these programmes many other CARICOM member countries have commended and even adopted some of the components.
7.3. COMMUNITY –BASED

7.3.2. Sports for Development and Peace Programme
The SDPP is organized in communities identified through the Community Safety and Security Branch of the Jamaica Constabulary Force as high-risk or volatile communities where there are increase reports of crime and violence committed by youth. The objectives are to:

1. Empower and Engage At-Risk Youth through the use of sports and the creative Arts
2. Build and sustain a better working relationship between youth and police

The programme contributed to developing better relations between security forces and the community.

7.3.3. Ghetto –wise – Jamaica
There were too many members of the communities in Kingston and St. Andrew and other neighbouring areas who were unable to advance their education because of time and financial constraints. Ghettowise was conceptualised to address poverty, crime and violence as well as illiteracy in Kingston and St. Andrew and other neighbouring areas. It caters for delinquent young people, especially secondary school dropouts, or those who completed secondary school without the necessary certification to enter the workforce. The project started with five volunteer teachers from UWI Micro University College. The objectives of the project include:

a. To provide the members of the communities to engage in continuing education in order to become marketable in the working environment.

b. To provide an evening institution at an affordable incremental registration based cost for those members of the community who wish to qualify for external examinations.

c. To engage members of the community in developing competencies in core subjects namely mathematics, English Language, Human and Social Biology and Information Technology.

d. To engage members of the communities in different community service/charity ventures.

e. To facilitate the involvement of the communities in more productive and structured activities.

The main activities of the project are:

a) Introductory phase classes for individuals who need to start from the basics.
b) Advance phase for classes individuals who need extra help to qualify to write CXC.

c) Monthly assessment scheme to ensure that students learned the concepts.

d) Mid and end of semester summative assessment.

7.3.4. **RISE Saint Lucia – Sports Initiative**

This initiative was launched in 2012 to engage unattached young people in Vieux-Fort, the southernmost town in Saint Lucia. This initiative was conceptualised by Joseph “Reds” Perriera, under the auspices of the Honourable Prime Minister, and Member of Parliament for Vieux-Fort, Dr. Kenny Anthony. The main objectives are:

1. To engage unattached youth using sports and related opportunities to occupy their time.

2. To offer a meal and also to reconnect them to available education, training and employment avenues in order to improve their quality of life.

Some of the activities include:

a) Training of players and coaches in five sporting disciplines, football, netball, volleyball, boxing and basketball.

b) Use and improve available sporting facilities to develop “grass roots” projects that will engage young people to develop their sporting skills.

7.3.5. **Youth –on the-Block (Trinidad and Tobago)**

The issue of crime and violence, especially among young people is matter of major concern for the state and many civil society groups. A few months ago the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, declared a state of emergency in its continued battle against crime. In arriving at the decision to declare the state of emergency some communities were declared as crime ‘hot spots’. The communities of Bagatelle, Diego Martin, Debe/ Dundonald Hill, ‘Khandahar’, St. James, Malick, Barataria were all declared ‘hotspots’. The Community Youth Officer for the said communities has initiated this Youth-on the-Block project. The project targets approximately 100 young men described as extremely vulnerable and ‘at risk’ of becoming victims of crime. The main objectives are:

1. To reduce the incidences of area related violence (turf wars)

2. Promotion, adoption and acceptance of positive values such as discipline, responsibility and high self-esteem through the implementation of inter community group development and inter community sporting activities
Some of the projects activities to date are:

a) Identification of target communities and initial mobilization of youth- on- the –block.

b) Completion of community profiles for the communities identified.

c) Formalizing the groups through: Development of Group Constitution,

d) Election of Executive, Monitoring group for challenges in the group stages of development.

e) Coaching and Life skills training including conflict resolutions with youth on the block.

f) Football competition for participation of groups.

7.3.6. Project RESCUE “Reforming Education, Skills and Capacity for Ultimate Empowerment” (Berbice, Guyana)

On the 17th December, 2009 the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) joined forces with Saint Francis Community Developers to launch an “Enhance Public Trust, Security and Inclusion Project” (EPTSI). Part of this initiative was the establishment of Project RESCUE, “Reforming Education, Skills and Capacity for Ultimate Empowerment”

The projects main objectives are:

1. To support disadvantage families who lack access to basic services while responding to health issues

2. To enhance public trust, security, community development and inclusion of all citizen.

3. To support, build and sustain community’s efforts that respond to fight underdevelopment.

4. To expand employment, education and skills – building opportunities for youth at risk.

5. To reform education, skills, and local capacities for empowerment and access to opportunities.

6. To strengthen re-integration of youth offenders, early school leavers and teenage mother into mainstream development.

7. To create employment opportunities

8. To offer life and skills training.

9. To link local partners and residents with enabling opportunities.

10. To establish physical facilities, tutors and access to training/empowerment opportunities.
7.3.7. Inter-generational Women’s leadership – Trinidad and Tobago

"The Inter-generational Women’s Leadership Programme is based on the approach of building partnerships between teenaged girls and “Big Sisters”. It was coordinated by the Women’s Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD). These partnerships are created through:

- One-to-one structured interaction between Girls and their “Big Sisters” creates and fosters caring and supportive relationships so that the girls can develop their fullest potential.

- Interactive Workshop sessions, including residential workshops, provide forum for girls and “Big Sisters” to explore themes and issues pertinent to their individual personal spaces, as well as their community and national spaces as well using discussions, role play and project/presentation development.

"The programme aims to build, among the Little Sisters, a cadre of young leaders and future women leaders, who will become active agents of change in their communities and in the country. It is aimed to build the capacity for community and national leadership which is based on enabling, empowering, encouraging and working towards a shared vision, mission, goals and values.

It is a type of leadership which has a deep understanding of the country’s political, economic, social and cultural history and reality and applies such understanding to tapping into the fullest potential of the country’s people.

The programme also has the potential to foster leadership among the Big Sisters beyond community to organizational and perhaps national level. Big Sisters who participate in this programme may also be encouraged to foster the potential for leadership and community activism among their own family members and among other teenagers and adults with whom they interact.

7.3.8. St. Barbs Rapid Impact Project (RIP) - Youth Mentorship Initiative (T&T)

St. Barb is a community that experienced serious crime such as shootings, murders, youth gang violence and youth delinquency. Also there were little positive role models or mentors for the persons involved in antisocial behaviours. The death of key gang leaders and the efforts of some residents and other NGO’s in 2008 and 2009 helped enhance the climate of the community. Community participation in development activities had been observed.

However, it was still inadequate to address some of the community challenges, especially the need for positive role models and mentors. The Youth Mentorship Initiative was launched in October 2009 to facilitate the development of existing human resources in St. Barb’s and their transformation into leaders in their own community. The programme is a collaborative effort between the Ministries of Youth and National Security, Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The Initiatives main objectives were:
1. To lessen the incidence of anti-social behaviour among the youth;

2. To provide a positive role model for the youth;

3. To provide training to mentors in the skills necessary to support mentees

The Youth Mentorship Initiative was a two phased project intended to run over a six month period.

For the first eight weeks, the potential mentor was exposed to a range of topics to increase their knowledge of the range of social issues that their mentees may face. These included: Defining Masculine Excellence, Dispute Resolution, Mentoring, Self Esteem, Anger Management and Leadership skills.

7.3.9. Gonzales Rapid Impact Project (RIP) - One Hope, One Dream - One Gonzales Community - Trinidad and Tobago

With few opportunities for employment and a prevalence of other social issues, many disaffected youth of the Gonzales community turn to violence, crime and drugs as a means of survival. This has in turn fragmented the community along geographical lines into Upper and Lower Gonzales, where the former is entrenched in criminal activity and the latter lives in fear.

The GRIP project was developed as a response to the situation, under the National Citizens Security Programme and is coordinated by the Ministry with responsibility for Youth. The main objectives are:

1. To facilitate the participation of Upper and Lower Gonzales residents in community building activities;

2. To engage youth and children in pro-social activities;

3. To encourage Gonzales residents to take pride in their personal surroundings;

4. To facilitate discourse between youth and positive role models;
5. To inform and educate young people in the community on issues such as family planning and tertiary educational opportunities.

Some of the activities undertaken include:

a. Interfaith service that included all groups and churches from the area.

b. Teams from the community participated in football, netball, aerobics, novelty races and a marathon.

c. Motivating the members of the community.

d. Community Cook out and Bingo and All Fours challenge was held.

e. Musical performers entertained the Gonzales community at cultural landmark, Plazie Corner.

7.3.10. Farm Road Rapid Impact Project (RIP) - After School Programme - Trinidad and Tobago

Farm Road is a small, squatting community located on the southern side of the Priority Bus Route in St. Joseph. A community member conducted a small home-work and tutoring programme at her home to keep the young people in the community occupied after school. The programme originally took place at the only pre-school in the community but had to be discontinued due the level of vandalism displayed by the participants in the programme. The residents believed that if this programme was re-started at the pre-school, which is more centralised location, not only would more children in the community be able to benefit but systems could be put in place to ensure a greater appreciation for the space. The programme is an initiative of the Ministry of National Security’s Citizens’ security programme.

The main objectives were:

1. Provide youth with a safe and supportive environment supervised by adults offering growth-enhancing opportunities, including activities and experiences that promote young people’s academic, personal, social, recreational and cultural development.

2. Encourage and/or improve communication between children and youth in the community.

3. Provide parents with a cost-effective opportunity to for their children to receive the best academic support available at the level of the community.

Activities included: Home-work assistance, Skills Development in Arts, Craft and Drama, Reading Assistance, Tutoring (academic instruction)
7.3.11. Mt. D'or Road Rapid Impact Project (RIP) - Computer Resource Centre
-Trinidad and Tobago

Mt Dor has seen an increase in firearm related violence, youth violence and drug related offenses over the past few years. The community has a few squatting residents in the foothills of Spring Valley and Spring Valley Ext. Mt. D’or Road is administered by the San Juan/Laventille Regional Corporation. In Trinidad & Tobago, there has also been an increase in the use of technology in schools for the preparation of assignments, research and art projects. Currently, young people in Mt D’or do not have access to computers or training in the use of computers within the community. The project is coordinated by the Ministry of National Security. The main objectives of the project were:

1. Establish a Computer Centre for use by youth in the community between the ages of 11 – 25;
2. Increase learning opportunities for children and youth in the community;
3. Increase opportunities for community engagement;
4. Provide an avenue where young people can access the internet and other technologies such as photocopying services, web page development, to use everyday software to create projects etc.; and
5. Increase supervision of children and youth in the community

The overall goal is to provide a safe, attractive and sustainable learning environment for the young people of Mt. D’or Road. There is better supervision for young persons aged 11-25 who are at risk of becoming involved in criminal activities and anti-social behaviour while increasing their marketability.

7.3.12. Dibe/Belle Vue/Dundonald Hill Rapid Impact Project (RIP) - Educate, Equip, Empower (E3) -Trinidad and Tobago

Dibe/Belle Vue/ Dundonald Hill is located in the northern part of Trinidad, North West of downtown Port-of-Spain. The community has, for several years, been stigmatized as a haven for drugs and gang related activities. Over the years there has been an increase in serious crimes such as murder, shooting and wounding and as expected this has affected all fragments of the community. Of concern to residents is the involvement of young people between the age of 15 and 30 both as victims and perpetrators. Residents attribute their involvement to lack of knowledge of and access to opportunities, unemployment, lack of motivation to pursue a positive path and the diminished role of the family in transferring values and morals. The project is coordinated by the Ministry of National Security. The main objectives were:

Encourage and motivate the youth of Dibe/ Belle Vue particularly those prone to delinquency and violence to engage in positive community building activities;
1. To provide young people with information this could improve their access to more prosocial activities;

2. To promote stronger community ties, especially between Belle Vue, Dibe and Dundonald Hill.

Among the activities organized were:

a. Evening of Praise & Worship - All of the faith based organisations in the community were invited to prepare items for an evening of prayer, song, and worship. This activity officially launched the project.

b. Family Week – This week included parenting workshops as well as a mobile health clinic was set up to conduct health screening (pap smears, rapid testing, glucose testing)

c. Youth Week – This week of activities was designed specifically for young persons and included workshops on family planning and career guidance. A small goal football competition and talent show were also held.

d. Community Week- Long-standing residents of the community who had excelled in the areas of education, human development and sport were recognized for their contributions to community development.

Conclusion

An analysis of the programmes and initiatives illustrated above as best practices reveals some evidence of the ‘three lens’ approach to youth development. Similarly, the other initiatives and programmes such as the Youth Think Tank (YTT), The Regional Youth Caucus (RYC), CARICOM Youth Ambassadors (CYA) and revitalisation of the regional youth council processes is evident of an emerging trend towards the appreciative inquiry and critical consciousness theories of participation. Those also provide some pertinent lessons for youth development practice in the Caribbean. Some of these include:

- Creating an atmosphere of trust is vital to maintain young people’s interest and participation in the project.
- Coaching is vital to build confidence of the least articulate members of the group.
- The mutual establishment of goals and celebration of accomplishments are important to build confidence in the process.
• Built-in strategies to facilitate capacity building for participants contribute to their own self-actualization and is critical to sustaining effective participation.
• In especially high-risk communities there must be built-in mechanisms to assist young people participating in the process, manage negative peer influences.
• The youth-led approach is not synonymous to anarchy and there must be mutually agreed ‘rules of engagement’ to ensure sustainability.
• Recognize young people’s interpretations and perspectives on issues may differ from the programme organizers.
• Young people are not a homogenous group. Their views are shaped based on their affiliation to social class, economic status, also religious belief and political affiliation.
• Public Sector driven initiatives face the challenge of effectively managing the apparent incompatibility between the desired ‘dynamism and flexibility’ of youth initiatives and mandated ‘structured’ approaches. Unless effectively managed, this could seriously compromise and undermine the quality of youth participation.
• The engagement of young people in areas considered high-risk or ‘hotspots’ should not convey the impression that the intervention reinforces the stigma associated with the community.

References:


UN (1995) ‘World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond’; New York: UN.


## Appendix A: Best Practices:

### Experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Caribbean Youth Empowerment Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Antigua &amp; Barbuda, St. Lucia and Grenada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>4 – years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Brief National Context

All countries in the OECS including the 3 focus countries have shown increased youth involvement in crime and violence over the past five years which also coincides with growing youth unemployment among the workforce.

### Objective(s)

The objective of the Caribbean Youth Empowerment Program (CYEP) is to provide second-chance opportunities for at-risk or unattached youth to increase their chances of being employed or to establish businesses thereby creating less incentive to become involved in crime and violence.

### Main Activities

Numeracy and literacy training: Life skills support including career counselling; technical and vocational training; Internships; and support for job placement

### Youth Target Group and Gender Approach

Youth in the 17-24 age range; youth from vulnerable communities; youth in initial conflict with the law but not incarcerated; incarcerated youth with potential for parole. Focus on vulnerable youth with special emphasis on unemployed male given high proportion of male involvement in crime and violence.

### Impact

Successes include: strengthened second-chance providers including: (i) Gilbert Agricultural Rural Development Centre - Antigua; (ii) Consortium of National Skills Development Centre, RISE Inc. and the Centre for Adolescent Renewal and Education - St. Lucia; and (iii) T.A. Marryshow College - Grenada. Youth trained to date is approximately 700. Improved programming by training providers. Approximately 40% of youth employed to date. Impact on youth and crime to be evaluated.

### Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding

USAID

### Focal Point and Contact Information

Mansfield Blackwood - USAID/ Barbados mabblackwood@usaid.gov
**Experience**

**Title:** POETA YOUTH Eastern Caribbean  
**Location:** Antigua and Barbuda; the Commonwealth of Dominica; Grenada; St Kitts and Nevis; St Lucia; and St Vincent and the Grenadines  
**Duration:** 4 years

**Brief National Context**

The small island states of the Eastern Caribbean suffer from high youth unemployment. Indeed, the rate of youth unemployment in St Vincent and the Grenadines (36%) and St Lucia (44%) is significantly higher than that in the larger Caribbean states of Trinidad and Tobago (25%) and Jamaica (35%), where youth crime is considered to have reached crisis proportions.

**Objective(s)**

1. To leverage and promote the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to support knowledge sharing among young people from participating countries of the POETA Eastern Caribbean initiative, by strengthening the integration of civic education and life skills training with ICT skills training, and raising awareness among policymakers of the critical role that ICTs play in development.

2. To conduct research in order to design and develop an interactive on-line civic education program, and promote values-based decision making and a greater respect for law among at-risk youth. Through the POETA Caribbean Web Portal, targeting at least 2,000 direct young participants and impacting more than 5,000 people from the selected communities during the first year.

3. To develop relevant and appropriate content related to the Program's core curriculum (ICT Training, Job Readiness, Civic Education) in order to strengthen the POETA Caribbean Web Portal, foster dialogue and knowledge exchange among youth participants from the six participating countries, and enhance their understanding of how ICTs impact their daily lives.

4. To design, develop and implement a monitoring mechanism and methodology for measuring the impact of ICT training on the lives and livelihood of at-risk youth participating in the POETA program.

5. To promote dialogue among Caribbean policy makers on the importance and potential leverage of ICTs as a tools to promote the goals of youth development in the Caribbean.

**Main Activities**

The POETA project offers an intensive training program in ICTs in six countries: Antigua and Barbuda; the Commonwealth of Dominica; Grenada; St Kitts and Nevis; St Lucia; and St Vincent and the Grenadines. All of which have cited growing problems with youth unemployment and crime. the program facilitates a regional public policy dialogue to promote greater use of technology, recognize innovation and share best practices at the policy making level. The project also supports the development and implementation of a POETA Caribbean Web Portal
to maximize the sharing of information and best practices, as well as a public website to raise awareness of the program and a Web-based civic education module for use in POETA centres.

### Youth Target group and gender approach

Youth ages 16-29. Results: Through its employment and civic skills training activities, the POETA project has established a network of local partner organizations and key stakeholders in the field. Key project results include:

More well-informed youth with increased ICT and civic education skills: almost 600 young people in the Caribbean region have been trained, with only an 8% drop-out rate and 41% of participants going on to do further training.

Increased awareness among policymakers and regional partnerships: 99 Regional Stakeholder Meetings participants; 42 new Government and Private Sector partnerships. There are also 5 civil society and 2 academic partnerships resulting from the project.

Strengthening of local implementing organizations: 45 staff trained; 15 new courses offered.

The local organizations providing the services have updated their practices and uses of ICT tools and grown thanks to the program.

Youth citizenship, responsibility and leadership: 142 trained in Online Civic Education; 71 student-scripted Civic Education videos; 19 POETA Youth Ambassadors; 3 Youth Development Awardees

Employment and further education opportunities: 100 youth participants placed in jobs; 246 youth participants pursuing further education made possible by the increased ICT skills among youth obtained through POETA

### Impact

1. Increase of employment and education levels of participants up to 40%; local organizations with capacity built to respond to training needs for at risk youth.
2. Local businesses sensitized on the need to increase youth employment.
3. Local government incorporated a youth agenda in their country development plans, as a result of the program.

### Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding

CIDA-Canada, IDRC-Canada, OAS (OEA), Microsoft Corporation, the social Centre of Dominica, National Centre for Technology and innovation -St Vincent and the Grenadines, Project Strong-St. Kitts, New Life Centre, Grenada.

450,000 from CIDA/Canada; 120,000 from IDRC/Canada; 250,000 (in kind) from Microsoft Corporation.

### Focal point and contact information
Experience

Title: Youth Parliament and Youth ambassadors
Location: Suriname
Duration

Brief National Context

Suriname has 3 official youth institutions. The National Youth parliament, The UN MDG Youth Ambassadors Program and the CARICOM Youth Ambassador Program. The Ministry of Sports and Youth is responsible for those 3 institutions.

Objective(s)

The objective is to express and to have a full experience of the right on participation of the youth on management level, so that the youth policy will be direct and efficient.

Main Activities

Provide the government with information and insights about youth and youth matter. Monitor the youth policy. Take statements about youth manners. Take statements about youth matters. Propose youth ambassadors. Organize the national Youth Congress every year and to process the results in a note for the government.

Youth Target group and gender approach

All youngsters from 0 - 3 years. To be able to vote for the youth Parliament 12-22 years, to be chosen for the youth parliament 15 - 22 years. The age for the ambassadors 17-25 years. In the youth parliament there are males and females. And the youth ambassadors are 1 male and female

Impact

involvement of the youth representatives in youth matters on national, regional and international level

Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding

Government of Suriname, NGO'S and GO'S.
Funding: Government of Suriname and the industrials
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focal point and contact information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Focal point for the youth Parliament:** Ms. Saskia Wip  
   email: saskiawip@gmail.com  
   phone (597) 477282. |
| **Focal point youth ambassadors:** Ms. Margo Biervliet,  
   mbiervliet@yahoo.com  
   phone (597) 6800146 |
Experience

Title: St. Barbs Rapid Impact Project (RIP) - Youth Mentorship Initiative
Location: Trinidad
Duration: Six months

Brief National Context

St. Barb is a community that experienced serious crime such as shootings, murders, youth gang violence and youth delinquency. Also there were little positive role models or mentors for the persons involved in antisocial behaviours.

The death of key gang leaders and the efforts of some residents and other NGO’s in 2008 and 2009 helped enhance the climate of the community. Community participation in development activities had been observed. However, it was still inadequate to address some of the community challenges, especially the need for positive role models and mentors. The Youth Mentorship Initiative was launched in October 2009 to facilitate the development of existing human resources in St. Barb’s and their transformation into leaders in their own community.

Objective(s)

1. To lessen the incidence of anti-social behaviour among the youth;
2. To provide a positive role model for the youth;
3. To provide training to mentors in the skills necessary to support mentees

Main Activities

The Youth Mentorship Initiative was a two phased project intended to run over a six month period.
For the first eight weeks, the potential mentor was exposed to a range of topics to increase their knowledge of the range of social issues that their mentees may face. These included:

- Defining Masculine Excellence
- Dispute Resolution
- Mentoring
- Self Esteem
- Anger Management
- Family Enhancement
- Sexuality
- Counselling
- Public Speaking
- Leadership skills
- Substance Abuse
| Career Enhancement  
| Money Management  

**Youth Target group and gender approach**

**Young males**

**Impact**

1. Training was held outside the community to benefit from a controlled environment to promote bonding among mentors.
2. Newly trained mentors will mentor youth at risk within their own community using technology.

**Partnerships (institutions/youth organizations) and Funding**

Citizens Security Programme: Ministry of National Security

**Focal point and contact information**

Gary Grant: 868-622-0820 Ext. 12618
### Experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>Gonzales Rapid Impact Project (RIP) - One Hope, One Dream - One Gonzales Community</th>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration:</td>
<td>Six weeks</td>
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#### Brief National Context

With few opportunities for employment and a prevalence of other social issues, many disaffected youth of the Gonzales community turn to violence, crime and drugs as a means of survival. This has in turn fragmented the community along geographical lines into Upper and Lower Gonzales, where the former is entrenched in criminal activity and the latter lives in fear.

#### Objective(s)

1. To facilitate the participation of Upper and Lower Gonzales residents in community building activities;
2. To engage youth and children in pro-social activities;
3. To encourage Gonzales residents to take pride in their personal surroundings;
4. To facilitate discourse between youth and positive role models;
5. To inform and educate young people in the community on issues such as family planning and tertiary educational opportunities

#### Main Activities

1. Interfaith service that included all groups and churches from the area.
2. Teams from the community participated in football, netball, aerobics, novelty races and a marathon.
3. Motivating the members of the community.
4. Community Cook out and Bingo and All Fours challenge was held.
5. Musical performers entertained the Gonzales community at cultural landmark, Plazie Corner.

#### Youth Target group and gender approach

Young people from the community
No gender distinction made.

#### Impact

A consultation with community members of both regions has highlighted that Gonzales was once a peaceful community and there is a shared desire for that peace to return. Consequently, the Community Action Council opted to hold a six week series of activities involving prayer, music, sport, the environment and motivation with the intention of increasing the perception of safety and harmony among all residents.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Gary Grant: 868-622-0820 Ext. 12618</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Experience

**Title:** Farm Road Rapid Impact Project (RIP) - After School Programme  
**Location:** Trinidad and Tobago  
**Duration:** six weeks

### Brief National Context

Farm Road is a small, squatting community located on the southern side of the Priority Bus Route in St. Joseph. A community member conducted a small home-work and tutoring programme at her home to keep the young people in the community occupied after school. The programme originally took place at the only pre-school in the community but had to be discontinued due the level of vandalism displayed by the participants in the programme. The residents believed that if this programme was re-started at the pre-school, which is more centralised location, not only would more children in the community be able to benefit but systems could be put in place to ensure a greater appreciation for the space.

### Objective(s)

1. Provide youth with a safe and supportive environment supervised by adults offering growth-enhancing opportunities, including activities and experiences that promote young people’s academic, personal, social, recreational and cultural development.
2. Encourage and/or improve communication between children and youth in the community.
3. Provide parents with a cost-effective opportunity to for their children to receive the best academic support available at the level of the community.

### Main Activities

1. Home-work assistance  
2. Skills Development: Arts and Craft, Drama  
3. Reading Assistance  
4. Tutoring (academic instruction)

### Youth Target group and gender approach

Thirty boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 15 years old from the community

### Impact

Low cost academic and personal development support for thirty boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 15 years old from the community during the after school hours.

### Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding

Supervision of the centre is provided by members of the Community Action Council with the
support of other trained personnel/volunteers from the community.

Citizens Security Programme

Focal point and contact information

Michelle Boisselle-Morris at mboisselle@mns.gov.tt
### Experience

**Title:** Mt. D’or Road Rapid Impact Project (RIP) - Computer Resource Centre  
**Location:** Trinidad and Tobago  
**Duration**

### Brief National Context

Mt Dor has seen an increase in firearm related violence, youth violence and drug related offenses over the past few years. The community has a few squatting residents in the foothills of Spring Valley and Spring Valley Ext. Mt. D’or Road is administered by the San Juan/Laventille Regional Corporation. In Trinidad & Tobago, there has also been an increase in the use of technology in schools for the preparation of assignments, research and art projects. Currently, young people in Mt D’or do not have access to computers or training in the use of computers within the community.

### Objective(s)

1. Establish a Computer Centre for use by youth in the community between the ages of 11 – 25;  
2. Increase learning opportunities for children and youth in the community;  
3. Increase opportunities for community engagement;  
4. Provide an avenue where young people can access the internet and other technologies such as photocopying services, web page development, to use everyday software to create projects etc.; and  
5. Increase supervision of children and youth in the community

### Main Activities

1. Computer training  
2. Personal development training  
3. Internet access

### Youth Target group and gender approach

young persons aged 11-25  
No gender distinction made

### Impact

Its overall goal is to enhance the Community Centre by creating a safe, attractive and sustainable learning environment for the young people of Mt. D’or Road. There is increase supervision by community leaders for young persons aged 11-25 who are at risk of becoming involved in criminal activities and anti-social behaviour while increasing their marketability.

### Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding

Citizens Securities Programme
Focal point and contact information
Michelle Boisselle-Morris at mboisselle@mns.gov.tt
### Experience

**Title:** Dibe/Belle Vue/Dundonald Hill Rapid Impact Project (RIP) - Educate, Equip, Empower (E3)
**Location:** Trinidad and Tobago

#### Brief National Context

Dibe/Belle Vue/ Dundonald Hill is located in the northern part of Trinidad, North West of downtown Port-of-Spain. The community has, for several years, been stigmatized as a haven for drugs and gang related activities. Over the years there has been an increase in serious crimes such as murder, shooting and wounding and as expected this has affected all fragments of the community. Of concern to residents is the involvement of young people between the age of 15 and 30 both as victims and perpetrators. Residents attribute their involvement to lack of knowledge of and access to opportunities, unemployment, lack of motivation to pursue a positive path and the diminished role of the family in transferring values and morals.

#### Objective(s)

1. Encourage and motivate the youth of Dibe/ Belle Vue particularly those prone to delinquency and violence to engage in positive community building activities;
2. To provide young people with information which could improve their access to more pro-social activities;
3. To promote stronger community ties, especially between Belle Vue, Dibe and Dundonald Hill.

#### Main Activities

1. Evening of Praise & Worship - All of the faith based organisations in the community were invited to prepare items for an evening of prayer, song, and worship. This activity officially launched the project.
2. Family Week – This week included parenting workshops as well as a mobile health clinic was set up to conduct health screening (pap smears, rapid testing, glucose testing)
3. Youth Week – This week of activities was designed specifically for young persons and included workshops on family planning and career guidance. A small goal football competition and talent show were also held.
4. Community Week- Long-standing residents of the community who had excelled in the areas of education, human development and sport were recognized for their contributions to community development.

#### Youth Target group and gender approach

- Young people between the age of 15 and 30
- No gender distinction specified

#### Impact
In light of the above, the Dibe/ Belle Vue/ Dundonald Hill Community Action Council hosted series of activities over a four-week period to equip, educate and empower residents. The project, which was titled E3, was focused on family values, healthy living and development opportunities. There is therefore need to build community spirit while promoting respect and understanding among all residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding</th>
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<tr>
<td>Citizens security programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Focal point and contact information</td>
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</table>

| Rea George-Smith     | 868-622-0820 Ext. 12627 |
### Experience

**Title:** Commonwealth Secretariat - Regional Youth Caucus  
**Location:** Regional  
**Duration:** Members serve two years.

### Brief National Context

The Caribbean RYC is a network of youth leaders mandated by Commonwealth Heads of Government. The young people selected act as ambassadors for youth in their respective countries and facilitate the integration of youth perspectives and views into the main governance and decision making bodies of the Commonwealth, including meetings of Heads of Government and Ministers of Youth, Education, Sports, etc.

### Objective(s)

1. To facilitate meaningful engagement of young people in various levels of planning and decision making in the Commonwealth Youth Programme across the Commonwealth.  
2. Provide opportunities for young people to take on new roles and responsibilities and thus demonstrate leadership in national and international forums.

### Main Activities

1. Support the work of the CYP regional centre in achieving its objectives.  
2. Provide timely and consistent assistance and feedback to the Ministry/department of youth affairs for the effective implementation and periodic review of existing youth policies/programmes.  
3. Devise a plan of action in respect of their role in advocacy, lobbying and mainstreaming for youth development work.  
4. Report quarterly on the programmes and challenges facing youth development in their country within the CYP strategic programme areas.  
5. Distribute information on the commonwealth to young people and youth groups to whom they are accountable.  
6. Promote values of the Commonwealth in ways unique to their country given the demographics and major differences of their specific region.  
7. Enhance skills and knowledge base of the CYP through participating in attachments/internships at the regional centres.  
8. Be prepared to represent the region at regional/international events.  
9. Act as conduits for collecting and disseminating information to and from CYP.

### Youth Target group and gender approach

Each Commonwealth Caribbean country elects two young persons between the ages of 14-29 to serve as RYC and Alternate RYC member for the particular country. They must have a proven record of active involvement in youth work at the national level and or regional and international level. Be non-partisan.  
Deliberate efforts are made to ensure gender balance in representation.
### Impact

Enhanced focus on youth development matters during Governance meetings and mainstreaming of youth issues into secretariat’s work programme.

### Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding

Commonwealth Secretariat

**Focal point and contact information**

Dwynette Eversley; programme manager CYP Caribbean Centre.  [deversley@cypcaribbean.org](mailto:deversley@cypcaribbean.org)
Shireene McMillan; Chairperson - [shireenemcmillan@hotmail.com](mailto:shireenemcmillan@hotmail.com)
### Experience

**Title:** CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Programme (CYAP)  
**Location:** Regional  
**Duration:** On-going

### Brief National Context

The CARICOM Youth Ambassador Programme (CYAP) is a regional network of Caribbean young people established in 1983 following upon a mandate of the CARICOM Heads of Government meeting. It facilitates leadership development and youth participation. Youth ambassadors, appointed annually. They are critical in the integration and development process of CARICOM.

### Objective(s)

1. Inform young people about the Caribbean Single Market and Economy,  
2. Undertake various projects in support of the regional integration process.

### Main Activities

1. Development of a viable support base for the CYAP.  
2. Assess and measure results of its interventions with the participation of young people.  
3. Establish mechanisms to effect timely communication with youth, youth groups, agencies, organisations and ministries involved in youth work.  
4. Facilitate continuous development of young people.

### Youth Target group and gender approach

Young people in the region  
Balance between male and female representation.

### Impact

1. Build the capacity of CYA  
2. Regional youth movement strengthened.  
3. Increased levels of participation among youth in the national and regional youth issues.  
4. Increased youth access to information on HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and environmental issues.  
5. Enhance the personal development of young people.  
6. Provide increase spaces for young people to speak

### Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding

CARICOM, CAREC, CCC, CARICAD, CARICOM Youth Ambassador Corp., BARCAM, BCC, EU, Iwokrama, National Youth councils of the Region, The governments of Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNDCP, UWI.

### Focal point and contact information

Dwayne Gutzmer; Dean of CARICOM Youth Ambassador Corp
Email: dwaynegutzmer@gmail.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| **Title:** National Youth Policy Consultation  
**Location:** Belize City  
**Duration:** July 2011 - February 2012 |

**Brief National Context**

According to the 2010 national census, 70% of Belize’s population (312,698) was under the age of 30, yet the country did not have a national youth policy. In an effort to develop a more strategic approach to youth development it was agreed that the formulation of National Youth Policy should be given priority. After considering various options it was decided that the National Youth Policy development process should be youth-led and youth driven. The goal was a policy that genuinely reflected the needs of the youth population. Under the auspices of the Youth for the Future programme, a task force comprising mainly young people was established to coordinate the process.

**Objective(s)**

The development of a National Youth Policy that is youth-led and youth driven. A policy that is reflected of the needs of the youth population.

**Main Activities**

1. Meeting of Youth stake-holders in October 2010;  
2. Meeting with stake-holders in November to discuss evidence based approaches to National Youth policy;  
3. Strategic visioning session in March;  
4. Training of youth facilitators for the National Youth Policy;  
5. National Youth Policy consultations from July 16th - August;  
6. Post consultations with stake-holders and Student Council representatives in November  
7. Meeting with student council representatives from across the country - May

**Youth Target group and gender approach**

Stake-holders of Youth; youth between ages 14-29; in-school and out-of-school  
The consultations reached out to both genders

**Impact**

The consultation reached 1,200 youths across the country and reach over 500 more via the face-book page

**Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding**

CYPCC, UNICEF, Youth stake-holders in respective districts, Funding primarily from UNICEF and CYPCC with support from GoB

**Focal point and contact information**

Christine Smith - director.yff@yff.gov.bz
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title:</strong> Youth in Development: VYBZING – CDB’S Communications With the Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> Caribbean Region</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Duration:</strong> Ongoing</td>
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**Brief National Context**

VYBZING describes the platform for CDB’s communication and the unique youth-biased style of communication. VYBZING is an interactive, on-going process of communication among the youth and between the youth and CDB through various media. VYBZING is also a method of delivery that is dynamic and which provides young persons with an opportunity to discuss among themselves social and economic issues and their impact on youth. VYBZING sessions are high-energy, interactive encounters and utilise the best of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs).

VYBZING as a style of communication has evolved and will continue to evolve as it takes advantage of ICT developments. VYBZING, the project, is implemented by CDB’s Information Services Unit (ISU) and began over five years ago where the dialogue was targeted to secondary school students and aimed at disseminating information about CDB’s mandate, role and function in its Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs). The focus has gone beyond one-way dissemination and has allowed the youth to communicate to CDB, their perspectives on the priority issues that are impacting on their development.

**Objective(s)**

VYBZING is facilitating discussions between CDB and the youth which can be used to inform the Bank’s policies, strategies, programmes and projects. The dialogue can be made more effective with an investment in more appealing communication products that incorporate current ICTs.

**Main Activities**

**Youth Target group and gender approach**

Young people in the Caribbean.
No specific gender identified

**Impact**

To date some 255 students from Cayman Islands (2002); St. Kitts and Nevis (2003); Trinidad and Tobago (2004); Guyana, Barbados and St. Kitts and Nevis (2005); Jamaica (2006); and Caracas (2007) have participated in this programme which addressed, among other things, the Bank’s key operational programmes for poverty reduction and the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF), the environment and disaster mitigation, agriculture and rural development, human resource development, private sector development, culture and development, economic infrastructure and its economic advisory capacity role.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding</strong></td>
<td>Caribbean Development Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focal point and contact information</strong></td>
<td>Angela Parris: <a href="mailto:parrisa@caribank.org">parrisa@caribank.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Experience**

**Title:** Rise Sports Initiative  
**Location:** Saint Lucia  
**Duration:** March 2012 currently on-going

**Brief National Context**

This initiative was launched in 2012 to engage unattached young people in Vieux-Fort, the southernmost town in Saint Lucia. This initiative was conceptualised by Joseph “Reds” Perriera, under the auspices of the Honourable Prime Minister, and member of parliament for Vieux-Fort, Dr. Kenny Anthony.

**Objective(s)**

1. To engage unattached youth using sports and related opportunities to occupy their time.  
2. To offer a meal and also to reconnect them to available education, training and employment avenues in order to improve their quality of life.

**Main Activities**

1. Training of players and coaches in five sporting disciplines, football, netball, volleyball, boxing and basketball.  
2. Use and improve available sporting facilities to develop “grass roots” projects that will engage young people to develop their sporting skills

**Youth Target group and gender approach**

Young people in the Vieux-Fort. A vulnerable group who is unattached. It reaches out to all genders.

**Impact**

The pilot started in two venues in Vieux fort and is expected to expand to other communities after the programme is evaluated.

**Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding**

Sacred Sports Foundation, Coconut Bay and Sandals Resorts, British High Commission. Ministry of Youth and Sports, Saint Lucia, RISE (St. Lucia).

**Focal point and contact information**

Stephen King: drking@slulabservices.com
**Experience**

**Title:** Caribbean Youth Empowerment  
**Location:** Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada,  
**Duration:** 2011 to 2013

**Brief National Context**

The Caribbean Youth Empowerment initiative is a dual customer approach that satisfies the needs of two different audiences: Youth (17 to 25) who are looking for work and employers who want qualified and competent employees in their entry level positions. The CYEPP focuses on providing a comprehensive package of IT and other technical skills that are combined with life skills to prepare young people for work. It also builds partnerships among NGOs, quasi-governmental organisations and other businesses to ensure the sustainability of the initiative. Young people are the focal point of the initiative because they are the direct beneficiaries. As a consequence during the proposal development process the young people were involved as one of the key stakeholders. During the implementation phase they were involved in different types of activities.

**Objective(s)**

To provide young people in Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia with positive youth development opportunities that include technical, vocational and life skills they need to be successful in pursuing sustainable livelihoods.

**Main Activities**

1. Short term technical courses  
2. Internships as part of training  
3. Job placement services  
4. Entrepreneurship training  
5. Business support services  
6. Integrated life skills and IT  
7. Additional support services including remedial education and psycho-social counselling.  
8. Use social media to build peer support and connections.

**Youth Target group and gender approach**

Young people ages 17 to 25,  
Particular attention given to males who are unemployed, under-employed and those who do not have the requisite skills to participate in the service oriented workforce.

**Impact**

1. Launched a learning platform and webinars.  
2. Six best practices and thematic workshops held.  
3. IYF’s Life Skills curriculum “Passport to Success” adapted to the Caribbean Context.  
4. Successful consortium model developed in Saint Lucia.
5. 1,362 young people enrolled in the programme.
6. 1,003 young people received training

**Partnerships (institutions/youth organizations) and Funding**


**Focal point and contact information**

Petula Nash: p.nash@iyfnet.org
### Experience

**Title:** Youth Skills Training programme  
**Location:** Dominica  
**Duration:** 1982 on-going

### Brief National Context

The programme started in 1982 as a regional initiative funded by OAS/USAID. The programme was developed to equip young people with technical vocational competencies to ensure that they enter the labour market. It also provided micro enterprise development support to young people who wished to develop their own business. The programme emphasise on developing People Skills.

### Objective(s)

1. To provide marketable and job entry skills for youth  
2. To reduce unemployment among youth  
3. To enhance the socio-economic conditions of disadvantaged youth

### Main Activities

1. Teach of technical/vocational skills based on labour market.  
2. Teach social, business and remedial skills, Health and Family Life Education.  
3. Provide job attachment to youth who successfully completed the programme  
4. Conduct a tracer study after a year to determine the employment status of trainees and the overall impact of the programme.  
5. Provide micro enterprise development support for trainees who have completed the programme and express a desire to start their own business.

### Youth Target group and gender approach

Young people age 16 to 35  
Unemployed and under-employed youth  
It reaches to all genders.

### Impact

1. 6703 young men and women have benefitted from the youth skills programme.  
2. Every year 200 young people are trained in given job attachment in a wide range of skills leading to employment.

### Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding

Cooperative Division, ministry of health and Environmental Health. Dominica Social Security, OAS, USAID, EU, BNTF.

### Focal point and contact information

Jules Pascal: tccentre@cwdom.dm
### Experience

**Title:** Commonwealth Youth for Positive Living  
**Location:** Guyana, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Saint Lucia  
**Duration:** 2002 -

### Brief National Context

The Commonwealth Youth programme Caribbean Centre was given the mandate by the Heads of Government and youth ministers to design intervention programmes to address the escalation of HIV/AIDS in the Region. The CYP identified best practice in the African Centre; Youth Ambassadors for Positive Living Programme established in 1997 and adapted some aspects for the Caribbean. In 2003 a partnership was formed between CYPCC and the Network of Guyanese living with HIV/AIDS to establish the Commonwealth Youth for Positive Living. It was made up of a group of young people who were committed to address HIV/AIDS in their country. After the programme was established in Guyana, the programme was introduced to other Caribbean countries, Bahamas, BVI, Saint Lucia, and Antigua and Barbuda.

### Objective(s)

1. Create greater awareness and sharing of personal experiences by fostering the concept of positive living among young women and men in the Caribbean Region.  
2. Encourage Caribbean youth to embrace behaviours that are beneficial to their physical, sexual, psychosocial and spiritual health.  
3. Reduce the stigma and discrimination within the youth population.  
4. Improve communication, collaboration and networking among organisations working with youth.  
5. Encourage young people to take leadership roles.  
6. Equip young people with knowledge of issues affecting them and life skills to rise above those challenges.

### Main Activities

1. Training of trainers workshops  
2. Training of young people to be HIV/AIDS counsellors and care-givers.  
3. Community outreach programmes.  
5. Health tent

### Youth Target group and gender approach

Young people between the ages of 16 – 29 who are active members of a youth organisation. It reaches all genders

### Impact

1. 17 Guyanese have benefitted from the Training of trainers parenting workshop.  
2. The programme is endorsed by the department of youth in the Bahamas and continues
1. To train young persons.

3. BVI continues outreach exercises which offer free HIV Testing for the members of the public.

4. 25 peer educators benefitted from a two phase self-development behaviour change workshop.

5. 13 young people and one teacher from the community of Soufriere Saint Lucia benefitted from the workshop.

**Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding**

Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre.

**Focal point and contact information**
Experience

Title: Commonwealth Caribbean Champions of Peace (Cana Caribe Peace Building Programme)
Location: Commonwealth Caribbean and Canada

Brief National Context

The Carimentors and Cana-Caribe Peace-building and leadership training programme was conceptualised in 2011 during a training session conducted by the Royal Commonwealth Society. The delegation from the Caribbean formed the Carimentors group to inspire, transform and motivate youth leaders. Its vision is to equip and empower young people with the necessary skills to make a positive difference in their generation.

Objective(s)

1. To inspire, transform and motive youth leaders believe they have the talent and ability to change a generation.
2. To contribute to the reduction of violent conflicts in the Commonwealth Caribbean and Canada.

Main Activities

1. Peace building and leadership training programmes.
2. Trained in project planning and implementation.

Youth Target group and gender approach

Youth Leaders age 18 to 29
All genders were represented.

Impact

Over 30 youth leaders were trained during the pilot. They are now going to implement the peace building process within their communities.

Partnerships (institutions/youth organizations) and Funding

Commonwealth Youth Programme Caribbean Centre

Focal point and contact information

Crystal Alexander: carimentors@gmail.com
### Experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Youth Think Tank for the Caribbean supported by the UNDP Project Youth Innovation (Youth-IN);</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>CARICOM Member countries and Associated States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>2010 - 2013</td>
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</table>

### Brief Context

The UNDP project *Youth Innovation (Youth-IN): A Caribbean Network for Youth Development* (called Youth-IN), which is implemented by the UNDP Sub-regional Office for Barbados and the OECS, responds to the needs of youth identified in the report of the CARICOM Youth Commission (2010): *‘Eye on the Future: Investing in YOUTH NOW for Tomorrow’s Community’*. The project is implemented in CARICOM Members and Associate States promoting Caribbean youth INclusion, youth INnovation, youth INterest and youth INvolveemnt. The Youth-IN project recently launched the Youth Think Tank (YTT) for the Caribbean, with the objectives of giving a voice to Caribbean young leaders to develop and formulate policy alternatives, reflecting the interest and concerns of young people in the Caribbean.

The YTT for the Caribbean was launched on May 18, 2012 at the UN House in Barbados. It is one of few think tanks in the world that have been created to give the young generations a voice and it is unique in its structure. The YTT will support youth in the region to build the future they want. It will support the voices of youth to express their dreams for their communities, and for their lives. The YTT will promote dialogues to build the future that youth want for the region through a positive vision for tomorrow. It will help youth to raise their voices and share how they imagine the world, how they dream about it and how to make it real.

### Objective(s)

**Support dissemination of available relevant research.** The YTT will contribute to the dissemination of results of available research that captures the views and voices of young people, to promote the inclusion of youth issues in the local, national and regional policy agendas.

**Develop policy.** The YTT will give a voice to the young generation by organizing regional, national and community dialogues on youth related issues as mechanisms to empower young people and strengthen policy formulation towards human development for youth and societies. The YTT will advocate to unite and build consensus amongst all stake holders about the main challenges facing the youth today in the region, and generate decision-making and development of strategies for addressing the challenges identified through action research. This will encourage young people to lead by example in focused, issue-related and constructive policy interaction and debating at national and regional levels.

**Support the achievement of the Youth-IN goals.** The YTT will act as technical advisory group and will provide project assurance for the implementation of the *Youth-IN* project. The YTT will provide youth – friendly contents to the *Youth-IN* web based portal. They will also be *Youth-IN* advocates and

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3 The YTT will support giving technical advice to the Project Steering Committee (PSC) that is responsible for management decisions on a consensus basis to support the effective implementation of the project, for providing overall oversight, strategic policy review and recommendations, and for approval of work plans and corresponding budgets.
champions, promoting public awareness of the project activities, outputs and outcomes.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>The priority areas of work identified for the YTT for the Caribbean for 2012 are:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Mass media Campaign <em>(with emphasis on social media)</em> to promote activities of the YTT and Youth-IN project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Promote on line training for youth on Human Development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Encourage <em>Youth to Talk through Arts</em> as a way for youth to express their dreams for their communities, and their lives.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Target group and gender approach</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young people in the Caribbean. Selected using a rigorous selection process. Equal number of male and female participants.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementing partners: CARICOM Secretariat, OECS Secretariat, Regional, National Youth Development and Civil society Organisations, Youth Organizations, Ministries of Youth and the University of the West Indies. Funding: Government of Italy.</td>
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<th>Focal point and contact information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paula Hidalgo Sanchis <a href="mailto:paula.hidalgo.sanchis@undp.org">paula.hidalgo.sanchis@undp.org</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Experience

**Title:** Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network (JYAN)  
**Location:** Jamaica  
**Duration**

## Brief National Context

JYAN emerged out of an advocacy training workshop that was held in August 2006 at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. The Advocacy Training Workshop brought together approximately 40 young persons from youth serving organisation, youth clubs, church and community groups, including youths from some of the most volatile communities in Jamaica. At the end of the workshop the participants decided that they would move forward under the name - The Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network (JYAN). So far more than 150 young persons have been trained in advocacy and are registered members of the network.

## Objective(s)

1. To facilitate the development of effective youth advocacy networks in Jamaica  
2. To empower and equip Jamaica youth with the skills necessary to participate in the decision making processes that impact them  
3. To increase the participation of youth in the decision making processes of the society  
4. To have in place an established means by which information is effectively disseminated among members of the network and partners

## Main Activities

1. Educate policy makers on the importance of increasing funding for youth development programmes  
2. Educate policy makers on the importance of increasing the number of young people who are involved in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth development programmes as well as other initiatives which affect young people  
3. Increase public awareness on the impact of HIV/AIDS, violence, unemployment, lack of educational & training opportunities on young people internationally  
4. Educate local and international media on the issues affecting young people

## Youth Target group and gender approach

Young Jamaicans  
No gender distinction made

## Impact

Since August 2006 the Network has developed two proposals for behaviour change communication projects addressing violence, and the need for comprehensive sexuality education in Jamaican High Schools. The network has also collaborated with a number of organizations to advocate for the rights of young people in Jamaica, the Caribbean and the...

Network members serve as youth educators, youth facilitators, youth advocates, and spokespeople on a number of issues affecting young people.

**Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding**

**USAID funded JA-STYLE Project**

**Focal point and contact information**
Experience

Title: Ghettowise Education
Location: Jamaica
Duration 2010 – on-going

Brief National Context
There were too many members of the communities in Kingston and St. Andrew and other neighbouring areas who were unable to advance their education because of time and financial constraints. Ghettowise was conceptualised to address poverty, crime and violence as well as illiteracy in Kingston and St. Andrew and other neighbouring areas. It caters for delinquent young people, especially secondary school dropouts, or those who completed secondary school without the necessary certification to enter the workforce. The project started with five volunteer teachers from UWI Micro University College.

Objective(s)

1. To provide the members of the communities to engage in continuing education in order to become marketable in the working environment.
2. To provide an evening institution at an affordable incremental registration based cost for those members of the community who wish to qualify for external examinations.
3. To engage members of the community in developing competencies in core subjects namely mathematics, English Language, Human and Social Biology and Information Technology.
4. To engage members of the communities in different community service/charity ventures.
5. To facilitate the involvement of the communities in more productive and structured activities.

Main Activities

1. Introductory phase classes for individuals who need to start from the basics.
2. Advance phase for classes individuals who need extra help to qualify to write CXC.
3. Monthly assessment scheme to ensure that students learned the concepts.
4. Mid and end of semester summative assessment.

Youth Target group and gender approach

Delinquent youth who did not complete secondary education or completed secondary school without certification.
Young working adults who cannot afford to pay for their education at established institutions.
No gender distinction made

Impact

To date 270 students enrolled (120 males, 150 females). Thirty community volunteers and
seven teachers.

**Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding**

The University of the West Indies Micro University College. Volunteer teachers. Community volunteers.

**Focal point and contact information**

Everal Daley: [everaldaley@live.com](mailto:everaldaley@live.com)
Kadiesha Grant: [chocolatekgrant@gmail.com](mailto:chocolatekgrant@gmail.com)
### Experience

**Title:** UN CRC NGO Shadow Report  
**Location:** Saint Lucia  
**Duration:** 2009 - 2011

### Brief National Context

The results of the Road to Geneva NGO-Youth coalition research on the state of the human rights of children and youth in Saint Lucia resulted in a collaborative action research project. In 2009 the government of Saint Lucia invited NGO’s to provide a shadow or alternative report to the UN CRC. Six NGO’s collaborated and engaged young people to investigate the extent to which the rights of children and young people are being realised in Saint Lucia.

### Objective(s)

1. Heighten young people’s awareness on children’s rights  
2. Provide a space where there is dialogue between the young people and other adults.  
3. Facilitate collaboration alongside youth-supporting adults.

### Main Activities

**Action Research**  
**Youth Target group and gender approach**  
NGO’s and Young people. No gender distinction made

### Impact

1. Publication of NGO Shadow Report.  
2. Projected impact is youth involvement be institutionalised as recommended by UN CRC.  
3. NGO-Youth Coalition may be included in the mechanism for monitoring and recording of Saint Lucia’s UN CRG implementation efforts.  
4. Established a youth resource centre

### Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding

RISE, AIDS Action Foundation; National Youth Council; St. Lucia Planned Parenthood Association; National council of/for Persons with Disabilities; St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association; Finnish Embassy; national Community Foundation; Spinners Club; and Embassy of Netherlands

### Focal point and contact information

Stephen King: drking@slulabservices.com
**Experience**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title: Youth In Transition Programme</th>
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<tr>
<td>Location: Grenada</td>
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<td>Duration: One year</td>
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**Brief National Context**

In the last fifteen years the island of Grenada has seen an increase in violent Crimes committed by young men between the ages of 14-25. These young men when convicted of their crimes are housed in the nation single prison: which is unsuitable to address their needs; they are exposed to older hard core criminal; overcrowded; and in short provide no form of rehabilitation. In fact, there is no established alternative to prison structure; therefore, our court system has no choice but to sentence these young offenders to Her Majesty's Prison.

**Objective(s)**

1. To reduce the number of juvenile offenders through psychological and social support by at least 10%, for participants involved, each year the programme is in session
2. To reduce recidivism in young offenders and rehabilitated participants from the prison by at least 10%
3. To foster greater partnership with stakeholders through consultations and to institute strong family perspectives that affects the health and overall well-being of young offenders.
4. To empower youths to become self-sufficient individuals, thus creating avenues for employment and self-development.
5. To restore a sense of well-being and to reinstate participants involved in crime, imprisoned and at risk through individual and community support.

**Main Activities**

1. Schedule activities
2. Spiritual Development;
3. Physical Education;
4. Awareness of the Law sessions;
5. Public Health Awareness sessions;
6. Personal & Social Development focused sessions ;Arts & Craft; Latin Dance;
7. Academic Development (literacy & access to CSEC/CXC classes and examinations free of cost);
8. Group and Individual Counselling Sessions & assessment;
9. Community Service/Volunteerism

Participants were identified through the court system throughout Grenada. Structured activities, four days a week, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., for a specified period of time (can range from 3 to 6 month cycle based on pre-determined duration by the Youth Rehabilitation Coordinator and Youth Coordinator, or by an individual participant’s progress or need to repeat the cycle). Activities are aimed at providing an alternative to imprisonment, in some cases, and
therefore the programme aims to provide a rehabilitative environment that can effect positive behavioural change in participants.

**Youth Target group and gender approach**

Age Group – 14-18 years-old (with some exceptions in rare cases). The Programme only focuses on Young male in conflict with the law.

**Impact**

1. Improvement in the attitude, dress code and language of the young men evident.
2. Public health sessions have improved their attitude towards personal hygiene, drug use and abuse and protecting themselves from STI’s. They have been practicing what they have learned and some have even shared the information with other young people in their community.
3. Sixty-percent (60%) of the participants who finished the programme enrolled in other aspect of the Grenada Youth Upliftment Programme especially the Grenada Youth Apprenticeship Programme. In addition, 75% of these young men have not return to prison or arrested for criminal activities.
4. Reduction in the recidivism among young offenders in Grenada.

**Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding**

Ministry of Social Development. Grenada Court System. Ministry of Education. Youth Ambassador Corps

**Focal point and contact information**

Kevin Andall  
E-mail (Ministry): sports@gov.gd/  
E-mail (Personal): Kevinandall75@gmail.com/
### Experience

**Title:** Eastern Caribbean Youth Microenterprise Program  
**Location:** Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, St. Lucia, Barbados and St. Vincent & the Grenadines  
**Duration:** 18 months

#### Brief National Context

Given the economic climate, we see limited job opportunities for young people in the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and Barbados limited. In addition, the educational system is unable to address the needs of young people who need to be more productively engaged in the economic sector. There is a call for more effective school-to-work programs that give young people tangible options. Enterprise development offers an innovative and productive way to support eastern Caribbean youth so that they are equipped to make better decisions about becoming employed or starting up a business.

#### Objective(s)

1. To increase youth microenterprise opportunities in the region  
2. To enhance sustainable livelihoods and employment opportunities for youth by supporting increased employment and the establishment of small businesses in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean States.

#### Main Activities

Key component of program: Development of Youth Market Opportunity Assessments for each country

#### Youth Target group and gender approach

Youth in the 17-35 age range;

#### Impact

Will be assessed overtime

#### Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding

**USAID**

**Focal point and contact information**

Mansfield Blackwood - USAID/ Barbados mablackwood@usaid.gov

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### Experience

**Title:** Caribbean Youth Empowerment Program  
**Location:** Antigua & Barbuda, St. Lucia and Grenada
**Duration:** 4 years

**Brief National Context**

All countries in the OECS including the 3 focus countries have shown increased youth involvement in crime and violence over the past five years which also coincides with growing youth unemployment among the workforce.

**Objective(s)**

The objective of the Caribbean Youth Empowerment Program (CYEP) is to provide second-chance opportunities for at-risk or unattached youth to increase their chances of being employed or to establish businesses thereby creating less incentive to become involved in crime and violence.

**Main Activities**

Numeracy and literacy training; Life skills support including career counselling; technical and vocational training; Internships; and support for job placement

**Youth Target group and gender approach**

Youth in the 17-24 age range; youth from vulnerable communities; youth in initial conflict with the law but not incarcerated; incarcerated youth with potential for parole. Focus on vulnerable youth with special emphasis on unemployed male given high proportion of male involvement in crime and violence.

**Impact**

Successes include: strengthened second-chance providers including: (i) Gilbert Agricultural Rural Development Centre - Antigua; (ii) Consortium of National Skills Development Centre, RISE Inc. and the Centre for Adolescent Renewal and Education - St. Lucia; and (iii) T.A. Marryshow College - Grenada. Youth trained to date is approximately 700. Improved programming by training providers. Approximately 40% of youth employed to date. Impact on youth and crime to be evaluated.

**Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding**

USAID/International Youth Foundation

**Focal point and contact information**

Mansfield Blackwood - USAID/ Barbados mablackwood@usaid.gov
### Experience

**Title:** Youth -on -the-Block, Bagatelle, Diego Martin, Dibe/ Dundonald Hill, Khandahar, St. James, Malick, Barataria  
**Location:** Trinidad  
**Duration:** 6 months

### Brief National Context

### Objective(s)

1. To reduce the incidences of area related violence (turf wars)
2. Promotion, adoption and acceptance of positive values such as discipline, responsibility and high self-esteem through the implementation of inter community group development and inter community sporting activities

### Main Activities

1. Identification of target communities and initial mobilization of youth- on- the –block.
2. Completion of community profiles for the communities identified.
3. Formalizing the groups through: Development of Group Constitution,  
4. Election of Executive, Monitoring group for challenges in the group stages of development.
5. Coaching and Life skills training including conflict resolutions with youth on the block.
6. Football competition for participation of groups.

### Youth Target group and gender approach

100 young people from communities identified as "at risk" (gangs and unattached youth who congregate at the block). Registration of five youth groups. Inter community football group Programme specific to young males only.

### Impact

Reduction in crime related activities for young people who participated in this activity

### Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding

Current Expenditure, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs

### Focal point and contact information

Cheryl-Ann Baldeosingh, cherylboodram@yahoo.com
Experience

Title: Regional Youth Council Revitalization
Location: Caribbean
Duration: 2011

Brief National Context

The impetus for the regional youth council came out of an inaugural Commonwealth Youth Leaders’ Summit in March of 2012. During the Summit youth leaders discussed the various issues affecting their national youth councils as well as best practices regarding structures and various projects. At the end of the Summit youth leaders committed to strengthening national youth councils and establishing councils in those islands without such organisations. Additionally youth leaders contemplated the reformation of a resuscitation of a regional youth council to combine efforts in strengthening voices and sharing.

Other discussions around the regional body were during the Barbados Youth Festival and Regional Seminar during August of 2011. The seminar was opened to ordinary young people from across Barbados. Questions were also raised as to the feasibility of a regional youth council. Some youth questioned the feasibility of having such a structure particularly in light

Objective(s)

1. To facilitate and support organizational development among all NYCs across the Caribbean.
2. To ensure that NYCs maintain strong democratic and administrative structures.
3. To seek opportunities for the young people of the region to address issues affecting them.
4. To improve the representation of youth at regional and international levels
5. To foster cooperation and collaboration with agencies to facilitate youth development.
6. To safeguard the rights and interests of youth to ensure that they are not discriminated against or marginalized.
7. To act as a central point of contact and representation for all NYCs
8. To advocate for youth issues to be included on the agendas at the highest level of decision making of government, development and civil society agencies, as well as academia.
9. To serve as a central coordinator for regional and international youth days, and youth related observances.
10. To provide and disseminate information on youth work and issues in the region.

Main Activities

1. Youth leaders from across the Caribbean have been heavily involved in the planning and implementation process of a regional youth council. Following the Barbados Summit a steering committee was democratically elected to drive the process of strengthening youth councils and preliminary work on a regional youth entity.
2. Following the Jamaica Summit in July of this year, youth leaders were also at the
3. During the Summit there was also input from young people from various youth clubs across Jamaica. This process was also followed in Barbados during the regional youth seminar.

Youth Target group and gender approach

Youth Leaders

Impact

1. The experience in planning, discussing and implementing serves to prepare youth by providing professional and personal development skills as well as practical knowledge in such processes.
2. The opportunity to collaborate means youth have a stronger voice and an opportunity to pool resources towards youth development within their countries and beyond.
3. The opportunity to provide effective representation and to create opportunities for young people across the Caribbean.
4. The opportunity to interact with youth from across the world to gain greater insight on numerous youth development issues as well as to be a force for change at the global youth development level.

Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding

Focal point and contact information
### Experience

**Title:** III Young Americas Forum  
**Location:** OAS member state countries  
**Duration:** 3 years  

### Brief National Context

The III Young Americas program is implemented throughout the OAS member states as a regional initiative.

### Objective(s)

The III Young Americas Forum is a program for young people to contribute to the progress of our region. On this platform, young people discuss challenges and opportunities based on the four subthemes of the VI Summit of the Americas: citizen’s security, access to technology, natural disasters, poverty and inequality; in order to propose and implement viable solutions reflected in the Youth Declaration of the VI Summit of the Americas.

### Main Activities

1. This is a periodic program that has been implemented ever since the II Young Americas forum. It included a preparation process previous to the III Young Americas Forum which incorporated the virtual dialogue: "Ideas of Impact:
2. Young people’s innovations and contributions to the VI Summit of the Americas” held in January 2012, a virtual questionnaire and more than 40 national and regional dialogues. After collecting all the input,
3. YABT redacted the Youth Declaration, an official document that was sent to the OAS member states for their adoption.
4. The III Young Americas Forum was carried out prior to the VI Summit of the Americas on April 10 -13, in Cartagena, Colombia.
5. Once in Cartagena, young people worked on recommendations and commitments to be presented to the ministers of foreign affairs of the OAS member states.

### Youth Target group and gender approach

1. Youth of the OAS member states  
2. Youth institutions in the member states  
3. Young Entrepreneurs, social and economic leaders  
4. Environmental groups in the member states  
5. Youth Advocacy groups in the member states

The III Young Americas Forum is a gender inclusive program that encourages participation by diverse groups such as individuals of African descent along with other minorities. All participants are free to express their opinions, views and recommendations without fear of discrimination.

### Impact

1. "YABT shared the perspective of the youth of the Americas at the United Nations forum,

2. YABT presented the commitments of Cartagena at Espacio USA Vanguardia Latina – Washington, DC, May 2-4, 2012
4. Representative of the III Young Americas Forum presented their recommendations in the OAS General Assembly, Cochabamba, Bolivia in June 3rd, 2012.
5. Representatives of the III Young Americas Forum were present in Río+20 in Brazil, June 20-22, 2012
6. Participants of the III Young Americas Forum redacted an action plan to implement the Youth Declaration agreed upon at the III Young Americas Forum.
7. Follow up Webinar on implementation strategy for the Youth Declaration of the III Young Americas Forum, 2:00 pm July 31, 2012
11. Representative of the III Young Americas Forum presented their recommendations in the OAS General Assembly, Cochabamba, Bolivia in June 3rd, 2012
12. Representatives of the III Young Americas Forum were present in Río+20 in Brazil, June 20-22, 2012
13. Participants of the III Young Americas Forum redacted an action plan to implement the commitments acquired at the III Young Americas Forum
14. Follow up Webinar on implementation strategy for the Commitments of the III Young Americas Forum, 2:00 pm July 31, 2012

Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding

Organized by the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) in conjunction with the OAS Summits of the Americas secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia.
Funding: YABT and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia

Youth of the OAS member states
Youth institutions in the member states
Young Entrepreneurs, social and economic leaders
Environmental groups in the member states
Youth Advocacy groups in the member states

Contact name: Valerie Lorena. Email: Valerie.lorena@yabt.net Telephone: 202 458-6297
<table>
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<th>Experience</th>
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| **Title:** Project RESCUE “Reforming Education, Skills and Capacity for Ultimate Empowerment”.  
**Location:** Quarter, Port Mourant, Corentyne, Berbice, Region # 6, GUYANA  
**Duration:** 2000 and on-going today |

### Brief National Context

St. Francis joined with UNICEF to formalize its response/support to at risk youth and families as we seek to support the Governments’ National Programme across Guyana. In December, 2000 the “family, Youth and Children at Risk Project” was launched with the aid of providing training, empowerment, crisis resolution, responsive support, advocacy, and counselling, creating awareness of HIV/AIDS while offering supporting services, legal advice and an enabling environment for at risk families.

In April, 2004 USAID, Food for the Poor – Guyana, Friends of St. Francis (25 collaborating partners in Guyana) joined the project as the scope was expanded to respond to orphans, vulnerable youths and children. Nine (9) sub-offices were fully established to offer services to a wider target audience while UNICEF and Food for the Poor – Guyana replicate services/success across the country.

On the 17th December, 2009 the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) joined forces through its project aim, “Enhance Public Trust, Security and Inclusion Project” (EPTSI) to offer funding support to scale up implementation. A staff of 57 persons retained to scale up response to residents, building capacity, enhancing service delivery and the major trust to create employment opportunities for at risk youth in ten (10) communities. To respond to this new reality St. Francis received its Family, Youth and Children at Risk project and decided to create a more responsive Project. This saw the establishment of Project RESCUE, “Reforming Education, Skills and Capacity for Ultimate Empowerment”, a comprehensive responsive Project that satisfied to unique nature of various collaborating Partners.

### Objective(s)

1. To support disadvantage families who lack access to basic services while responding to health issues
2. To enhance public trust, security, community development and inclusion of all citizen.
3. To support, build and sustain community’s efforts that respond to fight underdevelopment.
4. To expand employment, education and skills – building opportunities for youth at risk.
5. To reform education, skills, and local capacities for empowerment and access to opportunities.
6. To strengthen re-integration of youth offenders, early school leavers and teenage mother into mainstream development.
7. To create employment opportunities
8. To offer life and skills training.
9. To link local partners and residents with enabling opportunities.
10. To establish physical facilities, tutors and access to training/empowerment.
opportunities.

Main Activities

1. Providing Life Skills opportunities at the grassroots level in over 40 areas of community needs such as Health Issues, Gender, Domestic Violence, Youth Violence, Child Abuse, Parenting, Safe Neighbourhood, Counselling etc.
2. Monthly Community Dialogues and Outreach Activities to engage residents in public discussions and this achieve through massive mobilization efforts.
3. Supporting planning and participation in sporting events as a means of social cohesion and reduction of tense situations.
4. Security financial, technical and material support for community projects that support full participation/access for all youths/residents (e.g. establishment of youth friendly spaces, of the community play fields, libraries, information technical centre/hot spots, social cohesion, coaching session, basketball courts establishment, securing sport gears etc.)
5. Offering youth free trips/tours to various parts of the country as a means to offer exposure and new vision for rural young people.
6. Skills training and jobs opportunities to make youth job ready through several classes in food and nutrition, IT, electrical installation, construction/craftsman, cosmetology/beauty care, barbering, mechanical engineering and a range of agricultural experiences.
7. Providing physical facilities for responsive/effective training and to cope with the increase number of trainees. These building range from a Training Complex, Guesthouse, Administrative Complex, Sub-offices, Income Generation Complex and facilities to house economic ventures/training facilities (to date 20 structures have been created).
8. Training of the trainers programme and capacity building exercises are on-going as a team of dedicated, able, educated, knowledgeable, professional and responsive tutors is create to cope with present and emerging challenges.
9. Micro credit programme that supports youths who lacks the assets, financial/technical experience necessary to start up small business on their own.
10. Networking and trust building are an on-going exercise which ensure that all key stakeholders re given equal opportunities to participate in community enhancement and personal upliftment.
11. Counselling and conflict resolutions are daily exercise executed by, “an army” of dedicated volunteers who are professionally trained to offer support/intervention.
12. Supporting at risk families to access needed services, respond to crisis situations or making the necessary referral offer the disadvantage a level playing field. In these interventions ensure their full participation to address other concerns in their overall empowerment.
13. Creating Project that offer job for youths such as farms (agricultural and fish), restaurant/catering services, day-care centre/playschools, small businesses and chicken projects.
14. Offering support in health issues in the form of service delivery (HV testing, condom
distribution, referrals, and counselling), financial support, transportation, donation of equipment/wheel chairs, etc., advice and any other responsive support.

15. Offering spaces for community social activities with all modern social facilities that would aid in successful activities especially with large and diverse activities.

16. Managing eleven (11) play/preschool for nearly 600 children, which ensure that their parents who are mostly young families can go to work or school while their children are kept in a safe and empowerment environment.

17. Networking partner and donors to work on common project while St. Francis all effort or intervention to achieve the common goal.

18. Lending support, technical help, resourcing gathering, vision establishment, training or on site exposure to leaders, creating community acceptance for new groups and working to overcome challenges are a few tools offer to create new groups in different communities.

19. Daily, weekly, monthly, yearly meeting to keep vision alive and working to achieve success.

20. Offering guidance and motivation to residents through public discussion, graduation speeches, funeral services/religious support TV and media appearances/programme and release, public meeting, meeting of groups or any form of support request.

**Youth Target group and gender approach**

Orphans, vulnerable youth and children ensure equal participation of all persons as it relates to gender issues with the underlining fact that with opportunities comes a sense of responsibility

**Impact**

1. The success of Project RESCUE attracted the fulltime attention of the Government of Guyana through the Ministry of Home Affairs – citizen security Programme which is funded by the IDB – Inter American Development Bank. St. Francis provide support and training over 100 youth for job creation at three (3) of our Centres. All of the youth were given a second opportunity at life since the Project targeted early school leavers. Many of the youth have been fully time employed at various private sector location and self-employment opportunities.

2. The ones that seem to encounter challenges are now with USAID Project titled, “skills and Knowledge for Employment (SKYE) Project”, a Project linking youth to opportunities in Guyana. St. Francis is playing host at two (2) for this implementation with four (4) fulltime staff. St. Francis and USAID entered a formal relationship in July, 2012 for the implementation of this unique Project.

3. In a nutshell St. Francis is able to implement, expand, be effective, successful, replicate to other communities, and respond directly to situations while sustaining all efforts to support vulnerable youth and their families.

**Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding**
1. International donors forms a large part of the works these range from USAID, Commonwealth Youth Programme – Caribbean Centre, DFID, CIDA, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, Japanese, Australian, Germans Government, Food for the Poor – Guyana/USA, European Union’s etc.

2. Government: St. Francis partners with several Government agencies and Ministries to offer services to residents such as Human services, Labour, Youth, Sports and Culture, Education, Information, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, women etc.

3. Private Sectors: Benefits from training since they secure trained personal for employment while offering support to St. Francis, which aid in its service delivery.

4. Residents: Supports all services, fund raising ventures, self-help activities or in short forms the backbone in our daily activities.

5. Schools/Education Department:

6. Forms ready and direct forms of intervention for programme implementation.

7. Community Groups/Youth Groups.

Funding:

- Donor Support
- Fund raising activities
- Small businesses management
- Donation
- Volunteerism
- Consultancy services to donor and offices
- Marketing St. Francis through the media, tutors, public function and quality service delivery

Focal point and contact information

St. Francis Community Developers Village Complex
Plot ‘AA’, Portuguese Quarter, Port Mourant, Corentyne, Berbice, Region # 6, GUYANA.
592-337-4090, 4195
Email:- sfcdguyana@yahoo.com
### Experience

**Title:** Sports for Peace and Development  
**Location:** High-risk communities across Jamaica.  
**Duration:** 6 Months

#### Brief National Context

Communities selected for the programme are communities identified through the Community Safety and Security Branch in the JCF has high-risk or volatile communities where there are increase reports of crime and violence committed by youth.

#### Objective(s)

1. Empower and Engage At-Risk Youth through the use of sports and the creative Arts  
2. Build and sustain a better working relationship between youth and police

#### Main Activities

1. Six-A-Side Football Competition  
2. Netball Competition  
3. Empowerment/rap sessions with youth in communities  
4. Drug and HIV/AIDS Testing/sensitization

#### Youth Target group and gender approach

- Youth at risk  
- Male and female sports-oriented programmes

#### Impact

- 50 young people enrolled in the Jamaica Foundation for Life Long Learning, 25 young people enrolled in the HEART/NTA skills programme, Police Youth Club established in community

#### Partnerships (institutions/youth organizations) and Funding

- Youth Clubs in communities  
- **Funding:** Ministry of National Security through the Community Safety and Security Branch, National Centre for Youth Development and National Youth Council

#### Focal point and contact information

- Mr. Ryan Small, National Youth Council
**Experience**

**Title:** Inter-generational Women’s Leadership Programme  
**Location:** St. Barb’s – Belmont and Pinto Road-Arima. Trinidad and Tobago  
**Duration:** 6 Months

### Brief National Context

The Inter-generational Women’s Leadership Programme is based on the approach of building partnerships between teenaged girls and “Big Sisters”. These partnerships are created through:

- One-to-one structured interaction between Girls and their “Big Sisters” creates and fosters caring and supportive relationships so that the girls can develop their fullest potential.
- Interactive Workshop sessions, including residential workshops, provide forum for girls and “Big Sisters” to explore themes and issues pertinent to their individual personal spaces, as well as their community and national spaces as well using discussions, role play and project/presentation development.

### Objective(s)

The programme aims to build, among the Little Sisters, a cadre of young leaders and future women leaders, who will become active agents of change in their communities and in the country. It is aimed to build the capacity for community and national leadership which is based on enabling, empowering, encouraging and working towards a shared vision, mission, goals and values.

It is a type of leadership which has a deep understanding of the country’s political, economic, social and cultural history and reality and applies such understanding to tapping into the fullest potential of the country’s people.

The programme also has the potential to foster leadership among the Big Sisters beyond community to organizational and perhaps national level. Big Sisters who participate in this programme may also be encouraged to foster the potential for leadership and community activism among their own family members and among other teenagers and adults with whom they interact.

### Main Activities

1. Introductory Session –  
2. Orientation Workshop –  
3. Self-Awareness Workshop – Pinto  
4. Recall Session Big Sisters  
5. Recall Session –Little Sisters  
6. Conflict Management Workshop – St. Barb’s  
7. Human Rights Workshop-

### Youth Target group and gender approach

Young girls between the ages, 12-17.
The Inter-generational Women’s Leadership Programme is based on the approach of building partnerships between teenaged girls and “Big Sisters”. These partnerships are created through:

- One-to-one structured interaction between Girls and their “Big Sisters” creates and fosters caring and supportive relationships so that the girls can develop their fullest potential.

- Interactive Workshop sessions, including residential workshops, provide forum for girls and “Big Sisters” to explore themes and issues pertinent to their individual personal spaces, as well as their community and national spaces as well using discussions, role play and project/presentation development.

- The partnership approach creates and develops “safe spaces” – physical and emotional- for girls and utilizes a non-judgmental approach so that girls feel confident and at ease, at all times, to relate their experiences and to engage in discussion, whether in a group setting or in an individual interaction with their “Big Sisters.”

**Impact**

1. The program is designed to empower girls through leadership development, foster lifetime skill sets and strategies of critical analysis and problem solving and impact girls’ personal career trajectories. It will provide tools to help girls make positive life choices, to achieve academic success, break the cycles of teen pregnancy and poverty and overcome the barriers of sexism.

2. The program facilitates family involvement and assists girls to negotiate their multiple roles, cultures and contexts. It offers a safe place to mediate family trauma and supports and celebrates girls’ responsibilities to families and cultures in a way that will allow girls to be respected by their parents and families. The programme offers a safe space. A safe space is a bottom line issue in creating an environment in which girls can express themselves. It is more than a place without violence, and can include space to resolve conflict productively.

**Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding**

In partnership with Citizen Security Programme. Ministry of National Security
Funded by Citizen Security Programme. Ministry of National Security

**Focal point and contact information**

Folade Mutota, Executive Director WINAD folademutota@yahoo.com
**Experience**

**Title:** Support to the Netherlands Antilles Youth Development Programme  
**Location:** Netherlands Antilles  
**Duration**

**Brief National Context**

In 2003 the Government of the Netherlands Antilles (NEA) and the European Commission (EC), signed a Financing Agreement (FA No. 6564/NEA), under the 8th European Development Fund (EDF) entitled “Support to the Netherlands Antilles Youth Development Programme” (SNAYDP). SNAYDP is a completely EC funded € 4.5 million project, implemented under the procedural guidelines of the 9th EDF. The inception date of SNAYDP was February 1st, 2004. The duration of the EDF funded project foreseen in the FA and its Rider No.1 is six years; the actual completion date of the project implementation was April 30th, 2009.

**Objective(s)**

The overall objective of the programme is to contribute to the strengthening of the integration of young people into the economic development and the socio-cultural fabric of the country, with a particular emphasis on the 16-24 year old group.

**Main Activities**

Some programmes

SNAYDP encouraged active participation of youth in the policy making process. In December 2006 a youth round-table conference for 150 youth on the constitutional changes of the Netherlands Antilles implemented in collaboration with ‘Hoben Goberna’, took place in Curaçao.

HAK - Hubentrub Aktivo I Konsiente

HAK is an organization that is run by youngsters who conduct activities for other youngsters, under the umbrella of FAJ Kring Bonaire. The group focused on forming an Island wide dialog of youngsters, to encourage active participation in Island politics and culture. They conducted panel discussions, inviting politicians and youngsters to discuss the transition of Bonaire into a 'special municipality'. A cultural quiz was conducted raising the awareness of the culture of Bonaire amongst its youth, attended by 250 pupils. HAK received on-going support and training in terms of leadership development, project planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring.

“Splikado Cold Water Agriculture” - Fundashon Instituto Splikami

Foundation and Institute SPLIKAMI provides training in low income community area in various fields such as IT-training, technical agriculture and alternative energy sources. SPLIKAMI developed a project on agriculture and modern technology titled “Splikado Cold Water Agriculture”, which focused on a new technique integrating agriculture with modern water saving technology. The project was launched as a pilot project for vocational training to be
integrated into regular school curricular at the preparatory secondary vocational education (VSBO) level. Youth attending the pilot college chosen for the implementation are to a large proportion youngster from the poor neighbourhood, repeaters and youth with difficulties in theoretical school subjects. Working together on the project the students learned project presentation, social and early vocational skills and got motivated to embrace agriculture as future self-employment possibilities. The project showed, that agriculture and energy saving devices have a great potential on the island, counteracting the reluctance amongst youth on the island to pursue careers in agriculture. Following the pilot project the VSBO integrated the project into the curriculum as practical example. The findings of the cold water project are included in subjects such as math, physics, and biology, motivating the majority of pupils of the school to participate in school activities. Other vocational schools have inquired about the possibility of extending the projects to their pupils.

Training Attitude & Personal Management in Bon Futuro
Bon Futuro Prison is the main detention institute on Curaçao. To facilitate for their young inmates the reinsertion into society the prison teamed up with SVJ to conduct ‘Positive Attitude & Social Skills’ courses. The course enhanced awareness of cause and effect, responsibility for actions, strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats and also a better control on emotional efficiency, parenthood and planning. The training was conducted for both male and female detainees. The female group responded very well to the self-reflective aspects of the courses in particular with regards on how to educate their own children and break the cycle of crime often existing in their social environment.

Training Attitude & Personal Management in Brasami
‘Brasami’ is an institute dealing with people suffering from addiction. It requested from SVJ training to provide its youngsters with basic skills in proper social behaviour. Three training modules were conducted with a special focus on the needs of recovering drug addicts. In the process of re-socialization, the young male clients in Brasami were trained in positive attitude and social skills in order to prepare them for their return into society.

Development and creation of a documentary DVD on “Life in Prison”
Sint Maarten experienced recently an increase in its crime rates in particular amongst teenagers and young adults. An image seems present amongst youngsters that it is “cool” to be a criminal and to belong to youth criminal groups. To counteract this image ‘Foundation Judiciary Institutes Windward Islands’ developed with a group of 30 youngsters a DVD documentary on the hardships of ‘Life in Prison’. To implement the project the foundation cooperated with several local stakeholders and institutes, such as the public prosecutor’s office, the local prison, the court of guardianship and others. The group of youth that participated in this activity researched the crime statistics in Sint Maarten, interviewed stakeholders in prison, produced a film song and launched the DVD Island wide in local schools reaching thousands of youngsters.

No Kai Aden” Campaign for violence prevention
The Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation launched a media-youth campaign ‘with youth for youth’ - to raise awareness on how crime can impact on their life, using modern web design and internet sites such as ‘YouTube’ and other forums. It shows youth issues arising from addiction, violence and crime focusing on anti-addiction institutions and prisons in NEA. The youth participants interviewed people working in the court, police and other institutions. A website and media campaign was designed; song competitions, radio shows and other promotion materials were developed in a fashionable “cool” way, reaching youngsters all cross Bonaire and the NEA. Songs posted on ‘YouTube’ (www.youtube.com/nokaiaden) have viewings of over 3,000, a discussion forum is organized on ‘Facebook’, with all links accessible on their website (www.noakaiaden.net) The closing ceremony was attended by some 300 youth, who showed great interest in the crime does not pay campaign.

St. Paulus College – “Persoonlijke effectiviteit bij gedragsmoelijke jongeren”
St. Paul’s College Foundation stresses the importance of emotional-social education to reduce aggression and crime rates. St. Paul’s College has a high percentage of pupils with criminal records (approx. 10 % of total pupils), leading to issues such as pupils insulting others, robbing shops in the vicinity and general aggressive behaviour. The school hence sought the cooperation with the Ministry of Education and SNAYDP. It received as pilot school funding for two interconnected social training programs. An outdoor training focused on some 20 youngsters - the “trouble makers”. A team of 6-8 coaches from the Phoenix team consistent of social workers, psychologist and sports trainers taught to reflect on their social behaviour. The training contained many sports sessions and outdoor activities such as raft building, bringing the youngsters close to their physical limit. Many group sessions where conducted talking about personal attitude and self-discovery. A transformation was observed in the youth who participated, cooperation and teamwork developed, and communication skills major improved. In a second step coaches were trained that accompanied the youth who completed the outdoor camp. The umbrella organization FAJ would like to scale up the outdoor camp as a general concept for youth, to face themselves in outdoor activities.

Stichting Beheer MKB Fondsen – ‘Hoben den negoshi’
The ‘Chamber of Commerce’ launched the training: ‘Hoben den Negoshi’, to foster an entrepreneurial climate for promoting business development and self-employment in Curaçao. It empowered youth to create successful businesses (self-employment and micro-companies) and assisted in the implementation of new business ideas and innovation. The young business people were provided with the knowledge and skills necessary for the successful running of their businesses. Courses in administration, business planning, management, business ethic and marketing were offered in evening classes.

Youth Target group and gender approach
The programme focuses particularly on the most vulnerable and inactive youth, is to support the efforts of national and island governments and non-governmental institutions to formulate and implement integrated Youth Development Policies and to provide youth with viable local training and employment opportunities. The majority of the programmes do not have a specific gender focus.
Impact

1. Technical capacity of local human resources involved in the design and implementation of the country’s youth development policy and programmes is strengthened”.
2. Training to improve the efficiency/effectiveness of operations and management;
3. The quality and the delivery of selected priority support services for the socio-economic integration of the youth, and particularly for the most deprived of them, are improved.
4. Improvement in the consistency and extension of vocational training;
5. Policies
6. Each island is implementing their respective Integrated Youth Policy with the support from SNAYDP;
7. A monitoring tool was developed to assist the Island Governments with the policy implementation.
8. Tailored made support was provided by SNAYDP to specific projects identified by the Island stakeholders.
9. Support to Ministry of Education was provided in different youth development matters through the signing of a MoU.

Capacity Building

1. More than 60 NGOs in the Antilles have received institutional strengthening support from SNAYDP.
2. Individual tailor-made assistance has been provided to NGOs working with youth in all 5 islands through small grants.
3. NGO Networking has been increased and reinforced, with initial contacts also at regional (Caribbean) level.
4. Good Governance support has been facilitated to many youth related NGOs on all Islands increasing greatly the Public Trust in these key entities;
5. An assessment tool has been developed for the monitoring of Good Governance practices in NGOs and its impact in

Vocational Training

1. Development of training material in collaboration with key training institutes
2. Hundreds of youngsters have received vocational training that allows them to increase their employability in many different professions.

Socio-cultural integration

1. SNAYDP has promoted activities in all 5 islands on the development of personal and social skills for youth.
2. A reinsertion educational programme was conducted at the prison (Curacao) for young convicts.

Apprenticeship Programme
1. 85 apprentices were placed and received on the job learning opportunities.
2. For the hospitality & tourism sectors, partnership was established with schools to provide professional education parallel to the on-the-job training;
3. A full involvement of the private sector was fostered by SNAYDP in the common establishment of solutions to the youth unemployment.
4. A so-called job-seekers toolkit was developed and made available for more than 5,000 youngsters.

**Partnerships (institutions/ youth organizations) and Funding**

1. Island Government Intake youth: reclassering, unidadnan di bario, school drop-outs, Antilliaanse Militie, Churches, Youth related NGO’s, Island Government (Sint Maarten).
2. Coordination: CHTF and AAV (Curacao) and Marine Sector (Sint Maarten).
3. Placements in companies: private sector with CHTF or AAV or Marine sector.
4. Vocational training: Ban Bria for facility management and front office assistant, Mari Stella for Tourist Host Assistant, S.A.P. for cook, Ocean Encounters for the dive instructors course and AAV For the construction sector. s, Island Youth Officers; SVJ, FORMA, FAJ, SXM Executive Youth Council;

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