

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	REGIONAL/CCB - Caribbean Group
▪ TC Name:	Strengthening Social Violence Prevention Initiatives in the Caribbean
▪ TC Number:	RG-T3662
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Wilks, Jason Malcolm (IFD/ICS) Team Leader; De Simone, Francesco (IFD/ICS) Alternate Team Leader; Mcbean, Althea Deanie (IFD/ICS); Brathwaite, Neeca N. (CCB/CTT); Manzur Madariaga, Michelle (IFD/ICS); Graham, Rodolfo (LEG/SGO)
▪ Taxonomy:	Client Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	23 Mar 2020
▪ Beneficiary:	Governments of Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$300,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	IFD/ICS - Innovation in Citizen Services Division
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	IFD - Institutions for Development Sector
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Institutional capacity and rule of law

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The general objective of this project is twofold. First, it will provide support to the Governments of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, respectively, in their efforts to better manage and monitor strategies to reduce violent crime through cutting-edge research as well as management and monitoring tools. Secondly, it will improve the Governments' ability to scale up and establish systematic public health frameworks for violence prevention. In light of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, this proposed TC will address two priority areas for the Bank's response – (i) social safety net for vulnerable populations; and (ii) economic productivity and employment.
- 2.2 Despite continuous efforts and advancements in crime prevention, crime and violence continues to be a development challenge in the Caribbean region. In 2017, the average homicide rate for the region reached 15.1 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants. This almost triples the global average of 6.1 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants, but it is considerably lower than homicide rates in Central America (25.9) and South America (24.2) (UNODC, 2019). Within this context, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica have been among the countries with the highest homicide rates.
- 2.3 Crime and violence affect mostly vulnerable youth, not only as perpetrators but also as victims of crime. For instance, in Jamaica over 79% of those accused of murder were males under the age of 34 in 2018, and they also account for almost half of all victims of murder. Trinidad and Tobago is not divorced from this reality, victims and perpetrators of violence are young males between 15 and 34 years of age. In addition, it is estimated that most violent crime is related to gang activity. High levels of violent crime and gang

activity in these countries constitute an enormous challenge for both social and economic development.

- 2.4 A strong body of literature highlights individual, family and community risk factors associated with youth engagement in gang and gun violence. In the Caribbean, such factors are related with weak bonds to pro-social institutions such as school or the workplace. In addition, limits to dedicated channels to support gang members seeking to desist from violence increases their risks both as perpetrators and victims of violence.
- 2.5 Notwithstanding these constraints, both the governments of Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica have prioritized the reduction of crime and the prevention of violence in order to achieve safer communities, cohesiveness and justice. In order to contribute to this goal, they have piloted a multisectoral, coordinated response to gang and gun violence, supporting the implementation of promising evidence-based practices, such as Cure Violence (CV). This is a scientifically proven, cost-effective, public health approach that anticipates and interrupts the transmission of violence while changing social norms and behaviors that perpetuate violence. Under this approach violence is seen a learned behavior which means that individuals can also unlearn it and that it can be prevented by using methods and strategies comparable to those used to control diseases. In the CV model, relies on violence interrupters and outreach workers as key figures to obtain both individual and community change. Providing alternatives for a life outside crime and strengthening the social safety net for youth is an underlying goal of the CV program.
- 2.6 In Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, recent evaluations of the adaptation and implementation of the CV model provide promising evidence that the public health approach to reducing violence may help create safer and healthier communities. Despite these promising results, more needs to be done in terms of institutional capacity building, technical assistance and strategic planning in order to institutionalize a public health approach to gang and gun violence prevention in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Institutional strengthening of Jamaica's Ministry of National Security (MNS) and consolidation of its youth violence prevention initiatives (US\$140,000).** This component will seek to improve the MNS management tools to support sector planning, monitoring, and accountability, as well as implement public health interventions to gang and gun violence.
- 3.2 **Component II: Strengthening a multi-sectoral approach to crime prevention in Trinidad and Tobago (US\$140,000).** The objective of this component is to support the Ministry of National Security (MNS) in its efforts to incorporate innovative approaches to prevent and control violence based on scientific evidence. For instance, applying a dual public health and law enforcement to respond to gun and gang violence as part of regular practice.
- 3.3 **Component III: Knowledge and dissemination (US\$20,000).** The objective of this component is to disseminate new knowledge, increase awareness and facilitate dialogue around evidence-based approaches to prevent gun and gang violence in Caribbean countries. A key theme to be examined will be the effectiveness of public health approaches in reducing social violence within the context of an economic and social recovery.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Total Funding
Institutional strengthening of Jamaica's Ministry of National Security (MNS) and consolidation of its youth violence prevention initiatives.	US\$140,000.00	US\$140,000.00
Strengthening a multi-sectoral approach to crime prevention in Trinidad and Tobago.	US\$140,000.00	US\$140,000.00
Knowledge and dissemination.	US\$20,000.00	US\$20,000.00
Total	US\$300,000.00	US\$300,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 As there is presently no regional entity with legal capacity to execute capacity building activities for national security in the two member states, the operation will be implemented by ICS/CJA and ICS/TT in close coordination with both the Jamaican and Trinidadian Ministry of National Security, and with administrative support from IFD/ICS in the Bank's headquarters.
- 5.2 This justification is in keeping with conditions set out the Bank's GN-2629 Guidelines - Annex 10, Section 2 (d). The TC will be implemented over 24 months. The IDB will conduct the procurement of consulting services required for TC implementation, according to the Bank's policies and procedures.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 No risks are expected in the execution of this TC. The Jamaican and Trinidadian governments have requested support through this regional TC and are giving high priority to its activities. Therefore, active participation of technical counterparts is expected in order to complement the work carried out by consultants and the Bank team to complete these activities in a timely manner.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

- 7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "undefined".