

SCS Jamaica: Local Partner Development

Overview

The Local Partner Development (LPD) project (2017 – 2022, \$15 million) is funded by USAID through the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative. By developing the capacity of Jamaican civil society organizations (CSOs), social enterprises (SEs), and government partners, LPD improves CSO and SE sustainability, ability to advocate to government at all levels for improvements in their enabling environment, and effectiveness in supporting community-based initiatives to prevent youth crime and violence.

Jamaican Context

Persistently high levels of youth crime and violence threaten Jamaica's economic and social progress. A 2017 study by the Inter-American Development Bank estimates that Jamaica lost almost 4% of its 2014 GDP to crime-related costs. Jamaica's vibrant and active civil society could respond more effectively to Jamaica's crime and violence epidemic but needs to enhance capacities and structures to do so.

Major Program Components

Strengthening the capacity of targeted local Jamaican entities through:

- *Stepping Stone to Success*, an organizational development program for grassroots CSOs. Selected CSOs participate in monthly workshops, mentorships, and peer learning groups, and gain access to grant opportunities.
- *Pathways to Sustainability*, an institutional strengthening program which seeks to increase the capacity of advanced CSOs working to reduce or prevent youth crime and violence through grants and capacity development interventions.

Supporting social enterprises through a business incubator model which:

- Implements and funds customized business and organizational performance development plans that are targeted to each SE's specific needs.

Improving the enabling environment for CSOs and SEs through:

- Facilitating multi-sector dialogues to advance participatory analyses of legal barriers to CSO and SE legal registration and operations.
- Training both CSOs and public sector partners on international standards related to priority legal issues.

Promoting intentional collaboration across civil society, government, and the private sector by:

- Using the SCALE+ systems-thinking approach and awarding 10 Collaboration Grants to support collaborative action to address youth crime and violence.

Achievements

- **Strengthened the organizational capacity and performance of 39 CSOs and SEs** enrolled in LPD's tailored programs, 70% of which are located in towns and rural areas across Jamaica, which are traditionally underserved in comparison to Jamaica's cities.
- **Enhanced the organizational management and advocacy skills of more than 130 Jamaican CSOs and SEs.**
- **Increased revenue for two SEs** in LPD's business incubator by more than three times the amount received over a similar period in 2017.
- At a SCALE+ event in December 2018, **more than 80 civil society and government representatives generated and endorsed five areas of emphases for collaborative action to address youth crime and violence** in the volatile and vulnerable parish of Clarendon.
- **Engaged 56 stakeholders across civil society, government, and academia** in the process of regulatory reform for the CSO and SE sectors.
- **Developed videos** depicting Organizational Performance Index concepts through innovative dramas that allow CSOs and SEs to more easily conduct self-assessments.

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