

Project Overview



Community, Family and Youth Resilience Program

Quick Facts

1

An estimated 650 youth most at risk for violence and their families will receive targeted counseling to lower risk factors

2

800 youth will gain improved workforce readiness skills to boost livelihoods opportunities

3

The project will support 15 communities in implementing holistic crime and violence prevention plans, reaching some 40,000 families

In the Caribbean, many youth face the prospect of being economically and socially marginalized and are at risk for violence.

Youth grow up in a context of increasingly high levels of crime and violence, peak rates of unemployment and a lack of psychosocial support services, such as vocational and life skills training. The Community, Family and Youth Resilience program, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, supports family networks, community service providers and government agencies to implement successful approaches to reduce crime and violence and increase opportunities for youth in St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis and Guyana.

The program will support 15 communities to implement holistic approaches to support youth resilience, including family counseling and support, skills development and crime and violence prevention plans. These plans include improving community policing, strengthening crime and violence observatories and building linkages with the private sector to support youth employment, among other interventions.

Creative Associates International implements the program in partnership with the Pan American Development Foundation, the University of Southern California and YouthBuild International.

An evidence-based approach to build youth resilience

Taking a public-health, evidenced-based approach, the program provides targeted intervention activities to reach youth across

three risk-differentiated risk levels—including the general population of youth in crime-affected areas (primary), youth at high risk for violence (secondary) and youth in conflict with the law (tertiary). Youth will be matched with interventions based on their level of risk and these interventions will seek to increase their protective factors or “resilience.”

Based on a Positive Youth Development approach, this continuum of services includes primary prevention services such as civic activities to build social and leadership skills, workshops to increase youth workforce readiness, community activities that promote positive youth-police contact and campaigns to challenge those gender norms which contribute to an environment that is permissive of violence.

To support youth who are leaving the juvenile justice system and reduce their chances of recidivism, the program

provides targeted support to strengthen successful reintegration of these youth into their communities.

Strengthening families and communities

The program provides specialized secondary prevention services for families whose youth are empirically most vulnerable to becoming involved in crime and violence. A sustainable network of trained family counselors will work in close partnership with the families of high-risk youth to establish positive relations and behaviors to lower the youths’ risk factors.

In addition to strengthening a comprehensive array of wraparound services for high-risk youth and their families, the program supports local youth- and family-focused initiatives through small grants that improve community safety and cohesion and expand opportunities for young people.

The program’s place-based strategy concentrates complementary prevention activities in a set geographic area to boost overall community resilience and empower local stakeholders and government institutions to shape the next generation of youth and family interventions. This includes improved legal and policy frameworks to reduce risk factors for violence, stronger referral systems to support youth and families, smarter violence observatories that use modern data analytics, coordinated community councils and more.



15,000

Number of youth who will benefit from primary prevention activities like skills training and mentorship

