



Project Background

Through LPD and other initiatives, USAID/Jamaica supports Jamaica to reduce crime and violence in communities through initiatives that improve community and law enforcement cooperation, reduce corruption, and increase economic opportunities. In 2019, LPD’s primary focus became the capacity strengthening of targeted Jamaican civil society organizations (CSOs) and government entities to become more effective in *preventing crime and violence among youth* in targeted high-risk geographical areas through evidence-based approaches and strategic collaboration between the government, private sector, and civil society. This final performance evaluation focuses on this phase of LPD interventions. It was conducted by [LINC](#) and its partner, [The Cloudburst Group](#), from September 2022–March 2023.

Evaluation Purpose

- Determine whether LPD’s strategic approach improved the resilience of targeted youth, their families, and communities to crime and violence.
- Assess whether targeted local organizations can implement evidence-based programming to improve activity outcomes.
- Examine how private sector engagement may improve the sustainability of youth crime and violence prevention interventions.

Evaluation Questions

1. To what extent has the LPD activity improved the resilience of targeted youth and their families to crime and violence?
2. In what ways has LPD built the capacity of local government and non-government organizations to implement evidence-based interventions?
3. To what extent has LPD integrated private sector engagement to address the risk and resilience factors faced by targeted youth, families, and communities?

Methodology: Mixed-Methods Evaluation



Review of primary and secondary sources including program documents, LPD analytical products, and other grey literature.



Sites visits to Kingston, St. Catherine, and St. James.



42 Interviews with **57** key stakeholders including the national government, grantees, CSOs, and the private sector.



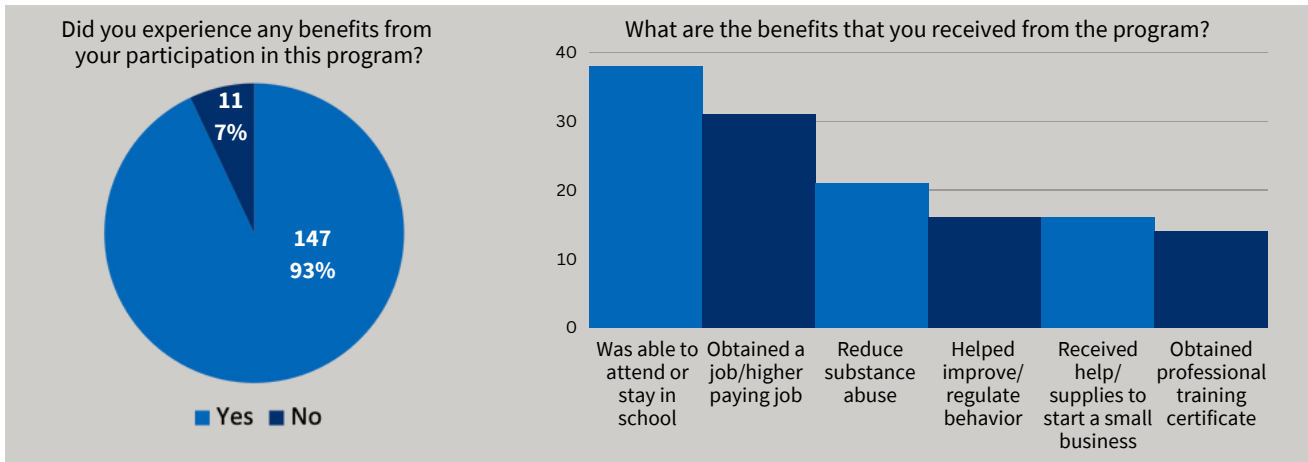
8 FGDs with **52** youth activity participants.



Non-random perception survey with **149** youth and their family members.

Findings and Conclusions

EQ1: LPD’s integrated model with life skills training, vocational training/apprenticeships and CBT was key to increasing the resilience of youth in a short time period. Participants appreciated the program’s adaptive approach and individualized components including case management, mentorship, and tailored support to youth needs. Most respondents (71 percent) were totally or highly satisfied with the program, and 64 percent of re-assessed youth showed decreased risk for involvement in crime and violence.

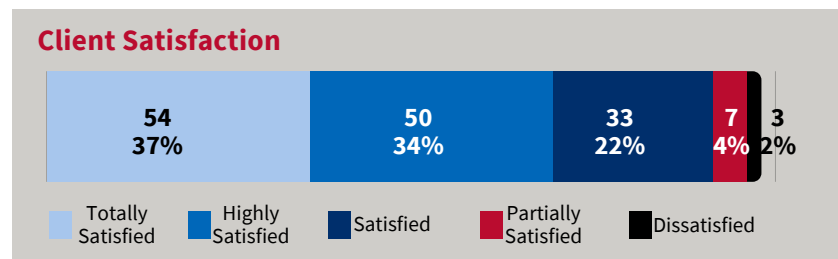


EQ2: LPD increased awareness and understanding of evidence-based interventions and motivated local government and non-government organizations to implement these interventions to reduce crime and violence among youth. LPD cultivated ownership of activities among local government and non-government organizations. The high quality of the capacity-strengthening activities was a key enabling factor for adopting evidence-based programming among implementing partners. However, LPD’s evidence-based approach is likely to be sustained by only a few implementing partners. Most interviewees confirmed that they lack the financial resources to sustain evidence-based approaches long term. Other external factors that bring into question the program’s sustainability include insufficient grant budgets, a short activity timeframe, COVID-19, limited coordination among implementers, and low parental engagement.

EQ3: LPD integrated private sector partners into the development and implementation of its interventions by combining employment-oriented activities such as apprenticeships and business opportunity training with CBT, anger management, drug counseling, and other life skills-oriented training. Youth beneficiaries indicated that an integrated PSE approach is more likely to resonate with youth and be effective at curbing crime and violence, however, private sector partners are concerned with the lack of funding, high program attrition, and the costs of hiring at-risk youth. For PSE to fully contribute to sustainable crime and violence prevention, private sector capacity-strengthening in social development, programming, project management, and skills in connecting with and navigating the donor community is essential.

Recommendations

- Train potential implementing partners/grantees in evidence-based approaches and award grants to organizations that meet minimum levels of technical and organizational capacity. Commission a cost-effectiveness study to determine the optimum level of support needed for technical and psychosocial support to reduce risk factors.
- Continue coordination with the GoJ and donors/partners to maximize program effectiveness.
- Increase engagement of family members to improve reduction in risk factors and youth resilience. Consider involving youth in activity design.
- Focus future programming with unattached youth on permanent job placement opportunities.
- Share activity results and M&E data with grantees and government stakeholders to help them incorporate lessons learned into their programming.
- Include substantial outreach to the general business community to sensitize them to the challenges facing at-risk youth, the related social problems for the communities, and the benefits of working with at-risk youth.



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