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Youth-at-Risk: Phase 1

Includes:
List of Sources
Resource Binder
Project Overview Report

By Kelly Pritchard

Completed for:

Marisa Kaczmarczyk at Jamaica Self-Help
Supervising Professor: David Morrison, Trent University
Trent Centre for Community-Based Education

Department: International Development Studies
Course code: IDST 370
Term: Fall/Winter 2003-2004
Date of project submission: April 2004

Project ID: 476

Call Number: 360 Pri

Youth-at-Risk: Phase 1

Abstract: The goal of the project was to compile information about programs and resources available to Jamaican youth-at-risk. The project took the form of a resource binder including information from the websites of various organizations working in Jamaica, in Canada, and internationally. The following is a listing of these websites, along with the author's introduction to each section of the resource binder and her project overview in essay form.

Keywords: Jamaica, Jamaica Self-Help, Canada, youth, youth-at-risk, police, global networks, technology, poverty, violence

BIBLIOGRAPHY of Internet Sources Referenced in *Youth-at-Risk: Phase 1*

Section 1: General Jamaica

1. *National Youth Policy* – National Centre for Youth Development, Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture – <http://www.moec.gov.jm/youth/YouthPolicy.pdf>
2. *Adolescent and Youth-Serving Organizations in Jamaica: Results from the Youth Programmatic Inventory Survey of the National Centre for Youth and Development* – National Centre for Youth Development, Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture – http://www.policyproject.com/pubs/countryreports/JAM_YPI.pdf
3. *Canadian Cooperation in the Caribbean 2000 Edition: Jamaica* – Canadian International Development Agency – website not found
4. Jamaican Canadian Association – <http://www.jcassoc.com>
5. Jamaican Cultural Alliance – <http://www.ghog.com/jca/about.html> , <http://www.ghog.com/jca/youth.html>

The Jamaica Cultural Alliance is a Los Angeles public affairs organization that seeks to expand American awareness of Jamaican culture and heritage.
5510 Edgewood Pl. #2
Los Angeles, CA 90019
Phone: 323-692-0423

Section 2: General Canada

1. *National Youth Organizations Guide* – National Rural Youth Network – website not found

Section 3: Police-Youth Relations

A. Programs in Jamaica

1. Big Brother Big Sister Program – Hanover Police – http://www.jis.gov.jm/security/html/20030930t120000-0500_686_jis_hanover_police_institute_big_brother_big_sister_programme.asp, http://www.jis.gov.jm/justice/html/20031125t090000-0500_1105_jis_mediation_and_other_efforts_reaping_some_measure_of_success_in_reducing_crime.asp
2. *The Criminal Justice System: A Crime Prevention Approach* – website not found
3. Jamaica Chamber of Commerce – Civic Affairs Committee – Youth Leadership Training Program – http://www.jcc.org.jm/projects/CivicAffairsCommittee_000.asp
4. Jamaica Constabulary Force: Community Relations Branch – <http://www.jamaicapolice.org.jm/crbase.html>
5. The Juvenile Unit –
6. National Consultation of Juvenile Justice –
7. The Police Mediation Unit –
8. Police Youth Clubs –
9. Second Chance Initiative –
10. Youth Organizations maintaining links with police
 - a. Children First (see *Technical Capacity, Uplifting Adolescents Project*)

- b. Western Society for the Upliftment of Children (see *Technical Capacity, Uplifting Adolescents Project*)
- c. The Scout Association of Jamaica (see *Organizational Capacity I*)
- d. The Girl Guides Association of Jamaica (see *Organizational Capacity I*)

B. Programs in Ontario

1. Empowered Student Partnerships (ESP) –

<http://www.canadiansafeschools.com/esp>,
<http://www.canadiansafeschools.com/esp/programs/ongia.htm>,
<http://www.canadiansafeschools.com/esp/programs/pave.htm>,
<http://www.canadiansafeschools.com/esp/programs/smile.htm>,
<http://www.canadiansafeschools.com/esp/programs/stage.htm>,
<http://www.canadiansafeschools.com/esp/programs/theater.htm>

ESP Contacts

Sergeant Bill Russell

Community Programs

Youth Services

T.P.S. H.Q.

Phone: 416-808-7030

Police Constable Neil Bellefeuille

Community Programs

Youth Services

T.P.S. H.Q.

Phone: 416-808-7044

2. Proaction – Cops and Kids – <http://www.copsandkids.ca>

Catherine Charlton – Executive Director

Holly Smouter – Assistant

ProAction - Cops and Kids

40 College Street Suite 623

Toronto, Ontario M5G 2J3

Phone: 416-222-7011

Fax: 416-222-0310

Email: contact@copsandkids.ca

3. Toronto Five-O Basketball – <http://www.torontofiveo.com>,

<http://www.copsandkids.ca/difference.html>,

<http://www.copsandkids.ca/programs/programs2005.html>

Toronto Five-O Basketball Club *and* Stay in School and Keep the Peace

Contact: **Chris Wilson**

2100 Bloor Street West

Suite 6250

Toronto, ON M6S 5A5

Phone: 416-766-7032

Email: director@torontofiveo.com

Section 4: Organizational Capacity I

A. Programs in Jamaica

1. Gathering of the Healers – <http://www.rastaheart.com>

Gathering of the Healers: The Healing of the Nations

Email: roskind@boone.net

2. Girl Guide Association of Jamaica -
<http://www.wagggsworld.org/aroundtheworld/regions/countries/whem/jamaica.htm>

Email: girlguidesjm@cwjamaica.com

Phone: 876-926-6277

Fax: 876-920-8933

3. Jamaica Cultural Development Commission –
<http://www.jcdc.org.jm/about.htm>

3 Phoenix Avenue

Kingston 10

Jamaica W.I.

Phone: 876-926-5726

Fax: 876-929-2362

Email: library@jcdc.org.jm

4. Jamaica Ministry of Justice – Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF) –
<http://www.moj.gov.jm/node/view/10>

The Dispute Resolution Foundation is based at:

The Peace Centre

5 Camp Road

P.O. Box 543

Kingston 5

Jamaica W.I.

Phone: 876-906-2456; 908-3657

Fax: 876-754-9769

Email: drf@mail.infochan.com

5. Jamaica National Youth Service – National Volunteerism Project –
<http://www.nysjamaica.org>

6. Jamaica Red Cross – <http://www.jamaicaredcross.org>,
<http://www.jamaicaredcross.org/new/jrcyouth.html?PHPSESSID=0df8362309580cdaedb9e1dfb3852fdc>

7. Jamaica Upliftment – <http://www.upliftmentjamaica.org>

8. The Jamaican/Caribbean Performing Arts Ensemble and Academy (ASHE) –
<http://www.ashe-ja.com>

ASHE Performing Arts Ensemble

143 Mountain View Avenue

Kingston 3

Jamaica W.I.

Phone: 876-967-0721

Fax: 876-928-4064

9. Living Values Education Program (LVEP) –
<http://www.livingvalues.net/homepages/jamaica.html>

Living Values Education

Office for the United Nations

866 UN Plaza, Suite 436, New York, NY 10017 USA

Fax: 212-504-2798

E-mail: lv@livingvalues.net

10. Peace and Love in Schools (PALS) Jamaica – <http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/pals/pals.html>

PALS, Peace and Love in Schools

P.O. Box 40

7 North Street

Kingston

Jamaica

11. Scout Association of Jamaica – <http://jascouts.tripod.com/jascouts2.html>,
http://scoutdocs.ca/Documents/What_is_Scouting.php

The Scout Association of Jamaica

2D Camp Road, P.O. Box 528

Kingston 5

Jamaica W.I.

Phone: 876-926-7209

Fax: 876-926-6292

Email: scoutassoc@cwjamaica.com

12. SDC/Texaco Community Basketball Competition –

<http://www.sdc.gov.jm/basketball/index.html>

To meet the needs of communities across Jamaica, SDC has Community Development Officers (CDOs) responsible for each community. To make contact with SDC please phone the regional offices or use the website:

Parishes	SDC Region	Telephone
Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Thomas	1	876-948-4847 / 4537
Portland, St. Mary, and St. Ann	2	876-992-4088
Trelawny, St. James, Hanover, Westmoreland	3	876-952-5938
St. Elizabeth, Manchester, Clarendon	4	876-962-3263
St Catherine	5	876-907-4056
Head Office		876-754-7609 - 16

13. SOS Children's Villages – <http://www.sos-jamaica.org>

14. Taking IT Global – Opinion Difference Intolerance Assessment –

<http://projects.takingitglobal.org/odiaquest>,

<http://profiles.takingitglobal.org/geopete>

B. Programs in Ontario

1. City of Peterborough: Get REAL – <http://www.ptboyouth.com>

For more information on the get R.E.A.L program, please contact:

Ellen Stewart or Erin Gill

742-7777 ext. 1805 or by email:

estewart@city.peterborough.on.ca

egill@city.peterborough.on.ca

2. Operation Springboard – <http://www.operationspringboard.on.ca>

3. Youth Canada Association (YOU CAN) – <http://www.youcan.ca>

	YOU CAN National Office: Ottawa	YOU CAN Edmonton Office
mailing address	797 Somerset Street West, Suite 34 Ottawa, ON K1R 6R3	11 Addison Crescent St. Albert, AB T8N 2S2
street address	323 Chapel Street Ottawa, ON K1N 7Z2	11 Addison Crescent St. Albert, AB T8N 2S2
Phone	613-230-1903 or 1-888-4-YOU-CAN	780-459-8202 or 1-866-362-8006
Fax	613-233-3700 or 1-877-309-5969	

Section 5: Organizational Capacity II

A. Programs in Jamaica

1. The Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) –

<http://www.crin.org/about/index.asp>,

- <http://www.crin.org/organisations/viewCrinOrgs.asp?regID=6&code=020>
1, <http://www.crin.org/contact/contact.asp>
2. Foundation for International Training – Enhancing Civil Society Project –
<http://www.ffit.org>, <http://www.ffit.org/pr/Jamaica/index.html>
 3. The Independent Jamaica Council for Human Rights –
<http://www.ijchr.com>
131 Tower Street
Kingston
Jamaica, W.I.
Phone: 876-967-1204
Fax: 876-967-0571
Email: ijchr@mail.infochan.com
 4. Jamaica Coalition on the Rights of the Child --
<http://www.crin.org/organisations/viewOrg.asp?ID=1129>
 5. Jamaicans for Justice – <http://www.jamaicansforjustice.org/about.htm>
Stella Maris Foundation Building
1 Grants Pen Road
Kingston 8
Jamaica W.I.
Phone: 876-755-4525-6
Fax: 876-755-4355
Email: ja.for.justice@mail.infochan.com
 6. Management Services International – <http://www.civ-jam.org>
 7. Taking it Global – YES Country Network –
<http://projects.takingitglobal.org/YES-Jamaica>
- B. Programs in Canada
1. The Catalyst Centre – The Activist School – <http://www.catalystcentre.ca>,
<http://www.catalystcentre.ca/activistschool.htm>
 2. Young People’s Press – <http://www.ypp.net/aboutus.asp>
Address: 110 Eglinton Ave. W,
Suite 200, Toronto, ON
M4R 1A3
Phone: 416-484-4570
Fax: 416-484-8173
Email: writeus@ypp.net
 3. Youth Action Network – <http://www.youthactionnetwork.org>
Phone: 416-368-2277
Fax: 416-368-8354
Email: general@youthactionnetwork.org
 4. Youth Justice Education Partnership –
http://www.extension.ualberta.ca/youthjustice/about_yjep.html
YJEP c/o Legal Studies
4-36, 8303 – 112 Street
174 University Campus NW
Edmonton, AB T6G 2T4
Phone: 780-492-1621
Fax: 780-492-1857
Email: lsp@ualberta.ca

Section 6: Global Networks

- A. Programs operating in Jamaica / in conjunctions with Jamaican affiliates:

1. Global Youth Action Network (GYAN) – <http://www.takingitglobal.org/aboutus/gyan>
 2. The International Union of Students (IUS) – <http://www.stud.uni-hannover.de/gruppen/ius>
 1. The International Youth Parliament (IYP) – <http://iyp.oxfam.org>
 2. TakingITGlobal (TIG) – <http://about.takingitglobal.org>
- B. Youth Action Net – <http://www.youthactionnet.org>,
http://www.youthactionnet.org/youthprofiles/Vandrea_755.cfm
1. See: *A Snapshot of the Global Youth Movement* – <http://www.youthmovements.org/guide/globalguide.htm>

Section 7: Technical Capacity

A. Programs in Jamaica:

1. Back to School Jamaica – <http://www.moec.gov.jm/events/bts2003/index.htm>
2. Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC) – <http://www.ccfcanda.ca>,
http://www.ccfcanda.ca/action_where_jamaica.asp
3. Education for All (EFA) –
http://www.unesco.org/education/efa/ed_for_all/index.shtml,
<http://www2.unesco.org/wef/countryreports/jamaica/contents.html>

National EFA Coordinator – Jamaica

Valerie Been

Planning & Development Division

Ministry of Education & Culture

2 – 4 National Heroes' Circle

Kingston 4

Jamaica, W.I.

Phone: 876-944-3784

Fax: 876-922-6328

Email: edirplan@cwjamaica.com

4. Heart Trust – The National Training Agency – <http://www.heart-nta.org/ser.htm>, <http://www.jccul.com/oldnews/jannews.htm>,
5. Integrity Children's Fund (ICF) – <http://www.integritychildren.org>
6. International Education and Resource Network (iEARN) –
<http://www.iearn.org>

iEARN-USA

476 Riverside Drive, Suite 450

New York, NY 10115

Phone: 212-870-2693

Email: iearn@us.iearn.org

Jamaica: Joan Davis guyshillhighschool@hotmail.com

7. The Jamaica 4-H Clubs – <http://www.jamaica4h.com/whoweare.htm>
8. Jamaica Impact Inc. (JAMPACT) – <http://www.jampact.org>
9. Jamaica Organization for Youth (JOY) – <http://www.funspot.net/joy>
Email: joy@funspot.net

10. The Jamaican Youth Program: Building Youth for National Development (BYOND) – website not found

11. Junior Achievement International – website not found

12. Kiwanis (International) – <http://www.kiwanis.org>,

<http://www.kiwanis.org/clubloc/default.asp?dist=Jamaica%20West%20Indies>

13. Leo Clubs (of Jamaica) –

http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/youth_leo_motto.shtml,
<http://www.angelfire.com/oh/crazybaby/frontpage.html>,
http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/resources_contact_index.shtml

14. The Lions Club of Downtown Kingston – website not found

15. The Mandeville Lions Club –

<http://www.homestead.com/mandevillelionsclub>,
<http://www.homestead.com/mandevillelionsclub/PresentationofSchoolSupplies-sept2003.html>

16. The National Youth Service (NYS) – website not found

17. Operation Friendship – <http://www.friendshipjamaica.org/editorial.htm>,

<http://www.friendshipjamaica.org/skillinfo.htm>

Operation Friendship Jamaica

2C East Bell Road

Kingston 11

Jamaica W.I.

Phone: 876-923-8933

Fax: 876-923-0802

18. Operation Restoration Christian School – <http://www.operation-restoration.org>

Jamaica:

Lorna Archer Stanley

Operation Restoration

12C Collie Smith Drive

Kingston 12

Jamaica, W.I.

Phone: 876-967-4245

Email: operrest@colis.com, operrest@mail.infochan.com

19. People's Action for Community Transformation (PACT) –

<http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/pact/profile.php>, <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/pact/contact.php>

- a. St. Matthew's Church/Allman Town Human Resource Training Centre – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/pact/allmantown>
- b. First Missionary Church – Thatch House Limited – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/pact/firstmissionary>
- c. Hanover Street/Gardener's View Baptist Churches – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/pact/hanover-gardener>
- d. Hope for the Children Development Company (HCDC) – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/pact/hcdc>
- e. Kingston Restoration Company Limited (KRC) – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/pact/krc>
- f. Mel Nathan Institute – please see: *Uplifting Adolescents Project (Technical Capacity)* – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/pact/melnathan>
- g. Social Action Centre (SAC) – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/pact/sac>
- h. Operation Friendship – please see: *Operation Friendship (Technical Capacity)* – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/pact/friendship>
- i. Kingston YMCA – please see: *Uplifting Adolescents Project (Technical Capacity)* – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/pact/ymca>

- j. Holiness Christian Church – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/pact/holiness>
- k. Youth Opportunities Unlimited – please see: *Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Technical Capacity)* – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/pact/you>
- l. North Street United Church – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/pact/northunited>
- m. Jamaica Save the Children Fund – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/pact/jamsave>
- 20. Teens for Technology Jamaica – <http://www.teensfortechology.org/index2.html>
- 21. TechSchool Jamaica – <http://www.techschooljamaica.com>
- 22. The Uplifting Adolescents Project (UAP) – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/about.php>
 - a. Youth Opportunities Unlimited – please see: *Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Technical Capacity)* – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/you>
 - b. Kinston Young Men’s Christian Association (Kingston YMCA) – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/ymca>
 - c. Jamaica Red Cross – please see: *Jamaica Red Cross (Organizational Capacity I)* – <http://www.jamaicaredcross.org/new/index.php>
 - d. Women’s Centre of Jamaica Foundation (WCJF) – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/womenscentre>
 - e. Young Women’s Christian Association of Jamaica (YWCA/Jamaica) – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/ywca>
 - f. Mel Nathan Institute – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/melnathan>
 - g. Rural Family Support Organization – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/rufanso>
 - h. Sam Sharpe Teacher’s College – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/samsharpe>
 - i. Western Society for the Upliftment of Children (WSUC) – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/wsuc>
 - j. Children First – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/childrenfirst>
- 23. Youth Information Centres (YICs) – http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/html/20030714t070000-0500_46333_obs_gov_t_to_open_more_youth_information_centres.asp
- 24. Youth Opportunities Unlimited – <http://www.jamaica-kidz.com/you>
- B. Programs in Canada
 - 1. Junior Achievement (Canada) – <http://www.jacan.org>
 - 2. Youth Service Canada – <http://www.hrhc-drhc.gc.ca/common/news/youth/9707b.shtml>

Section 8: Report: Project Overview

Relationship between youth and police

From 1940 to 1970 Jamaican police were integrated into urban communities and looked to by citizens for advice and the administration of justice. Since 1970, however, police have come to be universally criticized for brutalizing Jamaican youth and provoking violence. The police are described by inner-city residents as having no love for “ghetto people” or respect for their lives, and tend to prejudicially brand all inner-city youth as criminals. Moreover, police biases in favour of one section of the community enhance division between members of that community. Fostering positive relationships between police officers and youth could assist in the promotion of an altered attitude toward ghetto people, one that is respectful, fatherly toward the youth and cooperative. Reducing police brutality and the favouring of one community over another could positively impact individual conceptions of self-worth and equality, and reduce divisions preventing social cohesiveness.

Goal: to foster positive relationships between youth and police that will strengthen Jamaican communities through creating an environment that promotes mutual understanding and respect.

Programs in Jamaica:

1. Big Brother Big Sister Program – Hanover Police: is designed to provide nurturing and mentoring relationships for children that will reduce fear and restore confidence in the police, as well as improve police responsiveness to criminal activity.
2. The Criminal Justice System: A Crime Prevention Approach: a presentation to Parliament by the Hon. K.D. Knight Q.C. M.P. - Minister of National Security and Justice.
3. Jamaica Chamber of Commerce - Civic Affairs Committee – Youth Leadership Training Program: assists residents of inner-city communities to become self-reliant and develop competencies in resolving conflicts peacefully in their homes, communities and neighbourhoods. The program involves both youth leaders and members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force.
4. Jamaica Constabulary Force: Community Relations Branch: focuses on creating, managing and maintaining specific community relations programs and strives to foster improved communication and mutual understanding between the police and the community.
5. The Juvenile Unit: enforces sense of community responsibility for community development and safety through addressing issues surrounding number and state of juveniles in police lockups (*see The Criminal Justice System: A Crime Prevention Approach in this section*)
6. National Consultation of Juvenile Justice: aims to create greater awareness of the role of juvenile justice in upholding protection of the rights of offending children and to bring together the principal stakeholders in the juvenile system to discuss gaps and areas requiring reform; and present a National Plan of Action to enhance and reform the Juvenile Justice System (*see The Criminal Justice System: A Crime Prevention Approach in this section*)
7. The Police Mediation Unit: trains police officers to deal with community conflicts; conducts mediation lectures and seminars involving participants from schools, training institutions, churches, neighbourhood watches, police youth clubs and other civic and nongovernmental organizations and police departments throughout Jamaica (*see The Criminal Justice System: A Crime Prevention Approach in this section*)
8. Police Youth Clubs: address the increasing alienation between police and youth in several areas of Jamaica. 309 police youth clubs with a membership of 22,169 exist across the island (*see The Criminal Justice System: A Crime Prevention Approach, Police Community Relations in this section*)
9. Second Chance Initiative: empowers youth through skills training, developing their tolerance level, and instilling a sense of community building and good relationship between the community and the police. (*see The Criminal Justice System: A Crime Prevention Approach in this section*)
10. Youth Organizations maintaining links with police: *Children First*(*see Technical Capacity, Uplifting Adolescents Project*), *Western Society for the Upliftment of Children* (*see Technical Capacity, Uplifting Adolescents Project*), *The Scout Association of Jamaica* (*see Organizational Capacity I*), *The Girl Guides Association of Jamaica* (*see Organizational Capacity I*)

Programs in Ontario:

1. Empowered Student Partnerships (ESP): is a student-led partnership between the Toronto Police Service, the Canadian Safe School Network, ProAction, the City of Toronto, the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, le Conseil scolaire public de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest, and le Conseil scolaire public de district catholique Centre-Sud. The primary focus of ESP is to empower students to plan, organize, and execute a yearlong safe schools initiative in their local schools and communities. A priority of ESP is to collaborate with Toronto Police in addressing one of their service priorities, youth victimization and violence.
2. Proaction - Cops and Kids: provides funding support for community programs run by the Toronto Police Service Community Programs Unit of behalf of kids at risk. Programs are designed to establish positive relationships between police and youth at risk that will help create an environment that promotes mutual understanding and respect.
3. Toronto Five-O Basketball: provides children with a team environment in which each individual is encouraged to learn, grow and develop into productive members of their community.

Organizational capacity I

In several urban Jamaican communities, intra-community violence is seen as the number one problem. Gang violence, often identified as the most pervasive form of violence, has proliferated due to the replacement of single area leaders, or dons, with large numbers of lesser competing dons. The war between gangs representing different areas is associated with attacks on those from other areas who cross the line of demarcation or clash with gang members in some way. This puts heavy restraints on mobility, and encourages division rather than consensus building. Developing links based on a shared cultural heritage could help to reduce lines of division - allowing for greater collaboration amongst individuals and communities - and foster a will to cooperate on issues surrounding poverty and violence. Teen clubs, sports teams and cultural institutions, for example, can help to create horizontal linkages between individuals and groups that promote a sense of community through imparting values such as shared cultural identity, team ethic, or social responsibility. Involving leaders who are widely respected by youth, possibly because of their positive cultural traits, has an important role to play in this area. Also important in fostering a greater sense of community are programs that teach youth apathy, positive choices, or conflict resolution, as these may help them avoid conflicts that could lead to greater division within the community.

Goal: to increase organizational capacity through fostering a sense of community that will allow Jamaican youth to co-operate on issues surrounding poverty and violence.

Programs in Jamaica:

1. Gathering of the Healers: hosts "One Love: Big Up the Youths" concerts for youth throughout Jamaica. These concerts feature the country's most popular reggae artists and promote a vision of healing Jamaica through individual acts of One Love and forgiveness.
2. Girl Guide Association of Jamaica: see Scout Association of Jamaica above.
3. Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC): is entrusted with the mandate to develop and promote the creative talents and cultural expressions of the Jamaican people, through programs in dance, traditional folk forms, speech and drama, music, culinary arts, fine arts, photography and literary arts.
4. Jamaica Ministry of Justice – Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF): encourages the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) techniques throughout Jamaica. It's objectives are: 1) to encourage and educate the public about using ADR techniques to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence; 2) to establish Peace and Justice Centres in communities throughout Jamaica; and 3) to increase the use of mediation services by the legal profession as a dispute resolution option
5. Jamaica National Youth Service – National Volunteerism Project: aims to: 1) bring together individuals and groups which feel personal responsibility for the development of society and who want to work on a voluntary basis to make it better; 2) identify and implement projects which will increase voluntary involvement in the promotion of values and attitudes; 3) support movements at the parish, national and international levels, and to establish cooperation between voluntary groups; and 4) promote volunteerism through social marketing and to represent the interests of Youth nationally and internationally.
6. Jamaica Red Cross: offers a variety of youth programs including Red Cross Clubs in schools and the Red Cross Cadets as well as conflict resolution and mediation training.
7. Jamaica Upliftment: provides opportunities for disadvantaged youth in the town of White Horses through active participation in activities covering sports, education and cultural and community enrichment.
8. The Jamaican/Caribbean Performing Arts Ensemble and Academy (ASHE): is an English Caribbean performing arts company which specializes in Jamaican/Caribbean traditional dances songs drumming and culture. It is comprised of Jamaican youth and works to enhance learning and self worth while at the same time entertaining and educating.
9. Living Values Education Program (LVEP): provides youth (as well as adults) with guiding principles and tools that encourage respect, honesty and truthfulness, forgiveness and tolerance, peace and love and fairness. It aims to establish and sustain an institutional component in which Jamaican institutions operate within a values and attitude-based culture.

10. Peace and Love in Schools (PALS) Jamaica: was started in 1994 as a response to escalating levels of violence in Jamaican schools. It aims to teach young people to choose alternatives to self destructive, violent behaviour when confronted with conflict.
11. Scout Association of Jamaica: The Scout Association of Jamaica aims to develop good citizenship among youth throughout Jamaica through promoting adherence to a code of living which emphasizes, among other principles, participation in the development of society, respect for the dignity of others and the integrity of the natural world, a sense of personal responsibility and a responsible self-expression.
12. SDC/Texaco Community Basketball Competition: is co-sponsored by the Jamaica Social Development Commission along with Texaco Caribbean Inc. SDC/Texaco Community Basketball works to facilitate broad participation in basketball at the community level.
13. SOS Children's Villages: offer orphaned and abandoned children – regardless of race, nationality or creed – a permanent home and prepares them for an independent life. The village community gives the children cultural roots and a feeling of belonging, and thus acts as a bridge to society.
14. Taking IT Global – Opinion Difference Intolerance Assessment: is geared towards providing a window into the thought process leading up to conflicts. Having assessed the causes of violent behaviour and recognizing its multi-facetedness prior to the project, the opinion difference intolerant assessment aims to assist the media in projecting to wider society, the notion that all opinions are worthwhile.

Programs in Ontario:

1. City of Peterborough: Get REAL: offers a variety of opportunities which enable young people to become involved in sport, leisure, cultural and personal development interests in several locations throughout Peterborough.
2. Operation Springboard: sponsors community-based participation programs with the goal of preventing young people from becoming involved in criminal activity. *Choices Straight Up* is a unique "youth-to-youth" program that stresses the importance of making good choices in one's life.
3. Youth Canada Association (YOUCAN): is a national non-profit organization dedicated to empowering youth and building a culture of peace through assisting young people in developing the skills needed to build peace, resolve conflict and participate actively in youth issues.

Organizational capacity II

A will to cooperate amongst youth must be accompanied by organizational structures that facilitate participatory solutions to the pressing issues of poverty, violence and stagnant development, and enhance networking in this regard. Developing alternatives to the current status quo, moreover, requires that youth develop a basic understanding of their fundamental rights and freedoms, and are empowered to have a voice in the mainstream media and a space at the table of public opinion. Central to this, is a strengthening of democratic institutions and procedures in Jamaica more generally.

Goal: To increase organizational capacity through enhancing the ability of Jamaican youth to articulate demands / engage in the political process

Programs in Jamaica:

1. The Child Rights Information Network (CRIN): a global network that disseminates information about the Convention on the Rights of the Child and child rights amongst non-governmental organizations, United Nations Agencies, inter-governmental organizations, educational institutions and other child rights experts. CRIN's partner organizations based in Jamaica include the Jamaica Coalition on the Rights of the Child and the Jamaican Ministry of Health. Other CRIN member organizations with operations in Jamaica are: the Bernard van Leer Foundation; the Women's World Summit Foundation; the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect; the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries; Save the Children UK; World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts; Global Fund for Children; and the Canadian International Development Agency.
2. Foundation for International Training - Enhancing Civil Society Project: The Foundation for International Training is a Canadian non-profit, development services organization which works to further social and economic progress in developing countries by strengthening human capabilities. FIT's Enhancing Civil Society Project in Jamaica aims to assist the Jamaican government in its efforts to identify and implement participatory solutions to issues of poverty, violence, and maldevelopment through integrating people as active members of civil society.
3. The Independent Jamaica Council for Human Rights: is the oldest non-governmental human rights organization in the Caribbean. IJCHR aims to provide information about and to promote the observances of Human Rights generally in Jamaica, to encourage the study of human rights and all related matters, to promote the development of national consciousness and the recognition of Human Rights and civil liberties, and to build a national movement for the purpose of establishing and defending Human Rights and civil liberties throughout Jamaica.
4. Jamaica Coalition on the Rights of the Child: established a Youth Advocates Group on February 10, 2001 in an effort to provide a forum to facilitate dialogue, debate and discussion of the various issues that affect children and youth in a safe, non-judgmental environment. The objectives of the Youth Advocates Group are: to provide children/youth with opportunities to meet with each other and make contributions to the resolution of issues that impact on their survival, development and quality of life; to aid in the development of their ability to work with in-groups, consensus on solutions; to provide opportunities to learn about child rights and interact with groups of "at risk" children; and to interface with children and community organizations to represent issues relating to the rights of children.
5. Jamaicans for Justice: works to create a greater awareness of the rights and responsibilities of Jamaican citizens in building a Jamaica where the rights of all are assured, and where there is equal opportunity for citizens to realize their potential and enjoy a sense of well-being.
6. Management Services International: CIV-JAM: has as its mission "to strengthen national-level, reform-oriented CSOs advocating for improved governance in the areas of justice, human rights, women and children's rights and citizen security, by providing institutional development support and facilitating the emergence of working partnerships around a common agenda."
7. Taking it Global – YES Country Network: a collaboration of youth organizations and NGOs working to prepare for the upcoming Global Youth Employment Summit and the Decade Campaign of Action that will follow. YES Jamaica's goals are to build an effective and innovative local network to contribute to the Global Campaign for Youth Employment, through building a

new partnership between all sectors that will create a future for Jamaica's youth where participation in every sense is maximized.

Programs in Canada:

1. The Catalyst Centre -- The Activist School: The Catalyst Centre works to promote innovative learning, popular education, research and community development to advance positive social change. The Centre's Activist school will aim to create a space and a sustained, supported process by which social movements can effectively cooperate to build lasting capacity through political education, support for skills development, and the creation of a common political culture based on mutual respect and democratic process. The school will provide activists from social movement groups (especially youth activists), labour unions, and individuals with tools, training, education in strategic thinking and planning, and a network to support people's continued education in their activism locally, regionally, and across Canada
2. Young People's Press: is a North American news service that empowers a large network of youth and young adult writers to have a voice in the mainstream media and a space at the table of public opinion through working to have their articles published in newspapers in Canada and the United States as well as on internet websites.
3. Youth Action Network: is a non-profit organization driven and originated by youths which aims to create and promote social development and public policy initiatives for Canadian youth through research, human resource development, public education, advocacy and regional co-operation. YAN's main objective is to empower youth to pursue a proactive approach to activism through education and conscientiousness.
4. Youth Justice Education Partnership: links youth, communities, organizations and governments throughout Canada into a network which works to: enhance the understanding of youth justice by Canadians; ensure that Canadians have accurate information about the youth justice system, the Young Offender's Act, and the proposed Youth Criminal Justice Act; enhance the capacity of communities, organizations and justices service to address youth justice issues; promote social responsibility.

Global Networks

The ability of youth to alter the current status quo will be enhanced further if participatory solutions to the pressing issues of poverty, violence and stagnant development are fostered on a global scale. Just the simple knowledge that poverty and violence can be reduced through popular action, may work to decrease feelings of hopelessness and may also provide a starting point for the mounting of community-based efforts on a local scale. Providing Jamaican youth with opportunities to work in collaboration with other youth and youth-related organizations throughout the world is therefore an important impetus for change.

Goal: To increase organizational capacity through enhancing the ability of Jamaican youth to articulate demands / engage in the political process on a regional / global scale.

Programs operating in Jamaica / in conjunction with Jamaican affiliates:

1. Global Youth Action Network (GYAN): works with youth organizations in almost 200 countries, facilitating intergenerational partnership in global decision-making, and enabling communication and resource-sharing among youth organizations to maximize the collective impact of their work for a better world. In Jamaica, GYAN was involved in the building of a national youth agenda.
2. The International Union of Students (IUS): is the biggest international student organization, organizing 152 national unions of students from 114 countries. Besides faculty or regional orientated student organizations, the IUS is the only general, broad-based world wide student organization. IUS operates in affiliation with the Jamaica Union of Tertiary Students.
3. The International Youth Parliament (IYP): a global network of young activists and social change leaders who work at a global, national and local level to effect positive social change. IYP promotes youth participation in the development process, supports skills and capacity building programs, advocates for the rights and freedoms of young people and their communities, and supports young people's on-the-ground initiatives to achieve human rights, sustainable development and a culture of peace. IYP's vision is 'youth building an equitable, sustainable and peaceful world.
4. TakingITGlobal (TIG): is a global online community which aims to provide youth with inspiration to make a difference, a source of information on issues, opportunities to take action, and a bridge to getting involved locally, nationally and internationally based on areas of interest. Membership is free of charge and allows you to interact with various aspects of the website, to contribute ideas, experiences, and actions.
5. Youth Action Net: aims to provide a virtual space where young people can share lessons, stories, information and advice on how to lead effective change. Youth Action Net further offers a space where youth can get up-to-date information, resources and tools to strengthen their work. YAN operates in affiliation with the Jamaica Coalition on the Rights of the Child.

Other Programs:

1. See: *A Snapshot of the Global Youth Movement*: a comprehensive listing of international youth movements and international youth organizations pieced together in collaboration with several different people and networks.

<http://www.youthmovements.org/guide/globalguide.htm#1>.

Technical Capacity

Inner-city residents perceive lack of work and employment opportunities as a direct cause of poverty and they see poverty as directly affecting levels of economic violence. The work opportunities that do exist for inner city youth (most often disproportionately occupied by males) are mainly contractual or seasonal in nature, reflecting the low-skilled nature of inner-city labour. This has resulted in violent robberies when men are not in work, and has also led to “contract wars” as communities fight with each other over scarce contracts for jobs. It has also resulted in illegal strategies, such as theft, robbery and drug selling, to earn money. Skills in computer literacy, electronics, auto-electrics, mechanics and driving could lead to higher-paying jobs with greater stability and benefits. Training centers for developing these skills are thus one important solution to the problem of unemployment. Also important in decreasing unemployment, are programs which supplement the cost of / encourage youth to engage in elementary and secondary school education. It must be noted here, however, that while an increase in technical skills may positively impact the level of employment, area stigma, gang wars, and patriarchal interests are all important barriers to employment that also need to be considered.

Goals: to enhance training and support skills in areas such as computer literacy, electronics, mechanics, and driving – along with skills in traditional areas – and foster positive employability traits among participants; to provide youth with the supplementary materials needed to complete training/education programs.

Programs in Jamaica:

Back to School Jamaica: is a ministry of education, youth and culture initiative which provides school fee and text book assistance to students registered and approved by the Programme of Advancement through Health and Education (PATH) and administers government scholarships.

Christian Children’s Fund of Canada (CCFC): provides underprivileged children and adolescent mothers with books, supplies and clothes for their schooling and offers after school programs and summer camps in areas such as computers, conflict resolution, sports, and extra-curricular activities.

Education For All (EFA): is a world declaration that was made at the World Conference on Education for All in 1990. This declaration marked the end of rigid, prescriptive education systems, and ushered in an era where flexibility could thrive. The Education for All decade culminated at the World Education Forum (2000). This forum adopted a framework for action that committed participant governments to achieving basic education for all by 2015, with particular emphasis on girls’ schooling and a pledge from donor countries and institutions that “no country seriously committed to basic education will be thwarted in the achievement of this goal by lack of resources.” Following up on this commitment, the Jamaican Ministry of Education and Culture prepared an Education for All Country Report (also in 2000). For details *pleas see Education for All Assessment 2000: Jamaica Country Report: www2.unesco.org/wef/countryreports/Jamaica/contents.html*

Heart Trust – The National Training Agency: has formed partnerships with 85 NGOs and community-based organizations in order to provide training that addresses the needs of individual communities. Heart is also partnered with 14 technical high schools, and 13 schools in St. Elizabeth, and is currently developing programs which will assist with ‘youth at risk’ in Jamaica, as well as provide skill training in two of the island’s Juvenile Correctional Centres.

Integrity Children’s Fund (ICF): is dedicated to changing the lives of Jamaican children disadvantaged by economic hardship and made hopeless and/or hapless by limited opportunities for self-development. The specific goals of IFC are: fundraising; the provision of financial support to targeted education facilities in Jamaica; and the achievement and maintenance of the highest standards of financial accountability and disclosure to donors, government and other interested persons.

International Education and Resource Network (iEARN): is the world's largest non-profit global network that enables young people to use the internet and other new technologies to engage in collaborative educational projects that both enhance learning and make a difference in the world. iEARN – Jamaica is part of a broad coalition of public and private organizations working to enhance basic and science education in Jamaica. iEARN also has operations in Canada.

The Jamaica 4-H Clubs: foster growth and development in agriculture, agro-processing, home economics, leadership and social skills among young people between the ages of 9 and 25 through establishing alliances and joint venture partnerships in all the areas of focus with organizations that share a similar vision both nationally and internationally.

Jamaica Impact Inc. (JAMPACT): makes positive contributions towards the improvement of social and economic conditions in Jamaica through contribution to policy debate on economic growth and education and tangible contributions to educational and charitable institutions helping to improve education opportunities and quality of life in Jamaica. JAMPACT has also built a scholarship fund for students at various teachers colleges.

Jamaica Organization for Youth (JOY): gives opportunities to the needy children of Jamaica through the provision of technology and the promotion of its use in schools and community centres. JOY utilizes the resources and cooperation of its corporate and individual sponsors to: obtain donations of technology; operate workshops in communities throughout Jamaica; distribute refurbished computers to needy schools; encourage teachers, students and communities to get involved in the process; and provide local support of technology by teaching skills to community based people.

The Jamaican Youth Program: Building Youth for National Development (BYOND): is a government led initiative designed to facilitate the sustainable employment and self-employment of approximately 1,500 youth. Youth are targeted who are experiencing difficulty finding jobs, either because of lack of sufficient qualifications, experience or both, as well as youth who have sound ideas for business startups but lack sufficient funding to start. One important area of focus for the project is skills development for the music industry.

Junior Achievement International: recognizes and serves Member Nations that develop and implement education programs for young people through a partnership between business and education. The programs are implemented by Member Nations to help young people gain an understanding of: the importance of market-driven economies; the role of business in a global economy; the commitment of business to environmental and social issues; the commitment of business to operate in an ethical manner; the relevance of education in the workplace; and the impact of economies on their future. Junior Achievement International also has operations in Canada. For more information *please see: Junior Achievement Canada (Technical Capacity)*

Kiwanis (International): undertakes a number of service projects intended to respond to children's needs and community issues on an ongoing basis and addresses specific needs within the community such as working to stop substance abuse, helping the elderly, promoting literacy, supporting youth sports and recreation, responding to disasters, and supporting specific persons in need.

Leo Clubs (of Jamaica): have as their objective "to provide the youth of the world an opportunity for development and contribution, individually and collectively, as responsible members of the local, national and international community." For specific details on individual Club operations: *please see individual Clubs attached.*

The Lions Club of Downtown Kingston: provides scholarships to students attending Kingston College, Cathy Levy Academy for the Performing Arts, Kingston Technical High School, and St. Hugh's High School. It also gives assistance to St. Barnabas Basic School and Holy Family Basic School in partnership with other institutions.

The Mandeville Lions Club: has supplied basic schools and kinder-prep schools in Mandeville with school supplies.

The National Youth Service (NYS): targets persons from the pool of one hundred and forty five thousand unemployed youths with secondary education. To this end, NYS sponsors Career Guidance Workshops and international exchange programs to provide participants with exposure to valid career options, and facilitates work placements. For more details on the National Youth Service's operations *please see: The National Youth Service (Organizational Capacity I)*

Operation Friendship: has sought over the years to provide a comprehensive programme in health, skills training, education and other activities to the poor, unemployed, and unskilled people in Jamaica. Operation Friendship offers training in areas such as garment construction, autobody repair, cabinet making, information technology and welding, and provides early childhood education for 100 children between the ages of 3 and six who are prepared for entry into primary schools.

Operation Restoration Christian School: provides Christian education and counselling for children and adults, particularly those engaged in or falling into criminal activity; provides a 'safe haven' of nurturing activities for young people at the end of the school day; trains young men and women for leadership; redresses the public's and the resident's own negative image of Trench Town and surrounding communities; and provides training and vocational skills to create opportunities for self-employment.

People's Action for Community Transformation (PACT): is a 26 member collaborative network of NGOs and CBOs. Launched with funding from the Canadian International Development Agency, PACT is the only Jamaican NGO member of CAMDA/CARICAD, a regional body that promotes regional co-operation and the integration of management development into national planning, networking and institution building. PACT's focus is primarily on poverty reduction, advancement of education, and effectively empowering people to transform their communities.

- members with youth-related operations:
 - o St. Matthew's Church / Allman Town Human Resource Training Centre: provides young people between the ages of 18 and 25 with training in woodwork/carpentry, garment manufacturing, baking/pastry-making and computer education.
 - o First Missionary Church – Thatch House Limited: provides young people with financial and technical support for education and business development and also provides them with training in the areas of garment construction and small-stock agriculture.
 - o Hanover Street / Gardener's View Baptist Churches: offer community development programmes to the communities of Kingston and Bull Bay, including skills training and a basic school.
 - o Hope for Children Development Company (HCDC): seeks to enhance the well-being of children in the communities of Bennett Land, Greenwich Town, Rose Town and Whitfield Town through providing skills training, educational assistance, after school programmes and community advocacy.
 - o Kingston Restoration Company Limited (KRC): manages a Youth Educational Support System (YESS), a basic school and a library and photography lab.
 - o Mel Nathan Institute: *please see: Uplifting Adolescents Project (Technical Capacity)*.
 - o Social Action Centre (SAC): offers a wide range of services including training in money management and record-keeping and leadership, and utilizes animation techniques such as songs, dance and drama to enhance the rich local talents of residents in the community.

- Operation Friendship: *please see: Operation friendship (Technical Capacity).*
- Kingston YMCA: *please see: Uplifting Adolescents Project (Technical Capacity).*
- Holiness Christian Church: focuses on preserving and improving the social, psychological and physical well-being of the community through its social outreach program, Church and Urban Renewal Enterprise (CURE).
- Youth Opportunities Unlimited: *please see: Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Technical Capacity).*
- North Street United Church: offers programs in skills training to one of the inner city communities of Western Kingston.
- Jamaica Save the Children Fund: provide early childhood education through the operation of basic schools in the corporate area of Kingston, and one in St. Catherine.

Teens For Technology Jamaica: is a non-profit organization, founded and directed by teenagers, which functions to help Jamaican children acquire technological skills and training through the donation of complete computer labs, including computers, supporting hardware, and educational software to community schools throughout the country.

TechSchool Jamaica: is a cyber-school for Jamaican youths which provides tutoring in information Technology applications and software and hardware. Techschool Jamaica has unique links to national and global education resources and has taken its classroom 'on the road' to the Maxfield Park Children's Home (2001) and the Musgrave Home for Girls (2001-2002) in Kingston. In both homes, Techschool obtained free internet access for the computers and solicited donations of computers from home and abroad.

The Uplifting Adolescents Project (UAP): is a joint project of the governments of Jamaica and the United States of America which is financed by a grant from the United States Agency for International Development. The primary responsibility of the UAP is the betterment of youth-at-risk between the age of 10 and 18 years old who are not enrolled in schools, have dropped out of school, or do not attend school on a regular basis. The project focuses on increased numeracy and literacy among targeted Jamaican youth, through remedial education, pre-vocational training and Reproductive Health. The main strategy which PACT employs is the development of partnership and collaborative approaches to project implementation.

- members with youth-related operations:

- Youth Opportunities Unlimited: *please see: Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Technical Capacity).*
- Kingston Young Man's Christian Association (Kingston YMCA): has been involved in several large scale community outreach programs, including the establishment of Boys Town (to provide young boys from Western Kingston with vocational training and spiritual upliftment) and the creation of a Youth Development Program (to provide young boys with remedial education, classes in social science, and skills covering welding, horticulture, basic building construction and pool maintenance). Other programs supported by the Kingston YMCA include summer camps, leadership and development training programs, children's workshops, and physical education programs.
- Jamaica Red Cross: *please see: Jamaica Red Cross (Organizational Capacity I)*

- Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation (WCJF): supports an integrated day program for adolescent mothers who get pregnant whilst still at school. An integrated Day programme is offered at each Centre comprising academic instruction, counselling and skill training.
- Young Women's Christian Association of Jamaica (YWCA/Jamaica): has been involved in several community outreach programs including Y-Teen Clubs, school leavers institutes, skills training programmes, peer counselling training, the development of a basic school and leadership development.
- Mel Nathan Institute: seeks to create a climate for empowering inner-city youth, through a variety of animation strategies. The institute offers activities such as arts and craft, sports and dance and drama and also offers students work experience related to their skills training.
- Rural Family Support Organization: operates a Male Adolescent Program (MAP) which incorporates family life education, personal development, parenting skills and vocational training in an effort to inculcate in young men a responsible and independent male image. The Rural Family Support Organization also offers counselling services that encourage adolescents to stay in school and provides literacy and remedial programs for youngsters who are not functionally literate.
- Sam Sharpe Teacher's College: seeks to enable at-risk adolescents with special needs to become positive individuals and leaders within their families and communities, and to provide remedial education, skills training and counselling to adolescents who are illiterate and unskilled so that they may be employed.
- Western Society for the Upliftment of Children (WSUC): offers a range of activities to street and working children including education, recreation, social skills and self development. Prevocational activities and school placement services are also provided with requisite assistance with uniforms and shoes. WSUC also aims to increase children's awareness in the area of child rights.
- Children First: is the largest youth-serving organization of its kind in Jamaica, with a membership of approximately 620 children aged 3 – 18 years. The agency presently caters to the needs of children through the provision of education and training and life skills support mechanisms that are essential for the health and welfare of youth. These include: literacy and remedial education; basic skills training; vocational/technical training; counselling; school/homework assistance programs; recreational/sporting activities; life/survival skills training; career guidance and skills upgrade referral; youth advocacy training; and child rights education.

Youth Information Centres (YICs): are being developed in parishes across Jamaica under Prime Minister P J Patterson's 'Operation Phoenix' – a project designed to support the formation and development of youth organizations. The aim of the YICs is to ensure that every young person is fully aware of the educational, training and business opportunities that are available.

Youth Opportunities Unlimited: provides a supervised Mentoring Programme and other positive interventions for in-school adolescents. It's programmes are designed to help the students to complete their post-primary education, and move on to higher education, employment or skills training.

Programs in Canada:

Junior Achievement (Canada): helps young people discover leadership, entrepreneurial and workforce readiness skills so they can achieve their highest potential and future successes as citizens in the global community. It teaches young people about business and economics through age

appropriate activities that complement class curricula. It also helps students develop positive attitudes towards education and their future. JA's current program line-up includes programs at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

- **Canadian National Junior Achievement Conference 2004: will take place in August in Saskatoon Saskatchewan.**

Youth Service Canada: is a project delivered by Human Resources Development Canada which recruits young unemployed and out-of-school youth between the ages of 18 and 24 and allows them to gain meaningful work experience, develop their skills, build self-esteem and make a contribution to their community.

End Notes

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Youth, Poverty and Violence in Jamaica: A Project Overview

Kelly Pritchard

Professor D. Morrison
IDST 370
28 April 2004

Project Overview

In completing the background research for this project it was made evident that the problems faced by Jamaican youth are complex and many. Despite this, most inner-city residents agree that they are trapped within a vicious cycle of poverty and violence, in which a lack of viable employment opportunities leads to increased violence, which in turn leads to increased poverty. This cycle is exacerbated by several factors, five of which have been identified by this author as particularly important. These factors are: the negative relationship between youth and police; the persistence of gang warfare; the relative absence of democratic structures/procedures in society at large; the relative absence of horizontal youth networks which transcend national boundaries; and a lack of training/educational opportunities for youth seeking employment. At the risk of downplaying the importance of other, equally relevant factors, the present paper will now explore these factors – and the programs that have been created in response to them - and make recommendations accordingly.

Police-Youth Relations

Since 1970, police have come to be universally criticized by inner-city residents for brutalizing Jamaican youth and provoking violence.¹ Because they tend to brand all inner-city youth as criminals, the police are often described as having no love for ‘ghetto people’ or respect for their lives.² Such stigmatization often leads to the favouring of one community over another, and thus enhances intra-community violence.³ Fostering

positive relationships between police officers and youth is therefore an important step in altering perceptions towards ghetto people and strengthening community cohesiveness.

Several initiatives have been pursued by the Jamaican Constabulary Force in this regard, including the establishment of police youth clubs across the island, the creation of the Juvenile and Police Mediation Units, the development of the Second Chance and Big Brother Big Sister programs and the fostering of links with youth-oriented organizations. The Jamaican government has also been active in the area of police-youth relations, introducing the National Consultation on Juvenile Justice in 2000. A third party that has sought to bring police and youth together is the Jamaican Chamber of commerce, a business organization whose Civic Affairs Committee launched a Youth Leadership Training Program in 1992.

Gang Warfare

In several urban Jamaican communities, gang violence, often identified as the most pervasive form of violence, has proliferated due to the replacement of single area leaders, or dons, with large numbers of lesser competing dons.⁴ The war between gangs representing different areas is associated with attacks on those from other areas who cross the line of demarcation or clash with gang members in some way.⁵ This puts heavy restraints on mobility and encourages division rather than consensus building. The development of horizontal linkages based on factors such as shared cultural identity, team ethics, or social responsibility is thus important in allowing for greater collaboration

amongst individuals and communities and fostering a will to cooperate on issues surrounding poverty and violence. Teen clubs, sports teams and cultural institutions are all important in this regard. Also important are programs that teach young people apathy, positive choices, or conflict resolution.

The Jamaican Government has made a notable contribution to programs in this particular area. The Ministry of Justice established a Dispute Resolution Foundation in 1994, the Ministry of Information revitalized its National Values and Attitudes Consultation in 2003 (with the introduction of the Living Values Education Program) and the federal government (along with the Jamaican business sector) provides regular funding for the Peace and Love in Schools initiative. The international youth organization Taking it Global is also active in this area, and is currently planning an Opinion Difference and Intolerance Assessment that will, among other things, provide a window into the thought process leading up to conflict in Jamaican society. With regards to internal not-for-profit organizations, the Gathering of the Healers has made the most notable contribution to the promotion of positive values in Jamaican society at large.

In addition to its commitment to values education, the Jamaican government has also been actively involved sports promotion. In 1998, the Ministry of Local Government, Community Development and Sports launched a Community Basketball Competition - co-sponsored by Texaco Caribbean Inc. - to provide a structured outlet for players of basketball at the community level. With regards to service organizations, the National Youth Service (an agency of the Jamaican Ministry of Youth and Culture), along with

organizations such as the Jamaica Red Cross and the Jamaica Scout and Girl Guide Associations, has played an important role in promoting social responsibility among youth. Finally, in the area of cultural programming, the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission and the Jamaican/Caribbean Performing Arts Ensemble have taken the lead in reaching out to the youngest members of Jamaican society. Encompassing all three of these areas is Jamaica Upliftment. Jamaica Upliftment is a not-for-profit organization that provides opportunities for the disadvantaged youth of Whitehorse through a combination of sports, education, cultural and community enrichment programs.

Absence of Democratic Structures

After 1967, partisan politics in Jamaica, with its clientistic resource allocation, became identified with the rise of political gangs and the development of boundaries between areas controlled by the People's National Party (PNP) and areas controlled by the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP).⁶ Thus, politics was not ideological, but was based on the amount of money a politician could bring into his constituency, and the participatory mechanisms associated with formal democracies remained undeveloped. For this reason, a will to cooperate amongst youth must be accompanied by organizational structures that encourage/facilitate participatory solutions to the pressing issues of poverty and violence and empower youth to have a voice at the table of public opinion. Central to this, is a strengthening of democratic institutions and procedures in Jamaica more generally, as well as a more basic understanding of fundamental rights and freedoms.

External organizations have certainly played an important role in these regards. The Foundation for International Training is a Canadian not-for-profit organization currently operating in Jamaica. FIT's Enhancing Civil Society Project seeks to identify and implement participatory solutions to poverty and violence through integrating people as active members of civil society. In a similar vein, Management Services International (a consulting firm based in Florida) has initiated a program designed to strengthen national-level reform-oriented Community Service Organizations advocating for improved governance in the areas of justice, human rights and women's and children's rights. The Child Rights Information Network (a global network that disseminates information on the Convention on the Rights of the Child) is also active in Jamaica, along with several of its member organizations. Taking it Global is a fourth external organization working to strengthen the participatory capacity of youth in Jamaica. It is doing this through the construction of an innovative local network that will contribute to the Global Campaign for Youth Employment.

In terms of domestic not-for-profit organizations, the Independent Jamaica Council for Human Rights and Jamaicans for Justice are the most active in the promotion and observance of human rights generally. The Jamaica Coalition on the Rights of the Child is active in the area of children's rights and works to monitor and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child nationally. No national government or business organizations have been identified with youth-related operations in this area.

Absence of Transnational Youth Networks

In keeping with the theme of empowerment outlined above, it is important to recognize that the ability of youth / youth-based organizations to alter the current status quo will be enhanced substantially if participatory solutions to the issues of poverty and violence are fostered on a regional or global scale. Just the simple knowledge that poverty and violence can be reduced through popular action may work to decrease feelings of hopelessness and thereby provide a starting point for the mounting of community-based efforts on a local scale. Since this knowledge can best be obtained through interaction with young people who have worked for change in different parts of the world, providing Jamaican youth with opportunities to work in collaboration with other youth and youth-related organizations is therefore an important impetus for change.

Five international youth networks with operations in Jamaica have been identified. They are: the International Union of Students; the Global Youth Action Network; Taking it Global; Youth Action Net; and The International Youth Parliament. All of these Networks seek to engage Jamaican youth and youth-based organizations in global networks of young activists and social change leaders to maximize the collective impact of their work for a better world.

Lack of Training/Educational Opportunities

The work opportunities that currently exist for inner-city youth are mainly contractual or seasonal in nature, reflecting the low-skilled nature of inner-city labour.⁷ This has

resulted in violent robberies when men are not at work, and has also led to 'contract wars' as communities fight with each other over scarce contracts for jobs.⁸ It has also resulted in illegal strategies, such as theft, robbery and drug selling, to earn money. (2, 23) Skills in computer literacy, electronics, auto-electronics, mechanics and driving could lead to higher-paying jobs with greater stability and benefits. Training centres for developing these skills are thus one important solution to the problem of poverty and violence. Also important, are programs which supplement the cost of / encourage youth to engage in elementary and secondary school education.

While a detailed overview of all the programs currently offered in this area is impractical due to constraints of time and space, it is possible to group the programs into four main categories: (1) Jamaican Government programs; (2) Jamaican not-for-profit organizations; (3) external not-for-profit organizations (that are not international in scope); and (4) other. The numbers of programs operating in the first three categories are seven, nineteen and five, respectively. In the fourth category, which is comprised mainly of *international* not-for-profit organizations with operations in Jamaica, eleven programs have been identified. No business sector programs have been identified in this area.

Recommendations (for Jamaican Self Help)

- Youth-related initiatives in Jamaica are currently concentrated in the area of technical/educational capacity. While increased technical/educational capacity certainly provides a short-term solution to the pressing problems of poverty and

violence, long-run solutions may require structural changes that can only be achieved through large-scale political participation. JSH should therefore focus its attention on youth-related initiatives that will counter the persistence of gang warfare, the absence of democratic structures and the absence of transnational youth networks in order to ensure that the interests of today's youth will be served in the long-run.

- Business sector involvement in youth-related operations has thus far been negligible. Given that the mobilization of private-sector resources has the potential to contribute significantly to the success of these operations, JSH should work to foster greater private-sector collaboration in all of the above areas.
- The current findings indicate that there are few international youth networks with operations in Jamaica. Since locating specific networks' countries of operation was not possible in all cases, the current findings may be deceiving. Since regional/global youth networks are important in building participatory solutions to the problems of poverty and violence, JSH should maintain an on-going dialogue with domestic not-for-profit organizations operating in collaboration with these networks in order to address the gaps in Jamaican society and involve more youth in the networking process.

Personal Reflection

The completion of this project – and the process leading up to it – has been both challenging and rewarding. Challenging, because a complete overview of all the youth-related programs operating in Jamaica and Canada is impossible given the project time constraints, and rewarding because an initial – if rudimentary – program assessment has revealed several potentially important areas of future focus.

In terms of rewards, two important areas of future focus have already been identified. A simple survey of programs operating at the country level has made it possible to determine both the quantity and composition of programs in five different areas. Thus, it has been possible to determine which actors have contributed the most to the development of youth-related programs in each area and identify the areas in which new youth-related initiatives are most needed. This survey, however, has focused primarily on domestic and transnational actors with operations in Jamaica at the expense of bilateral relations. With the exceptions of CIDA- and USAID-funded programs, information on foreign government-sponsored programs is therefore limited. In the same vein, since attention has been primarily focused on five main areas, the current assessment does not include substantial information on organizations with operations in areas such as reproductive health and family development. Moreover, project time constraints have limited the amount of research devoted to youth-related programs operating within Canadian borders – the focus here has been primarily on programs in Ontario - and made it impossible to identify innovative projects that have been carried out elsewhere. The following recommendations have been made with these conclusions in mind.

Recommendations (for Someone Wishing to Continue the Present Study)

- The present study has focused primarily on domestic and transnational actors with youth-related operations at the expense of bilateral relations. More research should thus be conducted on foreign-government sponsored programs currently operating in Jamaica.
- The present study has focused on youth-related operations in five main areas: police-youth relations, consensus building, democratic strengthening, youth networks, and technical capacity. Since the causes of poverty and violence are many and complex, more research is needed to identify and explore other areas/programs of importance to the lives of Jamaican youths.
- The present study has failed to complete a comprehensive survey of innovative youth programs that have been successfully implemented elsewhere. More research – perhaps on a country-by country basis – would be useful in this regard.