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**Amplifying Youth Voice and Action for Citizen Safety and Security
Technical Working Group Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2022 @ 3pm**

Attendance

Name	Organization
Johnoi Elliston	PSOJ
Giuliana Neumann	UNESCO
Paula Isturiz-Cavero	UNESCO
Kamesha Blake	PSOJ
Davoreen Gaynor	UNDP
Ashleigh Blythe	UNDP
Kerry-Ann Willis	UNDP
Delores Wade	PIOJ
Sashion Thomas	PIOJ
Yanique Williams	MOEYI

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the technical working group for the AYVA project was called to order at 2:15pm, on February 3, 2022, by Ms. Ashleigh Blythe. Welcome was offered to the participants and commendation given to the team for the work done during the project period.

2. Project Updates

Project overview and updates were provided by Ms. Ashleigh Blythe, Project Associate for the Amplifying Youth Voice and Action Project.

- ❖ 2 Project Outputs were highlighted:
 - *Output 1* – the incubator program was successfully completed in which all youth groups had their capacity strengthened.
 - *Output 2* – The implementation phase was currently in its final stages.
- ❖ **Key Achievements:**
 - **Output 1:**
 - A) Implementation of Microprojects – Final payments are being made to vendors, however project activities for all 10 microprojects have been completed.



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- B) The onboarding of 5 interns was successful, which exceeded the project target of onboarding 3 interns. It was reported that their internship under the AYVA Project had been extended until January 2022, due to the exceptional work that had been done. Interns are currently volunteering to assist with close-out activities.
- As a part of the internship, 2 solutions were completed: the Youth Summit and a partnership with the MNS ‘We Transform’ initiative. A third solution was desired to be completed by the interns, however it was decided by the project team to forgo the final solution and utilize those funds to further assist some of the other program targets.
- B) The video profiles for the grantees have been successfully completed for all 10 groups and will be displayed at the closing ceremony.
- C) The Youth as Researchers activity has also begun and is being led by the UNESCO team. So far there has been great things reported about that process and further update will be provided by UNESCO during the meeting.
- **Output 2:**
 - A) On-granting mechanism still on going, as some youth groups are still paying vendors as previously mentioned. The institution is also still providing mentorship to the youth groups.
 - B) The Social media Consultant’s contract ended as of October 31, 2021, of which the results produced were satisfactory.
 - C) The procurement process for the Knowledge Management Consultant has been initiated. With the completion of the evaluations the consultancy is hoped to start in another two weeks as part of the closing activities.

3. Youth Group Updates

- All the microprojects are still ongoing and the microproject beneficiaries are still engaged.
- Some groups have been able to expand on their microprojects.
 - Community members have volunteered their services to be apart of the group initiatives
 - Some MPs are willing to invest in the youth groups.
- Mentorship continues with RISE and they are also being assisted with completing their final reports to be shared with the team.



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- The groups have been contacted to speak with the knowledge management consultant once onboarded.

4. Intern Solutions

Of the initial three solutions targeted, the interns were able to complete two:

- The Youth Summit on Crime and Violence - engaged not just youth by age, but the young at heart, as well as several of our state ministers
- Partnership with the MNS 'We Transform Youth Empowerment Program' - provided care packages to 233 youth from four correctional facilities and some ministry priority schools. The impact and appreciation shown was inspiring as due to COVID some have not been able to see their families.
 - 10 from the schools
 - 80 from Metcalfe
 - 25 from Hilltop
 - 66 from South Camp
 - 52 from the Rio Cobre

5. Strengthening of Policy Linkages Update

- *Community Level* – Youth groups had been able to partner with local groups and organizations and it is anticipated that these partnerships will continue.
- *Local Level* – The Jahmeyka Project and the Youths for Development Network, in collaboration with the Institute of Jamaica, through their project, plans to integrate youth mentors and participants into the existing art classes held by the IOJ for long term development.
- *National Level* – Partnerships are still being explored between the YFDN and IOJ which will facilitate continued access to creative spaces for inner city youths beyond the AYVA project. It is also the hope that this will incorporate the wider public.
 - The existing partnership between the JCF and National Police Youth Council will help to increase the sustainability of the project beyond AYVA. This directly aligns with Vision 2030 Goal 2.
 - The I-SEED had an MoU signed with MOEYI for the use of the Youth Centre in Spanish Town and surrounding areas in St. Catherine, to expand the delivery of their training beyond AYVA.



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6. Intern Solutions

The interns were required to implement 3 solutions as part of the results framework under AYVA.

- The interns played an integral role in working with the partners and social media personnel for UNDP to make the Youth Summit a success.
- The interns are also seeking to partner with the We Transform Program facilitated by the Ministry of National Security to provide Care packages for the young people who are apart for the program.
- The third solution to be implemented is a tablet distribution. A rural school should be identified, and a needs analysis is to be done to best facilitate students who are in need.
- Participants of the meeting were urged to assist where possible in the execution of the solutions.

Youth Summit Overview

- An overview was given on the Youth Summit on Crime and Violence that was held on September 21st and 22nd 2021.
- There was representation from our various partners including ministries, which overall sought to reinforce youth involvement in policy decisions and project implementation surrounding citizen safety and security.
- The winner of the Development Challenge, coming from the Youth Summit, is to be given paid internship opportunities at the UNDP.
- A Call to Action was developed from the Youth Summit and youth organizations, promoting and maintaining international peace and security.

Key Takeaways from Youth Summit

- New partnerships have been forged, locally and internationally.
 - A courtesy call was given to the UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Denise Antonio, by the Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Argentina, Mr. Jose Grande Perez, to discuss an empowerment network on peace, crime prevention and citizen safety.
 - There was improved knowledge and visibility among youth regarding projects and initiatives that address citizen safety and security, as a result of the Summit.
 - There have been strengthened partnerships between local MDAs and youth groups.

7. Project Challenges

- There have been internal dynamics issues that has affected the implementation of some projects and groups.



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- The COVID -19 restrictions have also impacted some groups' projects. Some of which is due to inability to have a certain number of people in a given space and the lack of online facilities to attend trainings. This has resulted in the inability to adequately meet the targets set out.
- Identified training centres for some groups were no longer available due to time constraints and school reopening, as a result of the delay in funding for the beginning of the execution of some projects.
- There was an issue of violence in one target community which resulted in a relocation of activities which then delayed the implementation process.
- There is a current delay in the start of the research component of the AYVA project.

8. Project Risks

- Covid-19 restrictions continue to be a risk in project execution
 - The solution is to use a dual modality between using the online route of execution and in person where possible.
- There are some participants and stakeholders who are no longer interested in participating.
 - The solution is to have additional recruitments being scouted in order to meet the previous goals and targets
- The flair up of crime and violence in some communities which affected project execution.
 - The solution has been to identify alternative communities.
- The unavailability of some group members to execute microprojects.
 - The solution has been to encourage the development of an acceleration plan for the groups to mobilize additional human resources for proper implementation of microprojects.

9. Next Steps

- Launch of Youth as Researchers activity
- The selection of consultant for Knowledge Management is expected to begin soon.
- The disbursement of the 2nd tranche of project funds to RISE will begin shortly to facilitate the wrapping up programs for the remaining 6 youth groups.



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- Discussions with RISE are being had to ensure that project plans include a rights-based approach, promote gender equality, and have a developed sustainability plan for the youth groups.
- Discussions should also begin for stakeholder lessons learnt forum.

10. Additional Questions and Comments

- Ms Giuliana Neumann gave her thank you and commendations for the update and the progress made thus far.
- Ms. Delores Wade introduced Ms. Roxine Ricketts who is the Education Planner in the Social Policy Planning and Research Division of the Planning Institute of Jamaica.
- Ms. Roxine Ricketts introduced herself to the TWG Team. Ms. Ricketts gave her commendations to the updates given in the presentation and the microprojects being executed.
- Ms. Wade asked for the sharing of the presentation to have a closer look at the project updates especially for prospective support.
- Ms. Kerry Ann Willis made additional commentary on the AOB Stakeholders lessons learnt forum
 - A wrap up is expected to be done in December of 2021 on the AYVA Projects.
 - There will be a need for a further look into the prospect of scaling these projects, as it is a pilot project; in which a forum would give the chance for an in depth look into the activities implemented and for a sustainability plan to be executed.
 - A date for the forum should be agreed upon before the year ends to facilitate everyone.
 - When the presentation has been sent, some prospective dates may be sent via email correspondence and a date can be agreed upon at that time.
- Ms. Wade made suggestions for the support of the AYVA project to be given by the MOEYI, PIOJ and MNS for the sustainability of the projects.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 pm by Ms. Blythe and motioned was moved by Ms. Willis

DocuSigned by:
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'A. Blythe'. The signature is written over a blue DocuSign signature line.
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