

Name: Pan American Development Foundation

Thematic Area of Focus: Safety & Security

Social Intervention Tool: Second Generation Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Methodology

The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) presents Second Generation Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) as a promising methodology for crime and violence prevention and positive community transformation in Jamaica.

PADF has received funding from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) to implement the “Improving Ability of Jamaican Stakeholders to Address Citizen Security Challenges Utilizing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Methodologies and Interventions” Project. The project will target 5 hotspot communities across six parishes (Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Catherine, Clarendon, St. James and Westmoreland) and work closely with state and non-state actors to: (i) increase their knowledge about using CPTED methodologies to prevent and respond to crime and violence in targeted communities and (ii) effectively implement CPTED-focused crime and violence prevention (CVP) programming that addresses the needs of at-risk youth.

CPTED is an evidence-based approach aimed at preventing crime, anti-social behavior, and reducing the fear of crime by focusing on the planning, design, and maintenance of both the physical, natural and social environments within a specific area, whether it be a city, town, neighbourhood, or set of buildings. The basis of CPTED is that the proper design and effective use of spaces can lower crime rates and enhance feelings of safety. It employs a multi-disciplinary strategy to reduce victimization, deter criminal decisions, and foster a sense of community ownership, allowing residents to take control of their surroundings and minimize crime opportunities. This ultimately leads to greater citizen security and an improved quality of life. The First Generation of CPTED emerged in the early 1960s, focusing on physical strategies such as surveillance, access control, territorial reinforcement, and space management. However, the Second Generation of CPTED, introduced in 1997, expanded this scope by incorporating four key concepts: social cohesion, community connectivity, community culture, and threshold capacity. This broader approach recognizes the importance of addressing both physical and social environments to effectively reduce crime and insecurity. Second Generation CPTED has been highlighted by Crime and Violence Practitioners as having a positive effect on crime prevention and community transformation and is increasingly being mainstreamed into community and national development plans worldwide.¹ A prime example is Medellín, Colombia, where CPTED strategies helped transform the city from having the highest murder rate globally, with over 350 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants in 1991, to 52 per 100,000 by 2012.²

¹ Cozens, Paul & Love, Terence. (2015). A Review and Current Status of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). *Journal of Planning Literature*.

² Aguinaga, Gabriela. (2015). Learning from Medellín: a success story of holistic violence prevention. <https://www.saferspaces.org.za/blog/entry/learning-from-medellin-a-success-story-of-holistic-violence-prevention>

CPTED has been identified as a national priority, with the Ministry of National Security highlighting it as one of the five core pillars of Crime Prevention and Citizen Security. The Jamaica Constabulary Force's Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB) has also emphasized the urgent need for CPTED training to support its 'Policing Through Partnership' strategy for community safety. Over the past 5-7 years, several national initiatives have successfully integrated CPTED principles, yielding promising outcomes. Notable examples include efforts by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund and the Planning Institute of Jamaica. Despite this progress, additional investments in its application are required to streamline and localize the approach as a best practice in order to harness its potential for reducing crime, empowering residents and creating healthy communities.