



Strengthening Second Chance Education Programme

DEFINITION OF SECOND CHANCE STRATEGY



15 January 2013

This document makes explicit what the **Caribbean Examinations Council** is expecting to achieve through the USAID Strengthening Second Chance Education Program

Background i

In response to requests from our stakeholders, CXC has developed a suite of examinations & certification that is intended to address particular educational needs in the region and to create seamless opportunities for individual educational progression.

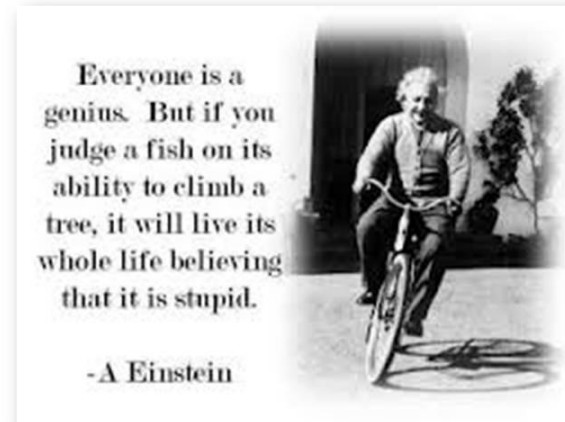
Notwithstanding its efforts to promote and encourage subscription to this suite, the focus of Ministries of Education has remained on the “gold standard” examinations. The Caribbean has to date only provided second chance educational opportunity as a remediation effort but not as a developmental imperative. This has led to a strong perception of second chance education as “second class education”.

Efforts by bi-lateral and multi-lateral agencies such as USAID to address social deficits, provide educational opportunity as a route out of poverty and despair have been stymied by the absence of portable, recognized certification that would enable the out-of-school demographic to educationally advance from where they are to where they would like to go.

Background ii

The project provides CXC with the means by which to refine and improve its existing suite of certification to better serve that out-of-school demographic. Currently only the CSEC examination is highly sought after by this demographic because it is widely accepted for employment. Unfortunately access to this certification is restricted because it requires the attainment of a level of proficiency that many persons whose education has been affected by social and economic deficits would not have achieved.

The program seeks to address this by ensuring that the suite of qualifications are refined and better articulated so that access is available to all and a trajectory for progressive improvement of educational level can be pursued.



**cater to
all ages
and
stages**

The suite of certification offered by CXC is largely in response to the varied needs of our populations as articulated by various Governments

- Hon Edison Baird

CPEA®

CVQ®

CCSLC®

CSEC®

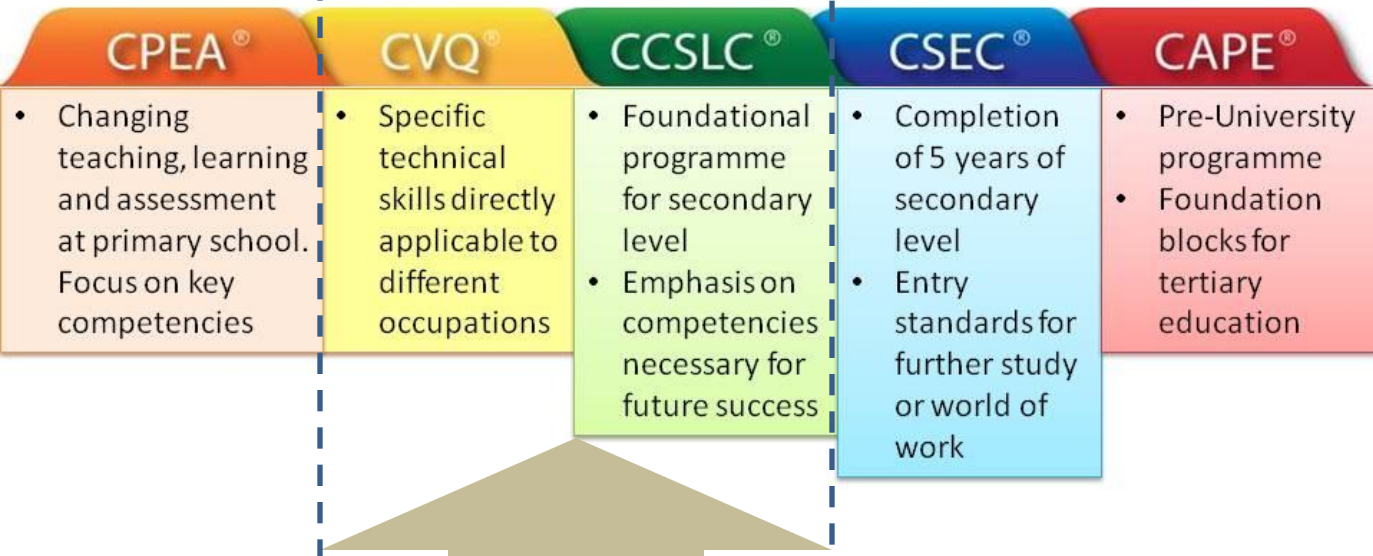
CAPE®

This will accomplished – not by creating new forms of certification – but by improvement of the existing suite and by strengthening the capacity in the non-formal educational sector to deliver training and instruction towards their attainment.

19
countries

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

- Facilitates advanced job placement or career focus
- Provides credits for degree level studies



Focal certification for program



Providing the capacity for lifelong learning and educational progression

Background iii

This challenge is a huge undertaking but **the program focuses on and prioritizes the at-risk segment of the demographic**. The imperative for this emerges from the alarming levels of crime and increasing levels of poverty that are detrimental to social development, economic empowerment and personal fulfilment of Caribbean people and societies.

The outcomes of this project will ensure that the considerable investment by USAID and other cooperation agencies in training will be maximized because graduates of these initiatives will be equipped with portable and recognized certification spanning a range of levels that attest to the competencies gained.

The program will therefore be a critical element in CXC's strategic thrust to ensure the widening of educational opportunity at all ages and stages, provide the means by which seamless progression in educational development can be achieved and contribute the global human resource competitiveness of the Caribbean.

...changing the assessment paradigm...

How can CXC assessments help to construct the **Ideal Caribbean Person**?



Knowledge, skills and attitude domains



Methodology of teaching and learning



Methodology of assessment

knowledge

competencies

Problem solving & application

Standards & competitiveness

Seamless and multiple pathways to success

CXC brings recognized quality to the provision of certification.

Ensuring the provision of 21st Century knowledge, skills and competencies to all ages and stages is an essential strategic purpose of this program.

Programme Objective

To build a sustainable infrastructure that will allow 'at-risk' groups to access programs that may lead to:

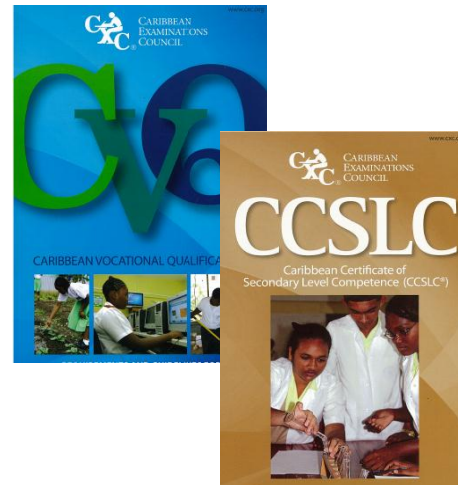
Development
of life skills



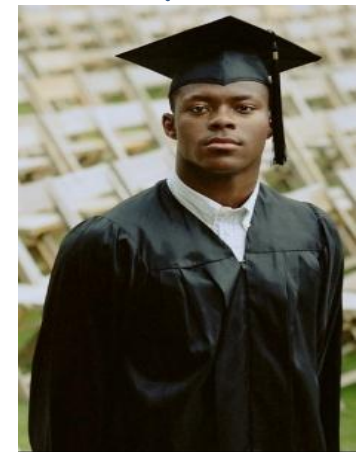
Training/retraining
for employment or
entrepreneurship



Portable
Certification



Further
Education



Overview



Duration

October 2012



September 2015

Target Group

Youth between the ages of 15 – 35 who may be exposed to:

- School dropout
- Unplanned pregnancies
- Illiteracy
- No / limited academic certification
- Limited life and work skills
- Unemployment

Territories



Antigua



Barbados



Dominica



Grenada



St. Kitts & Nevis



St. Lucia



St. Vincent and the
Grenadines



Suriname

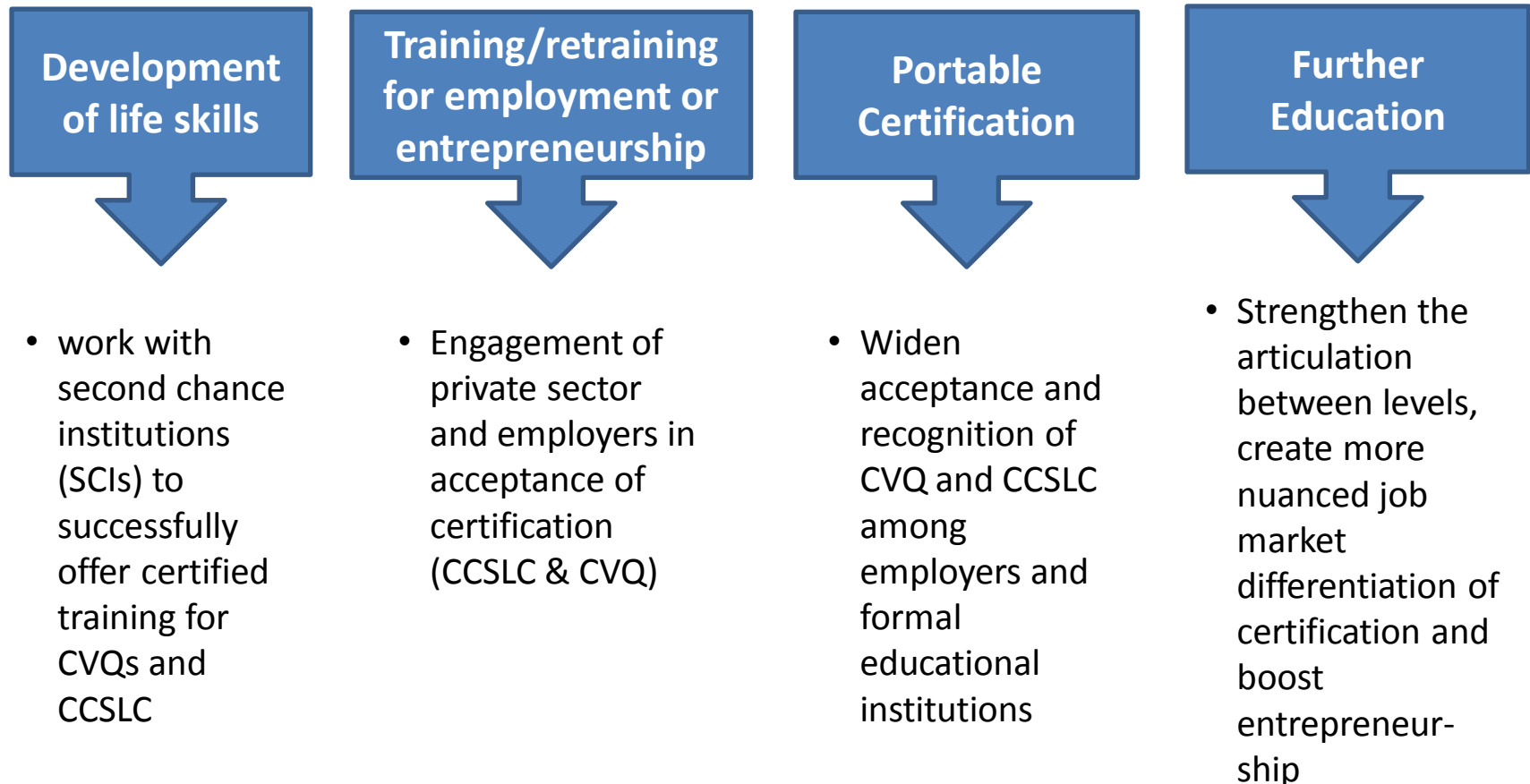


Trinidad and Tobago

Programme Actions



To build a sustainable infrastructure that will allow ‘at-risk’ groups to access programs that may lead to:



DEFINITION OF **AT RISK** YOUTH



Teen Parents

Need life & work skills

Limited or no academic cert.

Literacy & numeracy gaps

unemployed



Prone to violence



Having behavioural challenges



Victims of violence or abuse



Having criminal records

Strategic outcomes



Capacity

1. Certification suite strengthened**
2. Recognition and currency extended**
3. Wide public sensitization and understanding of certification suite**
4. Offering certification to at risk demographic in participating countries (and out of scope ability to offer across entire region**)
5. Widen the scope of Notesmaster to include skills training**



Results

1. Expansion of reach for youth at risk in participating countries.
Target: 15,000
2. Maximize investment in training through provision of portable certification
3. Strengthen capacity and quality of SCIs
4. Promote entrepreneurship in the Caribbean esp among youth