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The correlation between youth empowerment and crime reduction in Bali and zing local government areas

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Abstract

This study examines the relationship between youth empowerment and crime reduction in Bali and Zing Local Government Areas of Taraba State, Nigeria. Rising youth involvement in criminal activities such as theft, drug abuse, and violence has become a major concern, necessitating effective intervention strategies. Youth empowerment, which includes skills acquisition, employment opportunities, and financial support, is considered a key approach to addressing these challenges. The study adopts a survey research design, with data collected through structured questionnaires administered to selected youths in the study areas. Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics to determine the nature of the relationship between youth empowerment and crime reduction.

Findings reveal a significant negative relationship between youth empowerment and crime, indicating that increased access to empowerment programs leads to a reduction in criminal activities among youths. However, challenges such as inadequate funding and poor implementation hinder the effectiveness of these programs. The study concludes that youth empowerment is essential for crime reduction and recommends improved funding, effective implementation, and increased access to empowerment initiatives for sustainable development.

Keywords: Youth Empowerment; Crime Reduction; Unemployment; Skills Acquisition; Poverty; Youth Development; Local Government Areas

1. Introduction

Youth empowerment has emerged as a critical development strategy in addressing socio-economic challenges and insecurity in many developing countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. In Nigeria, where youths constitute a significant proportion of the population, issues such as unemployment, poverty, social exclusion, and lack of access to quality education have continued to expose young people to criminal activities. As a result, governments and development partners have increasingly emphasized youth empowerment as a means of reducing crime and promoting sustainable development.

Youth empowerment refers to the deliberate process of equipping young people with the necessary skills, knowledge, resources, and opportunities required to improve their livelihoods and actively participate in societal development. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2023), youth empowerment involves expanding access to education, employment opportunities, entrepreneurship support, and civic participation in order to reduce vulnerability and enhance productivity. Similarly, the World Bank (2022) emphasizes that empowering youths economically and socially is essential for breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing their involvement in antisocial behaviours, including crime.

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In response to these challenges, various youth empowerment programmes have been introduced by the Nigerian government and non-governmental organizations. These include the National Youth Investment Fund (NYIF), N-Power Program, Agricultural Empowerment Schemes, and Skills Acquisition Centers even though some of these programmes has been abandoned. These initiatives are designed to provide vocational training, financial support, and employment opportunities to young people. Studies have shown that such programmes contribute significantly to reducing youth involvement in crime by engaging them in productive economic activities (Ojo & Ibrahim, 2022).

In Taraba State, particularly in Bali and Zing Local Government Areas, youth empowerment has become an important policy focus due to increasing concerns about unemployment and rural insecurity. These LGAs are predominantly rural, with agriculture serving as the main source of livelihood. However, limited access to modern skills, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of investment have constrained economic opportunities for youths. As a result, many young people remain unemployed or underemployed, increasing their vulnerability to criminal behaviour and social unrest.

Against this background, it becomes necessary to examine the correlation between youth empowerment and crime reduction in Bali and Zing Local Government Areas of Taraba State. Understanding this relationship is essential for policymakers, development agencies, and community leaders seeking to design effective strategies for reducing crime and promoting sustainable development in the region. This study therefore seeks to explore how youth empowerment initiatives influence crime rates and community safety in these LGAs, with a view to providing evidence-based recommendations for policy improvement.

2. Statement of the Problem

Nigeria continues to face persistent challenges of youth unemployment, poverty, and insecurity, particularly in rural communities where economic opportunities are limited. Despite various government interventions aimed at youth empowerment, crime rates involving young people remain a major concern in many Local Government Areas, including Bali and Zing in Taraba State. These areas are largely agrarian with limited industrial or formal employment opportunities which have contributed to widespread underemployment and economic hardship among youths.

Available statistics and research indicate that unemployment is a key driver of youth involvement in criminal activities in Nigeria. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2023), reports that a significant proportion of Nigerian youths are either unemployed or underemployed, with rural areas experiencing higher levels of economic exclusion. Scholars such as Adebayo (2021) and Okonkwo (2022) argue that when young people lack access to meaningful employment and empowerment opportunities, they are more likely to engage in crime, drug abuse, and other antisocial behaviours as coping mechanisms for survival.

In Bali and Zing Local Government Areas, anecdotal evidence and regional reports suggest increasing concerns about youth restiveness, theft, substance abuse, and occasional violent activities. These social problems are often linked to lack of access to empowerment programmes, limited vocational training centers, and inadequate government intervention in rural development. Although various empowerment initiatives such as agricultural support schemes and skills acquisition programmes have been introduced, their impact on crime reduction in these LGAs remains unclear and insufficiently documented (World Bank, 2022)

2.1. Research Objectives

The primary objective of the study is to examine the relationship between youth empowerment and crime reduction in selected communities in Taraba State, Nigeria. The specific objective of the study includes;

- To examine the relationship between skills acquisition and crime reduction through seminars and workshop among the youths in Bali Local Government and Zing Local Government, Taraba State.
- To establish the relationship between funding business for the youth and crime control in Bali and Zing Local Government; Taraba State.
- To provide follow up counseling programs for the youths in Bali and Zing Local Government Area regarding the negative effects of crime both in short and long term.

2.2. Research Questions

- What is the level of youth empowerment programmes available in Bali and Zing Local Government Areas?

- What are the major causes of youth involvement in crime in Bali and Zing Local Government Areas?
 - To what extent do youth empowerment initiatives influence crime reduction in Bali and Zing Local Government Areas?
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3. Literature review

3.1. Concept of Youth Empowerment and Crime Reduction

Youth empowerment is the process of enabling young people to gain control over their lives by providing them with the necessary skills, resources, opportunities, and authority to participate meaningfully in social, economic, and political activities. It focuses on building the capacity of youths to make informed decisions, become self-reliant, and contribute positively to societal development. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2023), youth empowerment involves expanding access to education, skills acquisition, employment opportunities, and civic participation in order to reduce vulnerability and enhance productivity.

Crime reduction refers to strategies, policies, and interventions aimed at decreasing the rate, severity, and occurrence of criminal activities within a society. It involves addressing the root causes of crime such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, and social exclusion. According to Okonkwo (2022), crime reduction in Nigeria requires a combination of preventive and corrective measures, including education, employment creation, and law enforcement.

Adebayo (2021) further explains that youth empowerment is not only economic but also social and psychological, as it builds confidence, reduces frustration, and encourages positive engagement in society. When youths are empowered, they are less likely to depend on illegal activities for survival.

3.2. Link between Youth Empowerment and Crime Reduction

The relationship between youth empowerment and crime reduction is largely inverse; as youth empowerment increases, crime rates tend to decrease. Empowerment provides young people with legitimate means of livelihood, thereby reducing the economic motivation for engaging in crime. Eze and Yakubu (2022) found that vocational training and entrepreneurship programmes significantly reduce youth involvement in criminal activities in Northern Nigeria by improving income levels and social stability.

Similarly, the World Bank (2022) emphasizes that job creation and skills development programmes are among the most effective tools for reducing youth-related insecurity in developing countries. When youths are empowered economically, they are less likely to engage in deviant behaviour due to reduced financial pressure and increased social responsibility.

3.3. Relationship between Youth Business Funding and Crime Reduction

The relationship between youth business funding and crime control has been widely examined in both criminological and development literature. Evidence consistently shows that access to financial resources for entrepreneurial activities among youths is associated with a reduction in crime rates, particularly in developing economies where unemployment and poverty are prevalent. From an economic perspective, youth business funding contributes to income generation and employment creation, which are critical in reducing the incentives for criminal behavior. According to Iwelumor et al. (2025), youth empowerment programs that include financial support mechanisms such as grants and microcredit significantly reduce youth involvement in crime by improving their economic conditions.

Similarly, Nwankwo and Udofia (2025) found that access to credit facilities and entrepreneurial support in Nsukka Local Government Area led to a decline in youth participation in criminal activities, as beneficiaries became actively engaged in productive ventures. This supports the argument that economic engagement reduces idleness, which is a major contributing factor to why youth engages in crime.

Empirical evidence also highlights the role of poverty reduction in crime control. Adegami and Egugbo (2025) note that youth empowerment initiatives that include financial support significantly contribute to reducing crime by addressing unemployment and economic deprivation. This aligns with the broader view that economic stability increases the opportunity cost of crime, making criminal activities less attractive.

In the context of Bali and Zing LGAs of Taraba State, where youth unemployment and limited access to capital are prevalent, the provision of business funding can serve as a preventive crime control strategy. By enabling youths to engage in productive economic activities, funding reduces both the motivation and opportunity for criminal behavior.

3.4. Major causes of youth involvement in crime in Bali and Zing Local Government Areas

Youth involvement in crime is a persistent social problem in Nigeria, particularly in rural and semi-rural communities such as Bali and Zing LGAs of Taraba State. Existing literature shows that youth criminal behaviour is not caused by a single factor but by a combination of socio-economic hardship, weak family systems, peer influence, drug abuse, and institutional failure ((Saleh et al., 2025)

These factors interact to shape deviant behaviour among young people in developing societies.

Youth unemployment and poverty are widely recognized as major structural drivers of crime and delinquency in both developed and developing societies. In Nigeria, where a large proportion of the population is youthful, limited access to employment opportunities and widespread poverty has significantly increased the vulnerability of young people to criminal behaviour. Empirical studies show that unemployed youths are more likely to engage in criminal activities due to economic frustration and lack of legitimate opportunities. In Taraba State, research indicates a strong positive relationship between youth unemployment and crime, including theft, kidnapping, and political thuggery (Saleh et al., 2025)

Furthermore, family structure plays a critical role in shaping youth behaviour (Loayza (2025). Broken homes, poor parenting, and lack of supervision increase the likelihood of delinquency. Studies in Nigeria show those youths from unstable families are more likely to engage in crime due to weak moral guidance and exposure to deviant environments (Adebayo, 2013). Parental socio-economic status also influences youth behaviour, as children from poor households are more exposed to survival-based criminal activities (Abanyam et al., 2025). In Bali and Zing LGAs, many families face economic hardship, limiting their ability to properly supervise and guide their children

3.5. Knowledge Gap

Despite the growing body of literature on youth empowerment and crime reduction in Nigeria, several critical gaps remain, particularly in relation to rural and under-researched areas such as Bali and Zing Local Government Areas of Taraba State.

Previous research largely relies on secondary data and generalized national statistics, with limited use of primary data collected directly from affected youths. This creates a gap in understanding the real experiences, perceptions, and challenges faced by young people at the grassroots level. While many studies establish a relationship between youth empowerment and crime reduction, they tend to focus on broad concepts of empowerment without examining the relative effectiveness of specific interventions, such as skills acquisition programmes, financial support schemes, or educational initiatives. Consequently, it remains unclear which strategies are most impactful in reducing crime in local contexts.

Much of the literature emphasizes correlation rather than causation, making it difficult to determine the extent to which youth empowerment directly leads to crime reduction, as opposed to being influenced by other factors such as policing, governance, or community structures. Furthermore, there is limited attention to demographic variations within the youth population, including differences based on gender, age groups, and educational background, which may influence both access to empowerment opportunities and involvement in crime.

Insufficient emphasis has been placed on the role of institutional and governance factors, such as policy implementation, transparency, and community participation, which can significantly affect the success or failure of empowerment programmes. Thus, this is why this research was carried out in outlining factors which when implemented will go a long way in tackling crime in Zing and Bali Local Government Areas through youth empowerment initiatives program.

4. Methodology

The study will adopt a mixed-method research design (quantitative + qualitative). This design is suitable because the topic involves measurable variables (e.g. number of trainings attended, self-employment status, and frequency of crime involvement) and also requires deeper explanations of behaviour change, motivation and post-training experiences. Quantitative data will provide measurable proof of the relationship between skills acquisition and crime reduction. Qualitative data will provide context, meaning and interpretation behind the figures.

4.1. Study Area

This study is conducted in Bali Local Government Area and Zing Local Government Area, both located in Taraba State, in the North-Eastern region of Nigeria. Both LGAs are relevant to this study due to their shared socio-economic characteristics, including high youth population, limited industrial development, and dependence on agriculture. These conditions make them suitable for examining how youth empowerment initiatives such as vocational training, financial support programmes, and educational opportunities can influence crime reduction.

4.2. Study Population

The target population consists of Youths in Bali and Zing Local Government Areas ranging from ages 18-40 years respectively. The choice of this population is based on the fact that youths constitute a significant and active segment of the society, and they are the primary targets of most empowerment initiatives. Additionally, youths are more likely to be involved in or affected by crime-related activities, making them suitable for examining the relationship between youth empowerment and crime reduction.

4.3. Sample size and Sampling Techniques

This study adopts a multistage sampling technique, combining purposive and simple random sampling methods.

Stage 1: Bali Local Government Area and Zing Local Government Area are purposively selected due to: High youth population, Presence of unemployment and poverty and Relevance to the study topic

Stage 2: Within each LGA, simple random sampling is used to select respondents. This ensures that: Every youth has an equal chance of being selected and Bias is minimized

Stage 3: To improve representation, respondents are grouped based on; Gender (male/female), Employment status and Participation in empowerment programmes

The sample size for this study is determined using the **Taro Yamane formula**, which is widely used in social science research to determine the size from known population and assuming the population of 3000 Youths in total.

$$n = \frac{1 + N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

- **n** = sample size
- **N** = total population (3000)
- **e** = level of significance (margin of error), usually 0.05

$$n = \frac{3000}{1 + 3000 (0.0025)} = 353$$

The sample size for this study was determined using the Taro Yamane formula. Based on an estimated youth population of 3,000 in Bali and Zing Local Government Areas, and a 5% level of significance, the calculated sample size is approximately 353 respondents. The sample was distributed between Bali LGA (176 respondents) and Zing LGA (177 respondents) to ensure equal representation.

4.4. Findings

Table 1 Distribution of Respondents by Location

Location	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bali LGA	176	49.9
Zing LGA	177	50.1
Total	353	100

The table shows the distribution of respondents by location in Bali and Zing Local Government Areas, with a total of 353 respondents. A closer examination of the data reveals a very balanced representation between the two areas.

Bali LGA has 176 respondents, accounting for 49.9% of the total sample, while Zing LGA has 177 respondents, representing 50.1%. The difference between the two is only one respondent, equivalent to a negligible 0.2% difference in percentage. This indicates that the sample is almost perfectly evenly split between the two locations.

The table reflects a well-structured and balanced sample distribution. The almost equal representation of respondents from Bali and Zing LGAs enhances the credibility, comparability, and overall validity of the study's findings on youth empowerment and crime reduction.

Table 2 Employment Status of Youths

Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Employed	98	27.8
Unemployed	180	51.0
Self-employed	75	21.2
Total	353`	100

A detailed look at the data shows that 180 respondents (51.0%) are unemployed, making this the largest group. This indicates that more than half of the youths in Bali and Zing LGAs do not have any form of employment. This is a significant finding, as high unemployment is often associated with economic hardship, social instability, and increased vulnerability to criminal activities. The dominance of this category suggests a serious lack of job opportunities and limited access to sustainable livelihoods within the study area.

The table also shows that 98 respondents (27.8%) are employed. This group represents youths who are engaged in formal or informal wage-earning jobs. Although this category forms a notable portion of the population, it is considerably smaller than the unemployed group. This gap suggests that the labor market in the area is not sufficiently absorbing the youth population, which may contribute to frustration and economic dependence.

Lastly, the table underscores the urgent need for effective youth empowerment programs in Bali and Zing LGAs. Initiatives such as skills acquisition, vocational training, access to microfinance, and job creation schemes could help reduce unemployment, promote self-reliance, and ultimately contribute to crime reduction in the area.

Table 3 Participation in Youth Empowerment Programmes

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	120	34.0
No	233	66.0
Total	353`	100

Out of the total respondents, 120 youths (34.0%) indicated that they have participated in youth empowerment programmes. This shows that roughly one-third of the sampled population has had some level of exposure to initiatives such as skills acquisition, vocational training, entrepreneurship support, or government-sponsored empowerment schemes. While this is a meaningful proportion, it is not sufficiently large to produce widespread impact across the population.

In contrast, 233 respondents (66.0%) reported that they have not participated in any youth empowerment programmes. This represents a significant majority—about two-thirds of the respondents. This finding suggests that most youths in Bali and Zing LGAs lack access to empowerment opportunities that could improve their economic and social well-being.

The table highlights a low level of youth participation in empowerment programmes, which undermines efforts to address unemployment and crime in Bali and Zing LGAs. It underscores the need for a more inclusive and better-

implemented empowerment initiative that can reach a larger proportion of the youth population. Increasing participation in such programmes is likely to enhance economic engagement and contribute significantly to reducing crime in the study area.

Table 4 Type of Empowerment Received

Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Skill Acquisition	60	50.0
Financial Support	35	29.2
Educational Support	25	20.8
Total	353`	100

From the findings, skill acquisition accounts for the largest share with 60 respondents (50.0%). This indicates that half of the youths who benefited from empowerment programmes received training in vocational or technical skills such as tailoring, carpentry, mechanics, or other trades. This dominance suggests that most empowerment initiatives in the study area are focused on equipping youths with practical, income-generating skills. Such programmes are particularly important because they promote self-reliance and can have a direct impact on reducing unemployment and crime.

Financial support follows with 35 respondents (29.2%). This includes access to grants, loans, or startup capital to support small businesses or entrepreneurial activities. While this represents a significant portion, it is notably lower than skill acquisition. This gap may indicate that although some youths are trained, fewer are given the financial resources needed to fully utilize those skills. Without adequate funding, the effectiveness of skill acquisition programmes may be limited.

Table 5 Youth Involvement in Crime-Related Activities

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	110	31.2
No	243	68.8
Total	353`	100

From the data, 110 respondents (31.2%) indicated that they have been involved in crime-related activities. This means that nearly one-third of the youths in the study area have had some form of engagement in activities such as theft, violence, cultism, or other unlawful behaviors. This is a significant proportion and suggests that crime among youths is a notable issue in Bali and Zing LGAs.

On the other hand, 243 respondents (68.8%) reported that they have not been involved in crime-related activities. This majority indicates that most youths are not engaged in criminal behavior, which is a positive sign for the communities. It suggests that despite existing challenges, a larger proportion of youths are either productively engaged or are able to avoid criminal influences.

Table 6 Perception of Youth Empowerment and Crime Reduction

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	180	51.0
Agree	120	34.0
Disagree	40	11.3
Strongly Disagree	13	3.7
Total	353	100

However, the gap between the two groups is still concerning. While the majorities (68.8%) are not involved in crime, the 31.2% involvement rate is relatively high and cannot be overlooked. In a stable society, one would expect a much lower percentage of youth involvement in crime. This indicates that substantial minorities of youths are vulnerable and may be influenced by factors such as unemployment, peer pressure, lack of education, and inadequate social support systems.

The finding shows that 180 respondents (51.0%) strongly agree that youth empowerment contributes to crime reduction. This represents the largest proportion of the sample, indicating that more than half of the respondents hold a very firm belief in the positive impact of empowerment programmes on reducing criminal activities. This strong level of agreement suggests that many youths have either experienced or observed the benefits of empowerment in improving livelihoods and discouraging involvement in crime.

In addition, 120 respondents (34.0%) agree with the statement. When combined with those who strongly agree, this brings the total level of agreement to 300 respondents (85.0%). This overwhelming majority indicates a broad consensus among respondents that youth empowerment is an effective tool for crime reduction. It reflects a shared understanding that providing youths with skills, employment opportunities, and financial support can significantly reduce their likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior.

On the other hand, 40 respondents (11.3%) disagree, while 13 respondents (3.7%) strongly disagree. Together, these groups make up 53 respondents (15.0%) who do not believe that youth empowerment has a significant effect on crime reduction. Although this is a minority, it is still important, as it may reflect skepticism based on personal experiences, perceived inefficiencies in empowerment programmes, or broader social factors that empowerment alone may not address.

Lastly, the finding indicates that the vast majority of respondents believe there is a strong link between youth empowerment and crime reduction. This reinforces the study's central argument that expanding and improving youth empowerment initiatives could play a critical role in reducing crime and promoting social stability in the study areas.

5. Discussions

5.1. Youth Employment and Crime Reduction

The findings revealed that a significant proportion of youths are unemployed. This indicates a high level of economic vulnerability among respondents. The mean analysis further confirmed that unemployment is strongly linked to increased involvement in antisocial behavior ((ILO, 2024)

This finding supports existing theories that unemployment increases frustration and idle time, which may push youths toward crime. In contrast, youths who are employed or self-employed are less likely to engage in criminal activities due to financial stability and engagement in productive work ((Nwankwo et al., 2024).

5.2. Perception of Youths on Crime and Empowerment

The findings revealed that most respondents strongly agree that youth empowerment reduces crime. This shows a high level of awareness among youths regarding the importance of empowerment in preventing criminal behavior. This perception suggests that if properly implemented, empowerment programmes will likely receive strong acceptance and participation from youths (Adeleke, T., & Musa, R. (2022)

5.3. Youth Empowerment Program and Crime Reduction

The study found that most respondents have not participated in any youth empowerment programme. This suggests limited reach or effectiveness of empowerment initiatives in the study area. However, respondents who benefited from empowerment programmes (such as skills acquisition and financial support) reported lower involvement in crime. The mean scores showed strong agreement that empowerment reduces crime, with a high level of consensus among respondents. This finding aligns with the idea that empowerment improves economic independence, reduces poverty, and discourages criminal behavior (AfDB, 2022).

6. Conclusion

This study examined the relationship between youth empowerment and crime reduction in Bali Local Government Area and Zing Local Government Area. The study was guided by the objective of determining whether youth empowerment has any significant effect on reducing crime among youths in the study area.

Based on the findings from data analysis, the study concludes that youth empowerment has a significant and positive effect on crime reduction. The results revealed that unemployed and underpowered youths are more likely to engage in crime-related activities due to economic hardship and lack of opportunities, while empowered youths are less likely to be involved in such activities.

In addition, the study concludes that although awareness of empowerment programmes is high among youths, actual participation remains relatively low in the study area. This gap limits the full impact of empowerment initiatives on crime reduction.

Overall, the study concludes that improving youth empowerment strategies in Bali Local Government Area and Zing Local Government Area will play a vital role in addressing unemployment, reducing poverty, and ultimately curbing youth-related crime in the area.

Recommendation

Base on the results of the research carried out, there measures that needs to be taking in order to tackle the issues unemployment and lack of empowerment programmes in Bali and Zing Local Government Areas.

The government and relevant stakeholders should expand existing youth empowerment programs to cover a larger proportion of youths in Bali and Zing Local Government Areas. This expansion should not only increase the number of beneficiaries but also improve the quality, accessibility, and sustainability of the programs. In doing so, special attention should be given to unemployed youths in rural and underserved communities, as they are more vulnerable to engaging in criminal activities due to lack of opportunities.

Second, the establishment of functional skill acquisition centres is essential for promoting youth empowerment and reducing crime in Bali and Zing Local Government Areas. These centres should be properly equipped and made accessible to youths across different communities within the LGAs. The centres should provide practical, hands-on training in relevant vocational skills such as tailoring, welding, carpentry, ICT, mechanics, electrical installation, hairdressing, and other income-generating trades. The training should be structured in a way that combines theory with practical exposure to ensure competence and job readiness.

Third, Access to financial assistance is a critical component of youth empowerment and plays a significant role in reducing crime in Bali and Zing Local Government Areas. Many youths who possess vocational or entrepreneurial skills are unable to establish themselves due to lack of startup capital.

Traditional rulers, religious leaders, women groups, and youth associations should play key roles in mobilizing, mentoring, and guiding young people toward productive activities. They can also assist in identifying unemployed or at-risk youths and linking them to available empowerment opportunities.

Lastly, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of youth empowerment programs is essential for ensuring effectiveness, accountability, and sustainability in Bali and Zing Local Government Areas. Without proper monitoring, empowerment initiatives may fail to achieve their intended objectives of reducing youth unemployment and crime.

Government agencies and implementing bodies should establish clear performance indicators to assess the progress and impact of all empowerment programs. Regular supervision should be conducted to ensure that funds, training opportunities, and resources are properly utilized by beneficiaries.

Effective monitoring and evaluation will help identify challenges early, improve program efficiency, prevent mismanagement, and ensure that youth empowerment initiatives achieve sustainable crime reduction in Bali and Zing LGAs.

Compliance with ethical standards

Disclosure of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

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