

COMMUNITY e-LINK

"Inna di community"



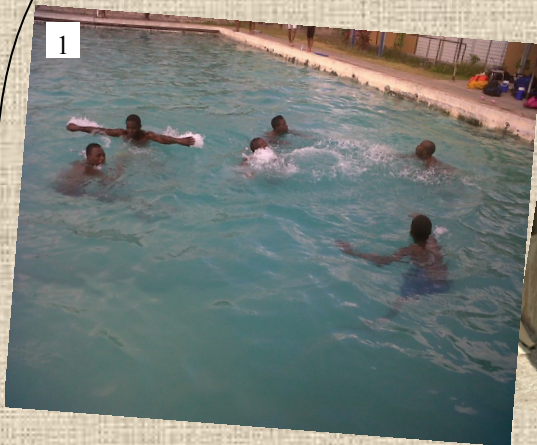
Volume 1, Issue 4
September 2011

The Official Community News!

What's Inside!

- Engaging our youth
- Approved Projects Under the Japanese Social Development Fund Grant 2010-2011

- Photo Gallery Captions
- A Father Changes his way
- Suicide Camp Uncover Hurt



See page 3 for captions



Canadian International
Development Agency





The Government of Jamaica has placed a significant priority on community-based crime and violence prevention initiatives. One such project is the Japan Social Development (JSDF) Fund which reflects priorities established in dialogue between the World Bank, the Government of Jamaica, JSIF and the Japanese Government. The Grant became effective June 3, 2009 and seeks to support JSIF's present efforts in reducing the incidence of crime and violence in high risk and vulnerable inner city communities in Jamaica.

The Fund is financed by the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) through the World Bank and is implemented by the JSIF. The project also builds on 3 years of active community engagement in the 12 inner city neighborhoods. It is expected that the Grant will impact the lives of at least 93,500 residents of inner city communities through participation in targeted crime and violence prevention activities.



Engaging Our Youths

*Message from the Managing Director
Scarlette Gillings*

The JSDF Grant through the JAVA Fund has seen a total of \$108 million granted towards 31 sub-projects including 21 summer camps held between June 2009 and August 2011. These programmes targeted unattached youth and were implemented in partnership with Community Based Organisations (CBD) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) delivering services within these communities. The JSIF through these partnerships have been able to interact with over 5,000 unattached youth who have no formal engagement and

persons without employable skills. These interventions included activities in job skills training, mentoring, conflict resolution and mediation; civic skills, guidance counseling, summer programmes, homework and remedial classes; and social support services for vulnerable families. Of the year long subprojects that have come to an end and listening to the beneficiaries who have received certification at their respective graduation exercises, one would highlight that despite the challenges in implementation whether it be community or project wise these programmes are effective to a large extent and continue

to present hope to participants.

The Grant also funds the development of the Jamaica Crime Observatory (JCO) also known as the Integrated Crime and Violence Information System done in collaboration with Ministry of National Security and other critical stakeholders. The system represents a significant step towards influencing policy aimed at targeted crime and violence prevention within communities.

The JCO will provide publicly disclosed data on major crimes committed through a web-based, geo-referenced system.

Suicide Camp Uncover Hurt

"Students reported as disruptive in the school system in St. James, when tested were found to be often suicidal" reports Dr. Beverley Scott of the Family and Parenting Centre in Montego Bay, who for the first time held a summer camp dedicated to students who had thought about taking their lives in the parish this year. The Family and Parenting Centre summer camp, through the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, hosted the boys and girls aged 13 to 17 years between July 4 to July 29.

"Parents, especially mothers who are single parents, belittle their children and tell them to 'go catch man for money.'"

Problems facing parents themselves, Dr. Scott notes, include unemployment. "The recession is really taking a toll on families. Some can't find a



job. Some are not employable. It is really very difficult." The centre is also pursuing hospitality training for adults in a bid to address the issues in a holistic manner.

For the minors, Dr. Scott states, "we were able to give them some hope and suggest ways of changing their thought process and do things differently. We also helped them to understand their relationship with their peers.

"We were also able to deal with parents, with most of the issues relating to parents and especially step-parents. We showed them how to treat them (their children) differently. While some (students) are still in need of individual therapy, we have been getting good reports since many of them have returned to school in September."



Photo Gallery Captions

From Page 1 ...

1. People Action for Transformation (PACT) during their lifeguard skills training at the YMCA .
2. Cutting of Ribbon at Operation Friendship Graduation Ceremony.
3. Participants of the Family and Parenting Development Program in Montego Bay, St. James.
Children from Washington Gardens on a field trip at the Jamaica Defence Force Air Wing as part of their summer camp activities.
5. Area Youth Foundation (AYF) filming of music videos as part of the Parade Gardens project activities.

A Father Changes His Ways

Paul Cyrus, father of a five year old child in Olympic Gardens in Kingston has found a new way of communicating with the toddler that does not involve frequent beatings. "Our relationship has changed. A lot of things I used to want to beat him for, I am trying my best to do a lot of talking instead."

Cyrus was one of only two men who participated in development training for parents staged by the Dudley Grant Trust with funding from the JAVA Fund, under Component B of the JSDF Grant.

The programme was a novel approach to social intervention which involves skills training as well for parents in communities where crime and violence is prevalent.

The Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) provided counterpart funding to Dudley Grant whose proposal for funding was approved under the JAVA calls for proposals in late 2009. The project engaged the following in



Paul Cyrus Receiving Certificate from JSIF Board Member Donovan Samuels at Graduation exercise

communities such as Juno Crescent, Paisley Settlement (Hazard Drive): Gordon Pen, Irish Pen; and Olympic Gardens .

The Family Support project was designed to equip parents with parenting and skills development training which will foster improved parental interaction with their children aged 0 to 8 years and equip them with viable skills for employment.

Parents were exposed to new and improved ways of communicating with their children. Additionally 900 parents 600 mothers and 300

fathers were provided with information on how their behaviour towards their children impacts on the growth and development of their child/children into adulthood.

Arising out of this project, an evaluation will be done of the impact of the workshops on the behaviour of the parents and teachers. A project Manual will also be produced in order to replicate this programme in other communities.

Cyrus, employed as a tyreman, states, "I learnt a lot about parenting and especially about certain things I did not know. There was only one other father in my programme. I would recommend it to others who did not attend.

"For my son, a lot of things I go through (experience) I do not want him to go through. I am trying my best."

Approved Projects Under the Japanese Social Development Fund Grant 2010-2011

COMPONENT A

- Jamaica Crime Observatory
- Tawes Meadows Community Action Plan
- Bucknor Community Action Plan

COMPONENT B JAMAICA VIOLENCE ACTION FUND (JAVA)

- Operation Friendship Skills Training
- Area Youth Foundation Civic Skills Training
- Local Initiative Facility For the Environment (LIFE)
- Dudley Grant Memorial Trust (DGMT)
- People's Action For Community Transformation (PACT)
- Sunbeam Children's Home
- Dispute Resolution Foundation
- Family and Parenting Centre
- Youth Opportunities Unlimited
- Hope Counselling Centre

JAVA has also funded 22 Summer Camps



Homework classes at the Child Resiliency Programme.



Information Corner

What are the eligibility criteria for community projects?

- Project must be on the JSIF menu (i.e fall within the types of Community Projects considered for funding).
- Project must respond to a priority development need supported by the majority of the community.
- Project must be proposed by a community-based group, either on its own or in partnership with NGOs, service clubs, private sector or local government entities.
- Willingness of the community to provide a contribution to the total cost of the project in cash or kind and to maintain the facility/ services.

JSDF Team Members

- Ayanna Demetrius - Project Manager
- Belinda-Lee Brown - Social Officer
- John Meeks - Project Officer
- Nickoletia Williams - Admin Clerk

Next Project Feature

ERP Tropical Storm Gustav



JSIF Project Report Card

as at June 2011

Approved 1385

Completed 973

Disbursed J\$10.1B

Upcoming Events for the Month of October 2011

- Made for TV Multi-media programme
- Area Youth Foundation music videos exposure
- Sensitization sessions on the Jamaica Crime Observatory – Integrated Crime and Violence Information System .
- Community action plan stakeholder meetings for ICBSP Communities in Kingston.



Jamaica Social Investment Fund

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