



## DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION PRESS RELEASE

Kingston, July 22, 2013

### EU funded summer camp provides well needed reprieve for children of vulnerable communities

One hundred and fifty (150) children from eight communities in the corporate area will this week (July 22-26) participate in the annual RISE Life Management summer camp being held at the Shortwood Teachers' College in St. Andrew. The camp which forms part of the activities under RISE's Community Upliftment & Human Rights Awareness Project – Phase II receives funding from the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and has also received support from the EU-funded Poverty Reduction Programme being implemented by JSIF. The camp has also benefitted from the support of at least one other local sponsor.

The children who are from communities classified as being prone to violence will be involved in activities ranging from sports, life skills training, performing arts, arts and craft, counselling and an end of camp prom. In addition to the activities the camp will this year under the theme "**Child Protection, Fi Wi Mission**" will also focus on child rights.

The Community Upliftment and Human Rights project is part of the EU's support to the development of vulnerable communities through increased awareness of Human Rights among children and adults in selected communities. The objectives among other things include: increased literacy and numeracy among a specified number of children and women living in target communities, a reduction in the prevalence of sexual and domestic violence against women, parenting college, art therapy for street children and Psychosocial skills training programme for 200 children in juvenile detention and state care facilities.

The total cost of the project which began last June and ends in December of this year is some J\$45.3 Million of which the EU has contributed \$J36 million.

Addressing youngsters at the opening ceremony yesterday, Head of Operations at the the EU Delegation in Jamaica, Jesús Orús Báguena emphasized that the the theme of the camp fits well with the EU's commitment to the principles of human rights. "*This project ..., is only part of our larger commitment to youth and youth development in Jamaica. Young people such as you are the key to any sustainable lasting development strategy, and it is important that the development, education, health and safety of Jamaica's children be at the forefront of the most important aspect of any strategic plans to carry Jamaica forward.*

Contact- Jodi Brown-Lindo  
Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica,  
Belize, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bahamas and the Cayman Islands  
Tel: 1 876 924 6333