



# DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

## PRESS RELEASE

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### EU funds bring Upgrades to Rowlandsfield Health Centre in St. Thomas

With support from the EU, the Rowlandsfield Health Centre in St. Thomas will now provide increased and more effective service to its patients thanks to upgrades to the facility. The project falls under the ambit of the Sugar Transformation Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, with funding from the EU's Accompanying Measures of Sugar (AMS) Programme.

Funding for the upgrade amounts to over JMD\$18 million. It has resulted in the facility now boasting wheelchair access, an expanded waiting area, a records area and additional patient rooms. Renovations include increased floor space, new roofing and tiling, a water storage facility, and other general aesthetic improvements. The intervention has facilitated services being offered 4 times per month, a 100% increase over that which was previously offered.

Present at the ceremony were Minister of Agriculture, Labour & Social Security, the Hon. Derrick Kellier; and Minister of Health, the Hon. Dr. Fenton Ferguson. Speaking at the event, Chargé d'Affaires a.i of the Delegation of the European Union in Jamaica, Jesús Orús Báguena noted that this event is part of the social aspect of the AMS programme, saying that *"Jamaicans are being affected by the changes to the sugar industry, and so it's important that those closely affected benefit from compensation and improvement in the standards of living."*

Mr. Orús added that though these programmes by themselves contribute to the overall picture of increased Jamaican development *"by investing in people, giving them a new lease on life, and in turn playing their part in contributing to Jamaica's welfare."*

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