



DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

PRESS RELEASE

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Thirty Clarendon youths receive academic and business support through EU supported Poverty Reduction Programme

Thirty young men and women from Four Paths Clarendon have been provided with life changing skills through a three month Youth Development workshop funded under the EU supported Poverty Reduction Programme. The three month workshop held between September and November was carried out by the Clarendon Chamber of Commerce with 17 males and 13 females between the ages of 18 and 24 years with direct funding of J\$1.13 million and community contribution of just over J\$126,000.

Participants received academic support with remedial education in Mathematics, English Language, reading, skills training, business development and project management skills. The workshop also offered training in leadership skills, parental skills and self-empowerment. Participants were also engaged in dispute resolution strategies including anger management and conflict resolution.

Through additional support from the Heart Trust, the National Youth Service, Food for the Poor and a few community businesses some participants have already received supplies and equipment to start small businesses.

Head of Cooperation for the EU Delegation Jesús Orús Báguena congratulated the organisers and participants on their achievements. *"I note with admiration that the Chamber has been able to mobilize additional resources for participants to start small entrepreneurial activities in farming, chicken, pig and goat rearing, which dovetails quite nicely with the business development and project management skills training which was delivered during the workshop. This kind of strategic approach taken by the Chamber, goes a far way towards sustainability as well as enrichment of the development workshop experience for participants, where in short order they can put the skills which they have learnt to practical use."*

He challenged participants to seek out other opportunities to improve and expand their skills and businesses, not just as a means of self-improvement but also as a contribution to building better communities and ultimately, a stronger Jamaica.

The Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP) is a long-standing programme of cooperation between the EU and the Government of Jamaica and is designed to support the government's efforts to foster economic well-being and enhanced quality of life for residents of communities whose community is affected by violence.

For more information:

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