



DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

PRESS RELEASE

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Over 200 youths from Denham Town and Waterhouse benefit from EU funded camps

Over 200 children and young adults from Denham Town and Waterhouse were today recognised for their achievement following their participation in two summer camps held last year. Under the EU funded Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP) **KBC Learning Camp** and **Miracle Tabernacle Youth Workshop** provided opportunities for participants to improve their educational and social skills and internship opportunities. The participants were recognised at a joint graduation ceremony at held at the Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston this morning.

The **Miracle Tabernacle Youth Workshop** targeted 186 young men and women from the Waterhouse community offering remedial education in the areas of Mathematics and English Language as well as entrepreneurial training in nail technology, information technology, makeup artistry and barbering. The group also received counselling to promote personal and social development as well as internship opportunities. In Denham Town, the **KBC Learning Camp and after school project** targeted twenty seven boys and girls aged 7-12 years who reside in the community to improve reading and mathematics skills in order to minimize summer learning loss. Participants were also engaged in visual arts projects to help improve their creativity, confidence, concentration and teamwork. The programme has also facilitated some after school activities to keep students occupied during non-school hours so as to help prevent deviant behaviour.

Head of Cooperation, Jesús Orús Báguena encouraged those being recognized to use what they have learnt for their personal and social development. He explained that the EU's support to these initiatives results from its strong support for education. *'Our consistent support in this area is based on the fact that education can have a positive, sustainable impact on social and economic development and be an important catalyst for achieving all development goals and progress in other social sectors. This is why we are contributing to global efforts to ensure that by 2030 every child completes at least basic education and has basic literacy and numeracy skills.'*

Both camps were implemented over a three month period. Under the PRP, the EU has provided grant funding of **€41.5M (JMD6B)** to support activities aimed at helping community members to undertake projects which uplift themselves as well as their communities. These activities include a very strong infrastructure component, through which Infant, Primary and Junior High Schools have been upgraded and or constructed in partnership with community groups, School Boards and the Ministry of Education. Other important activities supported under the PRP include the award of scholarships and internships, the delivery of skills and remedial education training, the facilitation of income generating activities, as well as the implementation of peace building and dispute resolution activities.

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