

Case study – Child abuse

Human Rights and Democracy

"Finding my voice" - Ending child abuse in Jamaica



Caption: Summer camp staff in their opening musical presentation

Facts and Figures:

- EU contribution: approximately 300 000 (90% of the project)
- Duration: 2015-2017

Context

Child abuse is pervasive in Jamaica. Forty-five thousand reports of child abuse were made over the five-year period 2010-2015, almost one third of this number were reports of sexual abuse. Every part of the society must play a role in ending child abuse. "Finding my voice" is a national programme on the prevention of child abuse, designed to educate adults and sensitize children on ways to recognize and prevent sexual abuse and violence against children. The programme's purpose is to help Jamaican children, teachers, guidance counsellors, parents and communities find their voices and encourage them to speak out and prevent acts of violence against children.

Objective:

- Empower children to protect themselves and prevent sexual abuse
- Educate adults to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child abuse

Impact:

- 863 children attended sensitization sessions at various schools
- 104 children participated in a one week residential summer camp where they learned specific skills to help them to speak out against child abuse in their communities
- 68 teachers and guidance counsellors were trained to improve schools' capacity to deliver prevention education and report sexual abuse.