



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EU project improves security at Gregory Park Primary

Some 854 students and 36 staff members at the Gregory Park Primary School are now benefiting from safer environs following the completion of a school wall and other upgrades at the educational facility by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), implementing agency for the EU-funded Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP).

The Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP) is funded jointly by the European Union (EU) through the 9th European Development Fund (EDF) and the Government of Jamaica (GOJ).

Executed at a cost of \$29.86 million from the EU and community contribution of \$10.05 million – principally in the form of land for civil works – the project at Gregory Park Primary included construction of 100m of block wall; construction of drainage system; replacement of damaged windows and doors; painting of buildings; replacement of ply board partitions; and replacement and installation of new lighting fixtures.

It also included installation of wiring; termite treatment of existing buildings, installation of aluminium window louvres; Installation of new solid core doors and paving of the driveway.

Scarlette Gillings, managing director of JSIF said at the official handing over event on Wednesday November 21 that the purpose of the PRP programme is to improve the socio-economic conditions and quality of life in vulnerable or volatile communities, with emphasis on the promotion of community safety.

Much of the PRP's efforts are manifest in upgraded works to schools, roads and other community facilities critical to improve living conditions through access to quality basic infrastructure and services.

“We are pleased to witness the conclusion of this project in Gregory Park. One recent study by the Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CAPRI) suggests that more resources need to be poured into primary education; pointing out that an educated population is one of the few areas of comparative advantage which this island can develop.”

She noted, “ fully one third of all investment since our inception has been made in education, incorporating infrastructure upgrades, expansion of schools ranging from basic to high and the provision of skills training.”

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