



## USAID/JAMAICA— WEEKLY REPORT

### May 8, 2012 Highlights:



*The Jamaica Information Service is seen here filming the newly trained beekeepers from the community of Walks Road in St. Catherine while conducting their routine hive assessment.*



*Students from the New Day All Age Primary and Junior High School welcome Ambassador Pamela E. Bridgewater and is pleased to accept her contribution of books that she brought along with her for the library.*

- ◆ **TAJ Audits Large Telecommunications Companies' Tax Records** - The Tax Administration of Jamaica (TAJ) is auditing large telecommunications companies' tax records and started to legally obtain data last Friday, May 4th, at two company locations. TAJ has been able to carry out these audits in part to technical assistance and subject matter expertise provided through the USAID/JAMAICA-funded project "PRIDE" (Promote, Renew, Invigorate, Develop, and Energize). USAID would like to highlight that its relatively small investment of US\$1.2 million to extend the PRIDE project by one year (up to Sept. 2012) could potentially bring millions of dollars (US) of revenue back to the Government of Jamaica coffers.
- ◆ **Beekeeping Television Feature** - On Monday April 30, 2012, the Jamaica Information Service's production crew visited the communities of Jobs Lane and Walks Road in the parish of St. Catherine to film one of the components under USAID/JAMAICA's microenterprise based projects. Beekeeping--the highlight of the feature--is being supported through the Local Initiative Facility for the Environment (LIFE). The three-year project focuses on training persons to become beekeepers, which include honey, pollen and wax production. The proposed air date for the Beekeeping feature is Saturday May 12, 2012, within the JIS' Community Beat segment (local television station).
- ◆ **U.S. Ambassador Visits the Grants Pen Community** - U.S. Ambassador Pamela E. Bridgewater made an official visit to the Community Policing and Services Centre and the Jamaica Library Service Shortwood Branch Library, in Grants Pen, Kingston on Friday May 4, 2012. Ambassador Bridgewater was joined by Mrs. Diana Stewart, President, American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham), Ms. Becky Stockhausen, Executive Director, AmCham, Mr. Delroy Chuck, Member of Parliament and a team from USAID/JAMAICA. This is the Island's first Model Community Policing and Servicing facility and Health Centre on the same compound, and is the first of its kind in the world to include a postal agency, internet rooms, and a children's after hours school room. The U.S. government made a significant contribution to the establishment of the Grants Pen community policing model with the support from the American Chamber of Commerce and USAID/Jamaica's former Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) activities of \$3.7 million. The Shortwood Branch Library was officially opened on February 3, 2004, as a result of a partnership between the Jamaica Library Service (JLS) and the Kingston Restoration Company Limited (KRC) assisted by grants from USAID/JAMAICA. Ambassador Bridgewater donated several books to the library on behalf of the U.S. Mission.



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## Upcoming Events:

- ◆ The Government of Jamaica in collaboration with The World Bank, Jamaican private sector ICT (information communication and technology) companies and international development partners will stage Digital Jam 2.0 - “The Future of Work is Online.” The 3-day event will include an Apps Contest, Seminars and a Marketplace and Job Fair. This interactive, youth-oriented event will be held in Kingston, June 28-30, 2012, at the Jamaica Conference Centre. The launch will take place at the Office of the Prime Minister on Tuesday May 8, 2012, and will be hosted by the Honorable Lisa Hanna, Minister of Youth, and Giorgio Valentini, World Bank representative. Digital JAM 2.0 is being staged against the background that unemployment affects a large number of Jamaica’s youth, and the global online world of business and employment presents unparalleled new options. The virtual economy now offers new opportunities and solutions for entrepreneurs and Jamaica’s youth, such as using the internet to earn a living by performing paid tasks in the virtual economy. USAID/JAMAICA is providing US\$20,000 to cover the cost of the Presenters/Facilitators, and the App Competition and Software Training Camp.
- ◆ The Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) will be hosting a 2-day Technical Working Focus Group on Regional Training from May 8-9, 2012, at the Institute of Criminal Justice and Security at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. USAID/Jamaica will participate in the law enforcement working group.
- ◆ The University of the West Indies, Mona in partnership with USAID/JAMAICA and additional donor agencies like the EU will be hosting a conference on Globalization, Climate Change and Rural Resilience: The Challenge of Sustainable Development in the Caribbean and Beyond. This will be held from Wednesday May 9, to Friday May 11, 2012.