



## USAID/JAMAICA— WEEKLY REPORT

### September 10, 2012 Highlights:



*Executive Director of the JaMIN Studio, Yekengale leads the Trench Town choir in a musical tribute at the launch of the JaMIN Studio and Song Competition which was held in Trench Town, Kingston.*



*Mission Director of USAID/Jamaica, Denise A. Herbol (center) and Minister of State, Industry and Commerce, the Hon. Sharon Ffolkes Abrahams (seated) is surrounded by (from left to right) Dr. Henley Morgan of AIR, Steven Stewart, Junior Lincoln, Ambassador Byron Blake, Minister of Transport, Works and Housing the Honorable Dr. Omar Davies and the Charge d' Affaires of the United States Embassy in Jamaica, Dr. Raymond Brown at the recently held JaMIN Studio Launch and song Competition in Trench Town, Kingston.*



*Pictured here are participants at the USAID/Jamaica's Basic Education Project Team Retreat which included the Ministry of Education, USAID/Jamaica and Juarez & Associates Incorporated.*

- ◆ **JaMIN Studio Launch and Song Competition**– USAID/Jamaica in collaboration with the Agency for Inner City Renewal (AIR) launched the Jamaica Music Institute (JaMIN) Studio and JaMIN Song Competition in recognition of Jamaica's and USAID's 50th anniversary. This was held on September 5, 2012 at the Trench Town Multi-Purpose Building in Trench Town, Kingston. The launch of the JaMIN Song Competition, is to generate more music coming out of the Trench Town community.

Under a USAID Grant awarded to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in support of the Youth Employment through Sustainable Livelihood (YESL) project, AIR was contracted to manage the construction of the JaMIN Studio. The JaMIN Studio constituted the urban component of the YESL project, and was funded to the tune of US\$100,000. The song competition is targeted at inner city youth (16-24 years) and focuses on development and youth empowerment. Hopes for the studio go beyond making music, as it is conceptualized as the nucleus of a revitalization of the area. Junior Lincoln, co-chairman of JaMIN, outlined a number of long-term objectives, among them making Trench Town the rightfully recognized home of reggae, leveraging the legacy to support community development, develop Trench Town as a cultural village and reggae park (and) redeveloping the Ambassador Theatre as a cultural space and Reggae Hall of Fame.

Mission Director of USAID/Jamaica brought greetings on behalf of the agency and highlighted the agency's commitment to continue to work in partnership to develop priorities with the Jamaican citizens in achieving their full potential. She added that projects such as the JaMIN Studio will contribute to the economic recovery for Jamaica, especially for at-risk youth.

- ◆ **USAID/Jamaica Basic Education Project Team Retreat**- USAID's Jamaica Basic Education Project hosted its annual two day retreat from Wednesday September 5 to Thursday September 6, 2012 at the Wyndham Hotel in Kingston. The Retreat highlighted the milestones and achievements accomplished over the year under the project and the way forward with the New USAID Education Strategy.



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Mission Director of USAID/Jamaica, Denise A. Herbol (left) along with Lisa Lewis (right) Chairperson of the Digicel Foundation presents Her Worship the Mayor of KSAC, Mrs. Angela Brown Burke with an artist impression of what the completed redemption market .



Vendors are seen here seated outside the Redemption Market which is currently being renovated under the Renovation of the Redemption Market Project— a collaborative effort between Digicel Foundation and USAID/Jamaica. Once completed vendors will be given the opportunity to relocate to the refurbished structure.



Mission Director of USAID/Jamaica, Denise A. Herbol (left) cheerfully interacts with Ms. Janet a vendor at the Coronation Market on her recent site visit.

**Announcement of Renovation of the Redemption Market-** Over 130 vendors in the Redemption Market in Downtown Kingston will benefit from newly renovated facilities, including new stalls and roof, in time for the busy Christmas season, thanks to a collaborative initiative by the Digicel Foundation; The United States Agency for International Development, (USAID); the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) and the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC). The announcement was made during a joint press conference at the KSAC's office on Church Street in Downtown, Kingston on Thursday, September 6' 2012.

The collaborative project will see the Redemption Market being repurposed as a haberdashery, at a cost of US\$500,000. With demolition already taken place, the renovations are scheduled to be completed by December 2012. The refurbished market will contain over 130 new stalls along with improved water, sanitation and waste management.

The Downtown Kingston market district has long been an essential part of life in Jamaica. For some time, however, the Kingston markets have been on the decline, which is part of a wider trend throughout Downtown, which has led to an exodus of businesses and consumers alike. The Refurbishing of Redemption Market is yet another step towards revitalizing and rejuvenating Downtown Kingston and bringing economic development back into to what once was the commercial hub of the capital. This project looks forward to promoting Downtown Kingston, and particularly the markets, as a viable, attractive, safe, secure and vibrant place to conduct business and buy products.

Her Worship the Mayor of KSAC Councillor Angela Brown Burke joined Mission Director of USAID/Jamaica Ms. Denise Herbol and representatives from the Digicel Foundation and the UDC , in addressing guests at the announcement ceremony. She was presented with an artist impression of what the completed redemption market will look like by the Digicel Foundation and USAID.

Following the press conference Her Worship the Mayor, Ms. Herbol along with the teams from Digicel, UDC and USAID/Jamaica took the time to tour the construction sites of the Redemption Market as well as the Coronation Market which was recently renovated by the Digicel Foundation.



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## September 10, 2012 Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **Partnership Framework Policy Monitoring Workshop-** USAID/Jamaica will be participating in the regional Partnership Framework Policy Monitoring Workshop for HIV/AIDS response from September 11 –14, 2012. The workshop which will be held in Miami Florida will discuss a number of objectives concerning the Importance of Policy to the HIV Response and Using Legal Mechanisms to Address the HIV Epidemic. In addition, the workshop will examine the Perspectives on the Policy Process: Government Panel in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica.
- ◆ **Jamaica National Fund Managers partners with Junior Achievement–** The Jamaica National Fund Managers (JNFM) has recently partnered with USAID/Jamaica’s Development Grants Program recipient, Junior Achievement (JA) and will adopt 10 high schools across seven (7) parishes, in the Junior Achievement Company of Entrepreneurs (JACE) Program. These schools will be selected in collaboration with JNFM and the Ministry of Education based on need, availability and accessibility. Having adopted a school, JNFM will:
  - a) Cover the cost of each school to receive the Junior Achievement Company Program curriculum.
  - b) A staff advisor from each of the selected schools will be trained in delivery of the programs.
  - c) Commit a minimum of 2 hours monthly to visit each of its adopted schools.
  - d) Offer advice and guidance to schools as they develop and run their respective business.

JNFM will be hosting a launch to highlight the partnership with JA the week of September 17, 2012.

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