

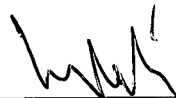
INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

Project Number 532-013

Project Location: Jamaica
Project Title: Increased Accountability, Citizen Security and Participation
Funding: US\$ 15 million
Life of SO: FY 2005-2009
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Recommended
Threshold Decision: Categorical Exclusion

CONCURRENCE

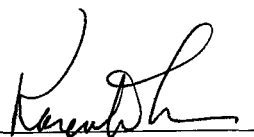


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MISSION DIRECTOR'S
DECISION

Approved:



Karen D. Turner

Date:

13 Dec 2004

LAC BUREAU
ENVIRONMENTAL
OFFICER'S DECISION

Approved:

Jerry Bisson

Date:

Background

Despite a 40-year history of stable democracy, Jamaica faces serious challenges to its democratic institutions and practices. Chief among these, as the Democracy & Governance Assessment in 2001 concluded, are the nation's persistent problems with good governance, especially as this relates to the state fulfilling its most basic role – that of ensuring citizen security. The governance problems are complex and seem to emanate from Jamaica's poor economic performance, its growing role as a transshipment point for narcotics, and a style of political representation that has fostered political tribalism. Poor economic performance contributes to crime. Conversely, the business community cites crime as one of its most serious problems. Violent crime, with associated higher costs and risks, is a major deterrent to new investment and to Jamaica's economic competitiveness. Corruption, like crime, inhibits efficient use of resources and economic competitiveness. While it is difficult to provide specific evidence regarding corruption in Jamaica, there is widespread perception that it is commonplace, which led to recent enactment of the Corruption Prevention Act. Both Transparency International and the World Bank put Jamaica in the bottom half of countries in their ratings on perceptions of corruption.

To improve performance in the rule of law and control of corruption, some serious challenges must be overcome. These include alienation which exists between the members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the average citizen, (inefficiency and delays in the courts), lack of cohesiveness and political clout among civil society groups, and de-emphasis in the education curriculum on subjects such as civics. Other social problems include the large numbers of single parent families (with absent of fathers), the underperformance of boys in school, early sexual activity, and high rates of teen pregnancy. These factors contribute to the lack of development of young people as responsible and productive citizens.

Program Description

USAID's 2005-2009 Democracy and Governance program supports interventions geared towards "*Increased Accountability, Citizen Security and Participation.*" This strategic objective is based on the understanding that enhanced community-level democratic processes, improved community/police relations and (improved capacity of the broader justice system) will lead to achievement of the increased accountability and security aspects of the strategic objective. The achievement of this strategic objective requires that a number of serious challenges must be overcome to improve performance in the (rule of law and) control of corruption. These challenges will be addressed through activities under the following Intermediate Results (IRs):

IR-1. Civic responsibility and empowerment strengthened:

IR1 will continue building on the efforts in civil society organization (CSO) strengthening of the 2001-2005 strategy and will include new initiatives in local government strengthening and anti-corruption. Anti-corruption activities will be supported through the

