



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

NEWS RELEASE

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For Release: Immediately

Subject: US\$1,388,000 USAID Project to assist Girls in State Care in Jamaica

Kingston, Jamaica: A US\$1,388,000.00 project, to improve the lives of up to 400 children in State care was launched on October 30, 2014 at The University of the West Indies (UWI) Regional Headquarters, Mona, in Kingston Jamaica. This project is being implemented by The UWI Open Campus' Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) in collaboration with the Child Development Agency (CDA) as part of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Development Grants Programme. The Grant Agreement was signed by representatives from The UWI Open Campus and the USAID on August 27, 2014.

The Transitional Living Programme for Children in State Care project will seek to provide services to improve preparation for the transition to independent living for children leaving residential care. This will be accomplished through the development of an exit-readiness programme of life skills, job skills training and mentorship. The project seeks to address issues of employability, lifestyle choices/health, family and the environment, and to secure public-private partnership for employment opportunities. It will also create a safe and appropriate transitional living facility for 40 girls on leaving State care in Jamaica.

This project will represent a milestone in improving the state of children in State care, as each year some 700 adolescents are discharged from Jamaica's child protection system on reaching 18 years. Many do not experience successful transition into adulthood and therefore cannot make an optimal contribution to national development.

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Photo Caption:



The launch of the Transitional Living Programme for Children in State Care project, was held at the Regional Headquarters of The UWI in Kingston on Friday, October 31, 2014. The project is being implemented by The UWI Open Campus's Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC), and is being funded by the USAID at a cost of US\$1.3 million. Seen after the official launch were (from left to right): Ms. Denise Herbol, Mission Director of the USAID; Ms. Rosalee Gage-Grey, Executive Director of the Caribbean Development Agency (CDA); Professor V. Eudine Barriteau, Principal of the UWI Open Campus; Professor Julie Meeks, Deputy Principal, UWI Open Campus and former Head of CCDC; Mr. Charles Young, Chair of the CDA Children Advisory Panel; Ms. Jasmine Barnes, CDA who sang the song, 'Greatest Love Of All' at the launch; Hon. Lisa Hanna, Minister of Youth & Culture in Jamaica; and Professor E. Nigel Harris, Vice-Chancellor of The UWI.

About The UWI

Since its inception in 1948, The University of the West Indies (UWI) has evolved from a fledgling college in Jamaica with 33 students to a full-fledged, regional University with over 50,000 students. Today, UWI is the largest, most longstanding higher education provider in the Commonwealth Caribbean, with four campuses in [Barbados](#), [Jamaica](#), [Trinidad and Tobago](#), and the [Open Campus](#). The UWI has faculty and students from more than 40 countries and collaborative links with 160 universities globally; it offers undergraduate and postgraduate degree options in Food & Agriculture, Engineering, Humanities & Education, Law, Medical Sciences, Science and Technology and Social Sciences. UWI's seven priority focal areas are linked closely to the priorities identified by CARICOM and take into account such overarching areas of concern to the region as environmental issues, health and wellness, gender equity and the critical importance of innovation.

Website: www.uwi.edu

About USAID

The US Agency for International Development administers the U.S. foreign assistance program providing economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 80 countries worldwide.

Website: <http://www.usaid.gov/>

