

**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  
IEE Prepared by: Sasha Parke, Democracy and Governance *SP.*  
Clearance: *D. Darby*  
Dennis Darby, Team Leader, Democracy and Governance  
(Jamaica), Joan Taffe, Program Officer *JT*

Recommended  
Threshold Decision: Categorical Exclusion

CONCURRENCE



Howard Batson  
Mission Environmental Officer  
USAID/Jamaica

Michael Donald  
Regional Environment Advisor  
USAID/Guatemala

MISSION DIRECTOR'S  
DECISION

Approved:



Karen D. Turner

Date:

13 Dec 2004

LAC BUREAU  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
OFFICER'S DECISION

Approved:

Jerry Bisson

Date:

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## 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

strengthening of NGOs that can function as watchdogs against corrupt activities in both public and private spheres. These may include strengthening CSOs and empowering citizenry through civic education and community-based activities, media and civic education initiatives, promoting rural CSO, or CSOs with a rural outreach, expanding local government powers, and promoting human rights in schools to counter the culture of violence.

**IR-2 Increased public safety in targeted communities:**

IR2 will continue efforts to strengthen community police relations and build capacity in the justice system. Emphasis will continue to be placed on building trust and community relations between residents and the police by creating opportunities for working together, consensus building, and training. In addition, a number of other activities that support efforts to reduce crime and violence will be pursued. These may include the strengthening of administrative apparatus in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, (pursuant to further review and approval by the Regional Legal Advisor), and courses for the Bar Associations to ensure that members uphold their role as officers of the court. Legislative drafting activities will focus on strengthening the Chief Parliamentary Counsel's Office to shorten the time taken to produce critical draft legislation for Parliamentary consideration.

**IR-3 Increased accountability to control corruption:**

The new strategy will add the element of corruption control to achieve greater accountability. This IR will support anti-corruption initiatives and possibly activities that include targeted assistance to such governmental entities as the Auditor General, Contractor General and Corruption Prevention Commission. This new anti-corruption element will complement the effort to reduce crime and violence in the new strategy by influencing corruption control to achieve greater accountability.

**Program Implementation:** This SO is managed within the Mission by a USPSC, who will be coordinating and supervising the work of implementing partners. The exact mechanisms for implementation have not been refined, however it is envisaged that the Program will be implemented using performance-based institutional contracts and/or grants and cooperative agreements.

**Environmental Impact and Mitigation Measures:** The activities funded under this program will involve long and short term technical assistance and training as well as limited commodity procurement related to the technical assistance delivery for strengthening key anti-corruption agencies and the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel. No environmental impact is likely to result from these activities.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** All implementing partners are required to submit Semi-annual Reports to the Operating Unit which must include Reg. 216 environmental compliance, if applicable. The CTO will be responsible for overseeing and monitoring all

program activities throughout the life of the activity, and for collaborating with the MEO to ensure that all activities are in compliance with the categorical exclusion threshold decision which is being recommended for this program. In addition USAID/J-CAR will ensure that all environmental compliance activities are elaborated upon in the relevant section of the Annual Reports.

**Recommendations for Threshold Decision:** *Categorical Exclusion:* Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i), (v) and (xiv), a **Categorical Exclusion** is recommended for this SO as it involves the provision of technical assistance, training, policy development and capacity building activities, which have no significant effect on the environment. Section 216.2 (c) specifically describes those activities that are wholly technical assistance and training as being qualified for categorical exclusion.