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GOJ/USAID NEW HORIZONS *for* PRIMARY SCHOOLS PROJECT

for

*Improved Student
Performance in Reading
and Mathematics*



THE PROJECT

The **New Horizons for Primary Schools (NHP)** is a seven-year, joint initiative of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Government of Jamaica (GOJ). The Project is assisting the Jamaican Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture (MOEY&C) in increasing levels of literacy and numeracy of students in 72 selected primary schools throughout Jamaica. It is scheduled for completion in 2005.

Juárez and Associates has been contracted by USAID on behalf of the MOEY&C to provide assistance in project implementation using on-site professional/technical staff, international consultants, and Jamaican education experts. Our goal is to strengthen the ability of schools and parents to improve student performance in reading and mathematics, so that future generations of Jamaicans will succeed in the 21st century.

The **NHP** employs a holistic, student centred approach to improvement of instruction and learning in mathematics and reading. The project initially included ten interrelated interventions designed to work in concert to serve the needs of Jamaican children. These interventions are:

- Developing innovative mathematics and literacy programs
- Providing in-service teacher training in reading and mathematics
- Providing governance and leadership training for schools, communities and parents
- Offering parent education and training

- Facilitating selective nutritional programs
- Providing reading and mathematics materials
- Establishing computer use in schools and training teachers in educational technology
- Training resource teachers
- Integrating databases using Management Information Systems
- Improved school management through Education Management Information Systems

In the final two year of the project, emphasis is being placed on the infusion of technology in the teaching-learning process.

The cornerstone of this holistic approach provides for the empowerment of schools and communities through participation at the local level.

The **NHP** strives to improve opportunities for children by bringing learning to life through the use of context-specific instructional approaches and materials.

Site-based management is designed to transfer decision-making power to local schools and communities where the appropriate persons - *those most directly involved with the education of children* – are participating constructively in the major decisions that affect Jamaican schools.

Access to *effective* educational systems and the resulting democratization and participation can be reached only if assisted development is coupled with recognition and respect for local knowledge and traditions.

OUTCOMES

- Marked improvement in reading and numeracy performance among primary school students
- Utilization of innovative curriculum and instructional materials
- Classroom and resource teachers trained in the latest instructional approaches for reading and mathematics
- Modernized school management with technological supports systems
- Exposure of teachers, students and communities to computer and communication technologies
- Increased health of Jamaican primary students
- Empowerment of school boards and parent/teacher organizations
- Greater professionalism of teachers
- Increased academic promotion
- Increased community and private sector involvement in support of schools
- Contribution to national development

PARTNERSHIPS

The **NHP** involves not only partnership among USAID, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture (MOEY&C), National Council on Education (NCE), Juárez & Associates (J&A), but also close collaboration among the donor-lender community, Non-Governmental Organizations and other private and Public sector entities. Close consideration is being given to related activities of other national and international organizations, building on achievements in the education sector.