



MINISTRY PAPER NO .83.

**The Law Reform (Zones of Special Operations) (Special Security
and
Community Development Measures)**

**The August Town Community Zone
Social Intervention**

December 3, 2020

Office of the Prime Minister

The Law Reform (Zones of Special Operations) Special Security and Community Development Measures

Social Intervention Report (as at December 3, 2020)

This Honourable House is being requested to note that after the enactment of the Law Reform (Zones of Special Operations) (Special Security and Community Development Measures) Act, the Prime Minister on the advice of the National Security Council, declared the August Town Community in Eastern St. Andrew as the fourth Zone of Special Operations (ZOSO) on July 8, 2020.

The Zones of Special Operations (ZOSO) combine a robust security approach led by the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and Jamaica Defence Force (JDF), and Social Intervention Component (SIC) that coordinate and implement social development measures by the various agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the private sector.

The Social Intervention support, which is coordinated by the gazetted Social Intervention Committee puts in place social programmes that focus on two key strategies: Crime Prevention Through Social Development (CPTSD) and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

A key objective of the interventions and programmes is to ensure that the community is reconnected to the key agencies of government that deliver each programme thus engendering sustainability and credibility among the citizens that their government is the legitimate provider of support services.

The Social Intervention Committee (SIC) is guided by SIC framework comprising of seven development areas:

- Physical Environment;
- Land Tenure,

- Community Safety;
- Human and Community Development and Employment;
- Business and Economic Development;
- Spiritual and Faith Based Intervention; and
- Leadership.

The ZOSO is built around the approach of Clear, Hold and Build, which the latter is where long term institutions are developed within the community.

August Town is considered urban with a population of approximately 10,000 residents. The community is among the list of communities identified by the PIOJ Community Renewal Project given its high score with relation to its volatility and vulnerability. It is currently one of the communities under the Government of Jamaica Integrated Community Development II project which will see the community benefiting, along with a further six communities from a three-year (J1.9 billion) project that will support the following:

1. Improvement in road infrastructure
2. Zinc fence substitution
3. Electricity regularization
4. Safe Passages (Special programme to enhance access along major pathways to students and the disabled)
5. Livelihood and Skills Training programmes
6. Economic Development programmes
7. Governance and Capacity building
8. Community safety programmes

In addition to the ICDP that the GOJ is implementing in the community, through the regular functions of state agencies, NGOs and the private sector, the community will receive a further suite of interventions in keeping with the seven pillar framework approved by Cabinet that is grounded in the theoretical construct of Crime Prevention Through Social Development (CPTSD) and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

The development pillars are:

- Transformation of the Physical Environment,
- Improvement of Land Tenure,
- Enhancement of Community Safety,
- Human and Community Development and Employment,
- Business and Economic Development,
- Spiritual and Faith Based Intervention and;
- Leadership.

RESULTS - October 7, 2020 to December 4, 2020

1. **Social Intervention Committee** – to date, 3 meetings of the SIC were convened – in July, August and the most recent on November 26, 2020. The Committee which includes a cross section of stakeholders including both universities, will be working with the community and the Joint Force to further develop the community priorities and synchronize the various mechanisms of the GOJ to create the platform for sustainable development for the community.

2. **Community Capacity Building** – in collaboration with the Social Development Commission (SDC) and the Department of Cooperatives and Friendly Societies (DCFS), two (2) capacity building workshops were held with the August Town Community Development Committee. The most recent workshop was held on August 25-27, 2020 and covered topics including community leadership, proposal writing, financial management and records management.

3. **Enterprise Grant**

A total of 25 persons were interviewed and selected to receive enterprise grants up to \$400,000 in December 2020. Grant awardees include enterprises in sectors including food and beauty services, garment manufacturing and car care services.


4. **School Rehabilitation** – The Ministry of Education Youth and Information provided the “No Objection” for rehabilitation works to be completed on the August Town Primary and Hope Valley Experimental schools. The estimated cost for August Town Primary is \$29M while the cost for Hope Valley Experimental is \$35M. Works will include rehabilitation of classrooms and construction of an Infant Department at August Town Primary School.

5.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES	DESCRIPTION
Road Improvement Works	1.5 km of roads to be rehabilitated, including drainage
Zinc Fence Removal	Removal and substitution of 1,300 metres of zinc fence
Safe Passages	School route to be improved for students Formulation for works to be funded through the ICDP II
Operation Certification (civil documentation)	Provision of birth certificates and TRNs to 260 persons
Training of curfew monitors	A total of 21 curfew monitors will be trained commencing on December 11, 2020

The first set of interventions should begin active implementation within the 1st quarter of the 2021/2022 financial year. However, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing activities and programmes in the space continue to be impacted.


Andrew Holness ON, MP

Prime Minister

8 December, 2020

