

October 8, 2010

**Comments from Jamaica on the Decision-by-Mail - Saint Lucia (Caribbean regional program): Proposal for Phase 1 Funding**

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I refer to the proposal by St. Lucia for Phase 1 funding and wish to indicate my approval of the proposal. It is noted that the proposal makes reference to the Caribbean Regional Framework and the PPCR regional track. The synergies with existing programmes and activities are also noted.

I would nevertheless wish to note the following:

- representation by civil society and vulnerable groups seem to be limited both in the consultative phase and the implementation phase
- the process seems to be primarily government-driven - there is no obvious linkage between the coordinating mechanism and civil society or the private sector
- although there is reference to the regional track, the proposal lacks specificity on the extent to which other countries would be involved or would benefit
- the information presented in the indicative budget suggests that a significant portion of the funds will be expended on external consultants. Efforts should be made to involve local expertise as much as possible to ensure that the process is country-driven.

It is hoped that St. Lucia will take the above on board in the preparation of its SPCR.

Regards,

Vilma McNish