



NEWSLETTER  
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Now that the year is at a close, we at Abacus for Communities (AfC) wish to share our achievements with you all, none of which would have been possible without the help and support of our partners, associates, volunteers and staff.

Our three main objectives follow:

- To establish a trained corps of volunteer emergency telecommunications operators and equip them to provide and access emergency services to communities before, during and after disaster events.
- To design and establish a community emergency telecommunications system i.e. the Emergency Affiliated Radio Service (E.A.R.S.), including procuring equipment and network resources.
- To establish a management system for E.A.R.S. volunteer teams to handle their upkeep, readiness and deployment, as well as for supporting their families in events when they are deployed for emergencies or disasters.

Through the receipt of funds from the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Development (CDFAT) we have managed to train nearly 360 persons throughout 5 parishes to date.

Here are some of our training highlights:

### **Jeffrey Town, St Mary**



*Volunteers pay keen attention during a training session*



*Training Officer, David Bruff, holds the attention of the trainees.*

**AfC Chairman Stacey Thompson presents  
Certificates of Participation to Volunteers in  
Jeffrey Town.**



**And . . .**



**Volunteers get familiar with the Radios**



**Testing, testing . . .**

## **Trinityville, St Thomas**



**Trainees buckle down to complete a task**

**Radio testing . . .**



**Training Officer, David Bruff, tunes in to the trainees**



## **Lime Hall, St Ann**



*Listen up . . .*



*"Try it this way"*



*David Bruff, Training Officer, demonstrates how to use the radio*

## **Annotto Bay, St Mary**

*AfC Chairman Stacey Thompson presents  
Certificates of Participation to Volunteers*



*AfC, Structured and Transparent*

AfC thanks wholeheartedly the CDFAT for giving us this opportunity to make a difference to persons in disaster prone areas by empowering them to take charge of their community in times of need.

The communities that benefitted from EARS training are:

Rocky Point, Clarendon  
Portland Cottage, Clarendon  
Manchioneal, Portland  
Skibo, Portland  
Lime Hall, St Ann  
Annotto Bay, St Mary  
Jeffrey Town, St Mary  
Port Maria, St Mary  
John's Town, St Thomas  
Trinityville, St Thomas

The project will contribute in the longer term to increasing Jamaica's sustained resilience, by reducing vulnerability and liability in disasters and improving its ability to adapt to climate change, through increased awareness, knowledge, preparedness, ownership and response at the community level.