



Dominican Republic

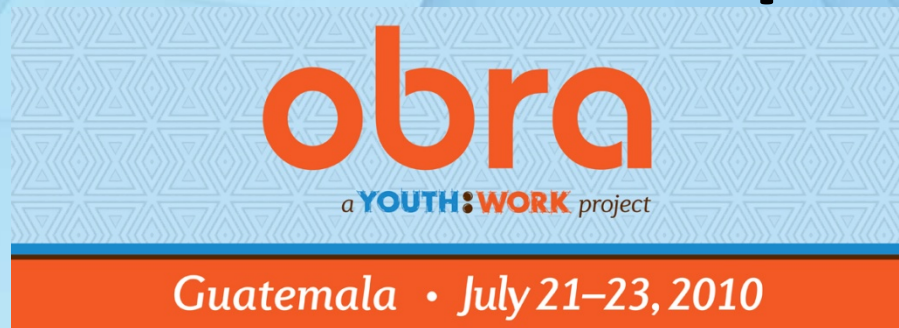


Jamaica



St. Lucia

Obra Caribbean Partnership



Sandra A. C. Glasgow
Chief Executive Officer



The Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica

Who we are

- Established in 1976
- A national organisation of private sector associations, companies and individuals working together to promote a competitive and productive private sector

Vision for the organisation

- *We are the unifying voice of the private sector working in partnership with the public sector and civil society to achieve the 2030 Vision for Jamaica*



The Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica

Major achievements in advocacy include:

- Liberalisation and deregulation of the economy and privatisation of state enterprises
- Tax Reform
- Police Force Reform
- Successful Crime Stop Programme and “CS311” Television show
- Contribution to development of National Crime Plan
- Participation on Justice Reform Task Force
- Regional and International Trade
- Educational Reform
- Development of Corporate Governance Code



Partnership Development

- **Subsequent to the Jamaica launch of Obra, several meetings held:**
 - Site visits to Jamaican partner organisations for one-on-one meetings to understand their scope of operations
 - Initial Stakeholder Network Meeting – 30.06.10
 - 2 Partner Working Meetings -30.06.10 and 16.07.10
- **Invitees included representatives from:**
 - Government agencies, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Private Companies, Media, Universities and Churches
- Additional **9** requests for membership in the partnership
 - **23 confirmed partners to date**



Partnership Development

- Key areas of focus:
 1. Employability – education, skills development, re-socialisation, job readiness
 2. Employment – jobs, internships
 3. Entrepreneurship – entrepreneurial skills development, micro credit, mentorships



Partnership Composition

- NGOs – 52%
- Public Sector – 26%
- Private Sector – 22%



Partnership Composition

- NGO Partners – Access to target group
 - Average of 22 years experience in providing specialised services to “at risk” youth population in:
 - Entrepreneurship development
 - Vocational and life skills training
 - Remedial education
 - Job placement
 - Substance abuse counseling
 - Conflict resolution training



Partnership Composition

Public Sector Partners - Access to policy formulation process and key national institutions

- 3 Government Ministries represented:
 - Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture
 - Ministry of Labour and Social Security
 - Ministry of Education and Jamaica Foundation for Life Long Learning
- Quasi Government Agencies
 - Social Infrastructure development – Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF)
 - Social/community development – Social Development Commission and HEART Trust/National Training Agency



Partnership Composition

Private Sector Partners – *Access to employment and funding*

- Partners represent a variety of key industries and are leaders in Corporate Social Responsibility
 - Sandals Group
 - Jamaica National Building Society Group
 - National Commercial Bank Group
 - Jamaica Money Market Brokers Group
 - Bank of Nova Scotia
 - GraceKennedy Group



Partnership Composition

- Capitalise on a long history of collaboration and synergy among some of the partners
- Facilitate greatly enhanced collaboration between private sector, NGO community and public sector actors



Partnership Composition

- Recent events have led to the creation of a larger PSOJ leverage plan that is expected to energise members to provide opportunities for employment, internships, mentorships and creation of small entrepreneurial ventures
- Current environment provides fertile ground for the creation of new alliances and for mobilisation of financial resources from Jamaicans at home and in the Diaspora



Challenges

- Ensuring effective communication with Caribbean partners outside Jamaica; maintaining relevance for their participation
- Explaining “Obra” to stakeholders
- Overcoming the historical dependence on multilateral donors for grant support
- Maintaining momentum and sustained interest



Opportunities

- “Raising the bar” on youth issues that have long been given low national priority
- Adopting a paradigm of self-sufficiency in addressing chronic youth issues of gender imbalances in education, low skills, low productivity, high crime
- Bringing the private sector and NGO community closer together as allies in addressing issues
- Achieving short-term “wins” that will provide impetus for sustaining the partnerships
- Learning from our regional partners about their successful models



Partners in Action



2010 July 22



Partners in Action



2010 July 22



**Thank You for
the opportunity
to share!**