

# JNBS FOUNDATION, USAID DELIVER ON THEIR PROMISE

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**\$7.5 MILLION HANDED OVER TO JAMAICANS AFFECTED BY HURRICANE IVAN**

Approximately 1,400 residents in the parishes of St. Catherine, Clarendon, Manchester, St. James and St. Elizabeth, received grants



totalling JA\$7.5 million to assist them with recovery



Earl Jarrett, JNBS General Manager presents grant to a resident of Bull Savannah whose house was damaged during Hurricane Ivan.

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expenses in the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan.

The monies, which were pinned to JN Money Transfer cards, were handed over at community forums at Seventh Day Adventist churches in the parishes. The areas where the forums took place were Old Harbour Bay and McCooks Pen in St. Catherine; Asia, Manchester; Hayes in Clarendon; Southfield and Bull Savannah in St. Elizabeth and Catherine Hall in St. James.

One of the recipients, Harry Duhaney of Manningsfield, Asia in Manchester, suffered great loss to his roof, furniture and clothing after the Hurricane. "I am grateful for the assistance. Praise God...if I even get one dollar, I give thanks," said Mr. Duhaney, who plans to use this money to buy whatsoever it can buy to help fix back the house. "I'm back at home now, cause I got some plastic from my church so I can sleep there now. I spent 11 nights and 10 days at a church brother's house, so I appreciate the money very much, so I can help myself," he added.

Giving background to the programme, Earl Jarrett, General Manager of the Jamaica National Building Society (JNBS), said the forums follow closely on the heels of two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) which were signed in October by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the JNBS Foundation and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

He said under the MOUs, a sum of US\$375,000 (J\$22 million) has been allocated to provide grants and loans to residents of who were severely affected by Hurricane Ivan. The JNBS Foundation and USAID will provide the funding, while ADRA will provide technical support and administer the relief process.

Giving further background to the MOUs, Mr. Jarrett said the idea came about after representatives of the organizations visited a number of affected communities and recognized the significant needs that exist. "Arising from those discussions, the USAID agreed to put some funding on the table to the tune of some

US\$150,000 specifically for individuals who were badly affected," he explained.

"It is this grant that you are receiving and we have used a modern way through the JN Money Transfer card," he added.

Mr. Jarrett also mentioned that JNBS has committed US\$225,000, through its subsidiary JN Small Business Loans Limited, so persons could access money to assist with their rebuilding process.

At each forum, residents were shown how to use the card to either access their cash or to make purchases using point of sale. Emile Spence, Marketing and Distribution Executive at JNBS, said the card, as the name implies, could also be used to facilitate the receipt of a money transfer from abroad. "Say for example you want to buy some lumber to repair your roof, you just take the card to the hardware store, give it to the person at the counter and they will swipe it on a machine and give you back the card, along with your lumber," he explained.

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