

**Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs
Community Development Fund**

Status Update Report

Forward Movement

PROJECT TITLE: In front Construction Services	
APPROVAL DATE: July 18, 2003	PROJECT START DATE: February 2004
PLANNED END DATE: December 2006	PROJECTED END DATE: January 2005
TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$57,500	CDF FUNDING: \$50,300
ACTUAL EXPENDITURE TO DATE: \$34,178.34	BALANCE ON ALLOCATION: \$13,321.66
DATE OF VISIT: Apr 26, 06	
PERSONS INTERVIEWED: Mr Shurland Clement, Mr Edson Almandoz, and Mr Judah Martin	
CDF PERSONNEL ON VISIT: Nerle Robertson, Monitoring and Evaluation	

Reason for Project Visit

The visit was done to determine the status of the project since there has been no further contact from the project team since September 12, 2005 when Mr Martin handed over the presidency to Mr Clement.

Project Objectives

- To assist disadvantaged youth and others who graduated from the HYPE Programme to secure gainful employment.
- To provide construction services to residents of the Morvant/Laventille districts and beyond
- To demonstrate and encourage young males of the Morvant/Laventille district on the benefits of constructive community involvement

Current Status of Project:

The past President of the organization is currently studying telecommunications and networking and has passed responsibility for the project to Mr Shurland Clement. Mr Clement is also attending the John Donaldson Technical Institute where he is advancing his knowledge of plumbing. Mr Clement and Mr Martin as well as Edson Almandoz and Leon David are active members interested in making the project a success. They continue to pursue small jobs in the tiling and masonry field.

Forward Movement won a contract to construct a box drain but given their inexperience they were unable to complete it and were forced to hand over the contract to a more experienced contractor. This precipitated the slow down of the business. However, there are two jobs in the pipeline.

Constraints

The team's main constraints were inability to obtain credit mainly due to inexperience, no credit history and lack of finance. They had no relationship with suppliers of materials to enable them to proceed with the project until funds were released by the government. The team was unable to pay workers on a timely basis and having lost credibility pulled out of the contract. The lack of a vehicle to carry the equipment to the job sites was also considered a big problem.

Action Taken

The group is currently attempting to energize the business and is advertising services in the areas of tiling and masonry, plumbing, cleaning using the pressure washer and painting. They have expressed the view that they would be constrained by lack of transportation.

Inventory of Items

The items supplied are as listed in the file. Equipment and supplies are stored in the office constructed on the premises of Mr Martin.

Other information:

The young men are keen and committed to the establishment of a viable business. Mr Clement graduates from John Donaldson Technical Institute in June 2006 and with the additional knowledge plans to increase the number of services the business would offer. They have stated that they have had adequate training in establishing and managing a small business but their greatest constraint is access to operating capital. As a result, they would like to have access to the remaining funds amounting to \$13,321 which could then be used to meet initial operating expenses when a job begins and so facilitate their business operations.

Comments & Recommendations

The following factors support the view that consideration should be given to the group's request for assistance with transport in order to move equipment to and from job sites.

- The four young men who form the core of the group are convinced that they can become entrepreneurs.
- They are resilient and have been able to bounce back after some bad experiences including financial losses.
- They are improving their skills base to better prepare themselves to compete in the construction industry.

It is evident that the group could benefit from access to a vehicle and it is recommended that the vehicle in CDF's possession could be loaned to the group for a limited period during which time the use would be evaluated and a decision made on the viability of the group.

Signature and Date of Report