

## SDC Completes Ocho Rios Community Profile

The Social Development Commission (SDC), through its Community Research and Database Programme hosted the Ocho Rios Profile Validation and Wealth Ranking exercise on March 8, 2018 at the Ocho Rios High School, St. Ann. This activity represented an advanced stage of the Ocho Rios profile development process which saw thirty-six (36) community persons in attendance. Agencies such as the National Water Commission, National Environmental Planning Agency (NEPA), St Ann Health Department, St. Ann North Eastern MPs Office, National Housing Trust (NHT), St Ann Justice Centre were also a part of this exercise. Non-governmental organizations, including the Kiwanis Club and St John's Ambulance also participated.

The Profile Validation activity saw the presentation of key data obtained from a sample survey of two hundred and forty-one (241) households across the community of Ocho Rios from July to August 2017. Such data included social, economic, environmental data specific to the space and issues of priorities for community development. The findings presented were validated by those present.



Ms. Lenise Johnson (SDC) facilitates Ocho Rios Profile Validation and Wealth Ranking Exercise

The Wealth Ranking activity involved a more detailed look and explanation of critical findings of the survey carried out by the SDC research department, along with other key issue

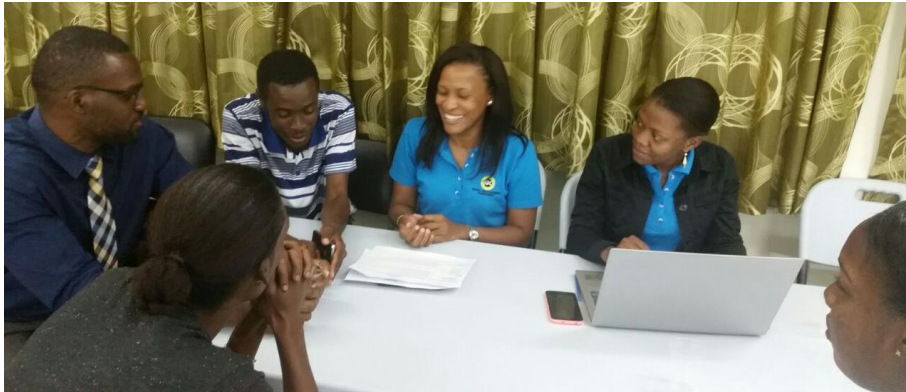


Members of the SDC Research department guides the analytical discussion with key stakeholders within the Ocho Rios community in developing a detailed Ocho Rios community profile.

Participants identified three distinct categories of socio-economic status of residents across the Ocho Rios community. The characteristics of these groups were further discussed along

indicators within broader categories of Social, Physical, Financial, Human and Natural capitals.

Specifically, among issues discussed were: levels of employment and educational attainment, involvement in community-based organizations, the prevalence of single-headed households, access and usage of sanitation facilities and housing conditions, usage and access to financing options, dependence on remittances/PATH for survival and the prevalence of land ownership.



Additionally, broader issues such as the availability and possible economic development uses of natural resources, the condition of public infrastructure, and the levels of safety and security within the community were critiqued.

Information garnered will be added to the Ocho Rios Profile to fulfil its completion. It is hoped that this document will then be utilized by members of the community, existing groups and stakeholders to guide community development in Ocho Rios.