



## **The Male Awareness Now (M.A.N) Project Experience**



# Children First at a Glance

- ▶ A non-governmental organisation established in June 1997
- ▶ Based in Spanish Town, St. Catherine - an under-served suburban satellite town - with additional branches in Kingston as well as Old Harbour Bay, a nearby fishing village where child labour is prevalent.
- ▶ The target group is mainly at-risk youth from 10 to 24 years old, (60% males) from lower socio-economic backgrounds



# Services Provided

- ▶ Vocational Skills Training
- ▶ Information Technology
- ▶ Career Development and Job Placement
- ▶ Entrepreneurial Skills Training
- ▶ Child Rights Education
- ▶ Life Skills Education
- ▶ Remedial Education emphasis on numeracy and literacy
- ▶ ARH Information and Services
- ▶ Counseling and Referral Services
- ▶ Parenting Education



# Our Response to At Risk Boys

- ▶ Male Awareness Now (M.A.N) project an initiative that seeks to address the impact of culture, education and the need for re-socialization of young men's behaviour and attitudes, through an interactive and participative approach
- ▶ This holistic project involves interaction with the parents, family members, community influential's, and other key stakeholders as part of the development process



# Our Response to At Risk Boys

- ▶ The process utilizes a non judgmental, youth friendly, approach - by young people for young people
- ▶ Provides the space for individualized interaction and intervention
- ▶ Access to remedial education and vocational skills training
- ▶ A space to discuss youth challenges – education, reproductive health, crime & violence, job opportunities



# Our Response to At Risk Boys

- ▶ Acknowledgement and celebration oriented - e.g. Improvement in appearance and punctuality
- ▶ Role modeling and mirroring
- ▶ Access to Counseling and other support services
- ▶ Job placements/internships
- ▶ The use of “male friendly” activities to reinforce concepts (dominoes, sports, dj/music)



# The Impact

- ▶ Improved self esteem with a renewed sense of purpose
- ▶ Placements within the formal educational systems
- ▶ Employable skills
- ▶ Entrepreneurs
- ▶ Role models and “youth ambassadors”



# Our Response to At Risk Boys

- ▶ Are we responding adequately?
- ▶ Are there any gaps?





**BEFORE M.A.N. PROJECT**



**MAKE AWARENESS NOW**



*Together let's continue to make a  
positive difference*

*Thank You!!*