



DCFS SPOTLIGHT

APRIL 2023 TO MARCH 2024



REGISTRAR'S MESSAGE

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The Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies (DCFS) is delighted to present its 2023–2024 newsletter, highlighting our continued commitment to excellence in the provision of our services.

Over the past year, we achieved significant progress with the implementation of the Charities Regulations, 2022, and the strengthening of our internal Risk Management Framework, to assist in providing safeguards against money laundering and terrorist financing abuse of NPOs.

Our dedication to transparency and good governance was demonstrated through numerous sensitization sessions and workshops, geared at enhancing stakeholder engagement, risk monitoring and compliance.

Our unwavering dedication to high-quality services is also evident in the implementation of a

comprehensive Quality Management System (QMS) across all services. This initiative underscores our commitment to excellence and continuous improvement, ensuring optimal support and guidance to the organizations under our purview.

As we embark on the new fiscal year, the DCFS reaffirms its commitment to upholding regulatory standards, fostering compliance, and facilitating the seamless operation of all entities under our charter. We are dedicated to serving our stakeholders with professionalism, integrity, and diligence, and look forward to continued collaboration in achieving our shared objectives.

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust in the Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies. Together, we strive towards sustainable growth and excellence for all.

Non-Profit Organization (NPO) Outreach, Enrichment and Support Plan



RCO Representatives engaged in discussion at the workshop held March 20, 2024.

The Charities Authority, in ensuring compliance with the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) Recommendation 8, has rolled out its NPO Enrichment and Support Plan, which will cover the entire island...

Numerous participants have benefitted from these meetings. The sessions were quite robust and engaging and the participants have demonstrated their willingness and co-operation to ensure that their organizations comply with the requirements.

The Authority has been actively providing technical support to RCOs, and with the implementation of the Charities Regulations, it has intensified its targeted interventions, for RCOs identified to be in need of additional assistance. These efforts ensure that Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) adopt robust policies and procedures to guard against money laundering, terrorism financing, and other financial crimes. Additionally, the Authority focuses on maintaining compliance with other legislation, safeguarding public funds, and enhancing public benefit.



Mr. Kevon Brown, from the Jamaica Customs Agency, presenting at the workshop held October 5, 2023.

The objective of this program is to provide capacity building and institutional strengthening for Registered Charitable Organizations to guard them from being used as conduits for money laundering and terrorism financing.

Six (6) Workshops and Sensitization Sessions have been held using a mix modality of lectures and workshops.



Charities Sensitization Session held on February 21, 2024

DCFS ONLINE PLATFORM IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR

REGISTERING CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS



<https://orms.dcms.gov.jm/Account/Register>

The Charities Regulations have been promulgated and are now in force with its Gazetting in December 2022.

The Regulations contain the provisions which enhance the Charities Authority's regulatory oversight framework, as well as and outlines specific requirements for Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) at risk of being abused to commit or facilitate Terrorist Financing. The Regulations also makes provisions for the Charities Authority to work closely with NPOs identified as being "at-risk" of Terrorist Financing (TF) in Jamaica.

We encourage RCOs to uphold good governance practices to foster public trust. To this end, we are committed to holding charities accountable for fulfilling their charitable purposes and ensuring that public benefit is maintained, thereby enhancing public trust and confidence.

Additionally, we have implemented strategies to address and resolve previously encountered compliance issues.

ENFORCEMENT OF CHARITIES REGULATIONS

The Charities Authority has begun offering essential support to Registered Charitable Organizations as it takes steps to mitigate exposure to Money Laundering (ML) and TF in accordance with the said Regulations.

In addition to the above, the Regulations now include:

- Additional requirements for registration (see Part II, Section 3) such as, Constitution should include additional areas, see guide at <https://dcfs.gov.jm/Forms/Guidance%20Notes%20to%20Constructing%20the%20Constitution%20of%20a%20Charity.pdf>
- Requirements for Administrative Policies & Procedures Document, see guide at <https://dcfs.gov.jm/Forms/GUIDANCE%20FOR%20ADMIN%20AND%20OPERATIONS%20MANAGEMENT%20-%20RCO%27s.pdf>
- Prohibitions on the use of certain names, title, word, term or grammatical presentation that represents or implies that the organization is a RCO.

DCFS NPO HIGHLIGHT

Mustard Seed Communities

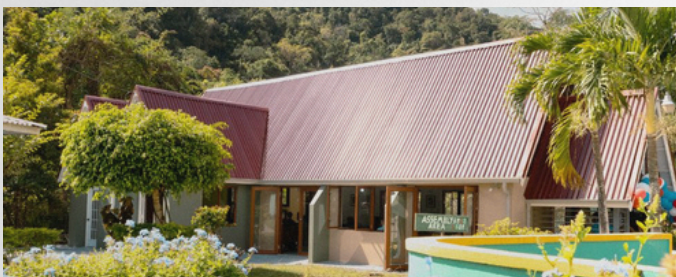
A Registered Charitable Organization

Mustard Seed Communities (MSC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1978 in Jamaica, dedicated to empowering and enriching the lives of the spiritually, psychologically, and financially poor. Registered as a charitable organization in July 2014, MSC operates from 1 Mahoe Drive, Kingston 11, with the support of 13 board members and around 1,000 volunteers both locally and internationally.



Sustainable agriculture initiatives which feed residents and staff, as well as local communities.

MSC focuses on three main strategies: CARING, SHARING, and TRAINING. They provide a stable and nurturing environment for over 700 abandoned children and children with disabilities across five countries in the Caribbean, Latin America, and Africa. Since 2000, their care has extended to the homeless, orphaned babies, and children living with HIV/AIDS.



Each home for children with disabilities houses a chapel, where reflection and spiritual hope are encouraged.



Jacob's Ladder is an expansive home in the mountains of Moneague, Jamaica dedicated to lovingly shelter adults with disabilities for a lifetime.

The organization runs various initiatives, including the first urban-based community radio station in the English-speaking Caribbean, 96.1 MHz, offering programs on human rights, conflict resolution, health, and youth empowerment. Additionally, MSC operates a Pottery Studio, enhancing self-esteem and manual skills through arts.



Trained caregivers give more than just their skill to care for the health of children – they give from their heart.

MSC also boasts a 3,000-bird egg farm, fish pots, and a livestock farm, producing over 2,700 eggs daily for internal use and local sale. They manage a **“Little Angels Learning Center”** for primary school children and a special Apostolate caring for 40 children with disabilities. Notably, the University of the West Indies and the University of Technology, Jamaica, have supported MSC's educational efforts, providing land and sessions for children with disabilities. Mustard Seed Communities is a leading provider of residential care for disabled persons significantly impacting their lives and communities.

STAFF IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The following officers were awarded at the Ministry's 2023 staff awards and recognition function



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

JANICE BONNER



DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

**LAVERN GIBSON-
ECCLESTON**



ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

KAREN GAMMON

Co-op Conundrum: Puzzle Fun for Everyone!

B Q E L A I R T S U D N I Y E
 S E A E H L V Q X R R F T Q T
 Y Y N M R B R I X E Z I O P A
 C R N E A F D L G V R W S P C
 Q C E O V N X I L A P E R V I
 X T F G I O S A H Q M S E V F
 D X Y K U T L C T H S O H O I
 D Y H I R L C E P Q H C T L T
 S F U A M B A E N E M I E U R
 I W R L M Q J T P T W E G N E
 Y L D N E I R F I S D T O T C
 C R E D I T U N I O N Y T A O
 I N D U S T R I A L N I C R Z
 N O I T A I C O S S A S N Y L
 C O O P E R A T I V E X T W V

Instructions:

Find the listed words in the diagram. They can run in any direction: forwards, backwards, vertically, horizontally, and diagonally.

Association	Industrial
Benevolent	Inspection
Certificate	Registrar
Charity	Regulations
Co-operative	Society
Credit Union	Tax free
Friendly	Together
	Voluntary