

JACMEL, ST. LUCIA: COMMUNITY PROFILE



SAINT LUCIA IS AN ISLAND IN THE CARIBBEAN WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 238 MILES. THE COUNTRY HAD A POPULATION OF ABOUT 178,696 IN 2018. LOCATED WITHIN THE ROSEAU VALLEY OF SAINT LUCIA IS THE COMMUNITY OF JACMEL. JACMEL IS A SETTLEMENT WHICH BOASTS A POPULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 627 PEOPLE.

SCHOOLING/EDUCATION IN JACMEL:

PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL WHERE MOST OF THE CHILDREN WE ARE WORKING WITH ATTEND: *ROSEAU R.C. COMBINED SCHOOL*. AT THIS SCHOOL, 136 STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED, OF WHICH INCLUDES 78 BOYS AND 58 GIRLS. CLASSES BEGIN AT 9 AM AND END AT 2:30PM FOR KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 2 STUDENTS & AT 3PM FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-6. THERE IS ONE CLASS PER GRADE AND EACH CLASS CONSISTS OF ANYWHERE FROM 13-26 STUDENTS.



SCHOOLING/EDUCATION IN JACMEL:

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



PEOPLE ARE URGING PARENTS TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO JACMEL'S NEW PRESCHOOL ONCE CONSTRUCTION IS COMPLETE. THEY URGE THIS BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT A LACK OF EARLY EDUCATION CAN HAVE A HUGE IMPACT ON THEIR CHILDREN LATER IN LIFE. THIS FACILITY IS ESTIMATED TO GET AROUND 100 STUDENTS WHEN CONSTRUCTION IS COMPLETED.



AMENITIES OF THE COMMUNITY

JACMEL COMMUNITY CENTER

THE CENTER IS USED FOR VARIOUS SOCIAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS MEETINGS WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS, WEDDINGS, FUNERAL RECEPTIONS, HEALTH AND FITNESS SESSIONS, TRAINING SESSIONS, RELIGIOUS FUNCTIONS, AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES. A COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO OVERSEE THE OPERATIONS OF THE CENTER AND REVENUE GENERATED FROM RENTAL FEES ARE USED TO FINANCE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES.



TRANSPORTATION



THERE IS A PUBLIC BUS SYSTEM THAT OPERATES FROM ABOUT 5 A.M. TO ABOUT 10 P.M. FROM MONDAY-SATURDAY AND LESS FREQUENTLY ON SUNDAYS. THERE IS NO SET INTERVAL FOR BUSES TO LEAVE AND RETURN TO THE COMMUNITY. COMMUNITY MEMBERS SIMPLY MUST WAIT AT THE BUS SHELTER (PHOTO) OR BY THE ROADSIDE. DURING PEAK HOURS COMMUNITY MEMBERS MAY WAIT FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME AND ARE SOMETIMES LATE FOR WORK AND SCHOOL. THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHICH ENSURE THAT THEY ARRIVE AT SCHOOL ON TIME.



THERE HAS BEEN A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONDITION OF THE ROADS IN JACMEL. \$2.5 MILLION WAS BUDGETED TO REPAIR AND REPAVE THE MAIN ROADS.



JACMEL PLAYING FIELD

A PLAYING FIELD IN JACMEL IS BEING UPGRADED AND WORK IS ON-GOING. THIS WILL BE A GREAT AMENITY FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY AS SEVERAL OF THEM HAVE ADMITTED TO LIKING FOOTBALL OR OTHER SPORTS.



THE LOCAL HEALTH CENTER OF JACMEL

RESIDENTS OF JACMEL HAVE ACCESS TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE THROUGH THE LOCAL HEALTH CENTER. COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDES CONDUCT REGULAR HOME VISITS TO THE ELDERLY AND OTHERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND TO PERFORM EXAMINATIONS SUCH AS BLOOD PRESSURE AND GLUCOSE TEST. CASE IN POINT, NURSES VISITED THE ELDERLY PERSON WHO ARE HOMEBOUND TO ADMINISTER COVID-19 VACCINE.



JACMEL POST OFFICE

THIS IS WHERE THE PEOPLE OF JACMEL GO FOR POSTAL SERVICES. THE JACMEL POST OFFICE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.



CONVENIENCE STORES/GROCERY & OTHER SERVICES

THERE ARE SEVERAL CONVENIENT STORES/SHOPS IN THE COMMUNITY THEREFORE COMMUNITY MEMBERS DO NOT ALWAYS HAVE TO GO TO THE CITY TO SHOP FOR GOODS AND SERVICES. THE COMMUNITY ALSO HAS ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY, PIPE BORNE WATER, TELEPHONE, AND INTERNET SERVICES.



CHILLY'S BAR & GRILL



CHILLY'S BAR & GRILL IS THE LARGEST BAR/RESTAURANT LOCATED IN JACMEL; IT IS A GOOD PLACE TO RELAX AND HAVE FUN AFTER A LONG DAY AT WORK. THE REVIEWS FOR CHILLY'S INCLUDE "VERY RELAXING", "COZY", AND "FRIENDLY STAFF". CHILLY'S USUALLY OPENS AT 4 PM AND VARIES IN CLOSING TIME. THE FOOD AND DRINK PRICES VARY FROM \$10 TO \$65.

CHALLENGES IN THE COMMUNITY

THE COMMUNITY OF JACMEL HAS ITS OWN SET OF CHALLENGES SUCH AS TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE. TYPE 2 DIABETES IS ALSO A COMMON DISEASE AFFECTING OLDER ADULTS AND THE ELDERLY. ADDITIONALLY, HIGH LEVELS OF UNEMPLOYMENT ARE COMMON DUE TO THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 AND OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING THE ECONOMY. SAINT LUCIA USED TO BE A LARGE SINGLE-CROP AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY BUT HAS RECENTLY SEEN A SHIFT TOWARDS TOURISM, WHICH COVID-19 HAS HAD A HUGE IMPACT ON. OF NOTE, THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY TODAY EMPLOYS ABOUT 20% OF ST. LUCIA'S WORKFORCE WHICH MEANS THAT MANY PEOPLE FROM THE JACMEL COMMUNITY HAVE LOST THEIR MAIN SOURCE OF EMPLOYMENT. DUE TO ST. LUCIA'S GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION, SMALL ECONOMY, AND CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET, THE BANANA INDUSTRY IS VULNERABLE AND UNSTABLE. THERE ARE ALSO SEVERAL SCHOOL DROPOUTS AND SOME OF THE OLDER COMMUNITY MEMBERS NEVER EVEN ATTENDED FORMAL SCHOOLING DUE IN PART TO A LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES. LASTLY, THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.



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