Civil Society

Decentralised Cooperation Programme: fighting the last pockets of poverty in Mauritius

Poverty reduction through capacity building of non-state actors

I now find myself in a conducive environment with trained support staff and medical professionals, enjoying fitness exercises to fight the risk of cardiovascular diseases and benefiting regular head massage therapies that make me feel good. I would like to thank Edycs and the European Union for its funding of the epilepsy sector.

Jean Marie Sylvestre, patient with epilepsy.

Context

Mauritius has successfully transformed from a low income agriculture-based economy to a diversified upper middle-income economy. Yet, pockets of poverty persist. This is worsened by a soaring number of unemployed semi-skilled and unskilled workers, who are unable to cope with an increasingly competitive market environment. The Decentralised Cooperation Programme aims at enhancing the capacities of those people.

Objective

- Empower local actors and institutions to support locally-led projects
- Create employment
- Strengthen management of natural resources and good governance

Impact

- Training of 56 organisations and 35 trainers in management, internal governance and organisational development
- Raising awareness of good governance principles through publications and information campaigns
- Enhancing training and re-education in SMEs through training needs analysis, customised training programmes and business counselling
- Grants to 241 non-state actors for 306 microprojects for poverty alleviation, education, health, good governance, resource management

For more information: http://www.gov.mu/portal/sites/ncb/dcp/index.html
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Mico, 54 years old, night shelter resident (Tonton)

"I was a self-employed welder, living a decent life with my wife and two daughters and earning a comfortable income. I fell prey to alcohol, my loved ones left me, my life was in a mess and my identity lost. I did not work and was stranded on the streets of Port-Louis for more than two years until I came across the night shelter operated by Caritas Mauritius. Nonetheless, it was not easy and over the following 8 years, I left the shelter several times to go back sleeping on the streets.

However, thanks to the support and guidance of the shelter’s committed staff, I was re-educated, which helped me to regain confidence. The structure and motivation provided by the night shelter is indispensable. The place is much more than a shelter.

My close relatives have re-established contact. I started to take driving lessons and made my driving license. Now I am employed as a part-time driver in an import-export company. My hope is to re-open my welding business, to be with my loved ones again and to do some gardening in my spare time."

Port Louis night shelter run by Caritas Ile Maurice with a grant of Euro 33,380 from the DCP