

## Education and Training Improvement- Preschool Building Construction Funded under the Accompanying Measures of Sugar (AMS) 2012

The Government of Belize in collaboration with the European Union inaugurated three preschools in the Orange Walk and Corozal Districts on Tuesday, 25 April, 2017. The three pre-schools were constructed with financing from the European Union and the Government of Belize under the Accompanying Measures for Sugar (AMS) 2012 programme, at a cost of 600,000 Euros or BZD 1,140,000.



The schools were thus designed using an inclusive approach so that children of all backgrounds and diverse needs will have access to a quality early childhood education. The schools are therefore equipped with ramps for wheelchair access, special needs friendly restroom facilities, defined multiple interest learning centers, playground and all relevant furniture.



The EU's aim is to contribute to Belize's efforts to achieve access to education for every child, so that every person is able to achieve his/her full potential. Early childhood education is the base on which future success is built.

Through the AMS programme, which aims to reduce poverty through support to the sugar industry and the vulnerable groups negatively affected by changes associated with the price reform, the EU has over the years contributed significantly to improving the living standards of the rural population in Northern Belize. Major sugar feeder roads rehabilitation and construction projects have been undertaken; low interest loans are being provided to small-scale farmers to support the sugar cane replanting programme; and new buildings have been constructed to increase the number of school places for early childhood education in Belize.