



**PRESS RELEASE
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SOUFRIERE FOUNDATION PARTNERS WITH RESIDENTS TO BUILD FOOTPATH AT MINGY

After a lifetime of waiting, the residents of Mingy are now benefitting from the construction of a paved footpath in their area. The EC\$30,000 footpath project is a joint collaboration between the Soufriere Regional Development Foundation and the residents of Upper Mingy, Fond St. Jacques, Soufriere, with the former contributing some EC\$14,000 and the latter, the labour.

The project which begun in early March and ends on Sunday 28, March was started after several residents approached the Soufriere Foundation's, Rural Community Officer, John Victor, about the lack of a proper footpath and inadequate drainage, in the area. The present earthen footpath which serves the area is uneven and traversed by several uncovered drains. During the rainy season it becomes muddy and is sometimes covered with overflowing water from the undersized earthen drains which run along or traverse it; making it very difficult for the residents to go into and out of the area. "After a site visit I left convinced that there was need for an intervention from the Soufriere Foundation. The Board of Directors in keeping with the organisation's mandate, was very supportive and approved the project. Today, we can say we have started to make a difference in the lives of a people who otherwise felt neglected," Mr. Victor stated.

The project which is 80% complete involves the construction of two hundred and thirty five (235) metres of concrete pathway. In order to help strengthen the community the Soufriere Foundation engaged the residents as partners in the project. To this end, about 25 residents volunteered their time and effort on three successive weekends, while one week employment was provided to seven (7) skilled residents of the area. On completion twelve (12) households and thirty five (35) residents of the area will benefit from the footpath.

A resident of Migny, Ms. Vangee, was full of praise for the efforts of the Soufriere Foundation, "That project is very good; now I will be able take my sick grand child on a wheel chair to see and experience what happens on the roadside. I will always be grateful to the Soufriere Foundation."

John Victor of the Soufriere Regional Development Foundation said he feels great satisfaction in his organization partnering with the community of Mingy, to bring meaningful change to its people. He was also of the view that, "such partnerships are a great mechanism by which people can contribute meaningfully to their own existence and the development of their community."

The final phase of the project is expected to be completed this weekend.

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