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## Gov't, Food For The Poor to build 50 basic schools

With a renewed focus on early-childhood education, the Government is planning to partner with the international charity, Food For The Poor, to build 50 new basic schools across the island.

Minister of Education Ronald Thwaites said that these schools will be built in areas which have been determined to be most in need of new facilities. According to Thwaites, the plan is to have the first school built by August. "This is a wonderful partnership and the ministry welcomes this initiative by Food For The Poor," Thwaites said. "Plans are confirmed and the structures will be accommodating between 40 and 150 students which I think is a reasonable number for any basic school. They will be concrete-based and long-lasting," added Thwaites. Thwaites confident While not giving any indication of the cost for these facilities, Thwaites said he was confident that the schools would be constructed. "These schools will be built all around the island. We especially want to target areas where there has been a population shift and we also plan to rebuild existing ones that are not in a satisfactory state. We are committed to having the highest quality of education in our country," he declared. Thwaites also encouraged teachers to get qualified as he wants the highest quality of education to be executed to students. "We have persons who are seeking employment and the ministry will be ensuring that we have the best teachers in these schools and we encourage our pre-primary school teachers to get qualified because we want to have well-trained teachers in our basic schools, especially, and we are getting there," said Thwaites. Source: Jamaica Gleaner