

MINISTRY PAPER NO: -

CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the CDF is to empower the Members of Parliament to respond to the needs and priorities articulated by their constituents, thereby achieving improved governance at the local level.

The main thrust of the Fund is to:

- Promote Human and Infrastructure Development at the community and constituency levels
- Catalyze economic activities at the constituency level
- Foster local governance including good environmental stewardship
- Improve service delivery
- Bring government and the people closer together
- Increase the response capacity of the elected representatives.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The role of the Member of Parliament is to prepare a five year development plan for the Constituency within a specified timeline. This should be done after consultations with constituents to identify the most pressing development needs.

Plans must identify clear indicators and achievable targets and must be designed within the context of national policies and programmes. The Plan should outline a menu of programmes and projects under the following eligible categories:

- Development, Rehabilitation and Maintenance of Small Scale Community Development (i.e. physical and social infrastructure).
- Economic Enablement
- Welfare and emergency needs
- Social (*indigent*) housing

The role of the CDF-PMU is to assist with the designing, planning, implementing and monitoring of the development plans and project proposals for each constituency. The Unit assigns Project Managers to specific regions, while Project Officers are assigned to each parish within that region.

In this regard, the Unit's principal objective is to ensure that the funds allocated to the programme are efficiently and effectively spent within constituencies and to ensure transparency, probity, propriety and accountability.

The CDF-PMU ensures that all projects submitted satisfy requirements of the Government Procurement Guidelines and the Financial Administration and Audit (FAA) Act. Once the Unit is satisfied that these requirements are met, project submissions are then referred to a specially appointed Parliamentary Committee, charged with the responsibility to approve such projects.

The CDF replaces the following previously administered programmes:

- Social & Economic Support Programme (SESP)
- Local Development Programme (LDP)
- Lift-Up Jamaica Programme

It is funded from the national budget with an allocation of Forty Million Dollars (J\$40 Million) per constituency.

NATIONAL IMPACT

As a national programme the CDF partners with a number of stakeholders, mainly government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, with responsibility for the implementation of all approved projects.

Community based contracting is encouraged and the engagement of non-governmental and community based organizations (NGOs & CBOs) is a feature of how the CDF operates.

The achievement of the national development goals is at the centre of the design of projects and programmes supported by the CDF.

As a result of the participatory nature of the CDF programme, projects impact directly on communities by employment generation, improved physical & social infrastructure and increased well-being.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/2009

As at March 31, 2009 the amount of \$2.365B was disbursed representing 98.5% of the \$2.4B allocated for 2008/2009.

The table below shows the disbursements by categories:

Physical Infrastructure	\$1,370,808,727.00	58%
Human & Social Development	\$ 695,809,084.00	29%
Economic Enablement	\$ 189,196,199.00	8%
Disaster Mitigation	\$ 109,599,370.00	5%

PROJECTIONS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2009/2010

The CDFPMU will continue to monitor projects approved for fiscal year 2008/2009. For the fiscal year 2009/2010, development plans for all sixty (60) constituencies must be submitted the CDFPMU. To realize this goal the Unit is currently engaged in the following activities:

- Sensitization meetings with Members of Parliament
- Community sensitization and consultation meetings
- Establishment of the Constituency Project Oversight Committees (CPOCs)
- Establishment of MOUs/Cooperation Agreements with all CDF Partners.

A well designed public relations campaign will be embarked upon to increase awareness of the programme and its impact islandwide.

CONCLUSION

For the fiscal year 2008/2009 CDF-PMU achieved all its main objectives. This is manifested in the number of projects that were developed, approved and implemented. Our partners and stakeholders have given their support to the programme to ensure all guidelines are adhere to and that projects are completed successfully within time and budget.