

## MINISTRY PAPER NO: -

### INNER CITY RENEWAL PROJECTS & POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAMMES

#### OBJECTIVES

This year the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) has budgeted J\$756MN for sub project expenditure in the areas of crime prevention, disaster risk reduction and poverty reduction.

#### 1. Crime Prevention

- *\$200m Loan: The Inner City Basic Services Project (ICBSP)*  
The completion of multipurpose community centres, Roads, Sewer, Drainage and Water Supply in the inner city communities of Bucknor, Central Village, Knollis, Federal Gardens (Trench Town) and Flankers. Zinc Fence removal and replacement with Block walls in Whitfield Town.
- *\$140m Grant: The Second Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP II)*  
To rehabilitate and upgrade roads, schools and community centers in volatile and vulnerable communities including Mountain View, Maverley, Maxfield, Waterhouse, Olympic Gardens and Windward Road.

#### 2. Disaster Risk Reduction

- *\$120m Loan: The Emergency Recovery Project (ERP)*  
Establish an emergency response youth corps; provide shelter supplies for targeted ODPEM shelters; Provide emergency response equipment to the Fire Brigade; Rehabilitation of roads, schools and health centres damaged by Hurricane Dean in 2007 & Tropical Storm Gustav in 2008.

#### 3. Poverty Reduction

- *\$140m Grant: The Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) CIDA/CDB*  
Construction of early childhood facilities (basic and infant schools) that conform to the Early Childhood Commission's (ECC) standards at Old Works, Bellas Gate and Paul Mountain in St Catherine; Cacoen in Hanover; Ginger Hall in St. Thomas; Burke Road in St. Andrew; and Gibraltar in Trelawny.
- *\$11m Grant: The European Union Banana Support Project (EU BSP)*  
Upgrading of agricultural feeder roads and educational facilities in Portland, St. Catherine, St. Mary and Clarendon. This will help poor farmers that have to diversify their crop production as a result of the decline in banana production and export.
- *\$75m Loan: The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Project*  
Preparation to assist poor rural farmers to improve production and be better able to market produce to the private sector, notably the tourism sector.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Inner City Basic Services Project (ICBSP) is funded by a US\$29.3 million loan from the World Bank with counterpart funding of US\$3.5 million from the Government of Jamaica (GoJ). The Implementation Period is 2006-2011. The Project is being implemented in twelve pre-selected inner city communities in Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Catherine, St. James and Clarendon. For 2009-2010, an expenditure of J\$200M is budgeted to execute:

- The completion of five multipurpose community centres in the communities of Bucknor, Central Village, Knollis, Federal Gardens (Trench Town) and Flankers.
- Zinc fence removal and replacement with block walls in the community of Whitfield Town.
- Rehabilitated infrastructure Roads, Sewer, Drainage and Water Supply in the communities of Shelter Rock, Flankers, and Federal Gardens (Trench Town)
- Social Services such as Birth Certificates, GSAT training and Alternative Livelihood (employable) Skills training

The Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) is funded by a grant of US\$9.86M from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). The project supports education infrastructure and skills training for community groups island wide. For 2009-2010, an expenditure of J\$140M is budgeted to:

- Support government policy of focused investment in Early Childhood education.
- Specifically, funds will be used to support new facilities that meet the Early Childhood Commission (ECC) standards at Old Works, Bellas Gate and Paul Mountain in St Catherine, Cacoon in Hanover, Ginger Hall in St. Thomas, Burke Road in St. Andrew and Gibraltar in Trelawny
- Primary Education will also be supported with the construction of a new classroom block to resolve the overcrowding at the August Town Primary School.
- New Basic School construction will be supported by a skills training component for the Parent Teachers Associations and the Community Based Organizations in the areas of Financial Management, Fundraising and Maintenance.

The Second European Union Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP2) undertakes to translate agreed community priorities into crime prevention strategies and practical poverty reduction activities. PRP2 provides 6.5 million euro to the JSIF. The Implementation Period is 2007-2013. The project targets pre-selected inner city communities exhibiting characteristics of high volatility. For 2009-2010, an expenditure of J\$140M is budgeted to:

- Improve the infrastructure and support Primary Education with the construction of a new classroom block, and facilities upgrade to resolve the overcrowding at the Marverley Primary and Junior High School
- Upgrade access; improve neighborhood safety and the ability to police in the Mountain View community through project interventions in Jarrett Lane. Additional interventions are also planned for Maxfield Park, Winward Road, Waterhouse and Tavares Gardens.
- Strengthen non-government organizations (NGOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), critical to the work of crime prevention, through training, workshops, technical assistance and equipment as necessary

- Support the capacity building of the Social Development Commission (SDC) through training and technical assistance.

The Emergency Recovery Project (ERP) is funded by a World Bank Loan of US\$10 million. The implementation period is between May 2008 and May 2011. The project supports the rehabilitation of community infrastructure facilities including early childhood, primary and all-age schools, community health clinics and critical feeder roads which were damaged by Hurricane Dean. Additionally the project will support capacity building activities to increase the ability of the Government to respond to natural disasters. For 2009-2010, an expenditure of J\$120M is budgeted to:

- Continue the rehabilitation to damaged community infrastructure as outlined above.
- For the equipping of thirty designated ODPEM shelters with complete emergency relief kits.
- In conjunction with ODPEM, train the trainers, establish an emergency response youth corps and support the Ministry of Education curriculum development of Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Infrastructure Improvement Project for Traditional Banana Growing Communities is funded by a 1,156,000 euro grant from the European Union Banana Support Programme Rural Diversification Programme with counterpart funding of 289,000 euro from the Government of Jamaica (GoJ), making a total project cost of 1,445,000 euro.

More specifically, the intervention is aimed at improving access to basic social infrastructure, namely agricultural feeder roads and schools. For 2009-2010, an expenditure of J\$11M is budgeted. This will support the sub-projects. Specifically they are:

- Bellevue Road Rehabilitation, Portland
- Maryland Road Construction, St. Andrew
- Preston Land Rural Feeder Road Rehabilitation, St. Mary

The overall objective of Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) is to reduce rural poverty by increasing the earning potential of rural communities. For 2009-2010, preparation of this project will continue and an expenditure of J\$75M is budgeted to execute:

- The assessment of community based tourism projects in pre-selected parishes
- Supply analysis of selected crops in St. Elizabeth, St. Ann and St. James
- Market analysis to understand the nature, volume and trends of agri-food demand in Jamaica

Continuing on the tradition of full community participation in the development process, for 2009/2010 benefiting communities will contribute J\$37.8Mn 'in kind' contribution on development projects undertaken.

### **JSIF Overheads**

For 2009-2010, an expenditure of J\$300M is budgeted for institutional support. It is expected that this amount will provide the resources for JSIF to execute the activities as outlined above.

## **NATIONAL IMPACT**

The major beneficiaries of JSIF's interventions are groups in the respective communities. These include:

- School children
- The youth
- Small farmers
- The elderly
- The disabled
- Women

The establishment of partnerships is a crucial component as JSIF fulfills its mandate of poverty eradication. By ensuring that key strategic partners in addition to the beneficiary communities are also involved, JSIF ensures that there is a reduction of the possibility of duplication of efforts and allows for a more streamlined utilisation of scarce resources. Furthermore, collaboration allows JSIF and its partners to take advantage of available expertise and experience. JSIF's partners and stakeholders include:

- Communities
- National, regional and international funding agencies
- Government ministries
- Government agencies such as the Social Development Commission (SDC), the Department of Cooperatives and Friendly Societies (DCFS), National Works Agency (NWA)
- Local government authorities
- Service providers (NSWMA, JPS, REP, NWC)
- International public and private sector agencies (in Canada: Ontario Power Generation, Town of Richmond Hill, Town of Ajax), Peace Corps
- Local private sector, including service clubs.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/2009**

Disbursement (expenditure on sub projects) for 2008/09 totaled J\$623M. This was 16% or J\$86M above the revised budget of J\$537M. Additional achievements were as follows:

- 169 projects approved by the Board of Directors
- 97 civil works contracts valued at J\$647.297M awarded
- 75 civil works contracts valued at J\$756.944M signed
- 82 projects completed

## **PROJECTIONS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2009/2010**

For 2009/2010, total disbursement of J\$756m is projected and a sub project to administrative disbursement ratio of 75:25 maintained. In addition, completion of 81 civil works projects is also projected.

## **CONCLUSION**

In addition to the projects outlined, in 2009/10 JSIF will continue developing special projects to assist the government to advance its poverty alleviation and social protection thrust. Particular attention will be given to enhancing and strengthening partnerships with the private sector;

provision of training for inner city youths; seeking income generating opportunities; poverty reduction at the household level; rural development by strengthening the linkages between agriculture and tourism; and assisting traditional banana growing communities to manage the fall out in the local banana industry.