

*Wesley Hughes, CD, PhD (Econ)*



The year 2007/08 was a good year for the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF): a year of challenge, action, planning and growth.

The JSIF has been entrusted with the mandate of improving the social and economic infrastructure of the nation's most underserved communities since 1996 when it was established as part of the Government's National Poverty Eradication Programme. Despite challenges like the passing of Hurricane Dean in August last year and the continued sharp commodity price increases, the JSIF was successful in fulfilling its objectives.

#### **Emergency Recovery Project (ERP)**

Of the several noteworthy achievements which the Fund has contributed to is the Government's successful negotiation of a US\$10 million World Bank Loan for the implementation of the Emergency Recovery Project (ERP) after the passing of Hurricane Dean. This resulted in the World Bank approving the request in less than 6 weeks under its new operations policy for emergency loans. This was only the second loan to be approved in the Latin America and Caribbean Region under the World Bank's new policy.

#### **Inner City Basic Services Project (ICBSP)**

During the 2007/08 period, the Inner City Basic Services Project (ICBSP) was the Fund's flagship project concentrating on restoring twelve targeted inner city communities through improved basic and social infrastructure. Over the past year, much emphasis has been placed on the social component (Family Support sub-component) of this particular project and has yielded the following:

- Approximately 3,600 inner city residents obtaining their civil registration documents under the sub-project entitled Operation Certification. Unfortunately quite often, these residents are prevented from accessing much needed social services due to lack of such documents.
- For the third consecutive year, the Poster Competition entitled "How does crime and violence affect me?"

was staged. The competition had numerous entrants thereby creating an avenue for the Fund to assist the children based in the inner city communities to benefit from the crime and violence therapy through the creation of their poster art.

- We continued our education thrust via the GSAT/ Homework Centre where children who were in dire need of improving their grades were given an opportunity to do so in an after school setting.

#### **New Projects Update**

During the past year, we continued in earnest laying the foundations for both the European Union Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP) 2 and the National Community Development Programme 2 to ensure that the eventual implementation of both programmes will go smoothly.

While we are proud of *what* the Fund accomplished in 2007/08, we are equally proud of *how* this work was done for, whenever feasible, our work has been approached in partnership with others. Key partners during 2007/08 included other state agencies, ministries, the private sector as well as non-profit organizations.

#### **The Way Forward**

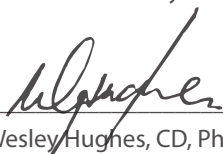
The Fund is working steadily in the implementation of the *Bridge Jamaica Project*, where poverty is fought from within the family – a proven method which has impacted greatly in countries which have bench-marked this innovative approach. Launched in 2006, the *Bridge Jamaica Project* has become one of the Fund's flagship projects for 2007/08 and beyond.

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Looking ahead, we plan to continue our emphasis on social and economic infrastructure development through research, education, advocacy and partnership. Given the fact that the Jamaica Social Investment Fund as a state company was established to assist in the poverty alleviation process, we will continue to work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty by 2015.

Furthermore, we will continue to let our guiding principle be 'placing people at the centre of project implementation.'

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank our staff, our clients, our donors, our partners and our many champions for making 2007 a year of good work as we delivered a complex array of services while maintaining our integrity and accountability.



Wesley Hughes, CD, PhD (Econ)  
Chairman

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2008