

# JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

ISO 14001:2004 CERTIFIED



## **Centre for disabled children rehabilitated**

The 3D Early Childhood Centre for Children with Disabilities has benefited from \$5.2 million rehabilitative works funded by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund. The JSIF is scheduled to hand over the newly renovated facilities to the 50 children housed at the centre on June 17, 2009.

The rehabilitation consisted of the expansion of the present structure to provide more space to deliver improved quality services. As a result of the expansion, the centre now has a day care centre targeted at single working parents or care givers with disabled children. The day care centre is opened from 7am to 6pm daily to give parents and care givers the opportunity to generate income, as many do not have the necessary time to do due to the demands of caring for a child with disability.

The sponsor group for the project, 3D Projects is a non-profit organization that provides outreach to children with disabilities and their families. More specifically, the centre gives support by providing early simulation and preventative measures to minimize handicaps, periodic assessment of children's physical, educational and social development, physical, speech therapy developmental support for children and counseling the parents and guardians. The centre gets support from various government, non –government and private sector organizations.

It is estimated that 94 into every 1000 children are born with a disability in Jamaica. Many of these children often fall victims to abuse and neglect and thus not given the needed support for development. In the parish of St. Catherine there are approximately 450 children that have identified with disabilities. The 3D centre permanently houses 50 of these children with another 150-200 making visits with their parents annually.

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