

EFJ: SUPPORTING

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

IN JAMAICA

Child development is a founding mandate of the EFJ, recognising that nurturing today's children is central to the ongoing care of our national and natural resources.

PROMOTING EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTIONS

The first years are by far the most critical in a child's development. The EFJ has provided over J\$125 million to improve Jamaica's Early Childhood system. Initiatives include training parents, teachers and caregivers; developing curricula for Early Childhood Institutions (ECIs); educational, nutritional and play equipment to 81 ECIs and over 2,400 children; and the early detection of special needs and disabilities.



ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION OF JAMAICA Preserving The Future...Today!

FACILITATING THE CREATION OF SUPPORT GROUPS

We encourage the establishment of sustainable initiatives that support persons in need. The **Roving Caregivers Programme**, for example, is a parenting support project in which out-of-work youth are trained to conduct home-visits to educate parents on ways to care for and effectively engage their young children. This very successful programme started in rural Jamaica and has now spread to six Caribbean countries.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES

EFJ-funded programmes including job skills training and life skills sessions have benefited many abandoned and institutionalised children as well as adolescents identified as being at risk. We also support efforts to prevent violence against children, especially through sensitisation on the realities of abuse and violence.

HELPING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

We have focused on the development of therapies and facilities for children who are more vulnerable based on their special needs—whether physical or mental. Particular attention has been given to the needs of rural children and to universal reach through personnel support and developmental materials specially designed for Jamaican children. Beneficiaries include organizations such as the **Rural Services for Children with Disabilities** and the **Jamaica Association for the Deaf**.

ENCOURAGING CHILD & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT INTERFACE

Many of the initiatives supported by the EFJ encourage Jamaica's children to respect and protect our natural environment. Two such examples are the very successful **Schools for Environment Programme (SEP)** and the **Building Appreciation for Nature in Children at Risk (BANCAR)** projects.

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