THE EUROPEAN UNION ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN JAMAICA 2004

Camille Daley

Introduction

Since the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1989, there has been an increasing awareness worldwide and within the Caribbean region of the critical need to increase social investment in children. Ratified by 192 countries including Jamaica in 1991, the CRC defines a child as every human being under the age of 18 years and outlines inter alia, a child’s right to life, survival, care and protection, health, education, empowerment, participation, and overall development. The World Summit for Children in 1990 and its World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of the Child provided a major impetus to countries to produce national plans of action for children. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agreed to by all nations in 2000 also moved the child agenda forward. The MDGs outlined eight social development goals to be pursued by countries worldwide and three of these directly address child issues of poverty, hunger, universal primary education and child mortality.

Following the MDGs declaration, the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children in May 2002 produced the document “A World Fit for Children” which has 21 specific time-bound goals and targets. The four priority areas are promoting healthy lives, providing quality education for all children, protecting children against abuse, exploitation and violence and combating HIV/AIDS (UNICEF 2005). Since this UN Special Session, countries in the Caribbean region have produced their own document tailored to their specific needs and they have identified as their priority areas, early childhood development, quality education for all especially marginalized groups like disabled children, legislative reform to address violence and tackling HIV/AIDS. Clearly at the global and regional level, leaders are aware of the pressing need to address the many challenges facing children.

Despite these commitments however, many children worldwide continue to live under very difficult circumstances. Currently 1 billion of the world’s 2.2 billion children, almost half of the children in world, are living in poverty. One third of the 1.9 billion children living in the developing world have no access to adequate shelter, one fifth has no access to safe drinking water and one seventh has no access to health services. Consequently 1.8 million children die annually from diarrhea and 2.2 million children die each year because they have not been immunized (Globalissues.org). In the Caribbean,
poverty levels in 2002 ranged from 14 per cent (Barbados) to 39 per cent (Dominica) of the population, with the rate for children being significantly higher in most territories (UNICEF 2005). In Haiti, the situation is far worse as 76 per cent of the population lives on less than US$2/day and 56 per cent subsist under the US$1/day poverty line (Fafo 2003). In addition, the Commonwealth Vulnerability Index (CVI) indicates that ten of the 28 most vulnerable states in the world are in the Caribbean region, seven of them being small island developing states (SIDS). In addition to having fragile, open economies, SIDS are also vulnerable to natural disasters and many have suffered serious losses in recent years from hurricanes and tropical storms. The situation is not all bad however, as the Caribbean region has done relatively well in the areas of primary education, immunization and infant mortality and girls are not prevented from attending school as they are in many other developing regions.

In Jamaica several steps have been taken to move the child agenda onto the front burner. In 2003 the Child Development Agency was established which merged the Children’s Services Division, the Adoption Board and the Child Support Unit of the Ministry of Health into one executive agency responsible for coordinating and regulating child care services and administering the Child Care and Protection Act (CCPA) passed by parliament in 2004. The CCPA which established the Office of the Children’s Advocate, addresses many of the rights enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and should bring about a shift from a welfare-based to a rights-based approach to service provision for children in Jamaica, (Anderson 2006).

The Early Childhood Commission Act of 2003 established the Commission as an advisory body to strengthen Early Childhood Programmes and this led to the Early Childhood Act being passed in 2005. In addition a set of standards for the proper management of Early Childhood Institutions (ECIs) was established, and a registration system developed for the early childhood sector was piloted in two parishes in 2005 (www.unicef.org/jamaica). Jamaica also drafted a National Framework of Action for Children in 2005 which brings together specific sector plans of action to improve the well-being of children and in 2006 a National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence was formulated.

The reality however is that Jamaica has faced negative, stagnant, and low economic growth coupled with a high debt burden over the past 2 decades and has not been able to allocate sufficient resources to basic social services like health, education and sanitation. Assistance from the international donor community is needed to address the country’s social development needs. In this connection the 20/20 Initiative was established in early 1990s to provide a framework for a partnership between the developed and developing world in order to achieve universal access to basic social services (UNICEF 1998). The Initiative requires developing countries to allocate 20 per cent of their budget to basic social services and international development partners would reciprocate by committing 20 per cent of their budgets to these areas as well. In Jamaica, budgeted expenditure on children and women, which includes primarily education and health expenditure, ranged between 16.5 per cent and 17.1 per cent of the recurrent budget over the period 2003/4-2005/6 while accounting for a small percentage (0.5 – 2.2 %) of the capital budget over the same the period (Witter 2006: 54). In terms of actual expenditure on children and women, the amount was lower than
budgeted and varied from 10 to 11 per cent of total expenditure (both recurrent and capital combined) over the period, 2003/4-2005/6. While these figures do not include all spending on basic social services it is clear that the government has a far way to go in terms of meeting the 20/20 initiative target.

This paper will review the official development assistance provided by the European Union (EU) Delegation to Jamaica during the year 2004. The European Delegation in Jamaica was established in 1976, one year after the first Lomé convention was signed with African, Caribbean and Pacific nations who were former colonies of the EU. Since then the EU has been the largest donor of grant funds to Jamaica. The EU estimates that 666 million euros in financial assistance have been provided to the island since 1975, and this figure does not include funds provided by bilateral cooperation from EU member states, regional programmes or Lomé trade preferences or protocols (EU 2006). The EU priority areas for the period 2002-2007 include support to the banana industry, rural infrastructure development, macro-economic support, private sector development, poverty reduction and road improvement/highway construction.

Macro-Economic Overview 2004

The macro-economic policies of the government were guided by the Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTSEPF) builds on the National Poverty Eradication Policy of 1995 and the National Industrial Policy of 1996. The main goals of the MTSEPF include achieving macro-economic stability, a balanced budget in 2005/6 and a budget surplus thereafter, reduced debt to GDP ratio to less than 100 per cent by 2007, single digit inflation, higher levels of real GDP growth, broadening of the tax base and a significant reduction in poverty levels. As part of its drive to reduce the fiscal deficit the Government signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with public sector workers in February 2004. The MOU guaranteed public sector jobs in exchange for predetermined limits on wage increases (maximum 3 per cent) for a two-year period up to March 2006. The agreement also limits new hires and requires all government agencies to implement cost-cutting measures (PIOJ 2005). Government was also required to maintain single-digit inflation over this period.

Government laid a budget of J$328 billion before the house, of which recurrent expenditure accounted for J$187.6 billion, capital expenditure accounted for J$140.6 billion, including debt amortization of J$132.2 billion. Total debt service payments including interest payments amounted to J$228 billion or 69% of the total expenditure, compared with 67 per cent of total expenditure in 2003, indicating an even greater squeeze on resources which should be allocated to basic social services (PIOJ 2005).

Gross Domestic Product in 2004 grew in real terms by 1.2 %, much lower than the projected target of 2.5%. The economy grew by 2.7% in first 6 months of the year but slowed as a result of hurricanes Charley and Ivan. The fiscal deficit target of 3 - 4 per cent of GDP had to be revised to 4.4 per cent as a result of hurricane damage caused by Ivan and Charley. Despite this however, the fiscal deficit for the
period April-December 2004 was J$29.3 billion, lower than the J$34.8 billion in the previous year (PIOJ 2005).

Ivan damage amounted to an estimated J$36.8 billion, and the agricultural sector was the worst affected. Hurricane Charley’s damage amounted to J$90.8 million. Seventeen persons died during hurricane Ivan, several of whom were children and 370,000 persons were physically dislocated, especially in hardest hit Southern parishes of St. Catherine, Clarendon, Manchester and St. Elizabeth (PIOJ 2005).

The debt to GDP ratio was targeted to be 135 per cent, however as a result of hurricanes Ivan and Charley it was estimated to have been around 144 per cent (EU 2004). The poverty rate declined from 19.7 per cent in 2002 to 16.9 per cent in 2004. It was estimated that 22.1 per cent of Jamaican children are in poverty, while the rate for children in rural areas was higher at 27.3 per cent (Witter 2006).

The point-to-point inflation rate was 13.7 per cent, higher than the projected target of 9 per cent, but lower than the 14 per cent recorded in the previous year. Inflation was mainly driven by higher oil prices and increases in user fees charged for electricity and water. The trade balance worsened however as Ivan damage slowed export production, especially in the agricultural sector and increased imports of vegetables and other produce. In addition, the fire at the Petrojam oil refinery led to an increase in imports of petroleum products (PIOJ 2005).

The exchange rate at December 2004 was J$61.63 = US$1, compared with J$60.62 = US$1 at the end of 2003, a slight depreciation of 1.6 per cent, a marked improvement over the 15.9 per cent depreciation which occurred during 2003 (PIOJ 2005).

Local interest rates trended downward throughout year and were lower than those in 2003. This along with the expansion of micro credit was part of the government’s strategy to stimulate productive sectors, increase employment and boost economic growth.

Total ODA disbursements in 2004 for new and ongoing projects amounted to US$214m or J$13.1 billion, an increase of 91% over 2003. This was mainly due to the US$42.9m in Ivan related assistance provided by overseas donors to rebuild schools, health centers and community facilities (PIOJ 2005).

Overview of Social Situation in 2004

The population of Jamaica was estimated at the end of 2004 to be 2,650,900, and children under 18 years of age accounted for approximately 38.7 per cent. The population is ageing as the general fertility rate declined from 69.6 per 1000 women in 2003 to 65.7 in 2004 (PIOJ 2005). Statistics revealed that the 0-14 age group is declining, while the working population 15-64 years and the dependent age group of 65 and over are steadily increasing. These demographic shifts have led to a decline in the population growth rate from 0.6 per cent in 2003 to 0.5 per cent in 2004.

At the end of 2004 the number of persons in the labour market increased by 0.4 per cent over 2003 (PIOJ 2005). The unemployed labour force increased by 2.9 per cent to 139,600 persons. The average unemployment rate increased to 11.7 per cent compared to 11.4 per cent in 2003. The rate for females was 16.4 per cent and for males 7.9 per cent. The youth unemployment rate (14-24 yrs.) increased to 30.6 per cent, higher than the 29.9 per cent in 2003. There was a 37.5 per cent increase in the number of young persons trained & placed
under the National Youth Service over 2003 and the national Summer Employment Programme provided employment for 4155 secondary & tertiary students (PIOJ 2005).

The Child Care and Protection Act, (CCPA), was passed in Parliament in March 2004 and this act made provision for the Office of the Child Advocate which was formally established in 2006. In 2004 a Street Children Policy Brief was prepared and submitted to Cabinet and the revised National Youth Policy was approved by Cabinet in June 2004. The new youth policy addresses a wide range of key issues including employment, entrepreneurship, health, education and training, care and protection, participation and empowerment. Progress was made in drafting the National Assistance Bill which will replace the Poor Relief Act and Disability Bill (PIOJ 2005).

In the education sector the main focus was on reform of the system and the Taskforce on Educational Reform submitted its report to Cabinet in September 2004. The Ministry of Education’s overall policy was to improve quality, access and equity and several new initiatives were introduced including the Inner-City Schools Initiative Program, the E-Learning Project to equip new high schools with computer laboratories and the Safe Schools programme to address school violence (433 incidents in 2004), truancy and children-at-risk (PIOJ 2005). In terms of improving equity, J$77 million was allocated to develop School Improvement Plans for 21 newly upgraded high schools to bring them “on par” with traditional high schools. In addition, the National Commercial Bank also committed J$68.1 million towards covering CXC examination fee payment for Jamaican students (PIOJ 2005). Despite these positive gains however, student performance continued to be unsatisfactory with only 57 per cent of grade four students achieving mastery at the Grade 4 Literacy Test and the mean scores for Math and English in the Grade 6 Achievement Test (GSAT) were 44.19 per cent and 47.98 per cent. At the secondary level only 25.8 per cent of those who sat Mathematics at the CXC General Proficiency Level received a passing grade of I to III, down from 36 per cent in 2003 and only 39.7 per cent passed English Language, down from 45 per cent in 2003 (PIOJ 2005).

In the Health Sector, the major highlights included the presentation to Cabinet of a National Aids Policy and National Workplace Policy on HIV/AIDS and an expansion of the prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Programme (MTCT). Despite this however there were 40 newly reported cases of AIDS in children under 10 years in the first 6 months of 2004 compared with 22 in the corresponding period in 2003. There were 31 new adolescent AIDS cases identified and female teens are three times more likely to contract HIV than are male teens (PIOJ 2005).

Total reported crimes increased by 14.5 per cent over 2003, while the number of murders increased by 50.9 per cent over the previous year. Among those arrested for major crimes, an alarming 50 per cent of the perpetrators were from the age group 16 – 25 yrs; 2,532 crimes or 29.4 per cent of major crimes were committed against children and youth aged 0-24 yrs, and of this total 52.4 per cent of the victims were children under 0-18 yrs (PIOJ 2005).

There was ongoing implementation of the national social safety net Programme for Advancement through Health and Education (PATH). The Beneficiary Identification System was further refined to select students for the
Secondary School Fee Assistance Programme and over 10,000 new entrants into secondary school were selected for full school fee payment (PIOJ 2005).

Relief was provided to thousands affected by Hurricane Ivan, involving disbursements to PATH, NIS pensioners and grants to assist damaged housing.

The EU Delegation in Jamaica

The EU Delegation in Jamaica, established in 1976, is one of the 123 Delegations of the European Commission worldwide. The delegation in Jamaica also has responsibility for Belize, The Bahamas, Turks & Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands. The relationship between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries has been governed by a series of Lomé Conventions which started in 1975. The Cotonou Agreement signed in 2000 between the EU and 77 ACP member states is the current framework guiding EU/ACP relations after the fourth Lomé Conventions ended. The Cotonou agreement centers on several key issues namely:—

- ownership of the development strategy by the recipient country
- co-operation between governments and the donor community including the EU on the strategies to be pursued for poverty reduction
- stronger and more systematic involvement of civil society in the planning and delivery of aid
- ensuring sustainable development
- gradual integration of the ACP countries into the world economy, through market diversification and increasing private sector competitiveness, as preferential arrangements for bananas and sugar are gradually reduced and eventually eliminated (EU 2004).

Assistance under the Cotonou framework comes from the European Development Fund (EDF); €25 billion have been allocated under the 9th EDF for development co-operation with all 77 ACP countries for the period 2000-2007. EU assistance to Jamaica is guided by a 6 year Country Strategy Paper (CSP), the current CSP covers period 2002-2007. The CSP is developed by the EU in tandem with the Government, a range of key Stakeholders, civil society groups and other international development partners. The EU is the largest grant provider to Jamaica.

Main Areas of EU Support to Jamaica 2002-2007

The Main areas of support provided by the EU to Jamaica under this current Country Strategy Paper are described below.

I. Macro-economic Support

The EU provides a grant to support the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) macro-economic reforms and this facility is termed the Support to the Economic Reform Programme (SERP). The EU embarked on SERP III in 2002 and provides funds directly to support the Government’s budget. These funds go into the Consolidated Fund and GOJ is free to use them as they wish. The EU does not direct GOJ about how the funds should be spent, instead requires GOJ to meet certain macro-economic and social targets including health, education and poverty.
The EU has no record of how this money was spent in any year as the SERP funds go into the consolidated fund and benefit all social services and all Jamaicans in general. As a result, for the analysis of the EU budgetary allocation for basic social services, I have allocated all of the SERP funds to this category. In terms of calculating the amount spent directly on women and children, I have applied the estimate of government expenditure benefiting women and children calculated by Dr. Michael Witter (2006) for the period 2003-06, of 11 per cent of total expenditure, to estimate the amount of SERP funds which will benefit women and children.

II. Private Sector Development Programme

The main goal of this programme is to boost economic growth in Jamaica by strengthening small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and improving their competitiveness. This will be achieved by:

- Improving business development services provided by Jamaica Promotions Agency (Jampro), Jamaica Bureau of Standards, Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica, Jamaica Exporters Association and other intermediary organizations via training and technical assistance programmes.

- Improving access of SMEs to sources of corporate financing

No funds were disbursed during 2004, and this program does not directly impact on basic social services or women and children.

III. Special Framework of Assistance - Banana Support Programme

This longstanding programme seeks to promote sustainable development in banana growing areas, increase competitiveness of the sector to enable its entry into a liberalized banana market and to facilitate diversification into other export crops to reduce vulnerability to future elimination of EU preferences. The programme provides financial assistance to conduct research, develop fungicides, buy equipment and provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture, and Jamaican farmers. It is estimated that over 1800 women are directly employed in the sector and the program reduces the gender-based income disparity in the sector (EU 2004). The crop diversification component is expected to increase women’s involvement in farming and their economic standing in these communities. As a result, the writer has estimated that approximately 25 per cent of these funds will benefit women and children.

IV. Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP)

This programme seeks to improve the standard of living in poor communities identified by the Government’s National Poverty Eradication Programme. It is implemented through a participatory, community driven approach in which communities take ownership of the projects and drive their implementation. The programme seeks to provide basic social services such as water supply systems, basic and primary schools, health centres, community sports facilities, retaining walls and roads. The main components of the PRP include:
Empowering local community-based organisations (CBOs) to plan, implement and manage a range of development projects through the provision of training in a range of areas including project management, accounting and construction.

Conversion of local CBO to a legal entity responsible for contracting services and hiring staff.

Community contributes a part of the cost of the project.

The Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) provides support services and disburses funds, but the community retains control of the outcomes.

A steering committee with representatives from the EU, NPEP, SDC, JSIF and other stakeholders gives general oversight of the project.

Since this programme focuses entirely on providing basic social services, I have allocated 100 per cent of the budget amount to this category. The figures for the 2004 disbursement were provided by JSIF who administers this programme for the EU delegation. In terms of the amount which will directly benefit women and children, I estimate 60 per cent of these funds will benefit the sub-group, given the nature of the projects involved.

V. Eastern Jamaica Agriculture Support Project

This project also falls under the poverty reduction thrust of the EU, as it seeks to raise the standard of living of small-scale rural farming households in St. Mary, Portland, St. Thomas and rural St. Andrew. The project provides funds for the following activities:-

- Training and capacity building for small groups of farmers, in business management, accounting, entrepreneurship and other areas.
- Goat rearing, environmental management, improved land husbandry, agro-processing, bee-keeping, coffee, fruit tree orchards, and grape planting, ginger production, pepper production and developing channels for marketing of produce.
- Repairs to interior farming roads.

Based on the fact that many of these small farmers are women, I estimate that 25 percent of these funds will benefit women and their children.

VI. STABEX 2000 –

STABEX is another long standing program, not on the CSP budget, it is an EU budget-line item which was designed to stabilize banana export earnings and compensate for export losses in EU markets. The programme also rehabilitates parochial farm roads in banana growing parishes and facilitates market access for groups of small scale farmers, many of whom are women. It is estimated that 15 per cent of these funds will benefit women.

VII. Infrastructure Development and Environmental Protection

This project included the construction of four rural water supply systems in Milk River, Christiana, Hope Bay and Shettelwood. No
work was conducted in 2004, and the projects were put to tender in 2005. In addition the Negril wastewater treatment system is to be renovated by the EU and plans were drafted in 2004 but no work began.

VIII. Support to the Transport Sector

This project has two main components namely the development of a road sub-sector policy and road master plan (contract awarded in 2005) and the Northern Coastal Highway Improvement Project from Ocho Rios to Fairmont Prospect in the Eastern End of the Island. This went to tender in February 2005.

IX. Hurricane Ivan Support to GOJ of €25M

- It is estimated that 25 per cent of these funds did benefit children and their families.

X. Hurricane Ivan support Directly to Children and Families

a. Hurricane Ivan Support from EU via Red Cross for families (90% to benefit women and children)

b. Emergency Hurricane Relief from EU via Save the Children for children and families in St. Catherine and Westmoreland (100% to benefit children)

c. Emergency Hurricane Relief from EU via Oxfam for 820 families (90% to benefit women and children)

d. Emergency Hurricane Relief from EU via UN/PAHO for sanitation for families/vulnerable groups (90% to benefit women and children)

XI. HIV/Prevention for Children/Adolescents

- This project was implemented by Children First and Save the Children and it sought to educate children and adolescents about sexual and reproductive health issues and prevention of HIV/AIDS. Children participated in a study on Adolescents in St. Catherine and worked on a video entitled “Teenage Sex: Joy or Peril?” In addition some child participants took part in the Gleaner’s Editor Forum during World Aids Week, and helped with hurricane relief efforts in St. Catherine. This project empowered children and provided them with the opportunity to participate at all levels in their community and country. I have allocated 100% of project funds to benefit children and adolescents.

XII. Sexual and Reproductive Health for Adolescents in Collaboration with GOJ, UNFPA and other NGOs

- This project targets adolescents, persons with disabilities and young males who were deemed to be most at risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases. In addition the project seeks to build institutional capacity to deliver sexual and reproductive health services of local health centres. Youth will be provided with contraceptives purchased with these funds, and receive counseling aimed at behaviour change. It is estimated that 60 per cent of these funds will benefit adolescents.
Analysis of EU Budgetary Allocation to Basic Social Services

The EU prepares a budget for each six year country strategy paper (CSP) and as such no annual budget is prepared. The budget below (Table 1) was obtained from the CSP for the period 2002-2007. It indicates that 33.4 per cent or J$500.5 million is dedicated to basic social services. Table 2 below indicates that of total funds spent by the EU in 2004, 25 per cent or J$852.2 million was spent on women and children.

**Table 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Components</th>
<th>Estimated Amount Allocated</th>
<th>Amount Allocated to Basic Social Services for 2004 (est.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macro-Economic Support (Support to the Economic Reform Programme - SERP)</td>
<td>€30 M (or €5 M per year)</td>
<td>€5 Million or J$375.25 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NB. an equal amount may not be allocated each year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Sector Development Programme (PSDP)</td>
<td>€20M (€3.3 M per year)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Reduction Programme</td>
<td>€10M (€1.67 M per year)</td>
<td>€1.67 Million or J$125.33 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Transport and Infrastructure Development</td>
<td>€30 M (or €5 M per year)</td>
<td>=6.67 Million or J$500.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency</td>
<td>€30 M or €5 M/year</td>
<td>Million budgeted for Basic Social Services = 33.4% of total budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total budget / per annum amount</td>
<td>€120M or €20M/year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB. Euros are being converted to Jamaican dollars based on the rate used in the Economic and Social Survey (2004) of J$75.05 = €1.
Table 2. Estimated EU Expenditure on Women and Children for 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programmes</th>
<th>Euros</th>
<th>J$</th>
<th>% Benefiting Women and Children (est. in J$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support to the Economic Reform Programme (SERP III) *figure taken from ESSJ 2004</td>
<td>11,100,000.00</td>
<td>833,055,000.00</td>
<td>11%  91,636,050.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP)</td>
<td>1,000,000.00</td>
<td>75,050,000.00</td>
<td>60%  45,030,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Jamaica Agriculture Support Project</td>
<td>1,200,000.00</td>
<td>90,060,000.00</td>
<td>25%  22,515,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banana Support Programme</td>
<td>1,243,820.36</td>
<td>93,348,718.02</td>
<td>25%  23,337,179.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STABEX</td>
<td>4,204,491.91</td>
<td>3,155,477,117.85</td>
<td>15%  47,332,067.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane Ivan Support to GOJ</td>
<td>25,000,000.00</td>
<td>1,876,250,000.00</td>
<td>25%  469,062,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane Relief from EU via Red Cross</td>
<td>594,031.41</td>
<td>44,582,057.32</td>
<td>80%  40,123,851.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane Relief from EU via Save the Children</td>
<td>156,240.00</td>
<td>11,725,812.00</td>
<td>100% 11,725,812.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane Relief from EU via Oxfam</td>
<td>265,000.00</td>
<td>21,389,250.00</td>
<td>90%  19,250,325.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane Relief from EU via UN/PAHO</td>
<td>198,000.00</td>
<td>14,859,900.00</td>
<td>90%  13,373,910.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV Prevention Programme for Children and Adolescents</td>
<td>555,909.00</td>
<td>41,720,970.45</td>
<td>100% 41,720,970.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme for Adolescents and</td>
<td>601,310.33</td>
<td>45,128,340.52</td>
<td>60%  27,077,004.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>46,138,803.01</td>
<td>3,462,717,166.15</td>
<td>25%  852,184,670.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Satisfaction of Children Rights and 20/20 Initiative

When examining the EU budget from a 20/20 initiative perspective, it is clear that the EU is satisfying the requirement of the 20/20 initiative as it has allocated 33.4 per cent of its budget to basic social services. While one cannot say with certainty that the SERP funds are being used by the Government for basic social services, it is the intention of the EU that the funds be used for this purpose as the indicators which they require the government to meet are primarily for health, education and poverty alleviation. With regards to the rights of the child outlined in the UNCRC, the EU is doing relatively well as it is estimated that at least one quarter of total EU expenditure in Jamaica does benefit children. However, since these estimations are not substantiated by actual data
from the EU for all of these projects, the figure may indeed be higher or lower. The EU has addressed several child rights including the right to

- Education
- Health and Protection from diseases
- Access to safe drinking water
- Survival and Development
- Access to information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS
- Empowerment and Participation

Conclusion

At the 2002 UN Special session on Children Kofi Anan, UN Secretary General highlighted the fact that the session was “not just a special session on children. It is a gathering about the future of humanity” (UNICEF 2002). Clearly the issue of investment in children is really about investment in a nation’s future prosperity. The EU has done a fair amount of work in 2004 which has benefited children, but that has not been their primary focus. It is clear that a greater focus on children is needed by the EU and the country’s policy makers in order to ensure that the many challenges faced by our nation’s children are addressed. Reliance on external support to address our long-term developmental challenges is not sustainable however, the government will need to consider creative ways to reduce or delay upcoming debt servicing in order to release more revenue to address these needs.