

## **Research and Analysis Programme (RAP): Parenting Publications and Regional Sensitization Workshops**

The task of parenting has become increasingly important especially with the changing profile of our social, economic and moral landscape in Jamaica.

The dissemination of information to improve understanding and inform strategies for better parenting will be undertaken through the production of three studies on parenting which will be published under the PIOJ's Working Paper Series. Sensitization workshops will be undertaken in the Ministry of Education's six regions, involving participants from Parent-Teacher Associations, Parent Support Advisory teams, guidance counsellors, school boards, student councils, Faith Based Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Community Development Areas, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders.

This programme will strengthen the Institute's position as policy advisor, through the generation of data to inform policy. It will also expand collective national knowledge on issues of social and economic concern to the country, while improving knowledge of parenting skills and approaches to parenting.

## **Social Research Methods and Policy Analysis Training Course**

Social Research Methods and Policy Analysis training, being offered jointly by the Management Institute for National Development (MIND) and the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), seeks to sustain capacity building by developing a cadre of persons with the analytical competencies for social sector policy formulation and through this medium, develop capacity within government for social research measurement and analysis. It is designed for middle to upper level technical staff (Researchers, Policy Analysts, and Planners) in both the public and private sectors who are involved in social research implementation, data analysis and social policy formulation.

The overall objectives of the programme are to:

1. Strengthen the capacity of technical staff (Researchers, Policy Analysts and Planners) of the PIOJ, line ministries and agencies as well as relevant private sector entities to perform data analysis in the areas of impact evaluation, poverty analysis, and simulation of household behavioural responses to public policy; and
2. Strengthen the leadership and coordination position of the PIOJ as a catalyst and clearing house for research on the determinants and consequences of poverty, impact evaluation, social policy, and social exclusion.

## **Child Poverty and Disparities Study**

Jamaica is among a group of more than forty countries participating in a Global Study on Child Poverty and Disparities, focusing on the period 2007 to 2008. The Global Study focuses on poverty because the persistence of poverty is closely related to weak progress towards Goal 1 in particular of the Millennium

Development Goals, which addresses the eradication of “extreme poverty and hunger”. The study will look first at gaps and opportunities in national poverty reduction strategies; secondly, it will focus on the disadvantage faced by families with children; and thirdly, on how policies can be more effective in reducing child deprivations by providing better services and protection for all children and families caring for children.

The study, being conducted by the Department of Economics, UWI Mona, will be launched on Wednesday October 21, 2009, at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.

### **Review of Poverty Measurement**

The measurement of poverty began in Jamaica in 1989. Estimates of poverty are based on data from the annually conducted Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions (JSLC). An individual or household is considered poor if unable to consume above an appropriate poverty line, which is comprised of two components: (i) a food component (basic food basket), which looks at the minimum cost to cover the nutritional requirements of a family of five; and (ii) a non-food component, which represents households’ non-food expenditure.

Socioeconomic changes since the inception of the estimation of poverty rates have highlighted the need for a review. The issues under consideration include the relevance of the ratio of food to non-food that is currently in use; the composition of the food basket; and the methodology for calculating the poverty line.

Tasks under the project are to be carried out by the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI), which will review the poverty food basket, and the Department of Economics, UWI Mona, which will provide oversight to the entire review process. The exercise and outcomes will be discussed in a public forum to be held in November.

### **Caribbean Child Research Conference**

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in partnership with: the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), UWI; the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC), UWI; the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ); Office of the Children’s Advocate (OCA); the Early Childhood Commission (ECC); Jamaica Coalition on the Rights of the Child (JCRC); Child Development Agency (CDA); The Office of the Children’s Registry; the Ministry of Education (MoE); and CARICOM will host the Fourth Annual Caribbean Child Research Conference (CCRC) on children’s issues under the theme “Global Crises: The Impacts on Our Children”.