UNICEF Annual Report 2016

Jamaica

Executive Summary

The End Violence Against Children Global Partnership announced Jamaica as a ‘Pathfinder Country’, based on the strong national leadership and commitment to increase the political will and actions on the ground to tackle the violence that children face. UNICEF’s advocacy and action, both upstream and downstream, under the global umbrella of #ENDViolence against Children, including the ‘Keep Children Safe’ national conversation series resulted in widespread public engagement via both traditional and social media.

A second major result includes ongoing high visibility as an early adopter of the corporate global communications and advocacy strategy, which has strengthened UNICEF’s collective voice on children's rights through a Digicel corporate and philanthropic alliance. Sport for Development continues to be a powerful platform for changing children's lives, and EduSports continued to have positive impacts on reducing violence in schools, increasing school attendance, and in some schools, enhanced performance (better grades). The Ministry of National Security continues to work intensely on the Jamaica Crime Observatory Integrated Crime and Violence Information system, focused on children.

A new powerful partnership with Special Olympics Jamaica enabled advocacy and health promotion activities to expand to Western Jamaica, and ongoing support for unified sporting events enabled more visible efforts and discussions to promote inclusion and reduce discrimination. The visit of the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety enabled UNICEF Jamaica to strengthen alliances with partners focusing on road safety to enhance investments in the next country programme.

Significant shortfalls have included delays in completing a new situation analysis of children, and legislative and policy inertia that halted progress and reforms in critical laws and legal actions that could better protect children. Follow up on the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, particularly concerning the diversion policy in justice, restorative justice reform, and the limited progress on ending corporal punishment in school and at home, are also areas in which shortfalls have been noted.

Humanitarian Assistance

Emergency preparedness was strengthened and tested with Hurricane Matthew forecasted to visit the country. Engagement with all key players and strong support from UNICEF Regional Office and OCHA were greatly appreciated.

Two staff members participated in regional emergency training in the last quarter and one staff member was placed on the regional rapid response roster.

Emerging Areas of Importance

The second decade. Existing country programme priorities and emerging top results areas for the new country programme (2017-2021) have enhanced UNICEF investments and partnerships concerning the second decade of life. Violence interruption and ongoing HIV prevention, treatment and care continue to be of great importance.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AMP</td>
<td>Annual Management Plan</td>
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<td>APAC</td>
<td>Asociacion del Personal de America Latina y el Caribe (regional staff association)</td>
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<td>CIP</td>
<td>Country Implementation Plan</td>
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<td>Child Justice Guidelines</td>
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<td>CMT</td>
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<td>Country Programme Document</td>
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<td>CPMP</td>
<td>Country Programme Management Plan</td>
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<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>CRE</td>
<td>Child Rights Education</td>
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<td>DAO</td>
<td>Delivering as One</td>
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<td>DHR</td>
<td>Division of Human Resources</td>
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<td>ECD</td>
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<td>FB</td>
<td>Facebook</td>
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<td>FFB</td>
<td>Facebook Free Basics</td>
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<td>GAP</td>
<td>Gender Action Plan</td>
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<td>Gender Based Violence</td>
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<td>GRAH</td>
<td>Gender Responsive Adolescent Health</td>
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<td>GSSC</td>
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<td>HACT</td>
<td>Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer</td>
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<td>HCT</td>
<td>Humanitarian Country Team</td>
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<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</td>
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<td>HR</td>
<td>Human Resources</td>
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<td>HR</td>
<td>Human Rights</td>
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<td>HRBAP</td>
<td>Human Rights Based Approach to Programming</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communication Technology</td>
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<td>IOGT</td>
<td>Internet of Good Things</td>
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<td>IP</td>
<td>Implementing partner</td>
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<td>JCO</td>
<td>Jamaica Crime Observatory</td>
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<td>MAPS</td>
<td>Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support</td>
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<td>MCSF</td>
<td>Multi-country Support Facility</td>
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<td>MSDF</td>
<td>Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework</td>
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<td>OCA</td>
<td>Office of the Children’s Advocate</td>
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<td>OCHA</td>
<td>Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</td>
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<td>S4D</td>
<td>Sports for Development</td>
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<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
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<td>SSC</td>
<td>South-South Cooperation</td>
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<td>SWPBIS</td>
<td>School-wide Positive Behaviour Intervention Support</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNCT</td>
<td>United Nations Country Team</td>
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<td>UNDG</td>
<td>United Nations Development Group</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<td>UN-MSDF</td>
<td>United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework</td>
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<td>UPR</td>
<td>Universal Periodic Review</td>
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Capacity Development

Capacity development continued as an important strategy across all sectors, with focus on adolescent-friendly services in the health sector; school-wide positive behaviour and intervention and support (SWPBIS) in the education sector; and intensive, strategic training on child justice guidelines in the justice sector, covering 80 percent of the judiciary.

From June to December, UNICEF Jamaica supported comprehensive trainings for high court judges, parish judges, defence lawyers, prosecutors and clerks of the court in the application of the Child Justice Guidelines, with participation of lawyers from the United States and the United Kingdom with experience in child diversion programmes in the justice sector. Jamaica's Chief Justice and Minister of Justice were both present throughout the seminars.

The Child Justice Guidelines were created by the Office of the Children's Advocate (Jamaica's Ombudsperson for children) with UNICEF support in 2013 and were welcomed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in their 2015 Concluding Observations on the combined 3rd and 4th state party report.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

A MAPS (Mainstreaming, Acceleration, Policy Support) mission by UNDG/UNDP to Jamaica produced an analysis of national development planning targets and showed alignment (full or partial) for 91 per cent of the 115 relevant SDG targets, meaning that Jamaica is well positioned from a planning perspective to pursue and achieve the SDGs.

The thematic mapping and road map resulting from this mission will help UNICEF Jamaica to refine its engagement with national partners and strengthen its role in Delivering as One.

The development of a new UNICEF CPD and country implementation plans under the new UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework highlighted the need for strengthened policy dialogue around gender-based violence (GBV) and key populations.

UNICEF Jamaica continued to use emerging evidence from focus groups, studies and evaluations to inform on-going programmes. The ‘All In’ process (reached Phase 3 (action planning) in the country assessment process and yielded important insights into gaps in service delivery for adolescents.

Partnerships

Enhanced alliances and visible, on the ground, interventions with Special Olympics Jamaica and corporate communications leader, Digicel, were the headlines of 2016 for UNICEF Jamaica. Government partners provided strong leadership coming together in the End Violence Against Children partnership, with Jamaica designated as a ‘pathfinder country’. UNICEF and civil society played a strategic and supportive role in enabling Jamaica to become prominent in the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children. Work with private sector businesses in the hotel and tourism industry continued to expand, focusing on the endorsement and acceptance of the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism.

External Communication and Public Advocacy

UNICEF Jamaica’s public advocacy and partnership with both media and non-governmental entities focused on the priority issues of reducing violence against children, as well as adolescent and youth engagement.

New partnerships were mobilized in 2016, along with a strong emphasis on increasing and
improving UNICEF’s digital/social media presence and engagement, resulting in steady public engagement. Short films produced in partnership with leading directors for the national initiative ‘Keep Children Safe - A National Conversation on Children’ were broadcast on the leading TV station for millions of viewers across the island, and were viewed over 990,000 times on Facebook. The average monthly reach on FB was over 1.1 million users, with an average of 66,000 users engaged per month. Together with its website, the UNICEF Jamaica blog attracted 5,000 monthly visitors.

The four new partners engaged this year for public advocacy initiatives around violence and adolescent/youth engagement represent a mix of major traditional media outlets and non-governmental agencies.

**South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation**

UNICEF Brazil and UNICEF Jamaica tried on several occasions to implement mutual study tours but were eventually unable to coincide on feasible dates. However, the link remains strong and the combined gender focal point and gender responsive adolescent health (GRAH) meetings in UNICEF LACRO led to the identification of more opportunities for South-South exchange.

**Identification and Promotion of Innovation**

Launched at the end of June, UNICEF Jamaica recorded a total of 54,000+ users of Internet of Good Things (IOGT) sites via Facebook Free Basics. According to the UNICEF Innovation team, UNICEF Jamaica is the first country to have all three (3) of its IOGT sites bookmarked on the homepage of the local version of the Free Basics platform: All In; Connect Smart and Facts for Life.

Sites were customized for Jamaican users and additional content was added to inform people to protect themselves against Zika.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

Building on the training on the human rights-based approach to programming undertaken for programme staff in 2015, UNICEF Jamaica used the 2015 Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, along with various General Comments and Universal Periodic Review Recommendations to inform the design of both the new country programme document and programme strategy notes for the new cycle covering 2017-2021. The same approach was taken in formulating the first annual country implementation plan (CIP) for the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework in Jamaica.

The Concluding Observations were used as a playbook and for advocacy and programming throughout the year, especially in dialogue with the Justice Sector, which benefited from intense child rights education in child diversion programming and practices.

**Gender Equality**

UNICEF Jamaica invested US$428,114 in gender responsive adolescent programming through the adolescent health and empowerment programme covering the ‘All In’ process; support to trail-blazing NGO partner Eve for Life and their work with Mentor Moms and at-risk young people; and collaboration with the Ministry of Health on adolescent-friendly health services.

Initiatives supported by UNICEF Jamaica were solidly anchored within the Ministry of Health and the National Family Planning Board. 2016 saw strong momentum in the health sector for children in the second decade of life, which bodes well for overcoming the challenges ahead in protecting the rights and well-being of these most vulnerable groups.
Gender differentials showed up clearly in national statistics on violence, with women and children suffering sexual abuse and exploitation at a much higher rate than men and boys.

In secondary education, girls tended to outperform boys. The school-wide positive behaviour intervention support programme, as well as EduSports are well designed and positioned to make the learning experience increasingly inclusive and gradually reduce this differential.

An evaluation of NGO Eve for Life’s 'I am Alive programme' was begun in 2016 and is expected to be completed in early 2017.

The Deputy Representative continued to serve as gender focal point.

**Environmental Sustainability**

In 2016, UNICEF Jamaica implemented some greening initiatives within the office space, including plastic collection areas, use of reusable containers, signs about saving energy and recycling; and default printing procedures for conservation. The implementation of greening is limited as UNICEF Jamaica occupies rented property.

**Effective Leadership**

The annual management plan's major tasks were met, along with risk assessments and reporting. The UNCT and the HCT experienced positive strengthening and preparedness. UNICEF was strategically very influential in national efforts to end violence against children, and for Jamaica to join as a lead country in the international Global Partnership to End Violence against Children.

The contract review committee met once. The programme review committee met once.

Business continuity planning was strengthened and rigorously applied during Hurricane Matthew preparations. HACT spot checks led to positive results and increased efficiencies.

Operations saw major changes in structure and staff complement in 2016, including a new operations officer on-boarded in June 2016, after the abolishment of the operations manager and finance assistant posts. Controls were tightened with the introduction of the Global Shared Services Center (GSSC), along with improved budget management and improved timelines in service delivery to support programmes. The team has begun the review and streamlining of procedures which will carry over to 2017.

Management of program funding was better than in previous years, with a flatter curve of overdue DCTs. Even so, several implementing partners (IPs) still struggled with HACT timelines for expenditure.

**Financial Resources Management**

The country management team and particularly the operations officer adjusted budget controls and made significant gains in improved efficiencies in the budget management process.

The transition to the GSSC was relatively smooth; however, some workflows presented difficulties with inconsistency experienced with transactions processing which lead to delays in some processes. The GSSC has also facilitated better segregation of duties especially for UNICEF Jamaica’s small office with clear process flows for transactions management.
The resource mobilization strategy for 2016-2017 had a slow start in gaining traction, but by the fourth quarter of the year, programme funds hit a new high for the 2012-2016 programme cycle.

**Fundraising and Donor Relations**

Programme budgets and investments were the highest in four years, as fund raising with two national committees was very successful. UNICEF USA's NextGen group of younger investors held their annual meeting in Jamaica, and saw first-hand some innovative investment opportunities.

New income from the US Fund for UNICEF has facilitated an expanded strategic partnership with Special Olympics Jamaica, with a targeted geographic focus on neglected communities in Western Jamaica. These new funds have also leveraged direct investments from the telecommunications company Digicel in their work with children with disabilities and Special Olympics Jamaica; and accelerated the promotion of unified sports.

**Evaluation and Research**

During this programme cycle, UNICEF Jamaica increased access to and availability of disaggregated data on women and children through the development of an online monitoring dashboard for the national development plan Vision 2030, finalization and dissemination of a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), in addition to research activities focusing on vulnerable populations and areas of concern. These informed project interventions and provided evidence for planning, in relation to parenting, school attendance, children in state care and child victims of crime and violence.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

Continuing from efficiencies gained in 2015, the CO benefitted from those cost savings, for example on office supplies, which were purchased under a UN negotiated rate with volume discounts.

UNICEF Jamaica experienced cost savings in maintenance charges for rented premises mainly due to the reduction in electricity cost. The Office implemented some greening initiatives, such as the shutting down of computers daily; turning off lights in unoccupied spaces; and installing a timer for the refrigerator to turn off for fixed hours each night.

There were changes in staff functions and gaps experienced with filling one vacant post, which negatively affected productivity initially due to time taken to learn and understand transactions, working with the GSSC new process flows and the learning curve for a new employee.

**Supply Management**

The supply component fell by 76 per cent from $182,536 in 2015 to $44,490 in 2016. Supply was for contracts to support our communication strategy in 2016.

**Table 1 - Analysis of supplies**

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<tr>
<th>Programme Services in USD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Supply</td>
<td>23,915</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>20,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>44,490</td>
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There were no procurement activities for construction projects in 2016.
In 2016, although Jamaica was threatened by Hurricane Mathew, there was no declared emergency, and therefore no claim or request for emergency supplies.

Security for Staff and Premises

UNDSS provided key information and support to the country office. Geo-mapping of all staff members’ house locations and a WhatsApp platform for emergency communications improved our preparedness. The additional satellite phone was useful in the Hurricane Matthew preparedness.

UN wide security training included cyber-security and information analysis training, and armed shooter training.

Human Resources

The human resources function was revamped in 2016, with the signing of a service level agreement with UNICEF LACRO, which provided professional human resources services on all human resources-related matters. Capacity needs were assessed and gaps were noted in operations, and these are in the CPMP document for 2017 to 2021. Changes required to have an optimal staffing mix will be implemented in early 2017.

With the migration to ‘ACHIEVE’ performance management system, UNICEF Jamaica benefited from more focused and meaningful discussions between supervisors and supervisees. Frequent supervisee-supervisor discussions were also used to embed performance reviews in the office culture.

To address staff concerns and office climate issues, the office hosted an APAC/HR mission in September. A report was issued and management has taken steps to have open discussions with staff members. Management is also in discussions with DHR to explore a prolonged strategy to transform the office culture.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

The ICT function ensured continued compliance with UNICEF’s hardware and software standards with the timely replacement of devices based on the equipment life cycles. All employees were equipped with data enabled smart phones and are a part of the office-wide WhatsApp group that was created in May 2016. This was one of several steps to ensure that our communication tree was more adaptable to emerging technology. This group was instrumental in our emergency preparedness activities related to Hurricane Matthew, facilitating the efficient dissemination of vital information between UNDSS and UNICEF staff members. Several staff used the mobile version of Skype for business to participate in meetings, while working from home, and increased their use of Skype for Business as an alternative to face to face meetings and teleconferencing.

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Sites were customized for Jamaican users and additional content was added to inform people to protect themselves against Zika. A high school student wrote this review about her user experience: https://blogs.unicef.org/jamaica/internet-of-good-things-jamaica/

In December the office completed the migration to VEEAM version 9, using the opportunity to migrate to a new standard server. This also enabled the streamlining of the backup infrastructure for greater efficiency in information storage. The ICT function also converted its last non-mandatory physical server to a virtual machine with the aim of reducing the...
number of physical servers hosted locally. The physical count of ICT assets revealed no anomalies.

Programme Components from RAM

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 By 2016, 50 per cent of the most vulnerable adolescent boys and girls ages 10-18 in targeted communities are equipped with life skills, access quality healthcare services and contribute to decision making in their own communities.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In this final year of implementation for the current country programme cycle, the Government of Jamaica/UNICEF Jamaica adolescent health and empowerment programme continued to make strides in line with planned results. Key among these has been the ‘All In for Adolescents’ platform which has not only generated national dialogue on adolescents and AIDS but adolescent health in general. Additionally, the information gleaned through the experience spurred action and assisted in leveraging funding support for interventions aimed at prevention and treatment for adolescent boys and girls. In tandem with this, the Ministry of Health trained more than 450 health care workers to administer and monitor its adolescent-friendly standards for health service delivery. The MOH now also has an analysis of gaps in relation to legal, policy, human resources and tools it needs to adequately serve adolescents.

The Zika outbreak – which began in January 2016 – called for a focused and strategic response to address the vector-borne disease. While the GOJ implemented a well disseminated communication campaign, UNICEF-supported qualitative research showed that adolescent girls had a low perception of risk when it came to Zika. They noted that the messaging spoke to the adult population and that they did not feel any messaging was geared to their realities. As such, the National Family Planning Board received support to develop a music video and an adolescent focused PSA on prevention of Zika.

The Ministry of Health has adopted the ‘Test and Treat’ protocol put forward by the WHO/PAHO as the best way to treat and prevent HIV within the population. This method will begin roll out in 2017. The ‘Option B’ protocol for HIV+ pregnant women is also being adopted and in 2016 health care workers across the island were trained to start Option B+ in 2017.

As regards adolescents among at risk populations, 80 boys and girls in medium to maximum security facilities are receiving life skills information and vocation skills to assist them in readjusting the life once they leave their respective institutions. Meanwhile 27 adolescent girls living with HIV were among new clients of the CSO-GOJ partnership to address vulnerabilities and improve emotional support for girls and young women living with HIV in some of the areas hardest hit by HIV. An estimated 300 adolescent girls in schools were engaged to strengthen their knowledge and skills to prevent HIV and unplanned pregnancies. These girls received information on how to identify and avoid risky situations and report sexual abuse. Also in Western Jamaica, 277 adolescents and young people who were unable to attend school regularly have received support to attend regularly and access vocational skills. Communities in this geographical area experience some of the worst attendance rates on the island, largely due to poverty. Communities have been mobilized and parents
equipped to ensure that these adolescents enjoy their right to an education.

Two studies were completed during the period. A gap analysis conducted as part of the pilot of adolescent-friendly standards will now guide improvements at the system and human resources levels to improve services for adolescent boys and girls. Also, research reviewing the impact of chronic illness on adolescents has shown the importance of resilience building among adolescents living with chronic diseases. The data gathered shows that adolescents with chronic illnesses are not protected from the likelihood of engaging in risky behaviours or substance use just as their healthy peers. However, the research underscored the importance of resilience building among adolescents affected by chronic illness due to their unique vulnerabilities.

Additionally, experience and lessons learnt in the last five years have contributed to the development of a strategy note and country programme document to guide implementation by the GOJ and UNICEF in the next five years.

Challenges including the legal restrictions on adolescents’ access to services and the clear vulnerabilities among adolescents call for strong intersectoral collaboration and action in programme and advocacy. Also, the capacity development of adolescents to adequately represent themselves and their views is an area which requires additional strengthening.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2016, reproductive health, HIV/STI and mental health services meet standards for quality and adolescent friendliness.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The Ministry of Health in partnership with four Regional Health Authorities strengthened delivery of services among adolescent girls and boys. As part of this effort, 475 health care workers have been equipped with knowledge and skills to implement the Ministry’s revised adolescent friendly standards in all Type 3-5 facilities (clinics and hospitals).

A UNICEF-supported gap analysis was conducted as part of the Ministry’s pilot of the standards. The analysis recommends 1) Building strategic partnerships with civil society organizations to better mobilize and generate demand for services among adolescents, especially those with special needs; 2) Capacity building of health care workers at both in-service and at pre-service levels; 3) Urgent action to address the legislative environment to allow unencumbered access to services by adolescents. These key recommendations are the foundation for an action plan being formulated to guide the roll out of the standards.

The Ministry of Health also initiated Phase 3 (action planning) of the ‘All In’ Country Assessment Process. A workshop involving 40 participants including adolescent stakeholders and representatives from the health, education, youth development and the protection sectors focused on prioritizing actions to address bottlenecks and gaps documented in the assessment. Phase 3 is the final part of the process which has generated tremendous discussion and action on adolescents and AIDS.

Among the major successes are the provision of data necessary for making an investment case for adolescents which attracted attention and funding from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The Fund reprogrammed close to US$400,000 to implement adolescent focused interventions. This is significant as the GFATM had previously informed that it would not consider interventions for adolescents and youth without critical data. Findings from the assessment have also strengthened a Ministry of Health proposal to Parliament to change laws that restrict adolescent access to SRH services including HTC, condoms and contraceptives.
The results of the assessment have also shown that treatment programmes have not catered to the needs of adolescents living with HIV, especially regarding adherence to treatment and the psycho-social needs of adolescents. To this end, four regional adolescent mental health officers have been assigned to treatment sites to provide services. The Ministry has also updated its Monitoring and Evaluation tools and software to better capture data and improve reporting on the 10-19 age group.

The Ministry of Health has begun preparatory activities for the implementation of Option B+ among pregnant women living with HIV. This is part of the drive to begin implementation of the WHO “Test and Treat” guidelines in the first quarter of 2017. The MOH spent significant time and resources in 2016 managing the Zika outbreak. Up to October, just over 200 pregnant women were being monitored. Up to that point, no cases of microcephaly had been reported. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and the National Family Planning Board to address the situation for children and adolescents. School clean up days, additions to the life skills based curriculum as well as development of messages to promote preventive behaviours were implemented.

OUTPUT 2 By December 2016, most at risk young people are enabled to reduce their vulnerability through utilization of health, second chance education and protective services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Adolescents, who are among the most at risk, have received services to respond to their immediate concerns and services and skills that help to reduce their vulnerability. In three communities among those with the worst school attendance record, some 277 children deemed long term truants (have not attended school in four months) were reintegrated into school and are attending school regularly. This was facilitated through the establishment of income generating projects (small farms and chicken rearing) within their families or through schools. The income generating projects (IGP) have enabled parents to earn enough money to pay for school uniforms and supplies and to cover transportation and food costs to send their children to school. The boys and girls and their families have accessed counselling support in relation to child abuse trauma which has been identified through the programme. Two parent support groups were established; are functioning and have provided support to more than 80 parents. Emerging research has linked school attendance with reduced HIV risk and as these geographical areas have also shown high rates of HIV infection, it is critical that children attend and receive necessary support to stay in school.

Also in Western Jamaica, 27 HIV-positive adolescent and young women aged 13-24 received emotional support and skills for improved adherence, treatment literacy and other life skills including secondary HIV prevention. These girls and their families were also engaged in support groups and one on one counselling sessions. An additional 300 girls in schools were engaged in life skills sessions to improve their SRH knowledge and HIV/STI and pregnancy prevention skills. They also received information regarding the identification of risks, prevention and reporting of sexual abuse. The Programme was implemented in Western parishes which are among the hardest hit by the HIV epidemic.

80 adolescent boys and girls denied freedom have received life skills information and vocational skills to assist in HIV and pregnancy prevention. These young people who are wards of the Department of Corrections received life skills educational sessions focused on building self-esteem, basic facts relating to HIV and STIs as well as family planning and pregnancy prevention. The programme, implemented by the NGO Children First also incorporates vocational skills building to enhance their chances of entrepreneurship on their release from the institutions.
OUTPUT 3 By 2016, interventions among adolescents including the most at risk are evidence-informed and supported by quality monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
A gap analysis has been completed following a pilot of adolescent friendly standards for health service delivery. The analysis detailed legislative, system and human resource challenges which hamper adolescents’ access to health services. It also recommends actions to address the gaps.

Research reviewing the impact of chronic illness on adolescents has shown the importance of resilience building among adolescents living with chronic diseases. The data gathered shows that adolescents with chronic illnesses are not protected from the likelihood of engaging in risky behaviours or substance use just as their healthy peers. Therefore, they must be monitored closely as these behaviours take on greater significance and potential risk in the face of a chronic illness. Additionally, resilience was shown to have a negative association with depression and may be one of the keys to influencing the high prevalence of depression among Jamaican adolescents.

OUTCOME 2 By the end of 2016, in Jamaica's poorest and most volatile communities, 40 per cent of 6 year old girls and boys entering primary schools master the entrance assessment and the performance of grade 4 boys and girls on national math and literacy assessments improved by 30 per cent.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The approach of working at both the community and the national levels continued this year, the last of this program cycle, with similar areas of focus targeting a quality start to life and access to, and delivery of, quality educational opportunities and programmes. Major achievements include the recognition of one Baby Friendly Hospital in a formal ceremony covered by national media in February; and the finalization of the special needs curriculum for learners with moderate to severe learning disabilities and of the games based curriculum for grades 1 to 3.

In addition, emergency funds enabled the design and finalization of unit plans for the health and family life education curriculum on vector borne illnesses in response to the Zika epidemic. These units along with the game based curriculum will be included in the revised national curriculum slated for roll out in 2017. At the early childhood level, the special needs teaching pilot came to an end and a project report is being prepared as well as a plan for national offerings of the course itself. The Age 4 Assessment was staged nationally mid-year building on the 2014-15 pilot and validation of the Jamaica School Readiness Assessment (JSRA).

At the primary and secondary levels, use of the school wide positive behaviour intervention support framework (SWPBIS) gained momentum in May (celebrated as Child Month nationally) with a high-level meeting with Ministry of Education officials and UNICEF’s creation and dissemination of a motivational and instructional video highlighting a rural high school's successful implementation which led to wide coverage in print and social media. The number of children exposed to violent treatment at school has not, however, been significantly reduced and remains a key focus for programming.

The implementation of game based teaching and learning also continued to gain traction through the Edusport project which again served some 11,762 students in 60 rural primary schools, more than double the original target of 5000. A successful visit by the Spokesperson for the US Fund for UNICEF and Special Olympics partnership also led to increased awareness of, and support for, Edusport's inclusive sports for development life
skills based programme as high level meetings with government officials lent momentum to a push for a memorandum of understanding facilitating the integration of Edusport into the Ministry of Education's national programming.

School-based interventions to reduce chronic absenteeism at the secondary level continued to make significant progress during 2016 and an end of project report is being finalized to share best practices that have emerged around the sustainability of these interventions.

Another highlight was the launch of a new partnership with Special Olympics Jamaica focused on the provision of medical screenings and family counselling as well as opportunities for unified sports participation including a regional competition held in November - the first such event in the English-speaking Caribbean. This, in turn, led to the staging of a girls' unified football friendly match as one of the national events to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. At the national level, UNICEF-funded research continued to inform national policies and programmes and strengthen existing systems.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2016, national and community systems to support all girls and boys 0-6 years old in the targeted communities with a quality start to life, early learning and developmental readiness.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In recent years because of rising maternal mortality rates and an increase in the rate of non-communicable diseases, the Ministry of Health has been emphasizing greater focus on healthy lifestyles before, during and after pregnancy. Work continued towards BFHI certification nationally as part of the 2014 National Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy. Compliance with BFHI criteria features prominently in this policy and has provided some impetus to move Jamaica towards re-attaining BFHI in its hospitals.

In early 2016, one hospital was awarded its BFHI certification and plaque and others have been learning from its strategies to move closer to their certification. Regarding Exclusive Breastfeeding (EBF), strategies were shared to craft a 2016 action plan for greater advocacy at the parliamentary level as well as within employers’ federations. Planning meetings towards Breastfeeding Week 2016 also began in the second quarter of this year. In addition, UNICEF coordinated the participation of key early childhood stakeholders in a multi-country study aimed at evaluating progress and challenges in the sector between 2007 and 2014. Interventions under this output could be additionally challenged by weak capacity among some hospitals to meet all of the required BFHI criteria as well as the lack of support for breastfeeding as a priority practice within the medical community on the whole.

**OUTCOME 3** By December 2016, child victims of abuse and violence and children who come into contact and conflict with the law will benefit from improved child protection services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The Government of Jamaica increased its commitment to championing, protecting and promoting the rights of all Jamaican children when it joined the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (GPVAC). Jamaica became one of eleven designated Pathfinder Countries which will take the lead in designing and implementing new approaches to preventing and responding to violence against children. During this reporting period, UNICEF supported emerging initiatives of the Government which are likely to become a part of the Pathfinder agenda.
The capacity of the Ministry of National Security (MNS) to collect and generate data on the impact of crime and violence on Jamaica’s children was strengthened with UNICEF’s support to data management. The Ministry’s Jamaica Crime Observatory - Integrated Crime and Violence Information System produced its first statistical report on violent crimes committed against children providing statistics on murders, sexual assault, robberies and shootings of child victims in the ten most volatile of the country’s fourteen parishes.

The MNS improved the living environment of children exposed to violence, providing them with alternatives to gang membership. This was achieved through the Ministry’s Violence Interruption Programme which conducted interventions in highly-volatile communities, drawing on best practices from the USA Chicago-based Cure Violence programme which is founded on the conception of violence as a public health issue and uses data generated at the community level to inform the work of violence interrupters. The partnership between Cure Violence, the MNS and a local NGO, the Peace Management Initiative, has already shown promising trends in contributing to the reduction of homicides and community violence by engaging 5,000 community members.

An important element of this Country Programme focused on increasing the number and type of child protection services compliant with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international standards. Key UNICEF partners which included the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), the Office of the Children’s Advocate (OCA) and the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) promoted and further institutionalized the implementation of international standards, particularly the Convention on the Rights of the Child within the court system, the security forces and sporting programmes.

OUTPUT 1 Key state-operated MDAs produce age/gender/location disaggregated reports by category on child abuse, children in conflict with the law, child victims of major selected crimes and children seen in accident and emergency units.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Greater access to accurate data on children and violence was achieved when the Ministry of National Security’s Jamaica Crime Observatory - Integrated Crime and Violence Information System (JCO-ICVIS) produced the “2011-2015 Report on Children and Violence” providing disaggregated data by age, sex and location on children who are crime victims. The report, which is a first for UNICEF Jamaica, presents and discusses the findings of violent crime data collected over the 2011-2015 period across ten of fourteen parishes of the island which record the highest incidence of violent crimes against children. The document captures data on murders, sexual assaults, robberies and shootings. The indicators used include (i) the number of child victims by type of crime (ii) the types of weapons used in major-serious and violent crimes against children and (iii) the location of criminal activities.

The JCO-ICVIS underwent a period of rehabilitation, with the support of UNICEF and other international development partners, which enabled it to extend its data collection processes and produce the Children and Violence report. The findings presented in the report will inform planning, monitoring, evaluation and policy development within the security and child protection sectors, as it has been made available to ministries, departments and agencies with responsibility for national data gathering and dissemination as well as child protection. It will serve to strengthen an evidence-based approach to programming for child protection partners who work with child victims of armed violence and sexual abuse. UNICEF Jamaica has committed to producing violence against children statistics annually.
OUTPUT 2  Improved planning, coordination, collaboration mechanisms and networking arrangements in place to strengthen the Child Protection system.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The partnership of UNICEF Jamaica, the West Indies Cricket Board and the Child Development Agency yielded results during 2016, as the capacity of 285 male and female sports coaches, mainly primary and secondary school physical education teachers, was strengthened to protect children from child abuse. The West Indies Cricket Board’s child protection training workshops were offered in eight parishes and delivered by trainers from WICB and CDA to coaches from private and public schools, as well as organizations for children with disabilities. The content of the workshops challenged some strongly-held opinions of coaches concerning methods of disciplining and motivating athletes. The training manual developed by the WICB, with inputs from two UNICEF offices, was modified to convert the document from a manual for cricket coaches to a generic document that may be used by all sports. This development has facilitated the promotion of safeguarding children’s rights in sports to a much wider group of stakeholders.

OUTPUT 3  Effective psychosocial services and community-based interventions are available for child victims of abuse, exploitation and violence and children affected by emergencies

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Multi-Agency Approach to Child Abuse was reviewed and work commenced on the development of standard operating procedures for the five child protection ministries and agencies that partner to deliver services to abused children and their families. The intervention was led by the Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse (CISOCA) which is a programme of the Jamaica Constabulary Force. Other partners included the Child Development Agency, Office of the Children’s Advocate, Office of the Children’s Registry and the Victim Support Unit of the Ministry of Justice.

The Child Development Agency, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information further strengthened the capacity of residential child care facilities (RCCFs) to respond to emergencies. This was achieved through a competitive, incentivized event (the Safe Homes Competition) organized among the RCCFs which resulted in children in state care and their caregivers developing Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans (EPRPs) for their institutions using a template developed by the three partner agencies for schools and RCCFs. The annual completion of the instrument is mandatory for children’s homes and reduces the vulnerability of more than 1,500 children in state care.

OUTPUT 4 Child protection services, for children in contact and conflict with the law, are in compliance with the CRC and other international standards and deliver quality rehabilitation and re-integration services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The capacity of 150 court professionals and 80 police officers was strengthened to better understand, apply and promote the Convention on the Rights of the Child daily in the justice and security systems. It is expected that the promotion of child-friendly protocols (Child Justice Guidelines and the Child Interaction Policy and Procedures) should result in sustained behaviour change among these targeted groups.

The OCA provided opportunities for about 80 per cent of the judiciary to improve their knowledge base concerning the needs and issues of children who come into contact with the law. This initiative is intended to change the attitudes and behaviour of court professionals towards child victims, witnesses and perpetrators, making courts more child-friendly. The
training was strongly supported by the Minister of Justice and the Chief Justice of Jamaica who have articulated their commitment to child justice reform. The delivery of the training was supported by judges and prosecutors from Jamaica, the UK and the US with solid experience in child diversion programmes and practices within the justice sector.

Having promulgated the Child Interaction Policy and Procedures in 2015, the Jamaica Constabulary Force (Jamaican Police) revised the document during 2016, recognizing the need for new mechanisms and tools to monitor the type and quality of police interaction with children and to determine the roles to be played by various branches of the Force in its implementation. The JCF demonstrated serious interest and commitment to the implementation of the CIPP and is developing a monitoring and evaluation framework to ensure that its implementation is efficiently measured and sustained beyond project end.

The Ministry of National Security and the Peace Management Initiative, in conjunction with Cure Violence, USA, equipped 72 violence interrupters from three parishes to identify and mediate conflicts, prevent retaliations, treat at risk individuals, and engage community members. In two parishes, the programme has been on-going and has already engaged nearly 5,000 community members. Children and youth in these communities have been involved in community-building and personal development activities, as well as therapeutic interventions. The Violence Interruption Programme supports, and is supported by, the work of other programmes which together have succeeded in reducing violence in some hotspot communities. The strength of the programme has been in its degree of involvement and empowerment of community members.

The country saw a reduction in the number of children held in lock-ups as the CDA, Office of the Children’s Registry and various civil society advocacy groups continued to monitor the detention of members of this population group. Unlawful detention was one of the issues addressed by the UN Human Rights Committee in reviewing Jamaica’s performance during its 118th session.

OUTCOME 4 By December 2016, evidence-based communication and advocacy for children’s rights and mechanisms to monitor child-related systems and national priorities strengthened.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, new communication/public advocacy partnerships with both media and non-governmental entities focused on the priority issues of violence against children and on adolescent and youth engagement/participation. This resulted in two national initiatives that utilized a combination of traditional and social media platforms to reach and engage key audiences. Increased production of visual content enriched an ongoing effort to strengthen UNICEF’s visual storytelling through human interest content. UNICEF supported research activities and M&E initiatives during this programme cycle have strengthened mechanisms to monitor the National Development Plan – Vision 2030 Jamaica and to report on crimes against children. Data collection in the HIV sector has been improved to ensure that data can be disaggregated for the adolescent population as well as key populations. Evidence provided from UNICEF supported studies and evaluations have been used to advocate for improved physical and mental health support for the children in state care.

UNICEF Jamaica is increasingly focusing its public engagement on issues of safety and justice, with emphasis on violence against children, which remains a significant cause of public alarm and debate. This year, UNICEF and partners launched a media campaign to encourage reporting on child abuse, based on evidence generated by a national KAPB study. The campaign used a multi-platform approach on both traditional and social media, and engaged key influencers with a clear call to action. UNICEF needs to continue
increasing its voice leadership and public advocacy in safety and justice. In keeping with the
global strategy, we are investing in a new partnership for a long-term engagement of
adolescents and youth, which has the potential to leverage private sector resources and to
use digital media in more innovative ways.

**OUTPUT 1** Key partners/stakeholders are mobilized to support and engage in the promotion
and protection of children’s rights by 2016.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
New partnerships mobilized in 2016, along with a strong emphasis on increasing and
improving UNICEF’s digital/social media presence and engagement, resulted in steady
public engagement. Short films produced in partnership with leading Directors for the
national initiative ‘Keep Children Safe - A National Conversation on Children’ were broadcast
on the leading TV station for millions of viewers across the island, and were viewed over
990,000 times on Facebook. Our average monthly reach on FB is over 1.1 million users, with
average 66,000 users engaged per month. Together with our website, the UNICEF Jamaica
blog launched this year, attracts 5,000 monthly visitors. The four new partners engaged this
year for public advocacy initiatives around violence and adolescent/youth engagement
represent a mix of major traditional media outlets and non-governmental agencies.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2016, data collection and management systems provide sex and age
disaggregated data on women and children for national planning and timely reporting on
MDGs, CRC and Vision 2030 at national and sub-national levels.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
During this programme cycle, UNICEF Jamaica increased access to and availability
of disaggregated data on women and children through development of an online monitoring
dashboard for the national development plan Vision 2030, finalization and dissemination of a
Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), in addition to research activities focussing on
vulnerable populations and areas of concern. These informed project interventions as well
as provided evidence for planning in relation to parenting, school attendance, children in
state care and child victims of crime and violence. Evaluations provided information for
sustainable implementation of pilot projects.

Preliminary data from the study on resilience among Jamaican adolescents with chronic
illnesses (asthma, diabetes, HIV and sickle cell disease) showed these adolescents were
particularly at risk in the areas of school support and connectedness. It should also be noted
that participants with HIV had significantly lower scores in this area. However, the study also
revealed low resilience in both the control group and adolescents with an illness. Capacity to
produce disaggregated data from administrative data sets were strengthened through the ‘All
In’ initiative and support to the Jamaica Crime Observatory (JCO). The UNICEF supported
2016 report on children and violence produced by the JCO highlighted the vulnerability of
girls and specific geographical areas with high incidence of crimes against children. Use of
the monitoring reports available from the updated Vision 2030 dashboard (launched in
December 2015) is on-going. The reports have provided inputs to the 2016 Vision 2030
review process around the first annual report on the Medium Term Socio-Economic
Framework (MTF) 2015-18 and in regular progress reports.

Technical support to the country office contributed to timely completion of the 2017-21
Country Programme Planning process. The development of the Country Implementation
Plan under the regional Multi-Country sustainable framework was supported through the UN
M&E thematic working group. Publication of the Situation Analysis on Children and
Adolescents has been delayed, nevertheless data were extracted to provide inputs into the
country programme planning process. Dissemination of the final product will include distilling
the report into smaller, user-friendly pieces, for distribution via electronic and social media.
Financial constraints still influence the implementation of another MICS survey. The CO will continue to advocate for and support the government in identifying contributory funding as necessary.

### Document Center

#### Evaluation and Research

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#### Programme documents

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