

Jamaica

Part 1: Situation update in the country

The context: Jamaica and the Agenda 2030

Jamaica was classified as an upper middle-income country with a GDP per capita of approximately US\$5,000 (2017). Nevertheless, the country was challenged by low economic growth, high public debt and high crime rates. The country enjoys a stable democracy, with no major incidences of social disturbance in decades. While there were no major weather events in 2018, Jamaica is part of the Caribbean hurricane belt. The country is heavily affected by the effects of climate change, which is expected to have a considerable impact on Jamaica's coasts, due to the rising sea level. Approximately 70 per cent of Jamaica's population resides in coastal areas.

In July 2018, the Jamaican Government presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum. Jamaica reported on just under 50 per cent of the indicators, and proxy values were presented for 12 per cent of them. From UNICEF's perspective, the data gaps on Sexual and Reproductive Health and other child-related SDG indicators on children are of particular concern. Efforts will be made in 2019 to promote more regular data collection and strengthen national statistical capacities through a new Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in 2019-20.

A Rapid Integration Assessment (RIA) and Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy support (MAPS) mission in 2016 showed a 91 per cent alignment between the SDGs and national planning documents. Nevertheless, Jamaica is challenged by effective implementation of those plans, and has cited the main challenges as limited fiscal space and vulnerabilities experienced from natural disasters, climate change, migration and high national debt. In 2018, a new Medium-Term Framework (2019-21) for the Vision 2030 National Development Plan provided an opportunity to prioritize key SDG accelerators in the national planning process. The framework was still awaiting final approval at year end.

Hurdles to achieving Jamaica's target of a stable macro-economy by 2030 include low economic growth and elevated public debt. The economy showed some response to the institutional reforms undertaken. Public debt fell to 115.9 per cent of GDP in 2017 and was estimated to have further shrunk to 107.8 percent in 2018. Although economic growth fell by approximately 50 per cent in 2017, there was some recovery in 2018, with GDP increasing by 1.9 per cent as of September. Unemployment fell to 9.7 per cent in April 2018, from 12.2 per cent in April 2017. Youth unemployment also fell from 32 per cent to 25.8 per cent, but at that rate it was still more than twice the national average. Approximately 35 per cent of Jamaican youth were not engaged in employment, education or training. A greater percentage of male youth (38.8 per cent) than female (31.2 per cent) were unattached (according to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica 2018).

Poverty and access to social protection

The most recent national child poverty data (2015) showed that 26.5 per cent of Jamaica's

children fell below the national monetary poverty line. Over the last ten years, Jamaica has responded to increasing poverty with the development of the Jamaica Social Protection Strategy (SPS) 2014, which extends the focus beyond poverty to 'wider social and income security imperatives associated with vulnerabilities throughout the life course.' Jamaica also responded with the 2017 approval of the National Policy on Poverty and National Poverty Reduction Programme, which seeks to eradicate extreme poverty in Jamaica by 2022.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) received \$2.4 billion for Recurrent Expenditure on Social Security and Welfare Services (2017/18), an increase of 14.2 per cent over the amount allocated in fiscal year 2016/17. Approximately J\$8.3 billion in donor funding, mostly loans, was expended on the Steps to Work programme and the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH), a national conditional cash transfer programme for specific vulnerable populations in identified poor families. It is estimated that 40 per cent of the lowest wealth quintile did not benefit from this programme, owing mostly to stigma associated with being a PATH beneficiary, lack of information and false perceptions of ineligibility.

The 2018 Situation Analysis of Persons with Disabilities conducted by the Digicel Foundation, in collaboration with the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities and UNICEF, highlighted the fact that the PATH programme does not specifically target families of children with disabilities. Disability is not taken into account when considering a family's eligibility for the programme. That decision does not take into consideration the evidence that shows the strong links between poverty and disability -- disability exacerbates the risk to fall into poverty and poverty equally increases the risk for disability. The Government and international development partners identified strengthening the outreach of social protection programmes as one of the key accelerators to boost the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. This will require deliberate efforts in the years to come to expand coverage of social protection schemes to ensure full access for the most vulnerable families, including their children.

Violence against children

High crime rates continued to have a negative impact on Jamaica's progress toward its development targets. In 2018, in an effort to curb crime and reduce fatalities due to violent crime, the Government of Jamaica implemented Zones of Special Operations in targeted volatile communities and established States of Emergency in three police divisions. Increased police and military presence in those areas contributed to a decrease in major crimes. The number of murders was reduced by 22 per cent in 2018, from 1,647 (55 children) in 2017 to 1,287 (44 children). The number of shootings also went down, from 1,485 in 2017 to 1,154 in 2018. There were no reports of restricted access to schools and health clinics.

However, media reports indicate that the viability of the informal economy in these areas has been affected, thereby impacting the income of poorer families which rely on this sector for income generation.

Corporal punishment was still widely practiced in homes and schools. Many caregivers still relied on the use of violent methods to punish unwanted behaviours. Among children aged 2-14, 68 per cent were subjected to physical punishment at home, according to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2011. Violence affected both rich and poor children alike; however, the prevalence of severe corporal punishment was higher among children from the poorest households. In late 2017, the Ministry of Education issued a bulletin to all schools endorsing the non-use of corporal punishment. However, the practice is still legal in all school

environments, with the exception of early childhood institutions.

Gender issues present a paradoxical situation in Jamaica. Girls did better in most of the social indicators, including access to education. At the tertiary education level, more than two-thirds of graduates were girls. That being said, gender biased social norms prevailed within Jamaican society. The results of the 2016 Women's Health Survey (released in 2018) revealed that in Jamaica, adolescent girls continued to be at greatest risk of sexual, emotional and physical violence. For example, 22 per cent of adolescent girls 15-19 years old reported being victims of sexual violence and 11 per cent suffered at least one instance of forced intercourse at some point in their lives. Jamaica's comprehensive legislative environment protects the rights of women and girls, but they continued to suffer high rates of sexual and other forms of victimization. Entrenched notions of male and female roles and entitlements in society undergird this violence. For example, 27 per cent of adolescent girls ages 15-19 indicated that a wife should always obey her husband, and 17 per cent thought that it is justified for a man to hit his wife.

As a Pathfinder country, Jamaica initiated the review and update of the National Plan of Action for Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023, with UNICEF's support. The Plan aims to prevent violence against children and reduce its impact through an integrated approach of prevention, mitigation and improved responses. An accompanying roadmap was developed that sets out key strategic actions and requisite timelines and targets.

Jamaica's age of criminal liability is 12, according to the Juveniles Act. In 2017, 1,622 boys and 835 girls came before the courts; 334 children were charged with a major crime, 80 per cent of them were males aged 15-17. After years of advocacy, the Parliament passed the Child Diversion Act in 2018. The main objective of the Act is to ensure that every child in conflict with the law is treated in a manner that recognizes and upholds his/her human dignity, without resorting to formal judicial proceedings. The implementation of diversionary methods should make the child justice process more rehabilitative (vs. punitive) and reduce the number of children in state care. Implementation will require major administrative and infrastructural changes to existing systems.

Health and nutrition

Jamaica showed mixed results in the area of health and nutrition. Although 99.7 per cent of births were attended by a skilled health professional, maternal mortality and neonatal mortality rates remained high, at 87 per 100,000 live births and 11 per 1,000 live births, respectively.

Non-communicable diseases accounted for 79 per cent of all deaths in Jamaica, with significantly higher prevalence among men. Childhood obesity and overweight are issues of growing concern in Jamaica, from infancy through the adolescent years. An estimated 8.5 per cent of children under age 5 were overweight (MICS 2011) and that trend continues through the life cycle. Ten per cent of adolescents ages 13-15 were obese (Global School Health Survey 2017). In response to the increase in obesity and non-communicable diseases, the Ministry of Health launched the 'Jamaica Moves' campaign, which utilizes public-private partnerships to encourage and support healthy lifestyles and also extends to nutrition and exercise in schools. In 2018, the Government also announced a ban on the vending of sugary drinks in schools, effective January 2019. A nutrition policy was being developed that will outline standards for schools and other government facilities. The standards will focus not just on sugar, but on reducing the consumption of saturated fats, cholesterol and sodium while increasing vegetable and fruit consumption.

The provision of effective health care for adolescents was impacted by legal barriers that prohibit services to children under 16 without parental consent and by a scarcity of adolescent-friendly health spaces. In 2018, a Joint Select Committee of Parliament recommended an update of legislation to remove the possibility of criminal charges against health care workers who provide services to children and adolescents without parental consent. Even as strides are being made to advance access to services by adolescents, the need to amplify adolescent and HIV issues on the national and political agenda remains.

The recent National HIV Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviours and Practices Survey indicated tremendous regression on key indicators for HIV prevention among adolescents and young people. For example, levels of knowledge of how to prevent HIV among adolescents and young people decreased from 40 per cent in 2012 to 32 per cent in 2017. The report also showed a reduction in condom use among young people, from 70 per cent in 2012 to 62 per cent in 2017. The data also revealed that only 12.8 per cent of adolescents ages 15-19 were tested for HIV and were aware of the results, representing a dramatic downturn, from 23 per cent of adolescents in 2012. The Global Fund and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) were the largest donors in Jamaica's HIV response and they only supported interventions among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) groups. That presented a major challenge for Jamaica's mixed HIV epidemic.

Jamaica lost some of the gains made regarding the prevention of mother-to child transmission of HIV (PMTCT). The level of transmission was estimated at 1 per cent 2015-16, well within the target range of less than 2 per cent. That figure jumped to 6 per cent in 2017. Analysis of and response to that situation was ongoing. Bottlenecks identified included gaps in service delivery, availability of supplies, policy guidelines and monitoring mechanisms.

A Child Road Safety Assessment conducted in 2018 by the Jamaica National Foundation in partnership with UNICEF highlighted Westmoreland as the parish with the highest incidence of child road fatalities over the five-year period of 2012-2017. One contributing factor identified was the increased use of motorcycles as a more affordable means of transportation for the lower socio-economic population groups. Over the same period, male children and youth were six times more likely to die from a road traffic incident than females..

Education

In 2018, Jamaica rolled out the 'Jamaica Brain Builders Programme,' which is the country's first strategy for children between the ages of zero and three. The strategy covers the first 1,000 days of childhood and addresses health, nutrition, development, stimulation, social protection, child protection and early intervention needs. This strategy aims to consolidate and maximize government support to facilitate early access to quality educational development for all children aged zero to three, including those with disabilities.

School enrolment in Jamaica was high, with a pre-primary gross enrolment rate for children aged 36 to 59 months at 100 per cent for girls and 98.6 per cent boys. The primary gross enrolment rate was 99.7 per cent (99.6 per cent for boys and 99.8 per cent for girls). At the secondary level for Grades 7–11 the rate was 101 per cent (104.7 per cent for females and 97.5 per cent for males). Even so, poor education outcomes continued to reflect gaps in the quality of Jamaica's education system. There was some improvement in literacy at the primary level. Eighty-five per cent of students sitting the Grade 4 standardized literacy assessment in 2017 achieved mastery of the subject, up from 80 per cent in 2016. Of those students, 53.4 per

cent were girls. For the numeracy assessment at the same level, 67 per cent achieved mastery and 54.2 per cent of those students were females. In general, children who attended private schools exhibited better performance on those assessments (per the Planning Institute of Jamaica, 2018).

For the 2016-17 school year, only 33.5 per cent of secondary school leavers in the Grade 11 cohort achieved the requisite qualifications to move on to post-secondary or tertiary levels. In order to stem the tide of unattached youth, the Ministry of Education continued to reinforce the policy of keeping children in school until age 18. One of the ways this was put into effect was through the Career Advancement Programme framework, which allows for an additional two years in the secondary school system to provide students with skills and competencies required for work. The Alternate Pathways to Secondary Education Initiative launched in 2016 provides a two-year transitional programme for students at grade seven and eight who need additional help to boost their performance.

Part 2: Major results, including in humanitarian action and gender, against the results in the Country Programme Documents

Goal area 1: Every child survives and thrives

UNICEF Jamaica's health promotion programme aimed to strengthen the access and quality of health and related services and systems for children and adolescents. All UNICEF-supported interventions related to health dovetailed with the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean (UNSDFC) Priority Area 1: 'A Healthy Caribbean,' which in turn fits with Jamaica's Vision 2030 National Development Outcome 1: 'A Healthy and Stable Population.' Interventions under this programme component also were aligned with national efforts toward the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (namely SDGs 2, 3 and 5).

UNICEF Jamaica's health interventions included upstream work such as evidence-based advocacy and high-level technical assistance to promote legal and policy changes and support national programmes, as well as community and capacity-building interventions through pilot projects with potential for scale-up in partnership with civil society organizations.

Infant and young child feeding

UNICEF Jamaica's achievements in 2018 included the integration of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) and the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding as part of the Ministry of Health's flagship 'Jamaica Moves' programme to reduce non-communicable diseases. Following high-level advocacy by UNICEF, the Minister of Health announced the drive to certify all maternity hospitals as Baby-Friendly over the next three years. In 2018, one maternity hospital was certified and two additional hospitals signalled their readiness for assessment. Fifty per cent of all public maternity hospitals were either ready for assessment or were in the process of preparing their facilities and staff for assessment toward certification. With UNICEF's support, 480 health care workers were trained to implement the new Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative guidelines. This effort coincided with the drafting of the Government's five-year National Strategic Plan for Infant and Young Child Feeding 2019-2022. UNICEF and the Pan American Health Organization provided technical assistance in the review and finalization of the document. It is expected that the prioritization of these initiatives will increase the percentage of

children who benefit from exclusive breastfeeding at six months (24 per cent in 2018) and decrease the growing rates of childhood and adolescent overweight and obesity (suffered by 10 per cent of adolescents 13-15 years old in 2018).

Zika response

UNICEF's contribution to the local response to Zika and other arbovirus control efforts improved the Ministry of Health's ability to address the outbreak of dengue fever. In 2018, UNICEF conducted a national Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviours and Practices Survey that revealed the need to design and implement ongoing communication for development (C4D) strategies to address long-held cultural practices and beliefs among the population that impede vector control programmes. The findings were highly relevant as the Government of Jamaica sought to improve its community engagement strategies, against the background of a public health emergency in December 2018 after dengue claimed the lives of two children and spiked the rate of hospital admissions.

Access to services for adolescents

Adolescent pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and sexual violence were among the most persistent problems affecting the health, social, economic and political progress and empowerment of young women and girls in Jamaica. Efforts to increase access to sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents accelerated during 2018. UNICEF played an important role in those efforts through high-level advocacy and by supporting policy formulation, capacity development and systems strengthening.

Legislation and policy changes were underway to recognize and guarantee the rights of adolescent girls and boys to access sexual and reproductive health services. A recommendation to Parliament was issued by a Joint Select Committee of Parliamentarians to remove legal penalties for health care workers who deliver services to minors without parental consent. That recommendation was the result of years of advocacy and high-level engagement by UNICEF and local partners in the Adolescent Policy Working Group. The recommendation paves the way for a critical change in law. In a related development, UNICEF provided technical support to the drafting of a concept note to seek approval for a National Reproductive Health Policy that will further cement the rights of adolescents to access reproductive health services.

Twenty-six health facilities across Jamaica (representing 30 per cent of targeted health facilities) implemented adolescent-friendly service standards. In 2018, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to train 130 health workers to conduct audits and implement standards in public health facilities. All 26 facilities also designated particular days for adolescent health clinics, operated on the weekend or during the after-school period to ensure access by young people seeking services. An additional 30 facilities are expected to rollout adolescent-friendly standards in 2019.

The Ministry of Health also recognized the need for non-traditional access points for adolescents outside of health facilities. More than 5,000 adolescents and young people accessed sexual and reproductive health and mental health services at the Ministry of Health-operated Teen Hub. Approximately 800 adolescents and youth (438 males, 352 females) accessed HIV testing and counselling services at the Hub and were made aware of their HIV status. Nationally, the percentage of adolescents accessing HIV testing dropped by almost 50 per cent, according to the 2017 National HIV Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices and Behaviour Survey. With UNICEF's technical support, the National Family Planning Board developed an

adolescent-friendly HIV testing and counselling protocol for national rollout.

Even as strides were made to advance access to services by adolescents, the need to amplify adolescent and HIV issues on the national and political agenda remained. Constraints were largely the result of inadequate funding for HIV interventions targeting adolescents. The HIV response has become mainly clinic-based, focused on HIV testing and treatment, with outreach efforts mostly focused on LGBT communities. Only a few civil society organizations were able to implement small-scale interventions to focus on adolescents. In 2018, with technical and financial support from UNICEF, the NGO Eve for Life provided emotional support and resilience-building life skills for 138 vulnerable adolescent girls and young women. From this cohort, 32 per cent achieved viral suppression due to improved adherence to HIV treatment. Eve for Life's trained peer mentors also conducted outreach activities among vulnerable adolescents in schools and engaged 3,670 girls and boys in life skills sessions focusing on HIV and pregnancy prevention. UNICEF initiated discussions with relevant line ministries to examine this model of peer support, with a view to generate government investment and to scale up the intervention to reach more vulnerable adolescent girls.

Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV

After several years of maintaining low (below 2 per cent) HIV transmission rates from mothers to their newborns, data from 2017 showed a 6 per cent mother-to-child transmission rate. This regression came as a result of inconsistent adherence to established prevention of mother to child transmission protocols and other gaps in service delivery, oversight and monitoring, owing largely to high staff turnover rates in the public health sector and poor oversight of the programme at the regional level. Additional gaps identified included the high mobility of the population, which resulted in difficulties tracking HIV positive pregnant women and ensuring adherence to treatment and clinic appointments. With UNICEF's technical support, Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission management protocols were updated to standardize the implementation of relevant protocols and clarify roles and responsibilities. In 2018, 120 healthcare workers were trained to administer the new protocols. This training will be expanded in 2019. The Ministry of Health reaffirmed its commitment to meeting elimination standards within the next two to three years.

UNICEF Jamaica worked closely with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and UNFPA throughout 2018. Collaboration with PAHO centred on implementation of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative programme and information-sharing on activities in Jamaica's Zika response. UNICEF also participated in bi-monthly coordination meetings with USAID on its Zika-supported programme. Through these coordination meetings, UNICEF and the Jamaica Red Cross forged closer ties and shared information and tools for data gathering at the community level. UNICEF was part of the UN Joint Team on HIV (along with PAHO, UNFPA, UNESCO, IOM, UN Women and other agencies). The Joint Team worked closely to implement activities with the United Budget Results and Accountability Framework. UNICEF implemented a joint programme with UNFPA to support HIV prevention activities among adolescents.

Goal area 2: Every child learns

Jamaica continued to prioritize education on its development agenda, particularly with new interventions at the early childhood level and in support of improving access for children with disabilities. The education sector continued to be burdened by a number of systemic issues that impacted learning outcomes. Regular attendance and the quality of student learning and

achievement were uneven, especially among boys, students from rural communities or low-income households and children with disabilities.

All UNICEF-supported interventions related to education in 2018 were aligned with SDG 4, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean (UN MSDF) Priority Area 1: 'An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean', and Outcome 2 within Goal 1 of the Vision 2030 National Development Plan that aims for 'world class education and training.'

Key results achieved in this area of work focused on equity in education and revolved around the child-friendly school ethos, and provided support to disadvantaged children, with an emphasis on those living in rural areas and those with disabilities. UNICEF supported the implementation of innovative scalable pilot projects that aimed to promote a child-friendly school model through a focus on reducing school violence, ensuring safe journeys to and from schools and promoting inclusive teaching approaches. UNICEF also contributed to significant policy and programmatic changes to increase access to early childhood education for children zero to three years old and children with disabilities.

UNICEF's education interventions combined upstream work that included evidence generation, high-level advocacy and technical assistance to develop national policies and programmes with school and community interventions through pilot projects with civil society organizations that have strong potential for national scale up through government initiatives.

Early childhood development

UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Early Childhood Development Task Force to finalize the First 1,000 Days strategy, the 'Jamaica Brain Builder Programme,' which was launched by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (MoEYI) in 2018. This programme aims to consolidate and maximise government support to facilitate early access to quality educational development for all children aged zero to three, including those with disabilities. To date, the Government has established 23 Brain Builder Centres (BBCs), with an additional 103 centres planned.

UNICEF also contributed to preparations for the rollout of the Government's clinic-based early stimulation programme, which aims to provide parents with greater understanding of child development milestones and how best to support them, largely through play-based interaction. The national Early Childhood Development Policy also was close to being finalized, with significant input from UNICEF. It includes a mapping of services available nationally for children born with congenital malformations.

UNICEF supported the provision of adaptive materials for the country's first mixed-ability public early childhood institution, which was built by the Rockhouse Foundation and is operated through a public-private partnership framework. The partnership framework was recognized by the Government as a model for replication in each parish in support of furthering inclusive education.

Capacity-building for evidence-based programming

In 2018 UNICEF Jamaica strengthened efforts to enhance national capacities to generate and use data on school readiness and access to inclusive education for children with disabilities. UNICEF continued to monitor the Ministry of Education administration of the

Jamaica School Readiness Assessment (JSRA) tool for children age four, which was developed with UNICEF support in 2017, and engaged in the ongoing regional disability assessment project led by the Caribbean Development Bank. UNICEF also supported a Situation Analysis of Persons with Disabilities, conducted in partnership with the Digicel Foundation and the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities and development of a Child Road Safety Risk Assessment, conducted in partnership with the Jamaica National Foundation, which identified infrastructural priority interventions to mitigate child road traffic fatalities.

Equitable and inclusive education services

In 2018, UNICEF Jamaica had a positive impact on the lives of close to 50,000 children through school and community-based interventions designed to promote child-friendly school components. These included efforts to reduce violence in schools through the School-wide Positive Behavioural Intervention and Support framework, ensuring safe journeys to and from schools via school zone crosswalk upgrades and promoting inclusive child-centred sports for development and student support approaches through the EduSport programme.

Violence in and around school continued to deter many children from accessing quality education. To move from punitive discipline to constructive behaviour support, UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information in implementing the School-wide Positive Behavioural Intervention and Support framework by providing technical assistance and financial support to pilot the methodology. Some 30,000 children and 6,000 teachers were reached in 2018. With USAID support, the intervention was scaled up from the initial 56 pilot schools to an additional 217 schools. The framework also was featured as a key violence reduction initiative at the Pathfinder Country International Summit. A formal evaluation of the pilot is due in 2019 and will inform the national rollout plan.

In collaboration with Ministry of Education, Youth and Information and the Breds Treasure Beach Foundation, the UNICEF-supported programme EduSport expanded its reach from 63 primary schools and 11,000 students aged 6 to 12, to close to 100 primary schools and 25,000 students, including nearly 1,600 inner-city students who had been exposed to extreme levels of violence. EduSport was recognized for national scale up in 2019..

To support safer journeys for students to and from schools, UNICEF continued its Road Safety project, implemented in partnership with the Jamaica National Foundation. Under this project, 18 primary schools (targeting 10,000 children) in need of urgent crossing zone upgrades were identified. The first improved school crossing zone, servicing some 600 students, was finished in late 2018. Ten more such upgrades, along with the in-school road safety awareness activities, will continue through 2021. Efforts to mainstream and scale up safe access to schools will continue in 2019.

UNICEF supported families to addresses socio-cultural practices and beliefs by raising awareness of the importance of inclusive learning environments, the right of children to journey to and from school safely through a road safety media campaign and the importance of health screenings and referrals for children with disabilities. UNICEF also promoted awareness of the critical role of play in multiple aspects of child development through its facilitation of game-based learning and its partnership in the staging of the largest-ever national Play Day Jamaica on World Children's Day. Activities involved early childhood and primary schools island-wide and included participation by parents, the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Youth and Information as well as many NGOs, the Peace Corps and the private sector.

Emergency preparedness

UNICEF participated in the updating of the UN Country Team's Disaster Contingency Plan and related trainings in risk-informed programming and disaster preparedness. UNICEF co-convened an Education in Emergency Working Group that assessed the system's state of preparedness for disaster prevention, mitigation and response. Five hundred recreation kits that can serve up to 12,500 children were prepositioned with a local NGO, and were slated for movement to a government entity in early 2019.

Goal area 3: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

UNICEF's Safety and Justice Programme is designed to support the Government of Jamaica in upholding its international commitments under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (in particular, Article 19, the child's right to protection from violence, injury or abuse, neglect or exploitation) and the Sustainable Development Goals (especially SDG# 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). All UNICEF-supported interventions under this component dovetail with the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework Priority Area 3: 'A Safe, Cohesive and Just Caribbean,' which in turn fits with Outcome 5: 'Security and Safety' of Jamaica's National Development Plan, Vision 2030, and the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway's commitment to social development, in particular promoting peaceful societies and safe communities.

Jamaica's most vulnerable children are subject to an environment characterized by high levels of violence. UNICEF-supported interventions focused on reducing the number of children in the most in volatile communities who experienced violence. During 2018, UNICEF and partners expanded ongoing activities, widened the geographic scope of interventions, targeted more beneficiaries, improved the quality of services and worked toward sustainability of efforts. UNICEF-supported interventions improved access to quality psychosocial, rehabilitation and diversion services and life skills training for children and adolescents, targeting children and youth in volatile communities, as well as other high-risk groups. This was achieved through the empowerment of communities and schools to deliver gang-demobilization and sports-based, resilience-building programmes and psychosocial interventions in a more sustainable way.

Results also were achieved through evidence generation, evidence-based advocacy for legislative and policy changes and capacity development of national institutions to deliver better quality child-focused programming, in keeping with international standards in child justice, child protection, data-gathering, monitoring and evaluation. Institutions served included the Jamaica Constabulary Force (the police force), the Jamaica Crime Observatory and the Inter-Secondary School Sports Association. Many results were achieved because of the willingness and contribution of agencies, government and civil society organizations to engage in meaningful partnerships and dialogue.

Child-friendly justice services for children in conflict with the law

The Child Diversion Act was passed by Parliament in July 2018 after years of advocacy by UNICEF and other stakeholders. The main objective of the Act is to ensure that every child in conflict with the law is treated in a manner that recognizes and upholds his/her human dignity, without resorting to formal judicial proceedings. Child diversion is defined, under the law, as a child-appropriate process of determining the responsibility and treatment of a child in conflict with the law. UNICEF played an important role in the development of the Child Diversion Policy, which was finalized in 2015, and was asked by the Ministry of Justice to support the operationalization and implementation of the new Child Diversion Act in 2019.

The capacity of the Jamaica Constabulary Force to improve child-friendly service delivery, including diversion, was strengthened through the training of nearly 100 police officers on the Child Justice Guidelines. The Guidelines were developed by the Office of the Children's Advocate with UNICEF's support. This work built on earlier UNICEF-supported efforts, which established the Jamaica Constabulary Force Child Interaction Policy and Procedures. Participants in the training benefited from the expertise of local and international resource persons, including from Brazil and the United States of America. The contribution of the Brazilian presenters was made possible through a trilateral South-South Cooperation Agreement between Brazil, Jamaica and UNICEF. In 2019, UNICEF plans to further engage in capacity-building of justice and security professionals to use procedures, protocols and diversionary practices in line with international norms for the protection of children who come into contact and conflict with the law.

With UNICEF's support, the Office of the Children's Advocate also raised the awareness of some 50 members of the judiciary, police, correctional services and social workers concerning specific aspects of the Child Justice Guidelines.

Political commitment to prevent and respond to violence

UNICEF provided technical assistance for the completion of Jamaica's Pathfinder Country Roadmap, linked to the revised and updated National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence, 2018-2023. There were some delays in finalizing and approving the roadmap, but it is expected to be launched in 2019 by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. The plan is fully aligned with SDG 16 (target 16.2) and aims to reduce the impact of violence on children through a comprehensive, multi-sectoral and integrated approach of prevention, mitigation of and improved response to violence against children.

Use of evidence for advocacy and programming

With UNICEF's support, the Jamaica Crime Observatory-Integrated Crime and Violence Information System of the Ministry of National Security compiled the 2016-2017 Report on Children and Violence, which provides a comparative analysis of 2015, 2016 and 2017 data on specific crimes committed against children. The areas of focus were murder, sexual offences, shooting and robbery. The document will be widely disseminated in 2019.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of National Security to strengthen its technical capacity. The Jamaica Constabulary Force, Ministry of Health and Institute of Forensic Science and Legal Medicine, which are the primary sources of data on violence against children, all increased surveillance coverage. This achievement further ensures the sustainability of the Jamaica Crime Observatory-Integrated Crime and Violence Information System improvement project and paves the way for achieving the goal of all-island surveillance systems for all 14 parishes by 2019.

UNICEF also supported research conducted by the civil society organization Jamaicans for Justice, in collaboration with the Child Protection and Family Services Agency, which produced data on critical incidents experienced by children ages zero to 17 living in residential care in Jamaica. The data is part of a comprehensive study to be conducted over a number of years, which will play a crucial role in advocacy efforts toward de-institutionalization of children in residential care.

Access to services to protect children from violence

In collaboration with civil society organization partners, UNICEF provided financial and technical support to provide access to quality psychosocial and rehabilitation services and life skills for 3,486 children and adolescents. UNICEF also provided support to strengthen the capacities of 433 adults to protect children from violence.

UNICEF-supported interventions also included activities in schools in volatile communities. Through the Peace Management Initiative, 520 children who had experienced traumatic events (mainly in the 6 to 13 age group, 60 per cent of them female) were engaged through 70 counselling sessions. Capacity-building for parents was also an area of focus. The initiative engaged parents by facilitating the creation of a support group, Mothers Against Murder, consisting of 25 women who sought healing and resilience-building following the violent deaths of their children.

Approximately 2,000 children and youth in the six volatile communities covered by the UNICEF-supported Fight for Peace International project now have access to psychosocial support services that were integrated into wider community-based crime and violence reduction programming. A total of 1,327 children and adolescents (47 per cent of them females) benefited from direct psychosocial services.

Increasing public awareness of the importance of a safe and nurturing community and family environment for children continued to be a key strategy in UNICEF Jamaica's work with civil society organization partners. Those partnerships included the Peace Management Initiative wellness fairs and the Cricket West Indies Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and brochures about the role that sports coaches can play in violence prevention, which reached 144,000 people across the Caribbean.

Partnerships

Safety and justice results were achieved and amplified through the collaboration of multiple partners from government and civil society. Government agencies contributed to several UNICEF-supported Fight for Peace International initiatives and also engaged in jointly implementing activities. Those agencies included the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sports, the Restorative Justice Unit of the Ministry of Justice, Zones of Special Operations (operated by the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the Jamaica Defence Force), Child Guidance Clinics and the Planning Institute of Jamaica. Collaborative youth resilience-building activities were delivered with civil society organization partners, including the Peace Management Institute, Breds Treasure Beach Foundation and Children First. These partnerships will need to be strengthened to ensure the sustainability of the initiatives that were developed through them.

Goal area 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

In recent years, following national outbreaks of chikungunya, Zika and dengue fever, the importance of promoting public health in school became more critical. UNICEF advocated for vector-borne illness prevention to become a standard component of school clean ups. Those now take place routinely at the beginning of each term, with UNICEF's support. A national School Clean Up Day, also conceptualized and supported by UNICEF, is being earmarked for each school year going forward. All schools received clean up guidelines, augmented by a UNICEF-produced school-based video that was shared regularly on social media. UNICEF supported the development of lessons on the cause, prevention and response to vector-borne

illnesses, which now form part of a newly revised national Health and Family Life Education curriculum taught to children from ages six to 14 years old.

UNICEF's contribution to the local response to Zika and other arbovirus control efforts improved the ability of the Ministry of Health to address outbreaks of vector-borne illnesses. A national Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviours and Practices Survey conducted in 2018 revealed the need to design and implement ongoing communication for development (C4D) strategies to address long-held cultural practices, beliefs and knowledge gaps among the population that impede vector control programmes. The data showed dangerously low risk perception, with 73 per cent of the population saying they were not likely to be infected by Zika. This indicates that efforts on knowledge of risk and risk mitigation must be prioritized. The data also showed that despite a heavy investment in public service announcements by the Ministry of Health, media recall of Zika prevention information was low. As such, the data provides key information and lessons for policymakers to adjust public education and communication for development (C4D) efforts.

In 2018, following participation in a regional emergency in education training, UNICEF Jamaica co-convened an education in emergency working group with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture to survey the sector's state of preparedness and response to natural disasters (which includes vector borne illnesses) and update existing action plans accordingly. UNICEF also contributed to the updating of the UN Country Team's Disaster Contingency Plan, which prioritizes physical safety and psychosocial support in emergencies.

Goal area 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life

Results in this area support Jamaica's progress toward targets under SDG Goals 1, 3 and 4 and are aligned with Jamaica's National Development Plan, Vision 2030, and Priority Areas 1 and 2 of the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework.

In 2018, UNICEF provided support to national efforts to monitor child rights through the undertaking of new analysis and research, advocacy for evidence generation on the situation of children and promotion of multi-dimensional child poverty measurements. UNICEF also supported strengthening the inclusion of children with disabilities, particularly by improving their access to social protection and education, and engaged adolescents and youth and amplified their voices through the U-Report platform.

Child rights monitoring and multi-dimensional child poverty

In 2018, UNICEF led multiple evidence-generation initiatives aimed at informing policy and programme formulation and conducted high-level advocacy to bring about changes in the lives of Jamaican children. Those efforts included a comprehensive analysis of the situation of children across the country, conducted in collaboration with the Caribbean Policy Research Institute; a Situation Analysis of Persons with Disabilities, conducted in collaboration with the Digicel Foundation and the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities; and a multi-part study on children in state care in partnership with the civil society organization Jamaicans for Justice.

Jamaica initiated the process of establishing a multi-dimensional poverty measurement through a project funded by the Caribbean Development Bank. UNICEF's engagement and advocacy contributed to the inclusion of a children's index in the project design. The Government expressed a commitment to this initiative but there were extensive delays in finalizing the contractual arrangements with the Caribbean Development Bank. The measurement of multi-

dimensional poverty is a key element to effectively address the multiple deprivations experienced by the most vulnerable children and to enable the Jamaican Government to achieve targets under SDG Goal 1. UNICEF will continue to advocate with key stakeholders to fast-track implementation of measurement of multi-dimensional poverty.

To successfully achieve child poverty eradication and measure progress on other ambitious sustainable development goals related to children, Jamaica will need to produce timely, accurate and disaggregated data on the situation of children, especially the most disadvantaged. UNICEF Jamaica engaged the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, UNICEF's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and UNICEF Headquarters in New York in initial conversations about the implementation of a new Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in 2019/20. The main challenge to implementing the MICS survey is securing the necessary funding from internal and external sources.

In an effort to build capacity on social inclusion for government partners, UNICEF facilitated an exploratory technical mission for the Planning Institute of Jamaica and Cabinet Office to the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL) in Mexico. The mission was supported by UNICEF Mexico and the Mexican Embassy in Jamaica. A horizontal cooperation programme between the Mexican and Jamaican governments, supported by UNICEF, is expected to be established as a result of this mission. The cooperation programme will aim to provide technical assistance to the Government of Jamaica in advocating for multi-dimensional poverty measurement (including an index for children). It also will aim to translate findings into policy discussions and improved programming and promote a culture of evaluation and knowledge management among policymakers and practitioners.

Inclusion of children with disabilities

People with disabilities in Jamaica, including children and their families, continued to experience multiple deprivations that impeded their access to key services. UNICEF sought to address some of those gaps through a public-private collaboration with the Digicel Foundation and the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities. The initiative, which began in 2017, is focused on increasing access to services; developing an evidence-based advocacy agenda; and raising public awareness of the issues affecting children with disabilities, with an emphasis on encouraging greater inclusion.

Individuals who are registered with the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities can access benefits and services offered by the Government that support education and income generation. Since 2017, a total of 469 children with disabilities (242 boys and 227 girls) were registered with UNICEF support, providing them with increased access to existing social protection services. Education government grants were provided for 201 of the newly registered children for the start of the new school year in September 2018. This effort to facilitate this vulnerable population's access to services will continue in 2019, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

The Disabilities Act passed in 2014 is yet to be fully enforced. The partnership sought to create a body of evidence to shape advocacy priorities for the disabilities sector, with a focus on enforcement of the Act, as well as to strengthen the capabilities of organizations in the sector to advocate collectively for change. A comprehensive Situation Analysis on Persons with Disabilities, with a special focus on children, was finalized in 2018 and launched during Disabilities Awareness Week in December. An effort to mobilize various groups within the disability sector to strengthen their collective advocacy, under the auspices of the Jamaica

Empowerment Partnership for Persons with Disabilities, proved to be a major challenge and was largely unsuccessful. The sector requires further trust and capacity building before the agencies can be mobilized for joint advocacy.

The partnership developed material for a multi-media campaign, 'I am Able,' which aimed to identify different types of disabilities that affect children, showcase the abilities of children with disabilities and encourage more inclusion. The campaign was informed by findings of a Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices and Behaviours survey, which indicated low awareness of the spectrum of disabilities and existence of non-inclusive attitudes. The concept for the 'I am Able' campaign was introduced at the launch of the Situation Analysis in 2018. The campaign will be implemented in early 2019.

Building on previous work in strengthening government systems for screening children at age four, UNICEF supported the development of inclusive educational models for children once screened. Adaptive materials were provided for the country's first mixed-ability public early childhood institution, which is operated through a public-private partnership framework in the rural parish of Westmoreland. The school was recognized by the Government as a model for replication in each parish in support of furthering inclusive education. UNICEF also supported Special Olympics Jamaica's outreach work, including family events such as unified sports programmes, the training of 100 clinician volunteers and the health screening of close to 1,000 children island-wide.

Adolescent and youth engagement

In May 2018, Jamaica became the first country in the Caribbean to activate U-Report. The innovative tool significantly strengthened adolescent and youth engagement in a short period of time. Use of the platform grew rapidly after the launch and in only six months, the year-end target for recruitment was doubled; At year end there were more than 4,000 U-Reporters. U-Report ran 15 polls in 2018. The highest response rate (41 per cent) and number of respondents (1,090) were on a mental health and suicide poll, the results of which contributed to national debate and a public commitment by the Ministry of Health to place more focus on adolescent mental health. An agreement with the FLOW mobile network provided free SMS services for young FLOW customers who use U-Report, and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Gleaner (a leading national newspaper) ensured print coverage of key poll results.

Adolescent participation is a key strategy at the Teen Hub, a non-traditional health service delivery facility, housed at a main transportation hub. UNICEF contributed technical and financial support to establish the Hub, with general operations run by the Ministry of Health. During 2018, 40 adolescents contributed their feedback on the services and operations of the facility and gave their inputs and suggestions for improvement. More than 5,000 adolescents and young people accessed sexual and reproductive health and mental health services. Of those, approximately 800 adolescents and youth (438 males, 352 females) are now aware of their HIV status.

Promoting gender equality

UNICEF continued to support the integration of gender in programming and advocacy across all areas of intervention. UNICEF specifically prioritized interventions that support the empowerment and well-being of adolescent girls. In line with UNICEF's Gender Action Plan, UNICEF Jamaica supported the civil society organization Eve for Life in providing assistance to 138 adolescent girls who either were living with HIV or were victims of sexual violence (approximately 80 per cent of the girls also were teen mothers). Those girls received

professional one-on-one and group counselling to address trauma and improve their coping skills, along with family support. Eve for Life's trained peer mentors also conducted outreach activities among vulnerable adolescents in schools and engaged 3,670 girls and boys in life skills sessions focusing on HIV and pregnancy prevention.

UNICEF-supported programmes also promoted non-gender discriminatory roles and attempted to break negative perceptions of masculinity in communities experiencing high levels of violence. In collaboration with the Peace Management Initiative, 460 at-risk adolescent boys were trained by the Violence Interruption Programme on building self-worth, improving self-image and challenging ideas of masculinity and violence. UNICEF will continue to step up advocacy interventions to shed light on the gaps at the policy and programming level to address the unique vulnerabilities of adolescent girls.

Part 3: Lessons learned and constraints

Establish the grounds for scalability and sustainability of UNICEF interventions

UNICEF Jamaica implemented important pilot interventions, with positive results to address existing gaps in multiple areas, mainly in collaboration with civil society partners and with inputs from government entities. These included interventions to establish more inclusive and disability-friendly early childhood centres, community-based violence prevention, sports-based violence reduction interventions, support for young female survivors of sexual violence and a child road safety initiative. One of the key challenges UNICEF Jamaica faces is the scalability and sustainability of these successful interventions.

Among the lessons learned was the fact that gaining the commitment from line ministries at the early stage of the pilot interventions is critical to successfully negotiate possibilities for scale up. At the early stages of pilot programmes, UNICEF Jamaica needs to define with all stakeholders medium- and long-term goals, along with a realistic roadmap to achieve them. Much attention was often paid to making the pilot phase successful, rather than to developing a longer-term roadmap.

UNICEF has also learned the importance of factoring in the costing aspect of projects, as those with extremely high unit cost are less likely to be institutionalized by state entities, thus decreasing the prospects of sustainability.

Monitoring of pilot interventions needs to be strengthened so that results can be demonstrated through qualitative and quantitative evidence, beyond anecdotal evidence or perceptions of impact. Solid evidence of successful interventions supports UNICEF advocacy for further investments in scaling up and sustaining interventions. It is important that projects include a formal, rigorous evaluation as well as a costing exercise that provides an estimate of the funds required to scale up the initiative.

Enhance UNICEF's engagement on social protection and analysis of public financing for children

Progress in this area of work has been slow and challenged by the absence of the necessary dedicated human and financial resources.

Social protection has been identified as one of the accelerators to reach the SDGs and reduce

poverty in Jamaica. A number of international development partners already are engaged with the Government of Jamaica to support social protection initiatives (including UNDP, USAID, World Bank, FAO and the IADB). UNICEF is well positioned as a potential interlocutor on child-sensitive social protection programmes. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security has expressed its interest in collaborating with UNICEF in 2019 to strengthen ongoing social protection programmes to reach the most vulnerable children.

In 2019, UNICEF Jamaica will work on refining the theory of change and strategies for the Child Rights Monitoring and Multi-dimensional Poverty outcome to adjust to the needs expressed by the Government of Jamaica. UNICEF Jamaica also will mobilize new resources for this programmatic component, broker new partnerships and continue initial efforts to promote horizontal cooperation with Mexico. It is expected that this push will eventually enable UNICEF to play a more significant role in social inclusion by supporting more child-sensitive and inclusive social protection programmes and child-sensitive budget analysis for high-level advocacy.

Leverage the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework

The UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework has provided a framework for greater collaboration and programme coordination among UN agencies and across UNICEF country offices in the Dutch- and English-speaking Caribbean. At country level, UNICEF Jamaica actively engaged in framework results groups, leading or co-leading several, including Safety and Security, M&E and Human Rights. UNICEF and the UN system could further maximize the opportunities that this Common Results Framework provides for more integrated programming, fundraising and aggregation of results.

The midterm review of UNICEF Jamaica's country programme provides an opportunity to review strategies and address gaps in order to improve collaboration among UNICEF Caribbean Country offices and to maximize the benefits of the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework joint theories of change. The midterm review also should serve to identify new collaborative work modalities and opportunities for joint programming with UN agencies in-country, in line with the ongoing reform of the United Nations system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

Sharpen programme focus

UNICEF Jamaica programmes were spread across multiple areas and included a wide range of small-scale interventions and pilot community-based projects, implemented in many cases through civil society organizations. Some of those interventions provided opportunities for advocacy and for scalability. In other cases, the multiple areas of focus reduced opportunities to engage in more upstream work with the Government that would allow for the achievement of key results at scale in critical areas set by the Agenda 2030 and Jamaica's National Development Plan, Vision 2030.

As UNICEF Jamaica approaches the midterm of the country programme, it should assess the strategies implemented over the first course of the programme cycle and strike the right balance between upstream initiatives such as evidence generation, advocacy and policy dialogue, and those that provide support to government interventions and community-based projects.

Multipronged strategy to eradicate violence against children at home

Violence at home was the most common form of violence against children in Jamaica, but little

progress was made in 2018 with amending or creating legislation to ban the administering of corporal punishment in all settings and reduce the social acceptability of such practices by caregivers. More efforts are needed to establish a multisectoral, multipronged strategy to eradicate violence against children at home. That strategy should include conducting advocacy at the highest levels of government and civil society, strengthening the capacity of the social workforce and partners to deliver Communication for Development (C4D) initiatives and conducting parenting courses that promote alternative methods of discipline and international standards of child care. Support also should be provided to community initiatives that seek to influence the behaviour of residents and direct community resources toward positive forms of discipline.

END/