The Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Jamaican Children
Preliminary Results
Research Objectives

• The impact of the pandemic on children in Jamaica
• The capacity to respond to the situation
Sources

• Desk review
• Key informant interviews
• Representative survey
The Survey

- June 23 to July 13
- 30% reached by an online platform, 70% interviewer-assisted telephone interviews
- Stratified random sample (socioeconomic status and location)
- 95% Confidence interval is ± 4%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>People in Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>505 households with at least one child</td>
<td>1,994</td>
<td>1,994 Adults (56%) Children (44%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Channels of Impact

- Loss of Income
- Closure of Schools
Loss of Income
Income Loss

Average share of income lost

46%
Income Loss

Average share of income lost

**Geography**
- Rural: 47%
- Urban: 45%

**Socio-economic**
- Lower: 49%
- Upper: 42%

**Household Head**
- Female: 48%
- Other: 44%
Coping Strategies

How have you made up for lost income?

- Savings: 86%
- Gifts - Overseas: 36%
- Loans - Family: 30%
- Gifts - Local: 17%
- Hustling: 15%
- Loans - FIs: 8%
- Other: 5%
- None: 11%
Resilience

How long can your savings last?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Today</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Week</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Weeks</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longer</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Social Protection

How many assistance programmes have you applied for?

- None: 35%
- 1: 33%
- 2: 18%
- >2: 14%
Nutritional Effect

Share of households that have experienced food shortages

44%
Nutritional Effect

Share of households that have experienced food shortages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>Household Head</th>
<th># of Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>female 56%</td>
<td>&gt; one 57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47%</td>
<td>Others 33%</td>
<td>One 32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42%</td>
<td>Others 33%</td>
<td>One 32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>female 56%</td>
<td>&gt; one 57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Others 33%</td>
<td>One 32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>male 44%</td>
<td>One 32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47%</td>
<td>Others 33%</td>
<td>One 32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42%</td>
<td>Others 33%</td>
<td>One 32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nutritional Effect

How have you coped with the food shortages?

- Smaller Meals: 74%
- Fewer Meals: 66%
- Planted Crops: 23%
- None: 4%
- Bad Foods: 3%
Closure of Schools
Participation in Distance Learning

**Pre/Basic**
- Participation: 75%
- No Facility

**Primary**
- Participation: 90%
- No Facility, No Interest

**Secondary**
- Participation: 83%
- No Device, No Internet
Satisfaction with Distance Learning

- Pre/Basic: 60%
- Primary: 70%
- Secondary: 56%
How often do the children received their work assignments and tasks?

- **Every day**
  - Pre-school (n=184): 43%
  - Primary (n=221): 59%
  - High school (n=163): 56%

- **At least once per week**
  - Pre-school (n=184): 39%
  - Primary (n=221): 37%
  - High school (n=163): 34%

- **Less than once per week**
  - Pre-school (n=184): 3%
  - Primary (n=221): 2%
  - High school (n=163): 8%

- **Never**
  - Pre-school (n=184): 15%
  - Primary (n=221): 1%
  - High school (n=163): 1%
Access...

...to the Internet

80%

...to a Device

80%
Devices Used

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Pre/Basic</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tablet</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Devices Used

Share of households in which each child does not have exclusive access to a device for educational purposes

34%
| Reasons for Reluctance                  | • Fear of infection         |
|                                      | • No resources              |
|                                      | • Asthmatic children        |
|                                      | • Waiting to see situation  |
Screen Time

Hours per day

Before Covid: 3.1
Since Covid: 6.8
Online Degree of supervision

- Never: 2%
- Seldom: 10%
- Often: 38%
- Very often: 49%
Emotional Impact of the Combination

- Loss of Income
- Closure of Schools
## Emotional Impact

Share of households with children that experienced increases in the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emotion</th>
<th>Share (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boredom</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overeating</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frustration</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinginess</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sadness</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncooperativeness</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changes in frequency of spanking and shouting/calling names
% of household that have been able to obey government measures to prevent COVID 19 spread

- All the time: 31%
- Most times: 47%
- Sometimes: 11%
- Rarely: 8%
- Never: 2%

why were you not able to practice these measures?

- Dwelling too small: 67%
- Have to care for older relatives: 12%
- Difficult to isolate from neighbours: 9%
- Missed my family/family reunion: 5%
- Other, please specify: 7%
ACCESS TO COVID 19 PREVENTION ITEMS

Question: In the last 7 days, has your household have enough items of the recommended items for prevention, cleansing and disinfection?

% of households without enough recommended items that don't have the selected items:
- Hand Sanitizer: 59%
- Gloves: 54%
- Desinfectant/Bleach: 47%
- Alcohol: 43%
- Masks: 28%
- No access to soap: 10%

Reasons why households do not have those items:
- Cannot afford them: 68%
- Difficult to find: 27%
- Not necessary: 9%
What We Need

• Strict bio-secure protocols in schools
  • To keep children safe
  • To reassure parents

• Financial support for families
  • Specifically for nutritional support for children

• Universal internet access for school children

• Flexible work and leave arrangements for workers

• Psychosocial support services for children and parents

• Stronger mechanisms to detect and report child abuse
Taking responsibility