National Plan of Action
for an Integrated Response to
Children and Violence
2018-2023, Jamaica

FINAL

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National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

NPACV Jamaica 2018-2023

Source, date and place of publication: Government of Jamaica, January 2018, Kingston, Jamaica

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"We need to align efforts to prevent violence, exploitation, and abuse against children. To do this we must scale up effective solutions. Solutions will be delivered at scale only if we harness the energies, synergies, skills, and resources across all of society. Ending violence against children is everyone's business."

Amina J Mohammed
UN Deputy Secretary General at End Violence Solutions Summit, Sweden 2018

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BGA	Bureau of Gender Affairs
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBP	Coalition for Better Parenting
CDA	Child Development Agency
CISOCA	Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CPFSA	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
	Committee of the Rights of the Child
CRP	Child Resiliency Programme
CRP	Community Renewal Programme
CSEC	Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CWSN	Children with Special Needs
DCS	Department of Correctional Services
ECC	Early Childhood Commission
ESP	Early Stimulation Programme
ESSJ	Economic& Social Survey Jamaica
FBO	Faith Based Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOJ	Government of Jamaica
HDI	Human Development Index
HEART Trust/NTA	Human Employment and Resource Training Trust/National Training Agency
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDP	International Development Partners
IIN	Inter American Children's Institute
ISWG	Inter-Sectoral Working Group on Children and Violence
JAMAL	Jamaica Movement for the Advancement of Literacy
JAMSTATS	Jamaica Statistics
JASPEV	Jamaica Social Policy Evaluation Project
JBTE	Joint Board of Teacher Education
JCF	Jamaica Constabulary Force
JCPD	Jamaica Council for Persons with Disability
JCRC	Jamaica Coalition on the Rights of the Child
JFFLL	Jamaica Foundation for Lifelong Learning
JIS	Jamaica Information Service
JISS	Jamaica Injury Surveillance System
JSLC	Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions
JTC	Jamaica Theological College

JYFC	Jamaica Youth for Christ
MDAs	Ministries, Agencies and Departments
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MCGES	Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport
MLSS	Ministry of Labour and Social Security
MNS	Ministry of National Security
MOCA	Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency
MOEYI	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MTF	Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework
NATFATIP	National Taskforce Against Trafficking in Persons
NCR	National Children's Registry
NEI	National Education Inspectorate
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPA	National Plan of Action
NPACV	National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children & Violence
NSAP-GBV	National Strategic Plan to Eliminate gender Based Violence in Jamaica
NSWMA	National Solid Waste Management Authority
OAP	Offences Against Persons
OAS	Organization of American States
OCA	Office of the Children's Advocate
OCR	Office of the Children's Registry
ODPEM	Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PALS	Peace and Love in Society
PATH	Programme of Advancement through Health and Education
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica
PLHIV	Persons Living With HIV
PMI	Peace Management Initiative
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
RBM	Results Based Management
SDC	Social Development Commission
STATIN	Statistical Institute of Jamaica
TWGs	Technical Working Groups
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UWI	University of the West Indies
VPA	Violence Prevention Alliance
VSD	Victim Support Division

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction and Background

An alarming number of Jamaica's children find themselves in various situations of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. While data still remain inadequate, there are enough studies and reports from government agencies, civil society and international development partners to indicate that the number of children in need of special protection has grown over the last few years.

In 2016, data from the police revealed that 8% of the victims of selected major crimes were children and approximately 60% of these young victims were girls.[1]

Preliminary figures for 2015 from the Office of the Children's Registry (OCR) show an overall increase of 19% over 2014 in all forms of reported child abuse. In 2015, the highest number of reports received by the OCR was for children being neglected followed by reports of children in need of care and protection. Reports of sexual abuse and of children exhibiting behavioural problems also featured prominently. Reports of sexual abuse saw a 12% increase in 2015 compared to 2014. This was followed by reports of emotional abuse and child labour at 8% and 17% change respectively. There was a 12% increase in the reports on physical abuse. While numbers were relatively small, suspected cases of human trafficking did see a 60% increase in 2015, moving from 66 reports to 88 reports.

While these figures may reflect only the tip of the iceberg the issue of children and violence is an urgent and pressing problem that needs to be addressed in a multi-sectoral and coordinated way.

By ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), its Optional Protocols and other international human rights instruments, Jamaica committed itself as a nation to translate the principles, provisions and standards into concrete programmes and actions that will make a difference in the lives of our children.

There has been a range of responses at the national level to the problem of children and violence since the ratification of the CRC. Significant strides have been made to improve the policy, legislative, institutional and strategic planning framework affecting children. Various pieces of legislation have been developed and enacted as well as programmes implemented within the public and private sectors. Several institutional mechanisms are also in place to complement the policies, laws and programmes that are being implemented to combat the challenge of children and violence. Partnerships between and among government agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector and the international development community are a central feature of this landscape, featuring the implementation of several projects and programmes that directly support child centred policies and laws.

Revision of the National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV)

In light of persistent, new and emerging issues and challenges in the child protection and human rights spheres locally and internationally, the draft NPACV had to be revised. In addition, Vision 2030 Jamaica

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[1] Planning Institute of Jamaica, *Economic and Social Survey Jamaica* (Kingston, Jamaica: 2016)

– National Development Plan was approved by Cabinet in 2009 as the main long term strategy to make Jamaica *"the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business"*. This long-term plan, along with its companion Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework and relevant sector plans, emphasises the care and protection of children as an important element for the achievement of the vision. The emphasis has enabled the Government and other stakeholders to re-assess its priorities with respect to children and violence and has forged strong commitment for the implementation of strategic programmes and plans to address the existing and emerging situations. The development was guided by the National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender Based Violence in Jamaica (NSAP-GBV) 2017-2027.

The process of revising the NPACV was highly consultative and participatory. It involved the input of a wide range of stakeholders and partners including government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), civil society organizations, and international development organizations.

Special consultation sessions were held with media and communication specialists within MDAs to assist in the development of the public education strategy.

Four child focus group sessions were held in keeping with the spirit of Jamaica's own commitment to ensure true child participation at the community and national levels.

The National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV)

The NPACV provides a coordinated and structured approach to addressing the key issues and challenges pertaining to children as victims, perpetrators and witnesses of acts of violence and abuse. Utilising a multi-sectoral approach, the NPACV will guide stakeholders in understanding and fulfilling their obligations under Article 19 of the CRC as well as other local and international instruments (SDG 16.2).

The issue of children and violence is multifaceted and complex. Its nature and root causes demand an effective multi-sectoral and holistic response. The NPACV is therefore a responsive sustainable framework to resolve the key issues and challenges within the child protection sector that the participating agencies perceive as demanding urgent solutions requiring their participation.

The NPACV, as a multi-sectoral framework, will provide stakeholders with a common understanding of: the main issues and challenges relating to children and violence; the proposed responses to these problems; the processes of coordination; the level of collaboration that is required between and among partners; and how to maximize the use of limited resources. This approach includes effective partnerships, consultations and coordination with all stakeholders in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Plan of Action. Stakeholders are expected to provide input into strategic dialogue, priority setting, implementation, and results tracking.

NPACV is a living document which will be reviewed as and when necessary to address emerging issues.
The goal of the NPACV is to create and maintain a protective environment supportive of, and responsive to, the issues of children and violence. The main objectives are to decrease the exposure of children to violence and to reduce the impact of violence on children through an integrated approach to prevention, control, monitoring and intervention so that children may preserve their rights and grow to be productive citizens of Jamaica.

The NPACV recognizes the need to adopt an approach to child protection that considers a range of systemic factors stressing prevention alongside response and intervention. Strategies focus on building a "protective environment" for children, as well as creating the responsive networks between pertinent agencies and information systems that will support this protective environment.

The NPACV is underpinned by a holistic rights-based approach at both the national and local level. The purpose of this approach is to achieve the implementation of well integrated systems which focus on children's rights, participation, prevention and protection at all levels.

There are five (5) expected results to be achieved from the implementation of NPACV 2018-2023. These are:

Outcome 1 – Strengthened policy, legal and regulatory framework to ensure the protection of children from all forms of violence and exploitation.

Outcome 2– improved quality of and access to, services for children affected by violence.

Outcome 3 – Strengthened family and community capacities to address issues related to children and violence.

Outcome 4 – Enhanced public education, sensitisation and training in violence prevention, the care of child victims of violence, and children's rights.

Outcome 5 – Establishment of an integrated framework for the effective coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV.

The main targets that are aligned to the five (5) outcomes are:

- Review/revision of specified laws, policies and plans within the stipulated timeframe.
- By 2023, increase by at least 20% the number of children accessing quality service (by type).
- By 2023, reduce by 15% the number of reported cases of violence against children in targeted communities.
- By 2023, 30% of the total adult population will be able to name three rights that children are entitled to and three corresponding violence prevention strategies.
- By 2023, 50% of child population will be able to name three rights and three corresponding responsibilities to prevent violence.
- Multi-sector coordination mechanism established and operational island-wide by 2019 to ensure timely and effective implementation of the NPACV.
- Increase by at least 5% per annum the budget allocated to the area of children and violence.

By 2023, increase by 30% the awareness in the adult population of the link between corporal punishment and trauma as well as alternatives to violent discipline.

The main indicators to measure progress are:

- Number of laws, policies, national plans of action and protocols developed or revised in line with the CRC to protect children from violence.
- Case worker to children in care ratio
- Number of substantiated cases of violence against children during a 12-month period per 100,000 children.
- Percentage of child victims referred to recovery, reintegration, or psychological support services during a 12-month period.
- Percentage of child victims who used recovery, reintegration, or psychological support services during a 12-month period.
- Percentage of clients (children and caregivers) reporting satisfaction with the quality of child protection services.

❏ Number of reported cases of violence against children.

❏ Percentage of children who can name three rights and three corresponding responsibilities to prevent violence.

❏ Multi-sector coordination mechanism established and operational.

❏ Percentage of national budget allocated for the protection of children against violence.

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

The NPACV will be implemented by the relevant ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) of Government as well as civil bodies including NGOs, FBOs, CBOs, the private sector and International Development Partners (IDP).

While the implementation of the NPACV will be done by identified stakeholders that are engaged in the child protection system within the context of their respective programmes, the ministry with responsibility for children, that is, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, has ultimate responsibility for multi-sector coordination for the implementation of the Plan. The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Children and Violence (IMCCV) will be the main coordinating mechanism for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Plan of Action.

To ensure accountability and resourcing for the NPACV in the public sector, the Ministry responsible for children (Ministry of Education, Youth and Information) will collaborate with relevant entities in aligning their policies, programmes, and interventions (in their ministries and agencies' corporate/strategic plans) with the outcomes, strategies and actions of the NPACV. Every effort will be made to engage NGOs, local and international development partners, in providing technical and funding support for programmes and initiatives not now funded by the GOJ. Where necessary, memoranda of cooperation/understanding will be established to ensure that specific elements of the Plan of Action are implemented.

The Ministry of Finance and Public Service also has an important role to play in approving the budget for the implementation of activities and for timely resource allocation for the achievement of the goal, objective and outcomes of the NPACV.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The NPACV will be regularly monitored at the national and sectoral levels to assess progress towards the goal and key targets by IMCCV Technical Working Groups. A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system, utilising JAMSTATS, is being developed to collect and analyse disaggregated data on children affected by violence or at risk, based on age, gender, socio-economic grouping, and special needs and circumstances.

An important component of an M&E system is the institutional framework to guide the various processes and activities to be undertaken. In keeping with the guiding principle of broad-based participation, the proposed institutional arrangements are based on a partnership model of committees and working groups. The institutional framework for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV includes the following main elements:

❏ Parliament

❏ Cabinet

❏ Ministry with Responsibility for Children

❏ Inter-Ministerial Committee on Children and Violence (IMCCV)

- ❐ IMCCV Technical Working Groups
- ❐ Legal and Policy TWG
- ❐ Child Protection Services, Family and Community TWG
- ❐ Communications TWG
- ❐ Data, Research and Analysis TWG
- ❐ Technical Secretariat

NPACV Indicators

A total of 100 indicators have been proposed for monitoring the NPACV implementation over the period. The indicators were selected from both international and local sources and are based on their relevance to the NPACV Goal, Objective and Outcomes.

The NPACV results framework, comprising a mix of new and existing indicators, provides the basis for monitoring and evaluation activities. The results framework consists of programme strategies and actions, performance indicators, timelines and responsibility centres (denoted as lead or supporting agencies), risks and assumptions linked to the respective NPACV outcome. Where there are gaps in the data, it is expected that the Data, Research and Analysis Technical Working Group will work with stakeholders to resolve these in a timely manner. The coordinating mechanism and partners will review these indicators on an annual basis as part of the Annual Review process and will update the matrices as needed.

Outputs of the NPACV Monitoring and Evaluation System

The main outputs of the NPACV M&E system are:

- ❐ NPACV Annual Progress Report
- ❐ Strategic Policy Brief (to Cabinet and Parliament)
- ❐ Report Card on Children and Violence
- ❐ National Forum on Children and Violence
- ❐ Reports and Studies.

Financing the NPACV

An estimated J$125.5 billion (average J$25 billion per annum)[2] is required for the achievement of NPACV over 2018-2023. Of this amount, an estimated 81% represents existing resources to be tapped from relevant MDAs while an estimated 19 per cent of additional resources must be sourced to support the effective implementation of the NPACV.

It is expected that the NPACV will be funded principally through the existing budgets of the MDAs under the directive of the Ministry of Finance and Public Service. Mobilization of internal and external resources by participating agencies and other partners is crucial to the implementation of core components of the NPACV.

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[2] It is likely that this figure will be adjusted when all the direct costs have been determined and particularly given the need for improved and new services and infrastructure within the child protection sector.

"*As a pathfinder country, Jamaica is committed to providing comprehensive, coordinated and multi-sectoral services for preventing and responding to violence. We are prepared to strengthen legislation to protect children from all forms of violence and exploitation by bringing all sectors together in a movement to end violence and provide children with a meaningful role at the heart of that movement. Through this partnership, we are making use of a key opportunity to take the lead in making a difference and we owe it to our beloved children to do so.*"

The Most Hon. Andrew Holness, ON, MP
Prime Minister

1. INTRODUCTION

The 2016 Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Jamaica in the high human development category − positioning the country at 94 out of 188 countries and territories with a HDI of 0.73, a 12.1% increase over the past 25 years.[3] The country has also succeeded in rising the overall standard of living as measured by other key social indicators, and is committed to working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Despite this ranking, Jamaica faces a number of challenges including a high public debt which severely limits the country's ability to increase real spending in the social sectors. In addition, there is the high crime rate, which features children and youth as victims and perpetrators of crime. Jamaica's population at the end of 2016 was approximately 2.7 million with those under 18 years of age constituting approximately 27% or 748,000; with 199,250 (26%) of this under 18 population living below the poverty line.[4,5] To address this issue, 26% of children or 210,000 were beneficiaries of the PATH benefits.[6]

1.1 Background

By ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), its Optional Protocols and other international human rights instruments, Jamaica commits itself as a nation to translate the principles, provisions and standards into concrete programmes and actions that will make a difference in the lives of our children.

In December 2002, the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) convened a roundtable discussion on children and violence. This was in response to the increasing incidence of violence affecting children, and the recognition that interventions were disjointed and failing to meet the needs of children in a holistic and comprehensive manner. Also mindful of its commitments to the global agenda, the discussion was convened to facilitate the sharing of information on what key agencies had been doing with regards to children and violence; identify strategies to promote an integrated and co-ordinated approach to dealing with the problem; and to agree on a way forward in developing an effective multi-sector response to children and violence. This process was facilitated by UNICEF/OAS, and the active development partners in the child rights agenda.

The round table identified the need for a working group that would operate in an integrated and co-ordinated fashion. As such, the Inter-sectoral Working Group on Children and Violence (ISWG on Children and Violence) was established in 2003.

A significant output of the ISWG on Children and Violence was the Draft National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) for the period 2006-2010, which was finalized in 2007 pending an approval by the relevant authorities. The NPACV was revised again for the 2010-2015 period. The draft documents began the process of outlining a range of strategies and programmes over the 5-year period to be implemented by key stakeholders in the child protection system. The NPACV signalled the commitment of the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) and key stakeholders to create and maintain a protective environment for Jamaica's children who are victims of violence and abuse as well as to fulfil obligations

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[3] UNDP Human Development Reports, "Human Development Index (HDI) – 2016 Rankings" Available from: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2016_human_development_report.pdf (January 11, 2017)
[4] Statistical Institute of Jamaica, *Population Statistics*, accessed January 8th, 2018. http://statinja.gov.jm/Demo_SocialStats/PopulationStats.aspx
[5] PIOJ. March 5, 2015
[6] Economic and Social Survey, Planning institute of Jamaica (2016)

under key international instruments to which the country is signatory. The two previous drafts of the plan were never submitted to Cabinet for final approval. In 2017, the process of updating the NPACV began again, leading to the creation of NPACV for the 2018-2023 periods.

The current revision outlines a 5-year strategy period for key stakeholders in the child protection field.

1.2 Rationale for Revision of NPACV

In light of persistent, new and emerging issues and challenges in the child protection and human rights spheres locally and internationally, the draft NPACV had to be revised. In addition, Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan was approved by Cabinet in 2009 as the main long-term strategy to make Jamaica *"the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business"*. The long-term plan, along with the companion Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework and relevant sector plans, emphasises the care and protection of children as an important element for the achievement of the Vision. The emphasis has enabled the Government and other stakeholders to re-assess priorities with respect to children and violence and has forged strong commitment for the implementation of strategic programmes and plans to address the existing and emerging situations.

Vision 2030, the Medium-term Socio-Economic Policy Framework and sector policies are strongly aligned with the seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 16.2 is of particular importance to this Plan as it aims to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children. In addition to the Nation's commitment to the SDGs, Jamaica was also designated as a 'Pathfinder Country' in 2016 by the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. This appointment commits Jamaica to three to five years of accelerated action on the international End Violence goal of ending violence against children.

1.3 Process of Revising the NPACV

The process of revising the National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence was highly consultative and participatory. It involved the input of a wide range of stakeholders and partners including government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), civil society organizations, and international development organizations. Participants were mainly persons involved in activities that relate to children and their welfare both at the levels of policy and programme; and children themselves. Already highly sensitised to the issues of children and violence, these participants brought significant levels of knowledge and expertise to the consultations.

The NPACV has been in the planning stages since 2002 when the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) convened a round table discussion on children and violence. From this, an Inter-sectoral Working Group on Children and Violence (ISWG on Children and Violence) was established in 2003 leading to the Draft National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) for the period 2006-2010.

The NPACV 2006-2010 was thereafter revised and updated to produce a second draft of the plan for the period 2010-2015. Consultations for the second draft began with a 2-day workshop in October 2010. Three (3) working groups (Legal and Policy, Family and Community Strengthening, and Services) were formed to begin the process of reviewing and revising the existing strategies of the previous NPACV. Additional focus group and working group sessions involving over 65 persons were conducted between November 2010 and January 2011. The process involved the comprehensive review of strategies; activities and indicators ensuring appropriate linkages with Vision 2030 Jamaica − National Development Plan as well as other national and international plans and instruments; a determination of an implementation schedule and the formulation of an estimated budget to carry out the agreed programme of work.

Four child focus group sessions were held in keeping with the spirit of Jamaica's own commitment to ensure true child participation at the community and national levels. These sessions involved 47 children from the parishes of Trelawny and Clarendon selected by the Child Development Agency in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (now Ministry of Education, Youth and Information). This selection was to ensure that the views of rural children, as well as urban were incorporated.

Stakeholder consultations for the third and current version of the NPACV (2018-2023) began with a workshop held by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (MOEYI) and the then Child Development Agency (CDA) now the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA) in July 2017 following the meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Children and Violence. This process has been facilitated by the designation of Jamaica as Pathfinder Country. The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Children and Violence (IMCCV) assumes the overall coordination of the implementation of the Plan of Action. Over 100 representatives from various ministries, departments and agencies of government, civil society, private sector, hospitals and community-based organizations attended the stakeholder consultation workshop. The workshop was held to strengthen the plan of action and put practical and meaningful measures in place to prevent, and respond to, the issue of violence against children.

Following the workshop, a Technical Working Group (TWG) was formed with representatives from CPFSA, MOEYI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, PIOJ, Jamaica Constabulary Force, UNICEF, Broadcasting Commission, Caribbean Child Development Centre, UWI, Women's Centre of Jamaica and other NGOs to further advice on the NPACV.A public relations and communications sub-committee has been formed from this TWG to decide on common messaging to inform a public education campaign.

The CPFSA convened a four-day series of Pre-Summit Regional Consultations as a lead up to the National Children's Summit held on 23 August 2017. A total of 218 children, inclusive of the Children's Advisory Panel (CAP) members, participated in the pre-summit sessions held across four regions between 13 July and 15 August. All the sessions were facilitated by members of the CAP in each of the regions who were integral in getting the dialogue going with other children on issues which were affecting them. At the opening of each of the sessions, representatives of the CDA and the CAP commenced by shaping the dialogue on the importance of children in state care knowing their rights and actively participating in sharing their opinions and recommendations during the Consultations. This was in the effort to inform an Issues Paper which was finalized to form the Children's Declaration Paper that was presented at the Summit and sent to the Minister with responsibility for children in the MOEYI.

The participants' recommendations, criticisms and points of concern were all captured within the major headings of state care; family; transition from state care; crime and violence and security; government and security; education; age of consent; and social responsibility.

The input from stakeholders was incorporated into an information gathering template which was then re-circulated to all members of the respective working groups for review and validation of their input and to provide feedback.

1.4   Structure of the Document

The National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence comprises seven sections/parts arranged as follows:

Section 1 provides a brief overview of Jamaica, justification for the revision of the NPACV and the methodology for its preparation.

Section 2 describes the current state of our nation's children, the factors predisposing them to become victims or perpetrators of violence and the priority issues that need to be addressed in order to improve their wellbeing.

Section 3 provides an overview of the national response to the problem of children and violence by looking at the legislative, policy, institutional, and programming contexts; and highlighting the involvement and work of civil society and international development partners (IDPs) in protecting and upholding the rights of children.

Section 4 outlines the NPACV highlighting its goals, objective and outcomes, along with the strategic areas of focus to be undertaken over the period.

Section 5 provides the framework for coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV.

Section 6 provides the framework for resource mobilization for successful achievement of outcomes.

Section 7 provides the estimated budgetary requirement for implementing the NPACV over the period and proposes strategies for mobilisation of resources.

2. The Situation of Children and Violence in Jamaica

An alarming number of Jamaica's children find themselves in various situations of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. While data is inadequate, there are enough studies and reports from government agencies, civil society and international development partners to indicate that the number of children in need of special protection has grown over the last few years.

In 2016, data from the police revealed that 8% of the victims of selected major crimes were children and approximately 60% of these young victims were girls.[7]

Preliminary figures for 2015 from the Office of the Children's Registry (OCR) show an overall increase of 19% over 2014 in all forms of reported child abuse. In 2015, the highest number of reports received by the OCR were for children being neglected followed by reports of children in need of care and protection. Reports of sexual abuse and those exhibiting behavioural problems also featured prominently. Reports of sexual abuse saw a 12% increase in 2015 compared to 2014. This was followed by reports of emotional abuse and child labour at 8% and 17% change respectively. There was a 12% increase in the reports on physical abuse. While numbers were relatively small, human trafficking did see a 60% increase in 2015 from 66 reports to 88 reports.

The CDA was recently merged with the OCR, now the National Children's Registry (NCR), to form the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA). A comparison of the reports made to CDA in 2015 versus the reports investigated reveals that the total number of cases processed was significantly below the number received.[8]

Table 1: Reported Cases of Child Abuse received by the OCR by Type, 2014 and 2015			
Type of Abuse	Number of Reports 2014	Number of Reports 2015	% change over 2015
Physical abuse	3,214	3,639	+13
Sexual abuse	3,403	3,806	+12
Emotional abuse	1,833	1,972	+8
Neglect	5,818	7,163	+23
Trafficking	55	88	+60
Child labour	430	505	+17
In need of care and protection	3,803	5,653	+49
Exhibiting behavioural problems	4,807	4,903	+2
Total	23,363	27,729	+19

Source: Office of the Children's Registry

Notes: (I) A feature of many of the reports received by the OCR is the occurrence of two or more forms of abuse against children. Thus, figures shown above reflect the incidence of each category listed and do not add to the total number of reports received by the Registry. (II) In 2015, there was a regional Break the Silence Campaign on exposing abuse against children and so the inflation in numbers represent increased reporting rather than increased incidence.

Table 2: CDA Intake Services Reports Received and Processed by Incident Types, For 2015/2016 Financial Year			
Intake Incident Classification	2015/16 Financial Year		
	Male	Female	Total
Sexual Abuse	26	321	347
Physical Abuse	161	186	347
Behavioural Problems	901	930	1,831
Abandonment	8	19	27
Other*	903	1,040	1,943
Total	1,999	2,496	4,495

Source: Child Development Agency

*The "other" category includes all incidents which do not fall into any of the categories as defined on the Intake Instrument. These comprise cases of neglect, requests for financial assistance or support for accessing other social services, etc.

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[7] Planning Institute of Jamaica, *Economic and Social Survey Jamaica.* Kingston, Jamaica: PIOJ, 2016.

[8] Though the time periods where reports where received or processed by the CDA (Financial Year 2015/2016) and the OCR (2015) respectively are not identical, they can be compared to represent the approximate number of cases processed or reported within one year.

Children have a right to respect for their human dignity, physical safety and to equal protection under the law. At the macro level, the rights of children are often abused either wilfully or through ignorance of such rights. Additionally, legislative and regulatory mechanisms are not always enforced. It is important, however, that the state takes "all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation". The dimension of exposure to violence requires particular attention based on the Jamaican context of high crime rates with murders at 49 per 100,000[9] in 2016.

The environment in which some of our children are raised can strongly influence the likelihood of their exposure to, or perpetration of, violence. The breakdown and instability of family structure and the lack of transmission of wholesome values have contributed to behavioural problems that are manifested in our society, ranging from delinquency to hard-core crimes. These represent the extent to which some young children are both involved in, and affected by, crime and violence.

VOICE OF THE CHILDREN

"One day two men kicked down my door and forced themselves on top of me and my friend in the house. My father walked into the house and the two men ran away. He told the police but the police never came."

Sex with a person under 18 and rape continue to be great cause for concern given that there is no sense of any steady decline in the incidence (see Figure 1). According to the Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse (CISOCA), there seems to be an increasing trend in older men targeting even primary-age children as sexual partners.

The Jamaica Injury Surveillance System (JISS) shows that over the 2014 to 2017 period, 20% of all child visits to public hospital were due to sexual assault. Females are over-represented as victims of sexual assaults as 40% of all female child visits were because of a sexual assault. For the majority of the sexual abuse cases reported, the perpetrator was known by the victim (a relative, friend, acquaintance or intimate partner) while the minority of cases were perpetrated by a stranger. Sexual assault was seen to occur disproportionately at home.[12]

The data illustrates the need for protection to go beyond public spaces and into the homes. Sexual abuse by caregivers in children's home is also an issue of concern in Jamaica.

2.1 Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

Cases of sexual abuse reported to the OCR for 2015 were 3,806, a 13% increase over 2014. In 2016, police statistics indicated that of the total number of girls under 18 years of age who were victims of crime, almost two-thirds or 62% were victims of rape.[10] Over the last 10 years, crimes of sex with a person under 18 and rape have been very prevalent among girls 14 years and younger.[11]

Figure 1: Reports of Child Rape and Sex with persons under 18 years

Source: National Children's Registry

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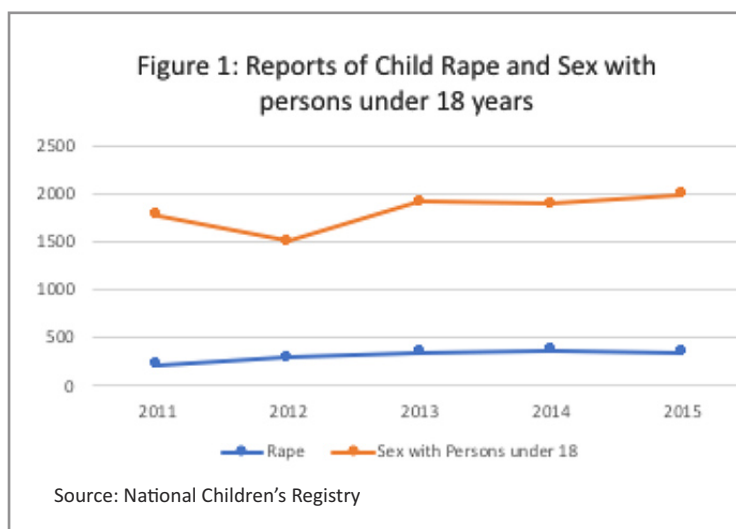
[9] JCF Statistics 2016

[10] Planning Institute of Jamaica, Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan (2009)

[11] JCF Statistic, 2011-2015

[12] Ministry of Health, Jamaica Injury Surveillance System, Violence Related Injuries data, 2014-2017

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), as well as the other human and children rights conventions prohibit the infringement on the rights of children with sexual abuses. This is further addressed by Vision 2030 Jamaica, the Child Care and Protection Act (2004), Child Pornography Prevention Act (2009), Sexual Offences Act (2009), and Cyber Crimes Act (2010), Disability Act (2014) and Children Custody and Guardianship Act (2017). Jamaica also ratified the Optional Protocol on Child Prostitution, Sale of Children and Child Pornography in July 2011. An important milestone was the establishment of a Sex Offender Registry which came into effect in July, 2011.

These issues affecting children are managed by The Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse (CISOCA), the Bureau of Women's Affairs, the Women's Centre Foundation of Jamaica and Child Guidance Clinics are important government institutions addressing the issues of sexual abuse and providing care and support to victims. There are NGOs, such as Hear the Children's Cry, that provide services for women and children affected by sexual abuse. The YMCA mostly caters to street children who are at great risk for sexual exploitation.

Priority Issues

Children working on the streets are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. "Street boys" described how their colleagues were picked up, used and then 'discarded' when a client was tired of them.

Children exposed to sexual exploitation are often treated as adults. The majority in this group includes girls, but also boys, primarily in homosexual relationships. As with adult sex workers, some operated from established brothels, while others operated from bars, massage parlours or *"Go Go"* (exotic dancing) clubs. On a more informal basis, children hung out on streets or in locations that attract large crowds such as food courts, fast food restaurants, cruise ship ports and beaches. These locations served as points to solicit and pick up clients.

The psychological effects of child sexual abuse can include depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and propensity to further victimisation in adulthood and physical injury to the child among other problems. Sexual abuse by a family member is a form of incest and can result in more serious and long-term psychological trauma especially in the case of parental incest. Moreover, boys who are sexually abused do not get the help they should.

The physical effects of child sexual abuse can lead to unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS as well as other reproductive issues. The effects of child sexual abuse also feed into the social issues of poverty, particularly within female-headed households, low educational achievement and lack of employment opportunities.

Attention should be paid to the Child Care and Protection Act, 2004; Child Pornography Prevention Act, 2009; Sexual Offences Act, 2009; and Cyber Crimes Act, 2011 to ensure that there are stringent penalties for the breaches of Acts protecting children. It should be noted, for example, that the the Ministry of National Security (MNS) does not have the full cadre of human resources and sufficient capacity to track, report and prosecute cyber-crimes in general and as it relates to children in particular.

2.2 Physical Violence

Table 3: Total Number of Reports of Physical Abuse Received by the OCR by Gender, 2010–2015						
Gender	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Male	738	832	1,094	1,379	1,526	1,684
Female	823	930	1,238	1,493	1,635	1,915
Unknown	81	21	10	39	53	40
Total	1,592	1,783	2,342	2,912	3,214	3,639

Physical violence reports increased in 2015 compared to 2014 by 13%. In Jamaica, physical punishment at home and at school is not uncommon. Corporal punishment remains the preferred method of "punishing" children and is used at various levels of society. Corporal punishment is still lawful in schools with the exception of government-run children homes

and in basic schools. While the Child Care and Protection Act (2004) forbids the use of corporal punishment in the government-run children homes and in early childhood institutions, the Education Regulations of 1980 allows its use in schools by the principal's designee.

The government has stated its intention to abolish corporal punishment in schools and has informed public schools not to use it.[13] It appears that no Bill which would prohibit corporal punishment in schools has yet been tabled in Parliament. In October 2016, the Government reported to the Human Rights Committee that the Safe Schools Policy was under review and that one of the recommendations examined was the "removal" of corporal punishment from all public schools. The Prime Minister, The Most Honourable Andrew Holness, declared during his presentation of the Budget in March 2017 that a Bill to amend the Education Act and explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in schools would be prepared. This would have to be supported by effective sensitisation, training, capacity-building and monitoring at all levels of the education system.[14]

In Jamaica, the use of verbal aggression and physical violence towards children as part of discipline is relatively commonplace. Findings by studies on poly-victimization in Jamaica reveal that more than 80% of children experience verbal aggression while more than 90% experience some form of minor violence. Even more alarming are findings that nearly 85% experience some form of major violence. The exposure to violence also continues in school with 50% experiencing verbal aggression and 75% experiencing some form of major violence. The 2011 UNICEF *Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)* reflected that children from rural communities and children from poorer households are the most likely to be subjected to violent discipline.[15] Younger children are more likely to be subjected to minor physical punishment while older children experience more psychological punishment.

JAMAICAN DISCIPLINE

In homes:
- Verbal aggression (insulting/swearing, refusing to talk, stomping out of room and smashing objects)   : 82.3% of children
- Physical violence
  - Minor violence (throwing an object at a child or pushing, grabbing or slapping them)   : 87.4% of children
  - Major violence (kicking, biting, throwing objects at children, beating with an object and threatening with or actually using a gun or a knife) : 84.8%.

In schools:
- Verbal aggression: 49.5% of children
- Physical violence
  - Minor violence: 74.0% of children
  - Major violence: 75.4% of children

Samms-Vaughan (2016) - The impact of polyvictimisation on children in LMICs: the case of Jamaica. October 7, 2016

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[13] Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment, *Corporal punishment of children in Jamaica (*London, UK: Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment, 2018)

[14] Maureen Samms-Vaughan & Michael Lambert, "The impact of polyvictimisation on children in LMICs: the case of Jamaica," *Psychology, Health & Medicine*, 22: no. 67-80, doi: 10.1080/13548506.2016.1274411.

[15] United Nation Children's Fund. *2011 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey*. Kingston, Jamaica

Violence-related injuries data collected at public hospitals in Jamaica offers a profile of the physical violence experienced by children. For the 2014 to 2017 period, the Jamaica Injury Surveillance System (JISS) data revealed the following:

There were over 6,000 cases of violence-related injuries against Jamaican children that were seen at hospital during this 3-year period.

Jamaican children were victims of a number of physically violent injuries: blunt injuries (22% of all violence-related injuries), push/ shove (25%), stabbing (25%), sexual assault (20%) and gunshot wounds (4%).

This data was collected for injuries occurring in a number of locations, one of which was school. The education system has had its fair share of physical violence and aggression. According to the National Education Strategic Plan:

"The school is a microcosm of the society, and the high level of anti-social and violent behaviour evident in the society is proving to be a challenge to the management of schools, which have been experiencing increasingly frequent incidents of gang violence and other negative behaviours. Schools are not adequately prepared for such incidents."

Table 5: School Violence-Related Injuries by Gender, 2013 to 2016

Gender	2013	2014	2015	2016
Male	299	258	232	214
Female	161	143	118	105
Total	**460**	**401**	**350**	**319**

Source: JIS data, Ministry of Health, 2013-2016

As indicated in Table 5, in schools the majority of violence-related injuries brought to hospitals were due to a fight or argument. The number of violence-related injuries which occurred at school in 2016 has decreased by 31% since 2013. In addition, findings from a 2017 Global School Based Survey of 1,667 secondary school students in Jamaica revealed that 39.3% have been seriously injured one or more times during the past 12 months (not necessarily at school).

Priority Issues

The evidence suggests that these harsh physical punishments can arise from several factors including:

1. Strong belief that corporal punishment is an effective method of discipline.
2. Lack of knowledge about alternative, positive ways to discipline children.
3. Lack of awareness of stages of chid development and age appropriate behaviour.
4. Parental stress, particularly for poor women, many of whom are either single mothers or get little economic or domestic help from their partners.

2.3   Neglect

In 2015 the OCR received reports totalling 7,163 cases (3,256 males, 3,736 females and 171 unknown) of neglect.[16] Of all the types of child abuse, reports of neglect continue to dominate. This reflects a growing trend. Cases of neglect grew by 23% from 2014 to 2015. Issues of shifting families, family size, unemployment, poverty have been identified as reasons of neglect.

2.4   Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse increased in 2015 compared to 2014 by 8%. In 2015, 1,972 cases (58.7% females and 41.3% males) of emotional abuse were received. The effects of emotional abuse are reflected in children exhibiting behavioural problems and, in some instances, attempted suicides. Children and adolescents (0-19 years) accounted for 42% of persons treated for attempted suicide at public hospitals in 2016.[17] The 2017 *Global School Health Survey* reported that 21.1% of females and 14.8% of males aged 13-17 years admitted to attempting suicide.

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[16] Neglect is any serious disregard for a child's supervision, care, or discipline. It includes the failure of a caregiver to provide for a child's basic needs, abandonment and exposing a child to danger

[17] National Council on Drug Abuse, *National Secondary School Survey (*Kingston, Jamaica: NCDA, 2013)

Access to mental health services is limited, and vulnerable adolescents are particularly challenged in accessing proper diagnosis, medication or any support services.

There is also unavailability of treatment facilities and specialists to assist in the delivery of evaluation, intervention and psychosocial treatment of children, including:

- Specialized evaluations

- Acute trauma treatment

- Individual therapy

- Cognitive and behavioural modification

- Psycho-therapy

- Counselling/Referral

- Physical therapy.

2.5 Behavioural Problems and Children in Need of Care and Protection

Children exhibiting behavioural problems and those in need of care and protection totalled 4,903 and 5,653 respectively, bringing reported cases to OCR in 2015. Of the total number of reports received by the OCR in 2015 relating to children with behavioural problems, females accounted for 50.9% and males for 49.1%. With respect to reports received for children in need of care and protection, 52.4% of the reports were for females and 47.6% of the reports were for males. This data is also supported by the findings in our National School Surveys.

Findings from the 2013 National Secondary School Survey revealed that some behavioural and disciplinary problems in school over the past year were related to drug use. Behavioural and disciplinary problems were associated with:

- Lifetime, one year and one-month alcohol, cigarette and marijuana use

- High risk of marijuana misuse

- Poor school performance was associated with:

  – Lifetime prevalence of cigarette, alcohol and marijuana

  – One-year prevalence of alcohol and marijuana

  – One-month prevalence of alcohol use.

It is of note that while there is an association between drug use and behavioural problems, the relationship is not necessarily causal. Other factors can play a role. Findings show that students who reported that their parents knew their whereabouts after school and on weekends, ate meals together and knew their close friends well – which signifies a closer relationship – reported significantly lower frequencies of alcohol, cigarette and marijuana use and lower risk of alcohol and marijuana misuse.[18]

The prevalence and nature of drug use among student has been captured by nationally representative surveys. The Global School-based Student Health Survey 2017 and National Secondary School Survey 2013 highlighted the following regarding drug use:

Tobacco

- There is a 28% lifetime use of cigarettes among secondary school students. This is a 3% increase from 2006. There is a 10% prevalence of past month use and 4% of past year use.

- 19% of students aged 13 to 17 years used some form of tobacco product on at least 1 day in the last 30 days. This increased to 25.5% for boys.

- 20.8% of students reported that their father/guardian smoked regularly; 3.5% said the same for mothers/guardian; and 2.5% for both parents.

- Government has made significant strides in responding to the growing use of tobacco products by children. For example, the government passed The Public Health (Tobacco Control) Regulations in 2013. The law establishes smoke free places and

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[18] National Council on Drug Abuse, *Global School-based Student Health Survey Jamaica* (Kingston, Jamaica: NCDA, 2017)

Table 6: Key Findings – Global School-based Student Health Survey Jamaica, 2017*

Results for Students Aged 13-17 Years	Total	Boys	Girls
Alcohol Use			
Percentage of students who currently drank alcohol (at least one drink of alcohol on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	48.9 (43.5-54.4)	58.7 (53.7-63.5)	39.9 (33.8-46.4)
Percentage of students who ever drank so much alcohol that they were really drunk one or more times during their life	29.0 (24.5-34.0)	37.0 (31.6-42.8)	21.5 (17.2-26.6)
Percentage of students who drank alcohol before age 14 years for the first time, among students who ever had a drink of alcohol other than a few sips	71.1 (65.6-76.1)	76.1 (71.2-80.4)	65.1 (57.2-72.2)
Drug Use			
Percentage of students who ever used marijuana one or more times during their life	21.5 (16.9-27.0)	28.2 (22.4-34.9)	15.9 (12.0-20.9)
Percentage of students who used drugs before age 14 years for the first time, among students who ever used drugs	69.2 (61.2-76.2)	69.6 (59.1-78.3)	68.6 (60.2-75.8)
Tobacco Use			
Percentage of students who currently used any tobacco products (used any tobacco products on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	19.4 (15.5-24.0)	25.5 (20.5-31.4)	13.7 (10.7-17.4)
Percentage of students who currently smoked cigarettes (smoked cigarettes on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	14.9 (11.3-19.4)	19.1 (14.4-24.9)	11.0 (8.1-14.7)
Percentage of students who reported that people smoked in their presence on one or more days during the 7 days before the survey	67.4 (63.8-70.8)	69.6 (64.0-74.6)	65.6 (61.1-69.8)
Protective Factors			
Percentage of students who reported that their parents or guardians most of the time or always understood their problems and worries during the 30 days before the survey	31.3 (28.4-34.4)	33.3 (29.4-37.5)	29.3 (26.0-32.8)
Percentage of students who reported that their parents or guardians most of the time or always really knew what they were doing with their free time during the 30 days before the survey	39.7 (36.5-42.9)	36.4 (32.4-40.7)	42.4 (38.2-46.7)
Violence and Unintentional Injury			
Percentage of students who were in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months	31.2 (27.1-35.6)	40.0 (35.8-44.2)	22.9 (18.1-28.7)
Percentage of students who were seriously injured one or more times during the past 12 months	39.3 (36.8-42.0)	45.2 (41.9-48.6)	33.3 (29.6-37.3)
Percentage of students who were bullied on one or more days during the past 30 days	23.9 (20.9-27.3)	23.5 (19.8-27.5)	24.5 (20.6-29.0)

Source: NCDA. 2017
National Council on Drug Abuse, Global School-based Student Health Survey Jamaica (Kingston, Jamaica: NCDA, 2017)

large graphic health warnings on tobacco product packaging. Although regulations were amended by the Public Health (Tobacco Control) (Amendment) Regulations, in 2014, these regulations were further amended updated the penalty provisions, called for a reduction of the size of the graphic health warnings, and provided for the non-exhaustive list of places where smoking is prohibited.

Alcohol

- There is 64.1% lifetime prevalence of alcohol use among secondary school students, 44% past month and 34% past year.

- 58.7% male and 39.9 per cent females aged 13-17 years used alcohol in the last 30 days.

- 37% males and 21.5 per cent females aged 13-17 years reported having been drunk one or more times in his/her life.

Marijuana

- There is 21% prevalence of lifetime use, 12% past month and 6% past year.

- 28% of male students aged 13 to 17 years report having ever used marijuana one or more times in their life and 16% of females.

2.6 Child Labour and Street Children

Child Labour

Data from the NCR indicated a total of 1,593 reported cases of child labour between 2010 and 2015 (Table 7). From 2010 to 2015, the number of reports of child labour steeply increased. Of that amount, 926 or 58% were females.

Table 7: Reported Cases of Child Labour by Gender and Year, 2010-2015				
Year	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
2010	21	31	0	52
2011	29	49	0	78
2012	92	114	3	209
2013	116	193	10	319
2014	170	257	3	430
2015	221	282	2	505
Total	649	926	18	1,593

Source: National Children's Registry – Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA)

This data taken from the Jamaica Youth Activity Survey (JYAS) 2016 assessed the range and features of child labour in Jamaica based on the criteria specified in the ILO Conventions and legislation of Jamaica. Child labour is defined as, children between the ages of 5 and 17 who were involved in one or more of the following types of economic activities during a given reference period:

- Hazardous work for all children aged 5-17 years old (any work regarded as likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children).

- Child labour other than hazardous work, composed of:

  - Children aged 5-12 years old performing at least one hour of economic activities during the reference week

  - Children aged 13-14 years old performing between 14-40 hours of economic activities during the reference week

  - Worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work (forced labour, commercial sexual exploitation of children, children in illicit activities, etc.).

In Jamaica, 5.8% or 53,274 of children aged 5 to 17 years were reported to be engaged in child labour activities.[19] Of the children involved in child labour, 69% were reported to be performing hazardous work. Children aged 5-17 years were mostly employed in private households (50.1%), followed by wholesale and retail (20.7%) and agriculture and fishing industries (17.4%).

Unfortunately, the JYAS was unable to capture information about the "worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work" or street children. For this reason, the JYAS 2016 only captured information on hazardous work and child labour other than hazardous work.

In 2016, Jamaica made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labour. During the year, with international donor support, for example, the Government expanded the Programme for Advancement through Health and Education (PATH), which provided assistance to nearly 250,000 children. It also introduced a transportation allowance grant to subsidize school transportation costs for children enrolled in PATH and collaborated with the Jamaica Employers' Federation to host a seminar on responsible business practices to end child labour in supply chains. Also, in August 2016, the Director of the Child Labour Unit in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security made a public declaration urging citizens not to exploit children for child labour, including street work.

However, children still perform dangerous tasks in street work. Children also engage in the worst forms of child labour, including commercial sexual exploitation, forced labour in domestic work and illicit activities such as scamming. Although the Government has laws prohibiting the use of.

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[19] Statistical Institute of Jamaica, *Jamaica Youth Activity Survey 2016 Report,* (Kingston, Jamaica: ILO, 2018)

children in some illicit activities, these laws need to be strengthened. In addition, more programmes are needed to combat child labour.[20]

Table 8: Overview of Children's Work by Sector and Activity	
Sector/Industry	**Activity**
Agriculture	Farming, activities unknown
	Fishing, activities unknown
Industry Services	Construction, activities unknown
	Garbage scavenging, collecting scrap metal
	Working in gardens, shops, and markets
	Domestic work
	Street work, including peddling goods and services, begging and vending
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labours	Commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking
	Forced labour in domestic work
	Use in Illicit activities, including executing financial scams and serving as drug couriers and dealers
Source: Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN)	

Street Children

A street child is described as a child who lives on the streets of a city who is deprived of care and protection from family. Most children on the streets are between the ages of 5-17 years old.

It is difficult to determine and define street children, as they range from children who run away from home to those who live entirely in the streets and never had adult supervision or care. They are mostly involved in some kind of economic activity whether begging, selling or washing car windows, for money. They are highly susceptible to becoming victims and perpetrators of sexual and physical violence as there is no one to notice they are missing seeing they have no home. These children also do not attend school regularly, if at all, and so have no formal education.

Recent data on the number of street children and the dynamic issues they face is limited. In the most

recent findings on street children, it is estimated that some 13.4% of children reported working on the street with proportionately more children aged 10-14 years when compared with those 15-17 years. It is estimated that more than 6,000 children were living and working on the streets of Jamaica in 2009.[21] Street children are sometimes involved in the worst forms of child labour, trafficking and sexual exploitation, including the production of pornographic material and child slavery. Boys outnumber girls and are on average 13 years old.

In addition to the government entities that have responsibility for street children and labour exploitation, the YMCA in particular is involved in providing interventions for child workers and street children.

Priority Issues

Child Labour

Seventeen per cent (17%) of working children stated that if they stopped working it would have economic repercussions either in terms of falling living standards of the household or not being able to attend school. Education, a fundamental human right, is important to child development and economic development. Education enhances lives, ends generational cycles of poverty and disease and provides a foundation for sustainable development. Certainly it is hopeful that increased allies to the PATH programme will aid poor families; however, there is more work to be done in reducing levels of poverty.

In addition, with different definitions for child labour used by the MCGES, the ILO and the Child Care and Protection Act, 2004, there is need for a standard definition to be able to deal with the issues of child labour in a standardised way including data collection for monitoring, evaluation and policy development.

Furthermore, the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Division of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, which is responsible for

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[20] Bureau of International Labor Affairs, *Child Labor and Forced Labor Reports: Jamaica*, (Washington, DC: ILAB, 2016) https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/jamaica#_ENREF_6
[21] Children in Jamaica, twenty years after the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

investigating infringements of the Factories Act, lacks the resources (the number of inspectors required, travelling allowances and vehicles) to investigate allegations of child labour in informal establishments, such as agricultural holdings in mountainous areas. Currently, the OSH does not have adequate numbers of inspectors required to investigate its current workload. According to the ILO's recommendation of one inspector for every 15,000 workers in developing economies, Jamaica should employ about 87 inspectors – the country currently has only 15. Moreover, OSH Inspectors do not have the legal authority to prosecute but must refer breaches to the Police who then, in turn, seek a warrant from a Justice of the Peace (JP). The Occupational Safety and Health Bill, when passed, hopes to address this.

The new OSH Bill vastly increases the number of establishments that require monitoring, as it stipulates that all economic operations should be included. This stipulation adds a further 27,000 establishments but the staff complement has not increased.

Among the challenges that the Child Labour Unit faces is that of persuading government and the public of how child labour affects development. Currently, there are doubts about the extent to which it is seen as a national development issue that needs to be addressed. However, this sensitisation is impossible without resources, even to conduct the research required to understand and respond to the evolving dynamics of child labour in Jamaica.

The OSH Division is also concerned that the legal and policy framework is flawed in some respects. First, although the list of partners to guide the Child Labour Unit was decided since 2004, no memoranda of understanding have been provided. There is also no defined entity with clear responsibility for monitoring and preventing child labour. A number of workshops have been organized with OSH, in which the legislative framework and OSH's role in the process have been discussed in order to increase public knowledge. However, the MOUs have still not been finalized, pending the passing of the Act. The policy and legal gaps on child labour would be addressed by either or both of the proposed changes to the CCPA and the proposed child labour regulations under the OSH Act.

2.7   Bullying

The first ever national study on bullying, commissioned by the Child Development Agency and funded by UNICEF in 2015, found that 60-65% of students have been bullied at some time in their lives.

The study, titled *Investigating the Prevalence and Impact of Peer Abuse (Bullying) on the Development of Jamaica's Children*, was aimed at identifying and assessing the intervening variables that contribute to bullying within the school environment, developing profiles of both the bullies and victims, and using the information garnered to develop an integrated response mechanism to bring awareness to the issue at the national level 65% of children who said they had been bullied in their lifetime, 70% of the 1,867 students surveyed said they were bullied over the course of 2013-2014 school year. Of the number who reported ever being bullied, a total of 66.9% were females and 62.9% were males. Of the number bullied within the referenced school year 71.4% were females and 67.9% were males. Chairperson of the CDA's Children's Advisory Panel, Meca-Gaye Francis welcomed the study, noting "it is a very timely study because bullying is a serious issue affecting the self-esteem and development of our young people and their social relationships".

2.8   Missing Children and Child Trafficking

Missing Children

During 2017, 1,674 children were reported missing, 78% of which were females. The majority of these missing children (88%) were returned, while 12% remained missing. The Ananda Alert system continues to be the main method to recover missing children. On average the number of children that go missing per year are 1,928. Of this 1,686 (87%) of these children are found and 210 remain missing

each year (Table 9). Little is known about this category and remains an area for on-going research.

Table 9: Reported Missing Children Statistics by Sex and Year, 2010-2017					
Year	**Reported Missing**			**Still Missing**	
	Total	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**
2010	1,693	388	1,305	262	72	190
2011	2,126	459	1,667	202	38	164
2012	2,079	431	1,648	152	28	124
2013	2,206	483	1,723	467	98	369
2014	1,984	422	1,562	201	46	155
2015	1,941	408	1,533	194	46	148
2016	1,725	408	1,317	265	62	203
2017	1,674	363	1,311	195	45	150
Total	**15,428**	**3,362**	**12,066**	**1,938**	**435**	**1,503**

Source: Missing Person Monitoring Unit Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF)

Child Trafficking

Trafficking or child selling is the abduction (kidnapping) or recruitment of children for purposes including illegal transfer of children abroad, illegal international adoptions, involvement in drug trafficking and the use of children in the sex trade. The government prohibits all forms of trafficking through its comprehensive Trafficking in Person (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) Act of Jamaica which went into effect in 2007.[22]

Women, girls and increasingly boys from broken homes and inner-city communities controlled by 'dons', are most vulnerable to human trafficking. In most cases they are lured into prostitution in nightclubs, bars, massage parlours and private homes on the false promise of stable employment.

Jamaica is placed at Tier 2 for trafficking in persons prosecution. This means that the Government of Jamaica does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. According to the 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report, Jamaica is a source, transit and destination country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour.

The Trafficking in Persons Report 2017 stated that the government demonstrated increasing efforts compared to the previous reporting period; therefore, Jamaica remained on Tier 2. The government demonstrated increasing efforts by securing two convictions, prosecuting nine trafficking cases against 13 alleged traffickers, and investigating 40 potential new trafficking cases. The government also developed a new victim protection protocol for health, labour, and child welfare officials, identified eight trafficking victims who were provided government shelter and services, and increased awareness-raising efforts. However, the government did not meet the minimum standards in several key areas: the government did not hold complicit officials accountable, publish a standard victim protection protocol, or publish an annual report monitoring its efforts.

Priority Issues

The majority of victims are poor Jamaican girls and increasingly boys, who are trafficked from rural to urban and tourist areas for commercial sexual exploitation. Victims are typically recruited by persons close to them or by newspaper advertisements promoting work as spa attendants, masseuses, or dancers. After being recruited, victims are coerced into prostitution. Some Jamaican girls have also been trafficked to Canada, the USA, the Bahamas and other Caribbean destinations for sexual exploitation. NGOs reported that trafficking offenders often disappeared on bail after being caught and before they could be prosecuted.[23]

Punishments prescribed for trafficking under the 2013 revisions of the Act extend to up to 20 years imprisonment, which are sufficiently stringent, though not commensurate with penalties prescribed for other serious crimes, such as rape. The Child Care and Protection Act (CCPA) Section 10,

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[22] Trafficking in Persons Report. June 2009 U. S Department of State Publication 11407 Office of the Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs and Bureau of Public Affairs

[23] Trafficking in Persons Report 2010. U.S Department of State – Jamaica

however, still has a 10-year penalty for trafficking.

Despite limited resources the government has made significant strides towards protection and in the prevention of trafficking, including the establishment of three government-supported shelters for female trafficking victims, the provision of legal, rehabilitative and psycho-social support services and the training of persons in the Ministry of National Security, the Jamaican Constabulary Force, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in trafficking victim identification.

The Ananda Alert System was set up and made operational arising from initiatives of the Task Force on Child Abuse Prevention. The task force was established as part of the Government of Jamaica's national responses to the issue of missing children. Hear the Children's Cry is also involved in interventions related to missing children.

Some key challenges remain:

- Inadequate training in identification and detection of cases of human trafficking among immigration officials, custom agents and other law enforcement personnel.

- Lack of resources to fund and implement anti-trafficking strategies.

- Under-reporting of cases and when reported cases may take two to three years or more to complete due to various obstacles.

- Lack of efficient border management control in the security of the country for the prevention and detection of cross border crimes which include the ineffective screening of the mixed flow of persons entering and exiting the country. Co-ordination and networking among all stakeholders within the country and at cross border level needs to be strengthened.

- The need for greater scrutiny regarding rules related to the issuance of entertainment visas and work permits, to reduce the risk of trafficking in persons.

- Government must ensure that all children are registered without charge, giving extra attention to not yet registered children and children in marginalized situations.

2.9   Children with Special Needs

Findings from a 2008 study conducted for the Early Childhood Commission by McCaw-Binns and Paul (Department of Community Health and Psychiatry, University of the West Indies) revealed that 37,000 or 4% of Jamaican children live with one or more forms of special needs. They include those affecting sight, hearing and speech, as well as physical, mental and learning special needs.

The OAS Baseline Report 2010[24] indicated that children with special needs (CWSN) comprise 20% of the population of persons with special needs.

Jamaica was the first country to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in March 2007. The UNCRPD is intended as a human rights instrument with an explicit, social development dimension. It adopts a broad categorization of persons with disabilities and reaffirms that all persons with all types of disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It clarifies and qualifies how all categories of rights apply to persons with disabilities and identifies areas where adaptations have to be made for persons with disabilities to effectively exercise their rights. It also specifies areas where their rights have been violated, and where protection of rights must be reinforced. The rights of children with disabilities are articulated under this convention.

The legislation that supports persons with disabilities is the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities (2000). Organisations and providers of services to children with disabilities include the: Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities, Abilities Foundation of Jamaica, Early Stimulation Project, Mustard Seed Community, Mico CARE, John Golding Rehabilitation Centre, and 3-Ds

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[24] Organization of American States (2010). Situation of the Promotion and Protection of Rights of Children and Adolescents in Jamaica

Project. Despite funding constraints they continue to play their roles in the promotion, protection and advocating for the prevention of violence against children with disabilities.

The Early Stimulation Programme (ESP) is managed by MLSS and seeks to provide services for young children with developmental disabilities and their families. The ESP continued to provide professional identification and assessment of clients; the development of individualized programmes' the provision of physiotherapy and other therapeutic interventions; special education; and counselling.

The Disabilities Act, passed in October 2014, aims to make provisions to safeguard and enhance the welfare of persons with disabilities across Jamaica. Once fully implemented, the Act aims to: reinforce and promote acceptance that a person with special needs has the same fundamental rights as any other person; ensure full and effective participation and inclusion of people with disabilities in society; prevent or prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities and promote individual dignity and autonomy, including the freedom of choice and independence of a person with a disability.

In 2017, Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid, stated that a Special Education Policy which seeks to fulfil the academic requirements of students with special needs is to be rolled out. The policy will seek to create a framework to track more closely the development of children with special needs from birth. This, he noted, will make it easier to design programmes to help the children transition into the formal education system. The policy which will complement the Disabilities Act, makes provision to safeguard and enhance the welfare of persons with disabilities across Jamaica.

Priority Issues

Lack of equal opportunities early in life can be a challenge to development. In general CWSN receive unsatisfactory, or no service or access to mainstream services, specific support services and social life. Priority should be given to all forms of special needs; however, it is necessary to pay particular attention to children with mental health special needs as they are at greater risk for physical abuse, sexual abuse and overall neglect.

Some of the issues that exist for CWSN are:

- Inaccessible physical environment (buildings, schools, transportation, crosswalks and rest-rooms) and failure to universally plan and accommodate use of their assistive aides such as crutches and wheelchairs. A study conducted by the Centre for Disability Studies at the University of the West Indies, Mona in 2014 in 43 high schools and 41 primary schools found that only 23.8% of schools have ramps to accommodate students with physical special needs. The study also shows that 83.3% of local schools have no modified bathroom facilities to accommodate them, making it even more difficult for these schools to admit students with special needs.[25]

- Limited access to adaptive communication tools which impede children from attending church, mainstream schools, workplaces and recreation sites.

- Non-adapted or non-inclusive educational curricula and methodologies as well as untrained service providers that limit accessibility.

- The lack of specialist staff such as speech and rehabilitation specialists in the area of special education and low enrolment of persons with special needs in some form of education.

There is limited provision to collect data on children with special needs in Jamaica. Children with special needs therefore remain mostly excluded and invisible.

The 2008 ECC McCaw-Binns and Paul study identified several barriers to expanding screening, all of which must be addressed in order to effectively treat children with special needs. These include:

- Lack of equipment and training to conduct screening

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[25] Centre for Disability Studies, "Access and Inclusion in the Jamaican Education System for Persons with Disabilities", (Kingston, Jamaica: UWI, 2014), http://cds.mona.uwi.edu/node/53

- Not enough time or staff to conduct screening

- Insufficient places to make referrals for assistance to victims

- Insufficient facilities providing diagnostic tests.

Other challenges for disabled children include the fact that Section 15 of the Constitution specifies that a person who is "reasonably suspected to be of unsound mind," may be deprived of personal liberty. While Section 20 allows for the provision of a court interpreter for those who do not understand English, it does not specify whether the assistance of an interpreter is required if the accused is a person with a speech or hearing impairment. The Disability Act needs to address the topic of constitutional right in this area. The issue of early right to detection of disability is also not provided for under this or other acts.

2.10 At Risk and Unattached Youth

In 2017, the youth (15-24 years) population totalled 516,144 persons (approximately 20% of the total population).[26]

Youth at risk (15-24 years) are those whose living conditions, social circumstances and family situations or community settings may not allow them to maximize their full potential and pose a threat to their life outcomes. Youth at risk are often, though not exclusively, characterised by: irregular school attendance; fluctuating school performance; early sexual initiation (under 16 years); engaging in substance abuse; anti-social/aggressive behaviour towards peers and adults; limited reading proficiency; having experienced abuse or trauma; having a disability and/or having exhibited behaviour problems.[27]

Unattached youth are defined as individuals, aged 15-24 years, who are not in school, not in work (unemployed), and not participating in any training course. According to the latest government estimates, there are currently in excess of 140,000 unattached/at risk youth in Jamaica.[28] They are predominantly young men and live in urban and rural communities across the island. They have become unattached/at risk from traditional vehicles for positive youth development.[29.]

Priority Issues

Both unattached and at-risk youth (particular reference being made to those 15 to under 18 years old) are susceptible to child abuse, tend to be unskilled and unemployed, and are sometimes lacking in self-esteem, purpose and guidance. The girls are frequently more dependent on men and more susceptible to intimate partner violence and teen pregnancy.[30]

There are instances where unattached boys of a young age, often with little or no family support and usually school drop-outs, carry messages and packages of illegal substances or arms for gunmen (they are sometimes called '*gunbags')* in communities, usually at first in return for food. In this way they are gradually pulled into criminal gangs. Legislation and social programming in this area need to be strengthened as advised by the Children's Advocate and the TWG.

At risk and unattached youth ages 15-24 years fall into both the adolescent[31] and adult age group. There are some services and interventions relevant to children that do not apply to some of the age cohort. It is therefore important that programmes are designed to capture this group and meet their particular needs both as unattached/at risk youth and their particular age range.

Of note is the limited data and overall information available on youth at risk and unattached youth. The

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[26] Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN)

[27] HEART National Training Agency, Unattached Youth (2009)

[28] Kristen Fox, *Jamaica Youth Activity Survey* (Kingston, Jamaica: STATIN, 2002)

[29] Positive youth development refers to an on-going growth process in which all youth endeavour to meet their basic needs for safety, caring relationships, and connections to the larger community, while also striving to build academic, vocational, personal, and social skills (Quinn, 1999).

[30] Deanna Ashley VPA presentation CDA/PIOJ/IIN Conference October 27-28, 2010

[31] Adolescent- being of the age 13 through 19

priority therefore is data collection but ensuring data is collected and appropriately disaggregated to inform policy development and interventions.

One of the responses by government to respond to unattached youths has been to implement the Housing, Opportunity, Production and Employment (HOPE) programme. The 'Employment' arm of the programme will include skills training and a one-year apprenticeship programme. The aim of the HOPE programme is to engage unattached youth between 18-24 years through changing attitudes and values, skills training and apprenticeship programme with a financial savings component. HOPE targets youth that are not being captured by the education system, or through training or employment.

Unattached youth will be trained in digitization, general construction, customer service, geoinformatics mapping and hospitality among other sectors. In the post-program phase, participants are followed up with and linked to job placement, entrepreneurship or further training opportunities (scholarships). While this programme will build capacity for the 15,000 unattached youths that it aims to train, spaces are still limited compared to the number of youths in need of this type of assistance.

One of the gaps noted is that PATH does not address unattached youth. PATH focuses on being a family benefit programme. It is being recommended that PATH could appoint agencies to reach unattached youth and these agencies could in turn receive a subvention for the youth under their supervision.

2.11 Children in State Care

At the end of 2017, there were 4,536 (2,210 males and 2,326 females) children in care. This represents a reduction of 0.83% when compared to the previous quarter. As at 31 March 2017, there were 56% or 2,553 children residing in the 'Living in Family Environment' (Foster Care, Family Reintegration and at home on Supervision Order). Thirty-six per cent (36%) or 1,983 children were in traditional Children's Homes and Places of Safety.[32]

Disaggregated data of Children in Care by parish in 2015 shows a regional distribution of children in

state care. The rate of children in care was highest in Trelawny at 18 per 1,000 children followed by Manchester, St. James and Hanover. Across parishes, there was a consistently high ratio of children to case workers. This ratio was highest in Manchester at 166:1, followed by Westmoreland, Trelawny, St. Ann and Clarendon. Regionally, the Southern Region consisting of St. Elizabeth, Clarendon and Manchester had the highest ratio of case workers to children at 136:1.

Priority Issues

The Office of the Children's Advocate and various studies/reports have repeatedly raised issues of: high children to case worker ratio; overcrowding; the harmful non-separation of children in need of

Figure 2: Child Development Agency Children in Care by Placement Category as at March 31, 2017

Category	%
Foster Care	19%
Family Reintegration	14%
Children's Home	29%
Places of Safety	7%
Supervision Orders	23%
Other	8%
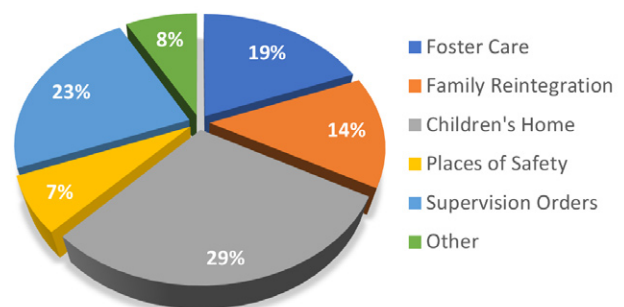
Table 10: Number of Children in Care and Case Worker load by Parish and Region in 2015

Parish	Number of Children in Care	Children in Care (per 1,000 population*)	Ratio of children in care to case worker	Overall Regional Ratio
Kingston and St Andrew	1,904	11	127:1	SERHA 118:1
St. Thomas	208	8	104:1	
St. Catherine	1,184	8	118:1	
St. Ann	395	8	132:1	NERHA 72:1
St. Mary	152	4	51:1	
Portland	103	4	34:1	
St. Elizabeth	321	7	107:1	SRHA 136:1
Clarendon	622	8	124:1	
Manchester	830	15	166:1	
St James	693	13	99:1	WERHA 114:1
Trelawny	416	18	139:1	
Hanover	252	12	81:1	
Westmoreland	469	11	156:1	

Source: Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA)

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[32] Child Protection and Family Services Agency (2017)

care and protection from children deemed 'uncontrollable' and both from children in conflict with the law; the placing of children in facilities outside of their parish of origin making regular family visits usually impossible; inadequate staffing, especially in relation to specialists (psychiatrists, psychologists, speech and rehabilitation specialists) and the lack of programmes and facilities for children with special needs.[33] Across parishes, the consistently high ratio of children in state care to case workers creates an immense caseload. The ratio ranges from as high as 166 to 1 in Manchester to as low as 34 to 1 in Portland. It is important to significantly reduce the high caseload across parishes to improve the quality of service being offered to the children in state care.

In 2012, the government increased allocation to private residential homes and to foster families by 20% following a report prepared by the OCA and UNICEF which noted that insufficient subsidies were provided, "*Current expenditure by the State per child per month in foster families is entirely insufficient to cover the basic needs of these children".[34]* However, a report on foster care prepared for the OCA in 2010 reported a generally satisfactory situation on the part of both fostered children and foster parents. Only 29% of the latter complained of lack of sufficient and timely monetary support.[35] The issues of inadequate monitoring by Children's Officers and inadequate psychosocial support for foster parents and families are nevertheless of concern.[36] Further increasing subsidies is currently under consideration. There are also media and NGO reports of sexual victimization of children in

institutional care, indicating a general failure of adults and institutions to protect all vulnerable children.[37]

2.12 Children in Conflict with the Law

A child accused of having infringed the penal law has the right to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity and worth. The article notes that the upholding of this right reinforces the child's respect for the human rights and fundamental freedom of others. It takes into account the child's age and the desirability of promoting the child's reintegration and assumption of a constructive role in society.

Much work has been done to reduce the number of children in lock ups. In police lock-ups, children had been exposed to secondary victimization and it became a frightening and traumatic experience: *Many of the related persons treat children harshly and like adults when they are taken to police stations. This harsh treatment continues until the final decision is made. It is even worse for children*

Offence	Age					Total Male	Total Female	Grand Total
	13	14	15	16	17			
Murder/Manslaughter	0	1	9	8	21	35	2	37
Shooting	0	2	3	6	17	28	0	28
Aggravated Assault	0	6	9	14	15	36	10	46
Robbery	1	5	12	39	32	94	0	94
Other Assaults	12	26	51	64	70	160	65	225
Sexual Intercourse/ Under 16	0	210	22	41	38	112	1	113
Other Sexual Offences	6	7	20	22	11	66	0	66
Rape	1	5	12	10	11	39	0	39
Total	20	262	138	204	215	570	78	648

Table 11: Number of Children Arrested by Offence, Age and Gender in 2017

Source: JCF Statistics, 2017

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[33] Annual Report of the Office of the Children's Advocate 2009-2010. P.24

[34] Children in Jamaica: 20 years after the Convention on the Rights of the Child. 2009. OCA and UNICEF

[35] Annual Report of the Office of the Children's Advocate 2009-2010, p. 24.

[36] Office of the Children's Advocate (Nov 2009). *A Study of the Foster Care Programme in Jamaica.*

[37] H.G. Helps, "Tired of Being Raped," Jamaica Observer, February 16, 2014 (http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Tired-of-being-raped); Ingrid Brown, "Child Rape," Jamaica Observer, April 22, 2012 (http://m.jamaicaobserver.com/mobile/news/Three-adults-scarred-by-years-of-sexual-abusebreak-silence-on-trauma_11291266); and Roberts (2002)

who are in conflict with the law. They are looked down on by many of the court personnel.[38]

Children in conflict with the law are now regularly placed in juvenile correctional centres, as there are now an adequate number of remand centres for children. As of May 27, 2011, a new centre was established at Metcalfe Street in Kingston where boys arrested from all over the island stay and are educated and counselled while the legal process takes place. The centre has a capacity for 208 children. Other juvenile facilities include Hill Top Juvenile Correctional Centre and the Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Centre. Girls are now held in a separate remand centre at the South Camp Road facility.

Currently, a proposal is being developed to have the Ministry of Education, Youth & Information (MOEYI) assume responsibility for the education of children in the custody of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS). This is in keeping with the Pat Sinclair McCalla report and with international best practices. There are several issues relating to the education system in the DCS. The teachers do not receive similar pay to their counterparts in open society. They are not entitled to summer breaks, are required to teach more than one subject and do not benefit from seminars offered to other teachers during summer. The students do not benefit from the services of specialists such as reading teachers. The curriculum is not monitored by the MOEYI. There is almost a disconnect between the DCS and the Ministry in this regard. This must change in order for correctional facilities to become centres of transformation through purposeful rehabilitation for successful reintegration.

There is therefore an urgent need to strengthen the capacity of persons dealing with children in conflict with the law in a child friendly manner. In response, Justice Centres were established in 2017. There are fourteen (14) centres, one (1) in each parish, that offer legal aid and mediation and also house a child diversion centre. Children's courts are held in all fourteen (14) parishes. There are two (2) regional family courts, one in Kingston and one in St. James. There are three (3) other dedicated family courts including one in Lucea, Hanover, another in Mandeville, Manchester and in Spanish Town, St. Catherine.

2.13 Key Factors Predisposing Children to Violence in Jamaica

2.13.1 Cultural Norms and Practices

Parenting styles that rely heavily on corporal punishment as a means of discouraging undesirable behaviour, and which are heavily imbued in a cultural tradition of not 'sparing the rod and spoiling the child' are a matter of concern. Physical violence is used as an alternative to productive communication with children both in the home and at other levels, including in schools. Sometimes physical and psychological violence is inflicted on children by those entrusted with their care including parents, guardians and teachers. Disciplinary methods remain predominantly physical.

Factors such as social integration and cohesion, respect for life and for individuals have been significantly compromised by immoral values, attitudes, including a reckless disregard for life and property.

The development of gangs and the emergence of 'dons' mainly in depressed communities where the influence of these entities can significantly determine the life and livelihood of constituents, especially young boys and girls are issues of critical concern.

VOICE OF THE CHILDREN

"Parents don't know how else to deal with the situation so they take out their anger on us children, and don't tell the children what is right and wrong."

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[38] Convention on the Rights of a Child, Article 40.

Other issues include:

- Improving positive parenting skills[39]

- Returning to positive cultural norms and practices

- Implementing measures to remove dons and protect children from their influence.

2.13.2   Unequal Education and Poor School Retention

Education is a fundamental human right which is important to child development and economic development. It enhances lives, ends generational cycles of poverty and disease and provides a foundation for sustainable development.

Performance scores on key national and regional exams continue to show academic weaknesses, intensifying concerns about the quality of education students are receiving. In the 2016 Grade 4 literacy test, 37,160 sat the Test for the first time (33,372 from public schools, 3,759 from private schools and 29 from special schools). Approximately 80% of the 37,131 students from public and private schools achieved mastery; 16.4 % achieved almost mastery and 3.4% non-mastery. Of the 29,803 students who achieved mastery, 55.2% were females and 44.8% were males. Approximately 35% (10) of the 29 students from special schools achieved mastery with males accounting for 31.3% and females 38.5 %.[40]   In academic year 2015/2016, the primary school attendance was 84.6% with rates being lower for boys than girls. Violence in some geographical areas affects attendance.[41]   In terms of non-mastery of the Grade Four test 14% or 6,626 students were in this category – 5,087 males and 1,539 females.

In primary school the Net Enrolment Rate is 91.3%, however, in secondary school this rate drops to 77.9% (74.2% male and 81.8% female). Furthermore, daily attendance at secondary school is

79.8%. There is limited data on the number of dropouts from school (unrelated to migration) at the secondary level but these are considered to be a growing issue especially given the relationship between incomplete secondary education and criminality or violence. Peace Management Initiative (PMI) in reviewing risk factors among gang members in a select number of communities in downtown Kingston found that 86% had dropped out of school at Grade Nine and they hardly knew their fathers.[42]

There are currently insufficient systematic means of testing children and addressing their special learning needs or identifying children with learning special needs. This leaves these children more vulnerable to violence and abuse.

Frameworks and Interventions Developed to Target Education

School-wide Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support

In line with progressive and child-centred movements to ensure students have the best opportunities to learn and develop into positive citizens, in 2014-15 the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (MOEYI) began implementing the School-Wide Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support (SWPBIS) Framework with support from UNICEF in a 3-year pilot project in 56 primary and secondary level schools nationwide. This represented a shift in policy direction by the MOEYI to emphasize a comprehensive response to the psycho-social needs of all students that was both proactive and reactive.

First developed in the US in the 1980s, the SWPBIS framework has achieved success internationally with its team-based, whole-school approach. It uses a tiered system to establish or change a school's social culture, relying largely on training and the sharing of experiences and best practices. SWPBIS is structured for sustainability as it is not reliant on materials but rather

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[39] Caribbean Parenting Partners Manual (2006)
[40] STATIN (2017)
[41] Planning Institute of Jamaica, *Economic and Social Survey Jamaica,* (Kingston, Jamaica: PIOJ, 2016)
[42] Horace Levy, *Youth Gangs and Organized Crime* (Kingston, Jamaica: UWI, 2012)

on "implementation with fidelity, a continuum of evidence-based interventions, content expertise and fluency by all school staff, team-based implementation, continuous progress monitoring, universal screening, and data-based decision making and problem solving" (pbis.org).

In the first tier, new disciplinary cases are reduced; in the second tier, remaining cases that have not been resolved by the improved school culture are addressed with focused responses; and in the third tier, individualized attention is given to the few behavioural cases that have not yet responded to other efforts.

The Jamaican MOEYI has trained 56 pilot schools, all of which have a duty to serve as SW-PBIS coaches to neighbouring schools, to complete all three tiers of the SWPBIS training. To date over 6,000 educators have been exposed to the methodology and 2,500 trained at the different tiers. School violence is down in the pilot schools with active SWPBIS teams, and attendance is up. These activities represent major steps towards the national strategic scaling up slated to begin in 2018, guided by a phased roll out plan. The roll out takes on even greater significance with the call in 2017 Parliament by the Prime Minister to ban corporal punishment in Jamaican schools.

Some other programmes include the Jamaica School Readiness Assessment, the Child Development Therapist programme, the Health and Family Life Education Curriculum and the work of uniformed groups in schools.

Among the main challenges are:

- Improving educational indicators.
- Measurement of attendance by being present and not enrolment to address potential truancy (unsupervised children).
- School retention.
- Behavioural issues among students.

- Effective partnerships between home and school.

2.13.3   Poverty

The 2016 Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions puts the prevalence of poverty in the population at 17.1 per cent.[43] Approximately 26% of Jamaican children continue to live in poverty putting these most vulnerable children and their families in a very precarious position.[44] There is a more significant correlation with economic inequality rather than absolute poverty. Income inequality is a strong predictor of homicides and major assaults. Options for alternative livelihoods are critical for children and families and especially for young persons who can be easily persuaded and/or influenced into criminal activities.

Children who live in poverty are at a high risk of having their rights violated. Child poverty remains a serious problem. Research has found that children from poor households have an increased risk of a wide range of negative outcomes that can be identified at birth and can extend into adulthood. They are less likely to have access to good quality education and health and are more likely to have poor social and emotional development. These vulnerabilities extend into adulthood and the cycle of poverty continues, characterized by female household headship, single parenthood and large household size. Improving social indicators including health, nutrition, and education are important considerations for the reduction of child poverty and abuse.

2.13.4   Lack of Opportunities for Youth

When faced with few options for legitimate empowerment, there is increased risk of falling prey to harmful activities (for example, involvement in criminal gangs), and sometimes destructive ends. There is a need to increase the number of adolescents involved in organized extracurricular activities at school.

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[43] Latonya Linton, "Finance Minister Reports Major Decline in Poverty", *Jamaica Information Service* May 23, 2018 , https://jis.gov.jm/finance-minister-reports-major-decline-in-poverty/
[44] Planning Institute of Jamaica, *Economic and Social Survey Jamaica,* (Kingston, Jamaica: PIOJ, 2016)

Approximately 13.5% of the population was unemployed in 2016, while 33% of youth were unemployed, approaching two and a half times the adult rate.[45]

Among the main challenges are:

- Reducing the high level of unemployment among youth.
- Increasing youth involvement in extra-curricular activities, youth empowerment programmes and opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.

2.13.5 Inadequate Enforcement of and Protection under the Law

A number of current laws related to children and violence are antiquated and are increasingly an impediment to transformation and improved service delivery to child victims of violence. Moreover, the pace of legislative reform needs to be accelerated.

While the Child Care and Protection Act (CCPA) and other legislation have been enacted there are areas regarding children in general and violence against children in particular, where the Act gives insufficient authority (administration) or is not enforced (enforcement) for whatever reasons.

Although there are clear gaps in legislation (areas where laws are required), the major problem, as the majority of respondents see it, is not an absence of the law but the persistent infringement of the law, including the lack of timely enforcement and follow-up.

Implementation gaps were noted, particularly in the following areas: child labour; sexual offenses against children; physical violence against children; defending the rights of specific categories of vulnerable children; and securing the best interests of children in need of care and protection and of children in lock ups.

Highlighted below are some areas that should not be overlooked:

- **Child participation:** The CCPA places great emphasis on protection and speaks to the issue of prevention as well but very little attention is given to the area of child participation as articulated in the CRC. The culture of "*children being seen and not heard*" still prevails in some areas of society, which might explain this. It is therefore important that the law re-examines the extent to which opportunities are provided for child participation beyond the limits of involvement in school related activities, consultations on policies and representation in child rights events to fulfil mandates. Children should also be empowered through advocacy and the opportunities to express their view on challenging the establishment.

- **Age of consent:** The age of consent for sex is set at 16, although the age of maturity is 18 years of age.

- **Children in correctional institutions and children's homes:** The OCA's annual report emphasizes that the CCPA makes no provision for how children in correctional institutions should be provided for, though it does (in Section 62) stipulate how the rights of the child in places of safety, children's homes or in the care of a fit person order should be provided for.

  The Regulations to the CCPA 2004 (Children's Homes) should be reviewed to address the rights of the child to provisions for nutrition, medical care (including psychological), physical infrastructure, transportation, among others, while in the care of the state. In its current state, the Act focuses, principally, on the registration process.

- **Children and guns**: Given the increasing number of allegations of children being used to carry guns, relevant legislations should be strengthened to address this problem.

- **The Children (Adoption of) Act:** Review of the Children (Adoption of) Act and procedures to allow for a thorough yet speedier process. There have been many complaints about the frustration of potential adopters due to the lengthy process. Under the Children (Adoption

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[45] Planning Institute of Jamaica, *Economic and Social Survey Jamaica,* (Kingston, Jamaica: PIOJ, 2016)

of) Act, parents who demonstrate no interest in their children are requested to give their consent before these children can be placed in the care of the state. Problems occur when parents do not respond in an acceptable time. Amendments should be made in order to impose time limits, such that children can be provided with care in a tsimely manner. Specifically, the law should provide a point at which parental rights are terminated.

Others:

• Special provisions need to be made for the intervention of the OCA to protect the rights of children in criminal, property, state or divorce proceedings.

• Normally, parental rights are not terminated in cases of neglect. The children may be put in care but parents have the option of reclaiming them at any point. In such circumstances, guidelines are required for determining and enforcing the best interests of the child. Review of the Children Custody and Guardianship Act is needed to allow for the termination of parental rights after a specific number of years.

2.13.6   Enforcement Issues

The Child Care and Protection Act is currently being revised to address the identified gaps in legislation. It also needs to define individuals and agencies that are responsible for enforcing sanctions. There is no real penalty applied to persons who have children in lock-up over the stipulated 90 days; consequently, there is no ready recourse when children are held in lock ups for extended periods.

The CCPA does not make provision as is done in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) for the rights of the child to be free from discrimination based on special needs, gender, or social background including those living with or otherwise affected by HIV/AIDS. The Persons with Disabilities Act (2014) addresses the area of disability.

Implementing partners involved in the legislative application of the Act are not always informed in the Act or do not interpret the articles correctly. It is therefore necessary that they (Police Officers, Attorneys-at-Law, Judges, etc.) receive additional training and education to be able to interpret and enforce the laws related to children affected by violence.

In addition, currently neither the CCPA nor the Child Diversion Act gives authority to the Office of the Children's Advocate (OCA) as lead supported by Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA) to monitor, inspect and regulate Juvenile Remand and Correctional Centres.[46] As recommended by the Report of the Task Force on the New Regime for Juveniles in Remand and Correctional Facilities in Jamaica, these acts need to be amended to provide such authority as it relates to children in trouble with the law.

There is need for dedicated attention to the problem of institutional neglect/abuse. It is important to design effective mechanisms for enforcement, such that the negligence of persons and institutions that are entrusted with the care of children can be so sanctioned that lapses in performance are prevented. Under the CCPA, corporal punishment is prohibited in children's homes and places of safety. However, it does not address other aspects. The act of corporal punishment is still prevalent in Jamaica.

Currently there is a distinction between rape and sex with persons under 16 years and the penalty for rape is higher than that for sex with a person under 16 years. If no distinction is made then the penalty would be equal and might reduce the number of cases of the latter.

The CCPA does not make sufficient provisions for sexual assault of boys, and child trafficking needs to attract stricter penalties.

2.13.7   Weakened Family Structures

Weakened family structures are caused by the absence of, and/or inadequate supervision of children by responsible adults, particularly the father, leaving predominantly single female headed households. For

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[46] Pat McCalla, *Report of the Task Force on the New Regime for Juveniles in Remand and Correctional Facilities in Jamaica* (Kingston, Jamaica: Public Sector Transformation Unit, 2010)

example, data from an inner-city cohort of 11-year-olds showed that 51% of children were separated from their biological fathers. A weakened family structure also occurs as a result of migration, especially of females, and the impact of this female migration, given their role as primary care givers, can be severe. Additionally, the phenomenon of 'barrel children'[47] often leads to an absence of necessary life skills (handling feelings, goal setting, conflict management and self-esteem) in the child.

Among the main challenges are:

- Equipping children with training in life skills, conflict management and other areas.

- Empowering female-headed households through sustainable livelihood.

2.13.8   High Levels of Exposure to Violence

Research points conclusively to causal links between exposure to violence and child abuse and negative developmental outcomes for children. McCain et al 2007 neuroscience research findings document the negative impact of adverse early exposure to violent environments on children's developmental outcomes. "They contend that witnessing scenes of verbal and or physical violence and discord have a direct negative effect with long lasting consequences."[48]

Apart from children and adolescents who are directly victims or perpetrators of violent crimes, another area for grave concern is the huge numbers who are grieving the loss of family members and loved ones. Further to this is the exorbitant numbers exposed to community violence and the wide reaching effects of this exposure.

Exposure to violence also occurs through music videos, the lyrics of songs, movies, video games, cartoons and some television programmes (including news) which depict a range of violence ranging from subtle to overt presentations. Continued media sensitisation and training with regards to violence exposure is needed. Children also require media literacy because they lack experience and frames of reference to understand certain circumstance, as they are less critical than adults of what they see and hear.

Poor communication skills as well as lack of adequate conflict resolution skills among children and adults is of concern. Both groups lack the requisite skills and attitudes to negotiate and resolve conflicts between themselves and among their peers. Instead, conflicts and disagreements are sometimes dealt with through quarrels (verbal abuse) and violent fights.

Dr. Herbert Gayle, a local social anthropologist who studies social violence, reports that of a survey of boys in gangs over 95 per cent had a missing mother or father or both, or bad relationship with either or both, or suffered from a conflict in the home.[49] They were likely to suffer from parental neglect and lack of expressed love; family trauma; loss or extreme child abuse, and if they had to, endure direct training in political hatred or political tribal socialisation. The most violent boys were those who were least protected and most exposed to adult life, including street dances and sex.

The Office of the Children's Registry (OCR, now called National Children's registry (NCR) now falls within the CPFSA after its merger with CDA) receives reports of known and suspected cases of children who are abused or otherwise at risk and records, assesses, and determines whether to refer these reports to the OCA. It should also be noted that the CPFSA investigates some, not all of these reports, due to staff constraints. During 2015, 13,948 reports were received, representing an increase of 18.7% when compared with the number of reports (11,749) of

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[47] These are children who rely on material and financial support from either or both parents who have migrated. Such children are sometimes left with adult care-givers (usually a relative) but in some cases, they are left on their own. Children in Jamaica - Twenty Years after the Convention on the Rights of the Child

[48] Margaret McCain, J. Mustard and Stuart Shanker, *Early Years Study 2*, (Toronto, Ontario: Council for Early Childhood Development, 2007), http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/publications/early_years_study_2.pdf

[49] Herbert Gayle, "Light on Violence-Here's why boys join gangs," Jamaica Gleaner, January 27, 2017, http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20170127/light-violence-heres-why-boys-join-gangs

2014. Of that amount, 71% (9,883) were of children about whom a report was being made to the OCR for the first time. More than half (55%) were females, while the sex of 175 children (2%) was not specified.[50]

Among the main challenges are:

- Stemming the incidence of violence against children.

- Enforcement of the abolition of corporal punishment.

- Inadequate media sensitisation and training with regards to violence exposure and children.

- Media literacy for children as they lack experience and frames of reference to be discriminating in what they see and hear.

> **VOICE OF THE CHILDREN**
>
> "My mental state is affected by the abuse and violence, especially if the person who is killed or is abusing me is the only person you could talk to"

2.13.9 Insufficient Coordination Amongst Child Protection System Actors

Coordination between and among child protection systems actors is key to children and families receiving timely, appropriate, accessible and child-friendly services of a high quality.

There is inadequate coordination and communication among the main agencies involved. For example, the NCR's main responsibility is to accept reports of known and suspected cases of abuse and refer them to the OCA (which has responsibility for the investigation of cases of alleged abuse by the state agencies and actors) and the CDA (which has responsibility for investigating allegations of abuse by the non-state agencies and actors). However, the NCR reports that there is a response time lag on the part of the OCA and CDA which ultimately compromises the NCR's ability to monitor trends in child abuse.

Several state and non-state actors are involved in the implementation of programmes to prevent violence against children and to deliver of services to victims of violence, however, there is a tendency by these actors to protect turf by creating constraints resulting in a costly duplication of efforts. In some instances, this tendency to protect and control their programmatic focus areas has created tension and rifts among state agencies, across state and non-state agencies and among non-state agencies.

Whilst consultation between state and non-state actors is common, often there is hardly any follow up which frequently results in the duplication of activities at the community level and the misuse of scarce resources. That there are substantial gaps in the programmatic elements of the child protection sector, with respect to the delivery of services at the community level in a broad context to children and their families, does not speak well for the adequate follow up and coordination. Moreover, there is insufficient research available on the effective use of community-based and non-governmental organisations in the policy implementation process.

The foregoing data and information reflect only the tip of the iceberg. Indeed, the issue of children and violence is an urgent and pressing problem that needs to be addressed in a multi-sectoral and coordinated way.

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[50] In some instances, additional reports about a child are made to the OCR by another reporter, or by the same reporter in relation to another incident.

"*It is obvious that our children are our future. We must therefore do all in our power to pro- tect and nurture them. That, in fact, will be the only guarantee of a bright future for our country. Violence against children is unacceptable and can never be justified. As a country let us unite to end violence against all our children*".

Hon. Peter Phillips, PhD, M.P.
Leader of the Opposition

3. National Response to Children and Violence

Fundamental Human Rights (HR) guaranteed to all people in Jamaica under the Constitution were included in the human rights instruments that have been ratified by Jamaica. These instruments were inspired by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which was the very first step towards the progressive codification of international human rights. It sets out the human rights and fundamental freedoms to which all women and men are entitled in dignity and equality, to enjoy "without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status".

The main principles of universality, indivisibility and interrelationship of all human rights, highlighted on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration in 1998, reinforce the idea that civil, cultural, political and social human rights should be taken in their totality and never dissociated.

Due to the vulnerability of children, it was further agreed that specific rights should be articulated to defend this group. In 1989, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) became the first legally binding international convention to affirm human rights for all children. Jamaica is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and ratified the Convention in 1991.

The Convention is based on a fundamental principle that children are born with freedom and the inherent rights to survival, development, participation and protection. Article 19 of the Convention states:

> "State Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of

> parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child."

Apart from the CRC, Jamaica is a signatory to several major human rights instruments that are concerned with protecting children from violence. Jamaica observes the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and is signatory to the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. Jamaica is also signatory to the Convention on the Eradication of all Forms of Discrimination against Women; ILO Optional Protocols on Child Labour (Conventions 138 and 182); The Beijing Rules (UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Justice); The Riyadh Guidelines (UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency); UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty); Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children.

The Organization of American States (OAS), of which Jamaica has been a member since 1969, has also created various structures for protecting human rights. Through its Charter, the OAS has established two (2) key instruments for protecting human rights: the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.[51]

Jamaica, however, has not been fully compliant with its reporting obligations to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. As of March 2015, the Committee recommendations to Jamaica were to fulfil its reporting obligations under the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the reports on which have been overdue since 9 June 2004 and 26 September 2013, respectively.[52]

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[51] Convention on the Rights of a Child, Article 19.

[52] UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), *Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Jamaica* (New York, United States: UNCRC, 2015)

There has been a range of responses at the national level to the problem of children and violence since the ratification of the CRC. Significant strides have been made to improve the policy, legislative, institutional and strategic planning framework affecting children. Various pieces of legislation have been developed and enacted as well as programmes implemented within the public and private sectors. Several institutional mechanisms are also in place to complement the policies, laws and programmes that are being implemented to combat the challenge of children and violence. Partnerships between and among government agencies, civil society organisations, the private sector and the international development community are a central feature of this landscape, with the implementation of several projects and programmes that directly support child centred policies and laws.

Jamaica as a Pathfinder Country

Jamaica is committed to achieving the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 16.2 explicitly addresses child protection as it aims to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children. The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children ("End Violence") was formed to support the efforts of governments seeking to prevent violence, protect childhood, and help make societies safe for children. In their efforts of Agenda 2030, Jamaica was designated in 2016 as a 'Pathfinder Country' to end violence by committing to three to five years of accelerated action of the international End Violence goals. Pathfinding Countries utilize the main principles of End Violence to ensure that their actions are: rights-focused, gender-sensitive, universal, child-centred, transparent, evidence-based, inclusive and results-focused. End Violence will convene governments, UN agencies, international organizations, civil society, faith groups, private sector, researchers, academics and children in order to:

- Build and sustain political will to achieve SDGs, promoting evidence-based strategies that will lead to significant, sustained and measur-

able reductions in violence against children.

- Work together with partners to accelerate action to tackle the violence that children face, with an initial focus on countries that wish to lead the movement to end violence.

- Strengthen collaboration among and between countries, and with civil society and other stakeholders.

INSPIRE, a technical package of seven strategies to prevent violence against children, is central to the End Violence strategy. INSPIRE strategies include implementation and enforcement of laws, norms and values; safe environments; parent and caregiver support; income and economic strengthening; response and support services; and education and life skills.

3.1 Legislation

Jamaica's main national implementing legislation related to children is the Child Care and Protection Act (CCPA), which the Government of Jamaica enacted in 2004. In demonstrating its commitment towards a protective environment for children, the CCPA sought to bring the legislation into alignment with international treaties. The Act seeks to strengthen the care and protection of children by introducing new standards for their treatment, while removing the fragmentation of legislation relating to their welfare. The CCPA provides protection for all children (0-18), giving attention to special categories of children such as those *in conflict with the law and children with special needs.* The CCPA brings under one umbrella, measures concerning children previously embedded in the Juvenile Act[53] as well as the provisions in over 20 other laws. It also draws on provisions applicable to children under the Offences Against the Person Act.[54]

Since the introduction of the Child Care and Protection Act (CCPA) in 2004, several other pieces of legislation have been enacted which are relevant to protecting children from violence. They are:

- The Child Care and Protection (Children's Home) Regulations (2005)

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[53] The Juvenile Act was repealed after the CCPA was enacted.
[54] The Report of the Task Force on the New Regime for Juveniles in Remand and Correctional Facilities in Jamaica, December 2010.

- The Child Care and Protection (Children's Registry) Regulations (2007)
- The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (Constitutional Amendment) Act (2011)
- The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) Act (2007)
- The Cyber Crimes Act (2010)
- The Child Pornography (Prevention) Act (2009)
- The Sexual Offences Act (2009)
- The Victims Charter (2006)
- National Parent Support Act (2011) and the National Parenting Support Policy (2011)
- Children Custody and Guardianship Act (2017).
- OCA Child Justice Guidelines.

Other national legislation such as the Early Childhood Act (2005) and the Early Childhood Regulations (2005) which focus on a child's right to development, provides national standards for the operations, management and administration of early childhood institutions. Notably, Jamaica ratified the Optional Protocol for the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography in August, 2011.

The promulgation of the Sexual Offences Act 2009 has paved the way for the establishment of a Sex Offenders Register.[55] Other initiatives include the Ananda Alert System for missing children which was implemented by the Department of Local Government and the complementary Missing Persons Policy, both of which arose from the Task force on Child Abuse Prevention.

See Appendix C for a summary of these and other relevant legislations responsive to children and violence.

3.2 National Policies and Plans

In addition to legislation, several measures have been taken to establish a policy and planning framework to protect children against violence, guided by the principles of the Convention (CRC) and reinforced by a national commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), now Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), all of which are either directly or indirectly relevant to the welfare and well-being of children.

Recent components of this framework include: the Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan (2009), the accompanying Medium Term Social and Economic Framework and sector plans; the National Framework of Action for Children (NFAC) which is currently being developed; and the National Plan of Action on Child Justice, approved by Cabinet in 2011.

Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan provides a comprehensive planning framework in which the economic, social, environmental and governance aspects of national development are integrated. The Plan is expected to put Jamaica in a position to achieve developed country status by 2030 and is based on the vision: "Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families, and do business". Vision 2030 Jamaica is built on four strategic goals which are mutually reinforcing and synergistic in design and further mapped into 15 National Outcomes.

Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan seeks to create a secure future for all, including our vulnerable population and to ensure that each child has equal opportunity to develop his or her full potential through access to the best care, affection and protection. Vision 2030 Jamaica also aims to empower youth to contribute meaningfully to building and strengthening the communities to which they belong. It promotes family responsibility and community participation in the protection of vulnerable groups and addresses all members of society to ensure tolerance and respect for human rights and freedom. The Plan provides an overarching and integrated framework to which all other policies, programmes and plan are to be aligned in order to achieve the four national goals (see Box 1).

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[55] This initiative currently is being actively pursued by the Ministry of Justice.

BOX 1: VISION 2030 JAMAICA STRATEGIC GOALS

Goal 1: Jamaicans are empowered to achieve their fullest potential

Goal 2: The Jamaican society is safe, cohesive and just

Goal 3: Jamaica's economy is prosperous

Goal 4: Jamaica has a healthy natural environment

PIOJ, 2009

Vision 2030 Jamaica includes a total of twenty-nine (29) sector plans covering the main economic, social, environmental and governance sectors relevant to national development. The sector plans which have direct relevance to children and violence are: National Security, Governance, Poverty Reduction, Social Welfare, Persons with Disabilities Sector Plans.

The National Framework of Action for Children (NFAC) is the product of collaboration across several agencies, state and non-governmental, (including the private sector) under the direction of a multi-sector steering committee. The revised NFAC has six (6) core focus areas, which are consistent with the CRC:

1. Healthy Lives and Lifestyles for all children

2. Providing quality Education

3. Protection against Abuse, Exploitation and Violence

4. Care for Children in special circumstances

5. Secure Living Environment

6. Meaningful Child Participation.

The National Plan of Action for Child Justice (NPACJ) 2011-2014 is a comprehensive initiative setting out a multi-agency response to the state of child justice in Jamaica. After extensive consultations across sectors, the NPACJ was approved by the Cabinet in October 2011 and tabled in Parliament. The goal is to develop and sustain a justice system, in which the best interest of the child is paramount. The NPACJ sets out the following six (6) strategic objectives:

1. To improve the adjudication and disposition of cases involving children in the justice system.

2. To improve conditions under which children deprived of their liberty are kept.

3. To establish and maintain a high standard of professional competence for all personnel dealing with cases involving children.

4. To promote, rehabilitate and reintegrate children into society following their discharge from state institutions.

5. To prevent and reduce the incidence of crime and antisocial behaviour among children.

6. To improve contact and processing of children who seek protection of the law or are in conflict with the law.

Additionally, the National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-based Violence (GBV) in Jamaica 2017-2027 provides for an integrated, multi-sector and structured approach to addressing the key issues and challenges of GBV, as it relates to victims, perpetrators, and witnesses of acts of violence to address the different forms and manifestations of GBV and Violence Against Women. The goal of the NSAP is to eliminate GBV in Jamaica, with particular focus on violence against women and girls. The Bureau of Gender Affairs (BGA) supports implementation of the NSAPGBV provides oversight through the Gender Advisory Council.

There are several other policies and plans which are relevant to children and violence including:

• National Policy on Children,1997

• National Framework of Action for Children

• National Plan of Action for Child Justice

• National Policy on Gender Equality

• National Plan of Action on Child Labour

• National Parenting Support Policy, 2011

• Children's Code for Programming, 2003

• Safe School Policy

• Search and Rescue Protocol for Missing Children (2014)

• OCA Child Justice Guidelines (2013).

See Appendix D for a summary of these and other relevant policies and plans responsive to children and violence.

3.3 Institutional Framework

Four (4) key Ministries are responsible for the protection of the nation's children. They are the Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Ministry of National Security (MNS) and the Ministry of Education, Youth & Information (MOEYI). **The Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA),** formed out of a merger of the Child Development Agency and the Office of Children's Registry, is the leader in Jamaica's child protection system, with a combined legacy reputation for work in promoting child-friendly policies and ground-breaking programmes to strengthen families. The CPFSA is under the purview of the MOEYI and works collaboratively with the OCA, the JCF and other government agencies. In carrying out its mandate, the agency:

* Provides intake, receives reports, and manages the Child Abuse Registry.

- Investigates reports of child abuse, abandonment and neglect, to determine the best interest of the child, which supports the Courts and the Police.

- Provides support to children in need of care and protection (those who have been abused, abandoned, neglected or vulnerable due to special needs).

- Carries out advocacy/public education programmes to prevent child abuse.

- Provides quality care for children who are brought into the care of the State (those who live in children's homes and places of safety).

- Provides support for families.

- Advises government on policy and legal issues relating to children.

The Office of Children's Advocate was established and the first Children's Advocate was appointed in January 2006. Established as an oversight authority, the OCA seeks to promote the safety, best interests and well-being of children, and to protect and enforce their rights. The roles and functions of the OCA include:

- Keeps under review the adequacy and effectiveness of law and practice relating to the rights and best interests of children.

- Keeps under review the adequacy and effectiveness of services provided for children by relevant (government) authorities.

- Gives advice and makes recommendations to Parliament or any Minister of Government or any relevant (government) authority concerning the rights or best interests of children. Such advice and recommendations may be requested or can be given even where there is no such request but the Children's Advocate deems it necessary to do so.

- Takes steps to educate children about the existence of the OCA, its role and how they may communicate with the Children's Advocate.

- Takes reasonable steps to ensure that the views of children and persons having custody, care and control of children are canvassed.

- Issues guidance on best practice in relation to any matter concerning the rights or best interests of children – the OCA's Child Justice Guidelines and the OCA's "*Be Social … Be Smart Social Media Guide"* provides two (2) examples of this aspect of the Children's Advocate's role.

Other roles and functions are:

1. To initiate and conduct investigations into any complaint that alleges that a child's rights have been infringed by any action taken by a relevant (government) authority or that the child's interests have been adversely affected by any such action. These investigations support either criminal charges being imposed against the alleged perpetrator or the institution of civil proceedings in a bid to recover damages/monies on behalf of the aggrieved child.

2. To pursue actions (including through court proceedings) to hold state agents accountable for any breaches identified through the course of the investigations conducted by the OCA.

3. To provide legal representation for children who require it – this applies whether the child is in conflict with the law or in need of any other kind of legal support.

4. To intervene in any proceedings before a court or tribunal, involving law or practice which concerns the rights or best interests of children.

5. To act as *amicus curiae* in matters before the court where the child requires support.

6. To accept private communications from children in conflict with the law who wish to bring an issue/complaint to the attention of the Children's Advocate.

7. To conduct quasi-judicial hearings in bid to facilitate the hearing of evidence in pursuit of an investigation alleging a breach of a child's rights and/or best interests.

Of note also is the **Early Childhood Commission**, which was established in 2003 as the main coordinating and monitoring body of the early childhood development sector in Jamaica. The **National Parenting Support Commission (NPSC)** has been charged with the responsibility of strengthening the families' capacity and parenting skills by providing them with resources and support required to produce a society where all children are exposed to and experience positive parenting.

The Government of Jamaica has also established a **Child Labour Unit (CLU)** operating out of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security with responsibility for all aspects of Child Labour. This includes but is not limited to the monitoring of the ILO's Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour and Convention 138. The Unit works in close partnership with the CPFSA in planning and delivering programmes to children affected by child labour, including street and working children.

The **Ananda Alert System** is a national emergency response system operated by CPFSA that addresses the growing number of children reported missing in Jamaica. The system assists in the early location of missing children, to prevent sexual and other types of abuse or the loss of life that sometimes results in such situations. The alert system ensures early awareness of the public of missing children, providing information to aid in identification. A Missing Persons Investigation Policy was instituted to remove the traditional wait period (24 hours) for reporting missing persons.

The **Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offense and Child Abuse (CISOCA)** is one of the designated institutions to receive complaints about acts of violence against children. It is an office of the Jamaica Constabulary Force established in 1989 as a response to the need for police sensitivity to victims of sexual assault. [56]

Its main objectives are:

- To improve the confidentiality of reports from victims.

- To ensure the speedy and effective investigation of sexual offences.

- To create an atmosphere that encourages victims to report incidents of sexual offences.

- To assist in the rehabilitation of victims through counselling and therapy.

The **Victim Services Division (VSD)** was established in 1998 and operates in all fourteen (14) parishes across Jamaica. The Unit which operates under the Ministry of Justice, provides advocacy, court support, crisis intervention, advice and counselling services to individuals, particularly women and children, against whom crimes and civil offences have been committed.

Children affected by violence may initially present to a health care facility, whether private or public, in order to ensure that their physical needs and in particular, any life threatening condition are addressed. The **public health care system** contains an extensive network of primary care health centres and the Accident and Emergency Departments of the secondary or tertiary care facilities (hospitals) where emergency intervention may occur. At the

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[56] Jamaica Information Service

latter, a data collection instrument, the Jamaica Injuries Surveillance System (JISS) is in place. After attending to their urgent physical needs, and once their safety is ensured, the victims may be referred to the Child Guidance Clinics or other agencies for further management. The **Child Guidance Clinic System** was established in 1996 and operates as a sector of mental health services which offer services mainly through the primary health care system. The clinics provide long-term therapeutic (psychiatric, psychological and social work) care for children affected by abuse of any kind. The **Mental Health System** is also involved in the prevention of violence mainly through mental health promotion and education particularly in the area of parenting. Good parenting skills are also being promoted through the National Parenting Support Commission which is attached to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information.

The **Multi-Agency Strategic Development Plan for Child Protection Project** comprising the CPFSA, the Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse (CISOCA) and the VSD introduced a multi-agency approach to effectively manage child abuse reports with special attention to sexual abuse cases. The main objective of this systematic approach is to effectively manage child abuse reports with special attention to sexual abuse cases, to reduce the trauma experienced by children who report abuse cases and to improve the effectiveness of the services provided to them.

The team meets on a monthly basis to discuss issues surrounding these cases. As a result of discrepancies in the legal framework concerning the age at which consensual sex can occur, teens are often caught in compromising situations and brought before the court in matters that are consensual between a male and a female, although they may be under the age of 18 or in some cases under 16 years. The aim of the Multi-Agency Diversion Team is to assess each case of a minor involved in a sex offense and where necessary divert the case away from the court and to another agency for assistance. In other situations, because the Team Officers are called upon to report each offense and be present when a child is brought

in, it is essential that all agencies be present and so improve response times. This will also hasten determining the best options for the child. This arrangement only exists in Kingston with a version in St. James. The rest of Jamaica does not have a similar arrangement.

Inadequate Government funding to sustain this initiative continues to be a constraint and efforts will have to be directed to secure funding from civil society partners such as the IDPs and the private sector for implementation.

Although the **Office of the Public Defender** has a wider mandate for all citizens, the office has taken more than a keen interest in children who are victims of maltreatment by state agencies.

Other important institutional mechanisms include:

- Trafficking in Persons Unit.
- Children's Courts − Nineteen (19) courts equipped with audio-visual equipment allow for children to testify remotely under the children in court programme.
- The Broadcasting Commission.
- Justice Centres −Fourteen (14) Justice Centres are to be established by March 2019, one (1) in each parish, that offer restorative justice, mediation and child diversion services, and also house a child diversion centre. Children's courts are held in all fourteen (14) parishes. There are two (2) regional family courts, one in Kingston and one in St James. There are three (3) other dedicated family courts including one in Lucea, Hanover; one in Mandeville, Manchester; and one in Spanish Town, St. Catherine. All parish courts conduct regular sittings of family court. Of note, there are five (5) dedicated family courts namely, Kingston, St. James, Hanover, Manchester and Westmoreland.
- National Centre for Youth Development.

See Appendix E for a summary of these and other relevant institutional mechanisms responsive to children and violence.

3.4 Civil Society and International Development Partners' Involvement

Important components of the child protection landscape in Jamaica are NGOs, FBOs and CBOs which play a key role in the development and delivery of services offered to children. Complementing those are civil society monitoring bodies and advocacy groups, which act as advocates and the means of protecting and promoting essential rights of citizens outside the family and state settings.

These organizations receive support from government, as well as from the international development community and from partnerships forged with the private sector. They have been very important in social mobilization, partly because of their presence and visibility in communities and the inclusion of children in the actual planning and implementation of their interventions.

These organizations are involved in other activities including: public education (material dissemination); lobbying; research; policy and legislative advocacy; legal support; campaigning; promoting the participation of children in knowing and accessing their rights; providing parenting education; producing and providing international reports; and facilitating cooperation and association among the civil society organizations.

Among the main civil society organizations active in advocating for child justice and against violence are:

- Jamaicans for Justice
- Hear the Children's Cry
- Independent Jamaican Council for Human Rights (IJCHR)
- Children First.

International Development Partners (IDPs)

The IDPs provide a strong working relationship with the government as partners through the development of policies, the provision of financial and technical assistance thus enabling the implementation of activities under development strategies. These strategies are usually developed in partnership with the government to ensure ownership, and accountability and include focus on child violence as well as factors affecting child violence such as governance and poverty reduction.

The main IDP in Jamaica that is involved in children's rights and violence prevention is UNICEF. It works for children's rights, survival development and protection, guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This work also includes the raising of funds and provision of technical assistance to support their country strategy for Jamaica.[57]

Other IDPs involved in child violence prevention programmes include:

- Inter-American Children's Institute − Organisation of American State (IIN-OAS)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- International Labour Organisation (ILO)

See Appendix F for a summary of programmes and projects undertaken by CSOs and IDPs in the area of children and violence.

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[57] https://www.unicef.org/jamaica/

4. The National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV), 2018-2023

The National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) provides a coordinated and structured approach to addressing the key issues and challenges pertaining to children as victims, perpetrators and witnesses of acts of violence and abuse. Utilising a multi-sector approach, the NPACV will guide stakeholders in understanding and fulfilling their obligations under Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as other local and international instruments to prohibit, prevent and respond to all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation of children, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child, including State actors.

The issue of children and violence is multifaceted and complex. Its nature and root causes demand an effective multi-sector and holistic response. There are several stakeholders who are involved in and contribute to the care and protection of children and the prevention of violence against children in Jamaica. The programmes supported are also diverse. The NPACV is a responsive sustainable framework to resolve the key issues and challenges within the child protection sector that the participating agencies perceive as demanding urgent solutions that require their participation.

The NPACV as a multi-sector framework will provide stakeholders with a common understanding of: the main issues and challenges relating to children and violence; the proposed responses to these problems; the processes of coordination; the level of collaboration that is required between and among partners; and how to maximize the use of limited resources.

This approach includes effective partnerships, consultations and coordination with all stakeholders in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Plan of Action. Stakeholders are expected to provide input into strategic dialogue, priority setting, implementation, and results tracking.

NPACV is a living document which will be reviewed as and when necessary to address emerging issues.

4.1 Goal and Objective of the NPACV

The **goal** of the National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence is to create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence.

General Comment No. 13 (2011) of the Committee of the Rights of the Child highlighted the benefits of creating and maintaining a protective environment and costs of not doing so. The CRC's comment highlighted that:

> *"A respectful, supportive child-rearing environment free from violence supports the realization of children's individual personalities and fosters the development of social, responsible and actively contributing citizens in the local community and larger society. Research shows that children who have not experienced violence and who develop in a healthy manner are less likely to act violently, both in childhood and when they become adults. Preventing violence in one generation reduces its likelihood in the next. Implementation of article 19 is therefore a key strategy for reducing and preventing all forms of violence in societies and*

for promoting "social progress and better standards of life" and "freedom, justice and peace in the world" for the "human family" in which children have a place and a value equal to that of adults (Convention preamble)."

On the other hand, the CRC cautioned that:

"The human, social and economic costs of denying children's rights to protection are enormous and unacceptable. Direct costs may include medical care, legal and social welfare services and alternative care. Indirect costs may include possible lasting injury or disability, psychological costs or other impacts on a victim's quality of life, disruption or discontinuation of education, and productivity losses in the future life of the child. They also include costs associated with the criminal justice system as a result of crimes committed by children who have experienced violence. The social costs arising from a demographic imbalance due to the discriminatory elimination of girls before birth are high and have potential implications for increased violence against girls including abduction, early and forced marriage, trafficking for sexual purposes and sexual violence."

The **objective** is to reduce the impact of violence on children through an integrated approach to prevention, control, monitoring and intervention so that children may preserve their rights and grow to be productive citizens of Jamaica.

The NPACV recognizes the need to adopt an approach to child protection that considers a range of systemic factors stressing prevention alongside response and intervention. Strategies focus on building a "protective environment" for children, which according to UNICEF involves the following:

- Strengthening government commitment and capacity to fulfil children's right to protection

- Promoting the establishment of and enforcement of adequate legislation

- Addressing harmful attitudes, customs and practices

- Encouraging open discussion of child protection issues

- Developing children's life skills, knowledge and participation

- Building the capacity of families and communities

- Providing essential services for prevention, recovery and reintegration

- Establishing and implementing on-going and effective monitoring, reporting and oversight.[58]

4.2   Guiding Principles

The NPACV is underpinned by a holistic rights based approach at both the national and local level. The purpose of this approach is to achieve the implementation of well-integrated systems which focus on children's rights, participation, prevention and protection at all levels. Development and implementation of the holistic rights based approach system will be guided by a common set of principles which are as follows:

1. Multi-agency collaboration and coordination in creating and implementing interventions systems (including legal framework) with strong leadership, support and commitment.

2. Utilising a holistic approach to intervention practices that focus not only on the child but on the family as a unit.

3. Having genuine child participation, that is, children being involved in matters affecting them.

4. Prioritising interventions targeted at the individual, family, and community based on needs and resources and capitalising on the resources and capabilities of all sectors of the community.

5. Applying evidence-based interventions to targeted problems with consideration given to gender, special needs, environment and other priority areas.

6. Strong commitment to implementation thereby translating laws, policies and plans into effective actions.

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[58] https://www.unicef.org/jamaica/

7. Having a robust communication strategy to address key issues regarding prevention of child violence and abuse and children's participation and protection.

4.3 Expected Outcomes

There are five (5) expected results to be achieved from the implementation of NPACV 2018-2023. These are:

• **Outcome 1** – Strengthened policy, legal and regulatory framework to ensure the protection of children from all forms of violence and exploitation.

• **Outcome 2** – Improved quality of, and access to, services for children affected by violence.

• **Outcome 3** – Strengthened family and community capacities to address issues related to children and violence.

• **Outcome 4** − Enhanced public education sensitisation and training in violence prevention, the care of child victims of violence, and children's rights.

• **Outcome 5** − Integrated framework established for the effective coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV.

4.3.1 Outcome 1: Strengthened Policy, Legal and Regulatory Framework to Ensure the Protection of Children from all Forms of Violence and Exploitation

Violence against children must be recognized as a fundamental violation of their human rights. The failure to adopt or revise legislation and other provisions, inadequate implementation of laws and other regulations and insufficient provision of material, technical and human resources and capacities to identify, prevent and react to violence against children are serious breaches and violations.

Strong sanctions must be brought against perpetrators of crimes against children. This can only happen through legislative and policy reform and the full enforcement of existing laws. It is important to institute heavy fines for all abuses and in particular, fines for sex with a person under 16 years, should be brought in line with, or above, the fines for sex with a minor. For businesses/retailers who sell cigarettes and alcohol to under-age children, sanctions should include withdrawal of licence after a specified number of breaches. For persons performing corporal punishment, strict penalties should be applied.

Relevant legislation and policy provisions are necessary to prevent violence against children. Draconian measures that violate the rights of others should not be adopted to respond to and prevent violence as they will be contradictory to the conventions enacted to protect the rights of all human beings. This is especially important for countries like Jamaica that have high levels of crime and violence. It is indeed a delicate balance of legislation and enforcement of rights. The legislation and policy framework is necessary to prevent violence against children by ensuring reliable and relevant data collection and capacity building of state institutions to perform their functions and ensure accountability. At the same time the legislative policy framework will also be robust enough to protect, promote and prevent violence against children and be able to prosecute the violators of these rights.

Under this outcome, the NPACV will seek to review and amend legislations in keeping with national, regional and international standards. Whilst commendable strides have been made in this area, there are gaps such as child participation, and children with special needs to name a few areas that need urgent attention.

Several pieces of legislation, polices and plans have been identified under this outcome to be reviewed and revised.

The review, amendments and where necessary, the development of new pieces of legislation will provide more comprehensive protection and redress under the law for children and families of children affected by violence. Securing justice for child victims and prosecuting perpetrators are critical components of the NPACV in combating child abuse and violence.

BOX 2: STATUS OF LAWS, POLICIES & PLANS FOR CHILDREN

1. Adoption (Children of) Act 1958
2. Child Care and Protection Act 2004
3. Children Custody and Guardianship Act (2017)
4. Child Pornography Act 2009
5. Children's Home Regulations 2005
6. Children's Registry Regulations 2007
7. Constabulary Force Act 1935
8. Ministerial Order on Corporal Punishment
9. Criminal Justice (Reform Act)
10. Cyber Crimes Act 2010
11. Disability Act (2014)
12. Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act 2004
13. Early Childhood Act 2003/2005
14. Early Childhood Regulations 2005
15. Education Act 1965 and Education Regulations 1980
16. Establishment of the Office of the Children's Advocate as a Commission of Parliament 2005
17. Evidence Act
18. National Parenting Support Commission Policy (2011)
19. Occupational Safety and Health Bill
20. Sexual Harassment Policy and Legislation
21. Sexual Offences Act 2009
22. Trafficking in Person (Prevention, Suppression, Punishment) Act 2007
23. Victims Charter (2006)
24. National Framework of Action for Children (NFAC)
25. National Child Diversion Policy (see NPACJ)
26. National Child Diversion Regulations (draft)
27. National Plan of Action for Counter-Trafficking
28. Safe School Policy
29. The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (Constitutional Amendment) Act (2011)
30. National Plan of Action for Child Justice (2011)
31. National Parenting Support Policy (2011)
32. National Plan of Action to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence in Jamaica 2017-2027
33. Children's Code for Programming (2003)
34. National Policy for Gender Equality (2011)
35. National Policy on Children (1997)
36. Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy
37. National Youth Policy
38. HIV/AIDS Policy
39. National Framework of Action for Children (draft)

The key issues to be addressed under this outcome are:

- Outdated laws, policies and plans with insufficient provisions and measures to protect children against violence.

- The slow pace of legislative reforms and lags in completion of important policies and plans.

- Non-compliance with international instruments and domestic commitments and policies.

- Insufficient authority (administration) and enforcement of the law.

- Very few prosecutions of perpetrators and unrealistic sanctions and penalties when they are brought before the courts.

- Insufficient knowledge of the relevant laws by the members of the judiciary and the police.

The following are the main strategies and strategic actions to address the identified issues and to achieve the objectives under this outcome.

Main Strategies

- Strengthen and accelerate the pace of development and revision of laws and policies for the prevention of violence against children in accordance with international requirements and standards.

- Improve enforcement of existing child laws and acts.

- Strengthen capacity and promote increased legal awareness about children and violence among different stakeholders.

Selected Strategic Actions

- Review and amend existing legal provisions and develop new legal provisions and laws as required in line with CRC to ensure the rights of children to protection from all forms of violence and abuse.

- Establish a mechanism for the periodic review and monitoring of laws, policies and plans to ensure their relevance and effectiveness in protecting the rights and upholding the best interests of children.

- Advocate for the prioritization of child violence and abuse cases in the courts and the need for timely adjudication of all cases including any backlog of cases.

- Lobby for penalties that are commensurate with the severity of the crime and fines that are based on current reality.

- Support the strengthening of media monitoring to prevent programming that promotes violence in all its forms.

- Collaborate with training institutions to amend curricula to incorporate courses/information on policies, laws and regulations relating to children, violence and child rights.

- Engage with Parliamentarians to place child protection issues and concerns high on the national political and legislative attention agenda.

Target

The main target to be achieved under this outcome is the review or revision of specified laws, policies and plans within the stipulated timeframe the protection of children.

The following legislation, policies and plans are expected to be reviewed/revised within the time-frames stipulated (see Table below).

Headline Indicator

The main indicator to measure progress under this outcome is:

- Number of laws, policies, national plans of action and protocols developed or revised in line with the CRC to protect children from violence.

- Number and type of social sector, justice sector and law enforcement agencies engaged in change management strategies designed to optimise the implementation of revised laws and policies.

Law	Primary Regulatory Target	Priority Level
1.Child Care and Protection Act	Strengthen legislative framework for punishment and prevention of violence against children	*Urgent: By 2018/19*
2.Early Childhood Act and Regulations	Strengthen implementation and enforcement of prohibition of corporal punishment and establish a framework for conscious disciplinary strategies	By 2021/22
3.Education Act and Regulations	Prohibit corporal punishment in schools and establish a framework for conscious disciplinary strategies	By 2019/20
4.Offences Against the Person Act	Strengthen laws protecting boys from sexual abuse and exploitation by revising the laws that categorise male sexual abuse	By 2019/20
Law	Primary Regulatory Target	Priority Level
1. Child Diversion Act	Introduce a national mechanism for diversion of child offenders	*Urgent:By 2018/19*
2. Corrections Act	Establish a rehabilitative and rights-based children's correctional system	*Urgent:By 2018/19*
3. Sexual Offences Act	Introduce a 'close-in-age' defence, that decriminalises sexual activity between minors	*Urgent:By 2018/19*
Law	Primary Regulatory Target	Priority Level
1. Children's Home Regulations	Strengthen mechanisms to protect children from violence, and detect and respond to children affected by violence	By 2019/20
2. Child Labour Regulations under Occupational Health and Safety Act	Introduce enforcement and monitoring mechanisms for the prevention of child labour	By 2020/2021
3. Legislation targeting the worst forms of child labour	Increase penalties for engaging children in major organised crime, gun trafficking, drug trafficking, commercial sex work, lottery scamming etc.	By 2020/2021
4. Sexual Harassment Law	Secure the protection of children from sexual harassment, exposure and exploitation	By 2021/22

Law/Policy	Primary Regulatory Target	Priority Level
1. Children (Adoption, of) Act	Modernise legislative framework for adoptions	By 2019/20
2. Public Defender Act	Harmonize mechanisms available to defend the rights of the child	By 2022/23
3. National Policy on Children	Strengthen policy framework for implementation of the CRC and CCPA	By 2019/20
4. National Framework of Action for Children	Strengthen policy framework for implementation of the CRC and CCPA	By 2019/20
5. National Safe Schools Policy	Strengthen mechanisms for reducing violence in schools	*Urgent: By 2018/19*
6. Victim's Charter	Strengthen support systems available to children exposed to or impacted by violence	By 2020/21
7. Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy	Strengthen health sector strategies targeting children's sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	By 2020/21
8. Harmonisation of age(s) of consent	Ensure coherence in laws and policies addressing the age of consent and the age of majority	By 2022/23

4.3.2 Outcome 2: Improved Quality of, and Access to, Services for Children Affected by Violence

Children and families affected by violence require high quality services that are child and family friendly, regularly available, accessible, affordable, timely and wide ranging. Within the context of the child care and protection system, specialist and mainstream services are critical to help child victims to recover and rebuild their lives following violence.

The child care and protection system is replete with incidents of the inability of services to meet the holistic needs of victims and their families, over-stretched and stressed services with long waiting lists and inadequate collaboration and coordination between and among actors within the child protection system. The effectiveness of the service delivery is also compromised by inadequacies in the technical, logistic, financial and human resource capacity to monitor and respond to the prevention as well as the management of child based violence. For example, there are inadequate staff numbers at the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA), the principal child protection agency. At CPFSA, the ratio of referrals to social workers is high, resulting in a heavy caseload for workers at any given time. It should be noted also that, outside of investigating intake cases, these individuals carry out counselling, visit police lockups, have a caseload of children who are in the tertiary child protection system, attend court and carry out investigation based on requests by judges, among other things.

Under this Outcome, the NPACV will support the provision of a continuum of high quality accountable services to meet the needs and promote the well-being of child victims and their families and communities. The NPACV seeks to facilitate sustainable child violence prevention activities for early detection, referral, monitoring and evaluation using a multi-sector approach. This approach requires the collaboration of state, non-state actors and IDPs who will share the responsibility of dedicated human, technical and financial resources. Investment will need to take place in the areas of institutional strengthening and capacity building for the stakeholders, including NGOs/CBOs that provide services for the affected children. Efforts will be made to strengthen the involvement of the private sector in the child protection system.

The following are the main strategies and strategic actions to address the identified issues and to achieve the objectives under this outcome:

Main Strategies

1. Strengthen the capacity of state agencies to deliver effective and efficient services to child victims and perpetrators of violence.

2. Ensure that all child victims and perpetrators of violence and those in need of special care have access to quality services.

3. Strengthen the capacity of professionals working with and for children to detect and follow up on incidents of violence against them.

4. Foster greater levels of collaboration and coordination among responsible child protection agencies/actors for the provision of the highest quality services for those that are in need of care and protection.

Selected Strategic Actions

a. Develop, strengthen and implement standards, codes, guidelines and processes, systems and mechanisms for improved service delivery.

b. Institutionalize an effective and efficient reporting, referral and tracking system of incidents of child violence and abuse through all the stages of intervention.

c. Provide the full range of recovery, rehabilitation, reintegration, psychological and social welfare support services in all areas of the child protection system to families of and child victims of violence and ensure treatment that is child/family friendly and sensitive.

d. Put systems and programmes in place to enable the successful completion of investigation of case reports referred by the OCR.

e. Implement benchmark caseload ratios of 1:60 to enable acceptable staff levels and appropriate and manageable caseloads in key agencies.

f. Establish community-based and court-based diversion programmes for children in conflict with the law which are appropriate to their unique needs and circumstances and the nature of their offences to reduce the incidence of children being held in police lock ups.

g. Provide adequate accommodation for those children placed in the custody of the State by the Courts and those awaiting appearance before or determination by the Courts.

h. Provide support and rehabilitation services to perpetrators of violence against children.

i. Improve the process of identifying and placing children between the ages of 0-8 years in a Foster Care or Adoption Placement for children in residential care.

j. Monitor existing services to ensure their relevance and effectiveness in protecting the rights and upholding the best interests of children in Jamaica.

k. Provide capacity building for all staff/professionals in all settings who work with children, specifically those in need of care and protection.

l. Fully implement the Child Case Management Electronic System (CCMS) to individually track and monitor children wherever they are in the system through the provision of status reports to inform decision-making and actions to meet the best interest of the children.

m. Undertake full roll out of the Multi-Agency Strategic Development Plan for Child Protection Project to remaining parishes.

Target

The main target to be achieved under this outcome is to increase by at least 20% the number of children accessing quality service (by type).

Headline Indicator

The main indicators to measure progress under this outcome are:

- Case worker to children in care ratio.

- Number of substantiated cases of violence against children during a 12 month period per 100,000 children.

- Percentage of child victims referred to Reintegration or Psychological Support Services during a 12 month period.

- Percentage of child victims who used Reintegration or Psychological Support Services during a 12-month period.

- Percentage of clients (children and caregivers) reporting satisfaction with the quality of child protection services.

4.3.3 Outcome 3: Strengthened family and community capacities to address issues related to children and violence

Government by itself, through the child protection agencies, cannot keep children safe from violence, abuse and neglect. Indeed, the first line of defence for or offence against children is the family and the

community in which they live. The empowerment of families and communities is therefore crucial to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children.

There is no substitute for strong families and communities to ensure that children and youth grow up to be capable adults. When children do not have the benefit of protective relationships in the family and/or the community or both, exposure to stress in the form of violence can disrupt physical and psychological development, leading to greater susceptibility to longer-term challenges. This, in turn, places substantial social and economic burdens on the society, resulting in slowed progress. On the other hand, safe, happy, healthy, educated, and empowered families are more likely to have healthy, educates, and confident sons and daughters who can become active and productive members of society. Under this outcome therefore, families and communities will be strengthened through education, training and support services.

A major preventive and early intervention effort is the promotion of responsible and effective parenting. Moreover, efforts to prevent and reduce abuse and neglect will be closely linked to broader community initiatives and priorities. The presence or absence of family ties and the quality of family relationships are important factors in the protection and care of children as well as in the prevention of abuse, exploitation, violence, neglect and abandonment. Sensitising communities to be the watchdogs of the children who are at risk is also an important consideration. Building and strengthening family stability, particularly among the poor and disadvantaged families will be pursued. A key strategy is to promote responsible and effective parenting, with emphasis on the role of men and fathers.

Under this outcome, building resiliency, self-esteem and psychosocial competence of children will also be emphasized. The government and partners will seek to enhance the capacities of children to participate in various societal processes and challenge the cultural belief that children should be seen and not heard. Moreover, opportunities will be provided for child input into policies and programmes that may impact them.

The following are the main strategies and strategic actions to address the identified issues/challenges, in order to achieve the objectives under this outcome:

Main Strategies

1. Strengthen the protective role of families and communities.

2. Strengthen the capacity of children to build resilience and resist violence.

3. Promote meaningful child participation and empowerment.

Selected Strategic Actions

a. Strengthen and expand programmes that provide parenting skills and counselling services for families and children supported by public and private sectors.

b. Support livelihood activities and facilitate employment opportunities through targeted programmes (Community Renewal Programme, National Crime Prevention and Community Safety Strategy [NCPCSS]).

c. Provide training opportunities for parents/families/care givers in violence prevention.

d. Scale-up interventions to promote abstinence and delay sexual initiation as well as address the risky behaviour of the sexually active population.

e. Build and strengthen capacity of teachers, social workers and guidance counsellors to detect, manage, mitigate and refer children as perpetrators and victims of violence.

f. Strengthen and support the institutional capacity of NGOs/CBOs to provide services for child victims (including those living and working on the streets and children with special needs) and to take an active role in advocacy on behalf of child victims.

g. Expand social protection including those social welfare services for at-risk households and. for the development of additional support mechanisms.

h. Develop, strengthen and expand partnerships including those with faith-based organizations

to strengthen community resilience in relation to violence.

i   Invest in and expand programmes addressing conflict resolution, anger management, safety in the homes and community safety, particularly among youth.

j.   Promote the development of safe living environments for all children, including the appropriate means for play, recreation and cultural activities for the all-round development of the child.

k.   Ensure the participation of children at the community and national level.

Target

The main target to be achieved under this outcome is to reduce by 15% the number of reported cases of violence against children in targeted communities

Headline Indicators

The main indicators to measure progress under this outcome are:

• Number of verified cases of violence against children

• Number of cases seen at hospital from JISS

• Number of families accessing services.

4.3.4 Outcome 4: Enhanced Public Education, Sensitisation and Training in Violence Prevention, the Care of Children Affected by Violence and Children's Rights to Survival, Development, Protection and Participation

Preventive actions and early interventions against child abuse, exploitation and violence require substantial education, knowledge building and awareness raising among families, communities, and the general public alike. Advocacy and information, education and communication (IEC) strategies and actions are considered pivotal for encouraging opportunities for open dialogue on child protection and inclusion in homes, schools, institutions and communities thereby creating and maintaining a protective environment.

The main objective of this outcome is to raise awareness, improve knowledge and understanding among the general population about child abuse, its root causes, impact and consequences, the treatment and care of those affected and methods of prevention. Sustained efforts to enlist the support of the media in communicating and delivering messages and programmes to prevent and combat abuse and exploitation will be a critical component. The media will also be called upon to accept social responsibility in reporting cases of child abuse to respect the dignity and privacy of the child including taking measures to prevent publicising information that could lead to their identification. Apart from the media, there will be a great reliance on NGOs, local religious and community leaders, and health care and service providers to widely disseminate information about the harmful consequences of child abuse and exploitation suffered by the community.

Public education, awareness campaigns and training can play a role in reducing the prevalence of unfavourable or discriminatory attitudes, beliefs and harmful practices affecting children. Another objective under this outcome is to provide a comprehensive behaviour change communication framework on child rights and protection against all forms of violence that will address diverse audience needs in order to reduce child-based violence in the country. This communication for social change framework will ensure that the Jamaican population:

• views violence against children as wrong and a criminal act;

• becomes assertive towards the relevant issues and proactive in the prevention of child violence; and

• accepts a zero-tolerance approach to child based and gender based violence.

The following are the main strategies and strategic actions to address the identified issues in order to achieve the objectives under this outcome:

Main Strategies

1. Increase public awareness about child violence through preventive education, mass media, special campaigns and sensitisation programmes.

2. Enhance capacity of media to provide appropriate reporting on children and violence at all levels.

3. Improve family and community attitudes towards child care and protection issues through increased education, sensitisation and training.

4. Improve children's knowledge about protection issues and life skills through education and sensitisation programmes.

5. Increase collaboration (networking) among partners to implement the public awareness, education and sensitisation programmes.

Selected Strategic Actions

a. Develop a National framework for public education, sensitization and training for children and violence (targeting various audiences and utilizing the appropriate communication media) to align government, civil society, and IDPs' communication plans with the NPACV communication strategy.

b. Promote information on alternate forms of discipline other than physical violence and conflict management.

c. Conduct dissemination activities at all levels (seminars, advocacy campaigns symposia, focussed group discussions) to share information on prevalence and consequences of violence against children.

d. Implement awareness programmes targeted at vulnerable groups (i.e. families, communities and youth) to share information on child victims

e. Increase the capacity of media organizations to respond to and report appropriately and sensitively on cases of Violence Against Children

f. Build awareness of existing childcare and other services and how to access them, to increase family and community access to information on violence prevention and care for children affected by violence.

g. Prioritise the issue of children and violence on the national and local agenda.

h. Create opportunities and motivate people to discuss violence prevention strategies among themselves and with decision makers and service providers to change household practices; social norms; mobilize communities to participate actively in violence prevention.

Target

The main targets to be achieved under this outcome are:

1. By 2023, 30% of the total adult population can name three rights that children are entitled to and three corresponding violence prevention strategies.

2. By 2023, 50% of child population can name three rights and three corresponding responsibilities to prevent violence.

3. Increase by 30% the awareness in the adult population of the link between corporal punishment and trauma as well as alternatives to violent discipline.

Headline Indicators

The main indicators to measure progress under this outcome are:

• Percentage of population that can name three rights that children are entitled to and three corresponding violence prevention strategies.

• Percentage of children that can name three rights and three corresponding responsibilities to prevent violence.

• Number of public education initiatives promoting broad-based support for revised laws, policies and regulations

4.3.5 Outcome 5: Establishment of an integrated framework for the effective coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV

All stakeholders agree that preventing child violence and abuse is a priority for action that requires a national effort. A key factor in the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV is the

existence of institutional mechanisms for action, coordination and networking at all levels.

Under this outcome, a coordinating framework will be established to provide a common frame of reference and a mechanism for communication among key stakeholders on the state of progress and the required measures to be applied across the range of issues identified.

It is expected that this framework will promote, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the NPACV and ensure that the government meets its national and international obligations. It will also facilitate the effective and efficient planning, coordination and resource mobilisation efforts among and between government, non-governmental organizations, IDPs and other organizations involved in the provision of services for children and families affected by violence.

Improving data collection, analysis and use underpins the NPACV. This outcome seeks to strengthen the evidence base on child protection, contribute to other areas of knowledge and ensure that evidence is used effectively to improve policies, laws and their implementation. As part of the accountability framework, it is expected that this integrated and coordinating framework will publish an annual report on progress made with regard to the prohibition, prevention and elimination of violence, submit it to Parliament for consideration and discussion, and invite all relevant stakeholders to respond to the information contained therein.

The following are the main strategies and strategic actions to address the identified issues/challenges, in order to achieve the objectives under this outcome:

Main Strategies

1. Establish governance structure for coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV.

2. Develop, implement and maintain a monitoring and evaluation system for the NPACV.

3. Develop sustainable financing mechanisms for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV.

Selected Strategic Actions

a. Establish and operationalize an integrated framework for the effective coordination of NPACV's implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

b. Prepare an M&E Plan for the NPACV.

c. Create, operationalize and maintain a comprehensive, reliable, up-to-date and gender disaggregated data collection system with interconnection to relevant national, sector, sub-sector and agency databases.

d. Strengthen research capacity and facilitate and co-ordinate the use of research findings in programming and policy development.

e. Develop public and private partnerships with the International Development Partners (IDPs), private sector, the Jamaican Diaspora community and philanthropic individuals for funding and technical assistance.

f. Conduct annual expenditure analysis of the provision of child protection services and advocate for adequate budget allocations, and earmark funds for child protection within sector budgets to implement core components of the NPACV.

Target

The main targets to be achieved under this outcome are:

1. Multi-sector coordination mechanism established and operational by 2019 to ensure timely and effective implementation of the NPACV.

2. Increase by at least 5% per annum the budget allocated to children and violence.

3. Improve communication among child protection agencies and other MDAs.

Headline Indicators

The main indicators to measure progress under this outcome are:

• Multi-sector coordination mechanism established and operational

• Percentage of national budget allocated for the protection of children against violence

- Use of a common case management system.

- Number and type of social sector, justice sector and law enforcement agencies engaged in change management strategies designed to optimise the implementation of revised laws and policies.

4.4 Critical Success Factors and Sustainability

There are several risk elements to be mitigated for the successful implementation of the NPACV. These include:

1. Insufficient human resource and financial capacity.

2. Limited capacity for implementation by key partners.

3. Ineffective coordination and collaboration among key agencies within the child protection system as well as among other agencies, families and communities.

4. Reluctance to embrace new tasks and new ways of doing things.

5. Competing priorities and limited resources.

6. Tendency to protect turf which leads to duplication of effort and waste of resources.

7. Inadequate emphasis managing for results, and insufficient technical capacity for monitoring and evaluation.

Policy reform, systems change, service improvements, behaviour change, and family and community mobilization are complex and lengthy processes influenced by many factors that are difficult to control in the short term. Creating a protective environment for children and solving the pressing problem of violence against children requires certain conditions and strategies that facilitate the effective management of a coordinated multi-sector process. This would necessitate:

1. Advocating at the highest political level to address main issues relating to children and violence.

2. Prioritization of the attention resources needed at all levels to tackle challenges with the seriousness and visibility necessary.

3. Availability of trained personnel (human resources) to effectively implement.

4. That society is ready for knowledge, attitude, and behavioural change in relation to children and violence.

5. Commitment and willingness of relevant organisations to work together and that there is consistency in effort and the quality of output among partner entities.

The prevention of violence against children cuts across a number of different areas in the socio-cultural, political, economic and legal spheres, therefore, sustainability of the National Plan of Action will be ensured through a multi-sector and holistic approach by relevant stakeholders towards the elimination and prevention of violence against children. This represents a widening of the actors and institutions involved and a greater level of commitment. It required the mobilisation of resources at all levels and the participation of not only government but also non-state actors (e.g. private sector, NGOs, CBOs, FBOS, and IDPs).

Of significant importance will be the empowerment of the children themselves to advocate and participate in the development and implementation of project and programmes for the promotion and protection of their rights.

The development of a communication strategy will also bolster sustainability of the NPACV. This strategy will place emphasis on ensuring that all stakeholders understand the NPACV as well as their role and responsibility in programme implementation. The understanding by key stakeholders of the relevant issues and challenges through the child protection development phase at the national, local government and community levels will help to ensure a practical and realistic approach to work in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and the revision of relevant policies on child protection and participation.

4.5 NPACV Results Framework

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 1: Strengthened policy, legal and regulatory framework to ensure the protection of children from all forms of violence and exploitation

Headline Indicators: Number of laws, policies, national plans of action and protocols developed or revised in line with the CRC to protect children from violence

Target: Relevant laws, policies and plans reviewed/revised by indicated timeframe

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Vision 2030 Jamaica Sector Plans (Education and Training, Labour Market and Productivity, Poverty Reduction, Persons with Special Needs, Social Welfare and Vulnerable Groups), National Framework of Action for Children, National Plan of Action for Child Justice (NPACJ) 2012-2014, National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
1.1 Strengthen and accelerate the pace of development and revision of laws and policies for the prevention of violence against children in accordance with international requirements and standards.	**1.1.1** Review and amend existing laws, policies/plans and develop new legislation and policies/plans[59] to ensure the rights of chiuldren from all forms of violence and abuse, and develop new legal provisions and new laws as required in line with the CRC and other domestic and international requirements.	See Headline Indicator above	2018-2023	**Lead:** Ministry of Education, Youth and Information(MOEYI), Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA), Office of the Children's Advocate (OCA), Ministry of Justice (MOJ) **Supporting:** Relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) as per laws, policies or plans.
	1.1.2 Establish a participatory mechanism for the periodic review and monitoring of laws, policies and plans to ensure their relevance and effectiveness[60] in protecting the rights and upholding the best interests of children.	1. Proportion of laws (specified) that have been reviewed in 5 years of their promulgation 2. Mean time between the passage of the law and its promulgation	2018-2021	**Lead:** Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, CPFSA, OCA **Supporting:** Relevant MDAs including MOJ
1.2 Improve enforcement of existing child laws and acts	**1.2.1** Advocate for the prioritisation and the expeditious disposal of child violence and abuse cases in the courts and for the provision of appropriate support services throughout the legal process to child victims and children in conflict with law	3. Proportion of cases that have been successfully prosecuted under existing child protection laws and policies	2018-2023	**Lead:** Ministry of Education, Youth and Information(MOEYI), Child Protection and Family Services Agency(CPFSA), Office of the Children's Advocate (OCA) **Supporting:** Court Management Services, Ministry of Justice

[59] Utilize a CRC-CCPA lens and ensure that these legislation and policies/plans are gender and age sensitive and otherwise address issues concerning marginalized groups, such as children with disabilities

[60] Close audit to define synergies and contradictions across laws, national policies, plans and programmes

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 1: Strengthened policy, legal and regulatory framework to ensure the protection of children from all forms of violence and exploitation

Headline Indicators: Number of laws, policies, national plans of action and protocols developed or revised in line with the CRC to protect children from violence

Target: Relevant laws, policies and plans reviewed/revised by indicated timeframe

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Vision 2030 Jamaica Sector Plans (Education and Training, Labour Market and Productivity, Poverty Reduction, Persons with Special Needs, Social Welfare and Vulnerable Groups), National Framework of Action for Children, National Plan of Action for Child Justice (NPACJ) 2012-2014, National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
	1.2.2 Support the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Child Justice 2010-2014 and the National Framework of Action for Children particularly those measures relevant to protection of children against violence.	See relevant indicators under these frameworks	2018-2023	**Lead:** MOJ and MOEYI **Supporting:** Other relevant MDAs
	1.2.3 Coordinate among stakeholders the maximum effective and efficient implementation of the law.		2018-2023	**Lead:** MOJ and Ministry of National Security **Supporting:** CPFSA, OCA
	1.2.4 Monitor media to prevent program-ming that promotes violence in any of its forms. **1.2.5** Monitor the extent of compliance with the Broadcasting Commission's Children's Code for programming and other Directives from the Commission.	4. Number of warnings/sanctions imposed by the BC for inap-propriate media. 5. Number of media fined for non-compliance with guide-lines/ regulations	2018-2023	**Lead:** Ministry of Youth and Culture & Office of the Children's Advocate (OCA) **Supporting:** Broadcasting Commission, MOJ, CPFSA
1.3 Strengthen capacity and promote increased legal awareness about children and violence among different stakeholders	**1.3.1** Collaborate with training institutions to amend curricula to incorporate courses/ infor-mation on policies, laws and regulations relating to children, violence and child rights.	6. Proportion of relevant training institutions with curricula in health, education and social services including at least one course on child rights and protection	2019-2023	**Lead:** MOEYI **Supporting:** Teachers colleges, Norman Manley Law School, CARIMAC, OCA
	1.3.2 Ensure on-going education and training in child rights and protection with particular reference to the applicable laws for judges, other court personnel, prosecutors and police (aligned to NPACJ 2010-2014)	7. Number of persons trained	2019 - 2023	**Lead:** MOJ,MNS, OCA **Supporting:** CPFSA, Office of the Child Advocate, BWA
	1.3.3 Engage with Parliamentarians to place child protection issues and concerns high on the national political and legislative attention agenda	8. Number of presentations or representations made to Parliament	2019-2023	**Lead:** Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (MOEYI)Supporting: CPFSA, PIOJ, OCA

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 1: Strengthened policy, legal and regulatory framework to ensure the protection of children from all forms of violence and exploitation

Headline Indicators: Number of laws, policies, national plans of action and protocols developed or revised in line with the CRC to protect children from violence

Target: Relevant laws, policies and plans reviewed/revised by indicated timeframe

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Vision 2030 Jamaica Sector Plans (Education and Training, Labour Market and Productivity, Poverty Reduction, Persons with Special Needs, Social Welfare and Vulnerable Groups), National Framework of Action for Children, National Plan of Action for Child Justice (NPACJ) 2012-2014, National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
	1.3.4 Support the implementation of the Child Diversion Policy.	9. Number of persons sensi-tised/ exposed to Restorative Justice philosophy/principles	2020-2023	**Lead:** MOJ **Supporting:** MNS and Ministry of Local Government and Community Development

Assumptions
- Ensuring that penalties are commensurate with the severity of the crime and fines are based on current reality
- Enforcing penalties and sanctions through the justice system
- Implementation of supporting framework in particular the National Plan of Action for Child Justice and the National Framework of Action for Children

Risks
- Slow pace of legislative reform
- Slow administration of justice
- Inadequate enforcement of the law by relevant authorities

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 2: Improved quality of and access to services for children affected by violence

Headline Indicator 1: Number of substantiated cases of violence against children during a 12 month period per 100,000 children
Headline Indicator 2: Percentage of child victims referred to Recovery, Reintegration, or Psychological Support Services during a 12 month period
Headline Indicator 3: Percentage of child victims who used Recovery, Reintegration, or Psychological Support Services during a 12 month period
Headline Indicator 4: Percentage of clients (children and caregivers) reporting satisfaction with the quality of child protection services

Target: Increase by at least 20% the number of children accessing quality service (by type)

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Vision 2030 Jamaica Sector Plans (Health and Population, Education and Training, Authentic and Innovative Culture, Poverty Reduction, Persons with Special Needs, Social Welfare and Vulnerable Groups),National Framework of Action for Children, National Plan of Action for Child Justice, National Youth Policy, National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
2.1 Strengthen the institutional, human resources and financial capacity of the GOJ child protection agencies to treat and prevent child abuse	**2.1.1** Develop, strengthen and implement standards, codes, guidelines and processes, systems and mechanisms for improved service delivery a. Review existing standards and guidelines for service delivery b. Agree on a nationally consistent framework for service delivery standards c. Develop schedules for implementing actions to ensure the standards are achieved (for example, implementing organisational change) and monitor completion of actions through audits. d. Build and strengthen institutional and human resource capacity in child serving organizations to meet the service standards e. Ensure compliance with basic standards for safety, security, health and sanitation for all child-care facilities, especially juvenile correctional and remand facilities. f. Establish monitoring and evaluation system to review and update standards for responsible institutions within the child protection system.	1. Number of standards/guidelines and protocols reviewed and updated for delivery of services to children affected by violence and in need of care and protection. 2. Percentage of child protection services (by type) compliant with the various standards and protocols. 3. Number of residential care institutions who are applying quality care standards. Reports should indicate the number of corrective actions for each infringement. 4. Number of persons trained and certified.	2018-2023	**Lead:** OCA, CPFSA **Supporting:** OCA, NCR, MOH, MNS/JCF, DCS, CISOCA, MLSS, MOEYI, MOJ, VSU, NGOs, CBOs and Churches

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 2: Improved quality of and access to services for children affected by violence

Headline Indicator 1: Number of substantiated cases of violence against children during a 12 month period per 100,000 children

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Headline Indicator 3: Percentage of child victims who used Recovery, Reintegration, or Psychological Support Services during a 12 month period

Headline Indicator 4: Percentage of clients (children and caregivers) reporting satisfaction with the quality of child protection services

Target: Increase by at least 20% the number of children accessing quality service (by type)

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Vision 2030 Jamaica Sector Plans (Health and Population, Education and Training, Authentic and Innovative Culture, Poverty Reduction, Persons with Special Needs, Social Welfare and Vulnerable Groups),National Framework of Action for Children, National Plan of Action for Child Justice, National Youth Policy, National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
	2.1.2 Improve identification and monitoring of children at risk: a. Institutionalize an effective and efficient reporting, referral and tracking system of incidents of child violence and abuse through all the stages of intervention. b. Review early detection and referral systems in all relevant settings (education, health services, justice and communities) and make recommendations for improvement. c. Build or strengthen institutional capacity that reduces client to service provider ratios, especially in the areas of: child protection, child guidance clinics and the OCA to enable the oversight role.	5. Number of reported cases of all forms of child abuse and violence, by type, location and age. 6. Number and percentage of child victims of violence who are referred to support services (recovery, rehabilitation, reintegration, or psychological support) within an appropriate time frame. 7. Number of key staff in Ministry of Health and Education trained in early detection and referral systems, sexual abuse, child abuse and trafficking in persons and able to respond. 8. Increase in staff to client (children) ratio.	2019-2020	**Lead:** NCR **Supporting:** CPFSA, MOH, MNS/JCF, DCS, CISOCA, MLSS, MOEYI, MOJ, VSU, OCA, MLG&CD
	2.1.3 Establish and operate Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) at the Regional and Parish levels.	9. Training for support agencies as first responders islandwide.	2019-2020	**Lead:** CPFSA **Supporting:** MNS, MOJ, MLG&CD, ODPEM, VSU, JCF (CISOCA)

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 2: Improved quality of and access to services for children affected by violence

Headline Indicator 1: Number of substantiated cases of violence against children during a 12 month period per 100,000 children

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Headline Indicator 3: Percentage of child victims who used Recovery, Reintegration, or Psychological Support Services during a 12 month period

Headline Indicator 4: Percentage of clients (children and caregivers) reporting satisfaction with the quality of child protection services

Target: Increase by at least 20% the number of children accessing quality service (by type)

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Vision 2030 Jamaica Sector Plans (Health and Population, Education and Training, Authentic and Innovative Culture, Poverty Reduction, Persons with Special Needs, Social Welfare and Vulnerable Groups),National Framework of Action for Children, National Plan of Action for Child Justice, National Youth Policy, National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
	2.1.4 Visit and inspect Children's Homes, Correctional Institutions and Places of Safety.	10. Number of institutions that are compliant with the guidelines	2018-2023	**Lead:** CPFSA, OCA **Supporting:** MNS-DCS, MOLSS
	2.1.5 Visit and inspect factories and docks to ensure compliance and take action where necessary	11. Number of labour inspection visits.		
		12. Percentage of facilities/institutions which provide services to children inspected unannounced to ensure protection of children.		
	2.1.6 Strengthen capacity of the Mobile Mental Health Unit, "Smile Mobile".	13. Number of children accessing therapeutic services provided		
	2.1.7 Improve qualifications and skills of child protection staff/professionals in all settings	14. Number of staff engaged in some form of continuing education.	2018-2023	All relevant line ministries and agencies within the child protection sector
	2.1.8 Ensure the effective operation of specialized intake units at the Regional and Parish levels	15. Number of critical intake services report cases which are handled within 72 hours.	2018	**Lead:** CPFSA **Supporting:** OCA, NCR, MNS, MLG&CD, VSU
	2.1.9 Fully implement the Child Case Management Electronic System (CCMS) to individually track and monitor children wherever they are in the system through the provision of status reports to inform decision making and actions to meet the best interest of the children.	16. Operational Child Case Management Electronic System (CCMS).	2018-2020	**Lead:** CPFSA, OCA **Supporting:** NCR, CPFSA – Ananda Alert System, VSU, CISOCA, CGC,MOJ

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

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NPACV Outcome 2: Improved quality of and access to services for children affected by violence

Headline Indicator 1: Number of substantiated cases of violence against children during a 12 month period per 100,000 children
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Headline Indicator 4: Percentage of clients (children and caregivers) reporting satisfaction with the quality of child protection services
Target: Increase by at least 20% the number of children accessing quality service (by type)
Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Vision 2030 Jamaica Sector Plans (Health and Population, Education and Training, Authentic and Innovative Culture, Poverty Reduction, Persons with Special Needs, Social Welfare and Vulnerable Groups), National Framework of Action for Children, National Plan of Action for Child Justice, National Youth Policy, National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
	2.1.10 Put systems and programmes in place to enable the successful completion of investigation of case reports referred by the OCR.	17. Number of case updates received by referral agencies from relevant agencies	2018-2020	
	2.1.11 Establish benchmark caseload ratios to enable acceptable staff levels and appropriate and manageable caseloads in key agencies (CPFSA, OCA, VSU, CISOCA, CGC, MOJ).	18. Ratio of staff to cases per parish and per childcare officer		
2.2 Foster greater levels of collaboration and coordination among responsible child protection agencies/actors for the provision of the highest quality services for those that are in need of care and protection	**2.2.1** Undertake full rolling out of the Multi-Agency Strategic Development Plan for Child Protection Project to remaining parishes: a Design and implement a multi-agency plan of action to reduce the risk of re-traumatizing child victims (aligned to NPACJ 2010-2014). b. Strengthen inter-sector and inter-institutional coordination and operational work flows focused on child protection outcomes (aligned to NPACVJ 2012-2014). c. Inter-sector work among the justice, security and social sectors for support to children in justice processes and reintegrating into society. d. Assess and agree on an optimal service model to have a holistic continuum of service provision.	19. Multi-agency response system implemented in all parishes		**Lead Agency:** MOEYI, CPFSA, MNS, MOJ **Supporting:** Other relevant MDAs

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

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NPACV Outcome 2: Improved quality of and access to services for children affected by violence

Headline Indicator 1: Number of substantiated cases of violence against children during a 12 month period per 100,000 children
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Headline Indicator 4: Percentage of clients (children and caregivers) reporting satisfaction with the quality of child protection services

Target: Increase by at least 20% the number of children accessing quality service (by type)

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Vision 2030 Jamaica Sector Plans (Health and Population, Education and Training, Authentic and Innovative Culture, Poverty Reduction, Persons with Special Needs, Social Welfare and Vulnerable Groups),National Framework of Action for Children, National Plan of Action for Child Justice, National Youth Policy, National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
2.3 Ensure that all child victims and perpetrators of violence and those in need of special care have access to quality services.	**2.3.1** Provide the full range of recovery, rehabilitation, reintegration, psychological and social welfare support services in all areas of the child protection system to families of and child victims of violence and ensure treatment that is child/family friendly and sensitive (*Activities below are aligned to the NPACJ, 2010-2014, see NPACJ for details*): a. Ensure that trauma counselling services and all other forms of counselling are available at all levels and are being accessed by victims, including for children with special needs (Health Sector). b. Monitor children who are failing in school or have behavioural issues at grade 5/6 and 9. Implement remedial action as required to prevent expulsion or drop-out. Ensure placement made in supervised after school activities and family support programmes	See Headline Indicators above 20. Number of victim of violence related injuries treated in accident and emergency rooms and receiving trauma services for themselves and their families. 21. Number and percentage of suspensions, expulsions and drop outs.	2019-2023	**Lead:** CPFSA, MOH **Supporting:** NCR, CISOCA, VSU, MOH, MNS, DCS, MOJ, MOEYI, MOLSS, MLG&CD, MCGES,
	c. Provide continuing educational support for children in care, those in conflict with the law and pregnant teens (Education Sector).	22. Performance of children in national assessments (Grade 4 literacy/ numeracy, GSAT, CSEC/CXC, CAPE).	2018-2023	**Lead:** MOEYI **Supporting:** CPFSA, WCF, BWA, MOJ, DCS, JCF, VSU, OCA

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

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NPACV Outcome 2: Improved quality of and access to services for children affected by violence

Headline Indicator 1: Number of substantiated cases of violence against children during a 12 month period per 100,000 children
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Target: Increase by at least 20% the number of children accessing quality service (by type)

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Vision 2030 Jamaica Sector Plans (Health and Population, Education and Training, Authentic and Innovative Culture, Poverty Reduction, Persons with Special Needs, Social Welfare and Vulnerable Groups),National Framework of Action for Children, National Plan of Action for Child Justice, National Youth Policy, National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
		23. Number of pregnant teens re-integrated into the formal school system.	2018-2023	
	d. Strengthen child diversion activities to reduce the incidence of children entering lock-ups.	24. Percentage of children diverted from police lock-ups.		
	e. Reduce the incidence of children being held in police lock-ups and adult correctional facilities (Justice and National Security Sector).	25. Number of children detained in police lock-ups longer than 24 hours.	2019	**Lead:** MNS – DCS **Supporting:** CPFSA, OCA, MOJ
	f. Provide adequate accommodation for those children placed in the custody of the State by the Courts and those awaiting appearance before or determination by the Courts (Justice and National Security Sector).	26. Number of children detained in police lock-ups and held with adults [61]		
	g. Implementing effective systems of redress for victims (Justice Sector).	27. Percentage of children in conflict with law, who enter a diversion scheme.	2018	**Lead:** MOJ **Supporting:** CPFSA, OCA, MNSs

[61] States Parties Third and Fourth Periodic Report (2003-2009), 2010

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NPACV Outcome 2: Improved quality of and access to services for children affected by violence

Headline Indicator 1: Number of substantiated cases of violence against children during a 12 month period per 100,000 children

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Headline Indicator 3: Percentage of child victims who used Recovery, Reintegration, or Psychological Support Services during a 12 month period

Headline Indicator 4: Percentage of clients (children and caregivers) reporting satisfaction with the quality of child protection services

Target: Increase by at least 20% the number of children accessing quality service (by type)

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Vision 2030 Jamaica Sector Plans (Health and Population, Education and Training, Authentic and Innovative Culture, Poverty Reduction, Persons with Special Needs, Social Welfare and Vulnerable Groups), National Framework of Action for Children, National Plan of Action for Child Justice, National Youth Policy, National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
.	h. Establish community-based and court-based diversion programmes for children in conflict with the law which are appropriate to their unique needs and circumstances and the nature of their offence (Justice and National Security Sector). i Carry out of effective programmes to address the behavioural problems of those children in custody (Justice and National Security Sector).	28. Child victims who receive some form of redress.	2018	
	j. Increase child friendliness within the Justice Sector (See details in the NPACJ)	29. Number of parishes in which services of children's courts are established. 30. Percentage of courts using interview suites, live link, video recording system or equally appropriate facilities for children.	2018-2020	As above
	K. Provide support and rehabilitation services to child perpetrators of violence (National Security Sector)	31. Number and percentage of perpetrators who have been provided with rehabilitative services		**Lead:** MNS-DCS

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Headline Indicator 4: Percentage of clients (children and caregivers) reporting satisfaction with the quality of child protection services

Target: Increase by at least 20% the number of children accessing quality service (by type)

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Vision 2030 Jamaica Sector Plans (Health and Population, Education and Training, Authentic and Innovative Culture, Poverty Reduction, Persons with Special Needs, Social Welfare and Vulnerable Groups),National Framework of Action for Children, National Plan of Action for Child Justice, National Youth Policy, National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
	I. Continue process of identifying and placing children between the ages of 0 – 8 years in a Foster Care or Adoption Placement for children in residential care (Children in State Care)	32. Number of children removed from residential care and placed into foster care, adoptive care or suitable alternative within the last 12 months.	2018-2019	**Lead:** CPFSA
	2.3.2 Increase child participation in child protection services	33. Percentage of children who actively participate in care decisions that affect them.		**Lead:** MOEYI, CPFSA
	2.3.3 Increase client satisfaction with child protection services	34. Number/Percentage of children and care-givers who are satisfied with the quality of the support they receive.	2018-2023	**Lead:** CPFSA, MOEYI, OCA **Supporting:** CPFSA, MNS, DCS, MOLSS
	2.3.4 Build awareness of existing services and support the development of additional services.	See Outcome 4 (4.1.5 and 4.1.6)		**Lead:** CPFSA,MYS
	2.3.5 Support the preparation of a directory of services.			
	2.3.6 Improve and expand infrastructure and facilities within the child protection sector (e.g. Shelters/half way houses, Crisis Centres, Assessment and Treatment Centres particularly for children with mental illnesses, and children's homes in need of repairs) – *(Aligned to NPACJ 2010-2014).*		2018-2023	**Lead:** CPFSA, MNS-DCS, JCF,MOJ **Supporting:** Ministry of Finance and Public Service, IDPs, Private sector

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

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NPACV Outcome 2: Improved quality of and access to services for children affected by violence

Headline Indicator 1: Number of substantiated cases of violence against children during a 12 month period per 100,000 children
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Headline Indicator 3: Percentage of child victims who used Recovery, Reintegration, or Psychological Support Services during a 12 month period
Headline Indicator 4: Percentage of clients (children and caregivers) reporting satisfaction with the quality of child protection services

Target: Increase by at least 20% the number of children accessing quality service (by type)

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Vision 2030 Jamaica Sector Plans (Health and Population, Education and Training, Authentic and Innovative Culture, Poverty Reduction, Persons with Special Needs, Social Welfare and Vulnerable Groups),National Framework of Action for Children, National Plan of Action for Child Justice, National Youth Policy, National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
	2.3.7 Provide supportive programmes and environment for children who have been sexually exploited. **2.3.8** Support interventions and programmes for the rehabilitation of perpetrators of sexual exploitation.	35. Number/percentage of children abstaining or delaying sexual initiation	2018-2023	**Lead:** MOH, MOEYI, NFPB
	2.3.9 Strengthen and support the institutional capacity of NGOs and CBOs to provide services for child victims (including those living and working on the streets and children with special needs) and to take an active role in advocacy on behalf of child victims.	36. Percentage of children and families accessing quality services provided by civil society organisations and the private sector	2018-2023	**Lead:** MOEYI **Supporting:** CPFSA,MLSS
	2.3.10 Provide manuals for Health workers on trafficking of persons, sexual assault and child abuse.	37. Number of persons sensitised/ exposed to Restorative Justice philosophy/principles	2020-2023	**Lead:** MOJ, MOH

Assumptions
- Implementation of supporting frameworks
- Commitment of key agencies to work together in a coordinated way and avoid "turfism" and duplication of effort
- Availability of adequate and timely resources to expand infrastructure and facilities and to implement changes to provide improved and new services

Risks
- Reluctance to embrace new tasks and new ways of doing things
- Ineffective coordination and collaboration among key agencies within the child protection system

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 3: Strengthened family and community capacities to address issues related to children and violence.

Headline Indicator: Number of reported cases of violence against children

Target: Reduction by 15% the number of reported cases of violence against children in targeted communities

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Vision 2030 Jamaica Sector Plans (Education and Training, Authentic and Innovative Culture), National Framework of Action for Children, National Plan of Action for Child Justice, National Youth Policy, Community Renewal Programme (CRP), National Crime Prevention and Community Safety Strategy (NCPCSS), National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Early Childhood Development in Jamaica 2008-2013 (2008), Safe School Policy, National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
3.1. Strengthen Parent, Caregiver and Community support.	**3.1.1** Strengthen and expand programmes that provide parenting skills and counselling services for families and children supported by public and private sectors. **3.1.2.** Support the establishment of Parents' Places.	1. Number of parent education and support programmes in targeted communities with emphasis on alternative forms of discipline. 2. Number of functioning Parents' Places. 3. Number of PATH families receiving parent education.	2020	**Lead:** MOEYI, ECC **Supporting:** CPFSA, VSU, OCA, NGOS, IDPS, DCS
	3.1.3 Establish and strengthen social programmes to support the child, the family and other caregivers through life skills, sports and cultural programmes for families and children.	4. Percentage of families reporting strengthened capacity to prevent violence and care for children affected by violence. 5. Percentage of parents azrejecting violence as a disciplinary method.	2018-2023	As Above
	3.1.4 Strengthen programmes to reconnect street children with their families or place them in safe environments	6. Number children removed from streets into safe environments	2018-2023	**Lead:** MLSS, CPFSA, SDC **Supporting:** MNS (JCF), MOH
	3.1.5. Strengthen community involvement in child protection/child rights application/child abuse prevention issues via mechanisms including child protection committees at the parish levels.	7. Number of community-based child protection committees established and functional. 8. Number of child rights related events held by CBO's, FBOs and NGOs	2018-2023	**Lead:** CPFSA **Supporting:** SDC, CSOs

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 3: Strengthened family and community capacities to address issues related to children and violence.

Headline Indicator: Number of reported cases of violence against children

Target: Reduction by 15% the number of reported cases of violence against children in targeted communities

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Vision 2030 Jamaica Sector Plans (Education and Training, Authentic and Innovative Culture), National Framework of Action for Children, National Plan of Action for Child Justice, National Youth Policy, Community Renewal Programme (CRP), National Crime Prevention and Community Safety Strategy (NCPCSS), National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Early Childhood Development in Jamaica 2008–2013 (2008), Safe School Policy, National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
	3.1.6 Build and strengthen the capacity of community based workers and volunteers to detect, manage, mitigate and refer children as perpetrators and victims of violence.	9. Percentage of community based government workers and volunteers who demonstrate increased knowledge of protection risks and solutions.	2018-2023	**Lead:** MLSS, SDC
	3.1.7 Develop, strengthen and expand partnerships [62] including with faith-based organizations to strengthen community resilience to violence.	10 Number of boys benefitting from mentorship programmes	2019-2023	**Lead:** MNS, SDC, CPFSA **Supporting:** NGOs, FBOs, PSOs
	3.1.8 Strengthen existing mentoring and peer support programmes that will include the fostering of good role models especially for males.	11. Number of mentorship programmes especially for boys	2018-2023	
3.2. Strengthen Educational Institutions and Life Skills.	**3.2.1.** Advocate for safe and secure learning environment (physical environment; psycho-social and emotional climate) to support teaching and learning in schools	12. Number of schools implementing the SWPBIS framework. 13. Percentage of schools meeting safe schools criteria as per NEI data. 14. Percentage of schools providing guidance and counselling services for all students.	2018-2022	**Lead:** MOEYI **Supporting:** OCA

[62] Strengthen the concept of "it takes a village to raise a child" emphasizing the importance of linkages among church, school, family, police, media, etc. to provide a nurturing, protective and safe environment for our children.

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 3: Strengthened family and community capacities to address issues related to children and violence.

Headline Indicator: Number of reported cases of violence against children

Target: Reduction by 15% the number of reported cases of violence against children in targeted communities

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Vision 2030 Jamaica Sector Plans (Education and Training, Authentic and Innovative Culture), National Framework of Action for Children, National Plan of Action for Child Justice, National Youth Policy, Community Renewal Programme (CRP), National Crime Prevention and Community Safety Strategy (NCPCSS), National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Early Childhood Development in Jamaica 2008-2013 (2008), Safe School Policy, National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
	3.2.2 Institute special programmes and expand the range of options for further education for low achievers.	15. Number of children 15-17 completing secondary education and transitioning to higher education programmes or skills training opportunities.	2018-2022	**Lead:** MOEYI **Supporting:** JFLL, HEART/NTA
	3.2.3 Expand the roll out of programmes equipping children with the skills to negotiate the challenges of early sexual activity, drug and alcohol abuse and to practice healthy lifestyles	16. Percentage of secondary level learners enrolled in HFLE Grades 7-11. 17. Age of first substance abuse	2018-2021	**Lead:** MOEYI
	3.2.4. Monitor children who are failing in school or have behavioural issues at grade 5/6 and 9. Implement remedial action as required to prevent expulsion or drop-out. Placement made in supervised after-school activities and family support programmes	18. Reduction in the number in suspensions, expulsions and drop-outs. 19. Number of children with behavioural issues receiving support from structured after school programmes and family support programmes	2018-2023	**Lead:** MOEYI
	3.2.5. Invest in and expand programmes addressing conflict resolution, anger management, safety in the homes and community safety, particularly among youth	20. Percentage of children exposed to conflict resolution, anger management and mediation techniques	2018-2023	**Lead:** CPFSA **Supporting:** DRF, NGOs, FBOs

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 3: Strengthened family and community capacities to address issues related to children and violence.

Headline Indicator: Number of reported cases of violence against children

Target: Reduction by 15% the number of reported cases of violence against children in targeted communities

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Vision 2030 Jamaica Sector Plans (Education and Training, Authentic and Innovative Culture), National Framework of Action for Children, National Plan of Action for Child Justice, National Youth Policy, Community Renewal Programme (CRP), National Crime Prevention and Community Safety Strategy (NCPCSS), National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Early Childhood Development in Jamaica 2008-2013 (2008), Safe School Policy, National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
	3.2.6. Promote extra curricula activities including youth clubs, 4H clubs, etc.	21. Number of functional clubs actively involved in promoting positive youth engagement and working for peace in their community.		**Lead:** MOEYI **Supporting:** MOLG, SDC, MNS
	3.2.7 Ensure the participation of children at the community and national level and engage with children's forums/groups/organizations in order to regularly assess and review children's needs and threats.	22. Number of opportunities created for children's participation in social or civic activities[63]	2019-2023	**Lead:** MOEYI **Supporting:** SDC
	3.2.8 Increase involvement and participation of community leaders in discourses and dialogues particularly on sexual abuse - sex with persons under 18 carnal abuse and incest and child trafficking.	23. Number of community leaders and members engaged.	2019-2023	**Lead:** MOEYI, MNS, CPFSA **Supporting:** SDC, Community Development Organizations
3.3 Norms and Values	**3.3.1** Support the strengthening of programmes which emphasize raising awareness of the health and behavioural risk of early sexual initiation (National HIV Strategic Plan).	24. Number/percentage of children sensitised to sexual health and behavioural risk	2018-2023	**Lead:** MOH, MOEYI, NFPB
	3.3.2 Provide training in child rights and responsibility and on international child rights instruments	25. Number of persons sensitised/exposed in Child Rights and Restorative Justice philosophy and principles	2020-2023	**Lead:** MOJ, OCA, CPFSA

[63] For example: participation in a child or youth forum; participation in a child or youth association/organization; involvement as a representative in a child or youth council; participation in a community (local or regional) project; participation in a collective supporting action (for example collecting signatures); - involvement in a protest action; - participation in voluntary work

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 3: Strengthened family and community capacities to address issues related to children and violence.

Headline Indicator: Number of reported cases of violence against children

Target: Reduction by 15% the number of reported cases of violence against children in targeted communities

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Vision 2030 Jamaica Sector Plans (Education and Training, Authentic and Innovative Culture), National Framework of Action for Children, National Plan of Action for Child Justice, National Youth Policy, Community Renewal Programme (CRP), National Crime Prevention and Community Safety Strategy (NCPCSS), National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Early Childhood Development in Jamaica 2008–2013 (2008), Safe School Policy, National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
3.4 Income Strengthening	**3.4.1** Support livelihood activities and facilitate employment opportunities through targeted programmes (Community Renewal Programme, National Crime Prevention and Community Safety Strategy (NCPCSS).	26. Number of at risk families benefiting from income generating projects in targeted communities	2018-2023	**Lead:** MNS, PIOJ **Supporting:** SDC, MLSS, MOH
3.5 Safe Environment	**3.5.1** Lobby for the increase of community policing in collaboration with other service providers in select communities and schools in order to reduce violence	27. Number of partnerships formed to reduce violence against children and to promote the family and community development. 28. Number of neighbourhood watch groups	2019-2023	**Lead:** MNS, SDC, CPFSA, OCA **Supporting:** NGOs, FBOs, PSOs
	3.5.2 Promote the development of safe living environments for all children, including the appropriate means for play, recreation and cultural activities for the all-round development of the child.	29. Number of child-friendly safe places to play for children in targeted communities.	2018-2023	**Lead:** MOLG, CPFSA, OCA, SDC

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 4: Enhanced public education, sensitisation and training on violence prevention, the care of child victims of violence and children's rights

Headline Indicator 1: Percentage of population can name three rights that children are entitled to and three corresponding violence prevention strategies

Headline Indicator 2: Percentage of children who can name three rights and three corresponding responsibilities to prevent violence

Target 1: By 2023, 30% of the total adult population can name three rights that children are entitled to and three corresponding violence prevention strategies

Target 2: By 2023, 50% of child population can name three rights and three corresponding responsibilities to prevent violence

Target 3: Increase by 30% the awareness in the adult population of the link between corporal punishment and trauma as well as alternatives to violent discipline.

Supporting Mechanisms: Communication programmes and plans of relevant MDAs, CSOs and IDPs, Code of Practice for Jamaican Journalists & Media Organizations

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
4.1 Increase public awareness about child violence through preventive education, mass- and social media, special campaigns and sensitisation programmes	**4.1.1.** Develop a comprehensive national public education, sensitisation and training programme on violence prevention, the care of child victims of violence, and children's rights to survival, development, protection and participation targeting various audiences and utilizing the various communication media **4.1.2.** Effort must target at risk population on the ground through various techniques: community walk-throughs, the use of street theatre, partnering with key influencers such as nurses and teachers, hairdressers and barbers and musical artists including selectors.	1. NPACV Communication Strategy and Plan developed and approved.	2018-2019	**Lead:** MOEYI, CPFSA, PIOJ, NCR, OCA, JIS, SDC **Supporting:** MNS, MOJ, other MDAs, Private Sector, NGOs and FBOs
	4.1.3. Undertake a knowledge, attitude, and practices survey (KAPB) at the beginning of the implementation phase of the programme to determine the baseline for monitoring progress	2. Completed baseline survey.	2018-2019	**Lead:** PIOJ, MOEYI, CPFSA, OCA
	4.1.4. Increase availability of accurate and reliable information on children and violence at national and local levels especially through social media a. Reproduce old, develop and pre-test new materials on violence prevention for caregivers and children, appropriate for age, risk levels, culture, literacy. b. Develop and standardise information education and communication materials on children and violence prevention, and protection.	3. Number of information, communication and education materials developed and disseminated (including child friendly and social media versions).	2018-2023	**Lead:** MOEYI, CPFSA, OCA, NCR, MOE **Supporting:** Other relevant MDAs and NGOs

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 4: Enhanced public education, sensitisation and training on violence prevention, the care of child victims of violence and children's rights

Headline Indicator 1: Percentage of population can name three rights that children are entitled to and three corresponding violence prevention strategies
Headline Indicator 2: Percentage of children who can name three rights and three corresponding responsibilities to prevent violence
Target 1: By 2023, 30% of the total adult population can name three rights that children are entitled to and three corresponding violence prevention strategies
Target 2: By 2023, 50% of child population can name three rights and three corresponding responsibilities to prevent violence
Target 3: Increase by 30% the awareness in the adult population of the link between corporal punishment and trauma as well as alternatives to violent discipline.
Supporting Mechanisms: Communication programmes and plans of relevant MDAs, CSOs and IDPs, Code of Practice for Jamaican Journalists & Media Organizations

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
	4.1.5. Conduct dissemination activities at all levels (seminars, conferences, workshops, advocacy campaigns, symposia, focus group, street theatre community walkthroughs and discussions) to share information on prevalence and consequences of violence against children	4. Number of events organized and implemented including child-led media campaigns	2018-2023	**Lead:** MOEYI, CPFSA, -NCR, OCA, MNS, MOE
	4.1.6. Build awareness (through various media) of existing childcare and services and how to access them. **4.1.7.** Prepare and distribute nationally a user-friendly directory of services for children, at risk youth and communities affected by violence	5. Directory of services developed kept updated 6. Percentage persons knowledgeable about existing services for child victims of violence	2018- 2023	**Lead:** CPFSA, MOEYI, ECC, MOH
	4.1.8. Use of social media, websites, chat room and text messaging to promote violence reduction messaging and support advocacy for increased access to services	7. Number of key stake-holders using social media to educate and deliver key messages on children and violence		**Lead:** NCR, OCA, CPFSA, JIS, Broadcasting Commission
	4.1.9 Enlist the support of the media to disseminate information on children and violence	8. Number of ads, documentaries, TV programmes, articles, social media posts etc. produced in the media on children and violence		**Lead:** CPFSA, VPA
4.2. Enhance capacity of media to provide appropriate reporting on children and violence at all levels	**4.2.1** Sensitise media associations and personnel on children and violence issues through trainings, workshops and seminars to raise awareness and support media personnel to report child violence issues in a sensitive way.	9. Evidence of the media reporting on child violence issues according to the guidelines of the Broadcasting Commission.		**Lead:** CPFSA, OCA, NCR, VPA CARIMAC **Supporting:** Women's Media Watch, CARIMAC, PANOS, VPA

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 4: Enhanced public education, sensitisation and training on violence prevention, the care of child victims of violence and children's rights

Headline Indicator 1: Percentage of population can name three rights that children are entitled to and three corresponding violence prevention strategies

Headline Indicator 2: Percentage of children who can name three rights and three corresponding responsibilities to prevent violence

Target 1: By 2023, 30% of the total adult population can name three rights and three corresponding violence prevention strategies

Target 2: By 2023, 50% of child population can name three rights and three corresponding responsibilities to prevent violence

Target 3: Increase by 30% the awareness in the adult population of the link between corporal punishment and trauma as well as alternatives to violent discipline.

Supporting Mechanisms: Communication programmes and plans of relevant MDAs, CSOs and IDPs, Code of Practice for Jamaican Journalists & Media Organizations

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
	4.2.2 Strengthen partnerships with the media to simplify core messages and present complex technical information simply and consistently.	10. # of media personnel trained to develop and produce child sensitive material/programmes.	2018-2023	
4.3 Improve family and community attitudes towards child care and protection issues through increased education, sensitisation and training	**4.3.1** Focus communication and education efforts at the family and community level towards the following guided by the findings from the baseline survey: a. Sexual violence b. Physical violence c. Emotional violence d. Neglect or negligent treatment	11. Proportion of population who reject all forms of violence against children and can identify alternative non-violent forms of discipline. 12. Baseline to be established from existing studies and updated.		**Lead:** CPFSA, NCR, OCA, MNS.MOJ, NATFATIP, MOH **Supporting:** Women's Centre, ECC, MOH; esp. ANC NGOs, CBOs and FBOs, IDPs
	4.3.2. Promote information on alternate forms of discipline other than physical violence and conflict management.	13. Increased awareness in the adult population of the link between corporal punishment and trauma as well as alternatives to violent discipline.		**Lead:** MOEYI, ECC, MOH; esp. ANC and Child Guidance, Parenting Commission **Supporting:** CPFSA, OCA, DRF
	4.3.3 Increase family and community's access to information on violence prevention and care for children affected by violence	14. Percentage of parents/care-givers able to name three rights and corresponding responsibilities to better protect children. 15. Percentage of parents/care-givers of children 0-6 years old that have ever received any information on parenting, excluding information received from family members and friends.		**Lead:** NCR, OCA, CPFSA, MOH at ANC and CGC

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 4: Enhanced public education, sensitisation and training on violence prevention, the care of child victims of violence and children's rights

Headline Indicator 1: Percentage of population can name three rights that children are entitled to and three corresponding violence prevention strategies

Headline Indicator 2: Percentage of children who can name three rights and three corresponding responsibilities to prevent violence

Target 1: By 2023, 30% of the total adult population can name three rights that children are entitled to and three corresponding violence prevention strategies

Target 2: By 2023, 50% of child population can name three rights and three corresponding responsibilities to prevent violence

Target 3: Increase by 30% the awareness in the adult population of the link between corporal punishment and trauma as well as alternatives to violent discipline.

Supporting Mechanisms: Communication programmes and plans of relevant MDAs, CSOs and IDPs, Code of Practice for Jamaican Journalists & Media Organizations

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
4.4. Improve children's knowledge about protection issues and life skills through education and sensitisation programmes	**4.4.1.** Implement education and awareness programmes through various national and community media and involve children/youth as active participants in awareness creation programmes	16 Percentage of children who know the resources available to them in case of victimization.	2018-2023	**Lead:** MOEYI esp. through Guidance and Counselling, CPFSA, MNS **Supporting:** Community Development Organizations, SDC
4.5. Increase collaboration (networking) among partners to implement the public awareness, education and sensitisation programmes	**4.5.1** Align government, civil society, IDPs' communication plans with the NPACV communication strategy	17. Number of joint public education and sensitisation programmes executed by key stakeholders in the child protection sector.	2018- 2023	**Lead:** CPFSA, OCA, NCR, MOEYI

Assumptions
- Availability of resources to support design and delivery of an island wide public/social media education and awareness programme
- Willingness of agencies to pool resources to sustain implementation of communication programme

Risks
- Competing priorities and limited resources
- Limited capacity for implementation

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 5: Establishment of an Integrated framework for the effective coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV

Headline Indicator: Multi-sector coordination mechanism established and operational

Headline Indicator: Percentage of national budget allocated for the protection of children against violence

Target 1: Multi-sector coordinating mechanism established and operational by 2013 to ensure timely and effective implementation of the NPACV

Target 2: Increase by at least 5% per annum the budget allocated to children and violence

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Jamstats, National Crime Prevention and Community Safety Strategy (NCPCSS) – Crime Observatory, MOH - Jamaica Injury Surveillance System and other relevant sector information databases

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
5.1. Establish governance structure for coordination of the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV	**5.1.1** Establish and operationalize an integrated framework for the effective coordination of the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV. **5.1.2** Support the alignment of NPACV with strategic programmes and plans of MDAs, CSOs including private sector institutions/bodies.	1. Multi-sector coordination mechanism established and operational 2. Minister and permanent secretary meeting quarterly 3. Technical Working Group meeting monthly 4. Sub-committees meeting monthly (Example: PR and Communications group)	2018-2019	**Lead:** MOEYI, PIOJ, CPFSA **Supporting:** OCA
5.2 Develop, implement and maintain a monitoring and evaluation system for the NPACV	**5.2.1** Develop and adapt the M&E framework including the preparation of an M&E Plan for the NPACV. **5.2.2** Train/sensitise partners and stakeholders in the use of M & E tools/forms. **5.2.3** Take measures to enable participation of children in the monitoring of the NPACV and preparation of the reports by supporting consultations with children and young persons. Assess buy-in via UNICEF's Report. **5.2.4** Create, operationalize and maintain a comprehensive, reliable, up to date and gender disaggregated data collection system with inter-connection to relevant national, sector, sub-sector and agency databases:	5. M&E Plan prepared and approved.	2018-2019	**Lead:** PIOJ, CPFSA
		6 Child Protection (NPACV) Database established and available and accessible. 7. Number of evidenced-based reports generated on children and violence.	2018	**Lead:** PIOJ – JamStats Secretariat **Supporting:** CPFSA, NCR , MOH and other relevant agencies, OCA

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 5: Establishment of an Integrated framework for the effective coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV

Headline Indicator: Multi-sector coordination mechanism established and operational

Headline Indicator: Percentage of national budget allocated for the protection of children against violence

Target 1: Multi-sector coordinating mechanism established and operational by 2013 to ensure timely and effective implementation of the NPACV

Target 2: Increase by at least 5% per annum the budget allocated to children and violence

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Jamstats, National Crime Prevention and Community Safety Strategy (NCPCSS) – Crime Observatory, MOH - Jamaica Injury Surveillance System and other relevant sector information databases

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
	a. Create a central database on children and violence for the NPACV b. Establish an inter-agency reporting mechanism and protocols for the NPACV database c. Develop protocol for the management, use, disaggregation and accessibility of data d. Strengthen technical capacity within coordinating structure and partner agencies for input and use of database e. Strengthen technical assistance and support to data collection and related capacity through multilateral and bilateral mechanisms f. Strengthen and rationalise existing national and sector databases including JamStats g. Ensure availability of data in user friendly formats for planning, monitoring, evaluation, and public use h. Create public access and ensure availability of NPACV database i. Promote the use of the database and the availability of information to policymakers and stakeholders within and outside of the child protection system j. Collect and analyse data on critical issues impacting child rights, identify policy and other gaps and prepare evidence-based recommendations. k. Strengthen the violence related injuries surveillance system in primary care and hospitals.		2018	
	5.2.5 Strengthen research capacity to identify the nature and magnitude of all forms of child abuse and exploitation with a view to improve policy and intervention for the safety and protection of children.		2018-2023	**Lead:** PIOJ, CPFSA

National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV) 2018-2023

Goal: To create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of children and violence

NPACV Outcome 5: Establishment of an Integrated framework for the effective coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV

Headline Indicator: Multi-sector coordination mechanism established and operational

Headline Indicator: Percentage of national budget allocated for the protection of children against violence

Target 1: Multi-sector coordinating mechanism established and operational by 2013 to ensure timely and effective implementation of the NPACV

Target 2: Increase by at least 5% per annum the budget allocated to children and violence

Supporting Frameworks/Mechanisms: Jamstats, National Crime Prevention and Community Safety Strategy (NCPCSS) – Crime Observatory, MOH - Jamaica Injury Surveillance System and other relevant sector information databases

Strategies	Key Strategic Actions	Indicator	Timeframe	Lead and Supporting Agencies
5.3 Develop sustainable financing mechanisms for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV	**5.3.1** Conduct annual expenditure analysis of the provision of child protection services and advocate for adequate budget allocations	8. Percentage of national budget allocated for the protection of children against violence (disaggregated by agency, type – recurrent/capital, etc.)	2018-2023	**Lead:** PIOJ, CPFSA, MOEYI, OCA
	5.3.2. Establish a mechanism for investigating various financing options and technical assistance.	9. Status of funds available for implementation of NPACV 10. Status of resources acquisition	2018-2023	**Lead:** MOEYI
	5.3.3. Develop public and private partnerships with the International Development Partners (IDPs), private sector, the Jamaican Diaspora community and philanthropic individuals for funding and technical assistance.			**Lead:** MOEYI, MFAF
	5.3.4. Earmark funds for child protection within sector budgets to implement core components of the NPACV.			**Lead:** MOEYI

Assumptions
• Public sector agencies will provide input and participate in the implementation of the NPACV
• Strong coordination among stakeholders
• Technical capacity exists for monitoring and evaluation
• Regular monitoring to collect data
• Compliance in adherence with reporting procedures

Risks
• Inadequate emphasis towards managing for results
• Insufficient technical capacity for monitoring and evaluation

5. Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

The National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence will be implemented by the relevant ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) of Government as well as civil bodies including NGOs, FBOs, CBOs, the private sector and International Development Partners (IDP).

While the implementation of the NPACV will be done by identified stakeholders that are engaged in the child protection system within the context of their respective programmes, the ministry with responsibility for children, that is, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information has ultimate responsibility for coordinating the multi-sector response for the implementation of the Plan of Action.

To ensure accountability and resourcing for the NPACV in the public sector, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information will collaborate with relevant entities in aligning their policies, programmes, and interventions (in their ministries and agencies' corporate/strategic plans) with the outcomes, strategies and actions of the NPACV. Every effort will be made to engage NGOs, local and international development partners in providing and/or identifying funding support for programmes and initiatives not now funded by the GOJ. Where necessary, memoranda of cooperation and understanding will be established to ensure that specific elements of the Plan of Action are implemented.

The Ministry of Finance and Planning also has an important role to play in approving the budget for the implementation of activities and for timely resource allocation for the achievement of goal, objective and outcomes of the NPACV.

Coordination among the relevant entities and several stakeholders is critical to ensure successful achievement of the NPACV. The Inter-Sectoral Committee on Children and Violence will be the main coordination mechanism and will assume the overall coordination of the implementation of the Plan of Action.[64] It is expected that the chairperson for this committee will be the Prime Minister's delegated representative or the Permanent Secretary of the ministry with responsibility for children.

The ISCCV membership is inclusive of permanent secretaries or senior representatives from central ministries such as the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information; Ministry of National Security; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Labour and Social Security; Ministry of Local Government; heads or senior representatives of Departments and Executive Agencies such as the Child Protection and Family Services, Office the Children's Advocate, Office of the Children's Registry, Early Childhood Commission, Correctional Services, The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and the Planning Institute of Jamaica. It is expected that this body will meet two times per year or more frequently as agreed.

The ISCCV will:

- Advocate for and communicate the NPACV as the strategic framework for the fulfilment of obligations under national and international laws and conventions.

- Serve as the conduit to articulate local and national efforts towards building and maintaining a protective, caring and violence free environment for children.

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64. The existing Inter-sectoral Working Group on an Integrated Response to Children and Violence could be renamed, reconstituted and its terms of reference adjusted to take on this new role thereby utilizing an existing mechanism instead of creating a new one.

- Ensure greater coherence of efforts by all, in particular the Government, private sector, civil society, the Jamaican Diaspora and the international development community, to implement the NPACV and provide regular and timely public reports on its implementation.

- Ensure a fully functional and a robust framework for monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV to provide evidence-based policy advice and recommendations that will ensure a protective environment for children.[65]

- Provide directions and leverage resources to address any obstacles or bottlenecks (financial, technical and otherwise) surrounding implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV.

Some specific tasks are required for effective coordination and it is expected that the ISCCV will:

- Ensure the establishment of the technical working groups (TWGs) from among the relevant partners, to provide technical advice for the coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV.

- Ensure the development and maintenance of a dynamic database on child protection within JamStats as well as establish linkages with other national databases including the National Violence Observatory; and other sector databases.

- Ensure the development and implementation of a communication and advocacy strategy in collaboration with implementing partners in support of the NPACV

- Ensure the harmonization of all research activities including data collection in relation to the NPACV.

- Ensure the documentation and dissemination of lessons learned and best practices.

- Ensure the establishment of memoranda of understanding with entities to ensure commitment and to clarify roles and responsibilities with respect to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV.

5.1 Monitoring and Evaluation

The NPACV will be regularly monitored at the national and sector levels to assess progress towards the goal and key targets. A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system, utilising JamStats, is being developed and operated to collect and analyse disaggregated data on children affected by violence or at risk, based on age, gender, socio-economic grouping, and special needs and circumstances.

JamStats is the comprehensive national database being used to monitor the long term plan - Vision 2030 Jamaica. The database reports on approximately 163 indicators in sectors including demography, economy, education, environment, gender equity, health, information and communication, governance and national security. NPACV indicators will help to form the base for the child protection database.

A range of child-focused research will also be supported to gather data and understanding in areas where information on the situation is inadequate. The efforts will be continued particularly through the Caribbean Child Research Conference which is an annual research conference that gives children and adults who research children's issues the opportunity to present their findings to the region.

Efforts will be made to strengthen the existing data collection mechanisms so that quality data on various measurable development indicators is generated and used for programme assessment and improvement as well as for monitoring progress in achievement of goals.

Annual reports on the status of implementation of the NPACV and the status of Jamaica's children will be prepared. Periodic and annual reviews will be conducted at the national and sector levels in order to more effectively address obstacles and accelerate progress.

Appropriate mechanisms for effective monitoring and evaluation will be set up at the national and

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[65] This will include the revision of the NPACV every 5 year to ensure its relevance.

sector levels for reporting and periodic review of the targets.

An important component of an M&E system is the institutional framework to guide the various processes and activities to be undertaken. In keeping with the guiding principle of broad-based participation, the proposed institutional arrangements are based on a partnership model of committees and working groups. The institutional framework for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPACV includes the following main elements (see Figure below):

1. Parliament

2. Cabinet

3. Ministry with Responsibility for Children

4. Office of the Children's Advocate reporting directly to Parliament

5. Inter-Ministerial Committee on Children and Violence (IMCCV)

6. IMCCV Technical Working Groups:

   a. Legal and Policy TWG

   b. Child Protection Services, Family andCommunity TWG

   c. Communications TWG

   d. Data, Research and Analysis TWG

7. Technical Secretariat

The *Inter-Ministerial Committee on Children and Violence (IMCCV)* is a high level steering committee that provides oversight for the NPACV M&E framework and provides the highest level of dialogue ensuring that the key outputs of the system inform national policies, the MDAs corporate/strategic plans and importantly, the budgeting process. The Committee reports to Parliament through the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information.
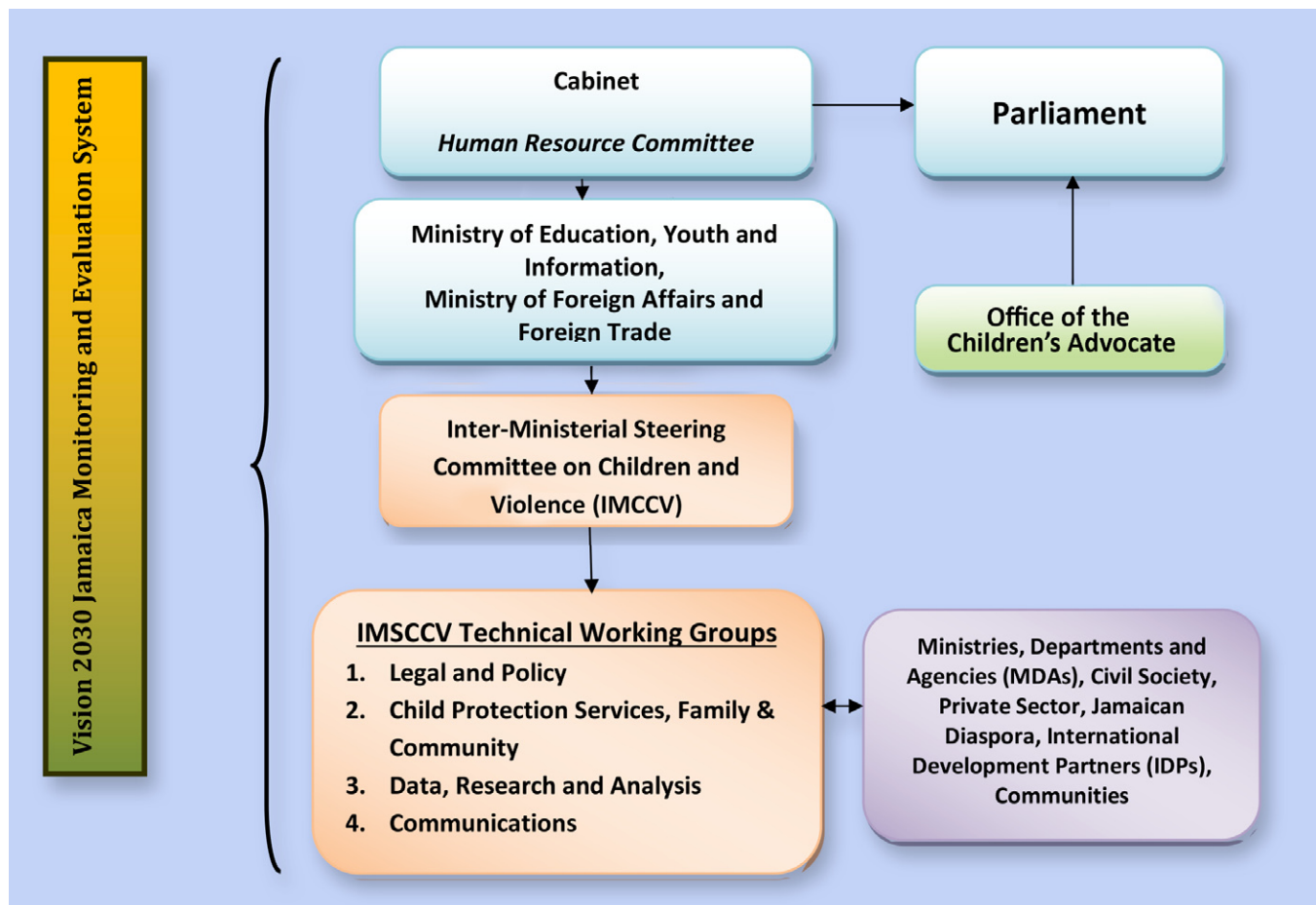
The *IMCCV Technical Working Groups* are the technical arm of the ISSCV responsible for tracking implementation and indicator progress at the national and local levels and will perform the following five functions:

• Progress tracking (implementation and indicator) per outcome area

• Research and analysis

• Stakeholder consultation and forging of partnerships

• Policy recommendations

• Communication and reporting

They will report to the Inter-sectoral Committee on Children and Violence, keeping it abreast of NPACV implementation progress and setbacks and make recommendations for and seek solutions to issues. These working groups provide a multi-stakeholder consultative and participatory mechanism comprising senior technical officers in government ministries and departments, chairs of the five sub-working groups and technical representatives from the private sector; civil society and International Development Partners. It is expected that this body will meet quarterly.

Each TWG is to be chaired by a selected government institution within the child protection system and includes focal point stakeholders identified in the respective NPACV outcomes, representatives from the private sector, civil society, academia and research institutions and international development partners, as appropriate.

It is expected that partner institutions will participate in the implementation of the M&E plan through designated officers responsible for monitoring and evaluation. The M&E officers or Focal Point Officer will in particular, coordinate the infusion of NPACV indicators into their organizations' M&E system, as well as data collection, collation and reporting activities of their organizations.

The TWGs are closely linked. The Data, Research and Analysis and Communications Technical Working Groups in particular will play cross-cutting roles. The Data, Research and Analysis TWG will be responsible for gathering data from the two main TWGs (Legal and Policy, Child Protection Services, Family and Community) and for generating information that is analysed and complemented by research. This sub-group will work closely with the JamStats secretariat to establish the Child Protection database and establish linkages into key national and sector databases such as the Crime Observatory and the Jamaica Injury Surveillance System (JISS), among others.

Implementation progress from the main TWGs, indicators results, and research findings are disseminated and the public's input and feedback sought via the Communications TWG. The TWGs will meet regularly - at least every two months. It is likely that there will be overlapping membership among the groups; however, it is expected that such an arrangement will broaden the participation by key stakeholders in monitoring and evaluation and build additional M&E capacities and strengthen existing capacity.

Together the IMCCV TWGs provide the base for data generation, research and analysis and communication to stakeholders. Moreover, they provide the link between the performance reporting at the national and local levels as indicated in the institutional arrangement. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Information sits on various Thematic Working Groups of Vision 2030 Jamaica M&E system and it is expected that the main outputs from the NPACV M&E system will be shared in these forums.

The **Technical Secretariat** provides technical and logistics support to the various committees and groups within the NPACV M&E system and ensures its smooth operation. The Secretariat will also ensure an adequate flow of information throughout the NPACV M&E system.

5.2   NPACV Indicators

A total of 100 indicators have been proposed for monitoring the NPACV implementation over the period. The indicators were selected from both international and local sources and are based on their relevance to the NPACV Goal, Objective and Outcomes. The global indicators are important in assessing Jamaica's compliance with certain international conventions and guidelines as well as for benchmarking the country with other developing and developed countries.

The NPACV results framework provides the basis for monitoring and evaluation activities. The results framework consists of programme strategies and actions, performance indicators, timelines and responsibility centres (denoted as lead or supporting agencies), risks and assumptions linked to the respective NPACV outcome. Where there are gaps in the data, it is expected that the Data, Research and Analysis Technical Working Group will work with stakeholders to resolve these in a timely manner. The coordinating mechanism and partners will review these indicators on an annual basis as part of the Annual Review process and will update the matrices as needed.

The NPACV results framework comprises a mix of new and existing indicators. For the existing indicators, the Data, Research and Analysis TWG will in the first year engage responsible agencies in confirming baseline information and establishing realistic targets to track progress over the period.   A number of MDAs have databases that generate information to support several of the indicators that will be tracked under the NPACV M&E system. Baseline data will have to be established for new indicators and realistic targets arrived at.

A core set of national indicators will be agreed on and utilised to report on the NPACV. This core set will be a mix of outcome and output indicators. The selected core indicators will be complemented by sector specific indicators that are largely output indicators, and are expected to reflect the key policy interventions and programme implementation

undertaken at the sector and community levels to achieve the overall objectives of the NPACV.

The indicators are both quantitative and qualitative in nature. In keeping with the requirement for child protection indicators, indicators are to be disaggregated along various dimensions including gender, age, geographic location (parish, urban/rural area, etc.). The appropriate type and level of disaggregation will be based on the sector conditions and the indicator itself.

The NPACV monitoring system will build on existing frameworks and through a comprehensive reporting system will ensure that the NPACV indicators are regularly tracked.

5.3   Main Outputs of the NPACV Monitoring and Evaluation System

The NPACV M&E system produces a variety of reports, some on an annual basis whilst others are prepared periodically. The main products of the NPACV M&E system are:

- NPACV Annual Progress Report
- Strategic Policy Brief (to Cabinet and Parliament)
- Children Report Card
- National Forum on Children and Violence

These reports draw on information generated by surveys, MDAs reports, research and analysis, and sector reviews.

The Inter-sectoral Committee on Children and Violence (IMCCV), in conjunction with the TWGs and support from the Technical Secretariat, has overall responsibility for coordinating the preparation of the various reports, particularly the Annual Progress Report.

"*The time for action is now. Let us join together to end violence against children.*"

Senator, the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

The Hon. Floyd Green, MP
Minister of State of Education, Youth and Information

6. Resource Mobilization

The NPACV anticipates sufficient funding resources for successful achievement of outcomes. The budget below presents an indicative look at the main action points and their likely cost, in broad terms, over the period of the next five years. While the table represents budgeted resources from the Consolidated Fund, in terms of specific allocations to programmes and initiatives in Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government, it should be noted that the figures do not represent a new call on the country's budget. In large measure, the budget items (projects, programmes etc.) are already in existence and captured in the Government's recurrent and capital expenditures.

The resourcing of the NPACV depends more on how available funds are allocated annually, and how best this can be done in keeping with the implementation priorities of the Plan. Synergies and networks between organizations and institutions are going to be critical for the efficient use of these resources, in a way that complements the tasks being carried out by various actors. Budgetary considerations must also include the support of Non-Government bodies aligned to the Plan, which play a critical role for communities and families. Of major importance however, will be the strength of public/private partnerships in the mix of resource mobilization, since there are significant gains to be made from alliances with the private sector. The approval of the NPACV will also strengthen the Government's ability to leverage resources from international development partners and other international resource groups aligned with child development, population policies and rights-based agendas.

Appropriate human resource capacities, particularly in the public sector agencies with specific implementation responsibilities under the NPACV, will also be critical. The Ministry with responsibility for Children (currently the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information) will require dedicated capacity to implement, coordinate and monitor the NPACV, among other child-related policies. Strong inter-agency support to these processes will be strategic, in terms of national ownership of the outcomes, as well as the incorporation of multi-faceted expertise. The human resources available in partner organizations therefore remain integral to the success of the NPACV in preventing, reducing and treating with the effects of violence on children.

"Our children are our rock on which our future will be built"

Nelson Mandela

7. Financing the NPACV

An estimated J$125.5 billion (average J$25 billion per annum)[66] is required for the achievement of NPACV 2018-2023. Of this amount, an estimated 81% represents existing resources to be tapped from relevant MDAs whilst an estimated 19% of additional resources must be sourced to support the effective implementation of the NPACV.

A key assumption is that the NPACV will be funded principally through the existing budgets of the MDAs under the guidance of the Ministry of Finance. To that end, an assessment of programmes and activities in the Estimates of Expenditure was done to determine a baseline which was used to arrive at the estimated cost for existing resources that will be targets to implement the NPACV over a 5 year period.

In addition, representatives of specific sectors were very helpful in providing estimates for additional activities/services required in their sectors as well as for the strengthening of existing programmes and activities. In other cases, the best estimate was made based on the nature of the activity and the number of people likely to be involved.

As with the 2006 GOJ/UNICEF study, it was not possible to accurately separate expenditures on children and violence given the structure of the GOJ budget as presented in the Estimates of Expenditure. The Estimates of Expenditure contains aggregated information and without a detailed examination and breakdown of these programmes, it will not be possible to estimate the share of expenditure that is spent on children and violence.

7.1 Financing Strategies

A very sobering reality is that child protection agencies rarely receive the budget requested. The variance between requested and actual allocation is as high as 50% reduction in some cases. Funding will therefore be a major implementation challenge for the NPACV, particularly given the existing tight fiscal situation, which is expected to continue over the medium term and perhaps beyond. The challenge of financing for the NPACV therefore takes on an exceptional kind of urgency. Mobilization of internal and external resources by participating agencies and other partners is crucial to the implementation of core components of the NPACV.

It is essential that decision makers acknowledge that endorsing this Plan of Action means a commitment to providing adequate human and financial resources to make it happen. As such, the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Children and Violence (IMCCV) will undertake through its various Technical Working Groups, a finalization of the costs for implementation of the NPACV over the next five years and begin efforts to secure financing.

The GOJ/UNICEF study highlighted that despite fiscal and other constraints; the government has been able to allocate a significant share of fiscal resources (after repayment of the national debt) to supplying services to children. It therefore concluded that:

> *"More attention should now be paid to the quality of those services and the impact of expenditure, given the resource constraints the GOJ is likely to face for many years to come. As the efficiency of administrative processes is increased,*

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[66] It is likely that this figure will be adjusted when all the direct costs have been determined and particularly given the need for improved and new services and infrastructure within the child protection sector

resources, particularly human resources, will be released and can be reallocated to the processes that deliver services to children. In addition, the reorganization of these services themselves will make them more effective."

While it must be acknowledged that Jamaica faces difficult economic times and there are numerous decisions to be made on setting priorities for the use of available funds, the social and economic costs for not protecting Jamaica's children against violence will be far greater, if the decision is not taken by all stakeholders to provide the resources needed.Every effort must therefore be made to:

- Ensure the effective and efficient use of existing resources

- Implement efforts to mobilize financial, material, technical and human resources from all international organizations, private sector and non-government organizations, particularly those working with children

- Mobilize new and substantial additional resources for children's programmes from the Jamaican Diaspora community

- Ensure that social expenditures that benefit children are protected and prioritized

- Explore new ways of generating public and private financial resources and establish partnerships

Table 9: Estimated Expenditures for Implementation of NPACV 2018-2023						
Programmes/Sub-Programmes/Activities	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
Main Child Protection Agencies						
Office of the Children's Advocate (OCA)	92.21	101.43	111.57	122.73	135.00	562.95
CPFSA- Child Development Agency (CDA)	2407.83	2648.61	2913.47	3204.82	3525.30	14700.04
CPFSA- Children's Registry (NCR)	105.32	115.85	127.44	140.18	154.20	642.99
Other Sub-Programmes and Activities						
MOLSS - IPEC	24.94	27.43	30.18	33.20	36.51	152.26
MOLSS - Inspection of Factories, Building and Docks	57.52	63.27	69.60	76.56	84.22	351.17
MOLSS - Early Stimulation Project	29.41	32.35	35.59	39.14	43.06	179.55
MOLSS - PATH Programme[67]	770.42	847.46	932.21	1025.43	1127.97	4703.49
MOEYI - School Feeding[68]	1180.84	1298.92	1428.82	1571.70	1728.87	7209.15
MOEYI - Early Childhood Development[69]	998.04	1097.84	1207.63	1328.39	1461.23	6093.13
MOEYI- Mico Care	112.70	123.97	136.37	150.00	165.00	688.04
MOEYI- Guidance and Counselling	70.58	77.64	85.40	93.94	103.34	430.90
MOH - Health Care Delivery, Family Services, etc[70]	8336.96	9170.66	10087.72	11096.49	12206.14	50897.97
MOJ - Law Revision	12.20	13.42	14.76	16.24	17.86	74.48
MOJ - Legislative Drafting[71]	23.96	26.36	28.99	31.89	35.08	146.28
MOJ - Court Management System	233.33	256.66	282.33	310.56	341.62	1424.50

[67.] Assumes allocation of 25% of entire expenditures to children and violence.
[68.] Assumes allocation of 25% of entire expenditures to children and violence.
[69.] Assumes allocation of 25% of entire expenditures to children and violence.
[70.] The GOJ/UNICEF Study estimated that 70% of the total budget was allocated to the delivery of services to children. As such, 70% of expenditures related to health care delivery, family services and prevention and control of drug abuse (social welfare) was calculated. It was further determined that at least 25% of the calculated expenditures would benefit child victims and perpetrator of violence through the Accident and Emergency Centres islandwide, Child Guidance Clinic, Bustamante Children's Hospital, UHWI – Department of Child Health, National Council for Drug Abuse (NCDA), Family Planning Board, the National HIV Programmes (NHP), etc.
[71.] Assumes allocation of 25% of entire expenditures to children and violence.

Table 9: Estimated Expenditures for Implementation of NPACV 2018-2023						
Programmes/Sub-Programmes/Activities	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
Other Sub-Programmes and Activities						
MOJ - Victim Support Unit	108.57	119.43	131.37	144.51	158.96	662.83
MOLG - Ananda Alert	-	-	-	-	-	-
MNS - JCF Trafficking in Person Unit	-	-	-	-	-	-
MNS - CISOCA	109.52	120.47	132.52	145.77	160.35	668.63
DCS - Juvenile Institutions	972.54	1069.79	1176.77	1294.45	1423.90	5937.45
DCS - Rehabilitation of Offenders[72]	427.43	470.17	517.19	568.91	625.80	2609.50
Women Centre Foundation	183.40	201.74	221.91	244.11	268.52	1119.68
Bureau of Women's Affairs	68.46	75.31	82.84	91.12	100.23	417.96
Projects						0.00
Possibility Programme	19.33	21.26	23.39	25.73	28.30	118.01
Child Protection UNICEF	111.36	122.50	134.75	148.22	163.04	679.86
Citizen Security and Justice Programme (IADB)	1054.57	1160.03	-	-	-	-
Poverty Reduction Programme III	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operation Phoenix (MYC)	0.92	1.01	1.11	1.22	1.35	5.62
Other – Additional Expenditures for NPACV Implementation						
Legislative Review, Service Provision, Family and Community[72] (Outcomes 1-3)	3711.30	4082.43	4490.67	4939.74	5433.71	22657.86
NPACV Management & Coordination (Outcomes 4 and 5)[74]	198.35	218.19	240.00	264.00	290.40	1210.95
Total Expenditures	20367.47	23564.21	24644.60	27109.06	29819.97	125505.31

Note 1: The components of this budget include the total budgets from the GOJ Estimates of Expenditure of the main child protection agencies (CPFSA, OCR, OCA) and percentages of selected sub-programmes and activities that are likely to impact children and violence. It also includes best estimates by programme managers within MDAs of additional resource requirements for each of the NPACV outcomes.

Note 2: A 10% increase was projected for each year in keeping with the 2006 GOJ/UNICEF expenditure analysis on children[75]. This projection was also supported by calculation of the average trend from fiscal year 2006/2007 to fiscal year 2010/2011 where total expenditures increased by an average of 9% per annum.

[72.] Assumes allocation of 50% of entire expenditures to children and violence given the proliferation of children and youth in the penal institutions.

[73] Institutional support for lead CSOs to support implementation of community-level activities on children and violence is included. Support by government to NGOs usually ranges from J$440,000 to J$5 million.

[74] Comprehensive Communication Programme, Monitoring and Evaluation – Data and research

[75] Michael Witter, 2006, Fiscal Expenditure on Services for Children in Jamaica, 2003/4 - 2005/6. Commissioned by the GOJ and UNICEF to determine the share of the budget of the GOJ that benefits children directly, and indirectly through women in their roles as caregivers. The study revealed that expenditure on children was dominated by spending on education and health services. In all, expenditure on children during the review period accounted for approximately 16-17% of recurrent expenditure, 1% of capital expenditure, or the equivalent of 10-11% of total expenditure.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: List of Persons/Organizations Consulted

Consultations:

NPACV Technical Working Group

Name	Organization
Cordel Green	Broadcasting Commission
Ceceile Minott	Caribbean Child Development Centre
Greig Smith	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Warren Thompson	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Horane Linton	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Newton Douglas	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Nathalee Ferguson	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Audrey Budhi	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Robert Williams	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Rosalee Gage-Grey	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Desmond Brooks	Jamaica Constabulary Force
Desmond Brooks	Jamaica Constabulary Force
Georgia Brown	Jamaica Constabulary Force
Blossom Small Edwards	Jamaica Constabulary Force
Richard Troupe	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information
Trudy-Ann Panchan-Denny	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information
Hyacinth Blair	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information
Michele Small-Bartley	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information
Fern McFarlane	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information
Rashaun Watson	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade
Julia Hyatt	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade
Judith Leiba	Ministry of Health
Joy Chambers	Ministry of Health
Denise Chevannes	Ministry of Health
Claudeth Hamilton	Ministry of Justice
Sharolee Harvey-Anderson	Ministry of Justice
Donald McFarlene	Ministry of Justice
Daveen Sinclair	Ministry of National Security
Ella Ghartey	Ministry of National Security
Latoya Barrett-Gibbs	Ministry of National Security
Renee Steele	Ministry of National Security
Laura Plunkett	Ministry of National Security
Vashtie Graham	Ministry of National Security
Gloria Davis	Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency
Tania Chambers	Pivot Consulting
Mareeca Brown	Planning Institute of Jamaica
Toni-Ann Freckleton	Planning Institute of Jamaica
Janet Cupidon-Quallo	UNICEF
Rebecca Tortello	UNICEF
Novia Condell	UNICEF
Elizabeth Ward	Violence Prevention Alliance
Valrie Wilson	Women's Centre of Jamaica

Policy and Legal Working Group

Name	Organization
Audrey Budhi	Child Development Agency
Newton Douglas	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Maureen Samms-Vaughan	Early Childhood Commission
Richard Williams	Early Childhood Commission
Tracy Ann Morgan Smith	Early Childhood Commission
Kerry Ann Lewis	Inter-American Children's Institute
Tamara Muhammad	Jamaicans for Justice
Barbara Allen	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information
Fern McFarlane	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information
Paula Blake Powell	Ministry of Justice
Marva Ximines	Ministry of Labour and Social Security
Laura Plunkett	Ministry of National Security
Mary Clarke	Office of the Children's Advocate
Sheila Nicholson	People's Action for Community Transformation
Tanya Chambers	Pivot Consulting
Collette Robinson	Planning Institute of Jamaica
Shelly Ann Edwards	Planning Institute of Jamaica
Prof. Julie Meeks	University of the West Indies

Family and Community Strengthening Working Group

Name	Organization
Rose Robinson	Child Abuse Mitigation Project – Bustamante Hospital for Children
Maxine Smith	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Kim Scott	Child Resiliency Programme
Claudette Pious	Children First
Francine McDonald	Children's First
Lorraine Vernal	East Jamaica Conference of Seventh Day Adventist
Marva West Williams	HEART Trust NTA
Melody M. Palmer	HEART Trust/NTA
Herro Blair	Jamaica Youth for Christ
Sasha McCalla	National Youth Service
Cheryll Messom	Office of Development, University of Technology
Georgia Garvey	Office of the Children's Advocate
Trevesa DaSilva Ashman	Office of the Children's Registry
Michael Aiken	Office of the Prime Minister
Janet Brown	Parenting Partners
Camille Jackson	Peace Management Initiative
Damian Hutchinson	Peace Management Initiative
Correl Steele	Social Development Commission
Yolande Bryan	Victim Support Unit
Allan Green	Western Society for the Upliftment of Children
Angela Plunkett	Youth Reaching Youth, Swallowfield Chapel
Marjorie Trusty-Samuels	YWCA School Leavers

Services Working Group

Name	Organization
Karla Knight	Bureau of Women's Affairs
Newton Douglas	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Judith Leiba	Child Guidance Clinic, Bustamante Children's Hospital
Marilyn Lee	Child Resiliency Programme
Faith Thomas	Choose Life International.
Mabel Morris	Department of Correctional Services
Jacquie Brown	Dispute Resolution Foundation
Beverly Scott	Family &Parenting Centre
Letetia Black	Living Hope
Karen Lewis-Bell	Ministry of Health
Sasha McCalla	National Youth Service
Janet Walters	Northern Caribbean University
Shanika Donalds	Parenting Partners Caribbean
Sacina McCalla	Peace and Justice Centre
Rohan Perry	Peace Management Initiative
Correl Steele	Social Development Commission
Tamika Grant	STCDC (Jones Town)
Quevia Duncan	Victim Support Unit
Beryl Weir	Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation
Jody Ann Anderson	Youth Opportunities Unlimited
Marjorie Trusty Samuels	YWCA School Leavers

Public Education

Name	Organization
Ruel Francis	Annotto Bay Community Development Society
Rashida St. Juste	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Rochelle Dixon	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Jeneva Gordon	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Cherie Savage	Department of Local Government
Vuraldo Barnett	Early Childhood Commission
Kimberly McLaughlin	Jamaica National Heritage Trust
Matthew Ferguson	Jamaica Tertiary Education Commission
Aldis Myers	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information
Akierah Binns	Ministry of National Security
Julian Thompson	Ministry of Transportation and Works/ Road Safety Unit
Tori Ann Rankine	National Education Inspectorate
Trevesa DaSilva Ashman	National Children's Registry
Georgia Gravey	Office of the Children's Advocate
Klao Bell-Lewis	Public Relations Communication
Allison Brown	United Nations Children's Fund
Ross Sheil	United Nations Children's Fund
Dionne Rose	Violence Prevention Alliance
Hillary Tulloch	Violence Prevention Alliance
Colleen Wint-Bond	Violence Prevention Alliance

NPACV Stakeholder Consultation Meeting

Name	Organization
Juliette Genus-Folkes	Assemblies of God in Jamaica
Randy McLaren	Bresheh
Rochelle Graham-Barnes	Bureau of Gender Affairs
Anthony Wood	Bustamante Hospital for Children
Andrene Gordon	Bustamante Hospital for Children
Ryan Scott	Called to Lead Jamaica
Ceceile Minott	Caribbean Child Development Centre
Samantha Daley	Centre for Investigation of Sexual Offences & Child Abuse
Andrea Murray	Centre for Investigation of Sexual Offences & Child Abuse
Jenese Baxter	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Avery Nelson	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Stacy-Ann Lindsay	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Bandoley McLeod	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Omar Ellington	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Rochelle Dixon	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Robert Williams	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Nedeisha Grey-Russell	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Rohan Burrell	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Elvis Farquharson	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Eunice Scott-Shaw	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Marlene Gooden	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Carmen Mullings	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Audrey Budhi	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Michelle A. McIntosh	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Valerie Muhammad	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Teslyn Walker	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Kediene Hood	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Nadia Davis	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Carlyn Stewart	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Nichole Chambers	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Malika Dixon	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Sanchia Ellis	Child Protection and Family Services Agency
Shanielle Hall	Children's Advisory Panel
Kim Scott	Child Resiliency Programme
Kimberly Dawson	Citizen Security and Justice Programme
Tony Farley	City of Refuge
Sherine Louthe	City of Refuge Children's Home
Violet Haughton	Cypress Hall Youth Club
Sophia Gooden-McKenzie	Department of Correctional Services
Claudette Hamilton	Department of Correctional Services
Norda Seymour-Hall	Early Childhood Commission
Peter A Harding	Jamaica Association of Guidance Counsellors in Education
Desmond Brooks	Jamaica Constabulary Force
Venesa White	Jamaica Constabulary Force
Alecia Smith	Jamaica Information Service
Dainty Barrett-Smith	Jamaica Social Investment Fund
Dwayne Wynter	Jamaica Union of Tertiary Students
Sujae H. Boswell	Jamaica Youth Ambassadors Programme
Tijani Christian	Jamaica Youth Ambassadors Programme
Rodje Malcolm	Jamaicans for Justice

Dwayne A. Gayle	Junior Chamber International
Josimar Scott	Junior Chamber International
Samara Dewar	Linstead Community Development Committee
Gloria Davis-Simpson	Major Organized Crime & Anti-Corruption Agency
Treviece Gayle	Major Organized Crime & Anti-Corruption Agency
Antoinette Morrison	Major Organized Crime & Anti-Corruption Agency
Brittany Singh-Williams	Ministry of Education, Youth & Information
Sharline Mattocks-Bent	Ministry of Education, Youth & Information
Michele Small-Bartley	Ministry of Education, Youth & Information
Shae-Alicia Lewis	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade
Joi Chambers	Ministry of Health
Judith Leiba	Ministry of Health
Sharolee Harvey-Anderson	Ministry of Justice
Fancie Adman	Ministry of Labour & Social Security
Michael Myles	Ministry of Local Government & Community Development
Celia Champagnie	Ministry of National Security
Daveen Sinclair	Ministry of National Security
Latoya Barnett-Gibbs	Ministry of National Security
Ella Ghartey	Ministry of National Security
Danielle Mills	Ministry of National Security
Titanya Nelson	Ministry of National Security
Kerysa Nelson-Gordon	Ministry of Youth - Clarendon Youth Information Centre
Bevenisha Moodie	Montage Management Consultancy
Francisca Kirkland	Montage Management Consultancy
Chantol Folkes	National Family Planning Board
Marcia McCausland-Wilson	National Parent Teachers Association
Alnastazia Watson	National Secondary School Council
Daniel Dodd	National Secondary Student Council
Chadwayne Rowe	National Secondary Student Council
David Salmon	National Secondary Student Council
Sandrene McKenzie	National Secondary Student Council
Henderson Downer	Office of Children's Advocate
Warren Thompson	National Children's Registry
Terry-Ann Wilson	National Children's Registry
Kelly-Ann Boyne	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
Sharon Milwood-Moore	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
Jerome Cowans	Office of the Prime Minister
Yvonne Smith	Office of the Public Defender
Abigail Harran	Paediatric Association of Jamaica
Carolyn Jackson	Paediatrics Association of Jamaica
Francine Holmes	Phillips United Youth Club
Christina Callum	Phillips United Youth Club
Shelly Ann Edwards	Planning Institute of Jamaica
Lateisha Campbell	Police Youth Club
Stefan Fiddler	Seventh Day Adventist Churches of West Indies Union Conference
Sandra Goulbourne	Social Development Commission
Norine Roberts	South East Regional Health Authority
Donna Hutchinson	Spanish Town Hospital
Halitash Stephens	The Father's House
Akilah Blake	The Father's House
Ian Allen	The Gleaner Company
Ryon Jones	The Gleaner Company

Nadine Wilson-Harris	The Gleaner Company
Winston Jones	The Moravian Church in Jamaica & The Cayman Islands
Ricardo Malcolm	The Moravian Church in Jamaica & The Cayman Islands
Annette Irving	Tivoli Garden Community Development
Novia Condell	United Nations Children's Fund
Janet Cupidon Quallo	United Nations Children's Fund
Claudett James	University Hospital of the West Indies
Themba Mkhize	University of the West Indies
Nicola Williams	University of the West Indies
Dahlia Thomas	University of the West Indies
Daniella Sykes	University of the West Indies
Maureen Samms-Vaughan	University of the West Indies
Aldrie Henry-Lee	University of the West Indies
Rose Robinson-Hall	University of the West Indies
Heather Ricketts	University of the West Indies
Kaodi McGaw	Violence Prevention Alliance
Colleen Wint-Bond	Violence Prevention Alliance
Deanna Ashley	Violence Prevention Alliance
Elizabeth Ward	Violence Prevention Alliance
Wilhelm Lecky	Violence Prevention Alliance
Christopher Constantine	Waterhouse Community Development
Zoe Simpson	Women's Centre of Jamaica
Valerie Wilson	Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation

List of Schools Consulted - Consultations with Children

Telawny
Falmouth All Age School: Fourteen children (five girls and nine boys, ages 12-15 years) were consulted

St. Elizabeth
Holland High School: Eleven children (five girls and six boys, ages 14-16 years) were consulted

Clarendon
Sudbury All Age School: Ten children (four girls and six boys, ages 15-18 years) were consulted

Other Organizations that provided input to the Development of the NPACV include:

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Caribbean Child Development Centre
Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), UWI, Mona
Ministry of Youth and Cultures
Institute for Gender and Development Studies, UWI, Mona
Broadcasting Commission
Media Association of Jamaica
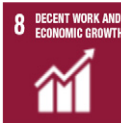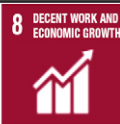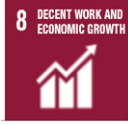
Appendix B: Alignment of Vision 2030 Jamaica with 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals

The UNDP Report, *"The Roadmap for SDG Implementation in Jamaica"*, provides a number of recommendations to strengthen community cohesion and community security under Goal 2 of Vision 2030 which states "Jamaican society is secure, cohesive and just". These recommendations were:

24. Strengthen the effectiveness of the judiciary system

25. Improve policing

26. Include violence prevention programmes within education systems

Vision 2030 Jamaica Goals	National Outcomes	2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals
Goal 1: Jamaicans are empowered to achieve their fullest potential	A healthy and stable population	2 ZERO HUNGER 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
	World class education and training	4 QUALITY EDUCATION
	Effective social protection	1 NO POVERTY 2 ZERO HUNGER 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
	Authentic and transformative culture	With Agenda 2030, culture is viewed as a cross cutting theme.
Goal 2: Jamaican Society is Secure, Cohesive and Just	Security and Safety	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
	Effective governance	5 GENDER EQUALITY 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
Goal 3: Jamaica's Economy is Prosperous	A stable macro-economy	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
	Enabling business environment	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
	Strong economic infrastructure	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Vision 2030 Jamaica Goals	National Outcomes	2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals
Goal 3: Jamaica's Economy is Prosperous	A stable macro-economy	
	Enabling business environment	
	Strong economic infrastructure	
	Energy security and efficiency	
	A technology enabled society	
	Internationally competitive industry structures	
Goal 4: Jamaica has a Healthy Natural Environment	Sustainable management and use of environmental and natural resources	
	Hazard risk reduction and adaptation to climate change	
	Sustainable urban and rural development	

Source: Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat, 2016

Appendix C: Summary of Legislation Aligned to CRC and Responsive to Children and Violence

Name of Act	Status	Protection Provisions	Relevant CRC Article
Child Care and Protection Act (CCPA)	Enacted 2004	• Addresses the general care and protection of all children • Special provisions for children in need of care and protection	multiple
Children's Registry Regulation	Enacted 2007	• Guides the establishment and operation of the Office of the Children's Registry	19
The Children (Adoption of) Act	Enacted 1958	• Prohibits the advertisement of children for adoption • . Restricts the removal of children for adoption	4; 19; 35
Broadcasting and Radio Re-diffusion Act	Enacted 1996	• Prevents the transmission of material that contravenes Jamaican laws.	4; 36
Charter of Rights and Freedoms Bill	Enacted 2011	• Obliges the state to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and freedoms for all persons in Jamaica and affords protection to the rights and freedoms of persons as set out in those provisions	4
Child Pornography (Prevention) Act	Enacted July 2009	• Establishes penalties for the commercial sexual exploitation of children, including the production, possession, importation, exportation and dissemination of child pornography • Makes special protection provisions for girls	4; 34; 36
Child Justice Guidelines Status	Enacted 2013	• Right based approach dealing with children in conflict with the law. • Resource Handbook for judges, police, stakeholders interacting with justice system	
Children's (Guardianship and Custody) Act	Enacted 1957	• Establishes rights to guardianship Gives the court the right to remove the child where his/her welfare is being compromised by an appointed or testamentary guardian • Establishes the power of the court to protect children from parents who had abandoned, neglected or otherwise abused them • Establishes power of court to order payments of money for maintenance of the child • Underscores the principle that the best interests of the child will take precedence in custody cases	4; 19; 20; 36
Children's Home Regulations	Enacted June 2007	• Gives power to the responsible government agency to monitor private children's homes and places of safety and bring action when they fail to meet designated standards for child care and protection.	4; 19; 20; 25
Corrections Act	Enacted 1985	• Distinguishes between adult and juvenile correctional centres; makes provisions for the administration of juvenile correctional centres, drawing on the CCPA	4
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and Girls (CEDAW) / Beijing Declaration and platform for action (BFPA)	September 1995	• Area 12 "persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child"	

Name of Act	Status	Protection Provisions	Relevant CRC Article
Customs Act	Enacted 1956	• Prohibits the importation of obscene drawings, paintings and other representations, written communications and packages on which offensive marks and designs are inscribed.	4; 36
Cyber Crimes Bill	Enacted 2009	• Designed to complement the Child Pornography Act •. Imposes penalties for cyber crimes	4; 34; 36
Disability Bill	Enacted 2014	• The Bill is currently before cabinet as a green paper and is geared towards protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, including children	4
Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act	Enacted 2004	• Provides protection for women and children who are victims of domestic violence • Enables a third party to initiate proceedings on behalf of the woman • Stipulates that damage to property is also a form of domestic violence	4; 19
Early Childhood Act – 2004, Early Childhood Regulations 2005, and the Early Childhood Commission Act-2005	Enacted 2004 and 2005	• Regulates the quality of provision in the education sector • Prohibits discrimination against children with special needs. • Bans corporal punishment in early childhood institutions • Gives the Minister the right to close down institutions where it is believed that children's welfare is being compromised.	4; 23; 28; 29; 31
Education Act	Enacted 1980	• Sets up statutory system of education—primary to tertiary • Establishes the management structure for public education institutions • Provides for freedom of conscience • Outlines the duties of parents to secure education for children • Makes declarations on compulsory education and compulsory school age • Makes stipulations concerning children who require special education • Establishes regulations for teachers • Provides basis for policy decision to ban corporal punishment	4; 5; 14; 28
Evidence (Amendment) Bill	Enacted 2014	• Allows vulnerable victims and witnesses to give evidence without attending court, such as by video.	4; 16
Incest (Punishment of) Act	Enacted 1948	• Permits a jury in a rape trial to convict the accused for incest, where this is more appropriate, where the jury is not satisfied that rape has been committed.	4; 34
Jamaica's Crime (Prevention of) Act	Enacted 1942	• Bans corporal punishment for crimes committed by persons who are under 16 years. Note that common law allows parents (or persons in *loco parentis*) to chastise children using reasonable corporal punishment. However, where corporal punishment results in injury, death or is inappropriate given the age, physical state and capacity of the child to appreciate correction, parents can be held liable for prosecution.	4; 19

Name of Act	Status	Protection Provisions	Relevant CRC Article
Maintenance Act	Amended in 2005	Obliges spouses or partners in a common-law union to maintain each other -Obliges parents or guardians to maintain children	4; 18; 20
Matrimonial Causes Act	1989	Stipulates child and spousal support provisions, which are effective during a marriage and upon the dissolution or nullity of a marriage.	4; 18
National Assistance Bill	Being drafted	Aims to Repeal the Poor Relief Act of 1886	4
National Insurance Act	1973	Makes provisions for national insurance payments for children who are orphans and those designated as special children.	4
National Parent Support Commission Act	2012	To co-ordinate efforts towards helping the development of proper parenting in Jamaica.	4; 33
Obscene Publications (Suppression of) Act	1927	Makes it an offence to trade in, import or distribute obscene paintings, drawings, writings, posters or any such objects.	4; 36
Occupational Health and Safety Bill	Tabled 2017	Protect potential employees against HIV/AIDS screening Establishes child labour policies Establishes protection policies for working children	4; 32; 16
Offenses Against the Person Act	1864	Makes child stealing or kidnapping punishable by imprisonment Criminalises certain sexual acts that are committed against girls	4; 34; 35
Post Office Regulations	1941	Prohibits the use of the post office for conveying or delivering any article that contains indecent or obscene prints, paintings, lithographs, engravings etc.	4; 36
Sexual Offences Act	Enacted September 2009	Establishes a legal gender-neutral definition of rape Stipulates that a boy under 14 years is capable of rape and other forms of sexual abuse Deals with sexual grooming, touching or interference' between an adult and child or among children Defines the responsibilities of household heads to children (under 16 years) who are in their chargeAddresses child abduction Provides for a Sexual Offenders Register (Section 29)	4; 19; 34
The Registration (Births and Deaths) Act	1881	Specifically addresses the right to a legally registered name. However, it should be noted that there is no legal requirement for a father's name to be on the child's birth certificate, which could lead to withholding of further rights of the child. The father's name and details can be added after registration of the birth.	7; 8
Towns and Communities Act	2006	Stipulates that it is an offence to sell, distribute or to offer for sale or distribution any obscene drawings, paintings or representations	4; 36
Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression & Punishment) Act	Enacted March 1, 2007	Stipulates that trafficking in persons is illegal and makes provisions for preventing and punishing the crime	4; 35; 36
Victims Charter	Enacted 2000	Notes the imbalance between rights protection for victims and offenders and seeks to improve provisions for victims Provides state compensation for victims Improves protection for children	4; 34; 36

Appendix D: Summary of National Policies and Plans
Responsive to Children and Violence

Policies	Descriptive Summary
A National Framework of Action for Children (NFAC)	Represents a coordinated framework within which Jamaica will fulfil its commitments to goal areas articulated in the World Fit for Children Outcome Document. It also provides a national platform to reduce gender disparity across the life cycle, channel commensurate resources and monitor progress towards gender equality.
National Plan of Action for Orphans and Other Children made Vulnerable by HIV/ AIDS (2003-2006)	Sought to address the specific vulnerabilities of this largely neglected population.
National Plan of Action to End Gender-Based Violence in Jamaica (2017-2027)	This National Strategic Action Plan is designed to address the different forms and manifestations of Gender-Based Violence and Violence Against Women. It therefore takes into account the commonalities and overlap between them, as well as institutional and structural issues which are contributing factors. The Plan outlines actions designed to prevent GBV, to improve the implementation of laws and services for victims of GBV. It recommends public/private partnerships to provide adequate services and psychosocial support for survivors. The Plan seeks to address the complex nature of GBV and encourages stakeholders to consider the root causes of GBV. It also seeks to identify areas for improvement in access to and delivery of effective and efficient services.
National Plan of Action on Child Justice & Child Diversion Policy	Addresses a range of issues concerning the treatment of children who come into conflict with the law, was reviewed by Cabinet in 2008. This Plan focuses on the prevention and reduction of juvenile delinquency, rehabilitation and re-integration into society. The Plan also aims to facilitate improvements to residential institutions, youth participation and empowerment, as well as amendments to the Family Court Act. Its implementation will further enhance the protection of Jamaican children, and especially boys who are over-represented in the justice system.The Child diversion policy is an important component of the plan aiming to divert children from the justice system.
National Policy for Gender Equaliy – 2011	Mainstream gender in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies within a human rights framework in all state institutions.
National Policy for the Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles in Jamaica – 2004	Addresses the issues of: injuries and violence, appropriate sexual behaviour, prevention and control of smoking, appropriate eating behaviour and increase of physical activity.
National Task Force against Trafficking Persons	An interagency body that coordinates anti-trafficking activities, and reconstituted the organized-crime division of its police force to focus more attention on human trafficking crimes.
National Task Force on Child Abuse Prevention	Appointed to identify appropriate initiatives and areas to better protect children at risk. Representatives of the task force are drawn from several government ministries and agencies, the Cabinet office and the Opposition
Safe Schools Policy (2004)	In 2009, over 50 education experts from across the Caribbean converged to determine the best strategies for improving the quality of education of schools by making them child-friendly and safe. This is part of the Global Capacity Development Programme on Child-Friendly Schools (CFS), developed by UNICEF in partnership with the MOEYI.

Policies	Descriptive Summary
The National Plan of Action on Children (1990-2000)	Institutional framework to address and enforce children's rights.
The National Policy on Children (1997)	Outlines the provisions for the care, development and protection of children
The Social Investment for Children Initiative (2006)	Seeks to increase the level of social investment for children with support from UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Cabinet Office, Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), CPFSA and JCRC
The National Plan of Action on Children (1990-2000)	Institutional framework to address and enforce children's rights.
HPM (Honourable Prime Minister) Task force on children in the Care of the State 2009	Set up to effectively and efficiently handle children in state care.

Appendix E: Institutional Mechanisms Responsive to Children and Violence

Institutions	Descriptive Summary
Ananda Alert	A system for informing and mobilizing the public to help locate missing children.
Attendance Centre: Family Court	Rehabilitation Centre- for young Persons who have dropped out of the educational system, or are on parole. Programme involves remedial education, vocational skills training, counselling, life skills training, school re-insertion, enrichment activities and parenting support..
Broadcasting Commission's Media Literacy project	Spearheaded by the Broadcasting Commission, the project looks at how media content is produced, portrayal of violence and sex, advertising and how to use the children's code. The target audience of grade 4-6 is expected to understand how media can be a useful tool for learning and self-development, how to recognize and respond to inappropriate risky content in the media and make informed decisions.
Bureau of Gender Affairs: Office of the Prime Minister	Public education, training and advocacy to reduce violence against women and girl
Centre for Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse (CISOCA)	A branch of the Jamaica Constabulary Force. The objectives of CISOCA are: to create an atmosphere which will encourage victims to report incidents of sexual offences and child abuse; to ensure efficient and effective investigation into allegations of abuse; to enhance the rehabilitation of victims through counselling and therapy and to conduct public education programmes on Sexual Offences and Child Abuse.
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (Child Guidance Clinics)	Health Services: Child Guidance clinics administer assessment and counselling of children with developmental, behavioural, medical or psychological concerns..
Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA)	The Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA), formed out of a merger of the Child Development Agency and the Office of Children's Registry, is a leader in Jamaica's child protection system, with a combined legacy reputation for our work in promoting child-friendly policies and ground-breaking programmes to strengthen families. The CPFSA is under the purview of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information and works collaboratively with the OCA, the JCF, and other government agencies. In carrying out its mandate, the agency: • Provides intake, receives reports, and manages the Child Abuse Registry • Investigates reports of child abuse, abandonment and neglect to determine the best interest of the child which supports the Courts and the Police; • Provides support to children in need of care and protection (those who have been, abused, abandoned, neglected or vulnerable due to special needs); • Carries out advocacy/public education programmes to prevent child abuse; • Provides quality care for children who are brought into the care of the State (those who live in children's homes and places of safety). • Provides support for families • Advises government on policy and legal issues relating to children
Crime Stop	Joint project of the Private Sector (PSOJ) and the police allows for a hot line for reporting crime
Department of Correctional Services: Ministry of National Security,Office of the Children's Advocate	Rehabilitative programmes for young offenders on remand and on custodial sentencing orders; supervises youth paroles in the community as well as young offenders on community service orders. Established in January 2006, to protect and enforce the rights of Jamaican children and promote their best interests at all times.

Institutions	Descriptive Summary
DPP Sanctioned Diversion in Collaboration with CISOCA & Women's Centre	Boys below 16 diverted from getting a criminal record (after review of case by DPP) if he is in close age range with girl under 16 (age of consent) and had "Consensual Sex". Diverted to counselling.
Early Childhood Commission	Established in 2003 as the main coordinating and monitoring body of the early childhood development sector in Jamaica.
HEART/NTA- Jamaica Economic Opportunities Programme for Youth. Ministry of Education	Street to work initiative targeting at risk youth: The initiative, which will take into consideration the peculiar characteristics and needs of this target group, will comprise a mix of training opportunities including learning readiness programmes, classroom based skills training as well as on-the-job opportunities through apprenticeship type placements. The programme will commence as a pilot in 2015 in Manchester (North East) St. Andrew (Western) and Kingston (Central)
Institute of Jamaica - Junior Centre	Safe Space - for children's activity relating to learning and reading enhancement
Inter-Agency Task Force for the Reduction of Violence in Schools	
Jamaica 4-H Clubs	Youth organization focused on training children in agricultural, leadership and social skills. They have recently introduced the "Cubies" programme for children 5-8 years, which involves participating in activities such as table setting, seed identification, plant and pet care. These activities all culminate in a national and parish achievement competition for this age group
Jamaica Family Planning Association (FAMPLAN)	Sexual and reproductive health advice.
Jamaica Library Service,\	Safe Space - for children's activity relating to learning and reading enhancement.
JAMSTATS	This is an advanced database management system to keep track of the commitments towards human development. It is endorsed by the UN to report on the progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.
Learning for Earning Activity Programme (L.E.A.P.)	Remedial education, Skills Training, Life skills development to at- risk youth
MICO College Child Assessment and Research in Education (CARE)	MICO CARE offers psychological and educational assessment for school age children. Other services include therapeutic and diagnostic intervention, speech and occupational therapy and teacher/parent training.
MICO Youth Counselling Resource and Development Centre	Provides counselling and psychological intervention including cognitive, behavioural and play therapy for children and teenagers aged 6–19 years. A two-week summer camp is offered as part of the intervention.
Ministry of Education Jamaican Foundation for Lifelong Learning (JFLL)	Remedial - literacy training for adolescents
Ministry of Labour and Social Security Early Stimulation Programme	Health Services: Offers assessment and intervention for children with developmental delays. Intervention programmes include parenting workshops, counselling and training.
Ministry of National Security and The Ministry of Justice: Citizen Security and Justice Programme III	Victim support, Restorative Justice, Skills Training, Life skills, Job placement, Counselling, Educational Services, parenting support for at risk youth

Institutions	Descriptive Summary
National Centre for Youth Development	Focuses on the holistic development of youth age 15-24 years. Convened by the Ministry of Education. For its initial activities, the Task Force seeks to create a framework for collaboration and to determine the extent of violence in schools.
National Family Planning Board National HIV/STD Control Programme	Health Services: Reproductive health advice. Trains and advises children, adolescents on matters relating to HIV/AIDS and STIs in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle
National Secondary Students Council	Mobilizing youth for positive roles in schools and student leadership.
National Taskforce Against Trafficking in Persons: Ministry of Justice	In regards to children the Task Force- chaired by the Ministry of Justice has focused on building awareness of the general population as well as awareness and capacities of stakeholder groups and institutions that have special responsibility for children. In particular schools, the Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse (CISOCA), teachers and prosecutors.
National Youth Service : Ministry of Youth and Culture	The NYS facilitates youth and career development for older youth (just out of school). Programmes include job placements, work experience and a Canadian exchange programme. The NYS also organizes a 6 month camp to prepare persons for personal growth, academic and career development
Office of the Children's Advocate	• Parliamentary Commission that has overarching responsibility for all children in Jamaica • Investigation of any type of abuse or rights violations against children (this includes the authority to investigate government officials, representatives and/or employees such as teachers, members of the security forces and the Child Development Agency) • Legal representation for any child who may be in need of such assistance – either in criminal or civil proceedings before a court as well as legal assistance in any other kind of matter. • To issue guidance and best practice on any matter in relation to the rights and/or best interests of children. For example the *OCA's Child Justice Guidelines* that deals with protection of children's rights in the justice system. • Conducts Public education about children's rights. • Provision of advice and recommendations to Ministers of Government, the Parliament as a whole or the Head of any government entity which offers any service to children. • Review of legislation, policies and other documents to ensure preservation of children's rights.
Programme of Advancement Through Health & Education (PATH), Ministry of Labour & Social Security	Cash transfers to needy households on the condition that at risk children have stated minimum visits to health centres and stated minimum attendance at school.
School Wide Positive Behaviour Intervention & Support (SWPBIS), Ministry of Education	SWPBIS is targeting 60 Primary & Secondary schools. It places emphasis on reducing problem behaviours in students while promoting pro-social skills. It operates across three main focus areas (i) Primary prevention: school-wide system for all students, staff and settings; (ii) Secondary Prevention: specialized group systems for students with at-risk-behaviours;(iii) Tertiary prevention: specialized individualized systems for students with high-risk.
Social Development Commission, Ministry Local Government & Community Development	SDC facilitates sports programmes at the community level as well as life and vocational skills training. The organization also facilitates through their network of Community Development Officers other GOJ services to children and youth. St. Andrew Care Centre; The St. Andrew Care Centre caters to boys at risk or living on the streets by providing meals, remedial education, skills training and recreational activities such as music, football and art and craft. Counselling services are also offered.

Institutions	Descriptive Summary
STATIN	To collect, compile, analyse, abstract and publish statistical information relating to the commercial, industrial, social, economic and general activities and condition of the people of Jamaica.
Suspension Intervention Programme, Office of the Children's Registry	Counselling and psychological intervention focusing on children suspended from schools and on their parents: school re-entry support. Opened in 2007 as an institution to receive, record, and store reports on all forms of reported child abuse, abandonment and neglect.
Trafficking in Person/ Missing Person Unit	Located within the Organised Crimes Investigation Unit of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, this unit aids police investigators to act more swiftly in finding missing persons.
UWI Caribbean Child Development Centre (1972)	A joint project of UNICEF and the University of the West Indies. The Unit was established to promote early childhood development through training programmes, curriculum development, research and advocacy.
UWI SALISES (Sir Arthur Lewis Institute Of Social and Economic Studies) Annual Child Research Conference	Creates opportunities for researchers to collaborate with faculty internally, regionally and internationally, in order to encourage information exchange.
Victim Support Services	Victim Support provides emotional, psychological, and educational support to child victims (as well as adults) traumatized by any criminal act. Services offered include psychological intervention, technical advice, legal aid and support group sessions.
Violence Interruption Programme : Ministry of National Security	A programme targeting youth at highest risk for becoming involved in violence with daily monitoring, case managed referencing for services, de-escalation of issues that can lead to conflicts and mobilization of community against violence. Involves the deployment of trained violence interrupters in select communities. The programme will roll out in 30 communities in the three police divisions with the highest rates of homicides and shootings.
Violence Prevention Alliance	Responsible for networking, coordination and collaboration of partners dealing with children and violence
Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation: Office of the Prime Minister	Continuing education for teenage mothers. Also implements aspects of the "Reintegration of School-Aged Mothers into the Formal School System" Policy.
Youth-friendly health services	Undertaken by the Ministry of Health, they are likely to address the specificities of boys and girls, along the life cycle and in various settings.

Appendix F: Existing CSOs, FBO's and IDPs Projects and Programmes Responsive to Children and Violence

Name of programme	Description	Target group	Location
Area Youth Foundation	Non-profit organization which provides youth mostly form inner city areas with social and life skills through art-based educational programmes. The programme uses participation in the arts as a medium for change and also trains young people for productive employment.	15-30 years	Kingston & St. Andrew
Ashe Performing Arts Company	Edutainment on social issues through performing arts focusing on youth development and education through performance. Annual Summer Camp caters to 4-18 years)	4-18 years	Kingston and St. Andrew
Assemblies of God in Jamaica - Youth Arm referred to as Christ Ambassadors	Christian group for youth who meet weekly and engage in activities such as evangelism, hosting of social events and training seminars	13-35 years	Islandwide, except St. Mary which does not have a church
Bethel Baptist Holistic Centre	Bethel Baptist offers counselling and psychological Intervention for families, children and teens among others	All ages	Kingston
Boy's Brigade	Paramilitary uniformed group comprising mainly male youth involving in activities including sports, outdoor activities, skills training, drills, national marching band, summer camps, and Christian development	6-25 years	Manchester, St. Mary, St. Ann, Kingston and St. Andrew (most active)
Boys Town	Multiple interventions that includes, sports, parenting, life and skills training, remedial education, school re-entry to at risk youth.	10-30 years	Kingston (Trench Town & Surrounding Communities)
Change from Within	A school's programme built around identification of positives and building individual school change programmes around these positives.	Male and Females (Children 0-5 yrs. Children 6-12 yrs. Children 13-18 yrs.)	Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Thomas
Child Resiliency Programme	Resiliency based initiative geared to support pre-adolescents age 8-12 years identified to be "at risk" for violence and poor sexual reproductive health outcomes.	Children 8-11 yrs	St. Andrew, Trelawny, St. James

Name of programme	Description	Target group	Location
Children and Community for Change	To create an environment for the empowerment of children, young adults, parents and communities through strategies of public education, community development, life skills and vocational training.	Children 6-12 yrs. Children 13-18 yrs.	Kingston & St. Andrew St. Catherine
Children First	A community action organization providing life changing opportunities for at-risk children in the violence prone area of Spanish Town through social, educational and training programmes.	Children 6-12 yrs. Children 13-18 yrs.	St. Catherine, St. Andrew
Clarendon Group for the Disabled	Health Services: Offers rehabilitative services and assessments for children with learning/educational, physical and or developmental delays or special needs.	0-18 years	Clarendon
Coalition in Support of Adolescent Leadership Training (CSALT)	CSALT is a coalition for adolescent literacy teaching boys life skills through sports, community service.	11-15 years	St. Ann
	Counselling and Psychological Intervention School based mentorship Programme targeting at-risk boys	18 and below	
	A programme to develop the whole body, spiritually, physically, mentally and socially through a structured leadership training.	Children 6-12 yrs. Children 13-18 yrs.	
Community- based Rehabilitation Jamaica	Health Services: Psycho-educational assessment, therapeutic intervention and referral services for children which enlists community-based professionals to make home visits to educate parents who need assistance coping with their disabled child and also to work with the disabled child. Offer training to school officials in early identification & intervention. Conduct parent training in special needs issues, child rearing skills and child development. Support teachers in the classroom, etc	All ages	St. Catherine, Manchester, St. Elizabeth, Hanover, St. James (Centres in St. Mary, Trelawny, St. Ann & St. Thomas have been down due to shortfalls in funding)
Crime Stop School Education Programme	A programme to try and end the "Informa fi ded" thought process in young children and to try and educate young children on giving information to the police and to pass on knowledge to parents. Encourages them to use crime stop.	Children 6-12 yrs.	Kingston & St. Andrew, St. Catherine

sName of programme	Description	Target group	Location
Dare to Care (residential care for children living with or affected with HIV/AIDS)	Health care and support to children living with HIV/AIDS	2 - 18 years	St. Catherine
Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands - Anglican Youth Fellowship (AYF)	Christian based group offering activities including bible study, outreach projects in the community, educational programmes, retreats and an annual sports day	12-25 years	Islandwide
Family and Parenting Centre	Counselling and Psychological Intervention; Skills Training and Career Development	All ages	St. James
Fathers Incorporated	Parenting & Advocacy, Research and Educational Services	None	Kingston
Fight for Peace	Safer communities programmes addressing urban violence hot spots	7-29 years	Kingston - selected communities
Flankers Peace and Justice Centre	Independent learning for the upliftment and education of Flankers' Youth (8-16 yrs.)	Children 6-12 and 3-18 yrs.	Montego Bay
Girl Guides Association of Jamaica	Offers various activities for girls to develop character and physical ability.	Brownies (7-10); Guides (10-16) Rangers (16-19) and Leaders (19 yrs and older) 7 years - Adult	Islandwide
Girls' Brigade	Paramilitary uniformed organization for girls with programmes that address spiritual, educational, physical development & service to community, Duke of Edinburgh's awards to participants. Mainly attached to participating churches or schools	5-7 (explorer); Juniors (8-10); senior (11-13), Brigade (14-19)	Companies in all parishes except Portland
Grace Kennedy and Staff Community Development Foundation	Homework Centres, Skills Training, Psychological Services, Tuition support, violence interruption	6-22 years	Kingston, St. Catherine (in communities adjacent to Grace Kennedys main operations)
Healthy Lifestyles Initiative	Conflict resolution programme that aims to prevent violence	Children 6-12 yrs. Children 13-18 yrs	All island
Hear the Children Cry	Advocacy, Research and Educational Services	4 years and older	Kingston

Name of programme	Description	Target group	Location
Hope for Children	Community based, seeks to improve quality of life for children and families in extremely difficult circumstance, enhance creativity. Promotes Rights and responsibility of children in keeping with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Provides Advocacy, Life Skills, parental support	All ages (general pop.)	Kingston and St. Andrew
Hope Worldwide Jamaica	Counselling: Offers a healthy lifestyle programme in 16 schools throughout Kingston based on HIV/AIDS prevention and knowledge and risk assessment for adolescents supported by parent programmes providing support to parents of these adolescents	8-18 years	Kingston & St. Andrew
Interschool Christian Fellowship Jamaica (ISCF)	Supports student led faith based clubs in high schools - emphasizes youth leadership. Stages camps, retreats and training seminars	5 years and over	Islandwide
Jamaica Child Evangelism Fellowship	Jamaica Child Evangelism Fellowship is a faith based group that trains children in Christian based principles. They have implemented Good News Clubs for an hour daily after school, for children in neighbouring communities. Activities include bible study, quizzes and bible games.	1–14 years	Islandwide
Joy Town Community Development Foundation	Multiple interventions that includes, parenting, life and skills training, remedial education, school re-entry to at risk youth.	2-18 years	Kingston and St. Andrew
Learning for Earning Activity Programme	The centre operates a day school for male and female children at risk	15-17 years old. Children 13-18 yrs.	Kingston &St. Andrew, St. Catherine
Learning Network Centres - Violence Prevention Alliance	Literacy support interventions for at risk Youth in particular	5-19 years	Kingston, St. Catherine, St. James, Manchester and St. Thomas
Mary's Child	Offers services to victims of rape &children victims of sex with a person over 18; referred by the state. The beneficiaries are offered housing and schooling either on site or at various women's centres	11 - 18 years	Kingston and St. Andrew

Name of programme	Description	Target group	Location
Matthew 25:40	Children's home for boys infected with HIV/AIDS	5 -15 years	Kingston and St. Andrew
Mel Nathan Institute	Educational institution (basic school, prep school and skills training) plus an uplifting adolescent project - an after school programme which gives individual attention to students.	Children 0-5 yrs. Children 6-12 yrs. Children 13-18 yrs	Kingston
Missionary Church Association in Jamaica – National Missionary Youth Ministries	The National Missionary Youth Ministries offers various activities for young people Weekly meetings and youth focused activities. The Missionary Church in Jamaica also hosts a five-week camp at the Kendal Camp and conference centre every summer	10–35 years	Islandwide
Multi-Care Foundation	Focus on youth and community development particularly among students/young people adjacent to the Parade Gardens and Rae Town communities of Kingston. Facilitates education and training in the visual and performing arts and sporting activities	8-18 years	Kingston and St. Andrew
National Youth Orchestra of Jamaica (NYOJ)	Programme for social change using classical music as a tool to empower at-risk children from challenged communities. 5 centres (schools), 169 students registered in 28 schools	9 -20 years	Kingston, St. Andrew and Spanish Town
New Generation's Ministries Conflict Resolution and Team Building Course	Educational institution (basic school, prep school and skills training) plus an uplifting adolescent project - an after school programme which gives individual attention to students. Summer Camps	Children 0-5 yrs. Children 6-12 yrs. Children 13-18 yrs.	Kingston
Operation Friendship, Alpha Foundation	Skills Training: Provides skills training for young people wishing to develop their careers for future employment. Operation Friendship works in conjunction with HEART Trust academy and all courses are accredited by HEART. Seeks mentors for children in surrounding communities. Gives talks on violence and address conduct disorders	Children 6-12 yrs. Children 13-18 yrs.	Kingston St. Catherine

Name of programme	Description	Target group	Location
Overcomers	Violence prevention utilizing ex-inmates as animators, motivators etc.	Children 13-18 yrs.	N/A
Peace and Love in Schools/ Society	A national programme dedicated to bringing about a change in the attitude of Jamaican towards violence. This work is concentrated in schools	Children 6-12 yrs.	St. Ann; St. Mary; Trelawny; Montego Bay
Peace Management Initiative Children's Programme	PMI operates a social conflict intervention programme. Children of victims receive psychosocial support	Children 6-18 yrs.	Kingston, St. Catherine, Clarendon, St. James, Hanover, Westmoreland
Peaceful Solutions	The programme addresses the issue of violence using non-violent ways to solve conflicts	Children 0-5 yrs. Children 6-12 yrs. Children 13-18 yrs.	Kingston
Personal and Family Development	This is a programme for street and working children, at-risk adolescent that drop out of the formal school system.	Children 6-12 yrs. Children 13-18 yrs	St. James, Trelawny, Westmoreland, Hanover
Professional Development Institute and Girl's Town	Skills training for school leavers, school dropouts or those who have an interest in pursuing vocational and academic programmes.	17 and over	Kingston
Project Symba (Stimulating Young Minds to become Achievers)	The programme offers the following: after-school remedial reading classes for adolescents, life & social skills training, drug and behavioural counselling, home visits, parenting skills training, adult continuing education programmes, youth peer education training, and incentives for participation.	All ages (general pop.) Children 6-12 yrs. Children 13-18 yrs.	Kingston & St. Andrew
RISE Life Management	Services offered by RISE includes the prevention and treatment of addictive disorders; community-based health and education interventions i.e. violence, drug, and HIV/AIDS prevention programmes for at-risk youth and family members; remedial educational programmes; life skills training, parenting programmes, social and health related services and HEART/NTA accredited vocational skills training. These interventions take place in some of Kingston's most volatile inner-city communities	15-24	Kingston

Name of programme	Description	Target group	Location
Rural Family Support Organization (RUFAMSO)	RUFAMSO offers four main programmes. The Roving Care Givers programme is a home based early child-hood intervention programme for children birth to three years who have limited access to institutional health and educational support. Parents are instructed on methods for improvement of their child's development parallel to the activities done in basic schools. RUFAMSO's second programme focuses on providing support and further training for parents as it relates to effective parenting techniques.	0-3 years	Clarendon, St. Thomas, St. Catherine, Manchester
S-Corner and Community Development Organisation	To reduce the incidence of violence in schools to make it conducive to Learning Clinic and Community School that caters to Waltham Park/Bennett Lands communities; preventive and curative health care, Youth @ Risk and Community Development services. A school for 'drop outs' that try to place them in vocational training situations to enhance their marketability	All ages (general pop.)	Kingston and St. Andrew
Scouts Association of Jamaica	Aims to improve the character of young boys and girls through educational, physical and spiritual means. Promotes discipline, independence and self reliance through training.	7-21 years	Islandwide
Seventh Day Adventist Churches of WI Union Conference – Youth Programme [Pathfinders]	The Pathfinders Club is the youth arm of the SDA church. Meetings are usually held on Sundays. Activities for youth include camping, hiking and cooking	10 years and over	Islandwide
St. Andrew Care Centre	A comprehensive treatment programme with counselling sessions and motivational talks geared towards reducing violent behaviour.	(Males Only) Children 6-12 and 13-18 yrs.	Kingston
St. Andrew Settlement	Provides community services for children and families including health centre and dental care facilities	All Ages	Kingston & St. Andrew (Majesty Gardens and surrounding areas)
St. Ann's Bay Christian Vocational Training Centre	Skills Training	16 years and over	St. Ann

Name of programme	Description	Target group	Location
St. Patrick's Foundation	St. Patrick's operates three skills training centres - St. Margaret Human Resource Centre, Christ the Redeemer Human Resource Centre and Riverton and Callaloo Meadows Human Resource Centre. St. Patrick's has also implemented remedial education for children unable to adequately function in the public education system	11 years and over	Kingston and St. Andrew
Teens Against Drugs Club (Drug Abuse Clubs in Schools)	The programmes are theoretically based, usually in health communications.	All ages (general pop.)	
The H.O.L.Y. Network	Non-profit organization, non partisan community -based youth group founded by members of the Area Youth Foundation and the Church and adopted by Violence Prevention alliance (VPA) in 2006 as an outreach centre. Its mission is youth empowerment, violence prevention and the promotion of peace	13-21 years	Kingston and St. Andrew
The Moravian Church in Jamaica Youth Fellowship	'Youth Fellowship' for young people ages 12–25 years; The 'Upward and Onward' group for girls ages 13–21 years; activities include preparing young girls for young womanhood. 'Junos' is for girls 6–12 years. 'The Boys Brigade' is a part of the National Boys Brigade. The Moravian Church also organizes annual summer camps for young people.	6–23 years	Islandwide
Uniformed groups 4H clubs, Red Cross, Boys Scouts, Girls Guides, St. Johns Ambulance, Cadets, Boys and Girls Brigades	Structured organised After School Activities Offering camping, hiking, teambuilding etc.	8-15	Islandwide

Name of programme	Description	Target group	Location
UWI Based Caribbean Child Development Centre	Research and training services	All ages	Kingston & St. Andrew
Violence Prevention Clinic	The U.W.I. Violence Prevention Programme is a campus based social service agency providing services to children	Children 6-12 yrs. Children 13-18 yrs.	Kingston and St. Andrew
Webster Memorial Clinic and Counselling	Webster Memorial Clinic and Counselling offers counselling and psychological intervention for families, children and teens among other services	All ages	Kingston and St. Andrew
Women's Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC)	Women's Resource and Outreach Centre. Their homework programme is offered to children between the ages of 8–18 years. Children are offered assistance for academic improvement and overall development.	8-18 years	Kingston and St. Andrew
YMCA Kingston	Street Boy programme using mentorship, sports and leadership training	15-25	Kingston
Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)	YMCA provides remedial education for boys who are classified as slow learners. They administer the grade 9 achievement test and those successful are referred to mainstream schools. Referrals are made for those suited for a skill	12 - 18 years	Kingston St. James and St. Catherine
Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)	YWCA administers a remedial school for both males and females in preparation for Grade 9 achievement test. Upon completion students are then reintegrated into mainstream schools or referred for further skills training	11-17 years	Kingston St. James and St. Catherine
Youth at the Crossroads	Character development curriculum that deals with character corrections, emotions, STI, life skills, future of the students. Focuses on students, parents, etc.	Children 6-12 yrs. Children 13-18 yrs.	Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Catherine, Clarendon

Name of programme	Description	Target group	Location
Youth Enhancement Service (YES) Programme	A job readiness programme with strong emphasis on customer service, character development and other soft skills. Partner with HEART Trust CBT Department certifying vocational skills in Full NVQ-J	Children 13-18 yrs.	
Youth Opportunities Unlimited	Offers mentoring programmes, work-shops and a youth centre which focuses on career and peer counselling	10 years and over	Kingston and St. Andrew
Youth Reaching Youth	Empowering youth and giving them life skills. Use of drama, poetry to get messages to youth	Children and Youth 15-24	Kingston
YUTE- Youth Upliftment Through Employment	YUTE seeks to increase the individual marketability of unattached youth in trou-bled communities. The programme is divided into 3 streams. (i) YUTE Employment - full time jobs and intern-ship. (ii) YUTE Entrepreneurship - oppor-tunity to start or develop own business. (iii)YUTE U-turn - development of life skills and disciplines while getting skills training. The programme is supported by active mentorship for youth in all three streams	18 -29 years	Kingston and St. Andrew. (Denham Town, Tivoli, Parade Gardens, Jones Town, Trench Town, Mountain View, Rockfort & Olympic Gdns.

Appendix G: Voices of the Children

National Children's Summit 2017

The Child Development Agency (CDA) convened a four-day series of Pre-Summit Regional Consultations as a lead up to the National Children's Summit scheduled for August 23, 2017. These Consultations converged as follows:

A total of 218 children, inclusive of CAP members participated in the Pre-summit sessions held across the four CDA regions between July 13-August 15. All the sessions were facilitated by members of the CAP in each of the regions who were integral in getting the dialogue going with other children on issues which were affecting them. In the opening of each of the sessions, representatives of the CDA and the CDA Children's Advisory Panel (CAP) commenced by shaping the dialogue on the importance of children in state care knowing their rights and actively participating in sharing their opinions and recommendations during the Consultations. This, in an effort to inform an Issues Paper to be finalized to form the Children's Declaration Paper that will be presented at the Summit and thereafter escalated to the Minister with responsibility for children in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information.

The participants' recommendations, criticisms and points of concern are all captured within the major headings of state care; family; transition from state care; crime and violence and security; government and security; education; age of consent and social responsibility.

The following issues and recommendations were raised by the children on the topic of Crime and Violence and Security.

Point of Concern/ Issue: A steady diet of crime and violence in Jamaica has led to crime being accepted as the norm and Jamaicans becoming desensitised, feeling hopeless and foreign visitors being afraid to visit for vacation or to conduct business.

Recommendation: We the children recommend that the government increase job opportunities so that there can be gainful employment to reduce the need to resort to crime, teach the public how the perception of crime in Jamaica by foreigners impacts foreign exchange, tourism and the man on the street.

Point of Concern/Issue: Some incidents of crime and violence stem from unresolved childhood trauma and dysfunctional living situations   as well as it is an act of revenge due to built up anger, resentment and hatred.

Recommendations: We the children recommend that the government increase intervention strategies so that the occurrence of child abuse is reduced or eliminated. We the children are of the opinion that such intervention will result in more socially functional people. We the children further recommend that special focus be made for children who have been emotionally, physically and sexually abused or otherwise may have suffered neglect in order to lessen the likelihood of acts of revenge.

Point of Concern/Issue: Another concern is that criminals are not deterred by the types of punishment they receive.

Recommendation: We the children recommend an increase in the severity and relevance of the punishment that criminals experience (in other words the "punishment must fit the crime").

Recommendation: In terms of security, we the children recommend that the Jamaica constabulary force along with others strengthen neighbourhood watch groups in communities. This we believe can assist in the control of crime and to teach self-defence so that children are not defenceless against acts of crime and violence.

Point of concern/Issue: We the children are also concerned with the lack of adequate security in some schools to conduct searches as needed on female students.

Recommendation: We recommend that one female security guard is placed at each school who will conduct searches as needed on female students. This is because some male security guards can sometimes be inappropriate in their searches and there have been reports of females feeling violated by male security guards. The principals should also be involved in the selection of security guards, and to ensure that they are adequately trained.

Focus group Discussions in Trelawny and Clarendon

The following themes emerged from the consultations with children. Four child-centered focus groups were conducted at two All-Age and 2 High Schools in the parishes of Trelawny and Clarendon. The total number of children consulted was forty seven (20 girls and 27 boys). The age range for the all age school participants was 12-18 years. The age range for the high school participants was 13-16 years.

Violence as Defined by the Children

According to the children violence includes:

Killing	Robbing	Drug use
Obeah	Chopping	Drug sales
Shooting	Fraud	Extortion
Stealing	Poisoning	Stabbing

During the consultations, no child included sexual, verbal or physical abuse in their definition of violence. The children were reminded that these categories must be considered for the discussion of violence and children.

Exposure to Violence

For all groups, at least one child was exposed to one or all of the following types of violence:

Type of Violence	Report
Fighting	"Fighting happen everyday at school"
Stoning	"Dem stone people all di time"
See a dead body	"One time I witnessed the beheading of a person"
Watch police arrests	
See someone being robbed	
See someone being shotBeen shot at	"My uncle was shot in Kingston" "My uncle was shot in Town"
See someone stabbed	

The Most Prevalent Types of Violence

Type of Violence	Reports
Physical Abuse/Corporal Punishment	
All children reported that they have been severely beaten by their parents or guardians	"My brother gave me a black eye and broke my nose…I reported the incident to my father but nothing came out of it"
Emotional Abuse	
All children explained that they are consistently emotionally abused by their parents, guardians and other authorities	"Verbal abuse is very present at home" "I don't have a home, I have a house"
	"My parents will curse me if I come home with an injury from a fight"
Sexual Abuse	
Every child knew at least one person who has been sexually abused. Each group had at least one child who was sexually abused.	"One day two men kicked down my door and forced themselves on top of me and my friend in the house. My father walked into the house and the two men ran away. He told the police but the police never came"

How violence affects the daily lives of children

For fun children reported playing football, going to the river, attending bible study or youth fellowship and taking part in school activities. Children explained the multitude of ways that violence affects their daily lives, including leisure activities, short-term and long-term goals; all were associated with fear and intimidation.

Impact of Violence on Children

Impact of Violence on Children	Reports
Affects the ability to do what you love	"One time I was playing football and the gunman name "Speedy" come up to me and hit me in my head and tell me to leave the football field and go home to study"
Affects the ability to move freely around the community	"Every morning when I'm walking to school boys come on the street and ask me for money. If I don't give them they threaten to kill me"
Affects education and employment opportunities	"There is discrimination of jobs based on your address"
	"There is no jobs in this community so I want to leave to get a job but I fraid to leave the country because too much violence in Kingston"
	"I want to go to school in Kingston but I'm afraid to leave the country and board in Kingston"
Affects mental health	"My mental state is affected by the abuse and violence, especially if the person who is killed or is abusing me is the only person you could talk to"
	"Parents quarrelling at home affects my thinking. I fret and cry at school and lose my concentration"

Recognition of child rights by guardians and authorities

Children consistently reported that children's opinions are undermined in the home and community.

Denial of Childs' Rights

Report
"When you tell parents about sexual abuse they don't believe you"
"When there is a situation that involves the police, they will never listen to the side of the story from the child's perspective"

Perception of why the violence in Jamaica is so high

Reason why Violence is so High	Reports
Lack of Parental Education	"Parents don't know how else to deal with the situation so they take out their anger on us children, and don't tell the children what is right and wrong"
"Bad mind" and Jealousy	
Poor Enforcement of Laws	"It's too free here, there is no discipline and the police are not doing their job"
	It's too easy to become a police and the time in jail from criminals is too short"
Lack of Employment	
Lack of Education of young people	"Young people are not staying in school"
Lack of Love at home	"Jamaica has too many delinquent children who need parental attention"
Single Parenting	"People do anything to feel comfortable and wanted. There are too many single parents, no male figure at home and no guidance to teach what is right or wrong. Therefore children get the experience by themselves"
Teenage Pregnancy	"The reason for the violence is that there is too much teenage pregnancy from older men because they have the money and girls want taxi men because they can carry them anywhere"
Poverty and Over-population	

Perceptions of why the violence in higher in urban than rural areas

"There is too much guns in town, guns don't reach to Spalding"

"Violence in the country is not as bad as town because dem doh push war like in town"

"In country people live good with one another"

"In town poor people covet rich people so then kill them off to take away their money"

"We have better relationships in the country. Also there is no money in the country so not as much bad mind"

"When gun men come to our community they get intimidated because gun men get chop up so they are afraid to come back"

Violence and gender

The overall perspective from children is that violence affects boys and girls equally.

"Both girls and boys get raped"

"If my faada ded (father died), it will affect me too as a girl"

"Girls can't defend themselves therefore people go after females more because they put up less challenges. But criminals also challenge boys because they think they are bad enough to approach anybody"

Awareness of available services for children affected by violence

Two children were aware of the Child Development Agency. All other children were not aware of any services available for children affected by violence.

Call in Help-Line:

A Call-in Help Line was given as an example of a service that provides support for children affected by violence as the first point of contact with child protection organizations. The four main services of the Help Line were outlined as follows:

1. Provides a confidential place to be heard
2. Provides information that is reliable and current
3. Provides counselling
4. Provides referrals to services

No child was aware of the Help Line.

"I would use it for small crimes, but for big crimes I would go to the police"

"I have never seen or heard of it, but I would use it if it doesn't take long"

"I never heard of it, but I would use it"

Perception of what the Government is doing for the Children of Jamaica with Regard to Violence

Children either noted that the government is not doing anything for children with regard to violence, or that they are not aware of what the government may be doing.

How children protect themselves from violence and its effects

"Avoid it and walk away"

"Protect yourself with a weapon"

"Know what and what not to wear on the road, and know when and where not to go to avoid a violent situation"

"Always walk with company and be alert"

"Keep the right friends and do right"

"Trust in God"

"Do your best in sports"

"See and blind, hear and deaf"

"Don't quick fi talk if the violence does not concern you"

"If you get involved people will say you chat too much so you should stay out of business that doesn't concern you"

"If you talk too much people will threaten that they will stone you and chop you up"

"If you try to help yourself you will get threatened"

Advice for how we can better protect children from violence

"Enforce childs' rights, and make it upfront and educate parents about child rights"

"Make children's voices be heard more at school and by their parents"

Perception of the police, court and justice system

Perception of the police   "You can't trust the police, and they take too long to get to the crime"

"Nothing happens when you report to the police"

"I don't trust police because they are wicked and they don't take the children's story seriously. They only listen to parent's side of the story"

"The police verbally abuse children"

The court and justice system

"The court system is not confidential"

"The courts are on the unfair side. Its acts like a dictatorship"

Where to whom do you report crimes to?

"I would go to the police"

"I might go to the hospital but I don't like to go because it too mix up and di people talk out you business"

"I would call the police, though wary of them because not all of them are nice, some are rough"

"The probation office at Falmouth

"My friends at school"

"Church and youth fellowship"

"I go to my counselor at school"

"My coach and teachers"
"Maybe the CDA"

Children's Ideas for Improvement

Advice for the Government of Jamaica

"Find out who is the bad person in the community and then find out *why* they are so violent"

"Take away all the guns"

"Put in more capital punishment

Put sexual abusers to "death"

"Create more employment"

"Greater enforcement of laws, especially for police"

"More investigation of crimes"

"Increase the requirements to become a police"

"Increase the time for criminals to stay in prison and do to them what they did as a criminal so they know how it feels and don't do it again"

"Make sure there is more support from parish leaders"

"Call all gang leaders together and talk about conflict resolution. Also, make them sign a treaty that they will stop the violence"

"Start a church and a school for gun men"

Give more money to poor people"

"Install more services so we don't have to go too far for help"

"Make sure that every community has a guidance counsellor and representative from the government"

"Improve the security at school"

"Work with parents and educate them on good parenting techniques "

"Introduce radio programs to educate people about child rights"

Advice for Parents

"Don't leave me at home alone"

"Be more open, and communicate more with your children"

"Set a good example for your children to follow"

"Stop the verbal abuse and control your anger"

"Stop encouraging violence in the home""Find another way to punish, other than beating me"

"Educate girls on how they can prevent being raped

Advice for Community Leaders:

"Build a center for children to discuss their issues and relax their mind

"Build a youth recreational center, mostly with youth leadership and input"

"Have more church youth groups and youth programs"

"Help to decrease teenage pregnancy".