

**The UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund  
(UN COVID-19 MPTF)**

**Proposal Template**

**Window 2: Reduce Social Impact and Promote Economic Response**

**Proposal Title: Safeguarding and Protecting the Most Vulnerable: Enhancing Jamaica's Shock Responsive Social Protection Mechanisms in support of vulnerable Groups including children.**

**Amount: 600,000 USD**

**I. Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID19**

Today, the world faces a severe and acute public health emergency due to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic. In the case of Jamaica COVID-19 has significantly disrupted the country's socio-economic sectors and livelihoods in general. The Report "Assessing the Effects of COVID-19 to Plan the Recovery" by UNECLAC postulated that the COVID-19 pandemic will result in the worst economic contraction in the history of Latin America and the Caribbean, characterized by sharp increases in unemployment which will have a knock-on effect on household incomes and the ability to meet basic needs, falling commodity prices, reduction in international trade and increases in the poverty rate among other issues. This is a realistic picture of what is expected to emerge in Jamaica post COVID-19. It is already anticipated that vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, children, women and girls, female-headed households and persons living with HIV/AIDS are expected to be impacted disproportionately by effects of COVID-19 due to the economic fallout which has the potential to devastate these vulnerable communities who

are already challenged by economic hardship and social disparities.

Jamaica started the year 2020 with economic stability firmly entrenched evidenced by modest inflation levels; debt on a firm downward path; seven consecutive years of growth (20 quarters); strong external positions with sufficient international reserves; and financial sector stability: adequate loan loss reserves and a sufficiently capitalized banking system. Jamaica's unemployment rate fell to a record low of 7.2 per cent (women: 8.6 per cent; men: 6.0 per cent) based on the 2019 Labour Force Survey (STATIN)<sup>1</sup>. On the social side, Jamaica remained in the second tier, High Human Development category, of the Human Development Index (HDI) in 2018, with a rank of 96 out of 189 countries. Regarding social protection, the country recorded a poverty rate of 17.1 per cent, the lowest since 2007, but approximately 40 per cent of the population was reported to experience some level of food insecurity. In 2017, there was an average increase of 30 per cent in the monetary value for all beneficiary categories under the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH)<sup>2</sup> – Jamaica's largest cash transfer social assistance programme that caters to the most vulnerable across all age groups.

As of May 10, 2020, Jamaica had 502 confirmed cases of COVID-19 (61 percent women, 39 percent men) in persons ranging in age from 2 years to 87 years, with 9 deaths. Whilst the country still has a high percentage of imported cases and contacts of imported cases, there are now more community/workplace cluster cases and emerging cases with unknown epidemiological origins. Jamaica is about to enter the community transmission phase. As has been the case with other countries, once the outbreak has entered the community transmission phase, it can double in scale every 3 to 5 days. To suppress the spread of COVID-19, the Government began from as early as February 2020 to implement a range of tools and approaches to respond to the threat such as declaring a country-wide state of emergency under the Disaster Risk Management Act (2015), allowing the state extraordinary powers, which allow for enforcement of social distancing and other pandemic control measures; island-wide curfews and bans on some economic activities that pose the most significant threats; and lockdowns (for the parish of St. Catherine only) to slow the spread and flatten the curve. Other measures being enforced are social/physical distancing strategies such as closing of schools; work from home; closure of non-essential services and entertainment events; providing protective measures for the elderly and other vulnerable groups; increasing travel restrictions and limiting the number of persons allowed to gather.

Many of these measures will have significant impacts on the economy – but it is the poor and most vulnerable in the society who will suffer most. Many will be unable to work as they hold relatively unsecure jobs and have little or no resources to fall back on or cushion the impact. For example, curfews and lockdowns will have impacts on the vulnerable who base much of their employment on hands-on labour to earn enough to feed their

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<sup>1</sup> <https://statinja.gov.jm/PressReleases.aspx>  
<https://jis.gov.jm/unemployment-rate-falls-to-7-2-per-cent/>

<sup>2</sup> PATH is a cash transfer programme managed and implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS)

families. Not being able to work leads to increases in poverty and nutritional poverty. Evidence of disruption of the informal economy is already evident as is loss of jobs and income for many families. The closure of the tourism sector has resulted in the disruption of the food markets resulting in wastage of agricultural products as many small farmers do not have markets beyond tourism.

PAHO/WHO projections for Jamaica estimate that there would be approximately 6,868 cases of COVID-19 by May 2020 and an increase of approximately 229 new cases per day. The speed and scale of the spread, the severity of cases, and the societal and economic disruption are expected to have a significant impact in Jamaica and will bring about new challenges to the many development gains experienced by Jamaica over the last 10 years and threatens to erode much of the country's socio-economic progress, as well as further negatively impact areas related to health and social protection that still require much attention.

The outlook for Jamaica post-COVID already shows troubling signs, including derailing the advancement of the sustainable development goals, operationalized through the country's national development plan – Vision 2030 Jamaica. The situational analysis presented above calls for Jamaica to engage in a range of health-related and non-health-related activities to curb the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure that interventions are designed and implemented in a manner that ensures equal access to the most vulnerable and respects genders and human rights, essentially ensuring that 'no one is left behind'. This proposal presents strategic non-health-related priorities aimed at securing and enhancing Jamaica's shock responsive social protection mechanisms ensuring that the vulnerable population groups in Jamaica, including among others children and children with disabilities, and their needs are addressed.

## **II. Solutions proposed**

This response strategy will seek to build on and expand the investments used to support national systems, drawing on lessons learned to protect, plan and prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable populations targeted under Jamaica's National Social Protection Policy and Strategy. The solutions will support socio-economic needs and will focus on shock responsive social protection strategies - characterized by vertical (increasing transfer amounts) and horizontal (increasing the number of persons) expansion of existing social protection programmes targeting vulnerable households (families with children with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women and rural female-headed households). The solutions will be organized under two areas targeting vulnerable groups that may be disproportionately impacted by the economic fall-out due to COVID-19. This project will consider social protection measures for those who, due to Government's efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, have lost their income and are unable to provide for their families; ensure that social protection services reach the population without discrimination.

The solutions will build on existing social protection mechanisms of MLSS:

- Providing a financial boost for 3 months to the poorest and most vulnerable households to mitigate social and economic risks of COVID-19 (including families with children with disabilities, families with children under 3, pregnant and lactating women and female-headed households in rural areas)
- Contributing to stabilizing the agriculture sector and keeping local markets and agricultural supply chains functional, focussing on the most vulnerable female farmers
- Increasing the income and protecting the livelihoods of rural women who are heads of households
- Providing technical support to develop innovation in the Government's disaster and social development/protection programmes

### ***Providing a Financial Boost for the Poorest and Most Vulnerable Households in Jamaica***

The solution is based on requests from the Government and seeks to provide much needed additional support to households through the Programme of Advancement through Health and Education (PATH) – the flagship conditional cash transfer targeting the poorest families – and adapt shock responsive cash transfer programmes to ensure that children and families, particularly those engaged in the informal economy (e.g. market vendors, street vendors, household helpers) and whose incomes have been severely affected by the measures put in place to suppress the transmission of COVID-19 have additional resources to better manage the crisis without engaging in irreversible coping strategies and falling deeper into poverty.

Women and children often bear the brunt of large shocks and crises. Recent evaluations of cash transfer programmes and other research on climate resilience showcase the impacts of social protection programmes on the anticipatory, absorptive and adaptive capacities of individuals, households and communities, including impacts on income, dietary diversity and food security and reduction in adverse coping strategies (distress sale of labour, child labour, etc). Families with children risk being among COVID-19's biggest victims – not primarily through direct health effects but through socio-economic impacts and by mitigation measures such as lockdowns and curfews that are hampering the ability of their families to earn a living. COVID-19 represents a universal crisis for children that may have lifelong impacts.

This intervention will provide the following:

- Cash transfers to 2,060 families with children with disabilities registered on PATH
- Cash transfers to 700 families with pregnant and lactating women
- Contract purchase from 1,000 rural women/family farmers to supply mechanism to distribute food packages in rural and peri-rural areas affected
- Prepare food care packages with food produced by rural/family farmers beneficiaries for approximately 1,000 families at risk with children ages 3-5 years who are not PATH beneficiaries This will include providing technical and logistics interventions to upgrade the

nutritional content of these packages with locally grown vegetables and fruits.

Cash transfers will be approximately US\$35 per month per family for 3 months – the amount was selected based on the regular benefits that PATH provides. Duplicating the transfer value of a cash programme is usually the fastest way of adaptive social protection during an emergency and removes the requirement for a needs assessment, thus saving time. Considering the average household size in Jamaica is 3.1, the total number of beneficiaries of the project will be approximately 14,000 people (4,760 households); at least 40 per cent of benefits will be allocated to female-headed households.

Targeted short-term cash transfers can have enduring effects as they can empower beneficiaries, promote gender equality and enhance women's decision-making power. A key advantage is that cash allows households flexibility in deciding their spending needs. This can have positive results for children through its impacts on nutrition and health and can help generate local market activity and restart livelihoods. The cash transfer programme will use existing dissemination mechanisms from the Government and therefore no overhead costs will be incurred by the programme.

These solutions will be structured and implemented to ensure that lessons learned can be captured so that for future crises or disasters.

#### ***Supporting Local Supply Chains in the Agricultural Sector especially for Female Heads of Households who are Farmers***

Agriculture is the cornerstone for food security in Jamaica and is one of the country's key development priorities. The widespread impact of COVID-19 has had significant impact on the agricultural sector and Jamaica is at risk of a looming food crisis unless measures are taken fast to protect the most vulnerable, keep food supply chains alive, and mitigate the pandemic's impacts across the food system. Border closures and quarantines that have resulted in the disruption of the tourism sector have impacted many small farmers across Jamaica and one particularly vulnerable group – female heads of households who engage in agricultural activity as the primary source of food and for income generation. This solution is intended to create new local markets for these female farmers, which would contribute to more sustainable and diverse supply chains for them now and in the future and also lead to more sustainable livelihoods. Currently many farmers produce crops and livestock which they are unable to supply even though there is a demand. Simply establishing new chains and connecting demand with supply will create some level of diversification in supply chains, which would enhance the solution's sustainability.

### **III. What is the specific need/problem the intervention seeks to address?**

COVID-19 is expected to spread rapidly in Jamaica in the coming weeks and certainly by May 2020 when the country moves from the phase of localized clusters (in which most of the cases can be managed individually) to uncontrolled acceleration in which the majority of cases involve an

unknown source of infection with an infection rate that is accelerating resulting in exponential to fast linear growth in the number of new cases.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Government of Jamaica, like many other countries, has implemented social and fiscal actions to cushion the economic impact of COVID-19. These include: waivers in the Special Consumption Tax on approximately 100,000 liters of alcohol for use in making (or substituting for) sanitizers; waivers on Customs Duty on the importation of masks, gloves, hand sanitizers and liquid hand soap for a 90 day period; Commercial banks are providing temporary cash-flow support to businesses and consumers in affected sectors through deferral of principal payments, new lines of credit and other measures. The Government of Jamaica has also introduced a multi-pronged economic package valued at approximately US\$183 million, CARES, with four elements: Business Employee Support and Transfer of Cash (BEST Cash) – which will provide temporary cash transfer to businesses in targeted sectors based on the number of workers they keep employed; Supporting Employees with Transfer of Cash (SET Cash) – which will provide temporary cash transfer to individuals where it can be verified that they lost their employment since March 10, (the date of the first COVID-19 case in Jamaica) due to the COVID-19 virus and this will be available for a specific period; Special soft loan fund to assist individuals and businesses that have been hard hit; and Supporting the poor and vulnerable with special COVID related grants.<sup>3</sup>

With the economic downturn caused by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthening social protection responses is essential. The COVID-19 outbreak affects all segments of the population but is particularly detrimental to members of the most vulnerable social groups, including people living in poverty, women and female-headed households, older persons, persons with disabilities, and youth. Early evidence indicates that the health and economic impacts of the COVID 19 crisis are being borne disproportionately by the poor<sup>4</sup>. Jamaica’s Social Protection Strategy explicitly discusses social protection’s role in social risk management, including risks related to ‘environmental conditions’ and ‘natural events such as disasters’. It also acknowledges social protection’s ‘preventive’ and ‘mitigative’ functions, including for ‘disaster preparedness’, and sets out a comprehensive vision for social protection offerings that includes provisions for loss of income in the event of a shock (Government of Jamaica, 2014). The recent wave of evaluations of cash transfer programs and other research on climate resilience showcase the impacts of social protection programmes on the anticipatory, absorptive and adaptive capacities of individuals, households and communities, including impacts on:

- Income, dietary diversity and food security
- Asset accumulation, productive activities and productivity, livelihood security and diversification
- Accumulation of human capital
- Reduction in adverse coping strategies (distress sale of labour, child labour, etc.)
- Social capital, aspirations and psychosocial wellbeing

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<sup>3</sup> <https://mof.gov.jm/mof-media/media-centre/press/2633-fiscal-stimulus-response-to-the-covid-19.html>

<sup>4</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Social Inclusion, 2020

In Jamaica, approximately 190,000 children are living in poverty with poverty disproportionately affecting those living in rural and peri-urban areas in female-headed households and in families with children with disabilities<sup>5</sup>. Of the 770,000 children in Jamaica, one third are enrolled in the PATH programme and 10,500 children under the age of five are affected by chronic malnutrition. Layering the foregoing with the economic fallout created by the COVID-19 pandemic there will be greater hardship on these vulnerable populations. Cash Transfers to families of children and those with disabilities are critical in these times due to the heightened vulnerabilities they face based on their early stage of physical, intellectual and emotional development and will be effective in the protection of children’s rights.

Significantly more resources are required for the Government to respond to all areas of the economy with increased need because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Agencies with mandates that cover social protection are similarly under increased stress at the personnel level to deliver services to vulnerable populations who, because of the disruption in livelihoods caused by the pandemic, are less able to support themselves.

In rural and peri-urban areas female-headed households that rely on agriculture for their livelihoods are often challenged by the effects of climate change including extreme events such as excess rainfall and drought. With COVID-19, they are now confronted with additional challenges – such as the burden of preparing their households to deal with the COVID-19 crisis as well as finding market outlets for farm produce due to the drop in demand from the tourism and entertainment industries, making their situation even more dire.

The MLSS is the prime agency that helps to provide support to vulnerable social groups with greater demands to find additional resources to address increased demand for cash transfers and the need for improved nutrition for affected social groups help them cope with their more perilous situation.

The two interventions addressed above will complement the initiatives being implemented by the Government and international development partners. The interventions are intended to respond to specific needs as shown in the table below.

Intervention	Needs Addressed
Providing a Financial Boost for the Poorest and Most Vulnerable Households in Jamaica	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prevent the most vulnerable from falling into deeper levels of poverty</li> <li>2. Strengthen the social safety net recognizing that many vulnerable families are often the least able to work remotely to avoid contracting the virus and also are the least</li> </ol>

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<sup>5</sup> UNICEF-Jamaica, 2019

Intervention	Needs Addressed
	<p>likely to have savings to survive an economic downturn – as such, there is need to make sure there is an economic safety net such as available cash transfers and social relief care and sanitation packages to support food and nutritional capacity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Address the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable in light of the crisis</li> <li>4. Bolster family incomes that have been significantly reduced due to restrictions imposed by Governments to curb and suppress the spread of the virus</li> </ol>
Supporting Local Supply Chains in the Agricultural Sector especially for Female Heads of Households who are Farmers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The economic shock stemming from forced lockdowns and closures of sectors such as tourism which while stemming the tide of infections is contributing to other crises especially among the most vulnerable especially as it relates to their livelihoods</li> <li>2. Supporting the livelihoods of female farmers</li> <li>3. Reducing unemployment</li> <li>4. Contributing to food security and nutritional security of the general population</li> <li>5. Creating avenues for diversifying the supply chain and creating additional markets to reduce dependence on one market</li> <li>6. Stimulate economic activities as a catalyst to restart rural economy</li> </ol>

#### IV. How does this collaborative programme solve the challenge? Please describe your theory of change. – to be done

The COVID-19 pandemic will have significant negative impacts on Jamaica’s economy. It is expected that there will be a sharp rise in unemployment followed by earning losses particularly for hourly workers and those working in the informal sector based on ILO estimates. This, along with corresponding increases in need for unpaid care work, will substantially impact the rights of thousands of people to work, achievement of an adequate standard of living and livelihoods. Immediate economic relief measures such as guaranteed paid sick leave, extended unemployment benefits and universal basic income can help safeguard against the acute effects of the crisis.

Given the necessary measures to slow the spread of the virus, Jamaica's economy is expected to be negatively impacted. Jamaica's economy is projected to decline by 5.6 per cent for 2020. It is important to note that these projections are based on early information of the impact of COVID 19. Therefore, the projections are a function of several factors including the pathway of the pandemic, the intensity and efficacy of containment efforts, the extent of supply disruptions, tightening in global financial market conditions, and volatile commodity prices. Additionally, the IMF has just reassessed the prospect for growth for 2020 and 2021, declaring that Jamaica has entered a recession – as bad as or worse than in 2009. The IMF projects recovery in 2021 only if the world succeeds in containing the virus and takes the necessary economic measures. In the face of such an unprecedented situation in recent history, the creativity of the response must match the unique nature of the crisis – and the magnitude of the response must match its scale. No country will be able to exit this crisis alone. An effective response to COVID-19 requires a coordinated, decisive, and innovative policy action from the world's leading economies, and maximum financial and technical support for the poorest and most vulnerable people and countries, who will be the hardest hit. Given the world's extensive economic and social interrelationships and trade— we are only as strong as the weakest health system.

This section will provide a clear description and illustration of how the interventions above will assist Jamaica in achieving the intended goals of safeguarding and protecting the most vulnerable by enhancing Jamaica's shock responsive social protection mechanisms in support of a number of vulnerable groups. It is clear that expanding shock-responsive social protection coverage during this pandemic will be key to addressing the socio-economic impacts and fallout. This is crucial in the short-term as immediate measures are reducing and constraining essential service provision and physical distancing/isolation measures are reducing the incomes of the most vulnerable threatening the many gains that have been made with respect to social protection strategy and the SDGs. The solutions addressed under this proposal seeks to deliver to the vulnerable in Jamaica the best possible response for families and children with disabilities, women and the most marginalised, a responsive social protection response that is designed to be rights-based and inclusive. By providing cash transfers to the targeted vulnerable groups highlighted, the poorest will not likely have to resort to negative coping strategies, such as reducing food consumption or selling assets.

The solutions proposed also will ensure that lessons learned can be captured to ensure that for future crises or disasters such as those posed by natural phenomena existing social safety net systems will be enhanced to make them more responsive to shocks in the future. This means improving delivery systems so that social protection programs can reach the vulnerable more quickly, efficiently, and transparently, with the ability to scale up in times of crisis. It also will mean focusing on building resilience on social protection systems to be able to prepare citizens to cope with shocks, as well as support shock response after experiencing a crisis. In Jamaica, 45.2 per cent of households are headed by women (Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions 2017), who will be impacted significantly in this public health emergency. Like elsewhere, in Jamaica women and girls are more likely to live in poor households than boys and men. Women are also overrepresented in jobs in the informal sector that are particularly vulnerable during times of economic upheavals. This has been borne out during the COVID-19 situation, in which women, who hold

the majority of jobs in call centres, hotels and restaurants have lost income from closed business places. The solutions proposed here will contribute to female empowerment in decision making as additional cash resources are provided.

One of the solutions proposed here – supporting local supply chains of female-headed farmer households – presents an innovative approach towards extending the social safety net to an at-risk group in an affected employment sector who possibly would have been sidelined but providing scope for a sustainable opportunity to continue to generate income amidst the pandemic.

This proposal and the interventions contained herein recognize that it is quite likely that the burden of COVID-19 will likely fall hardest among vulnerable groups and therefore activities will be designed to honour the pledge of “leaving no one will be left behind”.

## V. Documentation

- Ministry of Health and Wellness Jamaica National Plan to Combat COVID-19
- PAHO/WHO Jamaica Country National Plan to Combat COVID-19
- Jamaica’s National Social Protection Policy and Strategy

Jamaica’s National Plan for Combating COVID-19 has been completed and posted on the WHO partner portal.

## VI. Target Population

The proposed solutions are organized under the following two areas:

- Providing a Financial Boost for the Poorest and Most Vulnerable Households in Jamaica
- Supporting Local Supply Chains in the Agricultural Sector especially for Female Heads of Households who are Farmers

The two areas are underpinned by the inherent potential for vertical and horizontal expansion of existing social protection programmes. These programmes, which target vulnerable households, will be leveraged to provide much needed support for sustaining lives and livelihoods. Emphasis has been given to vulnerable groups that may be disproportionately impacted by the socio-economic disruptions due to COVID 19.

With respect to the provision of a financial boost, the most vulnerable households (including families with children with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women and female headed households in rural areas with acute income constraints) will be the beneficiaries of a targeted approach

designed to assist in the mitigation of the social and economic risks associated with Covid-19. Using an existing structure facilitates a fast distribution through a well-known social programme with defined processes which can be tailored to not only reach existing applicants but also vulnerable persons who either use the programme in an inconsistent way or in some cases none at all. In addition, MICAF and RADA are currently facilitating a “buyback programme”, where excess agriculture produce are bought from farmers and redistributed to major urban areas. Target groups include children and families, particularly those engaged in the informal economy (e.g. market vendors, street vendors, household helpers, gardeners etc.) and whose incomes have been severely affected. The Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) is deemed as a mechanism to facilitate the distribution of additional resources to these target groups. The selection of PATH allows for, among other things, emphasis to be placed on women. According to the 2017 JSLC, female headed household with children have been shown to have more children, lower mean household consumption and higher likelihood of being in poverty than those headed by males. Therefore targeting female headed households under this intervention would have wide reaching benefits. The table below shows the direct users of the solution; potential impact on beneficiaries as well who has established the need for the solution.

Proposed Solution Area	Direct Users	Potential Impact	Beneficiaries	Source of proposed solution/Comment
Providing a Financial Boost for the Poorest and Most Vulnerable Households in Jamaica	MLSS and MOEYI	The provision of critical financial support to vulnerable groups particularly those which have been underserved.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cash Transfer support (top-ups) for approximately 2,060 families with children with disabilities registered on PATH.</li> <li>2. Cash Transfers for approximately 700 families in receipt benefits under the programmes Pregnant and Lactating category with a focus on households with children under 3 years old.</li> <li>3. Food Care packages for approximately 1,000 families with children ages 3-5 years who are being supported through the Early Stimulation programme</li> <li>4. Vulnerable groups who previously did not benefit under PATH are but is expected to be negatively impacted by</li> </ol>	The Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (MOEYI)

Proposed Solution Area	Direct Users	Potential Impact	Beneficiaries	Source of proposed solution/Comment
			impact of COVID 19—those furthest behind such as mothers with children with disabilities who are food and nutrition insecure.	

Concerning supporting supply chains, emphasis is being placed on supporting disrupted supply chains connected to the agriculture sector. Focus is also given to single-headed female household who are farmers. With the economic slowdown in the tourism sector due to measures to suppress the spread of COVID 19, the linked agriculture sector has also been negatively impacted. Restaurants and accommodation businesses such as hotels have either closed or significantly restructured their services. Disruptions in the supply chain, which involves the supply of agricultural production to hoteliers and restaurants, are expected to impact the earnings of farmers in the country as well as associated jobs of the supply chain. Therefore, the proposed solution is a targeted intervention to provide support to farmers and by extension farming communities. The table below shows the direct users of the solution; potential impact on beneficiaries as well who has established the need for the solution.

Proposed Solution Area	Direct Users	Potential Impact	Beneficiaries	Source of proposed solution/Comment
Supporting Local Supply Chains in the Agricultural Sector especially for Female Heads of Households who are Farmers	MICAF MOFPS		1. Farming communities including female farmers and associated jobs which would be disrupted due to COVID 19 - female headed farm households in the parishes St Mary, Portland and St Thomas with children enrolled in the PATH programme.	FAO/MICAF/RADA

## VII. Who will deliver this solution?

### Recipient UN Organizations

#### UNICEF

UNICEF has been a resident agency in Jamaica since 1964. The annual programme delivery is around US\$3 million, with 20 staff members. UNICEF has a multi-disciplinary team with expertise in education, child protection, social policy, adolescent health, monitoring and evaluation and communication. UNICEF also benefits from having a strong operational support team.

UNICEF Jamaica already has internal capacity on Social Protection supported by the Social Policy team in the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. UNICEF Jamaica already has several ongoing initiatives on social protection supporting Ministry of Labour and Social Security such as:

- In 2019, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to identify and register additional children with disabilities through community outreach sessions (JCPD)
- Support to MLSS and MOEYI to adapt COVID 19 communications / services to children with disability.
- Support MLSS to strengthen information management systems to integrate and coordinate support SP to people with disability.

#### FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Our goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. With over 194 member states, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide. We believe that everyone can play a part in ending hunger.

Jamaica joined FAO in 1963. In 1978, the Organization established a representation in Jamaica which today also covers the Bahamas and Belize. Over the years, FAO has partnered with Jamaica to achieve sustainable agricultural and rural development, mainly through the Organization's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). Interventions have ranged from policy formulation to technical agricultural development and emergency assistance projects. Recent cooperation has placed a strong focus on food security and nutrition, targeting rural, peri-urban and urban populations.

FAO's assistance in Jamaica is currently shaped by the 2016-2019 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF), which is centred on three priority areas:

- Value chain development for strengthening food systems, with a focus on improved production of important commodities and increased Government capacity for applying a value chain approach.
- Food and nutrition security, supporting the implementation of the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan and promoting mechanisms for integrated action between various state actors.
- Building resilience and sustainable livelihoods, supporting the implementation of national systems such as the Agriculture Disaster Risk Management System, which promote a sequential and integrated approach to building resilience to the effects of climate change and disasters in rural development and agriculture.
- FAO has supported the Ministries Education and Agriculture (MICAFA) to implement a successful model of Sustainable School Feeding Programme in the poorest Parish in the Island. The School Feeding Program was managed by MOEYI which has designed menus to include healthy and nutritional local food grown by family farmer. In addition, FAO has supported MICAFA to purchase fresh and local food to supply the School Feeding program.

## **National Partners**

### **The Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS)**

The Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) is the premiere agent of the Government of Jamaica responsible for national development through the provision of efficient and effective labour and social security services within the context of a globalized economy. The MLSS promotes a responsive labour market and delivers effective social protection programmes for the vulnerable in an efficient manner while promoting a national culture of productivity within the decent work agenda. Through the development of a social protection strategy, the Government of Jamaica has committed to the use of a social protection floor to improve coverage and to synchronize the various social protection initiatives. A core area of focus for the MLSS is the effective management of social protection programmes including those for groups with special needs, to include households below the poverty line and persons with disabilities. Under the Ministry, there are three major programmes developed to respond to, plan for, and seek to improve services to Persons with Disabilities on behalf of the Government of Jamaica: The Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education, The Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities and The Early Stimulation Programme (ESP).

### **The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries (MICAFA)<sup>6</sup>**

The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries (MICAFA) has been charged with the responsibility of driving the integration of the production of primary agricultural produce along all the stages of the supply chain through to value added and facilitating full commercialization of outputs of the agriculture, manufacturing, and service sectors.

Our mission is to lead the dynamic transformation and modernization of the Agricultural Sector by being the authoritative source of policy advice. The Directorate makes recommendations for the adoption of policies, strategies, goals and plans that promote market-driven and priority-based research and development programmes, which will increase competitiveness and sustainable output in the Sector. Agricultural health and food safety, trade facilitation, as well as conservation of biodiversity are central to the Directorate's activities that seek to enhance the transformation process.

MICAFA has requested FAO assistance to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighted the necessity to strengthen and increase local produce based on the family farmer.

### **The Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)**

The Rural Agricultural Development Authority is a statutory body under the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries. RADA was established under the Rural Agricultural Development Authority Act of 1990, replacing the Land Authorities Act and began its operation on August 1, 1990. It is Jamaica's chief agricultural extension and rural development agency.

Mission:

RADA is committed to promoting the development of agriculture in Jamaica, as the main engine of economic growth in rural communities, through an efficient, modern and sustainable extension service which will enhance the national economy and improve the quality of life of rural farm families.

Mandate:

- To enhance the development of farming through an effective, efficient and sustainable Extension Service.

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<sup>6</sup> MICAFA and RADA are actively implementing a programme to reduce the losses suffered by farmers due to disruption in the food system. However, this effort is concentrated in only three parishes in Jamaica.

- To supplement information to rural development agencies, thereby assisting to advance improvements in rural infrastructure.
- To provide the supplemental social services required for the improvement of the quality of life of farm families.
- To provide technical advice to farmers of any size. To provide a reliable agricultural marketing information service.
- To assist in the implementation of specified rural development projects.

RADA have requested FAO support to response COVID19 pandemic and hope that FAO assistance to promote innovation on the current program “Buy Back” to facilitate coordination and articulation with School Feeding Program and the mechanism of distribute Food Package managed by MLSS as a disaster program response.

### **Ministry of Education, Youth & Information**

The policy priorities of the Ministry have been developed within the context of the National Development Plan: Vision 2030 Jamaica and the corresponding Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework 2018 – 2021 , the National Education Sector Plan and the new thrust of the Government for fiscal management and accountability. With the focus being on providing quality education, youth development and training and care and protection through the efficient and effective use of resources, the following policy priorities have been identified; Quality Education and Training; Stakeholder Engagement.

## Cover Page

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<b>Description</b>	<p>As of May 10, 2020, Jamaica had 502 confirmed cases of COVID-19 (61 percent women, 39 percent men) in persons ranging in age from 2 years to 87 years, with 9 deaths. Whilst the country currently still has a high percentage of imported cases and contacts of imported cases, there is now more community/workplace cluster cases and emerging cases with unknown epidemiological origins. Essentially, the country is about to enter within the next few weeks the community transmission phase. As has been the case with other countries, once the outbreak has entered the community transmission phase, it can double in scale every 3 to 5 days.</p> <p>The outlook for Jamaica post-COVID already shows troubling signs, including derailing the advancement of the sustainable development goals. The situation calls for Jamaica to engage in a range of activities both health related and non-health related to curb the spread of COVID-19 and also to ensure that interventions are designed and implemented in a manner that ensures equal access to the most vulnerable and respects genders and human rights, essentially ensuring that ‘no one is left behind’.</p> <p>The solutions in this proposal will focus mainly on shock responsive social protection strategies and will be characterized by vertical (increasing transfer amounts) and horizontal (increasing the number of persons) expansion of existing social protection programmes targeting vulnerable households (families with children with disability, pregnant and lactating women and female headed households in rural areas) and the solutions will therefore be organized under 2 main areas and targeting as mentioned above those vulnerable groups that may be disproportionately impacted by economic fall-out as a result of COVID-19.</p>

	<p>The solutions being proposed will build on the existing social protection mechanisms which currently provide a safety net for families through the social security apparatus of MLSS in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing a financial boost for 3 months to the poorest and most vulnerable households to mitigate social and economic risks of COVID-19 (including families with children with disabilities, families with children under 3, pregnant and lactating women and female-headed households in rural areas)</li> <li>• To contribute to stabilizing the agriculture sector and keeping local markets and agricultural supply chains functional</li> </ul> <p>Whilst the solutions proposed are neither comprehensive or adequate to meet all the needs that Jamaica has in this social protection arena at this time, the delivery will be timely and the groups targeted are currently significantly impacted and underserved.</p>
<b>Universal Markers</b>	<p><u>Gender Marker</u>: <i>(bold the selected; pls select one only)</i></p> <p>a) Have gender equality and/or the empowerment of women and girls as the primary or principal objective.  <b>b) Make a significant contribution to gender equality and/or the empowerment of women and girls;</b>  c) Make a limited contribution or no contribution to gender equality and/or the empowerment of women and girls.</p>
<b>Fund Specific Markers</b>	<p><b>Human Rights Based Approach to COVID19 Response</b> <i>(bold the selected)</i>: <b>Yes/No</b>  Considered OHCHR guidance in proposal development <a href="#">UN OHCHR COVID19 Guidance</a></p>
	<p><b>Fund Windows</b> <i>(bold the selected; pls select one only)</i></p> <p>Window 1: Enable Governments and Communities to Tackle the Emergency  <b>Window 2: Reduce Social Impact and Promote Economic Response</b></p>
<b>Geographical Scope</b>	<p><b>Regions:</b> Latin America and the Caribbean  <b>Country:</b> Jamaica</p>
<b>Recipient UN Organizations</b>	<p>UNICEF  <b>Representative:</b></p>

	FAO Representative:					
Implementing Partners	UNICEF FAO					
Programme and Project Cost	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Comments</b>
	Budget Requested	UNICEF	300,000	FAO	300,000	
	In-kind Contributions	UNICEF	60,000	FAO	61,500	
	<b>Total</b>	UNICEF	360,000	FAO	361,500	
Comments						
Programme Duration	Start Date: May 2020					
	Duration (In months): 7 months					
	End Date: December 31, 2020					

## Results Framework

INSTRUCTIONS: Each proposal will pick a window. As part of the proposal the agencies, funds and programme will develop an outcome, outcome indicators, outputs and output indicators that will contribute to the achievement of the selected proposal outcome.

Window 2: Proposal Outcome	Most vulnerable people in targeted countries have access to social and economic protection mechanisms				Outcome Total Budget USD 600,000
		Baseline	Target	Means of verification	Responsible Org
	<i>Number of men, women, boys, girls, the elderly benefiting from social and economic support</i>	0	14,000 (4,760 families)	Records from MLSS/ MICAC/RADA Independent assessment – disaggregated by gender and age	UNICEF, FAO – MLSS, MICAC, RADA
Outcome Indicator [Max 2500 characters]	Outcome 1: Existing social protection programmes extended vertically and horizontally targeting most vulnerable households (families (headed by females and males) with girls and/or boys with disability, pregnant and lactating women and female headed households in rural areas)	0	3,750 (families) 11,000 people	MLSS reporting	UNICEF Budget: USD 300,000
Proposal Outputs	Output 1.1 Financial boost for 3 months provided to the most poor and vulnerable households headed by women and men to mitigate social and economic risks of Covid-19. (families with girls		2,760		UNICEF, MLSS, Early Stimulation Programme, JCDP, UNDP

<b>Window 2: Proposal Outcome</b>	<b>Most vulnerable people in targeted countries have access to social and economic protection mechanisms</b>				<b>Outcome Total Budget USD 600,000</b>
		<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Means of verification</b>	<b>Responsible Org</b>
	and boys with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women and girls and female-headed farm households in rural areas				
	Output 1.2 Distribution of food care packages prepared with food produced by rural female and male farmer beneficiaries of the programme for approximately 1,000 families at risk with girls and boys ages 3-5 years		<b>1,000</b>		UNICEF/FAO/MLSS
	Output 1.3 Established pathways/protocol to trigger the immediate humanitarian cash transfer in future emergencies				UNICEF/MLSS
<b>Proposal Output Indicators</b>	1.2.a Number of households headed by women and men receiving cash transfers		<b>2,760</b>		UNICEF
	1.2.b Number of families headed by women and men receiving support/food packages	<b>0</b>	<b>1000</b>		UNICEF/FAO
<b>Outcome Indicator [Max 2500 characters]</b>	<b>Outcome 2: Most vulnerable people have access to social and economic protection mechanisms</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000 families</b>	Records from MLSS/MICAC/RADA	<b>UNICEF-FAO Budget: USD 300,000</b>
<b>Proposal Outputs</b>	Output 2.1 Livelihoods of female farmers in the parishes of				MICAF/RADA

<b>Window 2: Proposal Outcome</b>	<b>Most vulnerable people in targeted countries have access to social and economic protection mechanisms</b>				<b>Outcome Total Budget USD 600,000</b>
		<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Means of verification</b>	<b>Responsible Org</b>
	St Mary, Portland and St Thomas stabilized as a result of the MICAF produce buy-back programme				
	Output 2.2 Upgraded programme to facilitate the ministry of agriculture to implement buy-back programmes				MICAF/RADA MLSS
	Output 2.3. Established pathways/protocol for buy-back programme linked to social protection mechanism to support the female headed farmers and others who are in extremely vulnerable conditions during the COVID-19 recovery phase.				MICAF/RADA MLSS
<b>Proposal Output Indicators</b>	2.1 a Number of female farmers participating in buy-back programme	<b>0</b>	<b>1000</b>		
	2.2.a Adequate storage for agriculture products purchased under buy-back programme				

## SDG Targets and Indicators

Please consult Annex: [SDG List](#)

Please select no more than three Goals and five SDG targets relevant to your programme.

*(selections may be bolded)*

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) [select max 3 goals]			
X	<b>SDG 1 (No poverty)</b>		SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)
X	<b>SDG 2 (Zero hunger)</b>	X	<b>SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)</b>
	SDG 3 (Good health & well-being)		SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities)
	SDG 4 (Quality education)		SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption & Production)
	SDG 5 (Gender equality)		SDG 13 (Climate action)
	SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation)		SDG 14 (Life below water)
	SDG 7 (Sustainable energy)		SDG 15 (Life on land)
	SDG 8 (Decent work & Economic Growth)		SDG 16 (Peace, justice & strong institutions)
	SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)		
Relevant SDG Targets and Indicators			
<b>[Depending on the selected SDG please indicate the relevant target and indicators.]</b>			
Target	Indicator # and Description		Estimated % Budget allocated
<b>TARGET_2.2.2</b>	2.1 By 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round		20
TARGET_2.3.1	2.3 By 2030 double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including		20

	through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment	
TARGET_10.2.1	10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	5
<b>TARGET_1.3.1</b>	1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable	30
TARGET_1.5.3	1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters	25

## Risk

**What risks and challenges will complicate this solution, and how they will be managed and overcome?**

*(COVID19 has created an unprecedented and fast changing development context. Accepting this volatile situation, please identify up to three risk to the success of the proposal based on best available analysis to the UN) Please enter no more than 3.*

Risks	Risk Level: (Likelihood x Impact)	Likelihood: Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact: Essential - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org./Person
<b>Contextual risks</b>					
An intense 2020 hurricane season which hampers the implementation and effectiveness of proposed project solutions.	High	4	3	Continuous consultations with key institutions critical to disaster preparedness management and recovery.  Revision of the existing UN Humanitarian Contingency Plan reflecting the emerging context of COVID-19.	UN Joint Team
There is a risk that the pandemic could be more persistent than estimated thereby exhausting proposed project solutions.	High	4	4	Engagement of IFIs and other international development partners (IDPs) in supporting/expanding their support to social protection programmes, such as PATH	

Risks	Risk Level: (Likelihood x Impact)	Likelihood: Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact: Essential - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org./Person
Social unrest due to deteriorating socio-economic conditions	High	3	4	Putting social protection provisions (including Cash Transfer, food distribution) in place for the scaling up of proposed solutions if the pandemic persists  Support and or execute psychosocial interventions  Use communication initiatives to encourage buy in and compliance	

## Budget by UNDG Categories

\*Up to Four Agencies

Budget Lines	Fiscal Year	UNICEF	UNICEF Contribution	FAO	FAO Contribution	Joint Fund (USD)	RUNOs Contribution	Total
1. Staff and other personnel	2020	0	40,000	0	40,000	0	80,000	<b>80,000</b>
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	2020	0		0	0			
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture, incl. Depreciation	2020	0		0				
4. Contractual services	2020	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	40,000	40,000	<b>80,000</b>
5. Travel	2020	0		0	1,500		1,500	<b>1,500</b>
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	2020	253,000		253,000		506,000		<b>506,000</b>
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	2020	7,374		7,374		14,748		<b>14,748</b>
<b>Sub Total Programme Costs</b>		<b>280,375</b>	60,000	<b>280,375</b>	61,500	558,750		<b>682,250</b>
8. Indirect Support Costs * 7%		19,626		19,626		39,250		<b>39,252</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>300,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>61,500</b>	600,000	121,500	<b>721,500</b>