

# Joint Programme Document

## A. COVER PAGE

- 1. Fund Name:** Joint SDG Fund
- 2. MPTFO Project Reference Number**
- 3. Joint programme title:** Modernization of the Social Protection Systems in Jamaica, Towards an Adaptive, Shock Responsive, Inclusive System
- 4. Short title:** Modernizing Social Protection System in Jamaica
- 5. Country and region:** Jamaica
- 6. Resident Coordinator:** Garry Conille
- 7. UN Joint programme focal point:** Vicente Teran (UNICEF), [vteran@unicef.org](mailto:vteran@unicef.org)
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**9. Short description:** This Joint Programme “Modernizing the Social Protection System in Jamaica”, will lead to the strengthening of Jamaica’s social protection system, enabling it to be shock and gender responsive which will be key to accelerating efforts to end poverty and vulnerability, reducing people's and communities’ exposure to risks, recognizing the multi-hazard environment that citizens are exposed to, towards enhancing their capacity to manage economic and social risks, as well as environmental and other natural hazard risks. This joint proposal also will lead to acceleration of multiple SDGs, in support of adaptable, inclusive shock responsive services, leaving no one behind. To do this, the programme will focus on key activities including: piloting more efficient, effective and safe payment processes within Jamaica’s social protection system with an emphasis on accessibility; generating evidence to support the development of an adaptation of the algorithm to proxy household welfare or need to be used during emergencies to enable the expansion of social programmes based on tailored protocols and quickly identify people facing acute socio-economic impacts; accelerating the scaling-up of a social registry to support increased coverage and coordination of key vulnerable groups; and undertaking gender-gap analyses of the policy and legislative social protection frameworks to ensure responsiveness of the system to the needs of men and women, thereby narrowing inequalities between women and men.

**10. Keywords:** shock responsive social protection; Jamaica, technical assistance, inclusive, social registry, adaptive

**11. Overview of budget**

<b>Joint SDG Fund contribution</b>	<b>USD <u>716,365</u></b>
Co-funding 1 <i>UNICEF</i>	USD 146,100
Co-funding 2 <i>UN WOMEN</i>	USD 22,000
Co-funding 3 <i>WFP</i>	USD 270,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>USD <u>1,154,100</u></b>

**12. Timeframe:**

Start date	End date	Duration (in months)
02/01/2022	30/12/2023	24 months

**13. Gender Marker:**

This proposal is tagged as a Gender Marker Score 2 as gender equality is a key objective given the significant focus on women, particularly female-headed households, women and girls in poverty quintiles 1 and 2 and rural women in this joint proposal that focuses on enabling Jamaica’s social protection systems to be shock responsive and inclusive. This will be achieved by:

- Ensuring a gender analysis to inform the work under the proposal
- Advocating for the elimination of root causes of gender inequalities
- Providing policy support targeting the reduction of gender inequalities in the social protection system of Jamaica
- Giving voice, participation, and influence of most vulnerable women and girls in the process
- Supporting the Government’s collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data and applying a gender equality lens in interpreting such data to refine social protection policies

**14. Target groups**

List of marginalized and vulnerable groups	Direct influence	Indirect influence
Women, including female-headed households	X	
Families in quintiles 1 and 2, including Persons living below the poverty line and those immediately above the poverty line	X	
Children	X	
Girls	X	
Youth	X	
Persons with disabilities and families that include persons with disabilities	X	
Rural workers, particularly small farmers and artisanal fishers, and seasonal tourism workers, including women		X

**15. Human Rights Mechanisms related to the Joint Programme**

This proposal is based on the principle that social protection strategies and shock- and gender-responsive social protection must be viewed through a human rights lens, making gender-responsive social protection a response to meeting human rights obligations and guaranteeing that those furthest behind are considered first along the development pathway in line with the “leaving no one behind” (LNOB) principle. The proposal further supports the right to gender-responsive social protection by the most vulnerable in keeping with the sustainable development goals, the country’s national development plan – Vision 2030 Jamaica, and importantly Jamaica’s National Social Protection Strategy. The latter policy establishes a rights-based approach to social protection in Jamaica which is rooted in the country’s Constitution.

The solutions/outcomes/outputs being proposed is aligned to Vision 2030 Jamaica, the UN Common Country Analysis for Jamaica, the National Social Protection Policy and Strategy and recognizes the right to social protection given the various social issues confronting the country, including high levels of poverty and inequality as well as the number of vulnerable persons. Accordingly, the solution proposed is expected to provide needed support to the following target groups:

- Women, including female-headed households
- Families in quintiles 1 and 2, including persons living below the poverty line and those immediately above the poverty line
- Children
- Girls
- Youth
- Persons with disabilities (PWD's) and families that include persons with disabilities
- Rural workers, particularly small farmers and artisanal fishers, and seasonal tourism workers, including women

## **16. PUNO and Partners:**


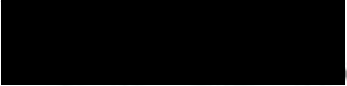

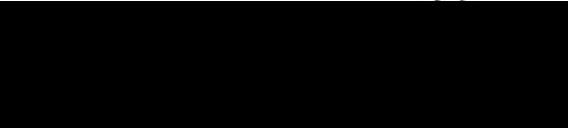


### **16.1 PUNO**

- Convening agency:
  - UNICEF – Vicente Teran ([vteran@unicef.org](mailto:vteran@unicef.org) )
- Other PUNO:
  - UN Women Isiuwa Iyahen [isiuwa.iyahen@unwomen.org](mailto:isiuwa.iyahen@unwomen.org)
  - World Food Programme - Sarah Bailey [sarah.bailey@wfp.org](mailto:sarah.bailey@wfp.org)

### **16.2 Partners**

- National authorities:
  - Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) – Dione Jennings [djennings@mlss.gov.jm](mailto:djennings@mlss.gov.jm)
  - Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) - Barbara Scott [Barbara\\_Scott@PIOJ.gov.jm](mailto:Barbara_Scott@PIOJ.gov.jm)
  - Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development- Marsha Henry-Martin [mhenry-martin@mlgcd.gov.jm](mailto:mhenry-martin@mlgcd.gov.jm)
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  - World Bank -

**SIGNATURE PAGE**

<p><b>Resident Coordinator</b>  <i>Gary Conille</i>          25/08/2021  <i>Signature and seal</i></p> 	<p><b>National Coordinating Authority</b>  <i>Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)</i>  <i>Barbara Scott</i>          25/08/2021  <i>Signature and seal</i></p>  
<p><b>Participating UN Organization (lead/convening)</b>  <i>UNICEF</i>  <i>Mariko Kagoshima</i>          25/08/2021  <i>Signature and seal</i></p> 	
<p><b>Participating UN Organization</b>  <i>World Food Programme</i>  <i>Regis Chapman</i>          25/08/2021  <i>Signature and seal</i></p> 	
<p><b>Participating UN Organization</b>  <i>UN Women</i>  <i>Tonni Brodber</i>          25/08/2021  <i>Signature and seal</i></p> 	

## B. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

**1. Call for Proposal:** Building Resilience and Ending Vulnerability in Small Island Developing States (3/2021)

**2. Relevant Joint SDG Fund Outcomes**

- Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale.

**3. Overview of the Joint Programme Results**

3.1 Outcomes

People in the Caribbean equitably access and utilize universal, quality and shock-responsive, social protection, education, health and care services (Outcome 4 MSDCF)

3.2 Outputs

This joint proposal presents four key outputs that will contribute to achieving the outcomes. These are as follows:

1. Enhanced payment processes within Jamaica's social protection system which are more efficient, effective and safe and places emphasis on accessibility.
2. Strengthened institutional capacity for evidence-based emergency expansion of social protection programmes based on tailored protocols and fast identification of people facing acute/socio-economic and environmental impacts .
3. Information systems used by the Social Protection system are integrated to support increased coverage and coordination of SP interventions.
4. Gender gaps on the policy and legislative frameworks of the social protection system are closed and responsiveness of the service delivery, to both women and men is strengthened.

The outputs contained in this proposal are fully aligned with Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan under National Goal #1 “Jamaicans are Empowered to Achieve their Fullest Potential” and under National Outcome #3 “Effective Social Protection” and are expressed in the following national strategies included in the national development plan and prioritized under the MTF 2018 – 2021 (the implementation framework of the national development plan). The national strategies for social protection are:

- Infuse poverty, gender and vulnerability considerations in all public policies
- Expand opportunities for the poor to engage in sustainable livelihoods

- Create and sustain an effective, efficient, transparent and objective system for delivering social assistance services and programmes
- Create an enabling environment for persons with disabilities
- Create and sustain an effective social protection system
- Foster equity, gender equality and women’s empowerment in all spheres of society

The outputs also are aligned with Jamaica’s National Social Protection Strategy.

Additionally, the outputs to be implemented under this proposal have been based on a case study conducted by the World Food Programme and Oxford Policy Management, with support and strategic inputs from Government, which identified several avenues for strengthening shock-responsive social protection in Jamaica. There has also been further consensus on these outputs from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and other stakeholders in Government entities, such as the Planning Institute of Jamaica.

#### 4. SDG Targets directly addressed by the Joint Programme

##### 3.1 List of targets

Modernizing SRSP in Jamaica will directly contribute to the achievement of SDG Goals 1, 2, 5, 10, and 13.

**Table: Direct SDG Targets of Modernizing SRSP in Jamaica**

SDG Goals		Targets
1 – No Poverty	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
	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
	1.a	Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions
5 – Gender Equality	5.4	Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

SDG Goals		Targets
10 – Reduced Inequalities	10.4	Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
13 – Climate Action	13.1	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

### 3.2 Expected SDG impact

Social protection programmes generally and the creation of a modernized one for Jamaica will move the country to achieving several SDG targets simultaneously and accelerate its overall development progress. This is because, social protection, poverty, zero hunger, and reducing the impacts of natural hazards are all interlinked, with social protection programmes that are designed to increase coverage, be more adaptive and shock responsive will reach poor and vulnerable populations faster, thereby reducing their overall risks. A modern, inclusive and adaptive social protection system in Jamaica will advance access to services for vulnerable groups in the face of risks, help them recover faster from shocks and also advance inclusion and gender equality, thereby supporting Jamaica to effectively meet its own social protection goals and overall development prospects as articulated in Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan.

The joint proposal is conceived to bring about change for the most disadvantaged in Jamaica and be a catalyst for leaving no one behind.

### 5. Relevant objective/s from the national SDG framework

The outputs contained in this proposal are fully aligned with Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan under National Goal #1 “Jamaicans are Empowered to Achieve their Fullest Potential” and under National Outcome #3 “Effective Social Protection”, and are expressed in the following national strategies included in the national development plan and prioritized under the MTF 2018 – 2021 (the implementation framework of the national development plan). The national strategies for social protection are:

- Infuse poverty, gender and vulnerability considerations in all public policies
- Expand opportunities for the poor to engage in sustainable livelihoods
- Create and sustain an effective, efficient, transparent and objective system for delivering social assistance services and programmes
- Create an enabling environment for persons with disabilities
- Create and sustain an effective social protection system
- Foster equity, gender equality and women’s empowerment in all spheres of society

### 6. Brief overview of the Theory of Change of the Joint programme

#### 5.1 Summary:

Social protection is at the forefront of Jamaica’s development agenda, given its positive social and economic impacts and is one of 15 national outcomes of the country’s national development plan and key to promoting human development, inclusive growth and

empowering them to take advantage of economic opportunities. Social protection systems in Jamaica therefore offer an important entry point for not only addressing poverty, chronic vulnerability and risks people face, but also mitigating the impacts of more severe impacts of shocks such as COVID-19 and disasters. Modernizing shock responsive social protection (SRSP) in Jamaica will accelerate the implementation of a more inclusive, gender responsive and shock responsive social protection system making vulnerable groups more resilient. The elements/outputs contained in this joint proposal is ex-ante rather than ad-hoc, ex-post responses in its design and will support both early action and cost effectiveness in the face of exogenous shocks in the future, expanding the scope of support to those most in need, thereby contributing to long term resilience building.

## 5.2 List of main ToC assumptions to be monitored:

### **IF**

- A strengthened social protection system targets and supports the most vulnerable particularly female-headed households, those living in poverty, and households with persons with disabilities among other vulnerable groups.
- The Social Protection System is strengthened and there is institutional capacity for evidence-based emergency expansion of social protection programmes based on tailored protocols and fast identification of people facing acute socio-economic and environmental impacts while ensuring stronger processes for all
- Enhanced payment processes which are more efficient, effective and safe and places emphasis on accessibility, are in place and,
- Current information systems used by SP system are integrated to support an increased coverage and coordination of SP interventions

### **Then**

Jamaican people, especially women and children in the most vulnerable conditions, can benefit from the modern social protection system that is responsive to shocks, inclusive, anticipatory, adaptive and resilient, which will help them realize sustainable development.

### **Key Assumptions**

- All vulnerable groups are targeted and their specific needs, particularly those that arise due to a crisis, are identified.
- The country can mobilize the required resources to scale up and sustain social protection programmes for existing and newly identified vulnerable groups.
- Although there is a focus on evidence-based decision making, given that the data and information to inform the social protection systems emanate from different sources, issues related to inter alia, data comparability, timeliness and completeness could create challenges. To mitigate against these challenges, priority will be placed on identifying all key stakeholders in the social protection system, particularly those that are key data providers, towards ensuring high levels of collaboration, integration and commitment to deliver on the objectives of the programme. Where needed capacity development support will be explored.
- The financial sector can support the most appropriate electronic payment systems for the identified social protection programmes. The country has given increased focus to financial inclusion as it has recognized the low levels of participation in the financial



sector particularly of low income and vulnerable financial inclusion. In response, the Government of Jamaica developed and commenced implementation of a National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) to deepen and accelerate national efforts to reach higher levels of financial inclusion by 2020.<sup>1</sup> The goal of the NFIS is to create the conditions in which Jamaicans, particularly those who were previously underserved by the domestic financial system, are able to save safely and build up resilience against financial shocks, and firms are able to invest, grow and generate greater levels of wealth. One of the main issues highlighted in the strategy, which poses a challenge for the efficient functioning of electronic payment processes/disbursement mechanisms is the low usage of accounts and or electronic transaction instruments.

- Vulnerable groups will perceive the system as beneficial and accessible to them.
- Case management and disbursement systems are robust and operable in the event of shocks.
- PATH remains viable and continues to be supported by the GOJ.
- Social systems will be able to endure simultaneous shocks.

## **7. Trans-boundary and/or regional issues**

The experiences of other governments and countries particularly in the Latin America and Caribbean region with shock responsive social protection will be reviewed and considered to enable the adoption and adaptation of lessons learned and best practices, especially in the conceptualization, design and implementation of the different activities proposed in this joint proposal.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://boj.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Jamaica\\_NFIS\\_Final\\_Draft.pdf](https://boj.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Jamaica_NFIS_Final_Draft.pdf)

## C. JOINT PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

### 1. Baseline and Situation Analysis

#### 1.1 Problem statement

Jamaica, a Caribbean Small Island Developing State (SIDS) has a population 2,726,0006 (2019)<sup>2</sup>, of which 50.33% are females, and 49.65% are males<sup>3</sup>. One quarter of the country's population lives in the capital city Kingston. Jamaica is characterized by a stable political environment and has witnessed significant social, political, and economic changes over the past few years. A significant portion of the Jamaican population is young, with 21% under the age of 15 years old and 18% between the ages of 15 – 24 years.

Since 2008, the country has been classified by the World Bank as an Upper Middle-Income country, having a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita of US\$5,250 in 2019<sup>4</sup>. On the United Nations Human Development Index, Jamaica is positioned in the second tier, High Human Development category and in the HDI in 2019 ranked 101 out of 189 countries and territories, and the index value increased from 0.645 in 1990 to 0.734 in 2019.

Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Jamaica had entrenched macroeconomic stability evidenced by, inter alia, modest inflation levels; debt on a firm downward path; seven consecutive years of growth<sup>5</sup>; strong external positions with sufficient international reserves; and financial sector stability: adequate loss reserves and a sufficiently capitalized banking system. Jamaica's unemployment rate also fell to a record low of 7.2 per cent based on the 2019 Labour Force Survey (STATIN)<sup>6</sup>. The Government made significant progress in fiscal management and successfully put in place a fiscal rule to embed fiscal discipline and meet its debt and sustainability targets. Despite this, Jamaica remains one of the world's most indebted countries and as a result, high debt repayments lead to diminishing resources to support social sectors such as health and education.

Jamaica also has made substantial progress in advancing the socioeconomic status of its population. However, rising inequalities and entrenched patterns of social exclusion are evident, and have been further exposed by the ongoing crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The hard-earned gains made from stabilizing the economy and an improvement in labour market outcomes supported a reduction in poverty. The poverty rate recorded for 2018 stood at 12.6 per cent, a decline of 6.7 percentage points when compared to 2017 when the poverty rate was 19.3 per cent. The 2018 poverty rate represents the lowest poverty rate in 10 years and represents a 40 per cent fall in the rate of poverty in 2018 as compared to 2015<sup>7</sup>. The prevalence of poverty also declined in all three (3) regions, with the highest rate recorded for the Rural Areas (15%). In fact, more than half of all poor individuals reside in Rural areas. The poverty rates for the Greater Kingston Metropolitan Area (GKMA) and Other Urban

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<sup>2</sup> Economic and Social Survey of Jamaica, 2019

<sup>3</sup> STATIN Population Statistics: [https://statinja.gov.jm/Demo\\_SocialStats/Newpopulation.aspx](https://statinja.gov.jm/Demo_SocialStats/Newpopulation.aspx)

<sup>4</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/country/JM>

<sup>5</sup> This represents 20 consecutive quarters of growth in the economy.

<sup>6</sup> <https://statinja.gov.jm/PressReleases.aspx>

<https://jis.gov.jm/unemployment-rate-falls-to-7-2-per-cent/>

<sup>7</sup> Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions 2018, PIOJ and STATIN

Centres (OUC) were 9.2 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively. Factors contributing to the reduction in poverty in 2018 included: an increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 1.9 per cent in 2018, which marked six consecutive years of growth and the highest annual growth rate in 12 years; an increase in GDP levels which surpassed, for the first time, the levels recorded prior to the global financial crisis of 2008/09; growth in key economic sectors such as tourism; a low inflation rate of 2.4 per cent in 2018 – this being the lowest inflation rate ever recorded in the country; and, a decline in average annual unemployment rate – 9.1 per cent compared to 11.7 per cent in 2017.

Poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods, income and social security are identified as strategic areas of focus within Vision 2030 Jamaica and its corresponding implementation framework, The Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework 2018 – 2021. However, children, adolescents and youth, as well as population in rural areas continue to experience poverty levels that are above the national average. In its 2021 report on the Situational Analysis of Children, UNICEF noted 15.7 per cent of Jamaica’s children is estimated to live in poverty (114,000 children) which is higher than in the general population (12.6 per cent)<sup>8</sup>. The proportion of adolescents (10–19) in poverty is 16.4 per cent<sup>9</sup>. Notably, the incidence of child poverty is more evident among female-headed households (15.7%) than male-headed households (13.9%). The vulnerability of the poor is evidenced by, for example, the prevalence of extreme food poverty, in which 3.5 per cent of the population was experiencing in 2018, declining from 5.4 per cent in 2017<sup>10</sup>. Of persons who are poor in Jamaica (12.6 per cent), 27.8 per cent of them are food poor.

While poverty and unemployment had been decreasing in the years prior to the onset of the pandemic, Jamaica continues to grapple with several social development challenges. Prior to the onset of the pandemic and the loss of several jobs due to the closure of the tourism industry and loss of markets for agriculture, it should be noted that being employed in Jamaica does not in and of itself guarantee dignified life. In 2019, 14 per cent of people with jobs in Jamaica were considered “near poor”, with another 3 per cent considered to be moderately poor.

The country is also faced with patterns of social exclusion which have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis. The country is faced with issues such as substandard educational attainments, prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), pervasive violence in society, limited inclusion of person with disabilities (PWDs), discrimination based on gender and disparities across regions – urban vs rural vs other towns. Despite a relatively robust social protection system, those in the lowest quintiles and in rural areas tend to lag behind. Jamaica also continues to grapple with crime and the country has one of the highest levels of crime and violence in the world, especially in poor and disadvantaged communities, with crime continuing to be a deterrent to economic growth and social stability.

The population is exposed to many risks with the poor and vulnerable even more susceptible to adverse shocks resulting from these risks that may be natural, health related, social, economic, or environmental among others. Jamaica is prone to a range of shocks that can and often happen at the same time. These covariate shocks tend to affect large numbers of households and entire communities simultaneously. Vulnerable groups, families that include persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, female-headed households, families in quintiles 1 and 2, rural workers, particularly small farmers and artisanal fishers, and seasonal tourism workers, including women, children, youth and particularly girls, have a

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<sup>8</sup> Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions, 2018, PIOJ, STATIN

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

much higher exposure to these risks than others because of their socio-demographic characteristics, economic status, physical or mental condition, age, lifestyle etc. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in these groups being impacted disproportionately due to the economic fallout and disruptions of basic social services, as well as the lack of coverage by the country's existing social protection schemes.

With respect to natural hazards, Jamaica's location, geology and geography make the island highly exposed to several natural hazards. Jamaica has a 208 km coastline with about 60 per cent of its population living within 5 km of the coastline, and about 90 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) produced on the coastline, making them more vulnerable to weather related hazards and sea-level rise which are being exacerbated by climate change. Over the last 30 years, the country has experienced an increase in the frequency of natural events related to climate and weather including tropical cyclones (tropical storms and hurricanes), excess rainfall, floods, droughts and landslides, which have resulted in increasing economic and environmental costs. The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR, 2018) has cited Jamaica to be the third most exposed country in the world to multiple hazards, with over 96 per cent of the country's GDP and population at risk from two or more hazards. This is further supported by the SAMOA Pathway which recognizes the impact of climate change on small island states such as Jamaica.

In 2020, for example, Jamaica was exposed to the compound shocks of an active Hurricane Season and the increased challenges of responding to the COVID-19 crisis. The country was impacted by excess rainfall that occurred during Tropical Cyclones Zeta and Eta in October and November respectively, which caused significant damage to infrastructure, especially in rural communities and resulted in the loss of at least two lives. At the start of the Hurricane Season in 2021, Jamaica has already been impacted by excess rainfall due to Tropical Cyclone Elsa.

In Jamaica, as of August 9, 2021, the country recorded 55,421 confirmed cases of COVID-19 (54 per cent women, 46 per cent men) in persons ranging in age from 2 months to 92 years, with 1,230 deaths, with the median age being 31 years. The speed and scale of the spread, the severity of cases, and the societal and economic disruption is already having a significant impact in Jamaica and will bring about new challenges impacting the many development gains experienced by Jamaica over the last 10 years threatening to erode much of the country's socio-economic progress, as well as further negatively impacting areas related to health and social protection. Jamaica is now transitioning into the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic with a positivity rate of 37.8 per cent. Despite having received over 370,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine since March 2021 the uptake rate has been slow and as at August 2021 the percentage of the population fully vaccinated only stands at 4.5%. The Ministry of Health and Wellness reported that all large hospitals are over their capacity for admissions. The outlook for Jamaica post-COVID-19 already shows troubling signs, including derailing the advancement of the sustainable development goals, which are operationalized through the country's national development plan – Vision 2030 Jamaica. Additionally, ongoing curfews and targeted lockdowns since March 2020 and that continue currently have hampered economic activities across the island, affecting many vulnerable households. The pandemic has also exacerbated gender-related inequalities, with women's jobs being more vulnerable to the crisis and women and girls undertaking a disproportionate share of the unpaid care work within and outside the home.

Recognizing the impacts of multiple shocks that the vulnerable in the population faces as well as other key groups, this proposal will focus on enabling Jamaica's social protection system to be more shock responsive. Social protection is both an established human right and a central element in sustainable poverty reduction - it breaks the vicious cycle of poverty and

vulnerability. Access to an adequate level of social protection is recognized broadly as a basic right of all individuals. Article 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states “Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security”. Vision 2030 Jamaica advances an approach to social protection that is aimed at ensuring that all citizens are afforded a minimum standard of living that meets requirements for survival, growth and development. It calls for social protection premised on a rights-based inclusive approach that encompasses considerations for all citizens throughout the life course. This area of development is appropriately captured under National Outcome #3—Effective Social Protection, which is one of the national outcomes operationalizing Goal 2 under Vision 2030 Jamaica – Jamaicans are Empowered to Achieve their Fullest Potential.

Social assistance targeting mechanisms in the Caribbean have been largely designed with the objective of reaching the chronic poor and therefore they have, a priori, limited capacity to capture the effects of sudden shocks and crises. The targeting systems are not designed to capture shocks, and delivery systems are manual and of small scale which prevents the system from being able to respond to larger and sudden onset shocks.<sup>11</sup> Jamaica’s social protection system is one of the most developed in the Caribbean in terms of coverage, the benefits provided, and the administrative capacity, well-positioning Jamaica to achieve SDG 1.3. Jamaica has a suite of legislation, policies and programmes designed to prevent, reduce and eliminate economic and social vulnerabilities to poverty and deprivation. According to the 2014 Social Protection Strategy, “Social Protection is guaranteed for all citizens through an appropriate and dynamic legislative framework”. The country has legislation on particular social protection areas including the Child Care and Protection Act (2004, 2009, 2018), the Status of Children Act; the Poor Relief Act; Student Loan Act (1971, 1996); National Health Fund Act (2003, 2011); National Insurance Act (1965, 2011); Pension Act (1947, 2004); Public Service Pensions Act (2017); National Disability Act (2014); and The National Housing Trust Act (2005). However, social assistance provisions in Jamaica are still partly based on the 1886 Poor Relief Act and are not supported by any other updated legislation and remain fragmented despite overlap.

The portion of Jamaica’s population and poorest quintile that are either indirect or direct beneficiaries of social protection programmes is higher than for most benchmark countries. Based on 2017 JSLC data, it is estimated that 82.9 per cent of households in Jamaica have at least one person in receipt of any social assistance, social insurance or labour market programme benefit or service. This is higher than the SP coverage among the population for Uruguay (80 per cent in 2012); Ecuador (73 per cent in 2016); Montenegro (56.44 per cent in 2014) and the Dominican Republic (35 per cent in 2014).

Jamaica’s flagship social protection programme - the Programme of Advancement through Health and Education (PATH) is the largest social assistance programme in the country and has been designed as a conditional cash transfer programme managed by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MLSS) in order to inter alia, reduce poverty and promote optimal health and educational outcomes for children. Several smaller cash and in-kind transfer programs complete Jamaica’s offering of social assistance. PATH reached over 328,482 beneficiaries (over 11 per cent of the total population) as of October 2020, with 6 per cent of them being PWDs. Notwithstanding, about 30 per cent of the families in the lowest quintile and 40 per cent in the second lowest quintile have not applied for PATH benefits due to a lack of information or perceptions of ineligibility or lacking civil registration documentation (although birth registration is nearly universal in Jamaica, with only 2 per cent of births unregistered). For example, there remains a significant number of vulnerable children without any social protection coverage in Jamaica. According to the recent Social Protection Public

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<sup>11</sup> Caribbean Common Multi-country Analysis (2020)

Expenditure Review conducted by the World Bank in 2019. There are 101,432 poor children (26,698 extreme poor) who are not covered either by PATH or Poor Relief; 14,822 poor people with disabilities (5,186 extreme poor) who are not covered by PATH, Poor Relief or the National Insurance Scheme (NIS). Over half of all children (52.5 per cent) living in extreme poverty are not covered by PATH or Poor Relief

Social protection systems in Jamaica therefore offer an important entry point for not only addressing poverty, chronic vulnerability and risks people face, but also mitigating the impacts of more severe impacts of shocks such as COVID-19 and disasters. The national social protection strategy highlights the need to 'ensure mechanisms are in place to flexibly respond to the varied needs of expanding vulnerable groups, to prevent long-term undesirable outcomes'.<sup>12</sup> Whilst PATH has always been considered a best practice in the region, it is not designed to anticipate and effectively manage exogenous shocks or multiple shocks simultaneously or be shock and gender responsive and easily adaptive during crises. Strengthening its ability to do so is critical for ensuring that people impacted by shocks receive timely, adequate and appropriate support.

Strengthening Jamaica social protection system, enabling it to be shock and gender responsive will be key to accelerating efforts toward ending poverty and vulnerability and ensure that relevant and key programmes and projects are designed to promote efficiency in the labour market, reducing people's and communities' exposure to risks, recognizing the multi-hazard environment that citizens are exposed to, towards enhancing their capacity to manage economic and social risks, as well as environmental and other natural hazard risks. To do so efficiently, there is need to understand the differentiated risks faced by women, men, girls and boys and their corresponding needs. This proposal is aligned to Jamaica's national development plan – Vision 2030 Jamaica.

Ultimately, the proposal designed to ensure that Jamaica's social protection system becomes a key enabler of advancing, unlocking and achieving the SDGs, also ensuring that Jamaica adheres to the provisions of international human rights treaties that it is signatory to. This proposal also will build on and expand the investments which have been made over the past years in national social protection systems and programmes, particularly those under the purview of the MLSS. Thus, Jamaica's social protection system will benefit from built-in mechanisms that support resilience, thereby precluding shocks from becoming disasters, and making the SP system "shock proof" to future disasters.

## **1.2 Target groups**

In reflecting on the principle of Leaving No One Behind, this proposal identifies 6 target groups that will benefit from a modernized, inclusive and adaptive social protection system and one that has the characteristics of shock responsiveness. These groups include:

1. Women, including female-headed households
2. Families in quintiles 1 and 2, including persons living below the poverty line and those immediately above the poverty line
3. Children (0 – 17 years)
4. Girls (0 – 17 years)
5. Youth (15-24 years)
6. Persons with disabilities and families that include persons with disabilities
7. Rural workers, particularly small farmers and artisanal fishers, and seasonal tourism workers, including women

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<sup>12</sup> Planning Institute of Jamaica (2014). 'Jamaica Social Protection Strategy', Planning Institute of Jamaica.



These groups have a much higher exposure to socio-economic and environmental risks than others in the population because of their socio-demographic characteristics, economic status, physical or mental condition, age, lifestyle etc. The proposal will play a key role in operationalizing Jamaica’s pledge under Agenda 2030 to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first. The table below lists the marginalized and vulnerable groups and illustrates whether the joint proposal would have a direct or indirect influence on each of the listed groups.

These marginalized and vulnerable groups are all at risk of being left behind as they are all confronted with a series of important risks. Leaving no one behind matters on all development fronts as this represents a violation of human rights, with poverty and inequality representing wasted human and productive potential. The table below presents a brief analysis of the factors that make each of these 10 groups especially vulnerable.

<b>List of marginalized and vulnerable groups</b>	<b>Needs Analysis</b>
<p>Women, including female-headed households</p>	<p>Women lag behind due to social and cultural norms which impact their opportunities in life. Poverty disproportionately affects those living in rural and peri-urban areas in female-headed households and in families with children with disabilities.</p> <p>Discrimination is evidenced by the level of violence against women and girls. Survey data from 2016 show that in Jamaica, around 2 out of 10 adolescent girls (15-19 years old) have been subjected to sexual violence and 1 out of 10 adolescent girls have been forced to have intercourse in her lifetime<sup>13</sup>. Also, more than 1 in every 4 women is exposed to GBV in their lifetime.</p> <p>Women are more likely to be poor and unemployed. In 2018, the poverty ratio of individuals in female-headed households was 14.4 per cent, compared to 11 per cent for male-headed ones) and women are more likely to be unemployed. Female-headed households are larger in size (3.3) compared to male-headed households (2.6) and are overrepresented in the poorest and second-poorest quintiles.</p> <p>Many at-risk rural communities and rural households - of which approximately 40 percent are female headed households with children - do not have ready access to social safety nets and livelihood protection programmes that can help impacted communities and households begin to recover faster from exogenous shocks such as those posed by COVID-19 and other risks.</p>

13 <https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/Women-health-survey-2016-Jamaica-Final-Report.pdf>.

List of marginalized and vulnerable groups	Needs Analysis
<p>Families in quintiles 1 and 2, including Persons living below the poverty line and those immediately above the poverty line</p>	<p>According to the JSLC 2018, an analysis by quintiles shows that 71 per cent of Quintile 1 households have at some point applied for benefits, with estimates declining for each higher quintile. Regarding households in the poorest quintiles 28.4 per cent of households in the poorest quintile (quintile 1), and 38.4 per cent of those in Quintile 2 had never applied to Path for assistance. Reasons cited by households for not applying include not thinking household is eligible, do not welfare and not knowing about the programme.</p> <p>About 75 per cent of households in the poorest quintile had ever received benefits, with a corresponding 63.7 per cent in Quintile 2</p>
<p>Children</p>	<p>The trend in poverty prevalence by age group has indicated higher rates among children than adults. For 2018, the poverty of those younger than 15 years (15.6 per cent) is higher than those of individuals in both the Working Age (15-64) {11.2 per cent} and the Dependent Elderly (65 years and older) {12.0 per cent}.</p> <p>Approximately, 4.3 per cent of children 0–17 years in 2018 lived in extreme poverty, unable to afford/access basic food items. Children who grow up in poverty often lack food, sanitation, shelter, health care and the education they need to survive and thrive. Child poverty is exacerbated by social inequities related to access to social housing, quality education, and health services.</p> <p>The 2018 data showed that households with children had a higher rate of poverty (14.9 per cent) than households without children (7.4 per cent). Children are more vulnerable during crises, are exposed to high levels of violence at home, in school and in their communities, also because corporal punishment is generally accepted in society. Children and adolescents that live in rural areas and/or belonging to the poorest households are most affected</p>
<p>Youth</p>	<p>Youth (persons aged 15-24 years) make up about 20 per cent of Jamaica’s total population. Poverty has contributed to the increase in unattached youth,<sup>14</sup> where unattached youth are defined as persons 15–24 years who are either not in school,</p>

<sup>14</sup> Unattached youths refer to those not in school, unemployed and not participating in any training programme.



List of marginalized and vulnerable groups	Needs Analysis
	unemployed or not participating or engaged in any training programme.
Persons with disabilities and families that include persons with disabilities	<p>While the country benefits from a relatively robust social protection system, not all those eligible to access the system actually use it, with significant gaps for PWDs. The 2010 population census identified 400,000 PWDs, with only 12 per cent of these targeted for PATH benefits through state and non-state actors. 9 out of 10 families with people with a disability are not PATH beneficiaries. PWDs experience barriers in accessing information, support services, essential services and employment and workforce integration.</p> <p>PWDs in Jamaica are amongst the country's most vulnerable and marginalized. They are more susceptible to a range of socio-economic challenges including poor health, poverty, lower levels of educational attainment and limited employment opportunities.</p> <p>According to the JSLC 2014, Jamaica has a disability prevalence rate of 3.3 per cent, representing minimal changes since data on the population of PWDs was first captured in the JSLC in 2008. Population Census 2001 noted that there were 162,800 persons who self-identified as having a disability with the majority living in rural areas (52 per cent). Only 15.3 per cent were reported as employed, making PWDs overrepresented among poor people.</p> <p>Education access and inclusion for children with disabilities are constrained by the low number of schools with teachers who are specially trained or sensitized to engage students with disabilities.</p> <p>Based on the 2018/2019 schools census which was conducted prior to the onset of Covid-19, by the MOEYI there were 4,126 students with disabilities in special education schools and 6,027 students with disabilities in the general education system<sup>15</sup></p>
Rural workers, particularly small farmers and artisanal fishers, and seasonal tourism workers, including women	Poverty disproportionately affects those living in rural and peri-urban areas in female-headed households and in families with children with disabilities. The most significant socioeconomic

<sup>15</sup> Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review June 2020(P 18)

List of marginalized and vulnerable groups	Needs Analysis
	<p>differences are observed between those living in KMA and those other towns/rural areas. These disparities disproportionately affect groups, residing in rural areas, which are recognized as being left behind.</p> <p>People living in rural areas are also less likely to be registered in social protection programmes. This may be due to combination of factors such as inadequate outreach and higher levels of informal employment.</p>

### 1.3 SDG targets

The Joint Programme will lead to acceleration of multiple SDGs, through the modernization of the social protection system in Jamaica – in support of adaptable, inclusive shock responsive services, leaving no one behind. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, there existed multiple challenges to achieving the SDGs in Jamaica on one hand but many opportunities also existed to support the advancement of the global goals as evidenced by the high levels of cooperation from development partners to support Vision 2030 Jamaica. The country’s progress to achieving its development goals as contained in Vision 2030 Jamaica, prior to the pandemic showed that advances have been made in the areas of human capital development, particularly in education and health; macroeconomic stability, reduction in unemployment; increase in the use of non-fossil fuel-based energy such as alternatives and renewable; and infrastructural development. Notwithstanding this progress, there are some development challenges under each goal, including undesirable level of poverty, and food insecurity; increases in violence and crime rates; low levels of economic growth; a general increase in the rate of chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and decreased access to the basic health services, as well as mental health care; and a reduction in environmental sustainability.

This joint proposal also responds to the recommendations of a UN MAPS mission and report in 2017 and which led to the Cabinet of Jamaica approving an SDG roadmap to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. With respect to social protection, the SDG Road Map identified social protection as a key intervention. The strengthening of Social Protection programmes identified two proposals under social protection for the country to pursue in earnest. These are as follows:

- Pursue outreach efforts to ensure that beneficiaries access social protection programmes – There was recognition that not everyone qualifying for benefits is enrolled in programmes such as PATH and rehabilitation programmes. Reasons cited for this issue include stigma associated with being a beneficiary, lack of information and perceptions of ineligibility. It was determined that efforts made to enroll poor household that have not applied to these programmes could have important impacts on poverty levels as well as human capital formation.
- Integrate existing information systems related to social protection to improve coordination, avoid duplication and provide life-cycle approach. The goal of this activity is to contribute to the development of a unified social registry to anchor Jamaica’s social protection system using the extensive registry of the PATH programme as well as beneficiary rosters of other social protection programmes. A unified social registry would facilitate better coordination of social protection programmes, reduce duplication of efforts, combat fraud, improve efficiencies and

ease the transition of beneficiaries between schemes as circumstances change, thereby ensuring continuation of services as needed. They can potentially also improve social protection programmes’ responses to emergencies if they are designed to include records of households that are vulnerable.

This joint proposal will undoubtedly enable Jamaica to respond to one of the underlying principles of the 2030 Agenda which focuses on promoting efforts by countries to “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” while at the same time the Agenda points to the creation of social protection systems that allow all people to enjoy basic standards of living.

The following SDG goals and targets would be addressed by the joint programme:

SDG Goal	Target	Indicator # and Description	Baseline	Proposed Contribution of JP
SDG 1 (No poverty)	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	1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work, injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable	<p>The Government of Jamaica has implemented a number of social security programmes, designed to protect the most vulnerable in society. Chief among them are: The PATH Programme, The National Insurance Scheme and the Poor Relief Programme</p> <p>About 11.7% of the Jamaican population is covered by PATH. (Based on PIOJ population estimate of 2,726,000 and 318,302 individuals in 137,000 households are covered by PATH at end 2019).</p> <p>Using JSLC 2017 to project estimated coverage gaps to the 2020 population estimates, approximately 109,961 children and 178,061 adults in the poorest quintile (Q1) are neither direct nor indirect beneficiaries of any income support transfer.</p>	The joint programme would allow for an increase in coverage by PATH as it lays the foundation for improved targeting and would have a positive impact as an additional 25,000 households (or over 100,000 persons, assuming a household size of 4 to 5, given that households in the poorest quintiles – quintiles 1 and 2 are larger than the richer quintiles, with average household size being 2.9) households would benefit.

SDG Goal	Target	Indicator # and Description	Baseline	Proposed Contribution of JP
			14,822 poor people with disabilities (5,186 extreme poor) are not covered by PATH	
	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	1.5.3 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	<p>Jamaica National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy does not include shock responsive social protection preparedness mechanisms..</p> <p>Absence of protocols to expand social assistance programmes to support people affected by shocks</p>	<p>By strengthening institutional capacity for evidence-based emergency expansion of social protection programmes based on tailored protocols and fast identification of people facing acute/socio-economic and environmental impacts, such as those associated with natural disasters will help reduce risk exposures of the most vulnerable.</p> <p>Specifically, the JP will strengthen the national disaster risk reduction strategy by contributing to the development and testing of tools, protocols and manuals on emergency social protection as well as develop the capacity of staff to use them</p>
	1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing	1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)	Social protection spending was 1.32 per cent of GDP in 2019/20.	<p>This joint proposal supports the importance of modernizing the overall social protection system to enable it to be shock responsive. This will lead to an increase of the SP spending over the next years to reach regional standards.</p> <p>Specifically, the JP will contribute to the development and testing of tools, protocols and manuals on emergency</p>

SDG Goal	Target	Indicator # and Description	Baseline	Proposed Contribution of JP
	countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions			social protection as well as develop the capacity of staff to use them, helping to mobilize needed resources during shocks.
SDG 5 (Gender equality)	5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location	Inadequate capacity to undertake gender-gap analysis of the policy and legislative frameworks of the social protection system to ensure responsiveness of the system	<p>Strengthened capacity to undertake gender gap analysis of the policy and legislative frameworks of the social protection system to ensure responsiveness of the system to ensure responsiveness of the system to narrowing inequalities between women and men.</p> <p>Specifically:</p> <p>A gender gap analysis conducted</p> <p>A gender aware beneficiary assessment of the PATH programme conducted</p>
SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)	10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality	10.4.1 Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers	<p>85 per cent of the workforce is employed by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises or are independent workers.</p> <p>The number of formal workers calculated by official statistics is 39 per cent of the workforce (currently close to 480,000 workers), the rest of the workforce is divided among informal workers (41 per cent), Agricultural (17 per</p>	<p>Strengthened capacity to undertake gender gap analysis of the policy and legislative frameworks of the social protection system to ensure responsiveness of the system to narrowing inequalities between women and men.</p> <p>Development of an adapted algorithm to proxy households' welfare or need during emergencies to quickly identify people in need and to expand social</p>

SDG Goal	Target	Indicator # and Description	Baseline	Proposed Contribution of JP
			<p>cent), and domestic workers (3 per cent)<sup>16</sup></p> <p>These groups are significantly impacted by exogenous shocks.</p>	<p>protection programmes to enhance targeting criteria</p> <p>The conducting of vulnerability analysis of persons to identify people who may be in need support owing to their specific vulnerabilities, level of poverty or other specific issues such as those faced by women and girls.</p>
SDG 13 (Climate Action)	13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	13.1.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	Jamaica National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy does not include shock responsive social protection preparedness mechanisms.	<p>The JP will contribute to increasing strategies at the national level that support the reduction of risks associated with climate change.</p> <p>The JP will contribute to the achievement of this SDG target by supporting the SP system:</p> <p>Providing technical assistance to develop streamlined targeting and registration tools, towards supporting expansion and create a basis for protocols and processes to quickly expand in response to future shocks, such as hurricanes.</p> <p>Conducting vulnerability analysis of persons to identify people who may be in need support owing to their specific vulnerabilities, level of poverty or other specific issues such as those</p>

<sup>16</sup> Mera, Manual. 2020. Social and economic impact of the COVID-19 and policy options in Jamaica. UNDP

SDG Goal	Target	Indicator # and Description	Baseline	Proposed Contribution of JP
				faced by women and girls.

#### 1.4 Stakeholder mapping

Various stakeholders will be consulted and engaged in the implementation of the joint proposal.

Stakeholders	Project implementation role
Ministry of Labour and Social Security	The Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) is the premiere agent of the Government 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 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. The SDG JP will be coordinated through the MLSS under its four major programmes developed to respond to, plan for, and seek to improve services, especially for Persons with Disabilities and the poor. The Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education, The Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities; the Early Stimulation Programme (ESP), and the Public Assistance Division.
Planning Institute of Jamaica	The PIOJ is an agency of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MoFPS) and is the foremost planning agency of the government that seeks to initiate and coordinate the development of policies, plans and programmes for the sustainable development of Jamaica. The PIOJ will play a pivotal role in monitoring the achievement of quality results as it has responsibility for implementation on the SDGs and is a lead partner on poverty assessment including the production of the MDPI.

Stakeholders	Project implementation role
	As part of its coordinating role the PIOJ will play an instrumental role in coordination, facilitation, and oversight of the activities under this project.
Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	The Ministry of Local Government and Community Development acts as the agent of local development. This covers areas such as: development planning; poor relief; and disaster preparedness and emergency management. Consistent with the tabling of the Human Services Bill in 2018 in parliament, the SDG JP will bolster current efforts to modernize the Local Government Ministry's' capacity to plan and respond to the needs of poor and vulnerable citizens within its purview and enhance linkages with other service providers to engender holistic care and support, especially in times of national disasters.
Local communities, through the Social Development Commission and Jamaica Social Investment Fund	The SDC currently facilitates the empowerment of citizens in communities, enabling their participation in an integrated, equitable, sustainable National Development Process. The SDC works in approximately 770 community organisations across the island. The JP, through the Ministry of Local Government will partner to advance social and economic empowerment and inclusion via increase registration and targeting, especially among women, youth and persons with disabilities. This can be achieved through the SDC's Local Economic Development Support Programme.
Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management	The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management provides disaster management functions in Jamaica. ODPEM will provide technical support in the design and enhancing of appropriate state of national preparedness for natural disasters and other emergency events, as well as, overseeing the establishment and maintenance of mutual assistance and co-operation agreements among private sector, international donor organizations and partner agencies, such as the Ministry of Labour and Social Security which coordinates welfare activities to support disaster-affected people.
Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The MoFPS has overall responsibility for developing Government's fiscal and economic policy framework; collecting and allocating public revenues and playing an important role in the socio-economic development of the country by creating a society in which each citizen has



Stakeholders	Project implementation role
	every prospect of a better quality of life. The MOFP will support the mobilizing of resources necessary to implement the social goals under Joint Programme which aligns with Jamaica’s Vision 2030 plan and the Agenda 2030.
Ministry of Gender, Culture, Entertainment and Sports	The Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment & Sport is a government organisation that deals primarily with the implementation of policies and social programmes that are geared towards the development of children, youth, men and women. The MCGES has a critical role under JP to mobilize the Government to address the problems that confront women with a focus on current rates of unemployment, violence against women in various forms such as spousal abuse, rape, incest and sexual harassment. The JP led by UN Women will enhance effort to support the empowerment of women and girls to recognize their full potential as individuals and to create avenues for their full integration in National Development through research and policy improvement, Public Education and planning and monitoring.
Academia	Through Universities’ such as the UWI, Utech and NCU the JP will seek to partner to support the projects research agenda to improve its thrust toward enhancing the utility and scope of existing social registries, proxy means testing and strengthening the integration of the household economic assessment to inform shock responsive measures.
Development Partners	Provision of Technical assistance and additional financing to support the scale-up existing projects supported through targeted MDA’s under the JP.

## 2. Programme Strategy

### 2.1. Overall strategy

The joint proposal is designed to be transformative and play a key role in assisting Jamaica to eradicate poverty and address vulnerabilities that leave many Jamaicans behind and undermine the potential of individuals and of humanity. The programme will support the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) to successfully expand its social protection system to better respond to exogenous shocks and contribute more pointedly to supporting the most vulnerable in the society and in keeping with the thrust of leaving no one behind and those furthest behind are planned for first. The joint proposal will do this by:

- Enhancing payment processes within Jamaica’s social protection system which are more efficient, effective and safe and places emphasis on accessibility.
- Strengthening institutional capacity for evidence-based emergency expansion of social protection programmes based on tailored protocols and fast identification of people facing acute/socio-economic and environmental impacts.
- Integrating the existing information system to support an increased coverage and coordination of social protection interventions.
- Strengthening capacity to undertake gender-gap analysis of the policy and legislative social protection frameworks towards ensuring responsiveness of the social protection system to narrowing inequalities between women and men.

The COVID-19 pandemic, more than any other exogenous shock that Jamaica has been exposed to, uncovered many of the gaps in its social protection system, which in many aspects is relatively robust. Jamaica is considered to have made more progress than its other Caribbean neighbours in adapting its social protection system to be more responsive to shocks. The socioeconomic fallout of COVID-19 is having a multi-dimensional impact on Jamaica and according to the country’s Minister of Finance Hon. Nigel Clarke, will disrupt the livelihoods of various groups disproportionately. Jamaica’s economy contracted by 11 per cent for the 2020/21 fiscal year, as a result of., inter alia: a decline in government revenues due to emergency health expenditures and additional social and economic expenditures; and lower inflows from tourism and remittances, which is expected to have a negative impact on the balance of payments. Prior to the pandemic, inflows for tourism and remittances represented approximately 20 per cent and 15 per cent of GDP, respectively.<sup>17</sup> For Fiscal year 2021/22, the government will continue to allocate resources to social protection as well as to the Ministry of Health and Wellness to aid in the fight against COVID-19.

Based on the July and October Labour Force Survey, labour market conditions deteriorated in 2020 as unemployment rate increased to 10.7 per cent (females 13 per cent and males 8.6 per cent).<sup>18</sup> This represents a reversal from the record low unemployment rate of 7.2 per cent (female 8.6 per cent and male 6 per cent) and the highest average employment level of 1 244 925 since 1968, based on the October 2019 Labour Force Survey. There was a decline in the employed labour force where females and the youth were disproportionately affected. In April 2021, the unemployment rate was 9 per cent, 1.2 percentage point compared to the April 2019.<sup>19</sup> The unemployment rate for females (10.8 %) was higher than for males (7.5%). The unemployment rate for the Youth increased to 24.0 per cent relative to 19.4 per cent in April 2019.<sup>20</sup>

Although the Government established a dynamic stimulus package, it was geared to persons employed in the formal system. Employees that were made redundant or laid off and were part of the formal system were able to benefit from the Government’s cash transfer programmes implemented as part of the COVID-19 response - the BEST Cash and SET Cash programmes. These programmes provided temporary cash transfers of J\$9,000 per fortnight to laid-off formal workers earning less than J\$1.5 million per year (4 times the minimum wage) and a subsidy of the same amount for each registered employee that an enterprise

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<sup>17</sup> IMF. (2020). Jamaica Ramps Up Social and Economic Support in COVID-19 Response. Retrieved from <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/05/27/na052720-jamaica-ramps-up-social-and-economic-support-in-covid-19-response>

<sup>18</sup> <https://statinja.gov.jm/PressReleases.aspx>

<sup>19</sup> <https://statinja.gov.jm/PressReleases.aspx>

<sup>20</sup> STATIN did not undertake a Labour Force Survey in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and measures implemented by the government of Jamaica to curb the spread.

retained<sup>21</sup>. Current numbers show that approximately 77,000 formal workers applied for the unemployment benefit, and it is unclear how many jobs will be subsidized given that the CARE programme has reached its budget limit of J\$10 billion.

Notwithstanding this, informal workers, many of which are considered as part of the most vulnerable, did not directly benefit from these provisions. This also is true of many households in rural areas, including female-headed households, many of which are at risk. At-risk rural communities and rural households - of which approximately 40 percent are female headed households with children - do not have ready access to social safety nets and livelihood protection programmes that can help impacted communities and households begin to recover faster from exogenous shocks such as those posed by COVID-19 and other risks. Exogenous shocks and other stressors exacerbate hardships creating issues such as food insecurity and hunger in affected communities.

The COVID-19 experience, the lessons learned and the thrust of Jamaica to recover better and build forward stronger presents a strong case for modernizing the country's social protection systems so that it is more responsive to shocks, including climate shocks, respond better to the needs of diverse groups in the face of shocks - women, women, boys, girls, PWDs, families with PWDs, and other vulnerable and marginalized groups - without discrimination.

Social protection systems in Jamaica offer an important entry point for not only addressing poverty, chronic vulnerability and risks people face, but also mitigating the impacts of more severe impacts of shocks such as COVID-19 and disasters. The national social protection strategy highlights the need to 'ensure mechanisms are in place to flexibly respond to the varied needs of expanding vulnerable groups, to prevent long-term undesirable outcomes'.<sup>22</sup> MLSS has programmes and protocols in place for providing support to people affected by shocks (e.g. the Rehabilitation Programme), leads the national Humanitarian Assistance Committee, and collaborates with ODPEM in the development of policies, plans and response actions.<sup>23</sup> PATH has been used to respond to Hurricane Dean in 2007 and to provide additional benefits to existing beneficiaries in response to COVID-19, increasing by 50% the aggregate amount that beneficiaries would have ordinarily received during the period of April - June 2020. Whilst PATH has always been considered a best practice in the region, it is not designed as mentioned above to anticipate and manage exogenous shocks or be shock and gender responsive and easily adaptive during crises. Strengthening its ability to do so is critical for ensuring that people impacted by shocks receive timely, adequate and appropriate support. A Gender Aware Beneficiary Assessment will provide key data on how best to adapt the programme to prevent long-term undesirable gender and poverty outcomes including the deepening of the gender-gap in Jamaica.

Both PATH and the MLSS will therefore have a central role in the roll-out of this joint proposal. Despite its shortcomings, the PATH Programme, does have substantial coverage and a relatively robust administrative system. The solutions proposed in this joint proposal are designed to build on and be complementary to other initiatives being undertaken in social protection by the Government of Jamaica and other development partners such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The solution also will focus on optimizing the roles of development partners working with the GOJ in this area. By supporting

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<sup>21</sup> [https://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/rblac/en/home/library/crisis\\_prevention\\_and\\_recovery/social-and-economic-impact-of-the-covid-19-and-policy-options-in0.html](https://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/rblac/en/home/library/crisis_prevention_and_recovery/social-and-economic-impact-of-the-covid-19-and-policy-options-in0.html)

<sup>22</sup> Planning Institute of Jamaica (2014). 'Jamaica Social Protection Strategy', Planning Institute of Jamaica.

<sup>23</sup> Beazley, R. and Ciardi, F. (2020) Shock-Responsive Social Protection in the Caribbean Jamaica Case Study. OPM and WFP.

the development of a transformative social protection policy and an improved system, making payment processes more efficient, and streamlining registration, other development partners such as the World Bank and the IDB who are providing support to the PATH Programme stand to benefit on their investment as the results from the solution herein will be applicable to the PATH Programme and other areas of social protection that they are supporting.

The solutions proposed also will strengthen the partnerships between the UN and other development partners given that a key thrust of all social protection initiatives being supported is for greater equity, efficiency and effectiveness of social protection as we are all aiming to reduce the impacts of fiscal adjustments on the poor, help them to cope better during exogenous shocks and stressors and “leave no one behind”. For example, the solutions proposed will support the World Bank’s current objective of ensuring that the GOJ allocates resources in the national budget to adequately cope with climate and natural disaster-related shocks. The allocation of said resources can benefit from targeting, case management and an overall policy framework that is shock responsive.

It is important to note that the solution proposed is in keeping with the Government’s strategic direction for social protection as contained in its National Social Protection Policy and is in keeping with Vision 2030 Jamaica – the national development plan and aligns well with the Government’s 10-point plan to build back better after COVID-19.

The outcomes of the proposed joint programme are aligned with the GOJ’s priorities in social protection. The solutions proposed serves to advance existing priorities and accelerate efforts the achieve national outcome and goals as well as the SDGs. MTF 2018-2021 placed emphasis on efforts to transition from a social protection primarily characterised by poverty reduction issues to give greater focus to a rights-based inclusive approach which addresses the risks to social and income security across the life span. This includes considerations for all citizens throughout the life course with targeted focus given to addressing vulnerabilities. The MLSS is already undertaking effort to strengthen social assistance delivery to vulnerable population groups. This includes work in case management and the provision of social transfers. Focus has also been given to strengthening data and statistical capacity as well as measuring and monitoring multi-dimensional poverty.

Also, in 2017, Jamaica’s Cabinet approved the Roadmap for SDG Implementation in Jamaica. The SDG Roadmap calls for the strengthening of Social Protection programmes to accelerate the elimination of poverty and prevent risk to poverty and other aspects of income security. While the SDG Roadmap recognized the critical role of PATH in efforts to reduce poverty, it highlighted two proposals:

1. Pursue outreach efforts to ensure that beneficiaries access social protection programme – there was recognition that not everyone qualifying for benefits is enrolled in programmes such as PATH and rehabilitation programmes. Reasons cited for this issue included stigma associated with being a PATH beneficiary, lack of information and perceptions of ineligibility. It was determined that efforts to enroll poor household that have not applied to these programmes could have important impacts on poverty reduction as well as human capital formation.
2. Develop a Unified Social Registry to improve coordination, avoid duplication and provide a life-cycle approach. It was suggested that a unified social registry could be developed to anchor Jamaica’s social protection system using the extensive registry of the PATH programme as well as beneficiary rosters of other social protection programmes. It is anticipated that a unified social registry would facilitate better coordination of social protection programmes, reduce duplication of efforts, combat fraud, improve efficiencies and ease the transition of beneficiaries between schemes as circumstances change, thereby ensuring continuation of services as needed. They

can potentially also improve social protection programmes' responses to emergencies if they are designed to include records of households that are vulnerable.

The solutions proposed also will be designed to meet the needs of the target groups, enhancing the impact of the existing PATH programme and other social protection programmes in Jamaica. It will do this by being able to effectively cover and target those needing assistance in a more timely and efficient manner, enabling early response. Importantly the programme will be designed to be predictable for the target groups.

For Jamaica as is similar for other developing countries, no one partner can provide sustainable social protection financing at scale and therefore this joint proposal recognizes and is structured to ensure that the support to be provided will complement and enable the strengthening of Jamaica's social protection system in a sustainable way ensuring overall value for money and supporting the broader SDG agenda. In terms of technical knowledge to support the strengthening of the social protection policy framework, the UN Team and other development partners are well placed to collaborate, thereby strengthening organizational capacity in Jamaica towards long-term and more sustainable results overall.

## 2.2 Theory of Change

Modernizing SRSP in Jamaica will accelerate the implementation of a more inclusive, gender responsive and shock responsive social protection system and by so doing will maximize progress towards achieving several SDG targets, making the vulnerable groups more resilient. The elements/outputs contained in this joint proposal is ex-ante rather than ad-hoc, ex-post responses in its design and will support both early action and cost effectiveness in the face of exogenous shocks in the future, expanding the scope of support to those most in need, thereby contributing to long term resilience building. By focusing on outputs that will make Jamaica's social protection systems more shock responsive and modern, means that the government will be in a better position to increasingly reduce the vulnerability of the identified target groups year-round, but also when exogenous shocks or covariate shocks occur, and when shocks/risks are multiple – for example an active hurricane season coupled with increasing measures due to surges in COVID-19 cases.

The concrete actions taken through this joint proposal will contribute to the outcomes as well as the cross-cutting priorities of gender equality and inclusion. Thus, modernizing the Jamaica's social protection systems through this joint proposal will be an important step in building resilience of vulnerable groups especially in the context of the increasing frequency, magnitude, and intensity of shocks.

Based on the mentioned elements the **Theory of Change of the joint proposal can be summarised as follow:**

### Conditions for change:

IF

- A strengthened social protection system targets and supports the most vulnerable particularly female-headed households, those living in poverty, and households with persons with disabilities among other vulnerable groups.

- The Social Protection System is strengthened and there is institutional capacity for evidence-based emergency expansion of social protection programmes based on tailored protocols and fast identification of people facing acute/socio-economic and environmental impacts while ensuring stronger processes for all
- Enhanced payment processes which are more efficient, effective and safe and places emphasis on accessibility, are in place
- Current information systems used by SP system are integrated to support an increased coverage and coordination of SP interventions

THEN

Jamaican people, especially women and children in the most vulnerable conditions, can benefit from the modern social protection system that is responsive to shocks, inclusive, anticipatory, adaptive and resilient, which will help them realize sustainable development.

### Key Assumptions

- All vulnerable groups are targeted and their specific needs, particularly those that arise due to a crisis, are identified.
- The country can mobilize the required resources to scale up and sustain social protection programmes for existing and newly identified vulnerable groups.
- Although there is a focus on evidence-based decision making, given that the data and information to inform the social protection systems emanate from different sources, issues related to inter alia, data comparability, timeliness and completeness could create challenges. To mitigate against this challenge, priority will be placed on identifying all key stakeholders in the social protection system, particularly those that are key data providers towards ensuring high levels of collaboration, integration and commitment to deliver on the objectives of the programme. Where needed capacity development support will be explored.
- The financial sector can support the most appropriate electronic payment systems for the identified social protection programmes. The country has given increased focus to financial inclusion as it recognized the low level of financial inclusion. In response the Government of Jamaica developed and commenced implementation of a National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) to deepen and accelerate national efforts to reach higher levels of financial inclusion by 2020.<sup>24</sup> The goal of the NFIS is to create the conditions in which Jamaicans, particularly those who were previously underserved by the domestic financial system, are able to save safely and build up resilience against financial shocks, and firms are able to invest, grow and generate greater levels of wealth. One of the main issues highlighted in the strategy, which poses a challenge for the efficient functioning of electronic payment processes/disbursement mechanism is the low usage of accounts and or electronic transaction instruments.
- Vulnerable groups will perceive the system as beneficial and accessible to them.
- Case management and disbursement systems are robust and operable in the event of shocks.
- PATH remains viable and continues to be supported by the GOJ.
- Social systems will be able to endure simultaneous shocks.

### 2.3 Expected results and impact

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<sup>24</sup> [https://boj.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Jamaica\\_NFIS\\_Final\\_Draft.pdf](https://boj.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Jamaica_NFIS_Final_Draft.pdf)



Social protection systems in Jamaica offer an important entry point for not only addressing poverty, chronic vulnerability and risks people face, but also mitigating the impacts of more severe impacts of shocks such as COVID-19 and disasters. The national social protection strategy highlights the need to 'ensure mechanisms are in place to flexibly respond to the varied needs of expanding vulnerable groups, to prevent long-term undesirable outcomes'.<sup>25</sup> MLSS has programmes and protocols in place for providing support to people affected by shocks (e.g. the Rehabilitation Programme), leads the national Humanitarian Assistance Committee, and collaborates with ODPEM in the development of policies, plans and response actions.<sup>26</sup> PATH has been used to respond to Hurricane Dean in 2007 and to provide additional benefits to existing beneficiaries in response to COVID-19, increasing by 50% the aggregate amount that beneficiaries would have ordinarily received during the period of April - June 2020. Whilst PATH has always been considered a best practice in the region, it is not designed as mentioned above to anticipate and manage exogenous shocks or be shock and gender responsive and easily adaptive during crises. Strengthening its ability to do so is critical for ensuring that people impacted by shocks receive timely, adequate and appropriate support.

The solutions proposed in this joint proposal will allow the Government of Jamaica to successfully modernize and strengthen its social protection system to address future shocks and stressors and provide support for the ongoing fallout and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. At the end of the implementation of activities, the project will contribute to achieve the outcome.

**People in the Caribbean equitably access and utilize universal, quality and shock-responsive, social protection, education, health and care services  
(Outcome 4 MSDCF)**

To contribute to the achievement of this outcome, technical support will be provided to the Government of Jamaica to enable the successful expansion, modernization and strengthening of its social protection systems to be able to address future exogenous shock taking into account the multi-hazard environment that Jamaica is exposed to. This would be achieved by:

**1) Enhanced payment processes within Jamaica's social protection system which are more efficient, effective and safe and places emphasis on accessibility**

Digital payment solutions have been steadily growing in Jamaica with increased prevalence of the internet and mobile connectivity to access critical information, services and opportunities, especially as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, to realise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, it is fundamental to address the current gaps for vulnerable household's and ensure that no one is left behind in our increasingly digital world.

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<sup>25</sup> Planning Institute of Jamaica (2014). 'Jamaica Social Protection Strategy', Planning Institute of Jamaica.

<sup>26</sup> Beazley, R. and Ciardi, F. (2020) Shock-Responsive Social Protection in the Caribbean Jamaica Case Study. OPM and WFP.

**2) Strengthened institutional capacity for evidence-based emergency expansion of social protection programmes based on tailored protocols and fast identification of people facing acute/socio-economic and environmental impacts.**

This entails generating evidence to support the development of an adapted algorithm to proxy household welfare or need during emergency to enable the expansion of social programmes based on tailored protocols and quickly identify people facing acute/socio-economic impacts such as those posed by COVID-19 or other shocks, such as natural disasters. This will include, but not limited to:

- a) The development of an instrument to assess the value of the cash transfers adapted to the needs of the households/individuals targeted through social protection programmes.
- b) Providing technical assistance to the GoJ through the MLSS to develop streamlined targeting and registration tools, including the use of digital data collection as a substitute for paper-based forms. These processes will support expansion and create a basis for protocols and processes to quickly expand in response to future shocks, such as hurricanes. They will also draw from existing tools where relevant (e.g. resilience index).
- c) Undertaking a vulnerability analysis of persons using existing data: data on people who are not benefiting from social assistance have been collected through various processes. This output will involve the analysis of existing data to identify people who may be in need support owing to their specific vulnerabilities, level of poverty or other specific issues such as those faced by women and girls. Such data may be drawn from people who are just below the qualification line of PATH and persons on waiting lists for other programmes.

**3) Information systems used by SP system are integrated to support an increased coverage and coordination of SP interventions .**

The integration of current systems and the development of an Integrated Social Registry for Jamaica will facilitate the outreach, intake, registration, and determination of potential eligibility for one or more social programs by different actors. In addition, when multiple programs use common Social Registries, this can play an important social policy role in helping coordinate efforts to reach intended populations, thereby facilitating synergies across programs aiming to deliver complementary benefits and services to common groups. To achieve this output, the JP will conduct an assessment of existing information systems that allows for determining vulnerability and exposure to shocks and will provide technical assistance for information systems integration to support increased coverage and coordination of SP interventions during emergencies/shocks. At a second stage, the JP will engage with MLSS to develop protocols and SoPs for establishing a Social Registry adapted to Jamaica's needs

**4) Gender gaps on the policy and legislative frameworks of the social protection system are closed and responsiveness of the service delivery, to both women and men is strengthened.**



For a social protection system to be gender-responsive the policy and legislative frameworks should be oriented towards closing gender gaps. This will support the empowerment of women and girls, while meeting the specific needs of men and boys. A more responsive social protection system will improve service delivery for both men and women. Accordingly, a gender aware beneficiary assessment (GABA) will be used to assess and strengthen the responsiveness in the programme's service delivery to both women and men of the PATH programme. Gender-related barriers in beneficiaries' interaction with the programme will be analysed to determine the differentials that might exist between women and men. The GABA will also provide recommendations for strengthening the PATH's capacity for gender-responsive service delivery with the results informing policy, legislative and institutional strengthening interventions.

Essentially then, the solutions proposed on one hand, will be able provide an immediate response to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis to limit the social and economic impacts on the most vulnerable and will be designed to provide quick assistance. On the other hand, though, this joint proposal will focus on recovery and reform towards building back better and stronger, advancing more sustainable outcomes, the results of which would be long-term. The joint proposal will be completed over a 2-year period. The joint proposal will consider the specific impacts being faced by women, including female-headed households, and consider social vulnerabilities, poverty and impacts to income.

The contribution to the JP outcome will be achieved through the consecution of the following intermediate results:

- A strengthened and more adaptive social protection system that is better able to target and support people most vulnerable to the impacts of shocks, including female-headed households and households with persons with disabilities among other vulnerable groups
- More efficient and safe payment processes through electronic payments to reach the vulnerable more quickly, efficiently, and transparently, with the ability to scale up in times of crisis (shock responsive social protection)
- Strengthened targeting/registration processes for identifying households for horizontal expansion: working with the MLSS to develop streamlined targeting and registration tools, including the use of digital data collection as a substitute for paper-based forms to quickly expand in response to future shocks, such as hurricanes. This improved delivery system that will allow social protection systems to reach the vulnerable more quickly, efficiently, and transparently, with the ability to scale up in times of crisis.
- A strengthened gender-responsive system and processes to ensure appropriate support for the identification of different needs of people for socio-economic assistance while ensuring stronger processes in the future to build back better.
- A vulnerability analysis of persons is completed by refining targeting methodologies using existing data: data on people who are not benefiting from social assistance
- A gender gap analysis of the policy and legislative frameworks social protection undertaken and recommendations implemented closing the gender gaps. to ensure responsiveness of the system to narrowing inequalities between women and men. For a social protection system to be gender-responsive the policy and legislative frameworks should be oriented towards closing gender gaps. This will support the empowerment of women and girls, while meeting the specific needs of men and boys.
- PATH is strengthened and its service delivery is gender responsive

<b>Outcome:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People in the Caribbean equitably access and utilize universal, quality and shock-responsive, social protection, education, health and care services (Outcome 4 MSDCF)</li> </ul>		
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Main Activities</b>	<b>Accountable PUNO</b>
Output 1: Enhanced payment processes within Jamaica’s social protection system which are more efficient, effective and safe and places emphasis on accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine and implement electronic delivery mechanism for SP and continue to test new payment modalities               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Examine alternate payment delivery mechanisms for Persons with Disabilities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Establish processes/protocols for the rapid disbursement of funds for shock-responsive social protection</li> <li>• Assessment of the effectiveness of current payment modalities for PWD and establishment of new protocols to increase the collection of benefits by families with people with disability.</li> </ul>	WFP/UNICEF
Output 2: Strengthened institutional capacity for evidence-based emergency expansion of social protection programmes based on tailored protocols and fast identification of people facing acute/socio-economic and environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance targeting criteria by developing an adapted algorithm to proxy household welfare or need during emergencies to quickly identify people in need to expand social programmes based on tailored protocols</li> <li>• Development of an instrument to assess the value of the cash transfers adapted to the needs of the households/individuals targeted through social protection programmes.</li> <li>• Conduct a gender-sensitive vulnerability poverty and livelihoods analysis</li> <li>• Develop SOP and protocols to expand social assistance programmes to support people affected by shocks</li> </ul>	WFP/UNICEF
Output 3: Information systems used by SP system are integrated to support an increased coverage and coordination of SP interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct an assessment of existing information systems that allows for determining vulnerability and exposure to shocks and make operational data useful to facilitate rapid responses during shocks and emergencies</li> <li>• Support the digitization of paper-based forms and processes to strengthen social protection programmes by developing targeting and registration tools in the event of a shock</li> <li>• Provide technical assistance for the information systems integration to support increased coverage and coordination of SP interventions</li> </ul>	UNICEF/ WFP

<b>Outcome:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People in the Caribbean equitably access and utilize universal, quality and shock-responsive, social protection, education, health and care services (Outcome 4 MSDCF)</li> </ul>		
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Main Activities</b>	<b>Accountable PUNO</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical assistance to MLSS to develop protocols and SoPs for establishing a Social Registry adapted to Jamaica’s needs.</li> </ul>	
Output 4: Gender gaps on the policy and legislative frameworks of the social protection system are closed and responsiveness of the service delivery, to both women and men is strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a gender gap analysis of the policy and legislative frameworks of the social protection system to ensure responsiveness of the system to narrowing inequalities between women and men. This will support the empowerment of women and girls, while meeting the specific needs of men and boys.</li> <li>• Undertake a gender aware beneficiary assessment of the PATH programme to assess and strengthen the responsiveness in the programme’s service delivery to both women and men.</li> <li>• Analyse gender-related barriers in beneficiaries’ interaction with the programme to determine the differentials that might exist between women and men.</li> </ul>	UNWOMEN

## 2.4 Financing

Through the implementation of this joint programme with support from the SDG Fund, and by investing in various processes and systems to strengthen the social protection systems in Jamaica, the foundation will be laid to help ensure a multiplier and long-term sustainable effect of the achieved outputs. The COVID-19 Pandemic and the increasing incidence, magnitude and severity of natural disasters has made it clear that ‘business as usual’ social protection is not an option going forward. The overall budget for the Joint Programme estimated at US\$ 1,1 million, of which US\$716,000 is requested from the SDG Joint Fund will represent a ‘win-win’ for policymakers, as improving Jamaica’s social protection systems, will lead to higher levels of effectiveness and efficiency of delivery of social protection programmes, enhancing accessibility and leaving no one behind, and importantly, ‘future proofing’ these same social protection systems to be able to address covariate shocks in the future.

Utilising and scaling-up social protection systems and programmes has been used by the Government of Jamaica as a strategy implemented to address the effects of COVID-19 by for example providing additional support to existing beneficiaries. This joint programme is timely and the investments to be made will support the Government to establish elements of a shock responsive social protection system that will reduce many of the limitations of the existing system that were exposed by COVID-19, specifically with respect to many of the core tenets of universal social protection: coverage, adequacy, inclusion, and timeliness of response to crises.

Globally, the cost-benefits of investing in resilient, and shock-responsive social protection systems, as opposed to conventional and cyclical humanitarian responses are becoming evident, especially since shock responses SP systems which this JP is investing in is a key enabler of ensuring that no one is left behind in the development space. Strengthening Jamaica's social protection system also will allow for the country to capitalize on new opportunities related to financing shocks through its social protection system such as innovative forms of financing ranging from insurance to bonds, and even blended financing.

The activities contained in the joint proposal and the outputs, has been designed to target vulnerable groups especially women and will play a key role in protecting them, helping them to better cope with risks, covariate shocks and recover faster, ultimately changing their overall development outcomes positively. As the joint programme will design the social protection system to be more gender-responsive, then in responding to a future shock, the system will be able to ensure the gender-responsiveness of the response. Moreover, in terms of social protection reaching its core objectives of reducing poverty and vulnerability, taking into consideration gender in programme design and implementation can support equality in access and outcomes. Activities contained in the JP such as the development of protocols and SoPs for establishing a Social Registry will provide the foundation for better targeting and leveraging social registries and data on 'potential beneficiaries' so that responding to future shocks and crises can be undertaken in a more timely manner.

This joint proposal is aligned to the UN\_MSDF, specifically, Outcome 4: People in the Caribbean equitably access and utilize universal, quality and shock-responsive, social protection, education, health, and caregiving services. Both are under the MSDCF Priority Area: Equality, Well-Being and Leaving No One Behind. The JP is also aligned to Jamaica's national development plan and will contribute to advancing the strategies related to social protection and contained therein. Improving the underlying social protection systems will ensure long-term financial sustainability after the end of the JP and will contribute to achieving multiple SDGs. This Joint Programme also builds on existing programmes and policy efforts from the three PUNOs, which are currently working on social protection, forecast based financing, disaster risk management and gender equality. It also will contribute to, and be complementary to other efforts, projects and programmes being implemented by other development partners such as the World Bank and will aim to leverage resources from international financial institutions to further strengthen the SP system.

The funds to be allocated through this joint proposal will contribute in part to the package of support to the Government and will be complemented by additional resources mobilized by the receiving UN organisations.

## **2.5 Partnerships and stakeholder engagement**

The UN Team will work very closely with the Government of Jamaica and in particularly the MLSS and the PIOJ to operationalize and implement the joint proposal. The joint proposal is already fully aligned with Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan and the National Social Protection Policy. Additionally, the implementation of the joint proposal will draw on the mandates, collaborative and comparative advantages and partnerships of other UN sister

agencies’, other GOJ ministries such as the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development and the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. The joint proposal also will leverage existing programmes and expertise and lean on the capacities of other development partners working in social protection such as the World Bank, IDN and civil society organizations – thereby bringing together the individual UN agencies and the collective knowledge and experience of others working in towards modernizing Jamaica’s social protection system.

To ensure systematic involvement of all stakeholders, the joint proposal will recommend the establishment of a steering committee aligned to Vision 2030 Jamaica Thematic Working Group on Social Protection. This working group chaired by the Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, also includes high level representation from the MLSS and other government agencies as well as civil society and development partner representation.

This joint proposal will serve as a catalyst to advance shock responsive social protection in Jamaica and contribute to a more gender responsive, and inclusive society where no one is left behind. The following table shows the key stakeholders that will be engaged under this joint proposal and their roles with respect to project implementation.

Stakeholders	Project implementation role
Participating PUNOs, and UNCT	<p>UNICEF will be the lead agency and will support coordination, supervision and general JP management, provide expert input, and support the overall technical assistance. UN Women and World Food Programme will lead the TA implementation on various aspects of the JP.</p> <p>All PUNOs are accountable to the UN RC for the programme implementation and the achievement of results, while ensuring a cohesive approach to maximize synergies and results.</p>
National Counterparts Planning Institute of Jamaica	<p>Under the leadership of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, and which would lead the coordination on the government side. Other national counterparts will include the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, Ministry of Gender, Culture, Entertainment and Sports. The Planning Institute of Jamaica also will ensure that this JP is included on the agendas of Vision 2030 Jamaica Thematic Working Groups that focus on social protection and disaster risk reduction</p>
Other development partners	<p>These institutions will be considered partners under this JP, provide relevant information in the implementation of this JP recognizing that their expertise, financing support for related SP programmes and projects are also vital to the overall</p>

Stakeholders	Project implementation role
	modernization and expansion of Jamaica’s social protection system.

**Contribution of United Nations Agencies**

Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator in Jamaica, the JP builds on complementarities and brings together the added value of 3 UN Agencies: UNICEF, World Food Programme and UN WOMEN.

**UNICEF**

UNICEF has been a resident agency in Jamaica since 1964. The annual programme delivery is around US\$4.5 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 the Ministry of Labour and Social Security such as:

- In 2020, the implementation of an additional cash transfer benefit to select PATH households, including children with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women to enable them to mitigate the immediate social and economic risks of Covid-19 that benefited approximately 3,500 families.
- 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 disabilities.
- Support MLSS to strengthen information management systems to integrate and coordinate social protection support to people with disabilities.
- In 2021 we commenced additional technical and financial support to the MLSS through the JCPD, ESP and PATH to examine the Socioeconomic impact of disability on children and access to safety nets.

**UN World Food Programme**

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) supports the strengthening of social protection to more swiftly and effectively respond to the needs of vulnerable populations in times of crisis. As part of its capacity strengthening programme on emergency preparedness and response, WFP supports governments to develop and adopt pioneering approaches that can be sustainably integrated within social protection systems. This includes developing targeting processes and platforms to register and manage information for social assistance and piloting transfer mechanisms. In response to COVID-19, WFP is working with Caribbean governments, including the MLSS in Jamaica, to provide technical support to scale up social assistance programmes to meet the needs of men, women, boys and girls impacted by the pandemic. These interventions also support the strengthening of social protection information management systems, vulnerability analysis, targeting, delivery mechanisms and coordination for the effective, efficient and equitable implementation of shock-responsive social protection interventions. In Jamaica, WFP conducted a [Case Study on Shock Responsive Social Protection](#), which makes recommendations to enable more timely,



effective and efficient responses to shocks the social protection sector. The study was approved by the government of Jamaica and is being used to inform measures to make social protection more adaptive and shock-responsive. WFP is contributing to a better understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 on people in Jamaica and across the Caribbean. On behalf of the CARICOM Secretariat, WFP implemented the Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey in April 2020 and June 2020. The results of the survey suggest that the impact of COVID-19 on food security and income in Jamaica has worsened since April 2020, and food consumption challenges appear to be more serious than at regional level. WFP also works closely with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and Participating States to strengthen emergency preparedness and disaster risk management.

## **UN Women**

UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. UN Women (and UNIFEM before) has been in the Caribbean for over 20 years supporting CARICOM Member States as they set and implement global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. UN Women works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: (1) Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; (2) Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; (3) All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence and (4) Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. As part of the response to the crisis UN Women has produced specific Document on [How to Incorporate Women and Gender Equality in the Management of the Crisis Response](#); [Cash Transfers and Gender Equality: Improving its effectiveness in response to the COVID-19](#) and [Gender-Transformative Hurricane Resilience During the COVID-19 Crisis](#).

UN Women proposes to lead and inform the gender component of the vulnerability analysis, based on its experience in the region working through:

- A gender analysis of recent poverty data carried out under the JP for Adaptive Social Protection for Barbados/OECS.
- Adapt the methodology used in Saint Lucia on Social Protection to the Jamaican context, and extend the scope to delve deeper into issues of unpaid care work in order to determine if/how the programme can be extended to support non-PATH beneficiaries including those affected by COVID-19.

UN Women will oversee the organizing consultative processes to ensure that the most marginalized women have voice, participation, and influence in the definition of suggested changes. Additionally, UN Women will be providing policy support targeting the reduction of gender inequalities in the social protection system of Jamaica by supporting the Government's collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data and applying a gender equality lens in interpreting such data to refine social protection policies

In Jamaica, UN Women supported the development of the National Strategic Action Plan to end Gender Based Violence and is the technical coherence lead for the EU and UN Spotlight Initiative UN Women, as a partner in the EnGenDER programme is supporting the mainstreaming of gender in the Jamaica National Adaptation Plan. UN Women is proposing to

use the results of the GABA and the abovementioned gender analysis of the poverty data to further strengthen the gender-responsiveness of the NAP.

#### Associate Agencies

Both UNFPA and UNAIDS will provide technical support and inputs to the project given their expertise and current work in Jamaica with aspects of the vulnerable populations targeted in this concept note.

#### Documents and Links

Case Study on Shock Responsive Social Protection, in Jamaica  
<https://www.wfp.org/publications/shock-responsive-social-protection-latin-america-and-caribbean-jamaica-case-study>

UN Women [How to Incorporate Women and Gender Equality in the Management of the Crisis Response](#);

UN Women [Cash Transfers and Gender Equality: Improving its effectiveness in response to the COVID-19](#)

UN Women [Gender-Transformative Hurricane Resilience During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

#### National Partners

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

The Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) is the premier 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).

##### **Planning Institute of Jamaica**

The PIOJ is the foremost planning agency of the government that seeks to initiate and coordinate the development of policies, plans and programmes for the sustainable development of Jamaica. In accordance with the National Policy and Plan of Action on International Migration and Development and its associated five-year implementation plan, the PIOJ has requested IOM's support to implement programmes to assist rural women who have been negatively impacted by migration. The National Working Group on Migration and Development refers to a multi-stakeholder group that was established with the mandate of supporting IOM and the GOJ in the process of mainstreaming migration into national development strategies. The group includes representatives from key Government MDAs including the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development and the Social Development Commission, that are instrumental in delivering social services to vulnerable Jamaicans.



## **Strategic contributions from other partners**

UNICEF, WFP and UN WOMEN will continue to collaborate and draw expertise from actors such as the WB and IDB who are engaged in Social Protection reforms. Both the IDB and the WB will be consulted as strategic partners and called upon to share expertise in consolidating the changes aimed by the JP intervention.

## **3. Programme implementation**

### **3.1 Governance and implementation arrangements**

The JP is multidimensional and requires high levels of coordination and information sharing among implementing agencies and government institutions. Effective governance arrangements include establishing a multi-agency steering committee led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, supported by the project coordinator who will ensure the dissemination of information to each agency and enables whole-of-package reporting to the steering committee. The activities of the overall project are interdependent and therefore all agencies need to be aware of delays and/or issues across initiatives to manage risks to their own initiatives.

The SC may invite additional stakeholders to participate in planning, deliberation, and monitoring roles of the Committee, i.e. representatives from parishes, academic and research institutions or private sector, as necessary.

The main tasks of the SC are to guide and oversee the implementation of the JP by fulfilling the following roles and responsibilities:

- Ensure proper communication and coordination;
- Approve annual programme work plans, review output-level results, and adjust implementation set-up;
- Review and approve periodic and annual joint programme narrative reports;
- Approve any programmatic or budgetary (revisions of less than 25 per-cent of the value of the budget) revisions within the limits of the approved programme document;
- Ensure that the Programme is proactively managing and mitigating risks; and
- Manage stakeholder relationships at the country-level.

Official collaboration between the UNICEF, WFP, UN WOMEN, MLSS and PIOJ will be formalised in an agreed governance structure, such as an exchange of letters at the Representative and Ministerial level. The roles, responsibilities and information-sharing requirements between the United Nations Agencies and the Ministries should be further clarified and agreed through the Steering Committee.

Roles and responsibilities will be clearly described and agreed on at the policy level, and also at the technical level. An approach to managing whole-of-package risks and stakeholders to ensure adequate coordination and effective delivery will be agreed on.

Governance arrangements will be periodically reviewed and adjusted to meet the demands of the initiative and resourcing requirements and ensure continued commitment.

The Planning Institute of Jamaica and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security will be lead government entities. The lead UN organization for the Joint Program is UNICEF, who will be responsible for coordination of programmatic activities and narrative reporting. UNICEF will coordinate and compile annual work plans and narrative reports, coordinate monitoring of annual targets, calls and reports on Steering Committee meetings, facilitates audits and evaluation, and reports back to the Steering Committee; This will be done through the establishment of a programme coordination position under the supervision of UNICEF (lead agency). The Programme coordinator will report to the Steering committee and under its guidance will ensure that the project planning, review, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and coordination among the various partners is effective and timely.

The UN Agencies which include UNICEF, WFP, and UN WOMEN will lead the implementation of specific components of the programme. The agencies have their own technical and administrative capacity to assume the responsibility for mobilizing and effectively applying the required inputs in order to reach the expected outputs. The PUNOs will assume overall management responsibility and accountability for their specific components of the programme and must follow all policies and procedures established for its own operations. UN agencies will also be responsible for (i) providing project assurance services (ii) the recruitment of staff where applicable (iii) overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets and (iv) ensuring that all activities including procurement and financial services are carried out in strict compliance with organization and donor procedures.

The UN Resident Coordinator Office played a key role in the selection of the area of the current joint programme in consultation with the government counterparts. In the implementation of the JP, the UN RC will provide leadership and oversight and ensure an harmonious relation among the parties and that progress on the joint programme is regularly reported to the UN Country Team. The project will strengthen the position of UN delivering as one with the collaboration of three resident UN Agencies with the same aim and goal on accelerating SDG progress through better and more efficient spending.

The programme will be managed under the supervision of a Programme coordinator that will ensure the day-to-day management and coordination of the programme and communication with Steering Committee, Resident Coordinator Office and the SDG fund. The coordinator will work closely with the participating UN Agencies to provide support to their implementation and monitor progress.

A joint programme document will be developed and signed off by the Resident Coordinator and the Government of Jamaica. The programme that will include a common detailed workplan agreed by all participating UN agencies and government counterpart. Each agency will account for the income received to fund its programme component in accordance with its financial regulations and rules. Each UN organization will be responsible for auditing its own contribution to the programme as part of its existing regulation and rules.

### **3.2 Monitoring, reporting, and evaluation**

Reporting on the Joint SDG Fund will be results-oriented, and evidence based. Each PUNO will provide the Convening/Lead Agent with the following narrative reports prepared in accordance with instructions and templates developed by the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat:

- *Annual narrative progress reports*, to be provided no later than one (1) month (31 January) after the end of the calendar year, and must include the result matrix, updated risk log, and anticipated expenditures and results for the next 12-month funding period;
- *Final consolidated narrative report*, after the completion of the joint programme, to be provided no later than two (2) months after the operational closure of the activities of the joint programme.

UNICEF, as the Convening/Lead Agency will compile the narrative reports of PUNOs and submit a consolidated report to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat, through the Resident Coordinator.

The Resident Coordinator will be required to monitor the implementation of the joint programme, with the involvement of Joint SDG Fund Secretariat to which it must submit data and information when requested. As a minimum, joint programmes will prepare, and submit to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat, 6-month monitoring updates. Additional insights (such as policy papers, value for money analysis, case studies, infographics, blogs) might need to be provided, per request of the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat. The joint programme will adequately allocate resources for monitoring and evaluation in the budget.

Data for all indicators of the results framework will be shared with the Fund Secretariat on a regular basis, in order to allow the Fund Secretariat to aggregate results at the global level and integrate findings into reporting on progress of the Joint SDG Fund.

PUNOs will be required to include information on complementary funding received from other sources (both UN cost sharing, and external sources of funding) for the activities supported by the Fund, including in kind contributions and/or South-South Cooperation initiatives, in the reporting done throughout the year.

PUNOs at Headquarters level shall provide the Administrative Agent with the following statements and reports prepared in accordance with its accounting and reporting procedures, consolidate the financial reports, as follows:

- Annual financial reports as of 31st December each year with respect to the funds disbursed to it from the Joint SDG Fund Account, to be provided no later than four months after the end of the applicable reporting period; and
- A final financial report, after the completion of the activities financed by the Joint SDG Fund and including the final year of the activities, to be provided no later than 30 April of the year following the operational closing of the project activities.

In addition, regular updates on financial delivery might need to be provided, per request of the Fund Secretariat.

After completion of a joint programmes, a final, *independent and gender-responsive*<sup>27</sup> *evaluation* will be organized by the Resident Coordinator. The cost needs to be budgeted, and

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<sup>27</sup> [How to manage a gender responsive evaluation, Evaluation handbook](#), UN Women, 2015

in case there are no remaining funds at the end of the joint programme, it will be the responsibility of PUNOs to pay for the final, independent evaluation from their own resources.

The programme will be subject to a joint final independent evaluation with an established arrangement for managing the joint evaluation. The final evaluation will be managed jointly by the PUNOs as per established process for independent evaluations, including use of a joint evaluation steering group and dedicated evaluation managers not involved in the implementation of the joint programme. The evaluations will follow the United Nations Evaluation Group's (UNEG) Norms and Standards for Evaluation in the UN System, using the guidance on Joint Evaluation and relevant UNDG guidance on evaluations. The management and implementation of the joint evaluation will have due regard to the evaluation policies of the PUNOs to ensure the requirements of those policies are met; and with use of appropriate guidance from PUNOs on joint evaluation. The evaluation process will be participative and will involve all relevant programme's stakeholders and partners. Evaluation results will be disseminated amongst governments, donors, academic institutions and stakeholders of civil society (including workers' and employers' organizations) and a joint management response will be produced upon completion of the evaluation process to be made publicly available on the evaluation platforms or similar of the PUNOs and through the UNEG database.

### **3.3 Accountability, financial management, and public disclosure**

The Joint Programme will be using a pass-through fund management modality where UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office will act as the Administrative Agent (AA) under which the funds will be channelled for the Joint Programme through the AA. Each Participating UN Organization receiving funds through the pass-through has signed a standard Memorandum of Understanding with the AA.

Each Participating UN Organization (PUNO) shall assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent of the Joint SDG Fund (Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office). Such funds will be administered by each UN Agency, Fund, and Programme in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures. Each PUNO shall establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent.

Indirect costs of the Participating Organizations recovered through programme support costs will be 7%. All other costs incurred by each PUNO in carrying out the activities for which it is responsible under the Fund will be recovered as direct costs.

Funding by the Joint SDG Fund will be provided on annual basis, upon successful performance of the joint programme.

Procedures on financial transfers, extensions, financial and operational closure, and related administrative issues are stipulated in the Operational Guidance of the Joint SDG Fund.

PUNOs and partners must comply with Joint SDG Fund brand guidelines, which includes information on donor visibility requirements.

Each PUNO will take appropriate measures to publicize the Joint SDG Fund and give due credit to the other PUNOs. All related publicity material, official notices, reports and publications, provided to the press or Fund beneficiaries, will acknowledge the role of the host Government, donors, PUNOs, the Administrative Agent, and any other relevant entities. In particular, the Administrative Agent will include and ensure due recognition of the role of each Participating Organization and partners in all external communications related to the Joint SDG Fund.

### **3.4 Legal context**

The agreements between each PUNO and the Government of Jamaica are:

Agency name: UNICEF

Agreement title: Standard Basic Cooperation Agreement between UNICEF and the Government of Jamaica

Agreement date: 15 February 1995

Agency name: World Food Programme

Agreement title: Basic agreement between the Government of the Jamaica and the UN FAO World Food Programme concerning assistance from the World Food programme

Agreement date: 13 September 1968

Agency name: UN Women (UN Women)

Agreement title: Standard Basic Agreement between UNDP and the Government of Barbados extended to UN Women

Agreement date: Signed on 24 May 2019

## ANNEXES

### Annex 1. List of related initiatives

Name of initiative/project	Key expected results	Links to the joint programme	Lead organization	Other partners	Budget and funding source	Contract person
Safeguarding and Protecting the Most Vulnerable: Enhancing Jamaica's Shock Responsive Social Protection Mechanisms in support of vulnerable Groups including children.	Providing technical support to develop innovation on the disaster programmes and social development/protection programmes of the Government	This JP aimed at increasing the shock responsiveness of Jamaica's social protection system	UNICEF	FAO/MLSS/MOFPS	\$600,000 (SDG Fund)	Vicente Teran, vteran@unicef.org
Study on Socio-economic impact of disability on children and access to safety nets	Evidence-based data to inform the design and development of policies, programmes and services for children with a disability and inform recommendations for including/adjusting disability considerations in the (re)design of social programmes, the implementation of mainstream safety nets and the reduction of barriers that impede access to these services	This JP aims to examine electronic payment delivery mechanism for PwD's ensuring no one is left behind	UNICEF	JCPD	\$40,000	Vicente Teran, vteran@unicef.org

Name of initiative/project	Key expected results	Links to the joint programme	Lead organization	Other partners	Budget and funding source	Contract person
Delivery of food assistance through social protection systems in response to COVID-19	Provision of food aid to 40,000 people, using digital data collection and digital processes to confirm delivery.	The programme aimed at providing food assistance during COVID-19	WFP	-	1,037,344	Regis Chapman regis.chapman@wfp.org
National research and training on shock-responsive social protection	Regional training on shock-responsive social protection delivered in multiple countries in the Caribbean; case study on shock-responsive social protection in Jamaica	The programme aims to increase the shock responsiveness of Jamaica's social protection system	WFP	-	200,000	Sarah Bailey sarah.bailey@wfp.org



## Annex 2. Overall Results Framework

### 2.1. Targets for Joint SDG Fund Results Framework

**Joint SDG Fund Outcome 1:** Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

Indicators	Targets	
	2022	2023
1.1: # of integrated multi-sectoral policies that have accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope <sup>28</sup>	1	1
1.2: # of integrated multi-sectoral policies that have accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale <sup>29</sup>	1	1

**Joint SDG Fund Output 3:** Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented

Indicators	Targets	
	2022	2023
3.1: # of innovative solutions that were tested <sup>30</sup> (disaggregated by % successful- unsuccessful)	2	2
3.2: # of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead	2	2
3.3: # and share of countries where national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators has been strengthened	1	1

#### Joint SDG Fund Operational Performance Indicators

- Level of coherence of UN in implementing programme country<sup>34</sup>
- Reduced transaction costs for the participating UN agencies in interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities compared to other joint programmes in the country in question
- Annual % of financial delivery
- Joint programme operationally closed within original end date
- Joint programme financially closed 18 months after their operational closure
- Joint programme facilitated engagement with diverse stakeholders (e.g. parliamentarians, civil society, IFIs, bilateral/multilateral actor, private sector).
- Joint programme included addressing inequalities and the principle of “Leaving No One Behind”.
- Joint programme featured gender results at the outcome level.

- Joint programme undertook or draw upon relevant human rights analysis, and have developed or implemented a strategy to address human rights issues.
- Joint programme planned for and can demonstrate positive results/effects for youth.
- Joint programme considered the needs of persons with disabilities.
- Joint programme made use of risk analysis in programme planning.
- Joint programme conducted do-no-harm / due diligence and were designed to take into consideration opportunities in the areas of the environment and climate change.

## 2.2. Joint programme Results framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	2022 Target	2023 Target	Means of Verification	Responsible partner
<b>Outcome 1 - People in the Caribbean equitably access and utilize universal, quality and shock-responsive, social protection, education, health and care services</b>					
# of households benefiting from programmes that are strengthened to be more shock-responsive (disaggregated by female/male-led household, and people with disabilities) (cumulative target)	0	10,000	25,000 (cumulative target)	Programme Evaluation	Programme coordinator, PUNOs MLSS
# of tools developed by the Joint Programme that are used in national SP policies or programmes	0	1	5	Programme Evaluation	Programme coordinator, PUNOs
<b>Output 1.1 Enhanced payment processes within Jamaica’s social protection system which are more efficient, effective and safe and places emphasis on accessibility</b>					
# number of new payment mechanisms piloted	0	1	0	Joint Programme records	WFP
# of protocols for rapid disbursement of grants developed and adopted by MLSS	0	1	1	Joint Programme records	WFP, UNICEF Programme coordinator

**Output 1.2 Strengthened institutional capacity for evidence-based emergency expansion of social protection programmes based on tailored protocols and fast identification of people facing acute/socio-economic and environmental impacts**

Number of tools, protocols and manuals on emergency SP expansion developed and tested by JP	0	2	2	Joint Programme records	WFP, UNICEF
Number of government staff trained in new tools (disaggregated by sex)	0	10	25	Joint Programme records	WFP, UNICEF

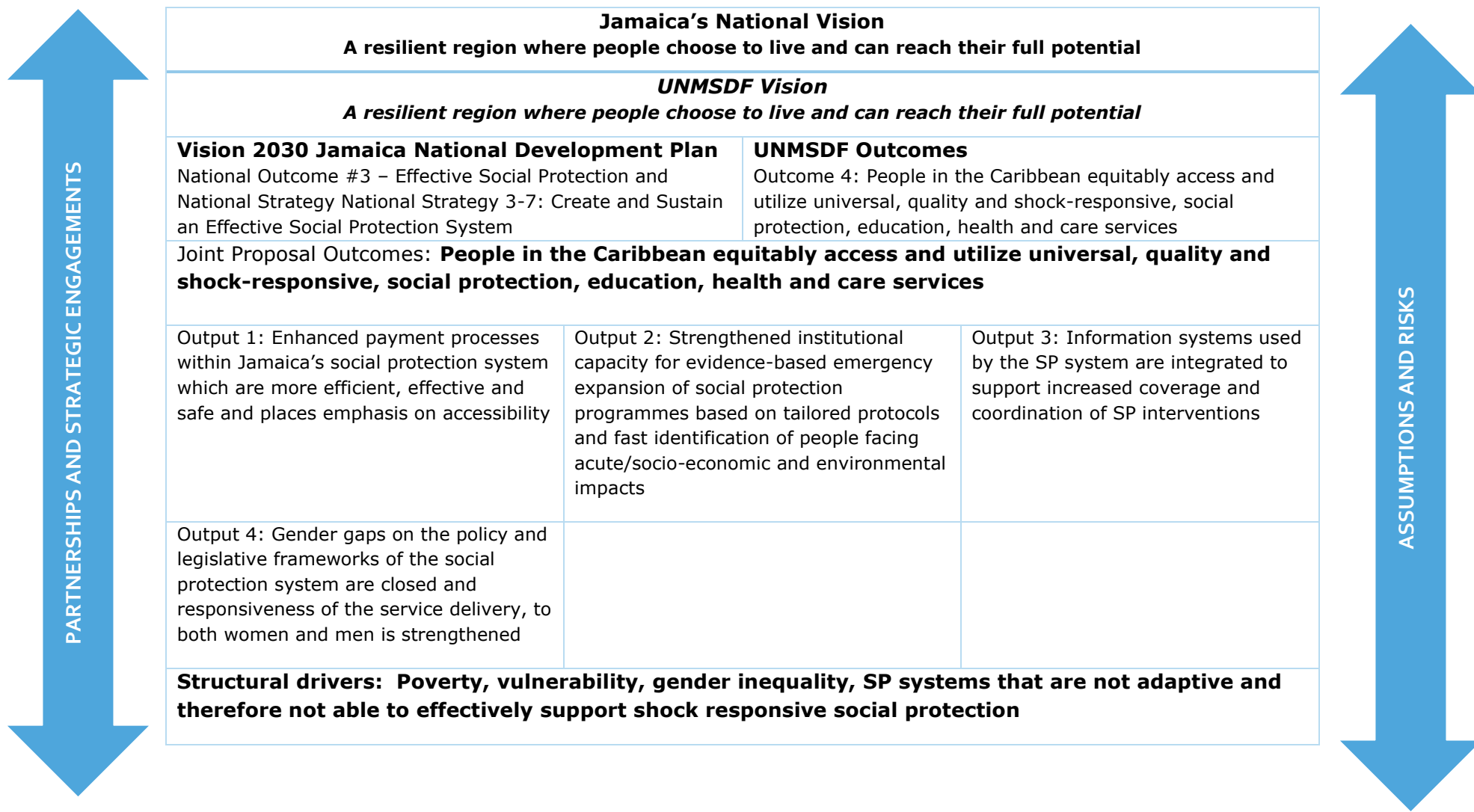
**Output 1.3- Current information systems used by SP system are integrated to support an increased coverage and coordination of SP interventions**

# of SP information systems assessed	0	5 (MLSS PATH, JCPD, MLGRD, MCGES, MFPS)	0	JP records, JP Evaluation	UNICEF
% of recommendations from information systems assessment implemented	0	0	80% of recommendations implemented	JP records, JP Evaluation	UNICEF
# of Protocols and SoPS for the establishment of a Social Registry are developed and validated by stakeholders.	0	0	8	JP records, JP Evaluation	UNICEF

**Output 1.4- -Gender gaps on the policy and legislative frameworks of the social protection are closed and responsiveness of the service delivery, to both women and men is strengthened.**

Gender gap analysis of the SP completed and validated	Not completed	Gender Gap analysis completed	Gender gap analysis validated	JP records, JP Evaluation	UN Women
Gender beneficiary assessment completed and validated	Not completed	GABA initiated	GABA Validated	JP records, JP Evaluation	UN Women
# of policy/ programme changes following Gender Gap analysis and gender beneficiary assessment recommendations implemented	0 policy/programme changes	0	1	JP records, JP Evaluation	UN Women

### Annex 3. Theory of Change graphic



## Annex 4. Gender marker matrix

<b>Indicator</b>		<b>Score</b>	<b>Findings and Explanation</b>	<b>Evidence or Means of Verification</b>
<i>N°</i>	<i>Formulation</i>			
1.1	Context analysis integrate gender analysis	3	The proposed adaptive shock responsive social protection includes significant focus on women and particularly female-headed households and women and girls in quintiles 1 and 2	Project Results Matrix
1.2	Gender Equality mainstreamed in proposed outputs	2	Enhancing data disaggregation and analysis to fill existing data/information gaps (e.g. gender, disability, poverty, urban/rural). The programme has one gender target output with a clear link to SDG 5	Project Results Matrix
1.3	Programme output indicators measure changes on gender equality	1	Some outputs will support gender equality but none will measure changes on gender equality	
2.1	PUNO collaborate and engage with Government on gender equality and the empowerment of women	3	PUNO has engaged the MLSS and its agency the JCPD on issues affecting women and children including pregnant and lactating women, female-headed households, women living in rural areas, families in quintiles 1 and 2. UN Women engaged the national gender machinery; they were invited to the consultation and given the opportunity to review the proposal. Through the Gender Gap analysis and the Gender Aware Beneficiary Assessment, the programme will substantively strengthen Government participation and engagement in gender related SDGs localization and/or implementation.	Meeting Minutes
2.2	PUNO collaborate and engages with women's/gender equality CSOs	1	PUNOs will engaged with gender-focused CSOs during the implementation of the programme.	
3.1	Program proposes a gender-responsive budget	2	At least 30 per cent of the budget is dedicated to advancing gender equality	Project Budget
<b>Total scoring</b>		<b>12</b>		

## Annex 5. Budget and Work Plan

### 5.1 Budget per UNSDG categories

UNDG BUDGET CATEGORIES	UNICEF		UNWOMEN		WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME		TOTAL			
	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)		
1. Staff and other personnel	80,000	146,100	70,000	22,000	41,050	270,000	191,050	438,100		
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	35,000									35,000
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)							10,005			10,005
4. Contractual services	190,000				70,000		88,503			384,503
5. Travel							26,572			26,572
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts							40,000			40,000
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	9,500						9,879			19,379
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>	<b>314,500</b>				<b>140,000</b>				<b>216,009</b>	
8. Indirect Support Costs (Max. 7%)	22,015		9,800		14,041		45,856			
<b>TOTAL Costs</b>	<b>336,515</b>	<b>146,100</b>	<b>149,800</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>230,050</b>	<b>270,000</b>	<b>716,365</b>	<b>438,100</b>		
<b>1st year</b>	<b>168,258</b>		<b>74,900</b>		<b>115,025</b>		<b>358,182.5</b>			
<b>2nd year</b>	<b>168,258</b>		<b>74,900</b>		<b>115,025</b>		<b>358,182.5</b>			

## 5.2 Budget per SDG targets

SDG 1	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	48%	346,565
	1.5 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance	10%	75,000
	1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions	8%	60,000
SDG 5	5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	21%	149,800
SDG 10	10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality	7%	50,000
SDG 13	13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	5%	35,000
TOTAL		100	716,365



### 5.3 Work Plan

Output	Annual target/s		List of activities	Time frame								PLANNED BUDGET				PUNO/s involved	Implementing partner/s involved		
	2022	2023		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Overall budget description	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contributions (USD)	Total Cost (USD)				
<b>Output 1 Enhanced payment processes within Jamaica's social protection system which are more efficient, effective and safe and places emphasis on accessibility</b>	Payment modality assessment/testing complete		Examine and implement electronic delivery mechanism for SP and continue to test new payment modalities											Support MLSS in examining electronic delivery mechanisms for social protection programme, including staff time for technical support, travel and equipment.	50,000	75,000	125,000	WFP, UNICEF	MLSS
		Protocols prepared for SRSP	Establish processes/protocols for the rapid disbursement of funds for shock-responsive social protection											Support the MLSS in developing protocols for rapid fund disbursement during emergencies in line with shock-responsive social protection processes including staff time for technical support and travel.	50,000	75,000	125,000	WFP	MLSS
	Payment modality Assessment for PWD completed	Protocols prepared for payments to PwD's and piloted	Assessment of effectiveness of current payment modalities for PWD and establishment of new protocols to increase the collection of benefits by families with people with disability.												Consultancy to conduct assessment and the development of protocols.	33,000	10,000	43,000	UNICEF
<b>Output 2- Strengthened institutional capacity for evidence-based emergency expansion of social protection programmes based on tailored protocols and fast identification of people facing acute/socio-economic and environmental impacts</b>	Develop a customized algorithm and targeting criteria to be used in emergencies	# of Gov staff trained on the use of the new tools	Enhance targeting criteria by developing an adapted algorithm to proxy household welfare or need during emergencies to quickly identify people in need to expand social programmes based on tailored protocols											Develop algorithm to proxy household welfare or needs during emergencies based on tailored protocols	36,500	5,000	41,500	UNICEF, WFP	MLSS, PIOJ
	Instrument to assess value developed		Development of an instrument to assess the value of the cash transfers adapted to the needs of the households/individuals targeted through social protection programmes.											Support consultation and the engagement of a consultant to develop instrument to assess the value of the cash transfers, especially for PWD's	35,000		35,000	UNICEF	MLSS, PIOJ
	vulnerability assessment complete		Conduct a gender-sensitive vulnerability poverty and livelihoods analysis to inform planning of responses through social protection including households/ individuals targeted through social protection programmes											Technical assistance to develop tools for a vulnerability analysis including capacity building to help inform registration and targeting for future social protection programmes including staff time for technical support, travel, and enumeration costs.	65,000	30,000	95,000	WFP, UNICEF	MLSS
		Protocols prepared for SRSP	Develop SOP and protocols to expand social assistance programmes to support people affected by shocks											Support the government in developing SOPs and protocols to help expand programmes during shocks and disasters including staff time for technical assistance and travel	50,000	25,000	75,000	WFP, UNICEF	MLSS
<b>Output 3: Information systems used by SP system are integrated to support an increased coverage and coordination of SP interventions</b>	Information system assessment concluded		Conduct an assessment of existing information systems that allows for determining vulnerability and exposure to shocks and provide technical assistance for information systems integration to support increased coverage and coordination of SP interventions during emergencies/shocks											Technical Assistance to conduct an assessment of existing information systems and preparation of a System Requirements Document	50,000	7,500	57,500	UNICEF	MLSS, JCPD, MLGCD
			Supporting the digitization of paper-based forms and processes to strengthen social protection programmes by developing targeting and registration tools in the event of a shock.											Support the government in moving from paper-based systems in social protection programmes to digital tools		65,000	65,000	WFP, UNICEF	MLSS, JCPD, MLGCD
		Protocols and SOPs for establishing Social Registry developed and validated	Provide Technical assistance to MLSS to develop protocols and SOPs for establishing a Social Registry adapted to Jamaica's needs											Organise technical consultations and consultancy to develop Standard Operating Procedures and preparation of Protocols to support the establishment of a Social Registry led by MLSS.	50,000	10,000	60,000	UNICEF	MLSS, JCPD, MLGCD

<b>Output 4 - Gender gaps on the policy and legislative frameworks of the social protection system are closed and responsiveness of the service delivery, to both women and men is strengthened.</b>	Gender gap analysis of policy and legislative frameworks complete		Undertake a gender gap analysis of the policy and legislative frameworks of the SP system to ensure responsiveness to narrowing inequalities between women and men										Consultancy to undertake gender gap analysis of policy and legislative framework. Technical capacity to oversee and assist analysis.	53,000	5,000	<b>58,000</b>	UNWOMEN	MLSS- PATH
	Expert consultant onboarded and field research in progress	Gender aware beneficiary assessment completed and reviewed by government	Undertake a gender aware beneficiary assessment of the PATH to assess and strengthen the responsiveness to both women and men.										Consultancy to undertake gender aware beneficiary assessment including research assistants to support desk review, key informant interviews and focus group discussions. Technical capacity to oversee consultancy, shape methodological approach and assist with final analysis.	65,500	5,000	<b>70,500</b>		
	Initial findings from gender gap analysis and gender aware beneficiary assessment inform the assessment	Assessment complete. Draft framework to inform package of services developed	Analyse gender-related barriers in beneficiaries' interaction with the programme to determine the differentials that might exist between women and men										Consultancy and technical assistance to use findings of gender aware beneficiary assessment and gender gap analysis to develop and undertake assessment. Capacity to develop framework that will inform package of services to be developed.	11,500		<b>11,500</b>		

Joint programme management		List of activities	Time frame								PLANNED BUDGET				PUNO/s involved	Implementing partner/s involved				
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Overall budget description	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contributions (USD)	Total Cost (USD)						
<b>Programme Support</b>		Programme management staff											Project Coordinator-100% - 22 months	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	<b>85,000</b>	UNICEF			
														Office Equipment for programme coordinator ICT @ \$3000 Furniture \$500 telephone \$100	\$ -	\$ 3,600.00	<b>3,600</b>	UNICEF		
															Finance /Administrative Assistant (5%) * 2 years	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	<b>10,000</b>	UNICEF	
															Communication Officer (UNICEF) (5%)-2 years	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	<b>15,000</b>	UNICEF	
		Independent Gender-responsive evaluation												Consultancy to conduct an independent evaluation	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	<b>30,000</b>	UNICEF		
		Staff and personnel -Technical Assistance													Social Policy Officer (10%) -UNICEF- 2 years		\$ 30,000.00	<b>30,000</b>	UNICEF	
															Deputy Representative P4-UNICEF (5%)-2 years	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	<b>25,000</b>	UNICEF	
															M&E Specialist (UNICEF) (5%)-2 years	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	<b>15,000</b>	UNICEF	
													Communication Officer (UNICEF) (5%)-2 years	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	<b>15,000</b>	UNICEF			

## Annex 6. Risk Management Plan

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Risk Level:</b> (Likelihood x Impact)	<b>Likelihood:</b> Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	<b>Impact:</b> Essential - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	<b>Mitigating measures</b>	<b>Responsible Org./Person</b>
<b>Contextual risks</b>					
Natural or Manmade (Anthropogenic Risks) – tropical cyclones, excess rainfall, etc	High	3	4	The UNCT will continue to advocate for ensuring budget allocation to support disaster risk reduction and transfer activities and also to investment in the SRSP. Attention of the JP could be diverted towards immediate humanitarian relief. The UNCT also sits on various thematic working groups (TWGs) under Vision 2030 Jamaica such as the Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change TWG and the Social Protection TWG and can add its voice and strategic direction to policy issues. In the event of a major natural disaster, resources under the JP can be diverted to support humanitarian and social protection needs.	Resident Coordinator, + PUNOs HoA
Environmental and Social Sustainability Issues, including the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation	Medium	4	3	The UNCT continues to ensure that its country programmes take into account issues related to a changing climate and supports programmes and projects that are designed to advance environmental sustainability. The UNCT also sits on various thematic working groups (TWGs) under Vision 2030 Jamaica such as the Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change TWG and the Environment and Planning TWG and is able to add its voice and strategic direction to policy issues	Resident Coordinator, PUNOs HoA
Ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may threaten programmatic progress	Medium	3	4	Project implementation will start in 2022, and due to Jamaica’s outlook on vaccination, it is anticipated that there	PUNOs HoA

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Risk Level:</b> (Likelihood x Impact)	<b>Likelihood:</b> Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	<b>Impact:</b> Essential - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	<b>Mitigating measures</b>	<b>Responsible Org./Person</b>
				may be reduction in cases and lessons learned can be applied. but what about mitigation measures	
<b>Programmatic risks</b>					
Inadequate government support and engagement– as a result of limited capacity.	Medium	2	5	The GOJ was key in the development of the JP and in helping to articulate the outcomes and outputs contained herein. The UNCT and the GOJ have a strong working relationship and mutual respect. The UNCT has been involved over the years on the request of the GOJ in various matters related to development planning, including Vision 2030 Jamaica. Notwithstanding, the GOJ has limited capacity and therefore will need to be supported by an implementation committee such as one aligned to Vision 2030 Jamaica such as the TWG on Social Protection to ensure progress is being made and on track and ensure that this project is reviewed at quarterly meetings of the TWG. This can be resolved by monitoring project activities on a quarterly basis and the UN team providing necessary support where necessary.	PUNOs HoA
Not meeting deliverables timelines due to slow implementation	Medium	3	3	This can occur if the pandemic continues or worsens due to new variants etc. Limited capacity within GOJ can contribute to missing timelines. This can be resolved by monitoring project activities on a quarterly basis and the UN team providing necessary support where necessary.	Programme coordinator
<b>Institutional risks</b>					
Capacity constraints of GOJ	Medium	3	3	Competing priorities of GOJ staff with limited resources can have impacts on the	Joint Programme

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Risk Level:</b> (Likelihood x Impact)	<b>Likelihood:</b> Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	<b>Impact:</b> Essential - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	<b>Mitigating measures</b>	<b>Responsible Org./Person</b>
				overall progress of JP. This could be mitigated by reporting, monitoring and evaluation on at least a quarterly basis.	technical group
<b>Fiduciary risks</b>					
Misuse or misappropriation of JP funds – ineligible expenditures (use of funds for activities outside of the agreed work plan and budget), fraud, corruption, or theft within UNCT.	Low	1	4	This will be mitigated by applying UN operational principles and procurement guidelines	PUNOs HoA

## 6.2 Learning and Sharing Plan

The responsibility for the implementation of the Learning and Sharing Plan will be under the Joint Programme Focal Point. The Learning Plan will be informed by best practices and lessons learned generated by PUNOs and captured as part of monitoring and reporting requirements of the joint programme. Because the joint proposal is innovative and is designed to modernize the social protection systems in Jamaica, much of the activities to be undertaken will lend themselves to the generation of learning products. For example, the various assessments and studies to be undertaken are expected to generate new knowledge and information to inform related activities under the joint programme. Whilst there are several pieces of information, policy documents and literature on social protection, this joint programme will enhance and make available new information related specifically to shock responsive social protection and the approaches for adapting existing social protection systems to be shock responsive.

The nature of the activities under the joint proposal will allow for the inclusion of stakeholder participation and participatory processes, thereby creating the environment to enhance knowledge sharing and learning amongst key stakeholders.

The learning plan will ensure that information is made available to key stakeholders around several areas relating to shock responsive social protection, including digital payment modalities, gender-sensitive vulnerability, poverty and livelihoods analyses, digitization of paper-based forms and processes in SP, information systems integration to support increased coverage and coordination of SP interventions; protocols and SoPs for establishing a Social Registry, gender aware beneficiary assessment, and gender-related barriers in beneficiaries' interaction with the programme among others.

Through the joint programme reporting and monitoring, opportunities will be provided to share lessons, issues, challenges and best practices with other countries in the region and also to learn from them through other similar programmes being implemented. Accordingly, the focal point will use the monitoring and reporting tools to document best practices and lessons learned and to identify opportunities either through the UN system, or by the Government of Jamaica to share with other countries through mediums such as communities of practice, Vision 2030 Jamaica Thematic Working Groups, local and regional conferences, and the National Social Protection Committee. Best Practices and Lessons Learned also will be documented through regular policy briefs prepared by the Planning Institute of Jamaica through its National Social Protection Committee Policy Briefs Series. The main objective of the learning plan will therefore be to cultivate a culture of learning around shock responsive social protection and to share lessons learned among government officials in Jamaica as well as with other Caribbean countries, towards ensuring that investments locally and regionally in strengthening social protection systems are able to benefit from this joint programme's experience.

Objectives	Indicators	Means of Verification
Cultivate a culture of learning within government officials that support development in social protection	#of persons attending learning events and sessions	Meeting/event reports and sign in sheets

Objectives	Indicators	Means of Verification
Document and share lessons learned from the Programme to inform similar efforts in the Caribbean	# knowledge products documenting lessons learned  # of international events that discuss the programme.	Policy briefs prepared  # of international forums
Consolidate existing research, data and other knowledge products into a central location for access by all partners	#of knowledge products uploaded to the knowledge portal	Online Portal page list of knowledge products uploaded  Page statistics.



## 6.3 Joint SDG Fund Communications Plan

### BACKGROUND

Jamaica's Joint Programme (JP) proposal aims to ensure that Jamaica's social protection system becomes a key enabler of advancing, unlocking and achieving the SDGs, and support the country's efforts to adhere to the provisions of international human rights treaties that it is signatory. The project is designed to catapult Jamaica's advancement toward the achievement of critical developmental milestones through the realization of key SDG targets (1- no Poverty; 2- Zero Hunger; 5- Gender Equality; 10- Reduced Inequalities; and 13- Climate Action) which also aligns with the country's national development plan – Vision 2030.

Informed by recent assessments and studies conducted by the WFP and Oxford Policy Management, with support and strategic inputs from Government of Jamaica advancing the need to strengthen shock-responsive social protection in Jamaica, the JP seeks to modernize the Social Protection System by strengthening its shock and gender responsiveness. This will be key to accelerating efforts to end poverty and vulnerability, reducing people's and communities' exposure to risks, recognizing the multi-hazard environment that citizens are exposed to.

The proposed programme will focus on four broad outputs: *enhancing payment processes; providing institutional strengthening of the social protection system in emergencies; system integration to enhance coordination and coverage; and capacity development to under-take gender-gap analysis*. The project will be implemented primarily through the Ministry of Labour and Social Security in consultation with other stakeholders. Technical support will be provided by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) and coordination of activities by UN agencies UNICEF, World Food Programme (WFP) and UN Women.

### COMMUNICATION GOALS

The communication plan is designed to:

1. **Expand awareness** of the SDG JP – to improve knowledge about the JP's expected outcomes and their significance to national development.
2. **Convey positive impact** of the JP on vulnerable populations – to humanize the efforts of the JP and make them more relatable.
3. **Influence change of attitude** toward the most disadvantaged in Jamaica, especially PwD's and be a catalyst for leaving no one behind.
4. **Generate interest among donors** for potential financing – to attract key donors for follow-up possibilities.

### KEY AUDIENCES

- International development partners and donor community
- Public sector technocrats
- Private sector stakeholders

### ACTIVITIES

1. Host a project launch and prepare Joint Media Release with GOJ.

2. Develop two 'still image features' highlighting benefits of a modern social protection system to the Jamaican people, especially women and children in the most vulnerable conditions.
3. Create graphic material with a series of relatable, real-life scenarios and simple language to illustrate the human impact of the JP's expected outcomes (especially for PwD's).
4. Develop a multimedia – education, information and communications (EIC)
5. Facilitate a donors/sponsor's event to attract key donors for follow-up possibilities.

## BRANDING GUIDELINES

The following handles and hashtags will be used in social media posts – in addition to online activations among the respective UN agencies, from their online platforms.

- #JointSDGFund
- #LeaveNoOneBehind
- #SDGFinancing
- @JointSDGFund

Project statement [or variation] to be added to each press or public facing write up, presentation, speech or briefing:

The SDG Financing Joint Programme in Jamaica is designed to accelerate Jamaica's advancement toward the achievement of critical developmental milestones through the realization of key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets which also align with Jamaica's Vision 2030 - the country's national development plan. The Programme aims to modernize the Social Protection Systems in Jamaica, Towards an Adaptive, Shock Responsive, Inclusive System in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security. The value of the investment builds on previous activities which now exceed US \$1.500,000M by the United Nations in Jamaica through UNICEF, WFP and UNWOMEN.

## CHALLENGES

- Project implementation: potential delays/slow implementation rate
- Environmental challenges: natural disasters; ongoing COVID-19 pandemic
- Inter-agency collaboration: limited human capacity; competing priorities
- Messaging: difficult to make SDGs relatable; timing affects how audiences will receive
- Budget: limited budget allocation for communication activities
- 

## EXPECTED RESULTS (with Data Set for Tracking)

- Increased public awareness of the JP's efforts, with over 5,500 persons reached with information on improvements in social services, especially for poor and vulnerable populations.
  - Social media and traditional media reach data
- At least ten potential donors briefed about the JP and engaged in considering follow-up financing.
  - Attendance register and follow up email of programme information note

- One packet of culturally relevant EIC materials developed aimed at improving awareness and knowledge of social services and enhancements supported through the JP

**BUDGET**

#	Activity	Time (Agency Fund Manager)	Modality	Cost USD	Funding Source
1	Graphic materials / Infographic illustrating the human impact & expected outcomes	UNICEF	Consultant	\$1500	UNICEF
2	Launch and Press Release	UNICEF	Hybrid press event based at small hotel conference room (tbc)	\$2500	UNICEF
5	Craft human interest stories about the impact of the JP.	UNICEF	<i>Stories developed internally with opportunities for photography and digital dissemination</i>	\$300	UNICEF
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$4,300</b>	



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August 25, 2021

Dr Gary Conille  
UN Resident Coordinator  
Office of the UN Resident Coordinator  
1-3 Lady Musgrave Road  
Kingston 5

Dear Dr Conille


**Re : Modernizing Social Protection System in Jamaica**

The Planning Institute of Jamaica confirms that the abovementioned proposal is in accordance with the country's national development priorities as outlined in Vision 2030 Jamaica: National Development Plan, as well as Jamaica's Roadmap for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Planning Institute of Jamaica is therefore pleased to endorse the proposal given its potential to advance the SDGs in Jamaica.

The Government of Jamaica looks forward to a positive outcome of this submission and stands ready to work with the UN and other Partners for the success of the project.

Yours sincerely



Barbara Scott  
For Director General