Economic and Social Council

United Nations Children's Fund
Executive Board
First regular session 2022
8–11 February 2022
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Country programme document

Jamaica

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Jamaica is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $4,250,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $15,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2022 to 2026.

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* E/ICEF/2022/1.

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Programme rationale

1.   Jamaica is categorized as a Caribbean small island developing State. The country has a population of 2,726,000, of which 27.3 per cent (745,491) are children. Gross national income per capita is $5,250 (2019).

2.   Despite its status as an upper-middle-income country, Jamaica continues to experience major economic, social and national security challenges, pressures on its natural environment, and the increasing impacts of climate change, which also affect child survival and development. Economically, the country is grappling with limited economic growth, high public debt and exposure to external shocks.

3.   Jamaica has seen a steady reduction of the levels of poverty over the last decade. Nevertheless, one out of six children was living in poverty as recently as 2018. Child poverty is exacerbated by social inequities related to access to quality education and health services as well as to high levels of violence at home and in communities. These factors have helped to create multiple deprivations for children. The economic crisis caused by COVID-19 is also having an impact on child poverty, as nearly 80 per cent of households with children saw their income reduced.

4.   Violence is one of the most critical challenges facing Jamaica. The country has the second-highest homicide rate in Latin America and the Caribbean: 49 deaths per 100,000 people (2019). Eighty per cent of homicides are classified as gang-related, and the main perpetrators and victims of homicide are young males from 15 to 24 years of age. To address prevailing violence, Jamaica must address the issues of normalization of violence in society, low education attainment, youth unemployment and social exclusion, as well as the law enforcement capacity needs.

5.   Jamaicans are exposed to violence from a very early age. By far the most common form of violence experienced by children is violent discipline at home by parents and caregivers, which is not legally prohibited and affects 85 per cent of children.

6.   High rates of violence, including gang violence, sexual violence and bullying, affect youth and adolescents. Safety and security are also compromised for children who live in state care or come into conflict with the law. Girls are more likely to experience sexual violence. Some 21 per cent of adolescent girls from 15 to 19 years of age report having experienced sexual violence. Boys are more likely than girls to experience physical abuse or to be involved in crime.

7.   In 2018, a total of 1,308 children in conflict with the law appeared before the courts, and some 83 per cent of them were boys. Children from low-income communities and crime hotspot areas often face challenges within the judicial system, including discrimination and stigmatization. Children in conflict with the law experience strong exclusion and stigmatization, which present considerable challenges for re-integrating them into society.

8.   Jamaica has achieved remarkable progress on selected health-related indicators, including the under-five mortality rate, immunization and births attended by skilled health personnel[1] and mother-to-child transmission of HIV. However, remaining deprivations in nutrition and adolescent health are of particular concern. Only 6 out of every 10 newborns are breastfed within the first hour of birth, and only 23.8 per cent of infants under the age of six months are exclusively breastfed. An estimated 8.5 per cent of children under the age of 5 years are overweight. The prevalence of

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[1] Some 95 per cent of Jamaican infants are fully immunized, and 99 per cent of births are attended by skilled health personnel.

overweight increases exponentially as children grow into the adolescent years. Some 2 out of 10 adolescents are overweight, and 1 in 10 is obese.

9.   The premature introduction of inappropriate complementary foods during breastfeeding, as well as easy access to unhealthy foods, is a challenge for low-income households. Healthy options such as fruits and vegetables are more expensive than processed and fast foods.

10.   Adolescents face multiple challenges to accessing comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education and adolescent-friendly health services. This has contributed to a situation in which risky behaviours, including transactional sex and unprotected sex, are increasing while knowledge on how to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections is decreasing. Jamaica is among the countries with the highest rates of adolescent pregnancies in the English-speaking Caribbean, with 70 births for every 1,000 adolescents (15–19 years). This situation is exacerbated by early sexual debut and high prevalence of child sexual abuse and violence.

11.   Accessing mental health services represents a major challenge for adolescents and young people and is worsened by the current coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Pre-pandemic data show that one in every four students surveyed had considered suicide. According to the Ministry of Health and Wellness, just over 70 per cent of those treated at hospitals for attempted suicides were adolescents and young people, and 7 out of 10 of them were female.

12.   Jamaica has made significant gains in access to education, including almost universal coverage in pre-primary and primary school levels, but major gaps remain. The effects of poverty, low-quality education services and violence lead to chronic underperformance (especially among boys). On average, Jamaican children complete 11.7 years of schooling, but those years are equivalent to only 7.2 years of learning when benchmarked against top-performing systems. This notable learning gap of 4.5 years disproportionately impacts children in the poorer quintiles, as access to the best-performing schools continues to be highly correlated with children's socioeconomic background. At the secondary-school level, progression through the system remains low and unevenly distributed. Only 23 per cent of Jamaican students go on to tertiary studies.

13.   Approximately 50,000 adolescents of secondary-school age are out of school, and three out of five of these children are boys. Pregnancy and financial problems are the main reasons why children from the poorest quintiles stop attending school. School dropout and poor educational outcomes have contributed to the increase in the number of unattached youth – globally referred to as Not in Education, Employment or Training – who represent about 35 per cent of young people aged 14 to 24 years.

14.   Since March 2020, children have faced extended school closures and a dominant reliance on remote schooling due to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. The lack of reliable access to distance-learning technologies has aggravated existing disparities in learning at all levels, particularly for children living in rural areas and those with disabilities. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Information estimates that some 120,000 children have been entirely disengaged from learning as a result of school closures. Given these challenges, Jamaicans risk losing an additional 1.3 learning-adjusted years of schooling.

15.   Despite having a well-established national social protection programme that critically contributes to poverty reduction efforts, Jamaica still needs to address gaps in meeting the needs of some of the most disadvantaged children. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the continued need to strengthen the system to be more child-sensitive, inclusive and shock-responsive to address sudden emergencies.

16. There is still considerable room to improve the targeting and coverage of the national conditional cash transfer programme. It is estimated that approximately 53 per cent of children living in extreme poverty are currently not covered, and some 62 per cent of the direct beneficiaries are not poor.

17. Moreover, while providing critical support, the social protection programmes are not sufficiently tailored to the specific needs of recipients. In the fiscal year 2018/19, Jamaica spent approximately 0.7 per cent of its gross domestic product on social protection for children (0–14 years). Yet social transfers remain low in value when compared to the country's poverty line and do not account for the specific circumstances of families who have children with a disability and who spend much more on health care, equipment and adaptations to housing.

18. Significant gaps remain in access to quality basic services – especially for the poorest families and children with disabilities. Public investment is constrained by diminishing fiscal space, suboptimal allocation of resources across and within line ministries, inefficiencies in service delivery, and a dearth of timely, disaggregated data for evidence-based decision making and advocacy.

19. The COVID-19 pandemic will have a long-lasting socioeconomic impact on Jamaican children, in particular those from lower-income families and female-headed households. The pandemic is affecting the mental health, safety and security, and academic advancement of children. Some 8 in 10 households with children have lost income, and this has contributed to food shortage. Children's levels of anxiety, fear, frustration and depression have increased as a result of the pandemic. Verbal abuse of children has also escalated, and nearly 20 per cent of households have reported an increase in corporal punishment.

20. The country also faces climate and environmental crises, ranking twenty-first worldwide in exposure and vulnerability to natural risks and disasters. Over the past 30 years, the frequency of natural events related to climate and weather has increased. They include tropical cyclones (storms and hurricanes), excess rainfall, floods, droughts and landslides, incurring increasing economic and environmental costs.

21. Considering the potential impact of natural disasters on the development trajectory of the country, and the likelihood of these to increase in intensity in the years to come, emergency preparedness, climate change adaptation and resilience-building need to be further enhanced. Measures must include the development of adequate financing strategies for child-sensitive disaster risk and climate change adaptation.

22. The following lessons learned from the previous country programme informed design of the present one:

(a) Systems-strengthening and policy and institutional reform strategies have proven instrumental in achieving greater scalability and sustainability for UNICEF-supported interventions;

(b) Public-private partnerships have helped to enhance efficiency in the delivery of social services, expand service coverage and mobilize financial resources to harness innovation and results for children;

(c) With diminishing fiscal space for social investment and the need to respond to complex social needs with fewer financial resources, Jamaica needs support to improve the equity, efficiency and effectiveness of current public expenditure in critical sectors for children;

(d)   Meaningful adolescent engagement and participation can lead to groundbreaking change by amplifying children's voices and by contributing to and influencing decisions made by policymakers on key matters affecting adolescents.

Programme priorities and partnerships

23.   The development of the 2022–2026 country programme is based on, among other inputs, the most recent Situation Analysis, the United Nations Common Country Analysis, the UNICEF Gender Programmatic Review conducted in 2019, the 2020 Climate Landscape Analysis for Children, the survey on the COVID-19 socioeconomic impact on children, evaluations and lessons learned, and a series of strategic consultations with the Government, civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector and children and adolescents.

24.   The Government of Jamaica, including its line ministries, is the main counterpart of UNICEF. Programme outcomes are aligned with Vision 2030 – the country's long-term development agenda – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

25.   Programme outcomes contribute to the second, third and fourth pillars of the United Nations Multi-country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNMSDCF) for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries, 2022–2026: "Economic reliance and shared prosperity"; "Equality and well-being"; "Resilience to climate change and natural resources management"; and "Safety, justice and rule of law."

26.   The overall goal of the country programme is to contribute to national efforts to enable children and adolescents to realize their rights by progressively reducing disparities and inequities, including in emergencies. The following mix of strategies will be used:

(a)   Social and behavioural change to address a range of constraints, including prevalent and influential harmful social norms, violence against children and gender-based violence, and stigma associated with mental health issues;

(b)   Gender-transformative programming to transform gender stereotypes and norms when planning, designing and implementing interventions, thereby influencing systemic changes in service delivery and empowering girls and women while fostering dialogue and engaging men and boys as well as women and girls in facilitating the rethinking of issues related to masculinity and violence;

(c)   Systems-strengthening to enable government counterparts to effectively implement evidence-based solutions so that policies, strategies, plans, budgets and systems holistically address the needs of children and their families and improve access to services and the realization of the rights of children and adolescents;

(d)   Public and private partnerships and engagement to utilize the convening power of UNICEF to engage a wide range of government and non-government partners, including those from the private sector, and collaborating with sister United Nations agencies and international financial institutions to improve effectiveness in service delivery and achieve accelerated results for children at scale;

(e)   Evidence as a driver of change to support the Government to produce evidence that can be used to influence and inform the development and implementation of equitable policies and programmes, identify emerging and strategic issues and measure progress towards national and global goals;

(f)   Innovation, technologies and digital transformation as part of collaboration with the Government to accelerate its efforts to introduce innovation and achieve digital transformation to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public services;

(g)   Evidence-based communication and advocacy to help UNICEF to influence decision makers, stakeholders and relevant audiences to support concrete actions that contribute to the realization of children's rights.

27.   The country programme has five components, described in paragraphs 28 through 39. All components respond to the UNICEF global sector strategies of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025. Cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, emergency preparedness, disaster risk reduction and child participation are embedded in programme design. In line with the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, priority gender results will be included within the country programme outcomes, and will include, notably, gender-norms change, gender-based violence, education, health and evidence generation.

Child protection

28.   This programme is aimed at pursuing a vision whereby all children in Jamaica grow up free from violence. UNICEF will help to address the vulnerabilities of girls and boys while investing in strengthening child protection systems and supporting positive social and behavioural change. The component will contribute directly to government priorities as outlined in the National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence 2018–2023.

29.   UNICEF will seek to foster safer environments for children and to improve access to quality, gender-responsive support and justice for children who experience violence, through the following approaches:

(a)   Strengthen evidence-based frameworks to better protect children from violence, develop protocols and multisectoral case-management service delivery models and systems, and strengthen data availability and governance;

(b)   Improve service delivery by strengthening identification, reporting and integrated referral mechanisms for children at risk and child victims of violence, build capacity and develop quality assurance systems for emergency-resilient child- and gender-responsive services, support modelling, testing and expansion of family-based alternative care options, and improve the delivery and monitoring of resourced and high-quality child helpline services;

(c)   Work with communities, parents and children to generate positive social and gender norms, supporting life skills and social skills programmes that integrate attention to human rights, gender norms, resilience and healthy relationships and that provide positive alternatives for children and youth, roll out gender-responsive parenting skills programmes to help parents/caregivers build strong, non-violent relationships with their children, and employ evidence-informed communication for development approaches to help to raise public understanding, build consensus and generate positive changes in attitudes, practices and, ultimately, social norms.

30.   UNICEF will support multisectoral collaboration and strengthen capacities to address violence against children at various administrative levels. Key government partners include the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information and its agencies, the Child Protection and Family Services Agency and the National Parenting Support Commission, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Ministry of National Security the Office of the Children's Advocate, academia, the private sector and CSOs. Considering the primary preventive role they play, UNICEF

will help to ensure that these organizations are better positioned to pursue their mandates and implement their commitments as part of the child protection system.

Education

31. Consistent with the UNICEF rights-based approach, the programme is aimed at enabling girls and boys learn and develop in a safe environment. The broad strategic outcome is that, by 2026, boys and girls are provided with inclusive quality education services and opportunities that promote improved learning outcomes and skills for life and future work. UNICEF will aim to implement the following strategies:

(a) Work towards the provision of an improved, comprehensive and inclusive national Early Childhood Development policy, along with services to increase access to quality programmes for children in their early years, through advocacy and technical assistance, while focusing advocacy on increasing public investment in early childhood development and the scaling up of cross-sectoral interventions, and collaborate with the private sector on the promotion of family-friendly policies;

(b) Support the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information to increase access, retention and completion of education by the most disadvantaged children, improve the quality of education through teacher capacity-building and increased access to digital learning solutions, support the strengthening of school safety and education in emergencies to contribute to a more resilient system, and generate evidence on educational needs and gaps in access to education for vulnerable groups, including children at risk of dropping out, out-of-school children and adolescents, and children with disabilities;

(c) Conduct legal and policy review and generate research among out-of-school adolescents and youth to determine key reasons for their dropout and their experiences with second-chance education and employment, expand second-chance education and skills training for at-risk adolescents and adolescents with disabilities, building on existing opportunities, and generate intersectoral collaboration and private sector engagement.

32. UNICEF will work with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information and the Early Childhood Commission to address the learning loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This partnership will support identifying children most affected by school closures, strengthening teacher capacities and providing innovative tailored remedial-learning options. UNICEF will also partner with CSOs to work in schools located in hard-to-reach communities and with the private sector to develop solutions to increase school connectivity and provide training and job opportunities for at-risk adolescents.

Survive and thrive

33. The programme is aimed at ensuring that children benefit from expanded opportunities for a healthy start in life and that adolescents have improved access to gender-responsive health services. Efforts will also promote the reduction of stigma attached to mental health issues and of risk-taking behaviours among adolescent boys and girls by addressing harmful social norms, improving access to and quality of services and facilitating a demand for services by adolescents. Two workstreams will be followed:

(a) Promoting a healthy start in life by providing access to integrated quality health and nutrition services that promote good nutrition practices, breastfeeding, complementary feeding and physical activity;

(b)   Promoting adolescents' access to health services and the safety of adolescents by strengthening the capacities of health services to be gender-responsive, advocating for the removal of legal barriers for adolescents to access health services, including those for mental health, engaging parents of adolescents to reduce risky behaviours, and seeking the meaningful participation of at-risk adolescents.

34.   UNICEF will work with the Ministry of Health and Wellness, academia, the private sector and CSOs to respond to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of children and adolescents, update health and nutrition policies, strengthen the capacity of health-care workers, increase the number of hospitals certified as Baby-Friendly, and build the capacity of the Infant and Young Child Feeding Network to conduct outreach activities among households in difficult-to-reach areas. UNICEF will promote behaviour-change interventions, pilot the delivery of innovative mental health services for adolescents and enhance referrals across sectors.

Social policy

35.   The programme will pursue a vision where children in Jamaica live free from poverty and have access to inclusive social protection and services. The broad strategic outcome is that by 2026, children – especially those living in the poorest households or living with a disability or adolescent mothers, including those severely affected by the COVID-19 crisis – have increased access to equitable and quality social protection and basic services.

36.   UNICEF will help to ensure that children have increased access to adequately resourced, quality and shock-responsive social services adapted to the needs of families. The programme will be implemented through two workstreams:

(a)   Making domestic resources work better for children by strengthening the Government's budgeting transparency, monitoring government investment in key sectors for children, using diagnostic tools to identify and remove spending bottlenecks, and advocating for greater and more efficient, effective and equitable spending for children;

(b)   Investing in strengthening social protection systems so that they become more shock-responsive, accessible and adapted to the needs of families in poverty, families with children with a disability and adolescent parents, taking into consideration exposure to climate and environmental hazards.

37.   UNICEF will provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security to enhance the mechanisms and information systems of social protection programmes so that they ensure inclusion of the most disadvantaged children. The programme will strengthen child-sensitive, shock-responsive mechanisms for reaching highly vulnerable families during emergencies. To help to ensure that public-resource allocations for children are adequate and equity-based, UNICEF will engage with line ministries and the Ministry of Finance and Public Service and will also leverage support from international financial institutions for greater investment in human capital development.

Climate action and resilience

38.   This programme component is aimed at addressing the specific environmental and socioeconomic drivers of vulnerability for children. Support will be given to the Government and stakeholders to implement risk-informed, gender-responsive and child-sensitive policies and programmes that promote urgent and participatory climate action and sustainable development. Efforts will go towards enhancing the

resilience of children and communities, including in emergency contexts. To achieve this, two workstreams will be pursued:

(a) Strengthening the capacities of the Government and communities to support the development, financing, implementation and monitoring of child-sensitive climate policies and programmes, through the following action: (i) generate evidence to demonstrate how children are affected by climate change and disasters and map out existing policies for climate change adaptation, (ii) provide technical assistance for development of child-sensitive climate policies and programmes, (iii) support child and youth participation in decision-making processes regarding climate, the environment and disaster risk reduction, including by advocating for the establishment of institutional dialogue mechanisms, and (iv) support improvements to climate curricula at primary and secondary levels so that they are more relevant and action-oriented;

(b) Strengthening the capacities and coordination mechanisms of national stakeholders to implement child-sensitive programmes to enhance resilience, shock-responsiveness and emergency preparedness, and providing technical capacity to ensure that children affected by emergencies have access to shock-responsive social protection programmes that are more accessible and adapted to their needs.

39. UNICEF will work with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information to strengthen its curriculum on environmental and climate change issues. Working with the Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, UNICEF will facilitate participatory platforms to ensure that children's views are heard and acted upon by decision makers. Efforts will be made to explore the adoption of innovative climate change solutions involving remote sensing and sustainable energy. Working with the Office for Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, UNICEF will aim to enhance preparedness coordination and response mechanisms.

Programme effectiveness

40. UNICEF will use cross-sectoral workstreams to enhance overall country programme results and to harness results for children at all levels. This programme component, which supports programme delivery and managing for results, comprises evidence generation and planning, monitoring and evaluation, strategic communication and advocacy, resource mobilization and partnerships.

41. Evidence generation and planning and monitoring and evaluation will support the country programme in monitoring results and targeting programmes that will benefit the most excluded and disadvantaged children. Child-centred research will be generated to inform policymaking and improve national capacities for generating timely, quality, disaggregated and gender-sensitive data.

42. UNICEF will nurture strategic partnerships to increase the momentum around realizing children's rights. New strategic alliances will be formed with the private sector for development and innovation. Cooperation with other countries in the region will be prioritized to generate and share knowledge, mobilize resources and leverage support.

Summary budget table

Programme component	(In thousands of United States dollars)		
	Regular resources	Other resources	Total
Child protection	825	5 700	6 525
Education	650	4 000	4 650
Survive and thrive	575	2 700	3 275
Social policy	400	1 200	1 600
Climate action and resilience	400	600	1 000
Programme effectiveness	1 400	800	2 200
Total	**4 250**	**15 000**	**19 250**

Programme and risk management

43.   This CPD outlines UNICEF contributions to national results and serves as the primary instrument of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

44.   UNICEF will monitor results to assess the key strategic, programmatic, operational, and financial risks and to define appropriate risk control and mitigation actions.

45.   UNICEF will use corporate tools to mitigate critical risks to programme and operational continuity. A resource mobilization strategy will be developed and monitored.

46.   UNICEF will support early warning mechanisms to allow timely detection and intervention regarding threats from climate change, social unrest and economic crises.

Monitoring, learning and evaluation

47.   In cooperation with line ministries, other United Nations agencies and civil society, UNICEF will strengthen national capacities to systematically collect, analyse and use disaggregated data to monitor and inform policy decisions, to report on the situation of children and adolescents, and to monitor progress towards the realization of children's rights, with a focus on measuring reduction of bottlenecks and barriers. A four-pronged approach will be adopted:

(a)   High-frequency field monitoring through quarterly partner-reporting, with country programme outcomes monitored through regular surveys and evaluations and direct feedback captured from affected populations through regular focus group discussions and text messaging services;

(b)   Programme monitoring of results through midyear and annual reviews, with the participation of partners and stakeholders;

(c)   Situation monitoring in partnership with the Statistical Institute of Jamaica and line ministries. This entails support to the design and execution of

national surveys and censuses to capture situational data on child deprivations, including the implementation of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, and the strengthening of national data administrative systems;

(d)   Evaluation focusing on (i) strengthening national evaluation systems to be child-responsive, (ii) evaluating actions towards the achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially those related to the UNICEF mandate, (iii) generating evidence to inform national processes and reports on progress towards the achievement of the Goals, and (iv) advocating for country-led evaluations and the use of evidence from such evaluations. Three thematic evaluations and a country programme evaluation will be conducted.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Jamaica – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2022–2026

Convention on the Rights of the Child: All articles
Sustainable Development Goals: 1–5, 8, 13, 16 **National priorities:** Vision 2030 National Development Plan Goals 1 (Jamaicans are empowered to achieve their fullest potential) and 2 (Jamaican society is safe, cohesive and just)
United Nations Multi-country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNMSDCF) outcomes involving UNICEF Strategic priority 1. Shared prosperity and economic resilience Outcome 1: More productive and competitive business ecosystem designed to improve people's standards of living and well-being. Strategic priority 2. Equality, well-being and leaving no one behind Outcome 3: National Governments and regional institutions use relevant data to design and adopt laws and policies to eliminate discrimination, address structural inequalities and ensure the advancement of those left furthest behind. Outcome 4: People in the Caribbean equitably access and utilize universal, quality and shock-responsive social protection, education, health, and care services. Strategic priority 3. Resilience to climate change and sustainable natural resource management Outcome 5: Caribbean people, communities, and institutions enhance their adaptive capacity for inclusive, gender-responsive disaster risk management and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Outcome 6: Caribbean countries manage natural resources and ecosystems to strengthen their resilience and enhance the resilience and prosperity of the people and communities that depend on them. Strategic priority 4. Peace, safety, justice and the rule of law Outcome 7: Regional and national laws, policies, systems and institutions improve access to justice and promote peace, social cohesion, and security. Outcome 8: People in the Caribbean and communities actively contribute to and benefit from building and maintaining safer, fairer, more inclusive, and equitable societies.
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 Goal Areas: 1–5

UNMSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
7, 8	1. Child protection:	Percentage of children (1–14 years) who experienced	Multiple Indicator	Output 1:	Ministry of Education,	825	5 700	6 525

UNMSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
	By 2026, children, especially those in situations of vulnerability, grow up in safer environments; and those who do experience violence benefit from improved access to quality, gender-responsive support, care and justice, including in emergencies.	any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month (Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.2.1) B: 84.6% (boys 87% and girls 82%; poorest quintile 90%; wealthiest quintile 76%) T: 65%	Cluster Survey (MICS)/ Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions(JSLC)	The child protection system in Jamaica is strengthened to ensure that girls and boys have improved equitable access to quality, resilient and gender-responsive violence prevention and response services, including in emergencies. Output 2: More communities, parents and children support positive social and gender norms, and have the knowledge and skills to practice non-violent behaviours and seek help when needed, including in emergencies.	Youth and Information (MoEYI) Child Protection and Family Services Agency National Parenting Support Commission Ministry of Justice Ministry of National Security Jamaican Association of Social Workers Civil society organizations (CSOs) Private sector			
		Proportion of adolescent girls and young women (15–24 years) who have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime (SDG 16.2.3) B: 6.5% T: 3%	Reproductive Health Survey Women's Health Survey					
		Number of child victims of intentional homicide B: 45 (2019) T: reduced by 50%	Jamaica Crime Observatory					

UNMSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
1, 3, 4	2. Education: By 2026, children and adolescents, especially those with disabilities and/or living in poverty, have increased access to resilient, equitable and inclusive quality education services and opportunities that promote improved learning outcomes and skills for life and work, including in emergencies.	Percentage of children (36–59 months) developmentally on track in at least three of four domains: literacy and numeracy, physical, social-emotional and learning (SDG 4.2.1) B: 89% (girls 93% and boys 86%; poorest quintile 79%; wealthiest quintile 97%) T: 93% Net attendance rate secondary education B: 83% (boys 81% and girls 84%; poorest quintile 69%; richest quintile 90%) T: 90% Percentage of adolescents and youth (15–24 years) not in employment, education or training (SDG 8.6.1) B: 34.9% (male 38.8%; female 31%) T: 25% Proportion of children at the end of primary education achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in Mathematics and English B: 65% T: 80%	MICS JSLC National assessment data	Output 1: Early Childhood Development (ECD) stakeholder capacities are strengthened to ensure that young boys and girls, especially those with disabilities and/or living in poverty, benefit from equitable, resilient and inclusive ECD and early childhood education policies and quality services, including in emergencies. Output 2: The education system is strengthened to deliver resilient, equitable, inclusive, quality and relevant education services with a focus on children with disabilities, children at risk	MoEYI Early Childhood Commission HEART/NTA Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ) and other private sector stakeholders Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) World Bank	650	4 000	4 650

UNMSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
				of dropping out, out-of-school children and those affected by emergencies. Output 3: Government and private sector partners have increased the access to opportunities for at-risk adolescent girls and boys from the most vulnerable and violent communities to gain skills for life, learning, employability and transition to the workforce.				
3, 4	3. Survive and thrive: By 2026, children benefit from expanded opportunities for a healthy start in life and adolescents have improved access to gender-responsive health services and reduce risky	Adolescent birth rate per 1,000 girls (15–19 years) B: 70 births per 1,000 adolescents T: 60 births per 1,000 adolescents Percentage of adolescent girls and boys living with HIV who receive antiretroviral therapy B: 24.8% T: 40%	Programme evaluation report Administrative Reports Reproductive Health Survey MICS Global School Survey U-Report	Output 1: Children have enhanced access to integrated quality health and nutrition services that promote good nutrition practices, breastfeeding, complementary feeding and physical activity,	MoHW National Family Planning Board MoEYIUniversity of the West Indies CSOs PSOJ and other private sector stakeholders	575	2 700	3 275

UNMSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
	behaviours, including in emergencies.	Percentage of adolescent girls and boys who seriously considered attempting suicide B: 25% T: 10% Percentage of infants under the age of 6 months who are exclusively breastfed B: 23.8% T: 35%		including in emergencies. Output 2: Adolescent girls and boys access gender-responsive services to address their health and well-being and are empowered to engage and advocate for their rights, including in emergencies.				
3, 4	4. Social policy: By 2026, children, especially those living in the poorest households or living with a disability or adolescent mothers, have increased access to equitable and quality social services, including in emergencies.	Proportion of child population (lowest quintile) covered by social protection floors/systems (PATH or Poor Relief) B: 54.2% T: 70% Share of public spending on social assistance for children B: 0.7% of gross domestic product – social assistance for children T: 1.5% Proportion of children living below the national poverty line (SDG 1.2.1) B: 15.7% T: 10%	Government reports/Public Expenditure Review JSLC Economic and Social Survey Jamaica	Output 1: The social protection system is more shock- and gender-responsive, accessible and adapted to the needs of families in poverty and/or with children with disabilities and children of adolescent mothers. Output 2: Government institutions' capacities to monitor and analyse the efficiency,	Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) Ministry of Finance and Public Service MoEYI MoHW	400	1 200	1 600

UNMSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
				efficacy, and effectiveness of public investment in children and adolescents are strengthened.				
5, 6	5. Climate change and resilience: By 2026, the Government and stakeholders implement risk-informed and child-sensitive policies and programmes and include the participation of children and communities to promote climate action and sustainable development and to enhance resilience, including in	Number of child-sensitive climate policies and programmes developed, financed and implemented at national, subnational and/or sectoral level B: 4 T: 10	Country office annual report National and sectoral preparedness plans Sectoral reports	Output 1: Government and community (including children and adolescents) capacities are strengthened to support the development, financing, implementation and monitoring of child-sensitive, gender-responsive climate policies and programmes. Output 2: National stakeholders' capacities are	MoEYI Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change Civil society Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management MLSS PSOJ and other private sector stakeholders	400	600	1 000

UNMSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
	emergency contexts.			strengthened on risk-informed programming to better protect children and adolescents from the impact of natural disasters and climate change.				
3	6. Programme effectiveness: By 2026, evidence generation and advocacy for evidence-based policy decisions are enhanced.	Percentage of good data coverage for 37 child-focused SDG indicators in alignment with international standards for SDG reporting (SDG 17.18.1) B: 40% T: 75%	SDG database		Statistical Institute of Jamaica PIOJ	1 400	800	2 200
Total resources						**4 250**	**15 000**	**19 250**