

Annual Country Report 2017 United Nations in JAMAICA



UN Caribbean
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UNITED NATIONS IN JAMAICA
Annual Country Report 2017



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2017 ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT

FOREWORD & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2017 was the first year of implementation of the United Nations Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF) in the Caribbean 2017-2021. The present report attempts to capture the results secured in Jamaica through the UN MSDF's annual programming tool, the Country Implementation Plan (CIP). It is being submitted through the UN MSDF governing body in Jamaica, the Joint National Steering Committee.

Looking back at this first year of implementation, it is fair to say that we are not yet capturing the full benefit of the CIP and the UN MSDF national-level governance arrangements – but we expect smoother sailing in 2018. For one thing, as agreed by the National Steering Committee, the formal planning work, i.e. the preparation of the 2018 CIP was limited to updating the 2017 CIP table to reflect activities that were completed in 2017, should be dropped or should be extended through 2018. In the second year of CIP implementation, therefore, it is hoped that the Results Groups will be able to focus their time and attention on scanning sectoral developments to ensure that UN activities: address up-to-date national priorities; take advantage of synergies with each other and with the activities of other partners, national or international; reflect the interdependent nature of the SDGs; and fill gaps as may be required.

Through the work of the Caribbean-wide Virtual Policy Networks of the UN MSDF, the regular meetings of the MSDF Regional Steering Committee, and the annual Regional Consultation with member states (2018 date to be confirmed), the UN Agencies should also, in 2018, start reaching out to each other across the Caribbean more regularly, with a view to identifying areas for joint work that make the best possible use of their individual resources;

“The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is our boldest framework for advancing the well-being of humankind. Its soaring ambition – to ensure peace and prosperity for all on a healthy planet – requires equally bold changes across the United Nations”

- United Nations Secretary General Antonio Gutierrez

2017 ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT

capitalizing on the UN Development System's presence across the region; contributing to regional integration efforts; and delivering better results for the region's populations.

The start to this second year of implementation of the UN MSDF coincides with the United Nations Secretary-General's recent proposals to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on "**Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 agenda: our promise for dignity prosperity and peace on a healthy planet**". The UN MSDF had rightly anticipated the SG's emphasis on *'a new generation of country teams, centred around a strategic UNDAF [...]; a coordinated, reprofiled and restructured regional approach [...] to fully support the work on the ground, along with renewed spaces for Members States to guide system-wide actions and bring greater transparency and accountability'*. We will forge ahead along these lines in 2018.

The report was written in accordance with the philosophy of the UN-MSDF whereby the UN works through partnerships with national and international partners. With the exception of the present Introduction/ Executive Summary and Lessons Learned and Way Forward sections, both pulled together by the Coordination Office, and the section on the Key Development Trends in the Country provided by the Planning Institute of Jamaica, each results section was drafted by its respective working group: each of the four pillars of the UN-MSDF/CIP (An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean; A Healthy Caribbean; A Cohesive, Safe and Just Caribbean; A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean) by the UN Co-Chairs of the respective joint Results Group; Common Business Operations and Communicating as One by the respective chairs. The Financial Tables were assembled by the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group from data provided by the UN Agencies. This multi-hand genesis explains the variations in writing style.

KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN JAMAICA

Development gains continue in all spheres of sustainable development: economic, social, environmental and governance. However, longstanding issues such as structural impediments affecting economic growth, inequality, high levels of poverty and new and emerging issues such as the pace of adaptation to climate change remain challenging.

Jamaica remains a high human development country, with a Human Development Index of 0.730 in 2015. Population growth continues to slow, to 0.1 % in 2016. Results of efforts to protect the country's most vulnerable have been mixed. The overall poverty rate increased to 21.2 % in 2015 – 28.5% in rural areas, where the proportion of households with access to secure land tenure is a source of growing concern. Non-communicable diseases {e.g. diseases of the circulatory system, cancer, respiratory among others} constitute a growing cause of mortality and morbidity in Jamaica.

Despite improvements in citizen security, national security is broadly recognized as a major hindrance to long-term sustainable and inclusive development. In 2015, category 1 (property) crime was at its lowest since 2009, but the murder rate increased from 44.3 per 100,000 in 2015 to 49.6 per 100,000 population in 2016 and 60 per 100,000 in 2017.



The rate of recidivism increased to 30.0 % in 2016 from 20.8 in 2007. Despite improvements in infrastructure, human and technological resources and processes, Jamaica's justice system remains challenged by the timely disposal of cases, impacting the legitimacy of, and trust in the judicial system.

Jamaica maintained macroeconomic stability, evidenced by low inflation, a decline in the current account deficit and the build-up of international reserves. Fiscal discipline and proactive debt management have placed public debt on a downward path. The efficiency of the tax system was also bolstered.

KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN JAMAICA

Annual inflation fell to 1.7 % in 2016, the lowest since 1967. The debt to GDP ratio at end March 2017 is estimated at 124.1 % of GDP, a 1.8 percentage point reduction from the previous fiscal year. At end 2018, growth had been positive for 10 consecutive quarters but remains weak: the real GDP annual growth rate in 2016 was 1.4 % and is expected to reach 1.6% for FY 2017/2018. Unemployment fell to 12.2% in April 2017, a 7-year low.

Lacklustre performance by some industries reflected improving yet fragile microeconomic conditions. Agriculture (despite unfavourable weather), Construction and Tourism continue to show consistent improvement. Foreign exchange earnings from tourism, employment in the accommodations sector, and visitor arrivals continue to improve.

Business and consumer confidence also improved, reflecting increased optimism about current economic conditions and expectations of continued improvement in business conditions and job prospects. Nevertheless, more work is needed to strengthen the business environment to enable a vibrant, resilient and competitive business sector and build on recent gains. Based on the 2017 Doing Business Report, Jamaica came first in the Caribbean on 'ease of doing business' and best in Latin America and the Caribbean

with respect to 'starting a business'.

The renewable energy contribution to the total energy mix improved from 5.0% in 2007 to 10.5% in 2016. Jamaica has over 72 megawatts (MW) of installed renewable energy capacity from hydro, solar and wind power plants. The Energy Intensity Index has shown a declining trend from 2007 to 2015 indicating a more efficient use of energy.

Jamaica was essentially unscathed by the 2017 hurricane season, barred extensive, cumulative damage to agricultural production and rural infrastructure caused by relentless rains, particularly in the NE of the island. The Government finalized the protected area status for the biologically-important Cockpit Country and Goat Island. Jamaica prepared its first SDG Annual Report and Leave No One Behind Report.



A smiling woman with dark skin and hair pulled back, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt with pink floral embroidery. She has a dark strap over her shoulder. The background is a colorful fan with segments in shades of green, blue, and red. The text is overlaid on the top right of the fan.

Results

PRIORITY AREA 1

AN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE
& PROSPEROUS CARIBBEAN

RESULTS – PRIORITY AREA 1: AN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE AND PROSPEROUS CARIBBEAN

The UN supported the Government of Jamaica (through partnership with agencies such as the MoEYI, MOH, MLSS, PIOJ and STATIN) in improving access to quality education and life-long learning, and access to equitable social protection systems.

Continued implementation of the School-Wide Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support in Schools programme contributed to positive behaviour change among children and youth, resulting in 2500 school administrative personnel being trained and 5000 teachers being exposed to the framework. Also ongoing are the EduSports programme, in 58 primary schools and 17 infant departments, and the Jamaica School Readiness Assessment system, developed and fully implemented island-wide for all 4-year olds enrolled in school in 2017.

To improve alignment between education, vocational training and industry, the UN supported the following symposiums in 2017: the 7th Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue (MILID) Conference, held in October in Kingston, with 200 participants from 40 countries; the Caribbean Humanities Symposium held in June in Kingston, which brought together thought and policy development leaders to examine the historical, contemporary and future role of the humanities; and the 3rd International Conference on TVET in the Caribbean, held in Montego Bay in May.



5000

teachers exposed to School-Wide Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support in Schools Programme.



Jamaica School Readiness and Assessment System developed and fully implemented island-wide for all 4-year olds enrolled in school in 2017

RESULTS – PRIORITY AREA 1: AN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE AND PROSPEROUS CARIBBEAN



The Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) provides strong ongoing leadership in planning for the 2020 Census. In preparation for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census, the national coordination and capacity to collect, analyse and utilize data and evidence for policies, programmes and achievement of the SDGs was strengthened through the participation of a STATIN Senior Statistician in the CARICOM Workshop to Review the Common Census Questions 2010. Since it has mobilized EU funds to support the development of a population situational analysis and review the national population policy, the GOJ requested the UN to redirect resources slated for this activity towards Jamaica’s National Reporting on implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population & Development (MCPD).

The national capacity for the delivery of social protection services was strengthened through the development of the draft Occupational Safety and Health Act 2017, currently before Parliament for deliberation. Social security officials also participated in a sub-regional training workshop on the ILO strategies, policies and tools to extend social protection to more workers and economic units in the informal economy.



Occupational Safety and Health Act 2017 developed and before Parliament.



Reduced Fights, Raised Grades



Grade 6 student Rushell Collins (age 12)

“

Having seen how the School Wide Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support (SWPBIS) framework has reduced fights and raised grades among 56 pilot schools, it is now a no-brainer for the Ministry of Education to roll out across all Jamaican schools.. SWPBIS provides schools with a framework to motivate students by asking them to define positive behavior and rewarding them. Schools are empowered to adapt this framework according to their situation and what best fits their needs and are finding this to be more effective than criticizing poor behaviour. What SWPBIS offers us today in Jamaica is an opportunity to really focus on getting our children to learn and emulate the kinds of positive values and behaviours we all want to see them grow up with. This could do wonders for us as a nation, particularly as we seek to address our challenges with violence. We need everyone – students, teachers, parents and entire school communities – to work together in this direction, for the good of our children.

”

Testimony by Floyd Green, State Minister, Ministry of Education



Results

PRIORITY AREA 2

A HEALTHY CARIBBEAN

RESULTS – PRIORITY AREA 2: A HEALTHY CARIBBEAN

Outcome 1: *Universal access to quality health care services and systems improved had 19 activities in 2017; Outcome 2:* *Laws, policies and systems introduced to support healthy lifestyles among all segments of the population, 13 activities.* This Health Result Group is chaired by the Ministry of Health and Co-Chaired by PAHO/WHO (supported by UNFPA) and also includes UN partners UNICEF, UNAIDS, FAO and UNDP.

Activities and Achievements: Of the 32 activities anticipated in the CIP (see table), 4 (13%) were fully achieved, 22(68%) were partially achieved with implementation started; 4 (13% stalled); 1 (3%) not initiated and 1 (3%) status unknown.



National Health Research Agenda developed and disseminated.

Universal access to quality health care services and systems improved: This included activities to enhance evidence and research bases for health investments/outcomes; strengthening national capacity to develop the National Strategy on Sustainable Health Financing towards Universal Health; increasing National capacity to integrate sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services including family planning and HIV for underserved populations; and strengthening National capacity to achieve 90/90/90 target. The two activities, the development and

RESULTS - PRIORITY AREA 2: A HEALTHY CARIBBEAN



National Conference on Girls' Education - cosponsored by UNFPA - 17 November 2017, Jamaica Conference Centre, : "High school girls such as these from Holy Childhood High will benefit from the efforts of UNFPA to ensure that young women and adolescent girls have access to sexual and reproductive health education."

dissemination of the National Health Research Agenda and the National Roll-out of Standards for Adolescent Health Services were fully achieved. 15 planned activities were partially implemented with significant support provided for Adolescent Health and SRH including support for the development of a National Action Plan for Increased Access among Adolescents to Integrated SRH services, the development of the National SRH Policy integrating a Human Rights Agenda; the development of the National Action Plan to Reduce Adolescent Pregnancy within the framework of the CARICOM Integrated Strategic Framework to Reduce Adolescent Pregnancy and support for the reduction of violence against young girls. Towards increasing Universal Health access and coverage, support was provided through the development of a position paper

on health financing options and the hosting of a consultation on national health financing. In the area of HIV, support was provided for the preparation for EMTCT Validation, the production and use of strategic information to fast-track the national HIV response, and the implementation of the "All In" Programme.



Standards for adolescent health services rolled out nationally.

RESULTS – PRIORITY AREA 2: A HEALTHY CARIBBEAN

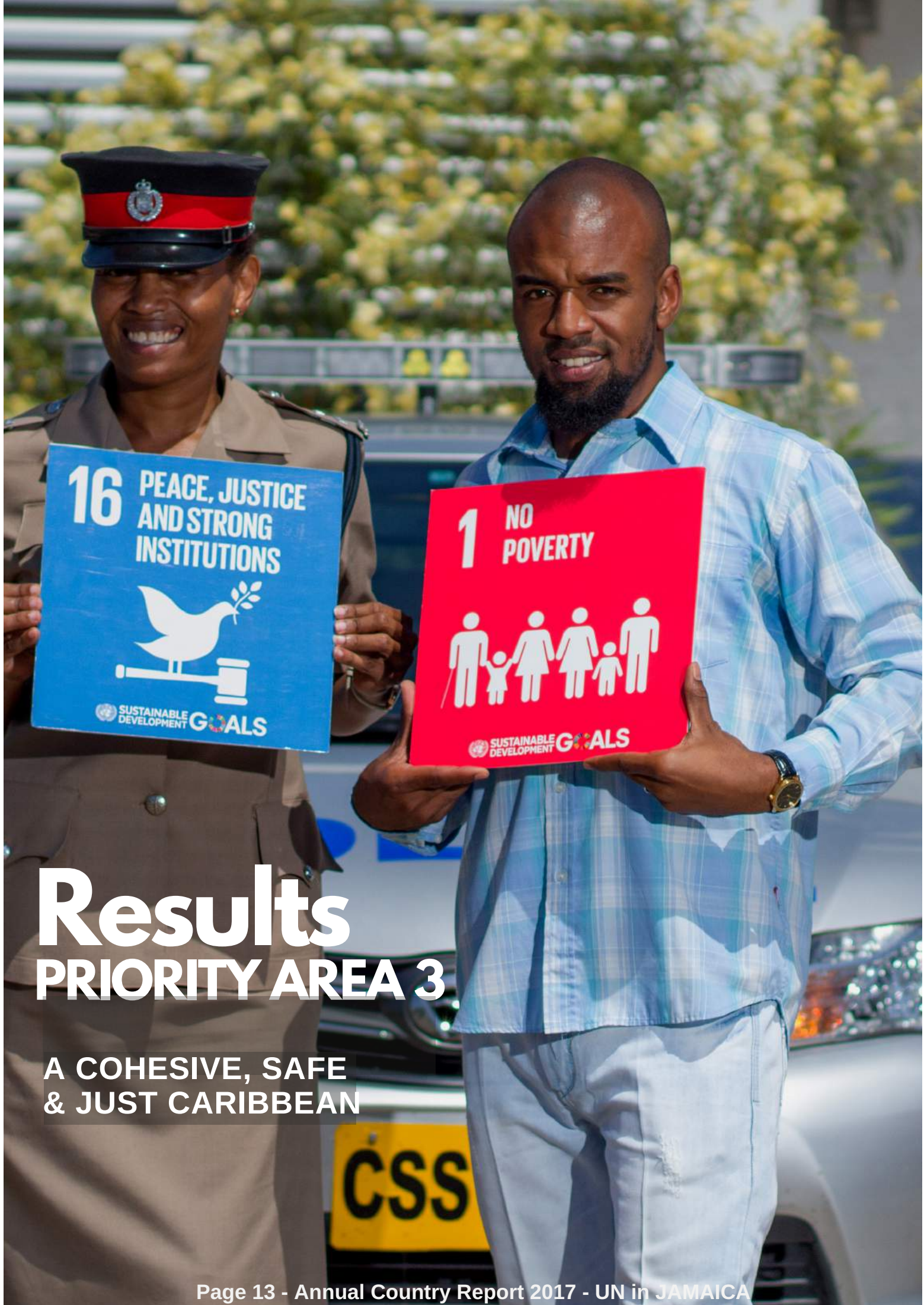
In addition support was provided for the strengthening of the national capacity on Complaints Mechanisms and Redress for HIV/AIDS related discrimination (MOH, JN +).

Laws, policies and systems introduced to support healthy lifestyles among all segments of the population: This included activities for enhancing implementation of the National Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Strategic Plan 2013-2018 and the implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). Activities supporting the physical activity campaign Jamaica Moves and training in tobacco cessation were fully achieved. Implementation is progressing in support of the development and implementation of the National NCD Communication Plan; the implementation of a school feeding program, including nutrition education; recommendations for fiscal policies and labelling standards for foods; and development of an alcohol policy. In addition, support is being provided for national surveys that collect data on hypertension and diabetes; the development of methodology to guide the use of national household surveys to provide annual prevalence data on NCDs; and the evaluation of current tobacco control regulation as well as development of comprehensive tobacco-control legislation



Laws, policies and systems introduced and in progress to support healthy lifestyles.

Lessons Learnt: The Health CIP 2017 may have been overly ambitious in both activities and the timelines for achievement. The relationship between the Health Thematic Group and the Health Results group should be clarified. Additional appropriate and relevant non-governmental organizations should be included in the Results Group and a better process for prioritization of the CIP activities should be defined and applied.



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO
POVERTY



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Results

PRIORITY AREA 3

A COHESIVE, SAFE
& JUST CARIBBEAN

RESULTS – PRIORITY AREA 3: A COHESIVE, SAFE AND JUST CARIBBEAN

At the end of this first year of the CIP, it is too early to determine outcome-level achievements and the quality of work activities under many output areas. Under this pillar, only a few major activities were completed. Preliminary real-life/real-time results include a reduction in homicides in a few very specific communities, where homicide reduction was a targeted intervention. In 2017, Jamaica had one of the highest homicide rates in the world (60/100K), resulting in over 1,600 lives lost to murder. Other capacity-building and -strengthening results are evident in justice services and in human-rights understanding and promotion, including at the National Police Training College, and with civil society organizations (CSOs).

To support human rights in practice, the UN assisted the Jamaican Constabulary Force to comprehensively integrate human rights into the National Police Training College curriculum. A 'Pocket Guide on Human Rights in Law Enforcement' for recruits and constables was completed. The UN continued providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice towards completion of a Cabinet submission on the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution (the submission took place in May 2017). At the request of the Chief Justice, the UN delivered a training on International Human Rights Law for Supreme Court and Court of Appeal judges. A first draft of an on-line training course in human rights in the administration of justice was uploaded and ready for use by year-end.



Human rights integrated into national police training curriculum.



Online training course delivered for the judiciary on international human rights law.

RESULTS – PRIORITY AREA 3: A COHESIVE, SAFE AND JUST CARIBBEAN

The new National Plan to Eliminate Gender-based Violence included the completion of sensitization workshops and trainings to enhance access to the justice system for victims of sexual offenses. The year-end review conducted by the Joint National Steering Committee of the MSDF agreed to increase collaboration with major stakeholder ministries (i.e. Justice and National Security) and explore the creation, under the UN Thematic Working Group on Gender and Human Rights, of a sub-committee focused on Safety and Justice (indicators to include homicide rate reduction). Other training and technical support activities were conducted with officials of the courts.

More specific activities included: community sensitization sessions in Fletcher's Land, Denham Town and Tivoli Gardens supported Government and CSO partners in community-level awareness on GBV; a pro-bono lawyers network was established and its members trained to support victims of sexual offenses and other vulnerable groups; a paralegals support programme was initiated; support was provided towards the development of community policing and people-centred approaches to policing; CSOs were trained and are now providing inputs into a Human Rights Observatory database maintained by civil society; and support was provided for the re-engineering of court business processes and the expansion of the Case Information Statistic System to the Commercial, Matrimonial and Probate Divisions of the Supreme Court as well as to Civil Parish Courts.



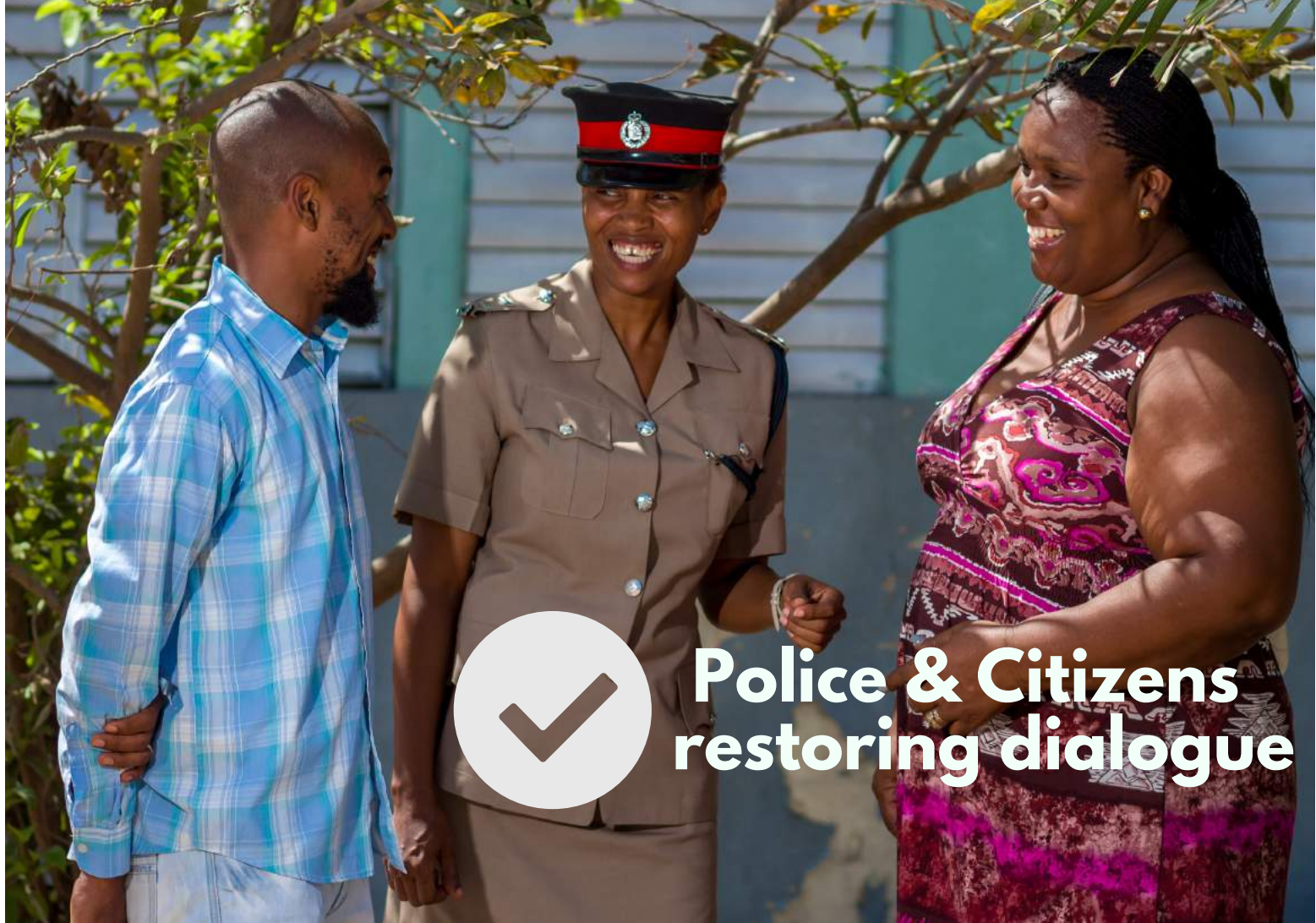
Network of pro bono lawyers established to support access to justice by key populations.



80% of Jamaican Courts now have new business practices in place.



Human rights observatory established and in use to record human rights violations.



Police & Citizens restoring dialogue

.... Community members and police were able to interact and share how they viewed each other and why. This allowed us to chat face to face on issues that affected both parties and to clear the negative perceptions. From this we were able to pledge to improve how we interact with each other. The result of this is the restoration of public confidence from our end and trust for the police from the community end. An example of this interaction was the exposition and forum done in Tivoli Gardens in December. At first residents mainly stood on the side lines and watched, however, as the day progressed they began to view the display booths and played skimmage (football) with police officers. At one point there was a DJ contest with the police being cheered by residents for our talent. The greatest potential for this programme is community safety and security where partnership is at the local level. Through the forum residents shared their views as to what they expect from the police and the hope they have for their community. It is through this that we want to embrace our work 'policing with the consent of the people' and show that together we can create sustained trust and confidence.

***Testimony by Inspector Natalie Palmer,
Community Safety and Security Branch, Jamaica
Constabulary Force (centre)***

“Being a part of the Rejuvenating Communities project has been a great experience for us, especially the interaction with the police. For us it was the first time we interacted with the police on such a civil basis as citizens just discussing issues, discussing their role ... playing games, competing with them and just having fun. It was a great experience and we loved it. We have to say thanks to the United Nations Development Programme.

***Testimony by Wade Brown,
President of the Tivoli
Gardens Community
Development Committee
(left)***

A man wearing a blue cap, a red short-sleeved button-down shirt, and blue jeans is leaning over a white plastic container. He is turning a tap on a pipe, and water is flowing into the container. The background shows a grey concrete block wall and lush green tropical vegetation, including palm trees. The scene is outdoors in bright daylight.

Results

PRIORITY AREA 4

A SUSTAINABLE AND
RESILIENT CARIBBEAN

RESULTS – PRIORITY AREA 4: A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CARIBBEAN

Specific results for 2017 focused on supporting climate change adaptation (CCA) strategies and plans and implementing solutions for CCA and mitigation at the community level; supporting renewable energy/energy efficiency by retrofitting at least one Government building; mainstreaming human rights and gender in disaster risk reduction strategies; and strengthening Jamaica’s institutional, policy and regulatory frameworks for the management and use of natural resources, chemicals and solid and liquid waste.



Results Achieved

1) Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction:

Support to Jamaica’s Third National Communication and Biennial Update Report allowed the country to report to the UNFCCC on its climate change obligations and facilitated national ratification of the Paris Agreement. Several CCA pilot projects are under implementation in communities:

- Demonstrating climate-resilient technologies for enhanced agricultural production and sustainable livelihoods in rural farming communities of Cascade in St Ann;
- Improving the adaptive capacity to climate change through rehabilitation and construction of water harvesting infrastructure in Victoria and Richmond Park in Upper Clarendon;



Paris Agreement ratified by Jamaica



Third national communication prepared outlining Jamaica’s progress in meeting its international climate change commitments.

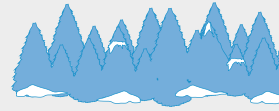
RESULTS – PRIORITY AREA 4: A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CARIBBEAN



Three pilot projects operationalized demonstrating the power of water harvesting infrastructure, climate resilient and climate smart technologies to mitigate the impacts of climate change in Jamaica.

- Promoting climate smart agriculture in schools through enhancement of the 4H-supported school gardens programme in 70 Schools and educational institutions across the 14 parishes. 40 Jamaican experts (24 women/16 men) participated in a UNESCO Symposium and Workshop on “Caribbean World Heritage and Climate Change” on shaping policy on the impacts of climate change. Under a Smart Healthcare Facilities Project, ninety facilities out of 150 planned were assessed for Safe and Green Standards, preparing them for retrofitting aimed at making them more resilient to disasters and more environmentally friendly.

2) Clean and Sustainable Energy: Important preliminary work was done towards the retrofitting of at least 3 public institutions for increased energy efficiency notably through energy audits in eleven hospitals and a training needs assessment in the sector. Activities are expected to show visible results in 2018, notably in expanding climate-smart technologies in hospitals while advancing the Energy Services Company (ESCO) industry in Jamaica. The audit results will inform the retrofitting process to be carried out in 2018 to make the facilities more energy efficient. Work is on-going to develop a prototype building – a computer-controlled, smart, net-zero energy and zero-carbon building at UWI – to encourage the construction of sustainable buildings and energy efficiency.



Policy on protected areas drafted.



RESULTS – PRIORITY AREA 4: A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CARIBBEAN

3) Ecosystems and Natural Resources:

In the regulatory framework area, key results included support to Jamaica in developing a Draft Overarching Policy on Protected Areas (PA) and on Drafting Instructions for the Overarching Legislation on PAs. A draft Mineral Policy was submitted to Cabinet. Work on the Water Safety Policy was supported through training of representatives from across relevant sectors. UN support facilitated Jamaica's ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury on 19 July 2017. An assessment of national infrastructure and mercury inventory was done, and recommendations on the legislative and institutional framework were formulated for the implementation of the Convention.

A number of initiatives were supported in the area of management of chemicals and waste, which were instrumental in the removal of obsolete pesticides from the country. Development of institutional capacity to manage pesticides is ongoing. In the ecosystem area, Jamaica's Man and Biosphere Committee was established and identified 4 landscapes as potential Biosphere Reserves. Support towards improved plastics management, sewage management as well as community approaches for improved solid waste management helped Jamaica meet its obligations under the Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution of the Cartagena Convention.



Development Mineral policy drafted.



Minamata Convention on Mercury ratified by Jamaica

RESULTS OF COMMON BUSINESS OPERATIONS

RESULTS OF COMMON BUSINESS OPERATIONS

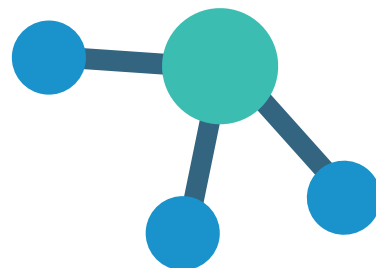
In 2017, the OMT embarked on developing a Business Operations Strategy (BOS) outlining the medium-term strategic focus of UN business operations in the country in support of the effective implementation of the MSDF. The BOS Road Map was finalized and components of the BOS were drafted, including stocktaking exercise/baseline assessment; needs analysis; and identification of cost items and potential savings for the cost-benefit analysis. Challenges and constraints included the level of effort required to complete the analytical components of the BOS; lack of familiarity and/or expertise within the OMT for the development of a BOS; and absence of a joint UN strategic medium-term programmatic framework at the country level. However, completion of a Business Operations Strategy in 2018 is realistic.

Besides the BOS, the OMT's 2017 work plan also included the Common Budgetary Framework; development of a service provider's database; efforts to develop a local Long Term Agreement (LTA) for travel; up-front removal of taxes from bank and utility invoices; review of Closed User Group (CUG) phone arrangements; collecting information on meeting and hotel facilities; and Greening the UN in Jamaica.

The move into common premises in the UN House will impact the work of the OMT in 2018, since it will likely be called on by the UNCT to provide strategic analysis and advice on common service areas for all Agencies, always with a view to reducing operational costs and increasing efficiency. These will be considered as the BOS is being finalized. Among the areas likely to be explored:

- Common procurement of janitorial services; telephone service; mail and pouch service; security guard service; and fuel.
- Facilities services, including greening and energy-saving investments
- Common information technology services
- Common human resources

The OMT convened regular monthly meetings and held an extended retreat in November. Additional working sessions were dedicated to elaborating elements of the BOS. Challenges faced in 2017 included the loss of experienced members, including two of the three OMT members trained in BOS in late 2016. After steady progress throughout the year, the team now better appreciates the effort required to complete the BOS, which is a realistic prospect for 2018.



Business Operation Strategy (BOS) Roadmap finalized.

RESULTS OF COMMUNICATING AS ONE

UN Jamaica website goes live in 2017



The UNCG 2017 Work Plan supported implementation of the Jamaica UN-MSDF/CIP by placing priority on cross-cutting themes of the Country Implementation Plan:

1. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) implementation
2. Core MSDF themes across Agencies: gender-based violence; climate change; office safety and health; and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) prevention.

Advocacy and public education on the SDGs

Public education and advocacy initiatives in support of the SDGs were primarily centred on UN Day 2017 in October. The advocacy initiative included a seven-page statement to the House of Representatives by the Prime Minister of Jamaica regarding the country's SDG plans and actions, as well as the pinning of 44 Members of the House by high-school student leaders. Consistent with global Goals 3 and 16 and commitments to advance action on the SDGs from the Prime Minister, Parliament undertook to debate banning corporal punishment across the nation. The public education event, an outdoor expo featuring 13 participating UN organizations, was attended by a total of 250 persons. Climate Change Adaptation UN Jamaica staff joined International Coastal Clean-up Day activities at Kingston's Palisadoes beach to



demonstrate thought leadership and joint work on climate-change issues. A statement to the media highlighted the clean-up project, linked to the relevant SDG and to the UN MSDF. A commemorative infographic video circulated via Facebook garnered nearly 6 000 views.

Non-Communicable Diseases

Social media campaigns on Twitter and Facebook utilised videos and artwork generated by UN Headquarters. Posts were also run in commemoration of the 16 Days against violence campaign, World Diabetes Day and the UN Cares Staff Wellness Day, using these events as platforms for messaging on NCDs.

In addition, the UN Jamaica website was developed and launched on the World Wide Web. The website includes explanatory pages on the UN MSDF and related overviews and downloads of the Country Implementation Plan for Jamaica. Embedded links navigate to the major social media accounts of UN Jamaica. A toolkit containing a synopsis of the work of each member Agency, Fund and Programme, was also produced.



Commitments to accelerate action on the SDGs secured from parliamentarians including the Hon. Prime Minister of Jamaica

I SUPPORT THE



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



13 CLIMATE ACTION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

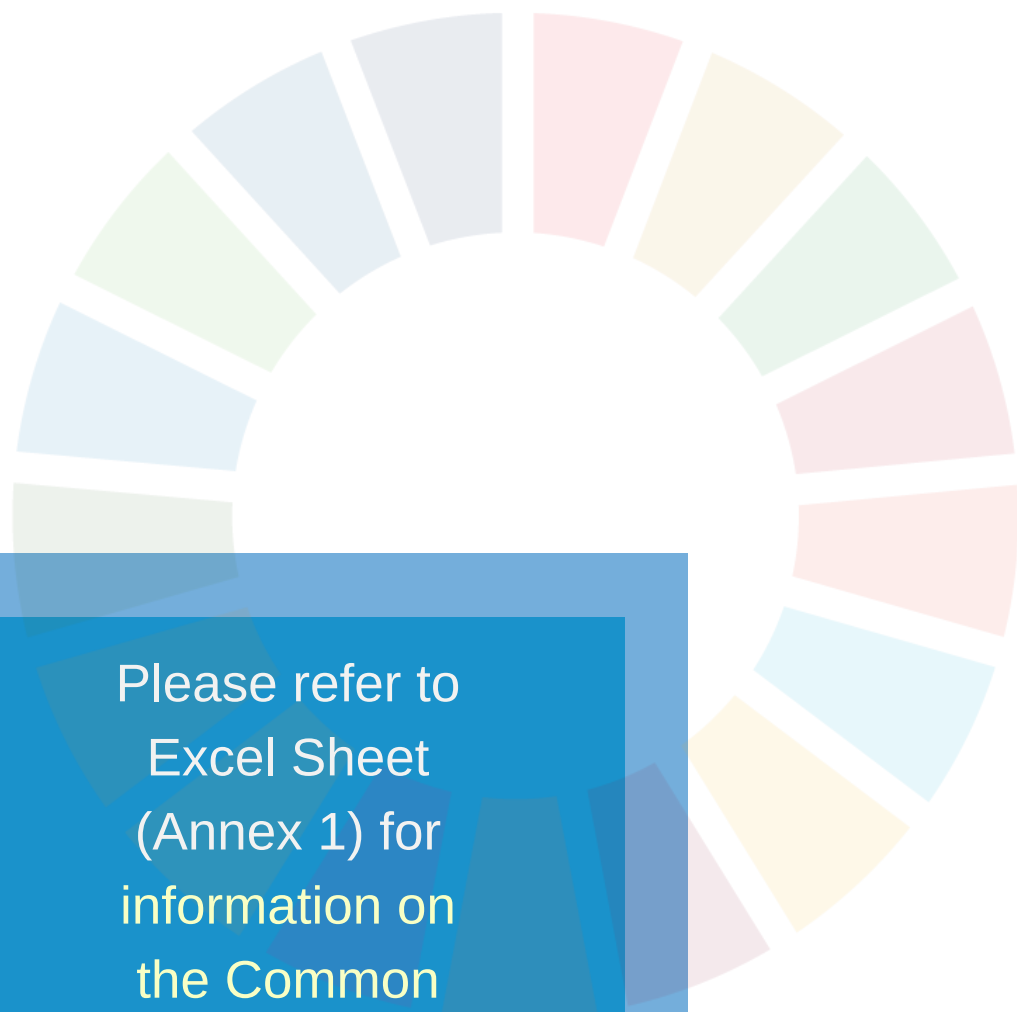
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Prime Minister commits to Agenda 2030

The government of Jamaica is committed to banning corporal punishment throughout the nation consistent with Sustainable Development Goals number 3 and 16, Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness announced on Tuesday, 7 November in Jamaica's Parliament. "I must reiterate the commitment to not only banning corporal punishment in schools but generally in society", he emphasized noting that this would directly impact on Jamaica's achievement of Goal 3 - Good Health and Well-being and Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. "Jamaica recognizes this and is taking the necessary steps to make the changes required" he said. The Prime Minister was making a special contribution on the Sustainable Development Goals at the 7 November sitting of the House of Representatives. Earlier, the Prime Minister and nearly all 63 members of the House had been pinned with commemorative SDG pins by high school students under the guidance of the United Nations Country Team to Jamaica. The Prime Minister said he wanted to remove corporal punishment as an option by changing the means by which children are disciplined and how conflicts are resolved in Jamaican society.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Please refer to
Excel Sheet
(Annex 1) for
information on
the Common
Budgetary
Framework
([CLICK](#) for
document)

LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD



The 2017 reporting exercise highlighted the predictable, indeed classical challenge of reporting on results as opposed to activities, including distinguishing results attributable to UN-supported activities, as well as the broader challenge of availability, timeliness and appropriateness of data, indicators etc. Participating UN Agencies also reported a challenge in demonstrating the value added of the MSDF/CIP 'joint' UN programming if all activities remain Agency-specific.

The individual Pillar reports did not benefit from as much input from UN Agencies and partners as was hoped for, reflecting Results Groups that are still feeling their way. As a result, the report as a whole contains only very limited references to activities supported by other International Development Partners or the Government itself, which in turn makes it difficult for the Agencies to document the relevance and focus of their activities, not to mention live up to the ambition of true accountability. Agencies provided only limited information on money – whether resources required to achieve each result, resources available internally, resources mobilized and to be mobilized, or resource gaps.

While this reflects difficulties, for Agencies that provide technical assistance from internal resources or through multi-country projects, in estimating the dollar value of their contributions, the lack of financial detail reduces considerably the usefulness of the CIP itself as a tool, and of its governance structures as a forum, for resource mobilization. Lack of financial detail also undermines the Agencies' commitment towards transparency in their contribution to the country's development. It also feeds the need, on the part of the Government bodies tasked with keeping track of international support, for separate reports – a requirement often portrayed as duplicative by UN Agencies. The joint UN programming, monitoring and reporting work taking place within joint working groups is crucially dependent on the goodwill of UN Agency staff and their national and international counterparts to undertake activities often perceived as 'additional' to their already heavy core responsibilities. Inputs into this report provided by UN staff are all the more appreciated because, despite everyone's best efforts, these inputs continue duplicating information needs from the respective Agency headquarters and the Government.

Further work will be required to achieve full integration and ensure that one report meets the needs of such different stakeholders. A shared ambition for Government and the UN for the UN MSDF/CIP should be a single annual workplan and a single annual results report, backed by sufficiently regular and well-informed meetings of the various governance bodies (Results Groups and Joint National Steering Committee) that they would alleviate the need for any additional, Agency- or project/programme-specific documentation.



The extent of the presence and participation of Non-Government Organizations in Results Groups was often insufficient. Efforts should be made to identify relevant partners and to secure their presence and active participation in the discussions. Some national partners were frustrated and relatively demobilized by the perception that, by the time the Results Groups are brought in to consider the annual Results Table, the activities of UN partners are already set in stone. Again, this will be alleviated over time as more regular and more substantive Results Groups meetings inform the UN Agencies on the need to revise their individual multi-year programmes to better reflect evolving national priorities. At the organizational level, the Results Groups were also heavily solicited at year end; their contributions would have been more helpful to programme formulation had they met more regularly, starting at the very beginning of the year.

It is also important to recognize that this Country Report can only hope to capture those UN Agencies activities that fit within the structure of the CIP, leaving out a varying proportion of the Agencies' actual activities in support of national development. Despite repeated high-level commitments and everyone's honest efforts towards greater collective UN focus, individual Agencies continue to support activities outside the CIP agreed with the Government's coordinating agency, PIOJ, either because those activities are seen by Agency Headquarters as global mandates, or because they are demanded by sectoral national partners.

Finally, the UN-MSDF and its regional- and country-level governance and programme planning arrangements do represent an improvement over previous, UNDAF-type approaches. However, non-resident UN Agencies only experienced marginal improvement in their ability to contribute to national development priorities and, vice-versa, the Government did not experience a step change in its ability to mobilize the competences of non-resident Agencies. In that sense, this first year of the UN-MSDF did not fully live up to its ambition of placing at the Government's disposal the full range and depth of expertise of the UN development system, irrespective of geographic location around the Caribbean and beyond.

The Joint National Steering Committee will consider these lessons learned and decide how to best reflect them in improved management practices and programme activities for 2018 and future years.





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