



# SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER



# UN75

2020 AND BEYOND

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## We continue to benefit from cooperation with UN

**J**AMAICA'S BLACK-GREEN-AND-GOLD flag was unfurled at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York on September 21, 1962, marking the country's entry as a member of that august body. As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, we pause to reflect on the historical relationship with this noble institution and its impact on the daily lives of our citizens.

LONG BEFORE becoming an independent nation and a fully pledged member of the United Nations, Jamaica embodied its spirit and principles. This was exemplified during the fight for equality, human rights, and international justice in apartheid South Africa when in 1957, Jamaica, not yet an independent country, was the first to declare a trade embargo against South Africa.

At the 1963 General Assembly, Jamaica proposed that 1968 should be designated the International Year for Human Rights to mark the 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Among its many objectives, the declaration was intended to reinvigorate the public commitment of member states to its principles. This initiative spurred advancements towards the current global human-rights architecture.

The United Nations continues to be a vanguard of great support as countries seek to tackle a multiplicity of complex challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic. I take this opportunity to express appreciation to the United Nations for its comprehensive response to the pandemic, including the generous assistance provided to Jamaica. We continue to benefit immensely from our relations and cooperation within the UN and the wider multilateral framework.

I commend the UN on its 75th milestone, and we look forward to forging an even stronger partnership in the quest for a better future.

**His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Linton Allen, ON, GCMG, CD, KSt.J**  
Governor General



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## Jamaica grateful to be critical stakeholder in UN

**T**HE UNITED Nations (UN) has been critical in building a world of peace, security, and sustainable development worldwide for three-quarters of a century. Through 17 interconnected and ambitious goals, this humanitarian body continues to address development challenges faced by people around the world.

WITH A passion for humanity at the core of its function, the United Nations has mobilised its efforts to end poverty and hunger and support health and well-being, education, and equality. At the same time, the UN continues to champion economic growth through innovation and sustainable climate action. All these are key hallmarks of our multilateral collaborative activities, of which we can all be proud.

Indeed, the UN has existed to improve the lives of many by supporting initiatives that advance self-sufficiency, promote healthy communities, and strengthen nations – a mandate it has embraced since 1945. The UN has partnered with Jamaica on a myriad of projects and

recently assisted Jamaica through the spotlight initiative to combat the country's alarming levels of violence against women and girls. It has also provided COVID-19 relief, among other important interventions. Crucial assistance and guidance towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to our national objectives, are also features of the relationship between Jamaica and the UN.

In this regard, Jamaica is grateful to be a critical stakeholder in the United Nations, and we will continue to do our part in contributing to the welfare of the human race.

This year, we commemorate the UN's 75th anniversary under the unprecedented global health crisis that has had severe economic and social impacts but as a body of countries with a common goal. I am confident that we will, through partnership, recover and build a better and brighter future for all.

**The Most Honourable Andrew Michael Holness, ON, MP**  
Prime Minister





## Looking forward to continued collaboration

**S**INCE ITS establishment, the United Nations has been best known for its role in the pursuit of global peace and security, including the attendant issues of disarmament and the protection of human rights. In a world of ever-emerging challenges, the organisation continues to support member states in tackling myriad other global issues of critical importance to social and economic development.

The UN has been an invaluable partner in Jamaica's quest for inclusive and sustainable development to uplift our people and country. We deeply appreciate the diligent work of the various UN agencies and offices operating locally and look forward to our continued collaboration.

The UN's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has served as a demonstration of the strength of our partnership and has supported our ability to increase Jamaica's capacity to address these new challenges. Jamaica has received technical assistance and ready guidance to stem the tide of the disease, including the provision of testing equipment, the inclusion of Jamaica in the UN Response and

Recovery Fund, and the assurance of equitable access to a vaccine when it becomes available.

The value and relevance of the UN are further underscored through the Spotlight Initiative, which will assist our most vulnerable victims of abuse as we seek to protect lives and livelihoods.

Jamaica's commitment to the identification of concrete and comprehensive solutions to recover better and stronger is reflected not only domestically but through UN processes in our role as a co-convenor of the High-Level Event on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond.

As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter, Jamaica reaffirms our unwavering commitment to the UN's principles and objectives. We will continue to do our part in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation as it delivers as one, and as we partner to leave no one behind.

**Sen. Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

## Strong policy, programmatic support between Jamaica and the UN

**A**S WE celebrate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, we recognise the continued commitment of member states to multilateralism as a means of achieving global peace, human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Jamaica, in particular, has a rich history of leadership and engagement within the United Nations system. Noteworthy are Jamaica's stance against racism and apartheid, Jamaica's support of gender equality and the establishment of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women and its successor organisation, UN Women, and Jamaica's advocacy and support for the development of the Laws of the Sea and the formation of the International Seabed Authority. At the national and regional levels, our collaboration has resulted in strong policy and programmatic support in areas such as health, education, culture, food security, governance and peace building, migration, climate change, and crisis prevention and recovery, to name a few. The UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework has provided the basis for much of this work in the last four years.

As a UN Country Team, we take great pride in our collaboration with the Government of Jamaica, the private sector, academia and civil society organisations around programmes that support the Government's vision and respond to the urgent needs of the most vulnerable populations. Over the past year, we have been actively engaged in supporting the country's response and recovery effort to COVID-19, through



targeted interventions that strengthen health systems and support rural female farmers, front-line workers and students.

We have engaged with our partners, under the leadership of the Government, to bring to life innovative flagship programmes, such as the European Union-funded Spotlight initiative – to end all forms of violence against women and girls – a clear example of using the whole-of-country approach as well as partnership to tackle common issues like the scourge of family violence.

Additionally, a remarkable global collaboration is underway for a safe, affordable and accessible COVID-19 vaccine for all. We are happy that Jamaica will be a part of this mechanism.

This 75th anniversary comes at a time of great challenge, but therein also lies an opportunity for Jamaica and the world to confront our weaknesses and chart a plan towards recovery that is more resilient, inclusive, and leaves no one behind.

The Sustainable Development Goals, married with Jamaica's Vision 2030, provide a relevant and inspiring blueprint for recovering better.

Thank you, Jamaica, for 58 progressive years at the United Nations. We will build back better from COVID-19. And, with global solidarity and cooperation, Jamaica will realise Vision 2030 – to be the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business. Happy UN75!

**DR GARRY CONILLE**  
United Nations Resident Coordinator

*We have engaged with our partners, under the leadership of the Government, to bring to life innovative flagship programmes, such as the European Union-funded Spotlight initiative – to end all forms of violence against women and girls – a clear example of using the whole-of-country approach as well as partnership to tackle common issues like the scourge of family violence.*



# Message

## Inspirational moment to reaffirm commitment to UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

**A**S WE celebrate today the achievements of the United Nations, we should recall that one of its greatest and most enduring successes designed to benefit humankind is certainly to be found in the development of a global legal regime for the ocean through the adoption in 1982 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Described as the ‘constitution for the oceans’, this fundamental treaty is indeed a striking illustration of the collective contribution of the international community to this vision of a fairer and more equal society.

The 1982 convention established certainty in the law of the sea and brought peace and order to the oceans. It provided for an equitable relationship among states in their use of the ocean and has been a major contribution to international peace and security.

Jamaica was instrumental in the evolution of the negotiations and the crafting of the convention, which was signed by 119 countries in Montego Bay in December of 1982. Kingston was subsequently selected as the site of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) when the convention came into force on November 16, 1994, becoming one of the few countries, and the first in the region, to host a major UN body.

Although the convention is multifaceted, covering every aspect of humanity’s use of the oceans, four key elements stand out: rights of access to the sea and its resources; protection of the marine environment; maritime dispute settlement; and lastly, and obviously most dear to my heart, the convention established an entirely novel legal regime for the largest untapped mineral resources on the planet, designating these resources as the ‘common heritage of mankind’.



These resources are managed by ISA, which today comprises 167 members and the European Union. Its unique mandate is to give life to the ideals of equity and economic and social solidarity in the access to and sustainable management of deep seabed minerals for the benefit of all humanity. Through ISA, access to these resources is assured to both developed and developing states, rich and poor, large and small. The data collected through exploration and marine scientific research expeditions is compiled with the aim of being shared broadly with all. No other resource on the planet is managed in this way, and we have struggled so far to apply similar ideals to extraterrestrial resources.

At a time when the international community reflects on how to strengthen multilateralism and cooperation, the 75th anniversary of the UN presents an inspirational moment to reaffirm our commitment to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and ensure that its provisions are implemented on the basis of equity and for the benefit of all humanity.

**MICHAEL W. LODGE**  
Secretary General of the  
International Seabed  
Authority



ISA was established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the subsequent 1994 Agreement.

### ISA MANDATE

The mission of ISA is to organize and control activities in the deep seabed beyond national jurisdiction to ensure the safe and rational management of its mineral resources in line with UNCLOS and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This means ensuring that commercial deep-seabed mining follows the highest environmental standards and that the economic benefits are equitably shared among all States.



**168 members**  
167 States and the European Union

**92 observers**



Budget 2019–2020  
**US\$18,235,850**

+ **Voluntary trust funds** for members of the Council, the LTC and the FC to ensure participation from developing States, and for the Special Representative for the Enterprise

+ **Endowment Fund** for Marine Scientific Research in the Area





# Ensuring all are empowered to achieve full potential

*Tonni Brodber/Contributor*

**T**HE UNITED Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women, formerly UNIFEM) has been working in partnership with the Government of Jamaica and the women's movement to end violence against women, promote inclusive economies, and strengthen resilience over 20 years.

Sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are not possible without regular and accessible data. Sex disaggregated data and gender statistics can inform on whether a nation's development is benefiting the population equally. Through UN Women's technical support, Jamaica was one of the pilot countries for the CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators, derived from the SDGs to assess the status of women and men in education, economic activity, health, public participation, and human rights. This assessment informs on the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies, and programmes.

Jamaica is the first country in CARICOM to have prevalence data on violence against women through

UN Women's work with the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) and the Inter-American Development Bank to produce the Jamaica Women's Health Survey 2016 – a comprehensive examination of the nature and prevalence of violence against women and girls in Jamaica. The survey results inform on the risk factors for violence and the ways in which violence against women and girls links to family violence and the normalisation of violence in communities.

The existence of prevalence data informed the development of the joint European Union-United Nations Spotlight Initiative Programme to end violence against women and girls and its broader link to family violence. UN Women is honoured to partner with its sister UN agencies to support the Government and civil society on this initiative to support a safe and resilient Jamaica.

Through the EnGenDER programme, on which UN Women is collaborating with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations World Food Programme, and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, UN Women has been able, with Global Affairs Canada funding,

to provide direct support to 508 women vendors in agriculture and tourism through the Urban Development Corporation and the Bureau of Gender Affairs.

Gender equality is recognised as a critical aspect of achieving the SDGs. This is particularly true for the economy, any country's success is dependent on the full and equal participation of all its citizens. The Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) developed by UN Women and the Global Compact are one way in which the private sector can ensure the full and equal participation of all. Jamaica is the lead Caribbean country in the Win-Win Gender Equality Means Good Business Programme.



Funded by the European Union, UN Women, and the International Labor Organization, the Win-Win Programme throws the spotlight on ensuring equal pay for work of equal value, support for women entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses, and creating formal and decent work opportunities for women, including leadership and executive decision-making positions. Through Win-Win, over 47 Jamaican-owned companies are among global signatories to the WEPs.

The women's movement created UN Women, and UN Women aims to do its best to continue to support the women's movement in Jamaica. The Jamaica Household Workers Union, which has established its name internationally, led by its president, Shirley Pryce, is one of the entities UN Women has

partnered with. UN Women supported its move from an association to a union and facilitated training for the household workers in its several chapters across Jamaica to be aware of their benefits and rights under the term 'decent work' and to be able to defend their interest and rights when the need arose.

UN Women has also leveraged Jamaica's development successes through South-South exchanges, which promote sharing on better practices. Jamaicans participated in exchanges to Fiji, to South Africa, and across the Caribbean to share lessons learned on disaster resilience, security and justice, and political participation.

UN Women is committed to helping Jamaica realise Vision 2030 to ensure that no Jamaican is left behind and, in so doing, honour the legacy of the work and passion of our late representative, Alison McLean, to deliver for women and girls in the Caribbean.

**Tonni Brodber**  
**Representative, UN Women**  
**Multi-Country Office**  
 – Caribbean

*UN Women was formed 10 years ago to be the global champion for gender equality, supporting the development and reform of laws, policies, and regulations in support of a world where women and girls live free of violence and are able to live out their full potential of choice. We have been fortunate to have been led by some of the Caribbean's and world's best – Joycelin Massiah, Roberta Clarke, Christine Arab, and Alison McLean – about what service to the Caribbean looks like, and we will continue to serve with their lessons and legacy at the forefront of our minds.*



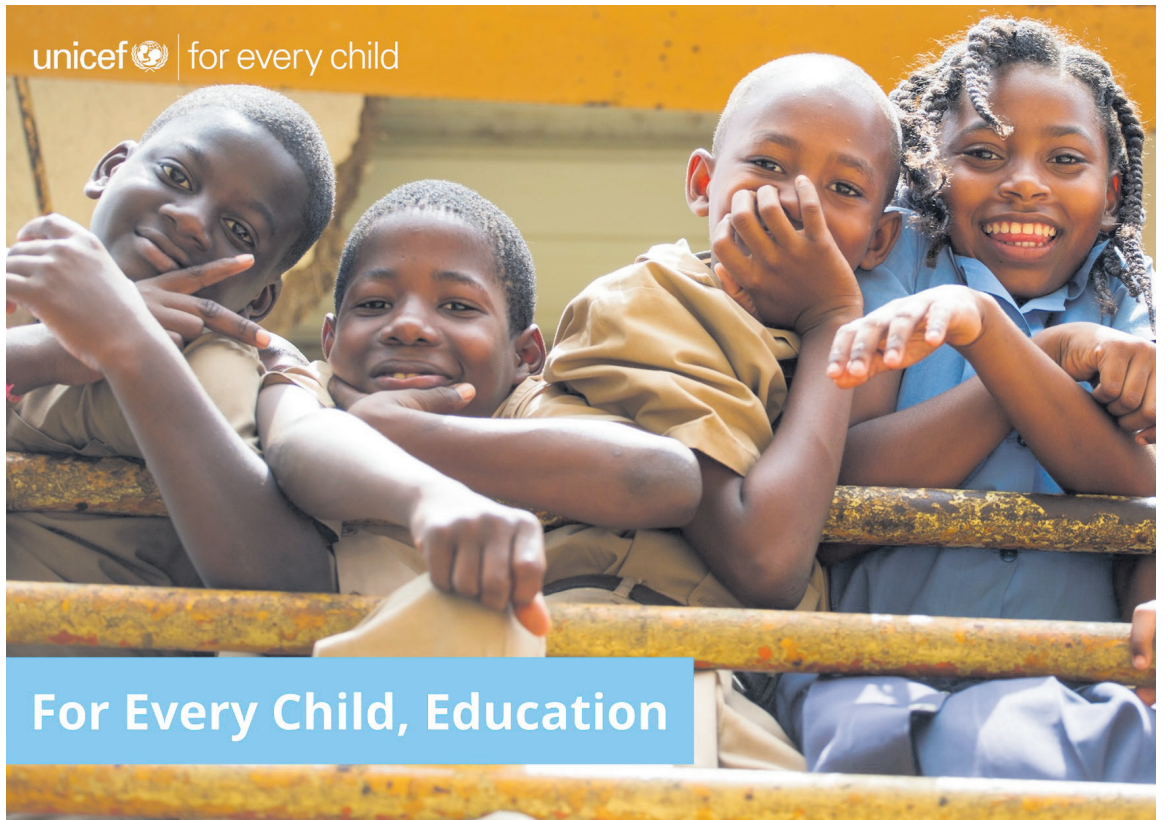
**↑** The Future We Want,  
 The United Nations We Need.





For Every Child, Health

unicef | for every child



For Every Child, Education

unicef   
**deeply  
 committed**

UNICEF works for every child

Our mandate is to support the Government to meet its commitment to fulfill the rights of Jamaican children – as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child – and to achieve national goals for development under Vision 2030.

UNICEF Jamaica has a small team dedicated to big goals.

We work closely with a range of government and non-governmental partners, providing both technical and financial support for various efforts in the areas of Safety and Justice, Lifelong Learning, Health Promotion and Social Protection.

unicef | for every child



For Every Child, Safety

unicef | for every child

**Mariko Kagoshima**  
 UNICEF Representative

*As we commemorate UN75, UNICEF Jamaica remains deeply committed to our mandate to help fulfil the rights of every child and to make the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development a reality for all Jamaicans.*



For Every Child, Protection

unicef | for every child



**UN75**  
 2020 AND BEYOND



The Future We Want,  
 The United Nations We Need.



# Focusing on the immediate but prioritising the future

Ozan Sevimli/Contributor

**E**XTREME POVERTY is expected to rise in 2020, for the first time in over 20 years, due to the impact of the global pandemic. A recent report, 'Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune', estimates that the pandemic may push 115 million more people into extreme poverty. An estimated 9.2 per cent of the global population still lives below the international poverty line of US\$1.90 a day.

Jamaica's successful economic reform programme has enabled the country to manage the crisis better. Nonetheless, some of the progress made in recent years is likely to be reversed, and an increase in poverty is forecast for this year. Unfortunately, many people who escaped poverty in Jamaica in recent years have been forced back below the poverty line by COVID-19 and its economic impact.

Tourism numbers have fallen, small and medium-size business are struggling to keep the lights on, farmers cannot plan for their next harvest, and families are struggling to adjust to, or in some cases, access online schooling.

Understandably, much of the focus is on how to alleviate these immediate challenges that Jamaicans are facing. I believe that investing in people can strengthen some of the country's key sectors of growth and reduce poverty.

At the recent launch of the second phase of the Rural



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Economic Development Initiative (REDI), I spoke about Louise. She is one of 172 greenhouse operators who benefited from the work done in REDI I, where prospective farmers were introduced to new technologies and new skills. Louise now sells her produce to the tourism industry, earns a living, and can send her children to school.

And we are not alone in this quest, World Bank projects in Jamaica reflect a shared vision with the Government and are implemented with the support of local partners and other multilateral and international organisations. I am confident that Jamaica has the potential to surmount the setbacks that are before us and to move towards a more sustainable, resilient future for all.

**Ozan Sevimli**  
Resident Representative,  
World Bank

*The UN and the World Bank have enjoyed a successful partnership in working towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Jamaica. Congratulations on this 75th anniversary!*



**Keisha Livermore**  
Head of Office, IOM

*IOM joins the world in celebrating UN75 while pledging to continue to work together to ensure that no one is left behind and migrants have a voice in international development plans and responses.*



**IOM**  
UN MIGRATION

"...Managing Migration for the benefit of all"

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners to effectively manage migration; ensuring that no one is left behind.

Jamaica has been an IOM member state since 2005. However, IOM has been partnering with the Government of Jamaica since the early 1990s. This support includes:

## RETURN & REINTEGRATION

- o Qualified Jamaican Nationals
- o Failed or Pending Asylum Seekers
- o Irregular Migrants
- o Stranded Migrants



## RESPONDING TO COVID 19

- o Awareness Raising
- o Combatting Xenophobia
- o Support to Stranded Migrants
- o Support to Vulnerable Migrants

## PROTECTING VULNERABLE MIGRANTS

- o Victims of Trafficking
- o Stranded Migrants
- o Child Migrants
- o Awareness Raising/ Capacity Building
- o Logistics Support for Refugee resettlement



## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT

- o Mainstreaming Migration into national development strategies
- o Migration Profile
- o Working towards achieving the SDGs
- o Diaspora Engagement



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**The Future We Want,  
The United Nations We Need.**



# Jamaica's solid partner through COVID-19 and beyond

**Dr Theodore Gandhi/Contributor**

**T**HE CREATION of PAHO in 1902 was born out of the recognised need to contain and eliminate the spread of yellow fever, plague, and other communicable diseases across the Americas. It was clearly recognised in 1902 that multilateral cooperation was key to protecting people's health, preventing and controlling diseases, and safeguarding economies. In 2020, this remains true.

Building core capacities and networks has enhanced preparedness and response for all threats, coordinated and monitored by PAHO/WHO and supported with partners. Systematic strengthening of global health security was concretised with the adoption of the International Health Regulations (2005), implemented in June 2007, by 196 countries, including all WHO member states.

As the specialised health agency for the Americas, PAHO/WHO has accelerated its technical cooperation and support for all countries for COVID-19 with critical actions to save lives, protect healthcare workers, and slow the spread of the virus. PAHO's response includes the installation of laboratory molecular Real-Time PCR testing capacity for the COVID-19 virus in 38 countries and territories, including Jamaica, as well as for the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA); provision of over 106 technical guidelines and recommendations; and has sent over 38 million items of PPE to 34 countries and territories for use by front-line workers.

While the response has presented us with many challenges, there are many opportunities for health-systems strengthening and resilience as we cement the gains towards Universal Health and attaining the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

PAHO will continue its technical cooperation and is pleased to be working alongside the Ministry of Health and Wellness in a whole-of-government, whole-of society approach since the PAHO Jamaica Country Office was established in 1958 in response to another public health threat: an outbreak of malaria.

As we continue to guide the response and plan for recovery to transition to the next phase of the pandemic – the new normal – PAHO will continue to provide ongoing support in all health-related areas, including epidemiology and surveillance, health emergencies, infection prevention and control, risk communication, health systems, non-communicable diseases, and mental health.

PAHO was born out of national unity and global solidarity, and that is what will get us through this pandemic.



## Vaccines: saving over 2.5 million lives per year

"GOOD MORNING, Mrs Smith. I am sorry to tell you that your son's ability to walk will not improve due to the nerve damage from his infection with the polio virus."

Mothers and fathers today will never have to hear these heartbreaking words, thanks to the success of the vaccination programme in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. Jamaica and its Caribbean neighbours who, for years, have been global leaders in the goal to eradicate diseases through vaccination.

PAHO established the Expanded Programme on Immunization 40 years ago. The success of this programme in the Caribbean is evidenced by the fact that the last cases of locally transmitted vaccine-preventable diseases were newborn tetanus in 2001, rubella (German measles) in 2000, congenital rubella syndrome in 1999, diphtheria in 1995, measles in 1991, and polio in 1982.

Today's mothers and grandmothers may not have seen, and may never see, diseases like these. Fortunately, many families will now never know how devastating these can be, especially for little boys and girls. These diseases can lead to long-term disability or even death. For more than 40 years, PAHO's Revolving Fund for Access to Vaccines has provided access to safe and quality vaccines at affordable prices for Jamaica and other member states and territories throughout the region. It is part of PAHO's larger technical cooperation package that supports countries' efforts to achieve sustainable and equitable reduction of morbidity and mortality of vaccine-preventable diseases through control and elimination strategies. This mechanism will also be used to support countries in the region in access to WHO pre-qualified and approved COVID-19 vaccines.

**Dr Theodore Gandhi**  
PAHO/WHO Representative

*UN at 75 comes at a critical time in the world, and still, new challenges will emerge. Partnership remains key to responding to COVID-19 at the country and regional level. Viruses know no boundaries and only together, can we overcome these and other common threats.*





# Reflecting on World Food Programme's work in the Caribbean

FROM HIS office in Barbados, Regis Chapman, head of office for the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in the Caribbean, reflects on the recent award of the Nobel Peace Prize and its relevance to the agency's work in the Caribbean.

"WE are not on that traditional conflict front line, but the Caribbean is on a different front line, and that is a front line for its existence," he stated.

While the award is a clear recognition of the agency's efforts to leverage food security in improving conditions for peace, it also acknowledges the importance of cooperation in combating other drivers of hunger – a sentiment that holds true for the Caribbean region, which is at war with climate change. Many small-island developing states

in the region not only bear the brunt of the climate impacts that leave millions of people short of food or at risk of losing livelihoods but are also impacted by the profound economic crisis and rising joblessness brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In July, WFP estimated that 407,000 people were severely food-insecure and an additional 2.5 million moderately food-insecure in English-speaking Caribbean countries.

The socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have seen all countries and territories across the region increasing the level of social protection and other programmes to support people impacted by the economic fallout.

"Jamaica has served as a lead on this discussion around



shock-responsive social protection. Even before the term existed, they were already doing it," explained Chapman. "Jamaica is also called upon to assist in an emergency within neighbouring countries as part of the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management's (CDEMA) Regional Response Mechanism."

WFP partners with CDEMA and

the Government of Jamaica to put people at the centre of an emergency response by strengthening supply-chain capacities for future emergency responses and existing social protection to further refine and improve its responsiveness in the face of the current and future crisis. During the early days of the pandemic, CDEMA, with support

from the WFP, played a major role in the movement of personal protective equipment and medical supplies throughout the region. WFP also positions its expertise to support governments to target, assess the vulnerability of, and register households within social protection so they can rapidly benefit from cash assistance during climate or economic emergencies.

Recognising the growing food insecurity as a result of COVID-19 and climate vulnerability, WFP is strengthening its collaboration with the Government of Jamaica and the UN Jamaica team by opening a satellite office in the country later this month.

"There is also a hunger everywhere for international cooperation. The World Food Programme feeds that need, too," said António Guterres, United Nations secretary general.

As part of the UN family, WFP contributes to joint programming in the Caribbean to strengthen national and regional capacities to prepare for and respond to disasters while also increasing resilience to climate change.





# The UNEP's Cartagena Convention

## A regional agreement for the protection and development of the Caribbean Sea

IN 1981, under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Regional Seas Programme, Governments of the Wider Caribbean held a meeting in Montego Bay, Jamaica to develop an integrated, cooperative and regional approach to safeguarding their marine and coastal resources. The resulting Action Plan for the Wider Caribbean, through which the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme was established, led to the adoption of the "Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region" (also known as the 'Cartagena Convention') and its three Protocols in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in 1983.

In April 1987, a year after the Convention was ratified, Jamaica pledged its commitment to

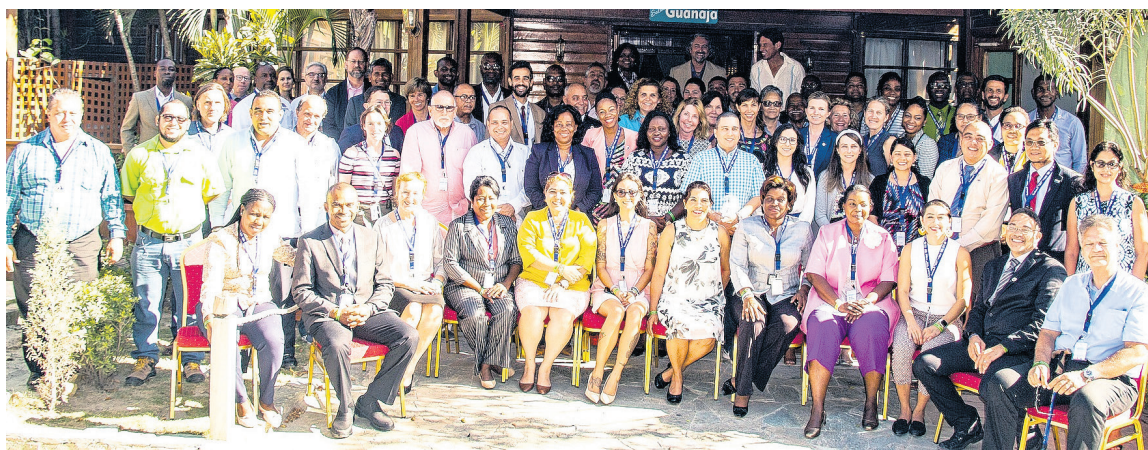
taking appropriate steps to protect the Caribbean Sea's marine and coastal resources from the threats of pollution and degradation, and to ensure that sound environmental management is enabled for the sustainable use of these resources. Jamaica has also hosted the Cartagena Convention Secretariat since 1986 and is a Contracting Party to the Convention's Protocols on Oil Spills (April 1987) and Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (November 2015).

Under the Convention, Contracting Parties such as Jamaica are required to address a range of issues including pollution from ships, the dumping of wastes at sea, pollution from coastal discharges and land-based sources, pollution from sea-bed activities, air pollution, the conservation of

habitats, as well as the protection of threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna.

According to Dr. Lorna Inniss, Coordinator of the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, "partnerships are key in this effort to protect our marine resources. Everyone has to be on board and our work in the region is rooted in cooperation and creating synergies."

An example of such partnership is the ongoing Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco) Project, a regional initiative co-executed by the Secretariat. The Jamaica sub-project is being implemented by the National Environment Planning Agency, with support from local organizations, and aims to preserve the Negril Great Morass, one of Jamaica's largest wetlands.



In June 2019, Jamaica participated in the 15th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and its 18th Intergovernmental Meeting held in Roatán, Honduras.

**Dr Lorna Inniss**  
UNEP Coordinator, Secretariat  
of the Cartagena Convention

*More than ever, the Caribbean needs nature, advancing, sustainable, post-COVID recovery programmes to accelerate economic and social transformation for all.*



### Cartagena Convention

Adopted : March 24, 1983  
Entered into force : October 11, 1986



Protocol Concerning  
Cooperation in Combatting  
Oil Spills

Adopted : 1983  
Entered into force : 1986



Protocol Concerning Specially  
Protected Areas and Wildlife  
(SPA/W)

Adopted : 1990  
Entered into force : 2000



Protocol Concerning Pollution  
from Land-Based Sources  
and Activities (LBS)

Adopted : 1999  
Entered into force : 2010

The Sandals Foundation, in collaboration with local and regional partners, implemented the Solid Waste Reduction Project in Whitehouse and Bluefields, Westmoreland under the Trash Free Waters Initiative. Over 3000 residents benefitted from outreach and capacity building activities on upcycling, recycling and composting.

Under the GEF-funded Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management Project, co-implemented by the Inter-American

Development Bank and UNEP (2012 – 2017), Jamaica strengthened its wastewater management, and ratified the Convention's Marine Pollution (LBS) Protocol. The follow-on GEF CReW+ Project (2020-2024) will build on the learning and successes of the CReW Project, implementing small scale solutions for the improved management of water and wastewater that can be upscaled and replicated.



# Restoring the BALANCE

## How the Caribbean can build recovery and resilience in a post-COVID world

### VINCENT SWEENEY/ CONTRIBUTOR

COVID-19 HAS underscored the close connection between people, nature, and climate. In order to reduce the likelihood of future pandemics, we must act now to halt rapid environmental decline and restore the precious relationship between nature and people.

#### WORKING WITH THE ENVIRONMENT TO PROTECT PEOPLE

As we all work to recover from the global health crisis and the subsequent economic downturns it has occasioned, we are met with an unprecedented opportunity to revolutionise how we work for the benefit of both the environment and our world's most vulnerable communities. Nature-based solutions that protect the lives and livelihoods of people proffer endless benefits to the environment and the economy – leaving no one behind.

The Caribbean Sub-Regional Office (CSRO) of UNEP, located in a region that has been more affected by climate change than almost anywhere in the world, has always worked to help governments, industries, and communities adapt to and mitigate the environmental impacts they experience on a daily basis. Today, this focus has never been more pivotal for the Caribbean's sustainable development.

Through increased investments, policies, and actions that harness alternatives, protect nature, and are carbon-neutral, we can implement sustainable consumption and production, as well as introducing green jobs in a greener, more

inclusive, sustainable economy. A clear example of this is Jamaica's implementation of the Global Fuel Economy Initiative Project, which has created an enabling environment that will support the development and implementation of cleaner and more efficient fuel and vehicle policies.

**Vincent Sweeney**  
Head, UNEP Caribbean  
Sub-Regional Office

*The UNEP Caribbean Sub-Regional Office continues to work with the environment to protect people by restoring lost ecosystems and biodiversity, fighting climate change, and reducing pollution. On this occasion of UN75, we recommit, alongside our UN family, to supporting countries of the Caribbean to build back better and increase resilience to future crises.*



#### TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

In the Caribbean, this close and symbiotic relationship between nature and people has long been evident. In fast-growing urban areas across the region, often built in areas at risk of natural disasters,

ecosystems are struggling to support local populations. Already, these communities are experiencing reduced water supply and poor sanitation, which present health and economic implications. This is only expected to worsen as climate change accelerates. Protecting, strengthening, and augmenting the resilience of these ecosystems and the people that depend on them is intrinsic to the work of UNEP. Under an Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) programme, UNEP is reducing the vulnerability of urban and peri-urban communities in Jamaica to climate change by protecting, maintaining, and rehabilitating priority ecosystems to act as physical buffers against climate change-related hazards. These activities simultaneously generate multiple social and environmental co-benefits.

#### WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Plastic Waste Minimisation Project in Kingston is just one example of a waste-management project being supported by the Sub-Regional Office. Marrying policy with public education, this project is strengthening the legislative framework in Jamaica to reduce marine litter caused by land-based activities while engaging the public in interactive campaigns that cause them to think about the effect of plastic use on both their local and global environments.

The project has already begun to open pathways to alternative livelihoods for communities in Kingston as plastic becomes a means of

generating income: a material to be repurposed and recycled to make new products – from park benches to flowerpots – that can be sold.

#### MODERNISING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

To ensure the long-term sustainability of our recovery and our resilience building against climate change, it will be important to identify and promote technological solutions that enhance governance procedures. Tailoring to local conditions by engaging national technology and research centres and promoting public-private partnerships and regional and international cooperation are some ways to achieve this.

The Caribbean Sub-Regional Office continues to support and serve Caribbean governments in their efforts to enhance their governance procedures, even with the changes and developments a post-COVID world may bring.

Humans live in a symbiotic relationship with nature; neither can truly survive without the other. The current pandemic and its origins in our mistreatment of nature have only served to highlight this. COVID-19 has given us an opportunity to press reset on many of our activities. As we enter a new phase of both recovery and resilience from this pandemic, let us seize the opportunity to equally press reset on our relationship with nature and build a more sustainable future.

# UN

## environment programme



The Future We Want,  
The United Nations We Need.





# Partnership During Crisis: Strengthening the Agriculture Sector

## Celebrating 75 Years of the UN

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations celebrates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations and its own 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, amidst one of the most difficult times. Under these unprecedented circumstances, ensuring food and nutrition security and strengthening the resilience of those most vulnerable remains as crucial as it was in 1945.



Dr Crispim Moreira, FAO Representative for Jamaica, the Bahamas and Belize.

Through the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), FAO is providing technical support to the Government of Jamaica to minimise disruption in the agriculture value chain and limit socio-economic hardships induced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the Fund, FAO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, has been better positioned to provide support to farm families affected by the pandemic while providing nutritious local produce to vulnerable families. Through the purchase of local produce under the Ministry's Agricultural Produce Buyback Programme, over 1,000 farmers in the parishes of St Mary, Portland and St Thomas will have direct and better markets for their agricultural produce. In return, through our collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the programme will be able to provide packages of local produce to vulnerable families, some of which are beneficiaries of the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH).

Key to sustainable development is



being able to enhance the impact of an intervention. By improving and formalizing market support for farmers in these parishes, who continue to struggle to find stable and reliable markets for their produce, farmers will have a more reliable income and have better supported livelihoods. Families adversely affected by the pandemic will also receive food baskets to support their nutritional needs. These arrangements under the MPTF project

will be an integral component of the Ministry's marketing strategy going forward. Beyond the life of the project, farm families and those affected by COVID-19 will have better support.

On this milestone anniversary, FAO is committed to working with its United Nations family to support Jamaica in developing a revitalized agriculture sector, building back better and leaving no one behind.

## Spicing up Technical Cooperation with Ginger

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) joins in celebrating UN75.

Throughout this time, the specialised Agency has been unwavering in its commitment to provide technical cooperation, helping governments transform the outlook of agriculture and working to ensure food and nutrition security for all.

In recent years, some of FAO's work in Jamaica has focused on developing the ginger industry as a model for competitive and resilient agricultural value

chains that can produce value-added products, create jobs, provide decent livelihoods for farmers, and export Jamaica's products to the world.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, FAO has provided critical technical expertise training to over 50 staff members from the Ministry and its agencies. This training in the production of disease-free certified ginger covered such areas as tissue culture labs, good agricultural practices for commercial production of ginger, and value-chain analysis.



With an increased focus on building collaborative partnerships with the private sector, farmers and agri-

businesses, FAO is providing support to de-risk agricultural production and attract new investment in crop production using the lessons learnt from developing Jamaica's ginger sector. Through a current public-private partnership, the country is on its way to producing certified ginger, and ginger products on a wider and more sustainable scale and regain prominence on the global export market.

This feat has shown that no single entity can change the agriculture sector alone. FAO continues to take a

deep-rooted approach to technical cooperation, guided by the values of support and partnership towards achieving the shared vision of Jamaica's national priorities and development agenda. FAO is committed to playing its part in developing a full value chain approach to building similar agro-industries; improving inter-sectoral collaboration; promoting sustainable farming as a business and developing a modern agriculture sector that is profitable, creating vibrant rural communities with farmers contributing to food security in Jamaica and abroad.





## Strengthening Human Resilience in North Clarendon, West Kingston

### The human security approach to development

**T**HE STRENGTHENING Human Resilience Project in Northern Clarendon and West Kingston is a joint initiative of the Government of Jamaica through the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC); formal and informal community groups; and the Joint United Nations Team comprising the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Pan American Health Organization and World Health Organization (PAHO-WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and UN Women under the 'Delivering as One' approach.

The project seeks to enhance the resilience of communities in northern

Clarendon and west Kingston in Jamaica by employing a multisectoral approach to the development challenges facing the communities. *"Human security is a people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific, and prevention-oriented framework that considers the broad range of conditions that threaten the survival, livelihood, and dignity of people, particularly those who are most vulnerable. By identifying the concrete needs of populations under stress, human security highlights the complexity of the challenges and promotes integrated solutions that ensure greater coherence and stronger impact,"* says United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/290, dated September 10, 2012.



The project's four key objectives are community strengthening; improved economic, food, and nutrition security; improved environmental health and water security; and strengthening institutional capacity to mainstream the human security approach to development. The programme has achieved success under all four objectives and continues to build on these results through interconnected activities.

Some key results, to date, include assistance in community strengthening through formal and informal training sessions; the provision of water-harvesting and irrigation systems to farmers, coupled with training and maintenance of the systems and best practices in agriculture; the rehabilitation of rainwater-harvesting systems for potable water; the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the

National Water Sector Policy; and an assessment of the gender implications of access to water and sanitation. Ongoing activities include further formal training of community members, further farmer training, rehabilitation of selected health centres, and increased efforts at mainstreaming the human security approach as a holistic means of addressing development challenges faced by communities.

## Joining hands to ensure human security

LIKE 75 years ago, the survival, livelihoods, and dignity of millions of people across the world are threatened by a global crisis. On this 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recognises the urgency of ensuring that everyone has equal and equitable access to safe and nutritious food and sustained livelihoods and that they can develop the resilience to withstand shocks, threats, and crises – like the ones we experience today.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, FAO began working with farmers in northern Clarendon who were particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters and who faced significant obstacles to development and sustained livelihood. Through the United Nations Joint Human Security



Trust Fund, FAO continues to work with the Government of Jamaica in developing and expanding on-farm water-management solutions to help in sustaining the livelihoods of Jamaica's food heroes who ensure that

Jamaicans have the food they need.

To date, FAO, in collaboration with the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), has designed and established 20 on-farm rainwater-harvesting sheds, as well

as gravity-drip irrigation and fertigation systems. These farmers in northern Clarendon, who once depended on expensively trucked water, now have on-farm irrigation systems that have allowed them to extend their production cycles and increase crop production by up to 30 per cent.

FAO's Farmer Field Schools have trained over 30 farmers in effectively installing and maintaining on-farm irrigation systems. Through FAO's training on Farming as a Business, 18 female farmers and 15 male farmers are now equipped with the analytical skills and business-management tools to make more informed and calculated decisions regarding their farms and farming operations.

Today, the Mount Airey Farmers Group in northern Clarendon is a strong and collaborative agency providing training and irrigation technology support to other farmers, including women and youth.

Despite these gains, the work is far from over. After 75 years, FAO remains fervent in its goal to achieve food and nutrition security, increase the resilience of the Jamaican people, and ensure the sustainable management of resources.





**COVID-19**  
UNDP Support To  
National Response

# UNDP supporting Jamaica's COVID-19 response and recovery

**T**HE UNITED Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi Country Office in Jamaica is actively supporting COVID-19 response and recovery in partnership with the Government and people of Jamaica and the United Nations Country Team.

UNDP's support in response to the immediate needs of the most vulnerable has included grants and sanitation and care packages. A key contribution to the Government's coordination efforts has been support to the development of a digital emergency coordination platform.

As technical lead for the United Nations Social and Economic Response and Recovery, UNDP has also collaborated with the Government of Jamaica and UN agencies for comprehensive socio-economic assessments on the impact of COVID-19 with particular focus on the most vulnerable populations. Evidence from this assessment will be used as the basis for undertaking more detailed context-specific

impact analyses. These assessments will also support the Government in post-COVID needs assessment being planned, as well as potentially guiding policy.

In commenting on the UNDP's support to COVID-19, Denise E. Antonio, UNDP Resident Representative, said that "at the heart of UNDP's response to the impacts of COVID-19 in Jamaica is a strong focus on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable populations with an emphasis on leaving no one behind".

All of this would not be possible without the generous support of resources reprogrammed from core funds, as well as existing UNDP-implemented projects such as Phase II of the ACP-EU Development Minerals Project; 'Strengthening Human Resilience in Northern Clarendon and West Kingston', a UN Human Security Trust Fund Project; and 'Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDer)', a Global Affairs Canada Regional Project.

**Denise E. Antonio**  
UNDP Representative

*As the United Nations celebrates 75 years at an unprecedented and challenging time, UNDP is proud to be part of the UN Country Team working to support Jamaica's national development aspirations, including its COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.*



**UN75**  
2020 AND BEYOND



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# Small investments, **BIG IMPACT**

**128 communities get access to water  
in seven years through UNDP  
water-harvesting projects**

**W**HEN WATER is channelled into communities, it stimulates new life by improving standards of living, food security, incomes, and growth. With this in mind, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi Country Office in Jamaica has made water harvesting a priority over the past seven

years as it seeks to get more water into communal and household pipes in underserved communities.

With funding from the UNDP-implemented Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), Japan Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (JCCCP), and core resources, UNDP has been



privileged to partner with community organisations and government agencies in expanding water access to 128 communities across the nation over the past seven years.

Evaluations of nine projects between 2013 to 2019 indicate that the water-harvesting projects are still actively serving more than 135,000 persons in virtually every parish across the nation, long after the projects have closed. Strong evidence suggests that these interventions have significantly contributed to mitigating the impacts of climate change by channelling good-quality drinking water into pipes and reversing downturn in crop harvests caused by drought.

“Even more encouraging is the impact on health and sanitation, sustainable agriculture, sustainable livelihoods, and local economies, largely achieved in partnership with members of the community,” UNDP resident representative Denise E. Antonio noted. “We are especially gratified that access

to potable water may prove helpful in supporting the local fight against infectious diseases, including COVID-19, in target communities and has proven to be particularly successful in boosting crop harvests in most instances,” she pointed out.

The investments by GEF SGP and JCCCP focused on the rehabilitation and construction of water community storage tanks; the construction of earth ponds for irrigation; the establishment of water-harvesting systems, including the procurement of black storage tanks, conveyance systems, and drip irrigation hoses; and the construction of aquaponics greenhouses and fish tanks to support sustainable livelihoods. Water storage capacity has been increased by a combined 2.3 million gallons in the seven-year period under review.



**The Future We Want,  
The United Nations We Need.**





# Jamaica signs MOU to end AIDS in Kingston by 2030

**A** MEMORANDUM of understanding was signed on Monday, November 25, 2019, to get to zero new HIV infections and zero AIDS-related deaths in the city of Kingston by 2030.

The Fast-Track Cities programme is a global partnership between cities and municipalities around the world with four core partners – the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and the City of Paris. It seeks to join forces among city mayors and public-health officials, clinical and service providers, and affected communities in over 300 cities and municipalities across the world to fulfil a commitment to end the HIV, tuberculosis, and viral hepatitis epidemics by 2030.

The programme in Jamaica is dubbed ‘Kingston Fast-Track City Plus’, with an expansion of the HIV-related targets to include three other priority areas of public health: mental health, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and environmental

health. This was a historic moment in Jamaica as it marked the first time that the ministries of health and local government signed an MOU to formally collaborate at the political level around these critical issues affecting the population.

Several activities have been undertaken through this programme, including the development of a Situational Analysis of the HIV Epidemic and Response in the City, which provides data and analysis of health trends across the parishes of Kingston and St Andrew; a City Implementation Plan that recommends targeted strategies to the Government for ending AIDS as a public-health threat in the city; a directory of HIV services available in the city; and a web portal with four health dashboards providing health-related data on HIV, mental health, NCDs and environmental health, which will provide information on how to access HIV and other health-related services and data.

The programme is now implementing new activities with key partners to improve data quality aimed at informing

efforts to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, implementing an HIV self-testing pilot, reducing stigma and discrimination through the development of a Stigma Free Spaces certification programme, and establishing condom access points throughout the communities where homeless shelters are located. These activities are being done in partnership with the Kingston and St Andrew Municipal Corporation, the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, and the Pan American Health Organization.

The Kingston Fast-Track City Plus programme has faced challenges in the face of COVID-19. However, this new scenario has promoted innovation in order to meet programmatic goals and targets towards ending AIDS as a public-health threat by 2030.

For more information, please visit <https://www.fast-trackcities.org/about>.

#### *Manoela Manova/Contributor*

GLOBALLY, SINCE the start of the HIV pandemic, approximately 78 million people have acquired HIV and some 35 million have died because of AIDS. Since 1996 when the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) started, it has led and inspired global, regional, national, and local leadership, innovation, and partnership to ultimately consign HIV to history. After decades of epidemic response, we have made important strides in reducing new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths and tackling HIV-related stigma, discrimination, and violence.

We now know that HIV is fuelled by underlying factors. It has been consistently proven that limited access to health services, education, and justice; stigma and discrimination; violence, including gender-based violence; and exclusion and inequalities, as well as harmful laws and policies, increase people’s risks and vulnerabilities to both acquiring HIV and dying because of AIDS.

Therefore, marginalised populations, including gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, and sex workers, who are often excluded and discriminated against, or even criminalised, carry a higher burden of HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths. For example, HIV prevalence among the trans community in Jamaica is 51 per cent – 34 times higher than the general adult population. In addition, the health and well-being of these populations are often addressed without considering their life course and the wide range of health services that they need.

In order to be effective and sustainable, the HIV response should not stand alone but must be integrated into and complemented by other services that safeguard a person’s health, well-being, and dignity in all facets of life.

Recently, UNAIDS, the United Nations Population Fund, and TransWave Jamaica, a non-governmental organisation working to advance the health, welfare, and well-being of the transgender community, partnered to develop the country’s first-ever comprehensive health strategy. This strategy will address the health needs of the trans community from a life-course approach and include all aspects of their health and well-being beyond HIV.

AIDS is not over, but it can be, and it will be if we keep striving together with government authorities, civil-society organisations, cooperation partners, and all stakeholders to respect, protect, and promote the right to health of everyone, leaving no one behind.

*Manoela MANOVA is Country Director UNAIDS.*





United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



## UNESCO supports teachers in embracing online learning

**D**UE TO school closures as a result of COVID-19, the classroom has been moved to the digital space for most learners. UNESCO, together with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information and the UWI Open Campus, has addressed challenges that many teachers face in the new online teaching environment with the Online and Blended Professional Development Initiative in Jamaica.

The four-day online workshop trained 40 teachers in digital tools and resources for using innovative teaching methods for distance education. After successful completion of the course, the participants became certified “master trainers” for their teacher colleagues at their school.

Mrs Bright-Chin-See is a programme participant and an art teacher at Wolmer’s Boys’ School in Kingston. Since the school closed, Wolmer’s Boys’ School has trained its teachers in a variety of digital learning tools. “The UNESCO initiative complemented my knowledge of digital learning. For example, I learned new tools and

platforms such as recording and uploading my own art classroom videos to YouTube.”

Even so, Chin See said that her biggest challenge in teaching since COVID-19 has been moving away from the computer as the new learning environment requires a lot of commitment and time to plan and deliver the lessons. “I miss the classroom. Art is an individual expression, but now I need to find new ways to interact with my students because I want them to be creative and authentic in their artistic expressions,” Chin-See said.

The teacher said that she had to take into account the differentiated abilities of the pupils. She says it is now difficult for her to monitor them and provide adequate feedback.

“The UNESCO initiative has shown me different ways to do this. I got to know UDL, Universal Design for Learning, an approach to teaching and learning that allowed me to focus on my students individually, especially those who needed a little extra support.”

Following the success of the first phase, UNESCO, together with the UWI Open Campus, expanded the initiative and launched the second phase on October 13 with 50 teachers from 20 countries in the Caribbean region.

**Saadia Sanchez**  
Director and Representative,  
UNESCO Cluster Office for the  
Caribbean

*I am truthfully committed to exercise strategic and operational leadership to advocate for the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as UNESCO’s priority in the framework of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. In the context of the COVID-19, I advocate not only for a ‘new normal-ity’, but also for a new global solidarity: a horizon of recovery rising from a deep sense of humanity toward such normality, which I hope and imagine is near, and which I trust will be more egalitarian, more equitable, fairer, and more sustainable. #LetsSIDStogether*



## Understanding the ripple effect of COVID-19 on inequality

COVID-19 HAS unmasked vectors of discrimination that our contemporary world is afflicted with and has magnified inequalities. Against this background, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organised a series of regional consultations around the world to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to racism, discrimination, and inequalities.

In a conversation with UNESCO, Carla Moore, adjunct lecturer at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, Mona Unit, at The University of the West Indies, explains why it is important to address intersectionality in the context of exclusion and discrimination in Jamaica, calling for gender equality and meaningful youth participation.

In the Caribbean, COVID-19 has highlighted the need for long-term policy responses that address root causes of exclusion and discrimination. Moore underscored that not all the population has been affected in the same way. She emphasised that it is important to examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic from an intersectional perspective. This means looking at other factors such as socio-economic status, age, gender, ethnicity, and/or geographic location and analysing how different population groups such as people with disabilities, women, LGBTI+, youth, migrants, or ethnic minorities have been affected by the global pandemic.

In Jamaica, women from low-income backgrounds have been disproportionately affected by the impact of COVID-19. According to Moore, “... in addition to working, cooking, and cleaning the house, women have to look after their children and support them in distance school lessons at home, taking over the work that teachers used to do. However, they are often not able to help their children adequately as they themselves have not had access to quality education in the past. Moreover, domestic and gender-based violence has increased during the pandemic.” Despite a lack of disaggregated data for Jamaica and the wider Caribbean region, these observations are in line with

global estimates, according to UN Women.

UNESCO advances youth rights by recognising youth as partners and advocating for their meaningful participation and inclusion in decision-making in Caribbean SIDS.

As a young activist and influencer, Moore also shared her advice for youth participation: “Be disruptive, advocate loudly, take seriously the principle of doing no harm, avoid recreating the mistakes of past generations, and propose solutions that speak to your national context.”

With almost 63 per cent of the population in the Caribbean being under the age of 30, young people have also been differently affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, where pre-existing inequalities of income and opportunity have been exacerbated. Despite these difficulties, youth have been at the forefront, helping their communities overcome challenges amplified or caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

With a view to policy responses, Moore is convinced that alleviating poverty must lie at the heart of strategies to promote inclusion. The consequences of poverty are linked to development challenges such as exclusion and violence, and “only by eradicating poverty can sustainable solutions to inequalities be found”. Furthermore, Moore also pointed to the importance of debt forgiveness, especially in the context of the Caribbean Small Island Developing States as debt serving may limit social spending.

UNESCO’s programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. SIDS have been recognised by the international community as a special case for development due to their unique vulnerability. UNESCO, as UN lead agency on sciences, addresses intersectional inequalities and exclusion by offering Caribbean stakeholders the tools and resources that are based on human and social scientific knowledge. UNESCO reiterates its commitment to enhancing peace building, promoting mutual understanding, and fostering inclusion in Caribbean SIDS, especially within the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

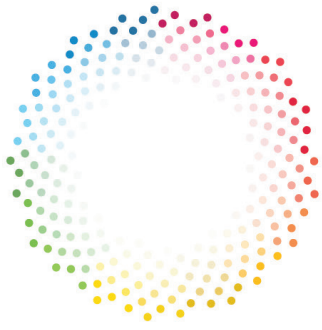


**UN75**  
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**Spotlight Initiative**



An initiative of the European Union and United Nations

**1 IN 3**

.....  
*WOMEN WORLDWIDE  
HAS EXPERIENCED*

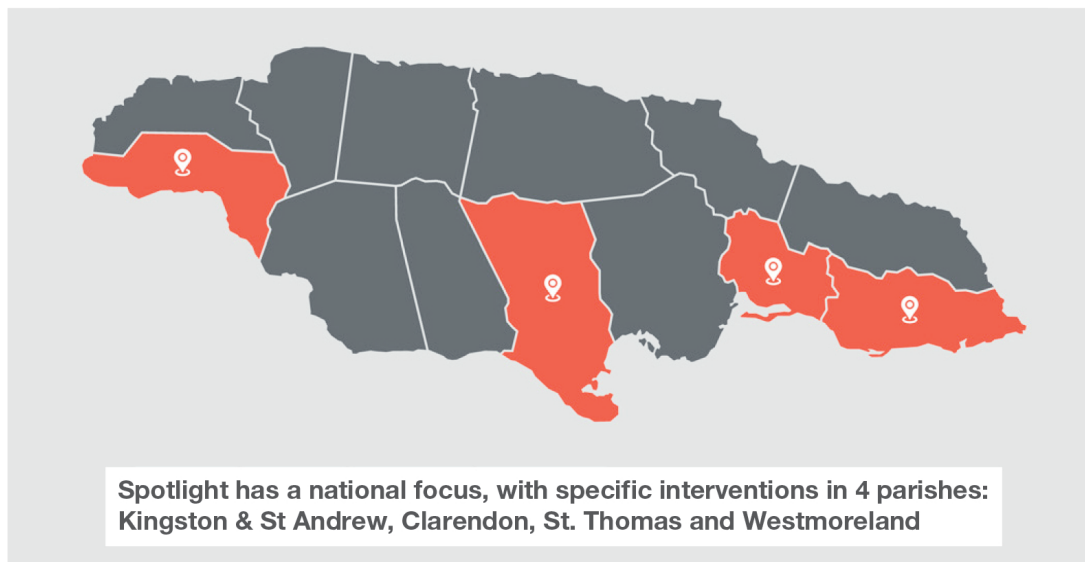
**PHYSICAL AND/OR  
SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

..... *IN HER LIFETIME* .....



**#WithHer**





# The Spotlight Initiative

The Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership, from 2020 – 2023 between the European Union and the United Nations; its aim is to eliminate gender based violence against women and girls. This is an unprecedented global effort, seeded from a 500 M Euro contribution from the EU, with Jamaica funded

at USD 6.6m.

Spotlight focuses on 6 pillars:

- » Legislative and Policy Framework
- » Strengthening Institution
- » Prevention and Social Norms
- » Delivery of Quality Essential Services
- » Data Availability and Capacities
- » Supporting the Women’s Movement

## M E S S A G E S

### Creating a Society that Values Women, Girls, Men and Boys

The Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport is pleased to join the 75th anniversary celebration of the United Nations.

Jamaica has been a member of the United Nations since 1962, which marks 58 years of shared partnership and commitment. A great example of the successful partnership between my Ministry and the United Nations is the implementation of the Women’s Political and Economic Participation: The Way Out Project.

Throughout the years, we have benefited from consistent support and partnership from the UN to advance gender equality. This includes support for women’s economic empowerment, working to eliminate violence against women and girls as well as advocating for greater participation at



**Honourable Olivia Grange, CD, MP**  
Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport

the highest level.

I am still celebrating an important achievement for women in leadership. A record number of women were recently elected to the House of Repre-

**Continues ...**

### 75 years of service around the world

The European Union congratulates the United Nations on its achievement of 75 years of service around the world! In all our partnerships with the UN and via the “One UN” approach, we anticipate complementarity, efficient use of resources and engagement of entities that intervene at the point of need. This EU Delegation’s partnerships with UN agencies in Jamaica have produced lasting results for beneficiaries and we expect that the Spotlight Initiative will achieve the mandate to “leave no one behind” in eliminating family violence.

The Spotlight Initiative is an unprecedented worldwide undertaking between the European Union and the United Nations focused on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). In June 2017, the EU endorsed the EU Consensus for Development, in which gender equality and women’s empowerment are mentioned among the core values and key driv-



**Marianne Van Steen, H.E. Ambassador**

ers of development. In the Consensus, the EU and Member States confirm our commitment to work together with partners to eliminate all forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and discrimination. The EU endorsed the global commitment to eliminate violence against women and girls, including improving access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), under the 2030 Agenda, which strongly

**Continues ...**



**IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING! CALL 888 PROTECT NOW!**



**The Future We Want, The United Nations We Need.**



## Key Terms

### GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Gender-based Violence (GBV) is a term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will that is based on socially ascribed gender differences between males and females. Examples include sexual violence, sexual exploitation/abuse, domestic violence, and more.

### FAMILY VIOLENCE

Family violence (FV) is physical, social, sexual, economic and emotional abuse as well as acts of aggression within relationships that are considered family connections. It includes, married couples, intimate partners whether living together or dating, and violence between parents and children.

### INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) refers to any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological, or sexual harm to those in the relationship. Examples include acts of physical violence, such as slapping, hitting, kicking and beating; as well as sexual, emotional and psychological violence.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals or Global Goals are a collection of 17 interlinked goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all." These goals were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

## Did you know?

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread and devastating human rights violations in our world today.

**1 in 3 women** worldwide have experienced physical or sexual **VIOLENCE**

In Jamaica, **1 in 4 women** has experienced **sexual abuse** most often from **someone known to them**



**Girls under 18** made up **56%** of reported **RAPE CASES** in Jamaica (2018)

In 2017, Jamaica had the **2nd highest rate of female homicides** in the world. **11 out of 100,000 women** were killed.

## Impact of COVID-19

Violence against women during the pandemic has **INTENSIFIED**, with an up to **30%** increase in reports for some countries.



- **81%** of U-Report respondents believe that **women and children** are at slightly or much greater risk of **domestic abuse**
- **76%** of U-Report respondents are **willing or very willing to report physical and sexual abuse** to authorities
- More than **700 new abuse cases** were reported to the Victim Support Unit in **March and April alone**

Source: Spotlight Initiative - Domestic Abuse in COVID-19 (U-Report May 2020)

## What is Spotlight doing about it?



Support to establish national shelters



Document & enhance referral pathways for essential services



Expansion of tele counselling for victims & survivors



Public Education Campaigns to confront norms & attitudes



**IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING! CALL 888 PROTECT NOW!**



The Future We Want,  
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# The role of Civil Society

Civil Society plays a key role in helping to end violence against women and girls. Spotlight has established a Civil Society Reference Group to support project implementation and governance.



“Spotlight’s emphasis on women and girls is crucial at this period in our development and allows us to provide meaningful research and programmes that will lead to better protection for these vulnerable groups.”

**Professor Opal Palmer Adisa**  
Chair – Civil Society National Reference Group



“For years we’ve done a lot of talking and planning around what will be done for the human rights of women, girls and vulnerable groups with very little action. Spotlight represents a multilateral and multi-sectoral commitment to do better for women and girls, and I am excited to see the changes the project promises come to life.”

**Glenroy Murray**  
Secretary/Focal Point - Civil Society National Reference Group

## Some of our partners include:



... with more to come.

## Creating a Society that Values Women, Girls, Men and Boys

### Continued

representatives. Women now make up 28.5 per cent of members of the House and are performing the important duties of Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and Deputy Leader of the House.

In the Senate, women now comprise 38 per cent of the members. This is directly linked to the recommendation in the National Policy for Gender Equality regarding the increase of female participation in political decision-making to 30 per cent, beginning with the Senate and on public boards.

We have intensified our efforts to create a society that values women,

girls, boys and men, enabling them to achieve their potential and contribute to nation building.

The Spotlight Initiative, launched on March 9, 2020 in partnership with the UN and the European Union is another collaborative effort, which highlights gender-based violence as a major development issue and focuses on transforming the society into one where women and girls can thrive, free of all forms of violence.

Spotlight aligns with the vision and goals of our National Policy for Gender Equality (NPGE) and the National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-based Violence in Jamaica (NSAP-

[Spotlight] focuses on transforming the society into one where women and girls can thrive, free of all forms of violence.

GBV) 2017-2027. It will support key actions such as the strengthening of referral and support services to ensure women and girls are respected, protected and celebrated.

My Ministry remains committed to ad-

ressing the issue of gender-based violence. We are in the process of establishing three national shelters for victims of domestic abuse and have operationalised 24-hour helplines so that we can more effectively respond to calls for help.

We are grateful for the support of our international partners in relation to the protection of women, children and people with disabilities, especially within the context of the covid-19 pandemic and the threat it poses.

Congratulations to the United Nations on this milestone. I look forward to our continued partnership towards achieving a bright future for all Jamaicans.



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**K**INGSTON, Jamaica – “It’s a lot of unpacking traumas. It’s a lot of re-focusing energy, and teaching girls and young women who have suffered a lot that you don’t have to suffer. [Violence] is not a normal part of life,” says Danik Frazer, Programmes Officer for the Mentor Mom Tele-Counselling Programme at Eve for Life (EFL) Jamaica.

The Mentor Mom Programme provides psychological tele-counselling to girls and women aged 16 to 25 who are experiencing intimate partner violence and abuse in the home. They are then assigned to a ‘mentor mom’ – a fellow survivor of violence who is trained to provide peer-to-peer psychosocial support in navigating abusive situations.

Through UNICEF, the Spotlight Initiative in Jamaica is supporting the expansion of this programme to 500 adolescent girls and young women. Those referred to the programme will have access to a psychologist and 24-hour support from a mentor mom via telephone.

### Fighting the epidemics of gender-based violence and COVID-19

Restricted movement due to the COVID-19 pandemic has made many women and girls more vulnerable to violence as they are trapped at home with their abusers and cut off from traditional support services. EFL, a local non-profit operating out of Kingston, provides national support to survivors of gender-based violence and persons living with HIV.

The expanded tele-counselling programme allows EFL to reach survivors with the technologies they already use in convenient and private ways. The



# Mentor Moms using tech to provide counselling support

programme also improves access to response and referral services, especially for women and girls in rural areas and those who may be isolated in quarantine.

Mentor moms are women who have themselves benefitted from intensive counselling and other interventions, and the programme allows them to support other women experiencing gender-based or family violence.

“It doesn’t matter the time of day or night; I will answer their calls,” says Tian McDonald, a mentor mom who serves

more than 21 clients across Jamaica. “I know why I am doing this, and I understand that I too was once in their position. If it weren’t for Eve for Life, I would not be here now,” she says.

Mentor Moms receive ongoing training and are matched with clients based on the individual needs of each survivor. Most women hear about the programme through community outreach activities and from other survivors in EFL’s network.

“We have received many calls and referrals since COVID-19,” says Sha-

na-lee Smith, Programmes Officer of the EFL Mentor Mom initiative. “On average 15-20 girls access counselling sessions monthly.”

In response to the increased need, EFL has boosted social media advertising to let more women and girls know there is a safe place to seek psychosocial support.

To read the rest of the article, please visit the following site: <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/news/i-was-once-their-position-survivors-supporting-survivors-jamaica>



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# Jamaica's Vision can become reality by 2030

Seventy-five years after its founding, the United Nations continues its fruitful partnership with the people of Jamaica. Together, in support of government and joining hands with civil society, academia and the private sector, this partnership places priority attention on realizing Jamaica's Vision 2030 National Development Plan – a comprehensive national effort to ensure that Jamaica achieves the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and Jamaicans are empowered to achieve their full potential in a just, secure and safe society, with a prosperous economy and a healthy natural environment.

While progress has been made towards achieving the Goals, unforeseen events like the COVID-19 pandemic and recurrent natural disasters threaten hard-fought gains in the economic, social and cultural lives of everyday

Jamaicans. More often than not, women and girls bear the brunt of these negative impacts as a result of gender inequality and entrenched patriarchal structures in society. This has been especially true during the pandemic. The economic fallout, heightened unemployment and increased unpaid care burdens have been borne disproportionately by women. Most alarmingly, we have seen across the world an increase in levels of violence against women and girls.

This violence is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations that confronts us today. Across the world, 137 women are killed by their partner or a member of their own family every day. According to the Women's Health Survey (2016), one in every four Jamaican women has experienced physical violence – most often from someone they know.

Violence against women and girls is not normal. It should never be excused or met with impunity.

The attitudes and mindsets that perpetuate gender-based violence can be transformed rapidly when we empower the voices of women, survivors, and men and boys who are ready to champion the safety and rights of women and girls. Neither Jamaica, nor the world, will be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals without ending violence against women and girls.

Since 2017, the United Nations, the European Union and governments from more than 25 countries have committed to shine a powerful spotlight on this problem and step up the pace in global efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls by 2030. Known as the Spotlight Initiative, we are spearheading a global move-



**Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, Director, Sustainable Development Unit, Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General**

ment so women and girls can live a life free of violence in all its forms, and free from fear. We are confident that a significant, concerted and comprehensive investment in gender equality and ending violence and impunity can change the lives of women and girls for the better.

Through the generous contributions of the European Union, more than US\$9 million will be invested over three years in preventing gender-based violence across Jamaica. More

than 620,000 people will directly benefit from our programmes to end domestic and family violence.

As we mark 75 years of the existence of the United Nations, we join with Jamaica to reaffirm our pledge to leave no one behind and ensure that women and girls are central to our efforts to make Jamaica a safe place for everyone to live, work and thrive. As we expand Spotlight Initiative's Caribbean footprint, Jamaica and five other countries in the region, as well as a regional level programme, will focus on preventing gender-based violence, protecting women and providing high quality services for survivors of violence, and strengthening the nation's laws, and do this with the active engagement of civil society.

The world is looking to learn from Jamaica's success in ending this terrible scourge.

**Continued**

condemns all forms of violence against women and girls and has identified its elimination as a priority, supporting women's full realisation of their human rights.

The European Union is strongly committed to supporting gender equality and women's empowerment. This has been reiterated by our new woman president Ms Van der Leyen and our new Commissioner for International Partnerships Ms Jutta Urpilainen. This strong commitment is also one of the reasons the European Union teamed up with the United Nations to fight against the most prevalent forms of violence against women and girls worldwide and has provided an initial global commitment of €500 million and a regional allocation

of €50 million for the Caribbean to support elimination of family violence. The regional programme has earmarked €8 million to change the lives of Jamaican families by addressing family violence in a sustainable way.

The development of the country programme to address family violence in Jamaica was a joint effort between EU, UN agencies, Government ministries & institutions and quite importantly, civil society organisations. The need for intervention in Jamaica remains great as 28% of Jamaican women experience physical or sexual violence over their lifetime. In 2018, 71% of girls under 18 who were victims of crime were raped and 20% of Jamaican women reported

being sexually abused as children. The Spotlight Initiative in Jamaica therefore aims at contributing to a country where every woman and girl realises their full potential in a violence-free, gender-responsive and inclusive environment.

Violence against women and girls is one of the greatest injustices of our time, which touches all countries, cultures, communities and families. It is one of the biggest barriers to achieving sustainable development for all. Indeed, it is time to leave violence behind in Jamaica and the world! Funding the elimination of violence against women is certainly not discriminatory against men! Ending violence is an absolute principle, which must be applied to all;

women and men, girls and boys! Whilst the large majority of victims of violence are women and girls, we need to focus on men and boys' behaviour because the transformative change will benefit men and boys, too. Ending violence against women and girls will drive sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.

The success of the Spotlight Initiative in Jamaica depends on strong coordination among all the actors at all levels through active engagement, dialogue and knowledge sharing. We need the support of the Government of Jamaica together with civil society organisations and local authorities to be in the driving seat. The European Union together with the United Nations will strongly support this process.

## 75 years of service ...



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# THE WORLD NEEDS SOLIDARITY. YOUR CONTRIBUTION COUNTS.

The United Nations is marking its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary at a time of great challenge, including the worst global health crisis in history. Where do we go from here? You can help shape global priorities. Share Jamaica's hopes for our collective future.

Jamaica's opinion counts.

**Your views can make a difference.**



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