



UNITED NATIONS

JAMAICA, BAHAMAS, BERMUDA
TURKS AND CAICOS & CAYMAN ISLANDS



ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2023



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Foreword

The 2023 Annual Results Report stands as testament to the collective efforts and unwavering commitment of the United Nations Country Team and partners towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year, the United Nations continued to transform into an agile organization, responsive to the complex challenges impacting our small island developing states (SIDS) of Jamaica, The Bahamas, and Bermuda.

This report demonstrates the UN's collective action and impact on our people and planet, guided by the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) 2022-2026.

We are most proud of the work that the UNCT was able to advance in inclusive and equitable quality education for all. Through innovative initiatives and strategic partnerships, we expanded access to education, enhanced teacher capacity, and improved learning outcomes, particularly for marginalized populations. Our efforts in this critical SDG Transition pillar promise accelerated results for quality education and other SDGs. Additionally, during this period, we committed to promoting decent work and economic growth. In this regards, the UN has delivered tangible outcomes, notably supporting entrepreneurship and economic empowerment initiatives, especially for youth, women, and girls. By fostering an enabling environment for sustainable livelihoods and employment, we pave the way for a more prosperous and equitable future.

Central to our approach is the principle of national ownership, with tailored support to the governments of Jamaica, The Bahamas, and Bermuda in their pursuit of sustainable development. Through capacity building and technical assistance, we support our government counterparts to lead their own development agendas, ensuring interventions are context-specific and responsive to local needs. With UN support, Bermuda realized its first UN joint program, aiding economic recovery and addressing unique challenges faced by SIDS. UN support also contributed to strategic outputs for The Bahamas, such as The Bahamas Food Control System Strategic Plan.

The year 2023 witnessed an invigorated joint advocacy response to youth, with the launch of the first Youth

Engagement Action Plan and associated initiatives. Jamaica's youth have demonstrated understanding of the need to act for the SDGs, driving us closer to the Global Goals.

Amidst our achievements, there is still work to do, particularly in addressing peace and security, including gender-based violence, which remains a threat to sustainable growth. We must remain vigilant and resolute in our commitment to the SDGs, especially in the face of evolving challenges. As we confront global and regional crises, the urgency of our mission has never been more apparent. To this, we are committed to leaving no one behind and building a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive Caribbean for future generations.

I invite you to delve into this report, which reflects tailored programs responsive to communities most at risk of being left behind. We know that collaboration amongst governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, and communities is imperative for the realization of our goals. This report shows how that approach continues to yield results wherever there is a UN footprint. Together, let us continue to honour our promise to achieve Agenda 2030 with unwavering determination and solidarity.



Vincent Sweeney
UN Resident Coordinator
(ad interim)



Key Development Partners

UN Jamaica is a multi-country office that comprises Jamaica, The Bahamas, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, and Turks and Caicos. The UN Country Teams working in Jamaica, The Bahamas and Bermuda comprises 18 Agencies, Funds and Programmes with dedicated staff under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator. There are 11 resident agencies (FAO, PAHO, UN WOMEN, UNDP, UNFPA, IOM, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNEP, and WFP) and seven (7) non-resident agencies (ECLAC, ILO, ITC, UNHCR, OHCHR, UNODC, and UNCTAD).

UN Agencies



Implementing Partners

- ✧ Academia
- ✧ UN Agencies
- ✧ Regional Collaborating Partners
- ✧ Civil Society/ Non-Governmental Organisations
- ✧ Government Ministries, Agencies & Departments
- ✧ Other Government Departments, Agencies

Thematic Funds

- ✧ MPTF
- ✧ UBRAF
- ✧ UPR Trust Fund
- ✧ Joint SDG Fund
- ✧ Saving Lives Entity
- ✧ IOM Development Fund
- ✧ Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- ✧ CDC Caribbean Regional Office (CRO)
- ✧ Global Child Protection Thematic Funds
- ✧ Government of Canada (Anti-Crime Capacity Building Programme - ACCBP)

Bilateral & Multilateral Donors

- ✧ UNDP
- ✧ UNESCO
- ✧ UNICEF
- ✧ USAID
- ✧ Lux Capital Fund
- ✧ Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)
- ✧ Government of Japan
- ✧ Government of Norway
- ✧ European Commission (EU)
- ✧ Global Affairs Canada
- ✧ Government of Jamaica
- ✧ Government of the United Kingdom
- ✧ International Fund for Agricultural Development
- ✧ German Cooperation for International Cooperation (GIZ) Partnership Action Fund
- ✧ Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol
- ✧ United States Department of State to Monitor and Combat Child Trafficking

1. Key Developments In The Country Context

The Bahamas



POPULATION

407,906

(2021)



LIFE EXPECTANCY

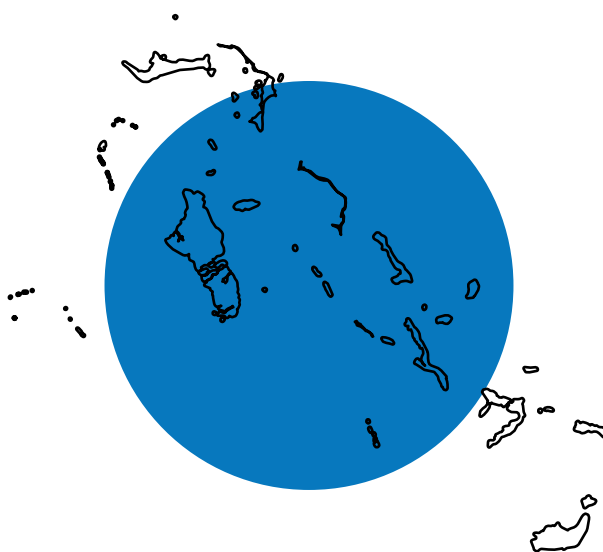
74.5 Y



INFANT MORTALITY

9.9/1,000

LIVE BIRTHS



GDP

\$11.21B(USD)

(2021)



TOURISM COUNTS FOR

40%

OF GDP



INTERNET USERS

87%



Government Priorities

In October 2023, a new session of Parliament opened with a Speech from the Throne which included new legislative and policy priorities that were summed up as a “focus on strengthening personal security, economic security, and national security” through the following: job creation for Bahamians; prioritizing public health, mental health and wellness initiatives, and introducing catastrophic healthcare coverage; introducing economic empowerment zones; comprehensively reviewing the energy sector, and a host of additional intended pursuits.¹ Additionally, The Bahamas has committed to developing a 50-year National Development Plan in the current session.



Economic Recovery

In 2022, The Bahamian economy had just begun to recover from the effects associated with COVID-19 but was faced with inflationary pressures. However, 2023 saw the country make a strong economic comeback. The International Monetary Fund estimated that in 2022, real GDP growth reached 14.4 percent and unemployment fell to 8.8 percent with an especially high performance in tourism. Interestingly, the IMF statement note that labour force participation, particularly among men, remained below pre-pandemic levels. Some of the notable developments in 2023 include the fact that international flight and cruise arrivals significantly exceeded their pre-pandemic levels leading to a projected 4.3 percent expansion in the year.

With respect to inflation, it was noted that after peaking at 7.1 percent in July 2022, inflation fell to 2.3 percent in July 2023.²

Climate Finance

A major priority for The Bahamas continues to be the development and seeking out of climate finance opportunities. Last year, the country adopted legislation on carbon credits. The Bahamas is actively undertaking efforts to develop mechanisms and policies to develop a viable carbon market and exchange. The Bahamas has also expressed strong interest in building a fund worth up to \$60bn by 2050 to finance environmental and climate change.

Migration

Political instability in Haiti poses a threat to regional stability and the management of migration.. In addition to a former Prime Minister of The Bahamas serving as a member of the three-person Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Eminent Persons Group (EPG) established to support Haiti’s development priorities, including security, governance, electoral process, and long-term development planning and advocacy, The Bahamas has committed personnel support to a multinational force whose aim is to contribute to the stabilization of the crisis in Haiti. While the government is committed to supporting stability in Haiti, Haitians without regular migration status and/or residing in irregular settlements in The Bahamas are facing increasing pressures – with demolitions of settlements having begun in November 2023.

Bahamas SDG Dashboard, 2023

The SDG trends for The Bahamas shows that 44% are on track, 35% have limited progress and 20% are worsening. As evidenced by the SDG dashboard, the country experienced moderate improvements in Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), however SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) and SDG 15 (Life on Land) are worsening. Important indicators such as poverty (SDG1), education (SDF 4) and reduced inequalities (SDG10) continue to be affected by a lack of reported data in those sectors.



Dashboards: ● SDG achieved ● Challenges remain ● Significant challenges remain ● Major challenges remain ● Information unavailable
Trends: ↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement ↗ Moderately improving → Stagnating ↓ Decreasing ↔ Trend information unavailable

¹Brown, K. (2023, 12 October). Govt outlines agenda in Speech from the Throne. Available at https://www.thenassaiguadian.com/home/govt-outlines-agenda-in-speech-from-the-throne/article_3418c71b-259b-59c7-8a00-2e419dd8972f.html

²International Monetary Fund. (2023, November). Bahamas: Staff Concluding Statement of the 2023 Article IV Mission. Available at <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2023/11/27/cs112723-bahamas-concluding-statement-2023-article-iv-mission>



Bermuda



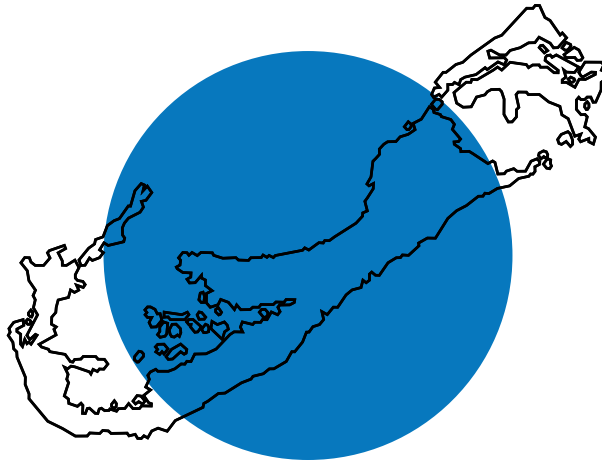
POPULATION
72,337
(2022)



LIFE EXPECTANCY
82 Y



INFANT MORTALITY
2.19/1,000
LIVE BIRTHS



GDP
\$5.23B(USD)
(2019)



TOURISM COUNTS FOR
5%
OF GDP



INTERNET USERS
98%



The UN launched its first joint programme in Bermuda under the Joint SDG Fund. With leadership from UNDP and UN Women, the UN is supporting SIDS like Bermuda in addressing systemic socioeconomic challenges faced by vulnerable groups - including youth, women and girls - ensuring no one is left behind.



Economic Recovery

Like most of the countries/territories covered by the Jamaica MCO, Bermuda's economy returned to or exceeded pre-pandemic levels of performance. Also, as is the case with the other economies, Bermuda is challenged with a cost-of-living crisis for its residents. In other attempts to benefit its residents, the government has unveiled a timeline for the delivery of universal health coverage – with the phased implementation of basic services beginning in April 2025.⁴



Climate Change and Natural Disasters

To effectively manage and offset the effects of climate change, Bermuda is exploring a range of interventions including legislation for a new class of development finance, wherein an array of state and non-state financiers, philanthropists and investors can blend funds that could address the first 16 sustainable development goals around the globe while developing models to address catastrophe risk⁵

⁴Deacon, J. (2023, December 18). 'The economy is growing – that's a fact'. Available at <https://www.royalgazette.com/politics/news/article/20231218/the-economy-is-growing-thats-a-fact-says-hayward/>

⁵Bell, J. (2023, October 9). Timeline emerges for delivery of universal health coverage. Available at <https://www.royalgazette.com/health/news/article/20231009/timeline-emerges-for-delivery-of-universal-health-cover/>

⁶Homer, P. (2023, December 8). Bermuda can become 'Climate Central'. Available at <https://www.royalgazette.com/opinion-writer/opinion/article/20231208/bermuda-can-become-climate-central/>



Jamaica



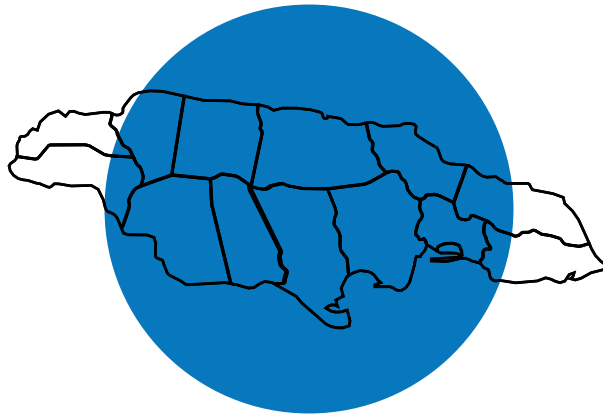
POPULATION
2.82M
(2021)



LIFE EXPECTANCY
72.4 Y



INFANT MORTALITY
10.9/1,000
LIVE BIRTHS



GDP
\$14.6B(USD)
(2021)



TOURISM COUNTS FOR
30%
OF GDP



INTERNET USERS
55%

With 2023 marking the mid-way point of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recent performance assessments raise concern over the pace at which these are being achieved. Added to these are findings that the investment costs required to finance the Goals are now likely to be much higher than they were envisaged in 2015.



Economic Recovery

Fiscal space for development remains squeezed in Jamaica. Fiscal and monetary policies have remained tight in 2023, partly due to the Government's goal of enhancing Jamaica's debt sustainability but also because of inflationary pressures that have continued to beset the Jamaican economy. This has meant growth, while positive in real terms, has been slower than others in the sub-region shown by the most recent IMF projections. Moreover, despite Jamaica's impressive capacity to reduce unemployment to unprecedented levels, real incomes per capita continue to slide in purchasing power.



Climate Change and Natural Disasters

Across other pillars of sustainable development, Jamaica has been fortunate to avoid a natural hazard occurrence in another year since category 4, hurricane Matthew made landfall in 2016. However, situated on the Atlantic's hurricane belt and with global temperatures and sea levels rising from the adverse advancing impacts of climate change Jamaica is at greater risk of natural disasters.



Crime & Security

Jamaica is facing substantial challenges from domestic crime. Since 2020, Jamaica's homicide rate has been increasing to reach a level – 60.9 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants – that for 2023 was the highest across the Latin America and Caribbean region. Together Jamaica's economic, environmental and social challenges are acting to subdue its sustainable development performance overall.



SDGs

A key challenge highlighted by the most recent Common Country Analysis update is Jamaica's ability to accelerate towards the Goals given the constraints that it is currently faced with. Ranked currently at 82nd with an overall performance score at 69.6, Jamaica is still far from where it needs to be if it is to deliver on its SDG targets by 2030. The most recent assessment of Jamaica's performance, 2023 Sustainable Development Report, shows that challenges remain across all of the goals, with two-thirds of the goals showing significant or major challenges.

Jamaica SDG Dashboard, 2023

In Jamaica, the status of the SDG target trends shows that 26.2% of SDGs are on track or maintaining achievement, while 41.5% have limited progress and 32% are worsening. Specifically, SDGs 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) and SDG 14 (Life below water) have worsened.



Dashboards: ● SDG achieved ● Challenges remain ● Significant challenges remain ● Major challenges remain ● Information unavailable
Trends: ↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement ↗ Moderately improving → Stagnating ↓ Decreasing ** Trend information unavailable

2.1 Overview of the Cooperation Framework Results

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1:
SHARED PROSPERITY AND
ECONOMIC RESILIENCE**



**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2:
EQUALITY, WELL BEING AND
LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND**



**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3:
RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE
AND SUSTAINABLE NATURAL
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**



**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4:
PEACE, SAFETY, JUSTICE, AND THE
RULE OF LAW**



The **Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in 2022-2026 (MSDCF)**, illustrates that the UN is intentionally focused on supporting the SDGs under four strategic pillars.

Under each of these four priority areas, specific desired changes were defined for UN contribution, as reported in the below diagram. The Vision is for the region to become more resilient, possess greater capacity to achieve all the SDGs, and become a place where people choose to live and can reach their full potential. UN contributions will be operationalised at the country level, while adopting regional solutions where relevant, fostering regional cooperation and integration, and being guided by the principle of 'leaving no one behind'. The MSDCF Results

Framework was improved in 2023 with the development of 18 common outputs and 48 common output indicators that all regional UNCTs adopted. Having common outputs and indicators strengthens the ability to measure output level changes at the regional level.

The Caribbean region is progressing on the sustainable development goals, however most countries are struggling to maintain progress or are falling behind. The multi-country cooperation framework is the UN's framework for this region to help support SDG progress.

UN Vision 2030 > Achieve all SDGs, recovered from the impact of COVID-19 in a sustainable and transformative manner, leveraging regional cooperation. A resilient region where people choose to live and can reach their full potential.

Economic Resilience and Shared Prosperity

Outcome 1:
More productive and competitive business ecosystems improve standards of living in the Caribbean, especially for women and youth

Outcome 2:
Caribbean economies have transitioned to more diversified and sustainable models that support inclusive and resilient economic growth

Equality, Well-being & Leaving No One Behind

Outcome 3:
Regional and national institutions are consistently gathering data to inform laws and policies to eliminate discrimination, address structural inequalities and ensure the advancement of those at risk of being left furthest behind

Outcome 4:
People in the Caribbean equitably access and utilize universal, quality and shock-responsive, health, educational and care services with social protection floors in place

Resilience to Climate Change / Shocks & Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Outcome 5:
Caribbean people and communities have enhanced adaptive capacity for inclusive, gender responsive DRM and climate change adaptation and mitigation

Outcome 6:
Natural resources and ecosystems are managed more sustainably to enhance community and people resilience as well as shared prosperity

Peace, Safety, Justice, and the rule of law

Outcome 7:
Regional and national laws, policies, systems and institutions improve access to justice and promote peace, social cohesion and security

Outcome 8:
People in the Caribbean and communities have an improved standard of living, in safe, fair, inclusive, and equitable societies

ENABLERS: Innovation - Digital Transformation - Data and Information Systems - Advocacy for development financing - Youth and civil society engagement - Regional Integration - Institutional Capacity Building - Advocacy for people at risk of being left behind

GROUPS OF PEOPLE AT RISK OF BEING LEFT BEHIND: Women and girls-Migrants and Refugees - LGBTQI people - People living with disabilities - Young male in marginalized communities - People living in remote, poor, rural areas - People living with HIV - Children - Elderly - Indigenous people

CARIBBEAN PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, 2023



Country	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
Antigua and Barbuda	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Bahamas	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Barbados	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Belize	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Dominica	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Grenada	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Guyana	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Jamaica	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
St. Kitts and Nevis	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
St. Lucia	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Suriname	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Trinidad and Tobago	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
SPs	PEOPLE				PROSPERITY				PLANET				PEACE		PARTNERSHIP		

GREEN	Goal Achievement	↑	On track or maintaining achievement
YELLOW	Challenges remain	↗	Moderately increasing
ORANGE	Significant challenges	→	Stagnating
RED	Major challenges	↓	Decreasing
	No data available		



2.2 Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes And Outputs

PILLAR 1

**AN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE,
AND PROSPEROUS
CARIBBEAN**





OUTCOME 1:

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE & SHARED PROSPERITY

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



The Bahamas

Discussions commenced in 2023 with The Bahamas Development Bank (BDB) on the “Build Back Equal” joint project that seeks to provide funding for entrepreneurs. Along with BDB and Inspire Capital Solutions, the registration of women and youth entrepreneurs is currently being explored in The Bahamas and Bermuda to ensure that financing is available for female-owned MSMEs by the end of 2024. The establishment of these relationships is now supporting the development of two new financing vehicles to increase access to financing for women entrepreneurs

Food Security and Food Systems

In The Bahamas, concerted efforts led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources (MAMR) have aimed at fortifying food systems to benefit vulnerable populations facing food insecurity in the Caribbean amidst a changing climate. This included the adoption of an agribusiness policy and legislative framework to foster digital ecosystems, enhancing the resilience and inclusivity of agriculture and agri-food systems. A comprehensive assessment of The Bahamas Food Control System strengthened the capacity of multi-sectoral food competent authorities across Ministries, addressing critical food control points and identifying gaps and challenges. Led by The Bahamas Agricultural Food Safety Authority, subsequent capacity-building endeavors culminated in the development and validation of a strategic plan in 2023. Additionally, under the Cooperation for Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change in the Caribbean initiative, collaborative efforts with the Ministries of Education, Health, and Social Services were instrumental in developing guidelines for school lunch vendors, promoting healthy meals, providing

training on meal preparation, and developing an improved menu with effective nutrition education to stimulate demand for local products in school feeding programs. The construction of shade houses further supported school gardens, while a policy procurement document strengthened linkages between schools, lunch vendors, and farmers, collectively enhancing the resilience and inclusivity of the food system.



Through FAO, The UN is leading digitalization efforts with farmers in The Bahamas.



Jamaica

Enhancing productivity in Agriculture

In Jamaica, efforts have been concentrated on enhancing agricultural productivity through targeted initiatives. One initiative is on target to empower 75 agricultural entrepreneurs, with skills in business planning, financial forecasting, and business incubation. This initiative has a particular emphasis on women and youth. Additionally, grants and in-kind funding were provided to support the scaling up of enterprises, thereby contributing to sustainable development and improving income-earning opportunities, especially for the most vulnerable. Furthermore, capacity-building endeavors have enhanced the ecosystem of innovative agribusiness in Jamaica, including training on Geographic Information System (GIS) platforms to visualize economic, statistical, and geospatial data, benefiting the Agricultural Land Management Division and the Agricultural Mapping Unit. A comprehensive training manual was developed to cover various aspects of GIS application, alongside a Train-the-Trainer program conducted remotely with relevant agricultural organizations to bolster extension services and university capacities in implementing business incubation methodologies. Overall, these multifaceted interventions have strengthened the agricultural sector's productivity and sustainability in Jamaica.

Diaspora support

In Jamaica, efforts to support the diaspora have been multifaceted, strengthening connections and harnessing the potential of the global community for national development. The government received critical data on gaps within the legislative, regulatory, and institutional framework governing the remittance industry, leading to detailed recommendations for streamlining remittance transfer processes and reducing associated costs to align

75

Women and youth received capacity building in entrepreneurial development

with global financial sector advancements. Additionally, the drafting of a Plan of Action for Jamaica's National Diaspora Policy has been initiated in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, specifically through the Diaspora Affairs Unit, to guide diaspora initiatives contributing to national development and the well-being of Jamaican diaspora communities abroad. Furthermore, the review and development of the UN-supported JAM-DEM platform, an ICT platform facilitating diaspora engagement and information exchange between the government and diaspora groups is working to enhance diaspora involvement and support through improved communication channels and policy actions.



Food Security and Food Systems

In Jamaica, diverse efforts have bolstered food systems and addressed vulnerabilities to food insecurity amidst a changing climate. The establishment of the Caribbean Blue Justice Hub facilitates inter-agency cooperation to combat organized transnational fisheries crime, and safeguard vital marine resources crucial for food security. Additionally, the implementation of a Food Loss and Waste Index enables stakeholders to pinpoint areas where food loss occurs, aiding in targeted interventions to mitigate waste and strengthen the agricultural sector. Further, initiatives focused on strengthening the capacities of agricultural entrepreneurs and farmer organizations, particularly women and youth, through training in business incubation, financial forecasting, and entrepreneurial development, have enhanced income-earning opportunities and fostered the growth of innovative agribusinesses. Additionally, collaborative efforts under the Mexico-CARICOM-FAO Initiative have

addressed the Water-Energy-Food Nexus in Agriculture, promoting sustainable water management practices and building resilience to climate change in agricultural production systems, bolstering food security and livelihoods for farmers across the region.

“...initiatives focused on strengthening the capacities of agricultural entrepreneurs and farmer organizations, particularly women and youth... have enhanced income-earning opportunities and fostered the growth of innovative agribusinesses.”





OUTCOME 2:

MACRO-ECONOMY

The Caribbean has fully transitioned to a more diversified and sustainable economy that supports inclusive and resilient economic growth



CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



The Bahamas

Livelihoods and decent work

In response to the challenges posed by various crises, such as Hurricane Dorian and the COVID-19 pandemic, The Bahamas has prioritized strengthening institutions to promote social policy for decent work. Recognizing the importance of enhancing employability, particularly in the wake of these adversities, the country has placed a significant emphasis on apprenticeships as a key component of its second Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP). Collaborating closely with tripartite partners including the government, employers' organizations, and trade unions, The Bahamas has developed and introduced a new National Apprenticeship Policy (NAP) aimed at aligning skills development with the demands of the economy and fostering decent employment opportunities. This strategic approach equips officials with the tools to enhance labor force development and support enterprise sustainability, ensuring that workers, including vulnerable groups, have clear pathways to secure employment, increase productivity, and contribute to inclusive economic growth.

In The Bahamas, significant strides have been made in economic development and governance through several key initiatives. Notably, the launch of the first-ever National Trade Strategy marks a pivotal step towards opening

untapped opportunities in international trade, aiming to unlock the vast potential for Bahamian businesses to thrive globally. Concurrently, efforts to strengthen the country's policy and regulatory framework for effective debt management have been realized through the completion of the Guarantee Policy Framework and Government Lending Policy Framework. These advancements have bolstered the government's capacity to manage risks associated with granting guarantees and loans, ensuring more robust financial governance and resilience in the face of economic challenges.

The Bahamas has prioritized strengthening institutions to promote social policy for decent work.



Bermuda

In Bermuda, the UN has enhanced national capacity for gender lens investing. Seventeen participants from Government, local financial institutions and the Bermuda Economic Development Corporation were trained in gender lens investing and public financing policies and instruments for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.



Jamaica

Jamaica is making significant strides towards transitioning to a more diversified and sustainable economy, underpinned by inclusive and resilient economic growth. The implementation of the Jamaica Single Window for Trade (JSWIFT) has revolutionized cross-border trade regulatory processes, offering seventy-one digital services for import and export operations. With ten Partner Government Agencies onboarded, the platform facilitates seamless paperless transactions, streamlining customs formalities and cargo clearance. Moreover, collaborative efforts between the Government of Jamaica, employers' and workers' organizations, and counterparts from Brazil are enhancing the country's

capacity to combat child labour through data-driven approaches. The adoption of the national Child Labour Risk Identification Model (MIRTI) underscores Jamaica's commitment to targeted policymaking and operational strategies, aligning with broader initiatives such as the Brazil-ILO South-South Cooperation Programme. These efforts signify a holistic approach to fostering social justice and sustainable economic development, positioning Jamaica for inclusive growth and resilience in the global economy.

The implementation of the Jamaica Single Window for Trade (JSWIFT) has revolutionized cross-border trade regulatory processes, offering seventy-one digital services for import and export operations.



PILLAR 2

A HEALTHY CARIBBEAN





OUTCOME 3:

DATA & LAWS

National governments and regional institutions use relevant data to design and adopt laws and policies to eliminate discrimination, address structural inequalities and ensure the advancement of those left furthest behind



CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



The Bahamas

The Bahamas is enhancing its capacity to produce and collect data to address structural inequalities and ensure the advancement of marginalized populations. Training provided to officials from the Office of the Attorney General on the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) signifies a crucial step towards effective human rights monitoring and SDG implementation. With access to the beta version of the NRTD, the National Coordination and Reporting Mechanism can input data to track the realization of human rights obligations and SDGs, facilitating improved digital information management. This Database supports

the tracking of recommendations received from human rights mechanisms, enabling better reporting and follow-up actions. Additionally, efforts to collect and collate statistics on persons of concern, including refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless individuals, contribute to global trend analysis of displacement. These statistics are published bi-annually on UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder and Global Trends, providing valuable insights for policy formulation and intervention strategies to address inequalities and support vulnerable populations in The Bahamas.





Jamaica

Jamaica is leveraging relevant data to design and adopt laws and policies to eliminate discrimination, address structural inequalities, and advance marginalized communities. Through strategic partnerships with telecommunications providers Digicel and Flow, a program focused on content creation has facilitated island-wide, zero-rated access to digital resources, with plans for eventual government ownership and operationalization within two years. Additionally, the completion of a Digital Readiness Assessment, jointly undertaken with Antigua and Barbuda, has provided valuable insights into Jamaica's digital strengths and opportunities, guiding the country's digital transformation strategy. The launch of the Data 4 Development Online

Monitoring Platform has further enhanced data-driven decision-making, tracking progress under Vision 2030 Jamaica's National Development Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Moreover, efforts to improve digital financial inclusion through the production of the "Digital Financial Inclusion in Jamaica: Insights and Opportunities" report demonstrate a commitment to addressing socioeconomic disparities. Innovative initiatives such as the launch of a digital chatbot tool for HIV prevention and sexual health information highlight Jamaica's proactive approach to leveraging technology to disseminate vital information and empower marginalized communities.



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OUTCOME 4:

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



CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



The Bahamas

Quality Health Services

Significant progress has been made in various areas of public health and preparedness in The Bahamas. Healthcare providers have seen improvements in their capacities to manage STIs following the completion of National STI guidelines and training. Additionally, a national plan has been developed and implemented to strengthen HIV/STI services, ensuring comprehensive care for affected individuals. Notable achievements in the health sector include the completion of the Global Youth Tobacco Survey and Global School Health Survey, providing valuable insights into youth health behaviors. Mental health initiatives have also been prioritized, with the completion of a National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan to address mental health needs effectively.

Additionally, efforts to enhance vaccination coverage rates, particularly for childhood vaccinations, have been successful through the implementation of ‘catch-up’ campaigns. Preparedness for vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks has been strengthened with the development of measles and polio outbreak response

plans. Additionally, the UN is supporting the country to active improve its capacity to identify and monitor events attributed to vaccination or immunization, alongside increasing awareness of antimicrobial resistance through educational initiatives. The One Health approach to antimicrobial resistance has been advanced with the development of a draft National Action Plan, awaiting review and approval by relevant authorities.

Efforts to enhance digital competencies among teachers have been initiated through a stock-taking report aimed at aligning national competency frameworks with UNESCO ICT Competency Framework components, ultimately improving teachers’ ICT skills and competencies.



The UN in The Bahamas has strengthened consultation mechanisms with the government and partners, enhancing tailored delivery of UN support.



Jamaica

In Jamaica, impressive strides have been made to enhance Jamaica's capacity to provide access and deliver shock-resilient and comprehensive healthcare services. The assessment of Jamaica's emergency and critical care systems has laid the groundwork for strengthening healthcare infrastructure. Furthermore, the near finalization of the National School Nutrition Policy and Standards White paper underscores efforts to promote holistic health and well-being among schoolchildren.

Notably, 300 healthcare workers have been equipped with skills to manage vaccine supplies, alongside the installation of state-of-the-art cold chain equipment, boosting Jamaica's cold chain capacity by an estimated 60%.

Other Public health achievements include Jamaica's recommendation for EMTCT validation, pending official WHO certification in 2024, and the establishment of a PrEP Registry and monitoring framework for HIV/STI services. Initiatives such as procuring 3000 HIV self-testing kits and developing an Early Screening, Identification, and Referral (ESIR) Pathway plan for young children with disabilities highlight the country's commitment to inclusive healthcare delivery.

Additionally, efforts to address gender-based violence through the development of short films and the launch of innovative technologies like the "Yute Chatz" chatbot demonstrate innovative, modern and multifaceted approaches to promoting sexual and reproductive health. UN Support to establishing a second Teen Hub facility and completing the Framework and Guidance for implementing Social Contracting further reinforce Jamaica's dedication to delivering adolescent-friendly services and reaching populations left behind. The partnership is ensuring equitable access to healthcare services across the country.

Education Transformation

In Jamaica, concerted efforts have been made to strengthen national institutions to deliver shock-resilient education and learning. Collaboration with the National Secondary Student's Council and the Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network has resulted in the enhancement of over 500 student leaders' capacity, along with sensitizing 700 primary and secondary level students to support the school nutrition policy. The expansion and institutionalization of the Jamaica Moves in Schools Programme have progressed significantly, with the

The expansion and institutionalization of the Jamaica Moves in Schools Programme have progressed significantly, with the capacity building of more than 6,400 school process owners and engagement with 185 schools.

capacity building of more than 6,400 school process owners and engagement with 185 schools. Prioritizing safer school environments, 409 schools have received training on implementing the student-centered School-wide Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support framework, potentially benefiting 250,000 students. In response to learning recovery and resilience needs, initiatives such as the Ministry of Education and Youth's Learning Passport (LP), Educational Management Information System (EMIS), and Accessible Digital Textbook (ADT) pilots have reached over 4000 educators,



administrators, parents, and students. Notably, the LP initiative, recognized as a featured learning recovery effort, is poised to expand and support mainstream learning through the secondary level, while the EMIS pilot has been completed in 20 schools, potentially impacting 2000 students. Furthermore, real-time psycho-social support services have been extended to over 3500 young people through the U-Matter Chatline, highlighting Jamaica’s commitment to supporting holistic student well-being and resilience in the face of educational challenges.

Further, efforts to pilot cash-based transfers, supported by the development of digital beneficiary intake forms and eligibility criteria, are underway, aiming to test and scale up digital payment systems for social assistance programs. This pilot initiative is expected to provide valuable insights for future interventions, demonstrating Jamaica’s commitment to leveraging technology and strengthening social protection systems to support vulnerable households effectively.



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Jamaica has made significant strides in strengthening its social protection institutions with support from the United Nations to enhance adaptive responses, reduce poverty, and build resilience among vulnerable populations. With UN technical assistance, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) has embarked on modernizing program delivery through digital technologies, including targeting, information management, coordination, and delivery mechanisms. This effort involves establishing a dedicated server for efficient data management and beneficiary registration. Additionally, research conducted on the country’s digital financial ecosystems has identified challenges and explored opportunities for leveraging digital payment modalities to improve social protection delivery, particularly during emergencies. Capacity-building initiatives, such as training sessions on shock-responsive social protection for MLSS and ODPEM personnel, have fostered innovative strategies for linking social protection to disaster risk management.



20 SCHOOLS

COMPLETED THE PILOT EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (EMIS)

2000 STUDENTS IMPACTED



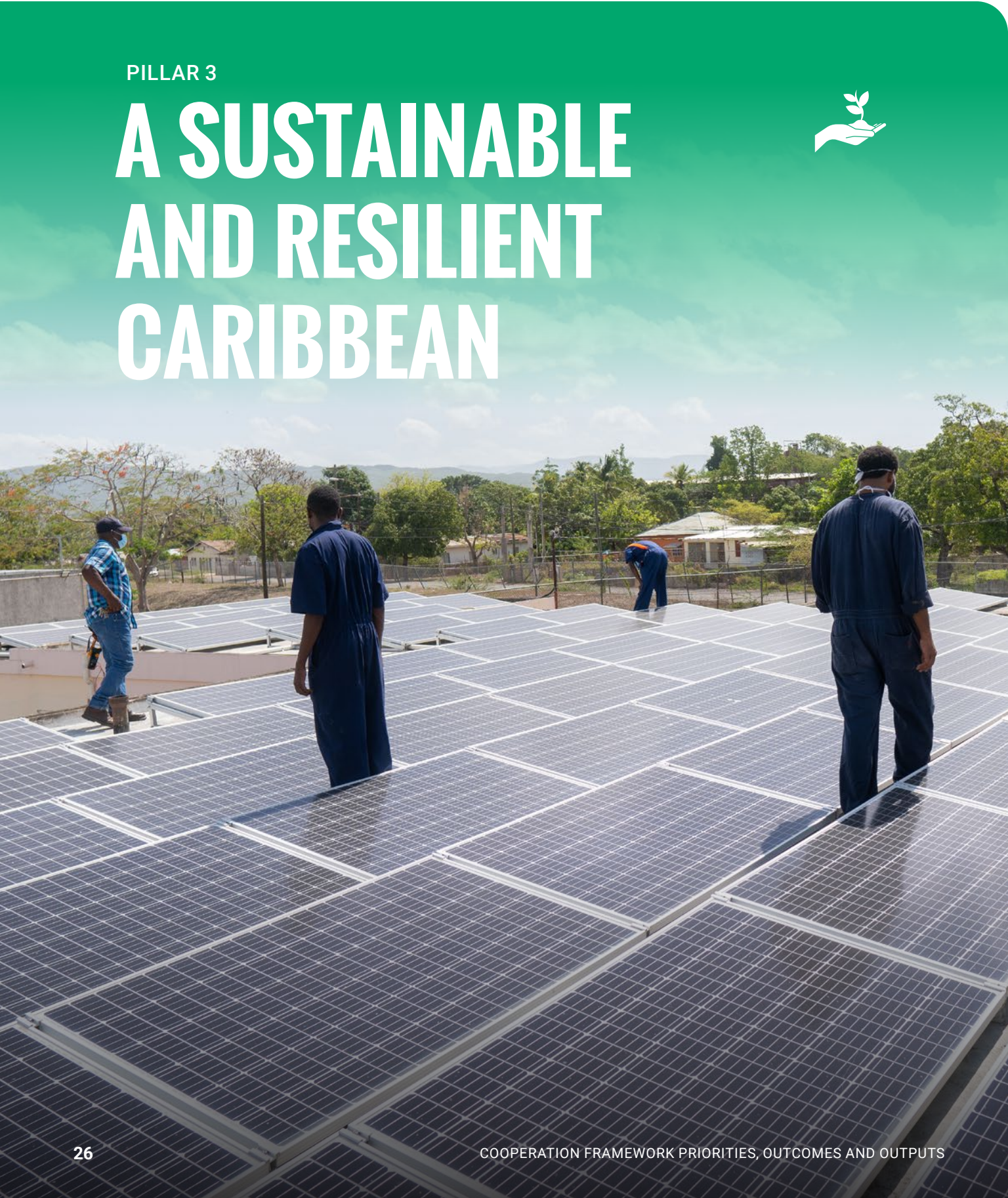
OVER 3500



YOUNG PEOPLE GAIN ACCESS TO REAL-TIME PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

PILLAR 3

A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CARIBBEAN





OUTCOME 5:

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Caribbean people, communities, and institutions enhance their adaptive capacity for inclusive, gender-responsive DRM and climate change adaptation and mitigation



CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



The Bahamas

Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

In The Bahamas, significant efforts have been made to strengthen emergency preparedness, response, and recovery capacities, systems, and policy frameworks for disaster risk management. The Caribbean Plan of Action for Disaster Resilience and Recovery of the Culture Sector (2023-2033) is a pivotal agenda aimed at supporting disaster resilience and recovery in the culture sector. Through various initiatives such as awareness-building, capacity-building, and institutional strengthening, the plan fosters coordination between disaster, climate change, and culture actors at both national and regional levels.

The implementation of the ‘Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience through Community Media’ project is empowering local communities in The Bahamas. This project involves providing equipment to The Bahamas Broadcasting Corporation, enabling the production, and broadcasting of quality content in real time, especially during emergency and disaster situations. Additionally, the equipment supports community media, empowering local communities with knowledge, skills, and tools to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, ultimately enhancing community resilience. These efforts highlight The Bahamas’ commitment to enhancing its disaster risk management capabilities and fostering resilience at all levels of society.





Jamaica

Jamaica has made significant strides in strengthening its emergency preparedness, response, and recovery capacities, systems, and policy frameworks for disaster risk management. Through various initiatives, the government has enhanced its ability to plan and implement disaster risk reduction and preparedness programs, focusing on mitigating the displacement of both local and migrant populations. Capacity-building efforts, such as the 'Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative,' have equipped stakeholders with the necessary skills to develop resilient infrastructure at the community level, promoting inclusive and sustainable systems to reduce losses from disasters.

Collaborative efforts between the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) have resulted in the enhancement of baseline datasets for the CDEMA Geospatial Caribbean Risk Information System (GeoCRIS). By updating these datasets, Jamaica and its partners can better anticipate areas that will be impacted by disasters, assess the potential needs of the population, and enhance emergency planning and response capabilities.

Jamaica has also taken steps to integrate gender equality and human rights-based approaches into climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR) decision-making processes. The revision of the National Transport Policy reflects this commitment by addressing vulnerabilities and promoting inclusivity in DRR strategies. In addition to these measures, awareness-building initiatives have been undertaken to promote early-warning-system awareness among key representatives of youth in secondary and tertiary education systems. By empowering youth to contribute to disaster risk reduction strategies and safeguarding their communities, Jamaica is fostering a culture of resilience from a young age.

Moreover, capacity-building activities have targeted heritage professionals, focusing on the digital preservation of audio-visual heritage and incorporating

risk assessment and mitigation plans for collections. These ensure the protection of valuable cultural assets in the face of climate change and natural disasters.

Lastly, the launch of the Digital Cadastre application represents a significant step forward in monitoring compliance with relevant mining legislation and regulations. By leveraging digital tools, Jamaica is enhancing its ability to enforce regulatory frameworks and promote sustainable resource management practices, further contributing to overall disaster risk management efforts.

Enhancing Food Security

In Jamaica, UN efforts are strengthening the country's capacity to accelerate its transition to a more diversified, resilient, and inclusive food systems economy. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) has been supported in the testing and rollout of its supply chain management system, the CDEMA Logistics System (CLS), which facilitates the registration and tracking of logistics, food, and other assets during emergencies. Through training courses and stock-taking exercises, stakeholders have gained proficiency in using the CLS, allowing for better collaboration and coordination in emergency relief management with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM). The integration of the CLS system modernizes and digitizes logistics operations, enhancing the government's capacity to respond effectively to emergencies. Additionally, the Food Security and Livelihoods Survey has provided valuable insights into food insecurity in Jamaica, with findings indicating significant challenges to livelihoods due to the current cost of living crisis. These initiatives underscore Jamaica's action-driven commitment to addressing food security challenges and building more resilient food systems to ensure the well-being of its population.

View the [Caribbean Food Security & Livelihoods Survey – May 2023](#) here





OUTCOME 6:

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Caribbean countries manage natural resources and ecosystems to strengthen their resilience and enhance the resilience and prosperity of the people and communities that depend on them



CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



Jamaica

Sustainable Natural Resource Management

In Jamaica, significant UN efforts have contributed to strengthening environmental management institutions for sustainable natural resource management. The International Labour Organization (ILO) conducted a sector selection process to identify opportunities for the creation of green jobs and the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, focusing on waste management and renewable energy. Through collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Jamaica Employers’ Federation, and the Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions, policy formulation for green jobs has been advanced, facilitating the transition of employment opportunities from environmentally harmful sectors to sustainable industries.

Various training initiatives have been implemented to build capacity and raise awareness on environmental issues. These include workshops on greenhouse farming, solid waste management, recycling, composting, fire safety agroforestry, and drip irrigation. Additionally, efforts have been made to promote sustainable agriculture practices such as beekeeping, tree planting, and crop production among youth and community members. Furthermore,

women farmers have received support to mitigate against drought conditions through the provision of water tanks for irrigation systems. These comprehensive initiatives demonstrate Jamaica’s commitment to fostering sustainable environmental practices and building resilience in natural resource management.



The UN’s support to the rehabilitation of two hectares of wetland in the Port Royal Protected Area and Ramsar site is honoring the commitment to preserving vital ecosystems that contribute to water management.



Enhancing Water Security

In Jamaica, efforts to enhance water security have been multifaceted and comprehensive. The UN's support to the rehabilitation of two hectares of wetland in the Port Royal Protected Area and Ramsar site is honoring the commitment to preserving vital ecosystems that contribute to water management. Additionally, policy briefs were developed on urban Ecosystem-based approaches to Adaptation (EbA), accompanied by a Rapid Ecological Assessment for the Hope River watershed management area. These initiatives are integrating nature-based solutions into water management strategies and enhancing resilience to climate change impacts. Training courses on urban EbA were conducted, involving government staff and other stakeholders, to promote awareness and build capacity in implementing

these approaches effectively. Furthermore, protocols for various EbA techniques, such as urban beekeeping and hydroponics, were drafted to guide sustainable practices. The installation of rainwater harvesting systems in schools and community centers across Kingston further strengthens water security at the local level. Through training programs on system maintenance and container gardening, as well as initiatives promoting women's involvement in beekeeping and irrigation, Jamaica is fostering community resilience and sustainable water management practices.

 WATCH

In rural Jamaica, small-scale women farmers are often subjected to water insecurities. With support from the Joint SDG Fund, IOM Jamaica successfully procured 160 water tanks to assist rural women farmers in Jamaica to overcome water insecurity in the parishes of St. Ann, Clarendon, Manchester and St. Elizabeth.

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With UN support a community holding tank was constructed in rural Mount Airy, benefiting diverse groups of women farmers



COMMUNITY TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPACT



GREENHOUSE FARMING AND TECHNOLOGY

52 PERSONS BENEFITED FROM TRAINING

3 FARMERS ESTABLISHED MAKE-SHIFT GREENHOUSES



170 PERSONS BENEFITED FROM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT TRAINING



45 PARTICIPANTS BENEFITED FROM ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS WORKSHOPS



46 COMMUNITY MEMBERS RECEIVED RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING TRAINING



150 WOMEN FARMERS ASSISTED TO MITIGATION AGAINST DROUGHT CONDITIONS



Multi-stakeholder partners have benefited from FAO's agribusiness training in The Bahamas

PILLAR 4

A COHESIVE, SAFE AND JUST CARIBBEAN





OUTCOME 7:

LAWS, POLICIES & SYSTEMS FOR PEACE, SECURITY, JUSTICE

Regional and national laws, policies, systems, and institutions improve access to justice and promote peace, social cohesion, and security



CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



The Bahamas

Protecting Human Rights

The Bahamas has taken significant strides in strengthening mechanisms to protect and advance human rights, reduce crime, and curb violence. Through initiatives like the Essentials of Migration Management (EMM) Training program by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), officials from Immigration and Labour have been equipped with the skills to identify and protect victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants.

The government's adoption and ratification of the convention on the status of refugees, along with the establishment of standard operating procedures for the Refugee Administration Unit, underscore its commitment to providing asylum seekers with appropriate support.

Workshops on implementing recommendations from treaty bodies and addressing mixed movements have further enhanced The Bahamas' ability to uphold human rights standards. Collaboration with organizations like UNHCR and the Global Migration Media Academy has

The Bahamas has taken significant strides in strengthening mechanisms to protect and advance human rights, reduce crime, and curb violence.

led to media sensitivity training for local media houses, promoting responsible reporting on asylum seekers.

Additionally, through the Global Maritime Crime Programme, senior officers have received training on Maritime Domain Awareness to combat transnational organized crime at sea. These efforts collectively strengthen governance and promote a safer and more inclusive society in The Bahamas.



Jamaica

Advancing GBV Protection

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Maritime Domain Awareness to combat transnational organized crime at sea. These efforts collectively strengthen governance and promote a safer and more inclusive society in The Bahamas.

Violence Reduction

Significant strides have been made in strengthening mechanisms to protect and advance human rights, combat corruption, reduce crime, and curb violence. The Ministry of National Security has enhanced its capacity to prevent and combat the trafficking of small arms and light weapons through the development of a National Small Arms and Control Strategy. This regulatory framework strengthens efforts to regulate illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms, contributing to improved security measures.

Additionally, the completion of a review of Gunpowder and Explosive Legislation supports Jamaica's efforts to ratify the Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA). By becoming a signatory to CIFTA, Jamaica gains access to knowledge-sharing exchanges with other signatory states and strengthens its ability to regulate firearms trafficking.



Technical expertise as well as knowledge products from UNAIDS is featured in engaging street-side interventions for HIV prevention.



The Ministry of National Security has also bolstered its technical capacities to utilize data for informed decision-making regarding criminal activity, particularly in vulnerable communities. The completion of the Violence Audit enables targeted interventions to address contributing factors to crime.

Moreover, the continued support to the Enabling Environment for Human Rights (EEHR) Monitoring Dashboard enhances reporting on Jamaica’s progress in reducing stigma and discrimination and expanding access to health and justice services for all. Civil society organizations and government agencies are now better

equipped to collect, analyze, and monitor data to promote human rights, particularly for vulnerable populations.

Other notable initiatives include the development of a National Strategy on Organized Crime, the launch of the “Being LGBT in Jamaica National Survey,” aimed at understanding the experiences of LGBT individuals, and efforts to improve child trafficking data availability to support policy development and program implementation. These collective efforts underscore Jamaica’s commitment to fostering a safer, more equitable, and just society for all its citizens.



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OUTCOME 8:

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR PEACE, SECURITY, JUSTICE

People in the Caribbean and communities actively contribute to and benefit from building and maintaining safer, fairer, more inclusive, and equitable societies



CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



Jamaica

Safe, fair, and equitable societies

In Jamaica, UN efforts are ensuring that people can actively contribute to and benefit from safer, fairer, more inclusive, and equitable communities.

Initiatives such as the Youth Power for Peace training program have targeted youth across the region, focusing on strengthening skills to prevent violence and foster conflict resolution. Similarly, the Caribbean Sheroes Initiative, with a focus on leaving no one behind, has reached youth across 17 countries, including Jamaica, to promote gender equality through knowledge production and skill enhancement.

Efforts to advocate for the inclusion of Caribbean voices in global discussions were demonstrated through the Global Knowledge Cafe on Youth, Peace, and Security in the Caribbean.

On a national level, the completion and validation of the National Community-Led Monitoring (CLM) Strategy have empowered civil society organizations (CSOs) to actively engage in the national response, informing proposals for funding and promoting community-led approaches to monitoring.



Improvements were made to the Jamaica AIDS Support for Life (JASL) facility, enhancing privacy and comfort for clients while providing critical information on human rights, HIV prevention, and treatment.



Moreover, with funding from the Fast-Track Cities Initiative, improvements were made to the Jamaica AIDS Support for Life (JASL) facility, enhancing privacy and comfort for clients while providing critical information on human rights, HIV prevention, and treatment.

Sociological research has been conducted to support advocacy efforts for anti-discrimination legislation, providing a clear rationale for legislative action. Advocacy strategies have been developed around sexual offences legislation, with stakeholder meetings held to develop areas of consensus and sensitize key stakeholders.

Additionally, policy dialogues have been facilitated with the Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs regarding the

National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), and engagements with parliamentarians have taken place on key legislative issues.

Public opinion surveys have also been conducted to gauge perceptions and attitudes towards rape in Jamaica, contributing to informed decision-making and policy development.

Overall, these initiatives demonstrate Jamaica's commitment to fostering inclusive and equitable societies, where all individuals can actively participate and benefit from efforts to promote peace, justice, and human rights.



2.3 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

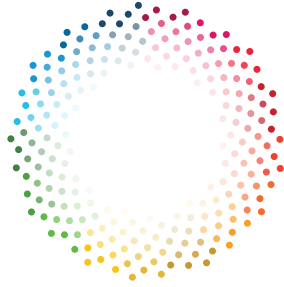
Strengthened Partnerships through UN Joint Programming

The UN Country Team has been actively fostering strengthened partnerships through its joint programming activities across Jamaica, The Bahamas, and Bermuda, aimed at achieving the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda. In Jamaica, efforts have focused on modernizing the social protection system, reducing the use of small arms and light weapons, building resilience to food and water insecurity, ending gender-based violence, advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Through initiatives like the SALIENT Programme, ground-breaking strides have been made in enhancing local authorities' detection capabilities and implementing legislative reforms to combat illicit arms trade and reduce crime and violence, while innovative financing solutions are being piloted in The Bahamas and Bermuda to address financing gaps hindering women, youth, and persons with disabilities in key sectors. Meanwhile, collaborative efforts in Jamaica's agriculture sector are aimed at fostering sustainable food production and narrowing the gender gap within the food production chain through comprehensive mapping of integrated water management systems and policy formulation based on sex-disaggregated data.

Additionally, the UN in Jamaica launched two key programmes in 2023, further demonstrating its commitment to strategic joint action. The "Improving Rural Livelihoods through Resilient Agrifood Systems in Jamaica" initiative, funded by the UN-India fund, focuses on skills training for climate-resilient agricultural technologies and support for entrepreneurship in agri-food businesses. Meanwhile, the "Empowering Jamaica's Future: SDG Joint Programme on Digital Transformation for Education" seeks to modernize and enable the Education Management Information System (OPEN-EMIS) to improve education delivery and drive transformative changes through expanded digital data collection, analysis, and teaching solutions. These initiatives underscore the UN's dedication to collaborative efforts that aim to foster sustainable development, resilience, and inclusive growth in the region.



Fisherfolk like Mr. & Mrs. Coley, are champions of climate adaption and sustainable fishing practices. The UN is working to ensure that their example is shared and replicated in their community.



Spotlight Initiative

To eliminate violence against women and girls



The global **Spotlight Initiative 2020-2023** to eliminate violence against women and girls, was a UN partnership with the European Union, which ended in 2023. In Jamaica, with a budget of over \$10.7m USD, the Spotlight Initiative has achieved significant results across its six outcomes.

OUTCOME 1:

LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Spotlight Initiative influenced key legislative amendments and policy developments, focused on gender equality and women's empowerment, including the passage of the **Sexual Harassment Bill in 2021** and the **Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act in 2023**.



OUTCOME 2:

INSTITUTIONS

Efforts were made to enhance the capabilities of national and sub-national institutions, integrating **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)** prevention strategies in Local Sustainable Development Plans and pre-service curricula for health and medical professionals.

The programme bolstered the Bureau of Gender Affairs' capacity and supported the agency's media town hall discussions and awareness campaigns, particularly around the **National Plan of Action for Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV)**.



Spotlight allowed for critical and necessary training of Jamaica's Constabulary Force; further strengthening the capacity of the police to serve and protect survivors and victims of GBV and family violence.

OUTCOME 3:

PREVENTION AND NORM CHANGE

- Spotlight educational **Short Films on Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** impact, prevention and support.
- Establishment of a **Teen Hub Facility** in St Thomas parish.
- Scale up and implementation of the **HFLE curriculum** with a stronger focus on GBV and family violence for children living with disabilities, impacting more than 800 guidance counsellors and HFLE teachers across the country.





OUTCOME 4:

QUALITY SERVICES

- Development, institutionalization, and implementation of training packages, establishing referral pathways, and equipping agencies with SOPs aligned with Jamaican legal frameworks as well as international standards.
- Establishment and operationalization within the state structure of a GBV Helpline Unit. The Unit processed 7466 cases, 70% or 5227 females and 2239 males.
- Development Guidelines for the Management of Gender-based Violence in Health Settings.
- The National Shelter Strategy: Comprehensive Guidelines for the Operationalization of State-operated GBV Shelters for Survivors of Gender Based Violence in Jamaica.
- Comprehensive Guidelines for the Operationalization of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Helplines in Jamaica.
- Six Domestic Violence I-Care Centres (DVIC) were established.
- 612 urban and rural-area police officers were trained to respond to family violence.
- Establishment of an Early Warning Alert Response System (EWARS).

2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

Strategic Planning, Coordination & Analysis



In 2023, the United Nations Country Teams (UNCT) intensified its efforts in strategic planning, coordination, and analysis to advance the development goals outlined in the MSDCF. The completion of the first MSDCF 2-year Country Implementation Plan (CIP) for 2022/2023 marked a milestone, with strengthened review mechanisms in collaboration with the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ). Building on this foundation, the UNCT diligently worked on developing the next 2-year CIP for 2024/2025, incorporating multi-country outputs to enhance regional support and data analysis capabilities. Furthermore, comprehensive Country Common Analyses (CCAs) were published for each of the five countries and territories, aligning thematic focus with the 2030 Agenda. Additional analytical endeavors led by the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) included examining the impact of Jamaica's Stabilization program on SDG achievement, assessing the conditionality of Climate Financing, and exploring strategies to accelerate SDG achievement through Economic Transformation.

Additionally, the RCO, in partnership with the University of the West Indies, continued to support the Jamaican Economic Panel, facilitating discussions among prominent economists to address pertinent economic issues in the country. These efforts underscored the UNCT's commitment to strategic planning, coordination, and analysis, aiming to drive sustainable development outcomes in Jamaica and The Bahamas.

The ongoing reform efforts in The Bahamas have significantly enhanced engagement and collaboration among various stakeholders, particularly within and among UN entities, the Government of The Bahamas, and other partners. Notably, a shift towards greater

coherence and effectiveness among UN entities has been instrumental, exemplified by initiatives such as the SDG Joint Fund Programme "Building Back Equal" and heightened support for key initiatives through mechanisms like the annual UN Partnership Forum and international development partners' mechanisms. The establishment of collaborative platforms, such as the National Emergency Management Agency's Partnership



A new partnership with the University of the West Indies will see greater collaborations around the SDGs

Coordination group, has facilitated deeper collaboration in humanitarian responses. Moreover, the creation of thematic working groups and joint communication strategies has fostered informed decision-making and amplified the UN's advocacy impact on critical issues. This concerted approach has not only improved inter-agency coordination but also laid the groundwork for innovative solutions to shared challenges, ultimately contributing to greater coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency in UN operations in The Bahamas.

Partnerships & Development Financing



The 2023 UN Partnership Forum marked a significant milestone with the launch of the UN's inaugural Youth Engagement Action Plan for Jamaica, underscoring the commitment to empowering and involving young people in sustainable development efforts. Moreover, the forum witnessed the signing of the UN's Declaration of Intent for enhanced collaboration with the UWI, Mona, aimed at advancing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development in the Caribbean. This Declaration is founded on the pillars of UWI's Strategic Plan—Access, Alignment, and Agility—and the four pillars of the MSDCF, serving as a roadmap for development in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. Initial areas of collaboration identified include economic transformation, resilience-building for the SDGs, financing for sustainable development, knowledge sharing, and data capacity development. Additionally, through the RCO-established IDP Forums in Jamaica and The Bahamas, the UNCT has bolstered engagement with international partners on critical development issues. Strategic working groups have been formed in both countries to coordinate planning and action on national priorities, covering areas such as climate change financing, gender equality, digital transformation, citizen security, violence prevention, and health and wellness, reflecting the UN's commitment to fostering partnerships and advocacy for inclusive and sustainable development.

Through the RCO-established IDP Forums in Jamaica and The Bahamas, the UNCT was able to improve engagement with our international partners on key development issues. To better engage and coordinate planning and action on specific national priorities, the UN has led the development of strategic working groups to include the relevant actors in each country. In Jamaica, in addition to the previously established working groups on Climate Change Financing and Gender Equality, groups focussing on Digital Transformation and Citizen Security and Violence Prevention have also been developed. In The Bahamas, the IDP forum, facilitated by the RCO has initiated steps towards the formation of working groups on Climate; Rule of Law; Gender Equality; Health & Wellness; and Digital Transformation to take forward into 2024.





Communications & Joint Advocacy



Throughout 2023, the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG), with RCO leadership dedicated robust support to Jamaica, The Bahamas, and the UN Country Teams. Among its notable activities, was the successful and high-visibility mission of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, The mission spoke to the resourceful capacity and strong partner networks of the Group, which served to amplify and position media placements for SDG advocacy points of the SG and his teams. Additionally, the UNCG would have allowed for the engagement of international partners including TikTok as a key partner in the signature Forum. Additionally, communications support resulted in exponential growth in participation and visibility with radio partnership throughout the week resulting in exposure of the Youth programme to a potential listenership of over 600,000 Jamaicans and more in the diaspora, facilitating the exchange of ideas and increasing awareness of the SDGs.

Moreover, the robust dissemination of the 2022 Annual Results Report (DMRO) served to transparently showcase UN impact, progress and outcomes achieved in alignment with the developmental priorities of Jamaica and The Bahamas.

Complementing these efforts, several audio-visual products, including through UN joint programs, enhanced communication approaches and promoted wider engagement with key stakeholders and amplified advocacy around disaster risk reduction, gender-based violence and violence prevention, social protection, and youth among others. Meanwhile, the UNCG built its capacity in media writing through a new strategic partnership developed with the Press Association of Jamaica.

In 2023, the UNCG began an update to the advocacy component of its UN Communications and Advocacy Strategy 2022-2026 to codify its continued commitment to engaging and empowering young voices in shaping the UN's communication efforts. Overall, these activities underscore the RCO and the UNCG's dedication to fostering partnerships, amplifying advocacy, and enhancing communication strategies to advance sustainable development and human rights agendas across the countries of the multi-country Office.



 **WATCH**

Jamaica's youth took center stage at the UN's Annual Partnership Forum.

youtu.be/lwv_TDEKtYM

Monitoring & Reporting



Jamaica is on track to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis. UN support to maternal and child health is improving the health systems to make this key target possible.

With regards to reporting, the UNCT produced its consolidated 2022 Annual Report detailing the collective achievements by the UN in the past year. For the first time, national-level government reporting process was led by the UNCT via the RCO. This process eliminated the need for PIOJ to organize their annual review and monitoring session bilaterally with each agency by having the RCO act as the primary interlocuter for the communication of requirements/templates as well as the scheduling and secretariat functions of the annual Economic and Social Survey exercise. Based on this successful implementation, the PIOJ has requested that all future annual reporting processes be organized in this way with continued quality assurance support from the RCO; amplifying the value-add of the RCO and UN reform.

In addition to this, various ministries and departments of the governments of Jamaica and The Bahamas were provided with targeted capacity development training, led by the RCO. The Results Based Management Trainings were conducted focusing on Theory of Change, developing a results framework and understanding the results chain, a review of indicators, baselines and targets, with an emphasis on group work to improve participants' understanding of the concepts. Several sessions also included private sector and civil society, while additional sessions were conducted targeting UN staff in areas such as RBM, UNINFO, the MSDCF and writing for results to strengthen our internal and external reporting quality.

Shared Operational Efficiencies



In 2023, the UNCT, through the Operations Management Team, undertook a thorough Business Operations Strategy (BOS) review, culminating in the development of the OMT workplan that outlined key priorities for the year. As part of the ongoing efforts to enhance shared efficiencies, three new interagency Long-Term Agreements were established for collective key procurement services, streamlining administrative processes and reducing costs across the board. Additionally, the Jamaica OMT initiated its first Comprehensive Local Salary Survey since 2014. Led by ISA and UNDP and comprised of various resident UN agency representatives, this survey aimed to provide updated insights into local salary structures. The subsequent report and findings are slated for confirmation in 2024, with retroactive application of benefits from July 2023 onwards. Moreover, a Cost-of-Living survey was also conducted in 2023 to further inform decision-making regarding personnel compensation and operational expenses.

As part of the transition towards a consolidated UN presence, two additional agencies, WFP and UN Women, relocated to the designated UN house in Jamaica. This strategic move not only fosters closer collaboration and coordination among UN entities but also optimizes resources and facilities. Furthermore, the RCO took the lead in ongoing discussions with the government to facilitate expedited actions necessary for full utilization of the identified building by the remaining resident agencies in Jamaica. By consolidating operations and leveraging shared resources, the UN is enhancing operational efficiencies, fostering synergies, and ultimately maximizing its impact on the ground.



UNCT Key Focus For The Next Year



Priorities for 2024

In 2024, the Multi-Country Office (MCO) will prioritize accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in member states and territories. With only 26% of Jamaica's SDG targets achieved or on track, and similar challenges faced across the region, there is a clear need for acceleration strategies. Building on transformative entry points such as food systems, energy access, digital connectivity, education, jobs, social protection, and climate change, the MCO will work to develop pathways for accelerating SDG achievement. This will be supported by initiatives like the Joint SDG Fund Program on Digital Transformation in Education program, which aims to respond to global commitments to support transitions towards sustainable development.

The MCO will also focus on strengthening statistics and data capacity for governments and key partners, responding to requests from Jamaica and The Bahamas. This includes supporting Jamaica's national SDG Mid-Term Review and the review of its SDG Roadmap, with a focus on foresight analysis and approaches outlined in the UN Study on the Acceleration of SDGs via Economic Transformation. By aggregating development investments to impact multiple SDGs simultaneously, the MCO aims to maximize its impact on sustainable development outcomes. Additionally, 2024 will see the implementation of key interagency initiatives and policies, including the Youth Engagement Action Plan, the SCORE analysis for Jamaica and The Bahamas, and the first reporting exercise for the UNCT Gender SWAP framework.

Operationally, the MCO will continue to pursue increased organizational efficiencies through the regular review and updating of shared and individual services. Long-term agreements for shared travel, mobile, and courier services will be pursued to capitalize on economies of scale, while the Country Common Premise Framework will be updated to ensure operational relevance and identify opportunities for a unified UN presence in Jamaica. These efforts align with the broader goal of creating an equitable and supportive workplace environment within the MCO.



2.6 Financial Overview

MCO Financial Overview

In 2023, the Jamaica MCO budget was \$29 million. Of this, \$28 million was available representing a fund gap of \$730,138. Total expenditure for 2023 was \$12.7 million, reflecting a delivery rate of 45% across the four priority areas of the MSDCF. The remaining funds will be rolled over to the 2024 Country Implementation Plan.



FUNDS AVAILABLE BY SDG



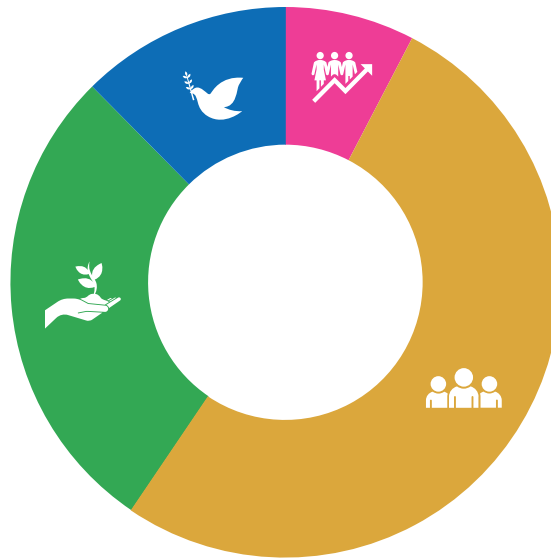
The **SDGs** that have the greatest financial contributions of the total were:



MCO 2023 Expenditure by Pillar

Overall, Pillar 2 Equality, Wellbeing and Leaving No One Behind had the largest budget and the greatest delivery (56%), followed by Pillar 3: Resilience to Climate Change/Shock & Sustainable Resource Management (35%). Pillar 1 Shared Prosperity and Economic Resilience had the smallest budget and lowest delivery (21%).

**PILLAR 4: PEACE,
SAFETY, JUSTICE, AND THE
RULE OF LAW**
\$1,587,327



**PILLAR 1:
ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND SHARED
PROSPERITY**
\$977,106

**PILLAR 3:
RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE
CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE
NATURAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT**
\$3,595,472

**PILLAR 2:
EQUALITY, WELL-BEING AND
LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND**
\$6,626,591

**PRIORITY 1:
Shared Prosperity and Economic Resilience**



Required Resources	Available	Expenditure
5.3 M	4.6 M	977K



21% DELIVERY



**PRIORITY 2:
Equality, Well Being and Leaving No one Behind**

Required Resources	Available	Expenditure
10 M	10.4 M	6.6 M



63% DELIVERY

**PRIORITY 3:
Resilience to Climate Change and Sustainable
Natural Resource Management**



Required Resources	Available	Expenditure
10.31 M	10.38 M	3.5 M



35% DELIVERY



**PRIORITY 4:
Peace, Safety, Justice, And The Rule Of Law**

Required Resources	Available	Expenditure
3.3 M	2.8 M	1.5 M

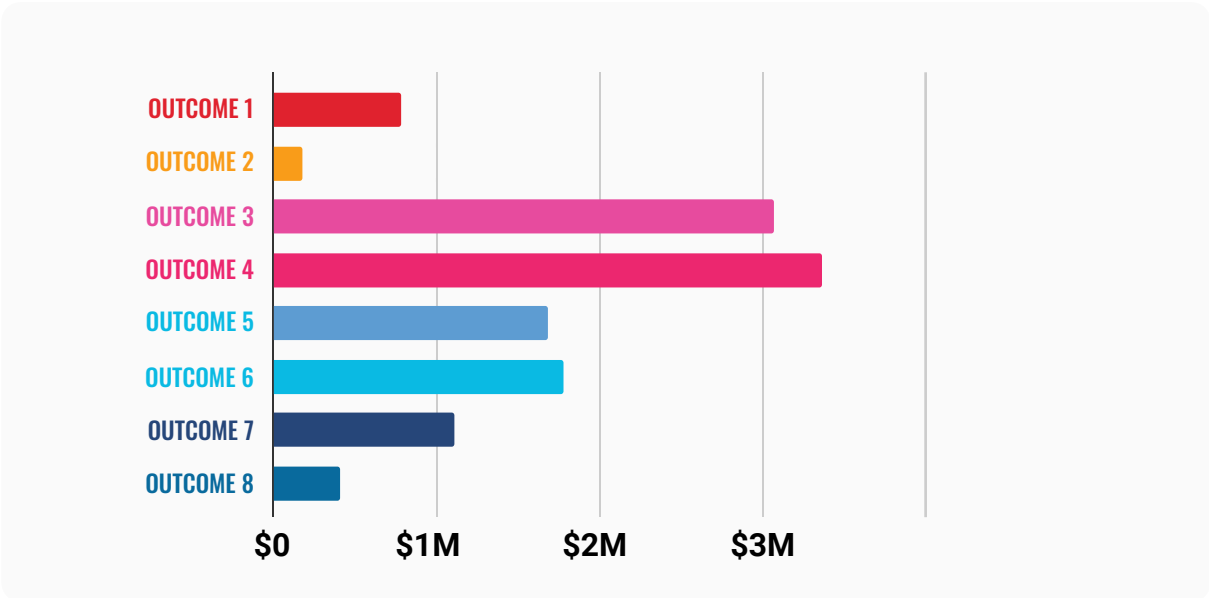


56% DELIVERY

Expenditure by MSDCF Outcomes



Expenditure varied by MSDCF outcome. **Outcomes 3 (Data use to eliminate discrimination)** and **Outcome 4 (Equitable access to universal social protection, health, education, and care services)** had the greatest expenditure in 2023 with over \$3M expended. The outcomes with the least expenditure were **Outcome 2 (Diversified and sustainable economy)** and **Outcome 8 (Safer, more inclusive and equitable societies)**.



DELIVERY

- OUTCOME 1:** Productive and competitive ecosystems
- OUTCOME 2:** Diversified and sustainable economies
- OUTCOME 3:** Data use to eliminate discrimination
- OUTCOME 4:** Equitable access to universal social protection
- OUTCOME 5:** Adaptive capacity for inclusive DRR and climate change mitigation
- OUTCOME 6:** Natural resource management to strengthen resilience
- OUTCOME 7:** Improve access to justice peace, and security
- OUTCOME 8:** Safer, more inclusive and equitable societies

Annex I

UNCT's Connections to Global Strategic Foci

Data/Data System Strengthening/Research

- Bermuda National Disabilities Database Application (UNDP)
- AccessAbility Bahamas Mobile App (UNDP)
- Launch of the "Being LGBT in Jamaica National Survey for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Persons in Jamaica" Report (UNDP)
- Learning Passport Educational Management Information System (UNICEF)
- Prevalence Study of Child Trafficking in Jamaica (IOM)
- Enabling Environment for Human Rights Monitoring Dashboard (UNAIDS)
- Study on the Court User Experience in Jamaica (UN Women)
- Global School Health Survey (PAHO)
- Social protection information system assessment and mapping (UNICEF)
- Readiness assessment for an Integrated Electronic Case Management System (UNDP)
- Violence Audit (UNDP)
- JAM-DEM platform (IOM)
- Economic Cost of Violence Against Women and Girls Study launch (UN Women)
- Global Youth Tobacco Survey (PAHO)
- A Green Climate Fund feasibility, stakeholder and value chain analyses (FAO)
- Data to support the strengthening of national actions on climate change through diaspora engagement (IOM)
- Needs assessment on the adoption of an Integrated Electronic Case Management System (UNICEF)
- Sociological research around the need for anti-discrimination legislation (UNAIDS)
- Digital chatbot tool for HIV prevention and sexual health information (UNAIDS)
- Yute Chatz chatbot (UNAIDS)
- Publication of Food Security and Livelihood Survey summary for Jamaica (WFP)
- Report on Digital Financial Inclusion in Jamaica: Insights and Opportunities
- A comprehensive GIS training manual (FAO)
- PrEP Registry and monitoring framework for HIV/STI services (UNAIDS)

Plans/Policies/Strategies

In 2023, the Jamaica MCO supported the development of 21 plans, policies and strategies for The Bahamas and Jamaica

- Bahamas Food Control System Strategic plan
- Bahamas National Apprenticeship Policy
- Bahamas Guarantee Policy Framework and Government Lending Policy Framework
- Bahamas National Trade Strategy
- Bahamas National STI guidelines
- Bahamas National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan
- Bahamas Measles and Polio Outbreak Response Plans
- Bahamas Events Supposedly Attributed to Vaccination or Immunization (ESAVI) surveillance manual and system
- Bahamas Draft Antimicrobial Resistance National Action Plan
- Draft Plan of Action for Jamaica's National Diaspora Policy
- Early Screening, Identification and Referral (ESIR) Pathway plan
- Guidelines for school lunch vendors
- Establishment of a Food Loss and Waste Index
- The Caribbean Plan of Action for Disaster Resilience and Recovery of the Culture Sector
- Revision of the National Transport Policy
- National Small Arms and Control Strategy
- Development of a National Strategy on Organized Crime
- Advocacy strategy for the Jamaica Sexual Offences Act
- Jamaica Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act, 2023
- Framework and Guidance for implementing Social Contracting
- Convention on the status of refugees adopted and ratified in The Bahamas

Annex II

Acronyms

BAHFSA	The Bahamas Food Control System
BGA	Bureau of Gender Affairs
BRAS	The Bahamas Red Cross Society
CEDAW	Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination
CRC	Committee of the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DWCP	Decent Work Country Program
DWT	Decent Work Technical Support Team
EbA	Ecosystem-based approaches to Adaptation
EMTCT	Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GIS	Geographic Information System
GoB	Government of Bahamas
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
GoJ	Government of Jamaica
HFC	Hydrofluorocarbons
HFLE	Health and Family Life Education
IDB	InterAmerican Development Bank
IDP	International Development Partner
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPV	Interpartner Violence
JRC	Jamaica Red Cross
JDF	Jamaica Defense Force
JN+	Jamaican Network of Seropositives
JP	Joint Programme
LEA	Law Enforcement Agencies
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MCO	Multi Country Office
MSDCF	Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
MLSS	Ministry of Labour and Social Security
MNS	Ministry of National Security
MOEYI	Ministry of Education, Youth, and Information
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOHW	Ministry of Health and Wellness
MTM	Ministry of Transport and Mining
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprise

NFPB	National Family Planning Board
NIS	National Insurance Scheme
NPACV	National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence
NPSC	National Parenting Support Commission
NSOs	National Statistics Offices
ODPEM	Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management
PwD	Persons with Disabilities
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PrEP	Pre-Exposure prophylaxis
PSOJ	Private Sector Organization of Jamaica
RBB	Results Based Budgeting
RHA	Regional Health Authority
RADA	Rural Agricultural Development Authority
RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
RSC	Regional Steering Committee
RCM	Regional Coordinating Mechanism
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SI	Spotlight Initiative
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SOP	Standard operating Procedure
TB	Tuberculosis
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
UWI	University of the West Indies
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
U-TECH	University of Technology
UWI	University of West Indies
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WCJF	Women's Center Foundation of Jamaica
WEP	Women's Empowerment Principles
WAD	World AIDS Day
WB	World Bank



UNITED NATIONS

JAMAICA, BAHAMAS, BERMUDA
TURKS AND CAICOS & CAYMAN ISLANDS



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