National review
JAMAICA

In the context of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Division for Gender Affairs of Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on the way to Beijing+20
Jamaica – National Review Report

Implementation of the
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the
outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000)

In the context of the

Twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women
And the adoption of the
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
2015

June 2014
SECTION ONE

OVERVIEW ANALYSIS OF JAMAICA’S ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES SINCE 1995

During the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: Gender, Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century, the Government of Jamaica’s delegation reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPA) and to further actions and initiatives to overcome barriers and deal with new challenges. Since the Beijing 1995 Conference, significant gains have been made towards gender equality and the empowerment of women.

a.1) What are the country’s three to five major achievements in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly?

1. Institutional Mechanism for the Advancement of Women

The Jamaican Government in 1996 sought to actualize the principles of gender mainstreaming as an overarching strategy in all Government ministries and in areas of priority earmarked for Jamaica’s programmatic activities through its National Gender Machinery the Bureau of Gender Affairs (BGA)\(^1\) a Department in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). Some of the major initiatives that reflect a progressive commitment to this process include the following:

- The appointment of a Gender Advisory Committee with a mandate of specific activities, which included but was not limited to advising the Government and the National Machinery on strategic policy directions for the gender portfolio.
- The establishment of Gender Focal Points (GFPs) in key government ministries, departments and agencies. Through the implementation of approved action plans, GFPs are to ensure that gender is integrated in all national policies, plans, programmes and operations using a gender equality framework. The GFPs also contribute data/information to inform both regional and international reporting processes.
- The design and development of a Gender Analysis Checklist to increase the capacity to incorporate a gender perspective. The Checklist is designed to ensure that government policies and programmes are responsive to the gender differential needs in keeping with commitments outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action.
- The creation, by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), of a National Gender Task Force to integrate the vision of gender equality into the National Development Plan Vision 2030.
- The adoption of a National Policy for Gender Equality (NPGE) 2011, which promotes a vision of “a society in which women and men have equal access to socially valued goods and are able to contribute to national development”, towards the achievement of gender equality.

2. Women in Power and Decision-making

Jamaica’s first female Prime Minister was appointed in 2006 and later elected in December 2011. While there have been some improvements in the proportion of seats held by women in the Parliament, women continue to be under-represented. There is an upward trend from a low of 5 per cent in 1990 to a high of 13.3 per cent in 2010 to the current figure of 12.7 per cent. Notably, in the last general election in 2011, females contested thirty-five (35) per cent of the parliamentary seats, the highest in Jamaica’s history.

\(^{1}\)The Bureau made the transition in name from Bureau of Women’s Affairs to the Bureau of Gender Affairs – Cabinet decision # 11/11 in keeping with recommendations made in the National Policy for Gender Equality (NPGE) approved by Cabinet in 2011.
The number of women in local government has been traditionally higher than in the national Parliament, with a high of 42.5 per cent in 1998. This decreased to 27.5 per cent in 2003 and 16.8 per cent in 2007. Since the 2012 polls, women occupy 16 per cent of the Council. In the Senate 23.8 per cent are women, the highest in Jamaica’s history.

There have been notable achievements in the sphere of public decision-making with women accounting for 59.6 per cent of workers in the public sector and 48.8 per cent in the private sector. Fifty-six per cent of Permanent Secretaries are female. Of the nineteen Heads of Missions (Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Consuls General), ten are women. The Chief Justice of Jamaica, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Auditor General, Administrator General, Children’s Advocate, Children’s Registrar, Chief of State Protocol, the Commissioner of Corrections and Assistant Commissioner of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) are women. Of the eighteen senior positions in the office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), ten are held by women; and the post of Solicitor General is now held by a woman for the first time. 35 per cent of government boards are women Directors.

3. **Education and Training of Women**

The goal of eliminating gender disparity has been achieved at the primary level. However, at the secondary level girls outnumber boys. The ratio of girls to boys at the primary and secondary levels is 0.96 and 1.02 respectively in 2007. These figures have remained fairly constant for the past twenty years. However, at the tertiary level there is a wide disparity in favour of females. The data for 1999 to 2007 shows that there were twice as many females enrolled in tertiary institutions. See Table 1

Annex 2

In 2006/07, the survival rate to Grade 5 was 93.5 per cent, with a rate of 96.6 per cent for girls and 90.7 per cent for boys. The 2006 figures reflect an improvement over 2004/5, where the overall survival rate was 90.7 per cent with 93.2 per cent for girls and 88.5 per cent for boys. See Table 2

Annex 2

The Women’s Centre of Jamaica Foundation (WCJF), which targets teenage mothers to ensure that they complete secondary education, has successfully assisted 26,000 adolescent mothers since 1995.

4. **Women and Health**

The Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV and reductions in maternal and infant mortality are some of the most successful achievements to date. The HIV transmission rate from mother to child has been reduced from 25 per cent to less than 5 per cent since 2007. Data for 2011, from the Ministry of Health, showed that 95 per cent of all pregnant women in 2010 were tested for HIV. The maternal mortality rate stabilised at 94.8 per 100,000 between 2003 and 2010. The rate further decreased to 94.4 per 100,000 in 2011 and remained at that rate in 2012 and 2013. In relation to infant mortality, there has been a decline from 24.4 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 15.4 per 100,000 in 2010.

a.2) **Why are these considered to be the major achievements? Please provide evidence that supports this assessment.**

**Institutional Mechanism for the Advancement of Women**

The adoption of the National Policy for Gender Equality demonstrates the move from women in development to gender and development. The establishment of Gender Focal Points across MDAs is considered a major achievement, as it creates the institutional framework to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all government policies, programmes and projects. During this period one hundred and six senior policy makers have been trained in keeping with their appointment as Gender Focal

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2 Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) - Economic and Social Survey Jamaica 2008 (p. III), 2012 (p. III) and 2013 (p. III)
3 Ibid.
Points. Currently 24 MDAs have received a Gender Equality Certification Seal to signal their commitment to the guiding principles in the National Policy for Gender Equality. Criteria for certification include completion of gender training and approved action plans within their respective MDA.

**Women in Power and Decision-making**
Women have been making strides in decision-making in the public sector and women’s growing visibility as Board members (presently at 35 per cent on Boards of public bodies and 16 per cent in the private sector), testifies to the increased contribution by women.

Jamaica was ranked 47th among two hundred countries in the Global Gender Gap Report and have done comparatively well since 2006 when it was ranked 25th. Jamaica received the European Union (EU) award in November 2013, for its role in the empowerment of women, and in particular for closing the gender gap in the public service.4

**Education and Training of Women**
The improved literacy rate and the higher levels of enrolment at the secondary and tertiary levels will result in increased female participation in the labour market, which will further translate into higher levels of women in power and decision making. See Table 3 Annex 2

The Women’s Centre of Jamaica Foundation programme for teenage mothers is considered a major achievement because of the high number of teenage mothers who have successfully completed secondary education without a repeat pregnancy. The programme has been recognized and benchmarked by several Caribbean and African states as a best practice.

**Women and Health**
The decline in the Maternal Mortality Ratio from 120.0 per 100,000 in 1990, to 83.1 per 100,000 in 2012 (Maternal Mortality surveillance, MoH) and the increased antenatal care coverage as was measured by at least one visit to a health facility during pregnancy (98 per cent) were significant improvements when compared to previous years. These reflect Jamaica’s progress towards achieving the MDGs.

In the 2013, HIV and AIDS legal assessment for Jamaica there were significant gains in the national HIV response. This includes a new governance structure and a significant reduction in the prevention of mother to child transmission (PMCT). This has resulted in a rate of 19.6 per 1,000 pregnant women in 1996 to below 1 per cent in 2009. As a result, the PMCT programme has reduced perinatal infections to less than 5 per cent; dramatically reduced HIV prevalence among female sex workers; provided free antiretroviral (ARV) treatment from which vulnerable women with HIV/AIDS are benefiting; adopted the National HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy, which prohibits HIV-related discrimination at the workplace and increased public awareness and discourse on HIV.6

**a.3) What has contributed to this success? Describe measures taken in terms of policies and mechanisms to maintain or build on this success.**

**Institutional Mechanism for the Advancement of Women**
Jamaica has sustained collaborative partnerships with national, regional and international agencies, including those within the United Nations’ system, and continues to benefit from same partnerships.

The Bureau of Gender Affairs through capacity-building and technical assistance training opportunities has enabled continued strengthening of the Gender Equality Framework as evidenced

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4The award, based on the rankings of the World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Report, is given to a country that has achieved a remarkable level of representation by women in the legislature, as senior officials and managers
6Ibid.
through gender mainstreaming initiatives. These include staff sensitization at all levels of MDAs; establishment of Gender Committees in some MDAs; the development of anti-sexual harassment workplace policies; participation in commemorative and international observances (IWD, IDEVAW, International Men’s Day) among other activities.

**Women in Power and Decision-making**
Collaborative research activities, through public and private sector, academia and civil society have contributed to on-going examination of the underlying causes for the under-representation of women in politics and in decision-making. Research findings, publications, parliamentary, and public debates have placed the spotlight on the use of temporary special measures such as quotas to advance gender parity in this area.

**Education and Training of Women**
The creation of the three new arms of government, the National Education Inspectorate, the Curriculum and Assessment Agency and the Jamaica Teaching Council has led to improved quality and equity in the education system. The implementation of various programmes and projects has resulted in improved school facilities and infrastructure, strengthened leadership and management, and higher levels of literacy and numeracy. Other measures include the implementation of the National Safe Schools Policy, proposed amendments to the Education Act and recommendations of the National Task Force on Educational Reform.

The Women’s Centre Foundation of Jamaica through the holistic approach to academic and vocational training and the provision of a range of support services has contributed to the programmes’ success. The support services include counselling for the teenage mothers, the fathers of the babies, and their parents/guardians; parenting education, family planning, sexual and reproductive health training, time management and budgeting. The approved policy for the Reintegration of School-Aged Mothers into the Formal School System in 2013 will assist in strengthening the programme.

**Women and Health**
A series of initiatives in the health sector has resulted in improved health service delivery and access for women. These include additional budgetary support, the provision of in-service training, human resource capacity strengthening, extensive infrastructural improvements, upgrading of the technological system care centres and greater access to medical services.

The implementation of a European Union funded project, Programme for the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (PROMAC), will see the establishment of six maternal high dependency units and five neonatology units for newborn care. One will be established in each Regional Health Authority. The intervention includes the training of health care professional in specific advanced areas such as Neonatology, Critical Care Nursing and Paediatrics. This intervention will enable adequate management of critical obstetric emergencies and improve the capacity to care for premature births that are less than 28 weeks gestation. The focus on renewed primary care through the upgrade of infrastructure and services at the community level also facilitates increased access and equity in maternal and childcare services at health centres.

Four Pilot health centres were established as Centres of Excellence. They were refurbished with infrastructural expansion and modification of maternal and child health clinics, improved laboratory services, minor operating facilities, medical records and clinical services.

Further integration of services has improved access for vulnerable women living with HIV/AIDS through targeted prevention strategies. The Bureau of Gender Affairs in collaboration with civil society organizations continued support and facilitation of health and information fairs in communities island-wide, with services such as mammography, pap smears and the distribution of female condoms have also contributed to increasing women’s access to health services and information.
b.1) **What are the country’s three to five major challenges in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly?**

The major challenges faced by Jamaica include:

- The absence of gender indicators disaggregated by sex and limited monitoring mechanisms to support gender-mainstreaming initiatives.
- The country’s limited fiscal space has affected the ability of the Bureau of Gender Affairs (BGA) to effectively fulfil its mandate.
- Although females are more educated, this has not translated into improved positions in the formal labour market, in leadership positions or in greater personal autonomy. Women continue to experience persistently higher levels of unemployment and are overrepresented in traditionally female dominated low status, low paying occupational categories resulting in a sex-based wage gap.
- The persistent underrepresentation of women at the political and decision-making levels and the slow pace of progress.
- The high incidence of gender-based violence and violence against women which remain a challenge to national development.

b.2) **Why are these considered to be the major challenges?**

- The absence of data disaggregated by sex and other intersecting variables hinders accurate quantitative and qualitative analysis of problems, issues and questions regarding gender differential needs and concerns. This further hampers comparative analyses of statistical trends and proper monitoring and evaluation of targeted interventions to assess programme impact;
- In the absence of adequate financial and human resources, the Bureau of Gender Affairs is not fully equipped to carry out its mandate. The BGA continues to experience difficulties in addressing the additional demands of monitoring and measuring progress created by national, regional and international commitments.
- Women’s relatively low levels of participation in the labour force and lower income impact their ability to provide for themselves and their families. Female-headed households specifically are generally larger, include more women, children, and the elderly and are more susceptible to economic shocks. The poverty rate for female-headed households was 14.0 per cent in 2010 compared to male-headed households at 11.0 per cent and women also constituted a larger proportion of the applicants for social welfare.
- The high levels of gender-based violence and violence against women continue to significantly hamper the broader attainment of the nation’s full development through the loss of productive time, the cost to the health sector and the impact on children and families. National statistics from the Police\(^8\) indicate that 814 cases of rape were recorded in 2013. The data also shows that 130 women were victims of aggravated assault, 229 were victims of shootings and 128 women were killed in 2013. Women who are the majority of victims of gender-based violence will continue to be severely hampered from achieving their full potential, equitable access to available opportunities and contribute to national development on a par with men.

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\(^7\) Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions (JLC) 2010

\(^8\)Referenced in newspaper article on sexual harassment - April 30, 2014 from Economic and Social Survey 2013
b.3) **Describe the strategy (ies) that is (are) in place to address the challenges?**

Jamaica has benefitted from collaborative partnerships with national, regional and international agencies. These include on-going training in the production and collection of reliable sex disaggregated data, capacity building of government and other relevant stakeholders to more effectively monitor and evaluate programme impact.

The JamStats Secretariat which was established 2007, within the Planning Institute of Jamaica, continues to facilitate the maintenance of a database as a primary source for the GOJ and is an indispensable tool for monitoring international, regional and national goals on specific social and economic development indicators. In November 2008, the GOJ through the PIOJ and STATIN launched the JamStats website, which increased the accessibility of their database along with the Ministry of Education’s Educational Statistics (EDUSTATS).

The combined JamStats Website and EDUSTATS Database supports statistical literature and national advocacy to store data on benchmark progress of youth and women in the Caribbean. It includes information on HIV/AIDS, crime & violence, early pregnancy and child abuse among other variables. This comprehensive database uses the Devinfo software, which was developed by the United Nations, STATIN and PIOJ to track key development indicators.

The Jamaica Injury Surveillance System (JISS) is a monitoring mechanism within the Ministry of Health, which is used to detect violence-related injuries (VRIs) as a public health concern. The data is disaggregated by sex. Efforts are continuing to include other key indicators to inform the collection of sex-disaggregated data in order to effectively monitor the status of women and men. Reproductive Health Surveys are conducted every five years to collect sex-disaggregated data on areas such as sexual behaviours, attitudes, self-perceptions and values of young adults.

In partnership with the Ministry of National Security, the Jamaica Crime Observatory Integrated Crime & Violence Information System (JCO-ICVIS) was developed to facilitate data-collection and data-sharing protocols among key stakeholders such as the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), Ministry of Health (MoH), and Bureau of Gender Affairs. It also includes the Forensics Laboratory, Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing (MTW), and the Registrar General’s Department (RGD). The JCO-ICVIS is a primary data source in developing and cross-validating a set of statistical indicators on violent crimes such as, sexual assaults, homicides, fatal shootings and suicides.

Other strategies include the on-going in-country, bilateral and regional cooperation to support the sharing of knowledge and experiences in implementing the BPA and the recruitment of additional technical staff of the Bureau of Gender Affairs in order to strengthen the institution’s capacity.

Technical and vocational training institutions have intensified efforts to bridge the gap for women’s increased participation in the labour force in general and in the Information Communication Technology (ICT) sector in particular. Scholarships and stipends have enabled women to access diversified academic and vocational choices to study in the non-traditional fields.

As part of a gender-sensitive approach to enable equal access to ICT opportunities, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) through the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining (MSTEM), donated, a number of computers specifically for use in MSTEM’s gender and ICT programme in 2011. A comprehensive support structure and socio-cultural messages that actively encourage girls to consider careers in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics are being promoted.

A non-governmental organization (NGO) group - 51% Coalition Development and Empowerment through Equity has trained 50 women for appointment to Boards and Commissions. Approximately 100 women were previously trained by the NGO group, Women Resource Outreach Centre (WROC). The Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ) and the Women Business Owners (WBO) of Jamaica have also been training women to prepare them for greater leadership roles.
The Government of Jamaica has implemented a range of educational programmes to combat and reduce the incidence of gender-based violence. These include public education and sensitization of human services workers (social workers, police officers, nurses, and doctors), a Police internship programme on the management and investigation of domestic violence and sexual offence cases. The National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-based Violence (NSAP-GBV) is being revised to guide the implementation of a coordinated programme, to prevent and eliminate gender-based violence within a human rights-based framework.

c) What setbacks/reversals in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women have been experienced since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (if different from those already identified in b)?

Violence against women remains high despite the advancement made by women in the Jamaican society. This violence prevents many women from achieving their full potential.

A number of mitigating measures have been implemented to reduce the levels of violence against women.

Public education campaigns were launched in partnership with key stakeholders and are being used to change persistent patriarchal beliefs and social norms. Other initiatives include gender sensitization and awareness building through the Health and Family Life Education Programme (HFLE), Schools’ Education Programme (SEP) and community outreach to promote gender sensitive socialisation, self-esteem and parenting skills.

d.1) What have been the main constitutional, legislative and/or legal developments in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women?

In keeping with the Jamaica’s commitment to the BPFA, a review of Jamaica’s legislation affecting women was commissioned in 1995. Since then, a range of legislative reforms has been undertaken. These included:

- The Evidence (Special Measures) Act, 2012, which allows victims of crimes such as sexual assault and abuse to give evidence without having to face the perpetrator in court.
- The Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act (2004) - provides for enhanced protection (Protection Orders, Occupation Orders, and Ancillary Orders) for victims of domestic violence and abuse and applies to both spouses and de facto (common law) spouses. The amended Act makes provision for persons in visiting relationships and makes provision for a third party, through permission of the court to start legal proceedings on behalf of someone who has suffered from spousal abuse.
- The Maintenance Act (2005) - makes provision for maintenance within the family and confers equal rights and obligations on spouses with respect to the support of each other and their children.
- The Child Care and Protection Act (2004) –addresses all issues affecting the care and protection of children.
- Trafficking in Persons Prevention, Suppression and Punishment Act passed in 2007 and amended in 2013 allows for increased penalty from ten to twenty years. The amendments also included an expanded definition of “exploitation” to include offenses similar to human
trafficking such as carnal abuse and rape; as well as to include circumstances where a person is kept in debt bondage.

- The Offences against the Person Act and the Incest Punishment Act - Certain provisions of each were repealed and new provisions made in the Sexual Offences Act (2009). Under the Sexual Offences Act, changes were made to widen the category of offenders in respect of incest to include stepfathers (step relationships) and persons in loco parentis relationships. The Act also establishes marital rape as an offence and makes provision for circumstances that must exist for marital rape to have been committed.
- Child Pornography (Prevention) Act (2009) - criminalizes the production, possession and distribution in child pornography. The legislation also makes it a criminal act to view or download child pornography from the internet and is expected to reduce the incidence of child abuse and sexual violence against children; and
- Sexual Harassment Legislation – Drafting instructions were issued by the Cabinet (2014).

**d.2) What laws and/or regulations remain in place (or have been introduced) that could have adverse effects on promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in the country?**

The Sexual Offences Act (2009) as it currently stands establishes marital rape as an offence. However, section 5(3), which makes provision for circumstances that must exist for marital rape to have been committed, negates the notion that non-consent is the key factor in establishing whether rape has occurred. In cases where spouses are not separated or in the process of separation; the wife has not sought a protection order or similar under the Domestic Violence Act (2004); and where the husband is not suffering from a sexually transmitted disease; women have no protection from marital rape.

It is the courts which decide whether or not to grant a divorce based on the irreparable rupture of the marriage and this is granted only after a period of separation of at least one year. These complicated and extensive proceedings before divorce can occur are seen as harmful to women, particularly in abusive relationships and where women may not have the same resources as men.

Delays in enacting the Occupational Health and Safety legislation as well as amendments to various pieces of labour legislation impede Jamaica’s ratification of ILO Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers.

**e.1) What is the approximate share of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women?**

Table 5 shows the amounts that were spent directly on gender equality and women’s empowerment initiatives. In addition to the amounts spent directly by the government, large sums are spent indirectly on women’s empowerment through a range of social protection programmes. Some of these include Land Administration and Management Programme (LAMP) and the Programme of Advancement through Health and Education (PATH), the National Health Fund (NHF), removal of tuition fees in secondary schools and user-fees in public health facilities.
Table 5: Share of National Budget Invested in Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, Jamaica: 2009/10 – 2013/14

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<td>BGA</td>
<td>51,003,000.00</td>
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<td>46,780,000.00</td>
<td>42,511,000.00</td>
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<td>Grants to women’s group &amp; other gender related activities</td>
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<td>6,350,000.00</td>
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<td>Total Budget</td>
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<td>% Share</td>
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**e.2) Describe efforts to increase and track national planning and budgetary allocations related to achieving gender equality and empowerment of women, in preparation of development plans and budgets at national, regional/provincial and local levels.**

As a result of the limited fiscal space within which the Government operates, collaboration with International Development Partners (IDPs) and the private sector have been strengthened in order to garner greater technical and financial support for the achievement of gender equality and women’s empowerment.

The Government provides limited support through annual subventions/grants to the NGO community to implement gender equality and women’s empowerment related activities. These efforts assist the BGA to continue to act as a catalyst to promote good gender-sensitive governance and socio-economic development. These efforts also serve to improve collaborative partnership initiatives to generate greater public awareness, facilitate timely implementation of policies and programmes and to further inform policy decision-making.

Whilst it is recognized that significant amounts are spent by several sectors across Government to support gender equality and women’s empowerment, plans are in progress to establish a mechanism to track national planning and budgetary allocations.

The national development planning mechanism is implemented through the Vision 2030, Jamaica’s National Development Plan and the National Policy for Gender Equality. Periodic mid-term reviews and Gender Focal Point quarterly review meetings are conducted by the Planning Institute of Jamaica and the BGA respectively. These are used to assess achievements against the Government established priority areas in the Vision 2030 and the guiding principles in the NPGE.

Included in the national development plan is a Gender Sector Plan, and features of this plan and the NPGE are being implemented by the BGA and other women’s NGOs. Achievement of the gender equality and women’s empowerment targets are evaluated through quarterly, as well as, annual reports.
f) What mechanisms are in place for regular dialogue between Government and civil society? If mechanisms are in place, briefly describe them.

At the National Parliamentary level, there is the Committee System, which enables/facilitates dialogue with civil society. Sessional Select Committees are Standing Committees that are established at the start of each legislative year. During their deliberations, they receive written and oral submissions from representatives of various arms of the Government, private sector entities, NGOs, stakeholder groups and private citizens to consider and make recommendations to Parliament.

Special Select Committees may also be appointed by Parliament to consider and report on specific matters that are being debated such as laws and new policies that are submitted to Parliament by a Ministry on a particular matter/subject. These committees comprise members of the House of Representatives and the Senate who also take into account the views of civil society in reviewing the legislation and policy documents.

At the Ministry level, Inter-Ministerial Committees may be appointed to guide/oversee the development, implementation and monitoring of development plans, policies, programmes and projects. These committees work in collaboration with civil society. Additionally, the Government has a Consultation Code that requires the inclusion of civil society in the legislative and policy development process. Civil society also contributes to the preparation of various national review reports as part of the country’s international reporting obligations.

Other mechanisms that are in place to foster Government/civil society dialogue include meetings (national and community) and fora on gender-related issues. The establishment of technical committees and consultations facilitate a collaborative reporting process in the collection of qualitative and quantitative data for national, regional and international reports. Some of these reports are on human rights, civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, women’s bill of rights (CEDAW), trafficking, HIV/AIDS, violence against women and women in development.

g.1) What main in-country, bilateral, sub-regional and/or regional cooperation is the country engaged in to support sharing of knowledge and experiences in the monitoring and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly?

Jamaica is engaged in several co-operations in order to sustain knowledge sharing, facilitated by the Office of the Prime Minister, and guided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT). This ensures that Jamaica’s position is adequately reflected in various international outcome documents, and that the areas for developmental assistance are identified.

In the establishment of a Gender Equality Observatory (2009), Jamaica was selected among five other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to be included in the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and the Ibero-American Secretariat SEGIB in collaboration with ECLAC. Activities include: the generation of national studies on gender and gender-related indicators in the Caribbean; and training and technical support to be provided for the producers and users of the national statistics, including the national machineries for the advancement of women/promotion of gender equality. This is intended to enhance the development of gender indicators and the collection of sex-disaggregated and other data in keeping with Jamaica’s commitments under CEDAW, BPFA and other conventions, agreements and treaties.

Through the bilateral partnership between Jamaica and UNECLAC, reciprocal knowledge sharing and training exercises have provided opportunities to individuals from diverse sectors within the region, to gain first-hand knowledge of in-country experience in their implementation of the BPFA and build administrative and technical capacity. Similar bilateral programmes provided by Israel and the United Kingdom have enabled trainees to utilise knowledge gained for the development of the country.
Over the years, there has been a number of similar engagements in bilateral, sub regional and regional cooperation. Some of these engagements include: the Belem Do Para Hemispheric Forum – Mexico City (2014); Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 58th Session (2014); Caribbean Conference on Domestic Violence and Gender Equality (2014); EU Women in Parliaments Global Forum (2013); Regional Training Course on the Development of Gender Indicators and the Collection of Data on Gender (2013); XII Session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean- Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (2013); Regional Workshop on National Plans to Address Violence Against Women in Latin America & the Caribbean – Panama City, Panama (2012); Women in e-Biz, Seoul, South Korea (2010); Human Rights & Development of Women, South Korea (2008); Regional Seminar to Strengthen the Use of Administrative Records to Measure Violence Against Women in the Caribbean – Port-of-Spain, Trinidad (2010); Regional Gender Workshop, Masculinities, Gender Equality & Development in the Caribbean – Grenada (2010); International Leadership Development Programme, Washington, USA (2010); Gender and Local Governance, Haifa, Israel (2009).

**g.2) What results have been achieved through such efforts and what lessons have been learnt?**

Cooperation efforts have served to facilitate the sharing of best practices and equip participants to function at a higher level. Through the quality of discussions and debates, Jamaica has learned of the depths of resources and expertise that exists regionally and internationally. In addition, the methodologies learned have been adapted to inform and support policy, planning and programme development activities being undertaken by the Bureau of Gender Affairs. The cooperation has helped significantly, as the contents of training and conferences, facilitated by discussions, comments and questions, and the sharing of knowledge and experiences through such cooperation, provide useful resource ideas and tools for gender and human rights policy development.

**g.3) In what ways could cooperation be improved to strengthen sharing of knowledge and experiences in implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action?**

Cooperation could be improved with more sustained technical assistance and training programmes rather than the current ad hoc and one-off approaches. The programmes could be longer in duration where necessary and include a larger number of persons. Follow-up programmes should also be based on recommendations for capacity building, technical needs and the inclusion of more participants from a variety of civil society organizations/NGOs. Internships/exchange programmes at the bilateral/multilateral, regional and international cooperation levels in international development organizations could also be organized to impart more invaluable resource tools, knowledge and experience.

**h) How, and to what extent, have the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) overall, and in particular the gender-related MDGs, facilitated or strengthened the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action?**

The eight major goals of the MDGs, and in particular the gender-related goals, have facilitated the implementation of the BPA as the MDGs include specific measurable indicators such as, the literacy rate of women and men who fall within the 12-24 age group, the ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education, infant mortality rate, maternal mortality ratio, and the proportion of seats held by women in national parliament.

These goals provide the framework for implementing, as well as, measuring the country’s progress in regard to the twelve critical areas of the BPA; namely, women and poverty, education and training, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in power and decision making, women and the media, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights, women and the environment, and the girl child.
Both the MDGs and the BPA are being implemented through Jamaica’s National Development Plan; Vision 2030 and the NPGE; and have enabled the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) to implement appropriate measures to assist in addressing areas in which the country is lagging to achieve equitable and sustainable human and national development in keeping with its national, regional and international commitments.
SECTION TWO

PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN OF THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION SINCE 2009

A. Women and Poverty

The Government of Jamaica remained committed to social development priorities and to maintaining the gains made in several areas as listed below. Of critical importance was social protection for the vulnerable populations including women in poverty. The Social Protection Project (GOJ/World Bank, 2008-2013) was a major driver for social protection advances over the period. This social policy project was implemented through the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance & the Public Service as well as the Planning Institute of Jamaica.

The Social Protection Project supports the Government of Jamaica in its ability to strengthen the social protection system and enhances the inclusiveness of vulnerable populations. The Project has four components in which women are direct beneficiaries. The Programme of Advancement through Health and Education (PATH), which is the GOJ’s flagship social protection initiative. It is aimed at delivering benefits through the provision of cash transfers and interventions geared towards developing human capital in the poorest and most vulnerable groups in the society many of whom are women. The government has relied on the flexibility of this cash transfer programme to respond to some of the immediate impacts of the global and local environment on these groups.

Available data as at 2010 indicated that females head 55.1 per cent of households that benefited from the programme. Since 2007, the programme has increased in size and value of the benefit. The expansion was designed to include more pregnant and lactating mothers on the programme. Currently, there are approximately 380,000 beneficiaries on the PATH; of which 71.5 per cent and 17.1 per cent are children and the elderly, respectively.

Another programme, aimed at targeting the capable adult members of PATH households for skills training, entrepreneurship and job placement, is the Steps to Work Programme. The Steps to Work programme, which was launched in 2009, is also implemented by the MLSS. The programme targets 10,900 men and women to acquire skills toward gaining productive employment and reduce the level of dependence on welfare within poor households.

In an effort to streamline and better coordinate the various initiatives/programmes that seek to address poverty, the Government established a Poverty Reduction Coordinating Unit in the PIOJ in December 2013. Additionally recognising that poverty is highest in rural areas and requires special focus, a “Rural Poverty Task Force” was established by the Prime Minister in March 2014.

The Income Tax Act 2009 was amended, to allow the term “spouse” to include a single woman who has lived and cohabited with a single man for a period of not less than five years immediately preceding the date of his death. This amendment entitles a common law spouse to greater lump sum benefits under approved retirement schemes in the event of her spouse’s death. The benefit is conditional as it is based on proof of income tax contribution.

The Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) Mona Unit initiated several studies to identify gender inequalities. One such research was on The Situation of Household Workers in Jamaica this was done to support advocacy to ratify the C189 – Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).
Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges
Disadvantage persists among specific groups including single mothers who are heads of households, women who have disabilities, elderly women and women who are victims of domestic violence.

B. Education and Training of Women

As part of the gender mainstreaming strategy bolstered by the National Policy for Gender Equality (NPGE), more educational institutions are introducing gender sensitive curricula and teaching methods to address structural and cultural causes of discrimination against women in order to encourage the diversification of educational and professional choices for women. The Human Employment and Resource Training/National Training Agency (HEART Trust/NTA) institution has incorporated a gender component in its training programmes. This has resulted in an increase in the enrolment of females in non-traditional fields of study. Tables 21.6 & 21.8 (ESSJ 2011) – See Annex 2

A number of initiatives was implemented to sustain improvements and create more access to training and education. Higher female enrolment at the tertiary level has not translated into an equitable composition in the non-traditional areas of the labour market for women. While a large number of women was enrolled in the Sciences (71 per cent) at the tertiary level only 15 per cent was enrolled in engineering. In other training institutions 23.4 per cent of women was trained as technicians while 55.3 per cent was trained as skilled and semi-skilled personnel. Women still dominate what are considered the softer areas of ICT such as call centres and data processing. These trends prevailed despite the International Telecommunications Union’s (ITU’s) sex-disaggregated statistics, which at 2010 indicated that there were more female users of the internet (29.8 per cent) compared to male users (25.4 per cent).

Cabinet approved a National Policy on the Reintegration of School-Aged Mothers into the Formal School System in 2013 to respond to the challenges and needs of school-aged girls who become pregnant while attending school. The Policy sets out clear guidelines to ensure that teenage mothers are not denied the opportunity to re-enter the formal school system after giving birth.

With the appointment of a gender specialist in 2014, the Ministry of Education (MoE) anticipates improvement in regard to the teaching of literacy skills to boys as well as ensure that the weaknesses among girls are not overlooked. The Ministry’s New Standards Curriculum will be implemented to facilitate a non-discriminatory learning environment.

The practice of gender stereotyping is being addressed through efforts by the MoE, as well as, through public education programmes conducted in partnership with other stakeholders including civil society.

The MoE’s Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) Programme is geared towards promoting family life education and is offered at both the primary and secondary levels. It promotes HIV and AIDS prevention education including both knowledge and skills acquisition. The curriculum is student-centred as it facilitates a life-skills based approach that will seek to address negative gender stereotyping.

Additionally, through partnership with the Independent Jamaica Council for Human Rights (IJCHR), a training manual on Human Rights Education was developed for use by teachers to integrate human rights education at the primary level.

Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges
Females continue to dominate in the study of arts and humanities, which tend to lead to low-paying employment, which does not improve their overall economic status. As a result, gender-based segregation of the labour market is still a common phenomenon, which reflects women’s reluctance (and/or inability) to enter non-traditional areas of skills training where employment and income prospects tend to be higher. Although there has been some incremental change, this gender
segregation remains true in the area of ICT; it is anticipated that this will change with the entry of more women into the ICT sector.

C. Women and Health

The GOJ’s health policy priorities have been established within the context of the National Development Plan – Vision 2030. They include a broadening of access to health services, improving equity and providing for the most vulnerable. As a result, women’s health continues to be the focus with the reproductive health of young people, girls in particular, and their right to information and services. There are also efforts to improve maternal health through reproductive health training with an increased focus on the reduction of maternal mortality rates in line with projections/targets for the Millennium Development Goals.

Efforts continue at combating HIV/AIDS and reducing the incidence of new infections among the vulnerable groups including women. The most notable achievement in this area has been the integration of components of the National HIV Response with the National Family Planning Board to create the National Authority for Sexual and Reproductive Health, as approved by the Cabinet in March 2013. The integrated agency is in keeping with one of the key strategies of Vision 2030, which is to “expand and improve integration of family planning, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS into primary health care.” Along with the integrated agency has been the development of the draft National Strategic Plan on HIV (2012 – 2017) which utilized gender mainstreaming to ensure the responsiveness of the differential needs of men and women in HIV prevention, treatment, care and support programmes.

Gender Dimensions of HIV/AIDS in Jamaica

Females account for the majority of cases in the 10 – 29 years age group, and among the 15 - 19 age group, four times as many young women have been reported with AIDS than young men. However, adult males account for a larger proportion (61 per cent) of the cases reported in the 30 to 79 age group.

Initiative for Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV

In 2012, the National HIV Response Programme provided ARVs (in the public sector) for the majority (88 per cent) of pregnant women and HIV exposed infants (98 per cent) to facilitate the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT).

Legislative and Policy Initiatives

The Adolescent Health Unit of the Ministry of Health, with the support of a multi-sectoral Adolescent Policy Working Group has led the process of reviewing policies that limit adolescent access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services. Also, a concept paper has been developed with input from four government ministries and other stakeholders, and will form the basis for discussions on proposed legislative changes.

The National Workplace Policy on HIV and AIDS was passed in 2010 and since then, there has been significant progress. In 2012, the Policy was further revised based on ILO Recommendation and recommendations from the Attorney General of Jamaica. It was resubmitted to the Human Resources Committee of the Cabinet in July 2012 and approved as a White Paper by both Houses of the Parliament in February 2013.

A new draft of the Occupational, Safety and Health (OSH) ACT was presented to the Legal Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security to include a definition of HIV-related discrimination, which will be deemed criminal under the ACT. Additionally, HIV Regulations have been drafted and are expected to accompany the pending OSH ACT. It will give legislative effect to the National Workplace Policy on HIV and AIDS, which requires private, and public sector entities to adopt or adapt and implement policies within the workplace to address issues related to HIV and AIDS. The Regulations will also outline sanctions for breaching the tenets of the Policy.
Other legislative changes include the Amendment of the Public Health Act and its Regulations which was approved in 2012 to ensure that HIV and AIDS are designated as communicable diseases for the sole purpose of reporting and surveillance, and that HIV and AIDS are not designated as communicable diseases. This amendment to prohibit institutional and legislative discrimination and stigma against persons living with or affected by HIV and AIDS.

The Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), conducted a study as part of a justification process for the introduction of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccines. The specific objective of which was to determine the age-specific prevalence of HPV in a sample of Jamaican women, aged 15-49 years, and identify those factors or issues, which may facilitate or hinder vaccine introduction in this population.

**Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges**

Jamaica has made significant gains in addressing the epidemic but HIV still has the potential to significantly impede the social and economic development of the country. One of the challenges is balancing the growing epidemic among key populations and maintaining the gains made in the general population. Other challenges include the linkage, retention and adherence to treatment and care; access to prevention services for sexually active minors and the slow pace to introduce key legislation that will mitigate stigma and discrimination.

Poverty remains a key driver of HIV infection among women. Many women are forced into sexual relationships for financial gain. Many of these relationships are abusive and women are unable to negotiate condom use. The growing number of reported HIV and AIDS cases among women may be attributed to exposure to high risk male partners such as MSMs and those with multiple partners.

**D. Violence Against Women**

The Government of Jamaica continues to actively address the issue of violence against women and girls, through legislation, public education programmes, project implementation and advocacy to improve the mechanisms and policies in place to address violence against women.

**Legislative/policy framework**

A number of legislative measures have been implemented to address violence against women. The key measures are outlined below. The Evidence (Special Measures) ACT, 2012, allows victims of crimes such as sexual assault and abuse to give evidence without having to face the perpetrator in court.

The Trafficking in Persons Prevention, Suppression and Punishment ACT, was amended in July 2013, to allow for: increased penalty from ten to twenty years to ensure that punishment for such an offence was commensurate with punishment for offences such as forcible sexual assault. The legislation was also amended to include an expanded definition of “exploitation” to include offences similar to human trafficking such as carnal abuse and rape; as well as, to include circumstances where a person is kept in debt bondage. A Special Prosecutor in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions was appointed to specifically handle all cases involving Trafficking in Persons.

The Cabinet has issued drafting instructions for Sexual Harassment legislation. The Bureau of Gender Affairs continues sensitization and awareness-raising in preparation for the enactment of this legislation.

**Brief overview on actions towards eliminating Gender-based Violence**

The Prime Minister established an Inter-disciplinary Committee in September 2012, within the Office of the Prime Minister to address the issue of gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation of women and girls and trafficking in persons. Under the leadership of Sen. the Hon. Sandrea Falconer,
key priority areas were defined in keeping with the draft National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-based Violence (NSAP-GBV) to guide the national response.

The National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-based Violence in Jamaica is being finalized, as part of a coordinated effort to address gender-based violence in all its forms. The NSAP-GBV was developed through consultation with key stakeholders. A Core Working Group (CWG) was established with the primary objective “to operate as a stakeholder monitoring body, charged with the responsibility of guiding and providing oversight for the revision and completion” of the Plan. The committee, which is chaired by the Office of the Prime Minister, is comprised of representatives from International Development Partners (IDPs), NGOs, members of the legal profession and academia.

A Gender, Youth and Violence Manual was developed with funding from UN Women’s Gender Equality Fund, geared towards training youth in violence prevention. The Manual is being used to effect training of community based young women and men in advocacy and peer intervention.

The BGA has also engaged men to end violence against women and children through a Network of Men’s Advocate who were trained through the Champions for Change intervention programme. Four masculinity workshops were held involving 165 men.

The Bureau of Gender Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in September 2013 towards the harmonisation of data categories to assist in giving a more accurate assessment of the prevalence of gender-based violence. The MOU guides the operations of the Jamaica Crime Observatory – Integrated Crime and Violence Information System (JCO-ICVIS) which is housed in the Ministry of National Security (MNS). The JCO-ICVIS will also assist the Bureau in the collection of sex-disaggregated data to examine the relationship between victims and offenders, as well as, facilitate evidence-based policy-making and violence prevention activities.

**Gender-Based Violence and Management of Sexual Assault**

The Centre For The Investigation Of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse (CISOCA). (Jamaica Constabulary Force) which has branches in all Parishes, offers a complete programme for victims, including evaluation of each complaint; interviewing and recording of statements; and medical examination, treatment, medication and medical certificates for evidential purposes. CISOCA also prepares exhibits for forensic analysis; apprehends perpetrators and arrange for arraignment. It also provides assistance with the rehabilitation of victims through the procurement of counselling and therapy (offered by both CISOCA and referrals to the Crisis Centre operated by Woman Inc.). In addition to these centres, policewomen have been specially trained and are assigned to Police divisions across the island.

In order to strengthen the capacity of CISOCA, UNFPA donated three refrigerators to selected rural CISOCA offices. These will aid in the storing and preserving of critical evidence in the management of sexual assault cases. Through collaboration with UNFPA and the Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offences & Child Abuse (CISOCA), the Bureau of Gender Affairs conducted a series of workshops over a four day period targeting physicians and nurses who work in the areas of paediatrics and gynaecology, and included the district medical officers (DMOs) working at CISOCA. A total of forty five persons were trained.

The Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA)/United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) provided training for police officers in Domestic Violence Intervention (techniques and strategies), who are assigned to each Police Divisional Headquarters, as well as other Police stations where s/he is responsible for dealing with reports of abuse against women and girls.

**Trafficking in Persons**

The National Taskforce against Trafficking in Persons (NATFATIP), an Inter-Ministerial group with core emphasis on the prevention and suppression of trafficking in persons, chaired by the Ministry of Justice, comprises a wide range of Ministries, Departments and Agencies. Apart from its regular
meetings, the Taskforce meets quarterly with civil society groups and NGOs that are not a part of the NATFATIP.

Among the achievements of the Taskforce are: Jamaica approved the National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons which adopted the guiding principles of the Global Plan of Action of the United Nations; a Secretariat was established within the Ministry of Justice to support and monitor the implementation of the Action Plan; A victims’ shelter was established and provided care and accommodation for a group of twenty-one Honduran children on board a Honduran fishing vessel intercepted by the Jamaica Defence Force in Jamaican Coastal waters.

During 2012/13 two hundred and fifty five raids were conducted, six cases detected and thirty-nine victims rescued; Three TIP cases were suspected with twenty-three victims being rescued; Seven TIP investigations were launched and four arrests were made. Through increased collaboration with the hotel and tourism industry, there was an increased focus on raids in high-profile hotels and night clubs. In 2013, efforts to fight human trafficking resulted in Jamaica being upgraded from tier a three watch list to tier two by the US State Department.

In September 2013, NATFATIP received significant boost in its public education efforts with the handing over of public education materials by the US Army’s, Military Information Support Team (MIST). These included six hundred posters, five thousand handbills, as well as thirteen advertisements placed on Jamaica Urban Transit Company (JUTC) buses which will run across the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western zones of the parishes of Kingston, St. Andrew and St. Catherine. The Support Team also facilitated the placement of seven billboards across the island.

Research Initiatives
As part of a CARICOM-wide initiative to end gender-based violence through strengthened and responsive state and civil society action, in 2009, the BGA commissioned a baseline assessment of the policing and prosecution of sexual offences in Jamaica. The objective of the assessment was to establish the key hindrances to the successful policing and prosecution of sexual offences. Recommendations were made regarding the need for legislative, policy, policing and prosecutorial changes in order to ensure punishment of offenders and to minimize the trauma of the prosecution process for victims of sexual assault. See Annex 3 Re: SSA Project Report

The Institute for Gender and Development Studies, Mona Unit (2009) with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), conducted a study on The Profile of Victims and Perpetrators of Gender-based Violence. The study which was confined to one (1) Police Division was intended to guide future research and to empower the Jamaica Constabulary Force to enhance data collection on gender based violence, improve detection and prosecution.

Projects and other Initiatives to eliminate gender-based violence
The GoJ, through the BGA, also executed a project entitled “Strengthening State Accountability and Community Action for Ending Gender-based Violence in the Caribbean” (2009-2010). This was aimed at reducing gender-based violence through strengthened State and civil society actions. Under the Project, Town Hall meetings using a multi-agency approach were conducted across the island. Six hundred and fifty individuals were impacted.

Through the UNFGE, The Way Out: Women’s Economic and Political Empowerment Project, a national training workshop on gender mainstreaming, the production and collection of reliable sex-disaggregated data was conducted in March 2012. A total of one hundred and six participants were trained.

In keeping with the UN Secretary General’s global campaign on violence against women, a Unite to End Violence Against Women Campaign, was launched. Through a collaborative approach between the Bureau, UN Women and 16 local artistes, a series of television and radio features on gender based violence (GBV) was developed as part of the cultural advocacy campaign.
The Government continues to support the work of Woman Inc through the provision of monthly subventions. Woman Inc is an NGO that provides a shelter, counselling and other related services to women who are victims of domestic violence.

There are also a number of other programmes and social service providers that address gender based violence. These include:

- **COUNSELLING AND THERAPY**
  Counselling is offered island-wide by the Victim Support Unit (VSU), Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF), Peace Centres and Women’s Centre as well as various faith-based institutions. Tertiary Level Institutions (The University of the West Indies, UWI, and the University of Technology, UTECH) also offer counselling and referrals for their student bodies and staff.

- **LEGAL AID AND ADVICE**
  This service for victims and their families is available from the Family Courts island-wide, the Government’s Legal Aid Clinic and Council (in the Ministry of Justice), the Legal Aid Clinic at the Norman Manley Law School, UWI and the Women’s Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC).

- **HOTLINES**
  These telephone facilities, often with toll free numbers, include the Crisis Centre Hotline, a Children’s Hotline for reporting children who might be trafficking in persons (TIP) victims and AIDS Hotline. Persons have access to these island-wide. The hotline service is intended as a “stop-gap” until a person in crisis can access face to face intervention.

- **PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**
  The Child Development Agency (CDA) has a referral desk where reports of child abuse can be made anonymously and are then referred to the Office of the Children’s Registry (OCR) for investigation.

  The Ministry of Youth & Culture operates the Ananda Alert programme, which allows for cases of missing children to be investigated and publicized as soon as the initial report is made, as opposed to the usual twenty-four hour delay. The Ananda Alert was launched in May 2009 to offer greater protection to children and utilises the sharing of information via emails and telephone text messages as soon as a report is made to the police of a missing child.

- **The Bustamante Hospital for Children - CAMP Bustamante (Child Abuse Mitigation Project)**
  which was set up in 2004 with funds from UNICEF as the “first hospital-based response for violence prevention” provides support and treatment for victims of child abuse and violence.

  CAMP Bustamante has shown the importance of using Injury Surveillance Systems to identify and monitor children at risk of violence, ensuring targeted and comprehensive risk assessment and family-based interventions. The CAMP Bustamante team was formalizing a training module on child abuse to be used by the University of the West Indies and the Ministry of Health. It was hoped that replication of the CAMP Bustamante model would occur in hospitals island-wide. Due to the lack of funding, this successful intervention ceased operations.

**Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges**

The incidence of violence against women in general and domestic violence in particular, remains high. A number of factors continue to deter women from reporting and pursuing sexual offences cases, including victims and witnesses’ fear of reprisals or retaliation and delays in the judicial process. Cases of gender-based violence also remain under-reported due to the prevalence of social and cultural norms.
E. **Women and Armed Conflict**

Jamaica strongly supported the adoption of United Nations Resolution 1325 in October 2000. Jamaica is not party to any regional or international conflicts and therefore armed conflict as applied in the international context, is uncommon to Jamaica. However Jamaica has broadened its involvement and participation in UN peacekeeping Missions and has witnessed a steady increase in the number of women selected for active duty. As a result, Jamaican female officers now play a crucial role in UN peacekeeping operations and domestic conflict resolution initiatives, and several are involved both as participants and beneficiaries of the various related national programmes.

F. **Women and the Economy**

Women continue to benefit from training programmes, which facilitate the development of employment skills to improve their earning prospects. These include strategies such as encouraging self-employment, development of small enterprises, and the current reform of the education system which promotes alternative employment opportunities in non-traditional areas; for example construction, welding, plumbing and auto mechanics.

There is increased access to banking and credit facilities through micro-finance and economic loan programmes implemented by the Micro-Investment Development Agency (MIDA). Financing is provided specifically to the self-employed to expand their micro enterprises, as well as, to unemployed persons who wish to pursue their own businesses. MIDA has indicated that the majority of recipients are females and that of the MJ$166.21 disbursed in loans, MJ$114.92 was granted to females.

In 2012 and 2013 over 70% of the loans disbursed under the Development Bank of Jamaica Micro finance Portfolio was to women.

The Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSME) Alliance, is a network of business organizations, and is integral in fostering women’s participation in the formal and informal economy through strategic collaboration and engagement in capacity building programmes.

Drafting instructions were issued by the Cabinet (2014) for Sexual Harassment legislation to address the incidence of sexual harassment in the workplace. This legislation will be gender neutral. However, since there are higher numbers of women in the workplace, when promulgated, the sexual harassment legislation will provide greater protection to women.

In April 2013, the Jamaica Household Workers’ Union (JHWU) was launched to facilitate the scope for adequate representation of domestic workers to ensure fair and just working conditions and wages as well as adequate legal protection. The JHWU benefited from institutional strengthening and technical assistance from the BGA. *The Way Out: Women’s Economic and Political Empowerment Project* in 2014 provided a customised training programme for chapter leaders and executive members of the JHWU. Training was provided to thirty members of the union in the areas of leadership development, negotiation skills, public speaking and presentation skills, project proposal writing and gender mainstreaming.

The Research and Outreach project of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies funded by UN Women (2014), continued to support the sensitization of household workers, employers, trade unions, labour inspectors, as well as the general public, to support Jamaica’s ratification of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 189 (C189). The project also helped to support the Ministry of Labour and Social Security to prepare for ratification of C189. A user-friendly brochure for low-literacy users was produced and three public service announcements were aired on the radio. (February – March 2014).
Females were the main recipients of employment opportunities in the US Hospitality Programme in 2013 (56.1 per cent) and the Canadian Skilled Workers/Hospitality Programme (66.1 per cent).

Training was conducted in information and communication technology in September 2013 with approximately thirty female micro business owners in collaboration with the Scotiabank Chair in Entrepreneurship & Development and other partners. Participants were exposed to the basics of computer literacy, utilizing software such as Word and Excel as well as learning to use the Internet, E-mails, Website/Webpage and Social Media.

The GOJ through the BGA’s community outreach programme with urban and rural community groups, the livelihood of rural women and their rural communities continued to improve. Assistance was provided through funding for protective agriculture and greenhouse technology, craft, and technical guidance for advocacy project activities. Grants amounting to approximately M$2.7 were also awarded to a total of nineteen rural women’s groups to support programmes/ventures being undertaken by the groups. Plans are in progress to make this an annual grant award. See Annex 3– Feature Profiles

A study entitled “Gender and Women’s Rights analysis of Economic Partnership Agreements: The Implementation of Trade Liberalisation” was conducted (2009) by the University of the west Indies Mona Unit and the Institute for Gender and Development Studies team of lecturers, for the World Action and Commonwealth Foundation. The study explored the links between globalization, gender equality, trade and development and argued that trade and economic development should support women’s human rights, and a decent standard of work.

**Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges**

Major concerns include the delays in ratifying the ILO Convention 189 on Decent work for Domestic workers; the new round of wage freeze for the public sector; climate change - weather patterns are expected to remain a challenge.

**G. Women in Power and Decision-making**

**Women in the Senate**

At the time of the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995, the proportion of women in the Senate was 19 per cent, reaching its highest level in the current parliamentary session. Over the last five years, it ranged from 14.2 per cent in the 2008/2009 parliamentary year to 23.8 per cent as of May 2013, the closest either the Senate or the House of Representatives has ever come to meeting the 30 per cent target proposed by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and which is also reflected in the National Policy for Gender Equality.

**Women in the House of Representatives**

In the House of Representatives, the number of women has remained consistent since 2009, with eight women candidates having emerged victorious in the General Elections of 2007 and 2011. There was, however, a slight decrease in the proportion of women as at December 2011, owing to an increase in the number of constituencies which were contested from sixty to sixty three. These figures do not differ significantly from those, which obtained in 1995, when women comprised 12 per cent of the membership of the House of Representatives.

**Female Parliamentarians in Leadership Positions**

For the period 2008-2014, women held the following leadership positions: Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Minister, Minister of State, Attorney General or Parliamentary Secretary and varied between 12 and 15 per cent of all persons in such positions. At present, the figure stands at 17.9 per cent, with women

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8 Study revised August 2009 by Dr. Leith Dunn, Annecke Hamilton, Jessica Byron and Quaine Palmer.
in five of twenty-eight such posts, including that of Prime Minister. As of January 2012, women account for 23.8 per cent of the positions in the Senate.

On May 16, 2014, a Resolution was passed to establish a Joint Select Committee to consider and make recommendations to address Women’s Under-representation in Parliament, local authorities and other positions of Leadership. The Committee will consider and make recommendations that would identify practical measures including the use of “temporary special measures to correct the systemic gender inequalities which impact on women’s under-representation in Parliament & local authorities in the organs of political parties and on public boards.

A series of training sessions were held with ninety-three women for appointment to public and private sector Boards and Commissions and a database was developed and presented to key public and private sector organizations/leaders. This was implemented under the ‘Strengthen Women’s Leadership in Jamaica Training Programme’ (2009-2011) conducted by the Women’s Resource and Outreach Centre, with support from the Government of Jamaica which was funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) and CIDA.

The UWI’s Institute for Gender and Development Studies, Mona Unit in 2010-2012 implemented a project, ‘Advancing Transformational Leadership for Gender Justice in the Caribbean’, that was funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF). This project, which was implemented in partnership with UN Women to support the training programme of the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership (CIWIL), trained 79 women from six Caribbean countries as transformational leaders, to increase the number of women in political and public office. Among the other organizations providing training in leadership for women are: the Jamaica Women’s Political Caucus, the Women’s Leadership Initiative, Women Business Owners and the Association of Women’s Organizations of Jamaica and service organizations.

The Parliament of Jamaica continued to engage in cooperation with several international entities such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). The women’s arm of the CPA is the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP). In 2012, Jamaica’s Parliament hosted the 5th Regional CWP Conference which provided an opportunity for female parliamentarians from Jamaica and other Commonwealth countries in the region to discuss and propose solutions to hindrances to women’s political participation as elected and appointed representatives. CWP conferences are held regularly in different locations throughout the Commonwealth and Jamaican women parliamentarians are usually represented.

Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges

A major challenge is the slow pace of advancement for women to higher levels of decision-making in general in the national parliament and the private sector.

H. Institutional Mechanism for the Advancement of Women

Since 2009 institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women have been steadily progressing through the implementation of the National Policy for Gender Equality in the public sector. The implementation of the NPGE facilitated the continued establishment of Gender Focal Points in all Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, with responsibility for implementing gender-sensitive policies and programmes. See Annex 3.

The Bureau continued to support the work of other sectors of government to advance the status of women on par with men through the integration of gender considerations in the policy review and
national review processes. Some of these include; the reviews of the Sexual Offences Act and the Child Care and Protection Act; the development of a Climate Change Policy Framework; Urban Development; and HIV/AIDS Policy.

Through a range of gender equality initiatives and interventions in rural communities, significant awareness raising has been done on gender equality issues. These initiatives include public education on: access to credit; understanding of the inter-linkages between gender relations, poverty, masculinities, women’s empowerment, gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health, with emphasis on HIV/AIDS, to benefit rural women in particular. Nineteen rural women farmers were able to access loans from the Community Empowerment Network (CEN). The CEN is an NGO that has partnered with the Canadian Development Agency to provide loans to assist rural women to create viable livelihood opportunities by increased access to credit. See Annex 3 – Projects

Through support from International Development Partners, the capacity of the Bureau of Gender Affairs was strengthened in several areas. Staff participated in the following; 2 regional workshops on the development of gender indicators and the collection of sex-disaggregated data; training in human rights and development of women, a regional workshop on Masculinities and Gender Equality. The National Gender Machinery’s staff complement was also increased to more effectively implement the Bureau’s mandate and to meet its international obligations including its commitments under the Beijing Platform for Action.

The BGA is also currently working on a Gender Mainstreaming Manual (GMM) to better define the roles and functions of Gender Focal Points and to assist GFPs in identifying technical capacities for strengthening. The Bureau’s Policy/Research Unit continued to carry out collection of sex disaggregated data and research in areas of relevance to gender equality, to inform policy development and targeted community interventions.

Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges
The paradigm shift from women in development (WID) to gender and development (GAD) has impacted the technical capacities of the National Women’s Machinery to accommodate the new gender and development mandate. Another challenge is the limited budget and the slow pace of the recruitment process to increase the Bureau’s technical staff complement.

In a context where many consider gender as synonymous with women and the prevailing concept of “male marginalization”, challenges remain in how to increase male participation.

I. Human Rights of Women

The GOJ continued to promote and protect human rights as a means of empowering women and the achievement of gender equality. Consultations were held with the Legal Counsel of the MoJ’s Justice Undertaking for Social Transformation (JUST) programme to ensure that gender considerations would be consistently integrated in the justice system reform programme.

Several legislative developments have taken place since 2009 to close legislative gaps and enact new laws which promote gender equality and women’s empowerment. These include:

• A Cybercrimes ACT (2010) serves to complement legislation on child pornography as well as protect women and girls from cybercrimes. The Act imposes legal sanctions on the misuse of data and other computer-related crimes.

• The Evidence (Special Measures) Act (2012) allows vulnerable witnesses, many of whom are women and girls, to give evidence in court proceedings by way of video link. The Act is intended to provide greater protection and security for women and girls who are victims of crimes.

• The Disabilities Bill, which was tabled in May 2014, will provide greater protection against discrimination for persons with disabilities.
The BGA is collaborating with the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) to establish a complaints mechanism for women, as part of a protocol on gender-based violence. The OPD also continues to examine and facilitate redress for human rights violations through investigations of complaints by citizens and acting on behalf of complainants to remedy alleged injustices. Women are free to access the services of this Office to obtain redress representation regarding human rights violations.

Coinciding with the observance of events such as International Women’s Day and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, a number of public awareness and sensitisation workshops/sessions are held to encourage legal literacy among women. Training sessions have been conducted for members of the judiciary and the Office of the Director Public Prosecutions (ODPP), aimed at achieving more effective redress for women and girls who are victims of violence, especially sexual violence and domestic abuse. Training sessions were also held at various levels with men to discuss their role in the elimination of violence against women.

The Institute for Gender and Development Studies, Mona Unit, continue to integrate major human rights agreements in the course materials used by students in gender courses.

**Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges**

The slow pace in the legislative process negatively impacts the enactment and amendments of legislation that will offer greater protection to women.

**J. Women and the Media**

Through the media (radio and television), social media, print media, regulatory body, the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica (BCJ), the GOJ continued to introduce measures aimed at reducing discrimination and to promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women and girls. Towards this end, since 2009, the BCJ issued three new regulatory directives.

These directives were aimed at ensuring improved monitoring of the airwaves to address the airing of inappropriate content; prohibit the broadcast of sexually explicit content; as well as to impose a ban on the transmission of content, which encouraged and condoned violence against women, children and other vulnerable persons. The BCJ is also in the process of drafting a new broadcast policy, which will take into account vulnerable audiences and also address the issue of the negative portrayal of women and girls.

The promotion of gender mainstreaming also continued through the Bureau’s representation at the first of three BCJ public consultations (October 2013) under the theme “Media Regulation in the Information Age”. The forum engaged citizens on a number of important industry related issues such as the quality of media output, the digital transition, media literacy and the impact of negative practices such as payola and cable television piracy.

The Bureau recommended that consideration be given to temporary special measures to ensure equality concerning the acquisition of Broadcast licences. Also, to ensure that audio visual materials do not violate the prohibitive standards to impact negatively on the portrayal of individuals in the media.

These measures were also complemented with initiatives implemented by the media advocacy NGO, Women’s Media Watch (WMW) Jamaica. Many of the initiatives contributed to building capacity towards increasing participation and access of women to expression in and decision-making through the media and provide exposure to new technologies of communication, such as:

- Media, Gender & Development, an undergraduate course offered to journalists and media practitioners (in training) in partnership with the Caribbean Institute for Media and
Communications. Between 2009 and 2013, one hundred and seven persons have been trained, 80 per cent of whom were women.

- A community radio show “Equal Spaces” led by a team of women hosts who invite women guests to participate. The show critically addresses gender equality issues in a popular and accessible format. Since 2009, sixty-five shows have been produced.
- In November 2009, in observance of IDEVAW, WMW designed a lively partly-dramatized televised debate on youth, popular media and violence against women. This was an important collaboration between WMW, the Creative Production Training Centre, CTV and the Broadcasting Commission. The debate featured two performing artistes and included 28 community leaders and NGO representatives.
- WMW has served 3,351 direct beneficiaries for workshops and sensitization sessions on Media, Gender & GBV. These sessions were designed to empower members of the public to critique, engage and challenge media providers on sexist content.
- Local radio station, ROOTS FM, partnered with UNDP to sponsor a community broadcasting 6 week training programme (2011). The training also included a curriculum on hosting and scriptwriting.
- An updated 120 page, full-colour Training Manual entitled “Whose Perspective: A guide to gender-aware analysis of media content” was produced and disseminated to media practitioners and media communications students in 2011.

**Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges**
The lack of resources among NGOs to produce gender-aware media at the scale that could allow viable competition with current mainstream outlets; the high costs associated with media education negatively impact women who are desirous of becoming media practitioners, as well as, some conservative and religious views that do not support the promotion of gender equality.

**K. Women and the Environment**
There are Gender Focal Points in the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management and the National and Environment Planning Agency who are directly involved in and/or able to influence the sectors’ gender planning process and action plan initiatives. In keeping with the gender mainstreaming process, the GFPs are being supported to integrate gender considerations in relation to environmental management, disaster risk management, and emergency management/response.

The Bureau of Gender Affairs has contributed to the integration of gender concerns and perspectives in a number of emerging policies and programmes for sustainable development, including Climate Change Policy Framework and Action Plan – Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change; and Urban Development - Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing;

As a result of these initiatives, the Government of Jamaica sustained participation at the national level through consultations including National Climate Change Consultation – Feb 2014), at the regional level (Climate Change & Development Symposium – 2009); Annual Meeting for the Special Development Fund – Supporting Environmental Sustainability – May, 2013) and at the international level (Warsaw Climate Change Conference –Nov, 2013) to develop and ultimately strengthen its assessment efforts regarding the gendered differential impact of development and environmental policies on women.

**L. The Girl Child**
Jamaica is a State Party to several human rights instruments to provide greater protection to the girl-child. These include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on
The Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women. Domestic legislation, which offers protection regarding the rights of children, includes the Child Care and Protection Act (2004) and the Sexual Offences Act (2009).

The Child Development Agency is drafting a policy to amend the Child Care and Protection Act to “reinforce the rights basis” of the CCPA. This includes securing the best interests and welfare of child offenders and children deprived of liberty. It focuses on the rehabilitation of child offenders and children displaying anti-social behaviour, particularly through their access to education and healthcare (including mental health and therapy).”

The Child Pornography (Prevention) Act, 2009 criminalizes the production, importation, exportation and distribution of child pornography, as well as, the use of children in such activities for commercial sexual exploitation. The Act provides for penalties of up to 20 years imprisonment and high fines to ensure protection for girls who are the primary victims of child pornography.

As part of the gender-sensitive approach in enabling equal access to ICT opportunities, the International Telecommunications Union donated a number of computers specifically for use in the Ministry of Science Technology, Energy and Mining’s gender and ICT programme. As part of this endeavour, a number of these computers will be donated to places of safety/children’s homes for girls.

The Institute for Gender and Development Studies, Mona Unit, continues its outreach to a wide range of stakeholders, to raise public awareness and action to address the causes and consequences of child trafficking. These public awareness sessions were targeted at schools and the media.

The IGDS, Mona Unit, also conducted a Sexual Safety/HIV/AIDS Risk study (2011) funded by the Ford Foundation for the University of the West Indies Health Centre’s Sexual Safety Initiative Project. The study involved youth enrolled on the three UWI campuses and adolescents in four Jamaican high schools. The study examined attitudes and behaviours and identified specific risk factors for the girl child, namely early abuse, gender-based violence, unplanned pregnancy, and abuse from age mixing in sexual relations. The target audiences included male and female students with disabilities and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. The results of the study will be used to guide sexual safety interventions and prepare academic papers for publication.

**Were there any countercyclical measures introduced in your country since 2009 to mitigate the consequences of global economic and financial crisis and did these measures incorporate a gender perspective and/or include women as a targeted group??**

Since 2009, a range of initiatives was implemented to reduce the negative impact of the global economic and financial crises. In this regard, social welfare programmes were expanded in scope and budgetary allocations increased, in order to reach vulnerable groups. User fees within the public health system were abolished. There were increases in benefits under the contributory social pension programme – the National Insurance Scheme. Several programmes aimed at youth empowerment through human capital development were implemented. The Government of Jamaica also provided a stimulus package to provide additional credit to micro, small and medium sized enterprises.

Whilst a number of the initiatives mentioned above did not target women directly, women were the main beneficiaries. The main social welfare programme in Jamaica, PATH that targets families below the poverty line, the majority of whom are female-headed households, was expanded in 2008/2009. Specific efforts were also made to increase the number of pregnant and lactating women under the programme.

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10 A Policy to Amend the CCPA , Child Development Agency (CDA), December 2013
c) **Have austerity policies/measures, such as tax increases, cuts in public expenditure, or public sector downsizing, been introduced in your country in the aftermath of the 2007/2008 financial crisis?**

As a result of the 2007/2008 financial crisis, Jamaica entered into an agreement with the International Monetary Fund in 2008/2009 and again in April 2013. Among the conditionalities were public sector wage freeze and funding caps, downsizing in the public sector to improve operational costs and decrease in public expenditure. These have been compounded by depreciation in the exchange rate; increases in transportation fares and utility rates; high debt payments (about 56 per cent of the national budget) which continue to constrain public expenditure spending. In addition, since 2010, Jamaica has been reclassified as an Upper-Middle Income country by the World Bank, making it more difficult for Jamaica to secure international aid especially to address HIV/AIDS.

**If so, to what extent have they affected the critical areas of concern? Please describe the effects of such measures on key indicators, such as participation of women and men in social and economic activity, including education, training, participation in labour markets, unpaid work, access to social protection, access to credit, or entrepreneurship.**

Despite Jamaica’s indebtedness and the accompanying fiscal constraints, the agreement with the IMF included social protection spending. In the case of social welfare programmes, the budgetary allocation was increased, health care was universalised and tuition fees in secondary schools were removed.

Health coverage has also been severely impacted through significant adjustment in prices which has increased the cost of drugs and medical supplies. As an Upper-Middle Income country, Jamaica is only eligible for the limited Targeted Funding Pool of the Global Fund to Fight HIV &AIDS, TB, and Malaria with the requirement of counterpart financing (moving from the current 30 per cent to 60 per cent of domestic share of HIV funding). Other funding sources such as the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) are also set to expire over the next few years. In such a tight fiscal environment, the National HIV response of Jamaica is exploring alternative financing in order to continue prevention strategies among key vulnerable populations without compromising prevention work among the general population. In addition, recommendations have been made for new funding sources to pay for ARV treatment when Global Fund grants expire.\(^\text{11}\)

As a result of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Jamaica and public sector workers (2011) - in keeping with the IMF Agreement signed by the Government of Jamaica, wages were frozen for a period of three years and there were restrictions on the filling of vacancies. To cushion the impact of the wage freeze, public sector workers benefitted from reduced interest rates on NHT loans, refund on tuition fees upon successful completion of tertiary studies, educational loans, as well as training in skill areas to provide alternative employment options in the likelihood that persons are separated. There was also an expansion of social programmes including social housing.

Due to budgetary constraints, a number of Ministries, Departments and Agencies have not been able to increase staff complement, to effectively carry out their mandate. Reduced training and development allocation impacted on the participation of technical staff in training and development opportunities. In addition, participation in training and development at the regional and international levels was also affected.

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SECTION THREE

DATA AND STATISTICS

a) Has a core set of national indicators for monitoring progress in gender equality been established? If so, please provide the indicators in an annex.

A core set of national indicators for monitoring the progress in gender equality has been established. This is being done through the Gender Equality Observatory of Jamaica (GEOJ), the Planning Institute of Jamaica and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica. PDF (Gender Sector Plan).  See Annex 2 & Attachment 1.

b) Has data collection and compilation on the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators begun, which was agreed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2013? (The link to the list of indicators is provided in Part III.)

Data collection and compilation have begun on the relevant indicators as part of the implementing activities of the Gender Equality Observatory of which Jamaica is a contributing member.

Data collection and compilation efforts have been complemented by the maintenance of specific databases to monitor international, regional and national goals on social and economic development to provide current information on some of Jamaica’s most critical social, educational and economic indicators.

The Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions (JSLC) produced annually by the national statistics agency provides information at the household level, on six modules; Demographic Characteristics, Household Consumption, Education, Health, Social Welfare and related programmes as well as Housing. The JSLC continues to offer descriptive analyses to highlight the links between policy and outcomes for example in the evaluation of the PATH programme.

The Economic and Social Survey of Jamaica (ESSJ), an annual publication of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, continues to provide an in-depth analysis of the social and economic performance of Jamaica.

The JamStats Website and EDUSTATS Database have been upgraded to increase support, statistical literature and national advocacy, and to track the progress of youth and women in the Caribbean.

Efforts continue to include other key indicators to inform the collection of sex-disaggregated data in order to effectively monitor the status of women and girls. Surveys are conducted with varying frequencies to collect sex-disaggregated data on areas such as sexual behaviours, attitudes, self-perceptions and values of young adults e.g. Sexual Reproductive Health Surveys.

Please describe plans to improve gender-related data collection and compilation at the national level that have been developed.

While there are still gaps, the GoJ is committed to ensuring that the national statistical agencies continually improve the collection of data disaggregated by sex. A Gender Specialist is based at the Planning Institute of Jamaica and a Gender Focal Point was established at the national statistics agency (STATIN) to ensure improvements in data-collection. Additionally, through technical assistance from CUSO-VSO Programme in Jamaica, the data collection processes within the BGA’s policy and social work areas have been enhanced.
c) Has data collection and compilation on the nine indicators on violence against women, as agreed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2013, begun? (The List of Indicators is provided in Part III).

Plans are in train to augment the data collection process through gender-specific indicators towards the creation of the Gender Equality Observatory of Jamaica.

If so, what is the status of data collection and compilation? Please describe plans that have been developed to produce these indicators at the national level.

The JCO-ICVIS operates through a Technical Committee, chaired by the Ministry of National Security, which consists of eighteen stakeholders among which are: the Bureau of Gender Affairs Jamaica Constabulary Force, Ministry of Health, Forensics Laboratory, Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing and Registrar General’s Department. These stakeholders provide the statistical data and technical advice necessary for the proper collection and validation of the various incidences of crime and violence captured by the system. A Sub-Technical Committee of the Jamaica Crime Observatory Integrated Crime & Violence Information System was established to compile data using confidential information on victims and perpetrators.

Bi-monthly meetings of the Sub-Technical Committee are held to cross-validate victim information related to the various types of crime. The data is used to populate the JCO-ICVIS database and is made accessible to authorized users via a web-based platform. Users are able to generate reports, charts and geo-referenced maps, using several variables such as age of victim, gender, day of the week, time of incident, place of occurrence, police division, name of the community, context of the incident and type of weapon. Such information is used to assist in crime fighting initiatives and the development of programmes and policies.

d) What processes have been undertaken to collect data on the situation of particular groups of women, such as rural women, older women, women with disabilities, indigenous women, women living with HIV and AIDS, or other groups? Please describe briefly.

In the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, sex-disaggregated data is collected through the Rural Agriculture Development Authority (RADA) using the Agricultural Business Information System (ABIS). This is a web based information system developed by RADA to provide information on crops, livestock and agricultural production, markets and stakeholders, primarily farmers including rural women producers. This is in order to support agriculture by providing information appropriate to boost the capacity and competitiveness of stakeholders and provide better measurement of capacity and performance to the Government of Jamaica in this sector.

There is now a designated Gender Focal Point at the Ministry of Agriculture, as part of the Bureau’s gender mainstreaming activities. Plans are in progress to ensure that the population and economic activities of rural women are routinely captured through the use of sex disaggregated data and the associated qualitative gender analysis. Notwithstanding the apparent data gaps, sex disaggregated data was initially being used to inform sector reports as reflected in information from the Ministry of Agriculture’s report on rural women in agriculture (2002-2008). The GFP is expected to highlight and assist in addressing the gender-related quantitative and qualitative gaps.

To further improve the collection of sex-disaggregated data, the Bureau of Gender Affairs participated in a questionnaire activity (2013) with STATIN geared towards facilitating the comprehensive and broad-based collection and dissemination of data. Over time it is expected that particular groups of women (older women, women with disabilities and women living with HIV/AIDS) will be more accurately captured and incorporated as part of the improved disaggregated data collection methods and other measurable indicators, both nationally and regionally, as a means to address the gaps in this area.
In the interim, efforts are progressing with regards to women living with HIV/AIDS to improve data collection as part of standardized reports and reporting timelines. Other data collection methods in this area include: monitoring and collating reports to track gaps; submission of monthly reports; production of an annual Epidemiology update; Survey findings and other forms of data are communicated and disseminated through meetings with multiple stakeholders.
SECTION FOUR
EMERGING PRIORITIES

a) What are the key priorities for action over the next three to five years for accelerating implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and subsequent intergovernmental agreements for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women at the national level?

- The Government of Jamaica is committed to ratifying the treaties to which it is not yet a party which the BPFA also reinforces including the C189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers and CEDAW Optional Protocol
- Increasing access and participation by women in the relevant branches of governance (political decision-making) and socio-economic organizations (general public decision-making)
- Cabinet’s approval and subsequent implementation of the National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-based Violence (2014-2024)
- Continue to promote digital literacy through the equitable use of ICTs
- Further improvements and strengthening of data collection and compilation of indicators with a gender perspective
- To build on gains achieved, particularly in areas covered by the BPFA, through the employment of best practices methods from other countries, among other measures
- Revision and amendments of existing legislations, which in some instances are archaic and discriminatory, to make them gender neutral and in keeping with Jamaica’s commitment to regional & international agreements
- Enactment of new legislation such as the Sexual Harassment legislation
- Exploration of the use of Temporary Special Measures (TSMs) to accelerate de facto equality between men and women. These include legislated gender quotas to address the lack of proportional representation of women in Parliament, under-representation in local authorities and other positions of Leadership

b) What are your country’s priorities and recommendations to strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women in the current discussions on Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda?

Jamaica endorsed the Caribbean Joint Statement on Gender Equality and the Post 2015 and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) which emerged from a UN Women-supported “Caribbean Forum on Gender Equality and the Post 2015 Agenda” held in Barbados (August 2013). The Joint Statement was generated by high level government officials and civil society representatives from CARICOM countries, with inputs from regional inter-governmental bodies and international partners in the Caribbean. The Statement represented Caribbean voices and expectations in the emerging Post 2015 and SIDS global agendas as it relates to gender equality. In adopting the Joint Statement, participants committed to an advocacy strategy so as to ensure that the “asks”, priorities and perspective contained in the Joint Statement are considered by decision-makers within the emerging global processes around Post 2015 and SIDS. Forum Participants endorsed the need for a stand-alone goal on Gender Equality in the Post 2015 Agenda, as well as mainstreaming of gender equality priorities throughout Post 2015 and SIDS. See Annex3.

The Joint Statement formed a platform for advocacy on the part of governments and civil society and stressed that in the context of the region’s social and economic challenges, Caribbean priorities for development should be most important. Five other recent output documents from the Caribbean Region were geared towards informing and promoting the Post 2015 & SIDS Agenda and ultimately Jamaica’s position: Commission on the Status of Women 58th session - Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls;
Montevideo Consensus; Santo Domingo Consensus; UNFPA Outcome Document on Sexual Violence; Agreed Conclusions of CSW 57th Session; Concluding Comments – UN CEDAW Committee in response to Jamaica’s combined 6th & 7th Periodic Report. Commission on Population and Development 47th session (Recalling the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,\textsuperscript{12} held in Cairo in 1994, and bearing in mind 2014 marks its twentieth anniversary.

In this regard, the Government of Jamaica continued to support the role and contribution of local civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women’s organization as part of the ongoing sensitization and discussion on gender equality and the post 2015 agenda. As a result two national consultations (urban – Dec, 2013 and rural – Feb, 2014) were held with representatives from various entities – GoJ, IDPs, women’s groups under the leadership Sen. the Hon. Sandrea Falconer to address the progress towards gender equality to formulate a national position on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 development agenda.

\textbf{See Annex 3} for the country’s priorities and recommendations to strengthen gender equality and women’s empowerment arising from discussions held during the sensitisation sessions.

Support Documents

A list of policies, strategies, action plans and publications, with links to their location (electronic copies)


ANNEXES
Annex 1

Education and Training

Table 1: Ratio of Girls to Boys at the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Level, 1995-2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Primary Level</th>
<th>Secondary Level</th>
<th>Tertiary Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>Na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>1.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>1.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>2.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>2.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>2.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>2.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
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</tr>
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<td>1.01</td>
<td>2.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>1.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>1.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNESCO Statistical Unit

Table 2: Survival Rate to Grade 5 (Public Schools Only) 2000 – 2003, 2004/05, 2006/07

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male (%)</th>
<th>Female (%)</th>
<th>Total (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000/01</td>
<td>84.1</td>
<td>92.6</td>
<td>88.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001/02</td>
<td>84.3</td>
<td>91.4</td>
<td>87.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002/03</td>
<td>88.0</td>
<td>93.0</td>
<td>90.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004/05</td>
<td>88.5</td>
<td>93.2</td>
<td>90.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>91.0</td>
<td>97.6</td>
<td>94.2</td>
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</table>

Source: MOEYC – Statistics Unit/PIOJ

Table 3: Literacy Rate of 15–24 Year Olds and 15 years and above, by Gender 1999-2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>15+</th>
<th>15-24</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>75.9</td>
</tr>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>82.4</td>
<td>76.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>83.0</td>
<td>77.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
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<td>2003</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>84.5</td>
<td>78.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>85.0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>85.5</td>
<td>79.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>86.0</td>
<td>80.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>86.4</td>
<td>81.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNESCO Institute of Statistics
Annex 2

National Indicators for Monitoring Progress in Gender Equality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autonomy</th>
<th>Life</th>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>Population</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Population by sex &amp; % &lt;15 for country and parish, also urban/rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>Population</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Ratio females to males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>Population</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Birth and death rate by sex (annual) for country, urban/rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>MDG 1</td>
<td>Poverty gap ratio (proportion of population below poverty line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>1.2.3</td>
<td>Head of Household-Poor-male headed/male headed - Poor-female headed/female headed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>Vision 2.1</td>
<td>Women’s contribution to unpaid work measured, valued and counted in the system of national accounts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>Vision 2.1</td>
<td>Time use surveys conducted to measure women’s role in the care economy and its contribution to the national economy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>1.1.1</td>
<td>% of all farms in individual ownership owned by women- Stratify by farm size small, medium, large</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Economic | Private      | Economy   | 1.2.2         | 1) Equal access to social housing programmes-%female homeowners (with partner)-%male homeowners (with partner)  
2) Equal access to social housing programmes-%female homeowners (no partner)-%male homeowners (no partner) |
| Economic | Private      | Economy   | 6.2.5         | Access to Credit-Total of all credit granted to each sex as a percentage of total credit granted |
| Economic | Private      | Economy   | 6.7.2         | Total Workload-Differences between hours spent on Unpaid and Paid work by sex |
| Economic | Private      | Economy   | 6.7.3         | Division of Labour-Differences between % of hours spent on domestic/household duties (male-female) |
| Economic | Public       | Economy   | MDG 3         | Share of women in wage employment in non-agricultural sector               |
| Economic | Public       | Economy   | 6.1.2         | Gender Wage Differences-Average female remuneration/average male remuneration |
Annex 2 cont’d

National Indicators for Monitoring Progress in Gender Equality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autonomy</th>
<th>Life</th>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decision-Making</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>% of female/male teachers at primary, secondary and Tertiary levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision-Making</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>% of female/male principals and university Heads of Departments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision-Making</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Power &amp; Decision</td>
<td>MDG 3</td>
<td>Proportion of seats held by women in government (Parliament, Cabinet, Senate, Parish Councils and Mayoralty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision-Making</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Power &amp; Decision</td>
<td>6.4.1</td>
<td>Highly Skilled &amp; Senior Management Positions-Proportion of Women in occupations coded 1 and/or 2 by ISCO 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision-Making</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Power &amp; Decision</td>
<td>7.1.1</td>
<td>Proportion of males and females in the highest grades of the public sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision-Making</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Power &amp; Decision</td>
<td>7.2.2</td>
<td>Proportion of Males and Females on Parish councils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision-Making</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Power &amp; Decision</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>% of women/men on Voter's List, % of women/men who voted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision-Making</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Power &amp; Decision</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>% of women judges, magistrates, justice of the peace, prosecutors and police (by rank)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Annex 2 cont’d- National Indicators for Monitoring Progress in Gender Equality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autonomy</th>
<th>Life</th>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>3.1.1</td>
<td>Reproductive health-Family Planning &amp; Sexual Health-Presence/evidence of programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td></td>
<td>Maternal Mortality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>4.3.1</td>
<td>Legal sanctions for violence against people-list of laws prescribing legal action against violence, harassment, rape,...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td></td>
<td>Incidence rate of non-communicable diseases including Cervical cancer, Breast cancer, Prostrate cancer, diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>3.1.2</td>
<td>Number of births to mothers&lt;20 divided by total women 14-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Vision 1.2</td>
<td>Improved access to health services and improved health status of men and women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>Total number &amp; age-specific rate of women subject to violence in the last 12 months by type, severity, relationship to perpetrator and frequency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>Total number &amp; age-specific rate of men subject to violence in the last 12 months by type, severity, relationship to perpetrator and frequency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>Total number &amp; age-specific rate of women subject to violence in the last 36 months by type, severity, relationship to perpetrator and frequency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>Total number &amp; age-specific rate of men subject to violence in the last 36 months by type, severity, relationship to perpetrator and frequency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>Total number &amp; age-specific rate of women subject to female genital mutilation, forced marriage, trafficking, stalking, harassment in the work place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>Total number &amp; age-specific rate of men subject to forced marriage, trafficking, stalking, harassment in the work place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>5.1.1</td>
<td>Specific assistance to Refugee women-list programmes designed to provide protection, assistance and training to refugee by sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>Vision 1.2</td>
<td>Workplace sexual harassment policies developed in line with drafted Anti Sexual Harassment Policy and implemented in all public and private sectors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>Vision 1.2</td>
<td>Number of reported cases of sexual harassment in public and private sector workplaces</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex 3

National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons

Jamaican Government Combating Trafficking in Persons

FACT SHEET

Trafficking in Persons is an international organized crime against humanity (modern day slavery) that affects virtually every country. Human trafficking is the third most lucrative trade after arms and drug trafficking. This illicit trade has been identified in Jamaica, with cases of sexual exploitation and domestic servitude in both men and women. Jamaicans have also been victims of trafficking in other countries in the Caribbean and around the world. The Government of Jamaica has employed several strategies to fight this horrible crime and is consistently making strides in bringing perpetrators to justice.

- **2005**: The National Taskforce Against Trafficking in Persons (NATFATIP) established as a multi agency approach to enhance national capacity: to develop and implement Jamaica’s legislative, institutional and operational framework to eliminate Trafficking in Persons and to coordinate and implement the National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons 2012-2015.
- **2007**: Enactment of the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) Act
- **2007**: Development and implementation of the first National Plan of Action, endorsed by Cabinet;
- **2007**: Government of Jamaica commissioned study on the scope and nature of human trafficking in Jamaica, conducted by Ricketts and Dunn.
- **2007**: Development and dissemination of The Law Enforcement Manual Guide to Investigation: Practicalities of the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) Act, which serves as the formal guide to the proactive identification of victims of human trafficking for all relevant government officials, particularly law enforcement and immigration officials.
- **2012**: Jamaica approved the National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons which adopts the guiding principles of the Global Plan of Action of the United Nations.
- **2012**: Secretariat established within the Ministry of Justice to support and monitor the implementation of the Action Plan.
- **2012**: Victim shelter established.
- **2012**: Jamaica provided care and shelter for a group of twenty-one (21) Honduran children on board a Honduran fishing vessel intercepted by the JDF in Jamaican Coastal waters. The Ministry of Justice provided alternative shelter accommodation and meals along with counselling, medical relief and support through the Victim Support Unit and the Ministry of Health.
- **2012**: Fifty (50) persons from agencies such as PICA, CISOCA, JCF, Office of the Children’s
Advocate, Ministries of National Security, Justice and Labour and Social Security participated in the USA Department of Homeland Security training on TIP/Child Exploitation/Forced Child Labour which focused on sharing best practices related to investigation, prosecution, and victim identification and assistance.

- **2012 / 2013**: 255 raids conducted, six cases detected and 39 victims rescued. Three (3) TIP cases were suspected with 23 victims being rescued. Seven TIP investigations were launched. Four (4) arrests were made up to March 2013.
- **2013**: Jamaica upgraded by US State Department from Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2 on the Trafficking in Persons Tier System which reflects the Jamaican Government’s significant efforts to fight human trafficking.
- **2013**: Government increases collaboration with Jamaica’s hotel and tourism industry. Efforts increased to address the demand for commercial sex acts by conducting high-profile raids on hotels and nightclubs.
- **2013**: The Legislation framework is strengthened through amendments to the Trafficking in Persons Prevention, Suppression and Punishment Act.
- **2013**: Establishment of the JCF TIP Trafficking in Persons Unit, boosted by the Ministry of National Security, the JCF TIP Unit received JMD $3,267,458.35 in equipment and vehicles to aid in investigations and outreach.
- **2013**: Six Town Hall meetings conducted across the island. Using a multi-agency approach, the meetings were held in: St. James at Granville All Age; Kingston and St. Andrew at Trench Town Multi-purpose centre; Westmoreland at Sean Lavery Faith Hall; Manchester at Mandeville Parish Church Hall; St. Ann; and St. Catherine. The events cumulatively impacted 650 individuals.
- **2013**: Special Prosecutor appointed in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to specifically handle all Trafficking in Persons cases.
- **2013**: September, NATFATIP received significant boost in its public education efforts with the handing over of public education materials by the US Army’s, Military Information Support Team (MIST), to be used in its fight against Human Trafficking. These included 600 posters, 5,000 handbills as well as 13 JUTC bus ads, placed on buses which will run across the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western zones of Kingston, St. Andrew and St. Catherine, traversed by the bus company.
- **2013**: MIST facilitated the placement of seven billboards across the island: Passage Fort Drive in Portmore (St Catherine); Barbican Road, Washington Boulevard, Red Hills Road (Kingston/St Andrew); Humber Avenue in Montego Bay (St. James); White River Road, Ocho Rios (St Ann) and Negril (Westmoreland).
Annex 4

Jamaica’s Priorities and Recommendations re: Caribbean Joint Statement

The following were the country’s priorities and recommendations to strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women as part of the discussions:

Freedom from Violence
- Add other forms of violence e.g. TIP
- Include femicide/feminicide - that is, the killing of women through a long process of abuse, pattern of behaviour and torture and the killing of women because of their sex)

Accessing Capabilities
Health
- Comprehensive adolescent-friendly gender-sensitive sexual & reproductive health & information services
- Policy & legislation regarding the age of consent
- Counselling & therapy services to be added to provision of increased access to mental health services

Food & Nutrition
- Add to the Overview - Regarding the role of women in agriculture, ensure food security & food sovereignty
- Include quality assurance, gender relations & women’s empowerment

Economic Empowerment
- Include homeless persons & street children
- Include young men as a priority, as they are also vulnerable

Leadership
- Recognition that the high debt- burden impedes the ability of governments to provide social, and economic protection to its citizens, particularly the vulnerable
- Create social safety nets specifically geared to cushion the impact of the high debt burden on women
- Acceleration of social protection programmes
- Incorporate equitable development through the use of ICT tools (also referenced in the Santo Domingo Consensus doc)
- Incorporate gender as a cross-cutting tool
- Establishment of a debt-resolution mechanism
- Overview/Preamble – Include definition used in the Vision 2030 (Gender Sector Plan) & National Policy for Gender Equality (NPGE)
- Include training and empowerment opportunities for Indigenous groups (e.g. Maroon women)

Gender Equality
- Facilitate the recommendation of a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women’s empowerment
- Recognize that gender is a cross-cutting issue which must be integrated into all areas represented in the Caribbean Joint Statement on Gender Equality and the Post 2015 and SIDS Agenda.