

# Social Analysis: Gender Equality and Safeguards in Security Strengthening Project (JA-L1074)

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## 1. Introduction

In 2010, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved the Operational Policy on Gender Equality in Development (GN-2531-6) to strengthen the Bank's response to the goals and commitments of its member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women<sup>1</sup>. In addition, in March 2015, the Bank approved The Update to the Institutional Strategy (UIS), which addresses emerging challenges such as "Social Exclusion and Inequality" and also identifies cross-cutting issues such as "Gender Equality and Diversity". Empirical evidence has shown that gender equality<sup>2</sup> contributes to poverty reduction and results in higher levels of human capital for future generations<sup>3</sup>. The Gender Policy commits the IDB to promote gender equality in all of its projects and analytical work, and mitigate negative gender-based impacts on women and men that could occur as a result of IDB projects.

Similarly, the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) recognizes the importance of pursuing equality between men and women in order to achieve its national development goals (Vision 2030 Jamaica and National Policy for Gender Equality). Likewise, one of the strategies that the Gender Sector Plan clearly indicates is the importance to "Ensure consistent disaggregation of data by sex to guide policy and programme implementation variables such as location and class in all data sources and ensure public access to these sources"<sup>4</sup>, particularly, since one of the identified issues is the absence of a harmonized system and protocol for gathering information on survivors of Gender Based Violence.

In this effort, the Security Strengthening Project (JA-L1074) is being prepared by the IDB, and will contribute to the reduction of impunity for violent crimes in Jamaica. In accordance with mentioned policies, the activities included in component 1 of the Project are designed to be gender-responsive<sup>5</sup> and consistent with priorities identified by the GOJ.<sup>6</sup> These activities aimed at training police officers to provide gender-sensitive respond to cases of domestic violence/intimate partner violence, and development of protocols to improve the collection of data regarding cases of domestic violence. All of these will contribute to improve the response to the high percentage of

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<sup>1</sup> All member countries in the region have backed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (1994), the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995), and the Millennium Development Goals (2000).

<sup>2</sup> When women and men enjoy the same conditions and opportunities to exercise their rights and reach their social, economic, political, and cultural potential. The pursuit of equality requires actions aimed at *equity*, which implies providing and distributing benefits and/or resources in a way that narrows the existing gaps, while recognizing that these gaps can harm both women and men.

<sup>3</sup> World Bank 2007. Global Monitoring Report 2007: Confronting the Challenges of Gender Equality and Fragile States, cited in GN-2531-6.

<sup>4</sup> National Gender Task Force, 2010. [Gender Sector Plan](#).

<sup>5</sup> This document uses the definition of gender-responsive presented in the "Guidelines for Integrating Gender Equality into Projects" of CIDA: "gender-responsive is an approach that assesses the different needs and interests of women and men as well as the different impact of initiatives on women and men and develops programming that responds to these so that neither women nor men are disadvantaged. Through gender-responsive programming, gender gaps in access, control, decision-making, and outcome can be reduced" (pg. 23).

<sup>6</sup> Vision 2030 Jamaica, National Policy for Gender Equality, and forthcoming National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence in Jamaica.

female homicides that are a result of domestic violence in Jamaica due to (i) the low levels of trust in the police to report domestic abuse; and (ii) difficulties to gather information to detect domestic violence patterns by the police officer.

These activities have corresponding gender-related results indicators included in the project profile. In addition, this document outlines the importance of addressing Violence Against Women (VAW) in citizen security operations and how gender equality has been incorporated through the activities in component 1 of the Security Strengthening Project.

## **2. Violence against women**

Crime and violence continue to be significant challenges in Jamaica, with serious consequences for social and economic development. Most of the violence in the public sphere is perpetrated by young men against other young men<sup>7</sup>; in the private sphere, most violence is perpetrated by men against women (PROMUNDO 2013).

Intimate partner violence (IPV) inflicted by a current or ex-spouse was the most common form of violence against Jamaican women, regardless of age, education or socio-economic background: 35 percent (ages 15-49) experienced IPV in their lifetime while 17 percent reported experiencing in the last 12 months. In addition, 12 percent of female respondents reported being physically forced to have sexual intercourse, half of them before age 20. However, far more (46 percent) described the first experience as “Did not want it but it happened anyway.”<sup>8</sup> In Jamaica, one in five women (under the age of 15) witnessed physical abuse between parents and two in three were physically abused themselves by their parents<sup>9</sup>.

Reducing VAW is important not only because it is a crime with serious consequences for women but also because of its critical role in the inter-generational transmission of aggressive behavior. Research shows that boys exposed to domestic violence are more likely to engage in delinquent behavior as adolescents and to use VAW as adults (Whitfield et al. 2003, Heise 2011). Girls exposed to violence are more likely to become victims of intimate partner violence in the future (Morrison et al. 2004). Hence, there is a pressing need to break this cycle of violence as part of a comprehensive approach to citizen security issues in Jamaica.

## **3. Gender equality within the project components**

### ***3.3. Component 1: Violent crime prevention and management***

The objective of the first component of the operation is to reduce homicides through better crime prevention. The operation will strengthen the collection of information related to domestic violence/intimate partner violence cases at the police stations. With better recording of cases, it is expected that the police improve tools to better prevent the escalation of violence and reduce the likelihood of female homicides. The specific activities are (i) training police officers on how to

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<sup>7</sup> There are important gender factors related to how “masculinity” is sometimes associated with aggression that appear to be exacerbating some of this male-on-male violence.

<sup>8</sup> *Restoring paradise in the Caribbean: Combating Violence with numbers*, Inter-American Development Bank, 2016

<sup>9</sup> *idem*

better respond to cases of domestic violence and therefore, reduce the re-victimization of victims and provide them with a secure environment, and (ii) development of protocols to manage domestic violence records adequately to standardize procedures within the police.

In 2010, only 32.3% of Jamaicans rated the capacity of the country's criminal system as sufficient,<sup>10</sup> the third lowest among all Caribbean countries. The same survey showed that 60% of the population has some confidence in the police to effectively control the crime problem in the country, although only 14% has a great level of confidence.<sup>11</sup> Merely 27% of the population perceives the police to be effective in controlling domestic violence at the community level.<sup>12</sup>

Research has demonstrated that the structure and behavior of criminal justice institutions can have a critical impact on citizen security; at the same time, criminal justice systems can generate unintended increases in crime and decreases in human security if they do not adopt fair, effective, transparent, and accountable practices.<sup>13</sup>

According to a report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR 2012), access to justice in Jamaica still faces several bottlenecks, particularly for the most vulnerable groups, which includes people from lower socio-economic status and women and children.<sup>14</sup> While Jamaica has made progress in the adoption of legislative reforms aimed at improving its protection of the rights of women,<sup>15</sup> discrimination and violence based on gender remain widespread, and women face significant barriers in obtaining access to judicial protection (IACHR 2012, pg. 71).

Moreover, there have been notable efforts by police departments and key ministries to collect administrative data on violence against women and children; lack of comprehensive and systematic nationally-owned data remains a serious problem. Recording methods and definitions of crimes vary, even within the same country. Perhaps more importantly, official statistics are generally far under-representative of the actual levels of violence because women and child victims may not reach out for help due to fear of retaliation or because of cultural perceptions of acceptance of violence.<sup>16</sup>

Administrative data on recorded homicides, however, are generally considered to be less affected by variations in reporting rates and recording practices than other types of crime. Throughout the region victims of murder are predominantly male. However, females are considerably more likely to be killed by an intimate partner or family member than men. In Jamaica, 19% of female homicides and 3.4% of male homicide are perpetuated by an intimate partner (2006-2011).<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> UNDP Citizen Security Survey 2010, in Caribbean Human Development Report 2012.

<sup>11</sup> UNDP Citizen Security Survey 2010, in Caribbean Human Development Report 2012.

<sup>12</sup> UNDP Citizen Security Survey 2010, in Caribbean Human Development Report 2012.

<sup>13</sup> UNDP Citizen Security Survey 2010, in Caribbean Human Development Report 2012.

<sup>14</sup> In 2006, the Jamaican Justice System Reform Task Force (JJSRTF) described the status of the court system in Jamaica as unequal because of the "lack of equality between the powerful, wealthy litigant and the under-resourced litigant" (cited in IACHR 2012, pg. 33). Among the main problems of the judiciary identified by the JJSRTF were the lack of respect usually accorded to individuals (personal dignity, time, and right to privacy); barriers to accessing the justice system, including the inaccessibility of legal information, legal assistance and the courts; and the perception that individuals are not accorded equal treatment by the justice system.

<sup>15</sup> Domestic Violence Act (1995), Domestic Violence (Amendment Act) (2004), Sexual Offenses Bill (2009), and Child Care and Protection Act (2004).

<sup>16</sup> *Restoring paradise in the Caribbean: Combating Violence with numbers*, Inter-American Development Bank, 2016

<sup>17</sup> *idem*

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), for police who respond to and investigate domestic violence, it is important to remember that for a woman to leave her abusive partner is often more of a process than a moment. It may take several such events, and attempts at intervention, before they leave for good. Early intervention, especially by the police, establishes a path that will protect a woman (and her children), helps prevent an escalation of violence, and reduces the likelihood of homicide and serious assaults and, where possible, helps maintain family stability.

The operation has incorporated several of the recommendations laid out by the sectorial note on Violence against Women and Girls Resource Guide in Citizen Security, Law and Justice. Those recommendations are the focus of the institutional level and Procedures/Protocols:<sup>18</sup>

1. Personnel in the law and enforcement sectors often lack the knowledge and capacity to respond adequately to survivors. They may also share with society values that condone violence against women and girls, leading to victim-blaming or discriminatory attitudes and decisions. Thus, in addition to establishing clear responses to VAWG and specialized support services for survivors, it is crucial to provide on-going training and awareness-raising interventions for personnel at all levels.
2. The operation will put in place protocols for filing police reports and pressing charges, as this process is an important entry point for survivors to access the justice system. These protocols can guide police officers on the information required for the report, standardize the process, and reduce victimization.

#### **4. Action plan of mitigation measures**

The following action plan should be implemented during the execution of the operation, and each of the mitigation measures described should form part of the contractual conditions set out in the Loan Contract of the operation. These measures and their inclusion in the Loan Contract will be described in further detail in the Environmental and Social Management Report to be prepared for the Operation as a mandatory link to the Proposal for Operational Development (POD).

<b>Risk identified</b>	<b>Measure to mitigate or avoid the risk</b>
Low level of trust in the police to report crimes, in particular domestic abuse/intimate partner violence.	Train police officers on how to better respond to cases of domestic violence, reduce re-victimization of victims, provide victims with a secure environment and increase trustworthiness of police officers.
Police is not currently able to gather information to detect domestic violence patterns.	Development of protocols and training on how to use the technology to manage domestic violence records properly to standardize procedures within the police.

<sup>18</sup> *Violence against Women and Girls Guide on Citizen Security, Law and Justice Brief*. World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Global Women Institute (George Washington University), 2015.

Criminal justice systems can generate unintended increases in crime and decreases in human security if they do not adopt fair, effective, transparent, and accountable practices. <sup>19</sup>	Train police officers on human rights, including practical training on how to respond in conflict situations while upholding human rights principles.
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## 5. Consultation Plan

The Environmental and Safeguards Compliance Policy of the Inter-American Development Bank Policy Directive B.6 on Consultations affirms that “for Category ‘B’ operations, affected parties must be consulted at least once, preferably during the preparation or review of the Environmental and Social Management Plan, as agreed with the borrower. For consultation purposes, appropriate information will be provided in the location(s), format(s), and languages(s) to allow for affected parties to be meaningfully consulted, to form an opinion and to comment on the proposed course of action... relevant ... analyses will be made available to the public consistent with the Bank’s Disclosure of Information Policy (OP-102). During execution, affected parties should be kept informed of those project-related environmental and associated social mitigation measures affecting them...”<sup>20</sup>

As this operation was classified by the Environmental and Social Safeguards Unit (ESG) of the IDB as a Category B following the Eligibility Review Meeting held on June 14, 2017, a consultation will need to take place in accordance with OP-703 B.6 and disclose the report of the consultation to the public, prior to distribution of the project documents to Operations Policy Committee (OPC).

Therefore, a consultation should be carried out in Kingston in proportion with the magnitude of the operation which diffuses and discloses the present social and gender analysis document in the form of communication most accessible for the sociocultural context in which the operation will take place. The platform for collaboration and consultation (ConSOC) promoted by the IDB Group in the country office of Jamaica will support this consultation. The ConSOC-Jamaica is integrated by representatives of different Civil Society Organizations, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community organizations, community groups, and groups of residents directly affected by IDB-financed projects, non-profit organizations, business associations, universities, academia, research centers and professional associations whose field of study makes significant contributions to the IDB, religious institutions and groups of Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples. The main objectives of the ConSOC-Jamaica are: (i) to improve communication between CJA and civil society in Jamaica, so as to increase the contribution of the CSOs to Bank operations and institutionalize the IDB’s CSO participatory process.; (ii) to define the specific mechanisms for the involvement of CSOs in different stages of the Project Cycle, including the design, execution, and evaluation of projects; (iii) to institutionalize an effective, efficient, flexible, and innovative system for sustaining the participatory process of consultations with CSOs and to ensure their contribution on development policy, sector strategies, and IDB programs in Jamaica; (iv) to ensure the contribution by CSOs to development policy, sector

<sup>19</sup> UNDP Citizen Security Survey 2010, in Caribbean Human Development Report 2012.

<sup>20</sup> IDB Environment and Social Safeguards Policies, their Implementation Guidelines and Access to Information Policy. September 2011

strategies and programs of the IDB and in the preparation and evaluation of projects; and (v) to improve the IDB's impact in Jamaica's social and economic development. Therefore, the consultation will follow the ConSOC operational guidelines, in addition to upholding IDB safeguards policies on consultations.

In terms of the logistics and format of the consultation, some general guidelines are to have a public announcement of the availability of the present document at a specified location/s such as community center, church or school/s and also announce a public meeting to discuss the project and the present document. Efforts should be made to ensure the inclusion of women, youth, elderly, disabled or otherwise vulnerable people (select a location for the meeting which is handicap accessible, during a time frame which is feasible for men and women). If possible, provide in the meeting announcement an email or postal address to allow for the submission of written comments or questions as an alternate form of participation to promote inclusion of all parties who wish to be included but may not be able to attend or wish to share their views openly at the public meeting. The consultation should strive for representativity, meaning that although it isn't possible to have the participation of all people, different interests, genders, ages and socio-economic groups, there is a selection of individuals from each group that may reflect the unique concerns and perspectives of each. Consistent with the objectives and functions of ConSOC, the inclusion of local community groups, churches or faith-based groups, organizations or associations in the community is important.

The scope of the meeting should cover the proposed activities of the operation, the present document on gender equality and risk and mitigation measures, and include sufficient time for hearing the views, perspectives and suggestions of the participants of the meeting. The comments and responses provided to participants should be recorded, along with the names, ages and genders of all participants. In concluding the meeting, participants should be informed of what actions will be taken next in terms of the project moving forward and how their comments may be taken into account (to the extent that is possible and taking care not to promise responses or actions if they aren't certain to take place), and a form of communication that will be accessible in case participants or anyone else would like to express concerns or ask questions in the future regarding the project. During the analysis mission of the operation, the team will research instruments that exist for receiving any consultations or complaints that may arise about the project, such as an office or anonymous telephone number by a government agency.

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**Gender Plan**  
**“Security Strengthening Project - JA-L1074”**

Component and sub-component	Risk or Opportunity	Mitigation Activities	Indicators related with the Result matrix	Estimated start date	Responsible Party	Related component of the mitigation activity	Procurement type	Assigned budget
<b>Component 1. Violent crime prevention and management</b>								
a) Support the creation of location-based crime prevention strategies, including hot-spot policing. b) Shared information with the public through open data	Based on the country's cultural nuances, low trust in Police and potential misuse of information by government officials, there may be resistance from the public to the Program	Protocols for information release including classification of all existing crime information and publication online of relevant statistics in a timely manner. Privacy and confidentiality principles will be included to facilitate a comprehensive use and disclosure of crime-related information.	#of databases opened to public access	Year 3	MNS	As part of the Component 1, sub-component 1.3	TBD	US\$390,000
		Design and implement of a communication strategy to create awareness about the changes in processes	# of change management and communication plan	Year 1	MNS	As part of the Component 3, sub-component 3.1	TBD	\$1,160,000
		Support a Grievance Redress Mechanism	# of Grievances Redress Mechanisms	Year 1	MNS	As part of the Component 3, sub-component 3.1	TBD	US\$40,000

**Gender Plan**  
**“Security Strengthening Project - JA-L1074”**

<b>Component 2. Improving investigative capabilities for violent crime</b>								
a. Increase the quality of casefiles	Opportunity to gather better information for detecting domestic violence patterns	Training activities on how to handle victims of domestic violence with a human rights approach	# of trainings on domestic violence protocol, including gender and human rights approach	Year 2	MNS	As part of the Component 3, sub-component 3.2	TBD <sup>1</sup>	\$410,000
		Protocol on how to handle domestic violence with a human rights approach and on how to use the technology to properly manage domestic violence records						

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<sup>1</sup> The collaboration of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies of the University of the West Indies is being evaluated to support this activity

## **ANNEX**

### **Public Consultation Report of August 14, 2017 Social Analysis: Gender Equality and Safeguards in Security Strengthening Project Ministry of National Security Kingston, Jamaica**

#### **Introduction**

On Monday, August 14, 2017 between 10:00 a.m. to 12:00pm, a Public Consultation for Social Analysis: Gender Equality and Safeguards in the Security Strengthening Project, was held in the Ministry of National Security, NBC Towers 2 Oxford Road, Kingston 5 Jamaica, in the training conference room of the 4<sup>th</sup> floor.



Building of the Ministry of National Security, Kingston, Jamaica

The Public Consultation was conducted by Latoya Morris-Dale, the program manager of the Strengthening Security Project, representing the Ministry of National Security (MNS) and Denisse Wolfenzon, gender consultant at the Bank. Moreover, seven civil society organizations participated in the discussion, including four gender-based organizations, two universities and the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica. In addition, other members of the MNS and the IDB participated and contributed to the conversation.



### **Analysis of Participants**

The total number of participants at the public consultation was 14, 5 out of them were men and 9 were women. However, the gender composition of the participants who represented the civil society organizations was more balanced. Out of the 7 representatives, four were women and three were men, all adults between the ages of 37 and 72. The participation of men in the discussion and work towards the elimination of violence against women is crucial to properly address causes and symptoms of the problem.

The participating organizations are part of the platform for collaboration and consultation (ConSOC), which is promoted by the IDB Group in the country office of Jamaica. The ConSOC-Jamaica is integrated by representatives of different Civil Society Organizations, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community organizations, community groups, and groups of residents directly affected by IDB-financed projects, non-profit organizations, business associations, universities, academia, research centers and professional associations whose field of study makes significant contributions to the IDB, religious institutions and groups of Indigenous and Afro descendant peoples.

### **Ministry of National Security ([MNS](#))**

The Ministry of National Security will be the Model of National Security Excellence in the Caribbean Region, characterized by a highly trained and motivated staff, sophisticated and flexible policy development capacity, effective and efficient deployment of resources, the employment of modern technology and best practices in crime fighting, crime prevention and protecting the nation from external threats.

### **National Integrity Action ([NIA Jamaica](#))**

NIA was registered as a not-for-profit organization in March 2011 with the objective of combatting corruption in Jamaica on a non-partisan basis

### **The Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica ([PSOJ](#))**

-was established in 1976. It is a national organization of private sector associations, companies and individuals working together to promote a competitive and productive private sector.

**University of the West Indies (Mona Campus) - Institute for Gender & Development Studies ([IGDS](#))**

Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary field of study that draws on all established disciplines to address issues of gender and ways in which relations of gender impact development at national and regional levels. To achieve this, the Institute has developed partnerships with staff in a number of departments and therefore has access to academic expertise or in-kind support from the range of faculties on the campuses. Other faculties and departments often draw on the expertise of IGDS staff to deliver lectures and/or modules in gender and development.

The University of the West Indies designed and trained trainers to facilitate the domestic violence curriculum at the Police College of Jamaica.

**Women's Resource and Outreach Centre ([WROC](#))**

A non-profit non-governmental organization that provides a place for women and youth in the Lyndhurst and Greenwich community to learn the route to self-empowerment.

**Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean) [FES](#)**

The Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) was founded in 1925, and is a private, non-profit foundation, which subscribes to the ideals of social democracy. The foundation takes its name from the first democratically elected German President, Friedrich Ebert, and continues his legacy of giving political expression to freedom, solidarity and social justice.





### **Development of consultation**

The consultation process took place in a small training conference room to provide a friendly environment among the different organizations that participated in the meeting (MNS, the IDB and the civil society organizations). All the participants were seated at a round table which allowed them to have an active and engaged exchange of ideas, and almost all present offered their own opinions.

The participants were welcomed and introduced themselves to create a more relaxed environment among participants and the government. Afterwards, the program manager, Latoya Morris Dale, made a presentation about the objectives of the Security Strengthening Project, and the two components of the project: (i) prevention of violent crime, and (ii) improving investigative capabilities for homicides. The second part of the presentation was led by Denisse Wolfenzon, the gender consultant, who explained the main risks identified in the project and the mitigation activities planned to address them.

More than an hour of the consultation was dedicated to the facilitation of an in-depth discussion amongst the participants. Several suggestions for improvement of the risks and the mitigation activities which had been identified were aired, and the participants shared their thoughts and perspectives freely and openly. Finally, the participants were informed of what actions would be taken next in terms of the project moving forward and how their comments may be taken into account, and the contact information of Latoya Morris-Dale, the program manager of the Strengthening Security Project, representing the Ministry of National Security (MNS), was provided to the participants to follow up with her in case they have questions or concerns during the approval process or execution of the project.

### **Content of interventions**

All participants agreed that domestic violence is a serious problem in the country, and that coordinated work among different stakeholders is necessary to address not only the symptoms but also the root causes of the problem. To adjust the expectations of the participants, it was explained at the very beginning of the consultation that the project would not address the values and cultural norms (acceptance of violence,

shame, etc.) that support and contribute to the high prevalence of domestic violence in Jamaica and the low rate of reporting to the police.

The conversation was guided by the following five questions posted after the presentation:

1. Do you think these problems identified in the project are critical issues to better address domestic violence within the JCF?

All participants agreed that the risks and problems explained in the presentation (the low trust in the police, under-reporting/under-registration of cases and the lack of human rights approach when it comes to treat victims of violence) are main problems that need to be addressed.

The civil society organizations explain that domestic violence is not reported because victims believe that nothing will be done when they make reports to the police. In addition, victims are of the view that the police do not take domestic violence seriously and tend to re-victimize the victim when she/he finally decides to report an incident. Another reason for not reporting is the fear that is experienced due to the perceived lack of protection from the perpetrator once the incident is reported or the loss of financial support from the perpetrator once s/he is arrested. The participants also pointed out that children should feel that they can report and that action will be taken, but that often children do not know or fully understand their rights, as domestic violence is a socially accepted norm in some informal communities.

Participants also exposed that some of the agencies and entities that deal with domestic violence are underfunded and do not have the capacity to respond effectively when cases are referred to them. It was concluded that greater funding and capacity development is required for these agencies to effectively carry out their work.

2. Do you think the activities proposed would help redress the issues of under-registration, low trust in the police, and human rights approach in trainings? Is there any other activity that we should consider?

All participants agreed that the activities proposed in the project would in some way address the problems identified. However, they showed concerns that the scope of the project would not directly address changes in social and cultural norms that accept and encourage domestic violence; nor would the project address the lack of victim protection either from reprisal from the perpetrator or financial loss if the perpetrator provides financial support to the victim.

Participants found that on-duty police should receive additional trainings on how to handle cases of domestic violence with a human rights approach, in addition to the domestic violence curriculum that they receive in the Police College of Jamaica. It is worth noting that participants demonstrated interest in the new case management system that would allow the Government of Jamaica to (i) collect more detailed data of the victims, the abusers and specifics of the domestic violence episodes/cases as a way to better prevent other incidents, and (ii) track and follow up cases and increase accountability to resolve cases. With better recording of data and higher trust in the police, it is expected that the police will better prevent the escalation of violence and reduce the likelihood of female homicides.

3. Are there protocols on how to treat and record incidents of domestic violence at the police stations?

Some procedures are in place regarding the recording of incidents of domestic violence, but these have not been standardized. The JCF has developed a form with questions that should be completed by the police, however, the participants shared that police do not always fill out all the questions required and information gets lost. It was reported by the participants that the quality of information among police station varies greatly.

The participants reported that the GOJ recently approved the National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence in Jamaica 2016-2026.

They also acknowledged that the police receive training on domestic violence, and that to their knowledge each police station should have the guidelines printed and on display within the station. However, the participants were not confident that these guidelines were being followed when police deal with a victim of domestic violence.

4. Is it easy to recognize cases of domestic violence in the police forms?

The participants reported that the definitions of domestic violence and intimate partner violence within the context of the Jamaican legal framework are not clear. As was reported, domestic violence is considered as such when it occurs between people living in the same household, regardless of the relationship. The participants reported that the current police form does not capture intimate partner violence, as the police are limited by the definitions provided by the legal framework.

5. Is there any kind of relationship between NGOs and the police to address issues related to DV?

Most of the participants responded yes to this question. The Private Sector Organization of Jamaica meets with the police every month to discuss the issue of crime and violence on behalf of its members. Participants also accompany victims of domestic violence to report episodes of violence, to follow up cases and to obtain data and information on the issue of violence.

## **Conclusions:**

Based on the scope of the project these are the main conclusions of the public consultation:

- Low trust in Police results in under-registration and under-reporting of cases of domestic violence.
- Domestic violence and intimate partner violence are poorly defined within the legal framework of Jamaica.
- The main factors contributing to the high prevalence of domestic violence in Jamaica are values and cultural norms.
- The fragmentation and the quality of data on domestic violence inhibits the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) ability to design effective solutions to respond to domestic violence.
- There are gaps in the police forms to adequately collect domestic violence data, and there are inconsistencies in the procedures followed at different police stations. There are more questions that need to be asked by the police.
- There are trainings on domestic violence, but they are not systematic.
- Civil society organizations have continuous communication with the police and receive data from Statistics and Information Management Unit.



## **Recommendations**

Enhance the positive impact of the project by:

- The Planning Institute of Jamaica should develop a map of all the Gender-Based Violence, Intimate Partner Violence and Domestic Violence players (NGOs, IOs and MDAs) working on domestic violence programs and projects.
- Involve grassroots organizations and schools which have assigned Security Officers in the data collection.
- Expand data collection on victims and perpetrators profiles as well as the characteristics of the incidents of domestic violence (time, location, etc.)
- Update/review of existing protocols to be aligned to international standards (Belen do Para protocol)
- Publish sex offenders' registry database (if the current legal framework allows it).
- The MNS should study the root causes of domestic violence, intimate partner violence and gender based violence in order to develop meaningful responses.
- Provide trainings on how to handle cases of domestic violence with a human rights approach to the police officers.
- Provide trainings on how to adequately record incidents of domestic violence to capture high quality information that can be used to prevent the escalation of violence.
- The protocols should be visibly written at each police station for public knowledge.