OAS

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2020

REPORT OF OAS ACTIVITIES WITH JAMAICA

Office of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States in Jamaica

January 2021

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Office of the GS/OAS in Jamaica

The Organization of American States is the hemispheric political forum inclusive of all the countries of the Americas, committed to the strengthening of democracy, the promotion and protection of human rights, the advancement of integral development and the fostering of multidimensional security, all equal and interdependent, with justice and social inclusion, for the benefit of the peoples of the Americas." (AG/RES. 2814 (XLIV-O/14)

The OAS Offices in member states were created to serve as centers to promote and coordinate the activities of the OAS General Secretariat in member states. The Offices and their staff are therefore an integral part of the OAS General Secretariat. They allow the Organization to effectively execute its projects and programs, obtain reliable and timely information on the political and economic developments of the member states and ensure direct, on the ground engagement with member states and their citizens. The main role of the OAS Office in Jamaica is thus to bring the work of the OAS, including the opportunities offered, closer to the people of Jamaica.

Jamaica has been a member of the OAS since 1969, collaborating with other Member States to achieve the lofty goals set by OAS member states for this Organization. The Office of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States in Jamaica was established on March 12, 1971. Since its inception in 1971, the Office of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States in Jamaica has worked assiduously to support the OAS General Secretariat in achieving its mission, mandates and to strengthen its four pillars- democracy, human rights, integral development, and multidimensional security.

Nowadays, the OAS Office in Jamaica has an active role in maintaining an institutional presence for the OAS in Jamaica, promoting the activities of the organs of the General Secretariat, collaborating with the Government, private sector and civil society organizations in Jamaica, as well as specialized organizations and other entities, to implement OAS policies, programs and activities based on Jamaica's development needs and the OAS Strategic Plan for Partnerships for Integral Development. In particular, the Office collaborates with other Inter-American institutions, international and regional partners to increase development partnerships and forge synergies on thematic areas in accordance with the four main pillars of the OAS.

The COVID-19 pandemic is forcing us to think out of the box to address both new challenges that were brought on by this pandemic and existing challenges that have been exacerbated in the current environment. Addressing these challenges will require the support of all OAS members. The OAS Office in Jamaica will continue to support the mutually beneficial partnership between the OAS and the Government of Jamaica and to serve as the liaison between the Secretary General, the various OAS Secretariats and Departments and the Government of Jamaica to ensure the successful implementation of OAS activities with Jamaica.

Jeanelle van GlaanenWeygel
OAS Representative in Jamaica

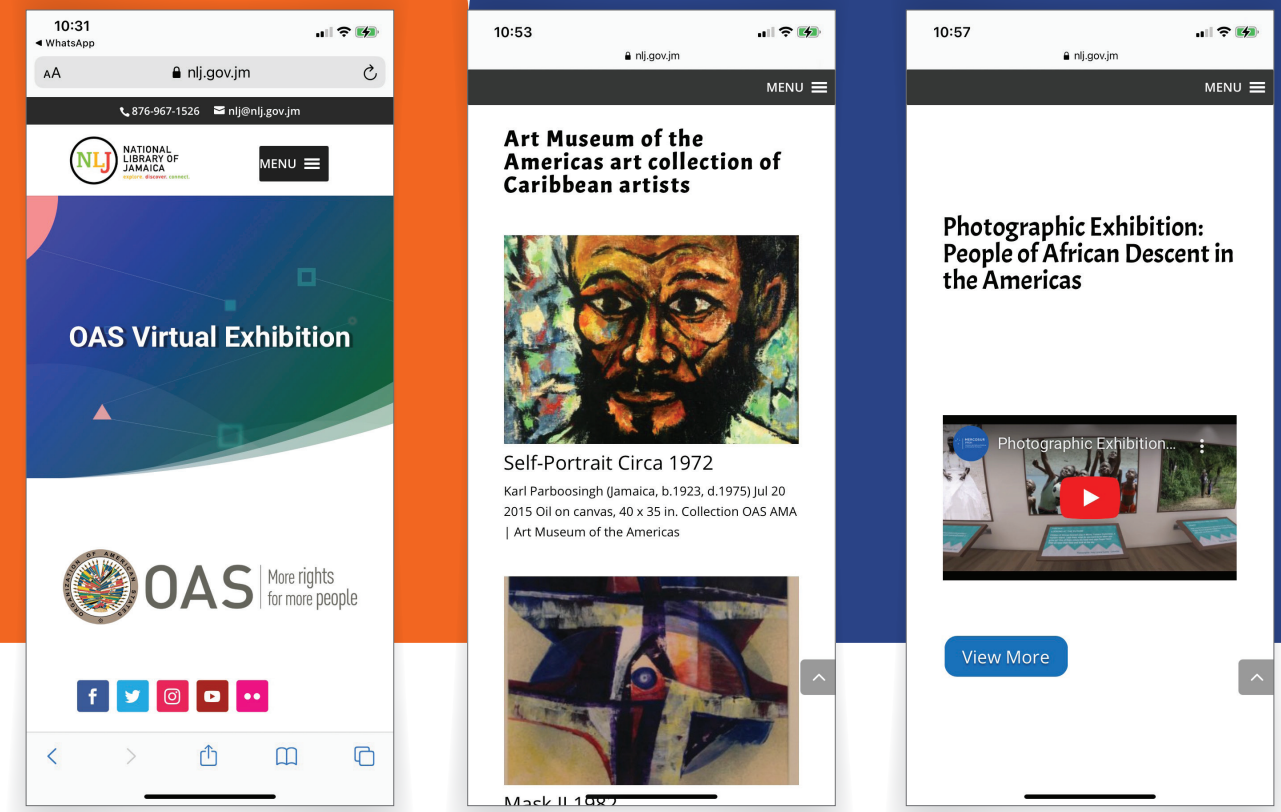
The following are the OAS activities implemented in or with Jamaica in 2020 by the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and its partners in the key areas of work of the OAS.

Development

FONDEM

In accordance with article V of the statutes of the Inter American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM), the OAS Secretary General granted US$25,000 to the Government of Jamaica in November 2020, as emergency aid to help address the damage caused by tropical storms Eta and Zeta.

OAS Virtual Exhibition



The Office of the GS/OAS in Jamaica organized a virtual exhibit in collaboration with the National Library of Jamaica (NLJ). The exhibit was launched during Heritage Week in October 2020 and was made possible through the valuable contributions of the Office of the OAS Assistant Secretary General, the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity's Department of Social Inclusion and the Art Museum of the Americas.

The aim of the virtual expo was to complement and amplify Jamaica's distinguishable heritage by highlighting and recognizing the expansive influence of people of African Descent in shaping our societies and contributing to the socio-economic, political, and cultural development of the hemisphere.

The Exhibit included the photo exhibit of people of African descent in the Americas, profiles of historically renowned persons of African descent to celebrate the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) and art of Caribbean artists from the Art Museum of the Americas (AMA) collection.

As of Dec. 15, 2020 the NLJ reported over 300 views of the virtual exhibit: https://nlj.gov.jm/exhibition/oasvirtualexhibit/

Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE)

The Secretariat implements most of its programs and projects at the hemispheric level. The Department of Social Inclusion of the SARE serves as Technical Secretariat of the Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Social Development (REMDES), and its Inter-American Commission for Social Development (CIDES).

Department of Social Inclusion

Consumer Rights - Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN)

The Department of Social Inclusion also serves as Technical Secretariat of the CSHN. The CHSN is the inter-American interdisciplinary mechanism, specialized in promoting at a national and hemispheric level, consumer health and safety policies and programs, and the impact they can have on consumers' health and wellbeing. Since 2010, the network has been working to strengthen national and regional cooperation capacities to contribute to the early detection of dangerous consumer products to avoid their circulation in the markets.

On July 31, 2020, Jamaica became the fourth Caribbean country to join the Network. Now, the Network membership includes 21 member states working together to protect consumer rights: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Uruguay.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, while most of the global market growth has taken place in countries where e-commerce is already thriving, there is evidence that an increasing number of consumers within the region are doing online shopping, and therefore, there is an increasing need to ensure that they are educated consumers in the context of the pandemic. During the month of July, to raise consumer awareness of the importance of protecting themselves in the context of the pandemic, the Management Committee of the CSHN organized a campaign on the importance of proper mask wearing, importance of frequent handwashing and guidelines on using hand sanitizers. During the VII Plenary Meeting of the CSHN on November 19, 2020, the member states of the Network agreed on the Network's Work Plan for the period 2019-2020.

Program for the promotion and increase of civil society and social actor participation in OAS activities.

The Section of Relations with Civil Society of SARE is responsible for facilitating and coordinating the participation of civil society organizations (CSO) in OAS activities, as well as the registration of civil society organizations and other actors with the OAS.
CSO participation in General Assemblies, Ministerial meetings, and other activities has produced increased and more equitable dialogue. Civil society coalitions present their recommendations to the countries on democracy, human rights, integral development, and security issues, among others. In the past, the Section of Relations with Civil Society registered the following organizations with the OAS:

- Association of Development Agencies
- Jamaicans for Justice and
- Kevoy Community Development Institute

One of the Jamaican CSOs participated during the 50th General Assembly of the OAS. The Section of Relations with Civil Society encourages the participation of CSO and other actors from Jamaica in OAS activities.

Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI)

Development Cooperation Fund (DCF)

Child Care Education Development Integration System (CCEDIS)

Project Objective: Develop an integrated ICT system which is agile, reliable and efficient and which has the capacity to provide data retrievable in real-time; the provision of information to the Early Childhood Development Sector.

Description: the system will facilitate the exchange of data within ECC's five independent software applications, which were created on separate databases. It will see the integration of the existing 'stand-alone' databases and manage the vast amount of diverse, yet interrelated data required to monitor the sector. The system is expected to provide enhanced multi-sectoral programming by allowing actual data to drive the coordination and improvement of existing sectoral development objectives. More importantly, the system will provide a database focused on the integration and convergence of existing sector partnerships. The goal is to design a robust and secure IT environment to house government data within the fast-growing technological space.

Concrete benefits for Jamaica: The system will represent an advanced step in ECC's data management capabilities with short to long-term benefits, which include:

- an increased level of public access to information.
- identification of children at risk for health, nutrition and developmental delays.
- access to screening and diagnostic results.
- increased access to quality early childhood development programs and services; and
- facilitating online registration of early childhood institutions.

Duration: 2018-2021
Status: Ongoing.
Budget: US$83,000
Funding Source: Development Cooperation Fund (DCF)
OAS Contact: Isabel Zuluaga

Department of Economic Development (DED)

Science and Technology

Jamaica is First Vice-Chair of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCYT) and has actively participated in the Science and Technology Initiatives of the SEDI/DED throughout the year 2020.

High-Level Virtual Dialogues: "Science, Technology and Innovation to mitigate the effects of COVID-19: Good Practices from COMCYT Members and Partners": 750 participants from 26 countries attended two dialogues held respectively on April 29, and May 22, 2020. Former Minister of Science, Energy and Technology of Jamaica, Ms. Fayval Williams, presented on Jamaica's national strategy of science and technology to counter COVID-19, including the "JamCOVID" initiative, a geolocation app for smartphones to monitor individuals who must be quarantined (i.e., people returning from travel). Other Ministers and High-Level Authorities from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru also presented initiatives. These dialogues are an integral part of the exchange of good practices between the High-Level Authorities in preparation for the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of Science and Technology.

Second Planning Meeting of COMCYT Authorities, held on July 15, 2020: Dr. Errol Morrison, Director General of the National Commission on Science and Technology of Jamaica (NCST) and Ms. Patricia Lewin, Senior Technology Officer at NCST, attended the virtual Meeting, as well as Mr. Deon Williams, Minister, Alternate Representative of the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the OAS. The Meeting resulted in the extension of the activities of the COMCYT Work Plan 2018-2020 until the end of 2021, in light of the postponement of the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of Science and Technology due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also agreed to extend the mandates of the COMCYT Chair (MINCIENCIAS, Colombia); First Vice-Chair (MSET, Jamaica) and Second Vice-Chair (CONCYTEC, Peru) – as well as the Coordinators of the 4 Working Groups of the COMCYT – until the end of 2021.

Virtual Launch of Prospecta Americas on November 12, 2020 in collaboration with the Government of the State of Hidalgo, Mexico, the National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACYT), the National Council of Science, Technology and Technological Innovation of Peru (CONCYTEC) and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Colombia. NCST members attended the virtual event, as well as colleagues of the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the OAS. Prospecta America is the first platform of its kind related to questions of technology foresight and future studies for the Americas. Its objective is to improve the social appropriation of knowledge of 10 transformative technologies, namely: Big Data; Robotics; Blockchain, Virtual Reality; Artificial Intelligence; Quantum Computing; Gene Editing; Biomedical Engineering; 3D and 4D Additive Manufacturing and New Nanostructured Materials - and assess their possible economic, social and environmental impacts in the region. The virtual launch, which consisted in a roundtable with experts on the topic, was attended was 1260 participants from 20 countries.

Joint OAS-Facebook Initiative with Micro, Small, and Medium-sized (MSME) Authorities of OAS Member States

Six (6) roundtables (more than 85,000 viewers) were held through the OAS-Facebook Initiative with MSME authorities of OAS Member States to share 25 good practices to help small businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. On May 14, 2020, the roundtable featured a presentation by Jamaica's Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett on the policies, programs and tools, which, may be deployed to help tourism MSMEs face the pandemic. Facebook also presented its online MSME tools.

OAS-WhatApps: Customized Virtual Training Programs to Assist MSMEs

On October 14, 2020, the OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and WhatApps launched a joint initiative with WhatApps, an affiliate of Facebook to directly deliver customized virtual training programs to MSMEs and a train-the-trainer program for MSME authorities/centers to strengthen resilience and recovery from the pandemic. The training will begin in 2021.

Caribbean Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) Project

MSME Credit Analysis and Training course with Moody's Analytics

To continue the strengthening of the capabilities of the network of Caribbean SBDC Advisors, the Caribbean SBDC programme in conjunction with Moody's Analytics facilitated the MSME Credit Analysis and Training course designed to assist SBDC advisors and participating MSMEs in strengthening financial literacy and financial management capabilities. The training course was facilitated virtually between July 14 and 16, 2020 and was designed to assist participants with:

1. Understanding the power of the MSME operating cycle in analyzing risk and opportunities in a business's operating cycle.
2. Analyzing financial statements and key fundamental ratios to understand a business' historical profitability and trends, evaluating its liquidity, leverage, and capital structure, assessing its ability to convert assets to cash, and interpreting changes in its operating cycle.
3. Using a projected financial statement to analyze the projected outcome, looking at profitability, liquidity, leverage and projected cash flow.

SBDC COVID 19 Recovery Programme – October-December 2020

The COVID - 19 has wrought significant impact not only on wide swaths of the MSME sector in the Caribbean region but also on the very agencies designed to support them. As such, the Caribbean SBDC program in conjunction with the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) delivered a training programme designed to assist the existing Caribbean SBDCs in guiding their clients through the survival and recovery process in response to the COVID – 19 pandemic. The training series was offered via Go - To Meeting and included 2- hour online workshop sessions followed by home - work assignments. The sessions addressed the following thematic areas:

1. Adapting SBDC Internal Processes for the Covid-19 Pandemic and Other Natural Disasters (2 sessions)
2. Client service best practices for start-up clients during the COVID – 19 Pandemic
3. Providing high – value services for established business clients during the Covid-19 pandemic and Other Natural Disasters.
4. Managing Stakeholder Relations during the Covid-19 Pandemic and Other Natural Disasters.
5. SBDC Human Resource Management during the Covid-19 Pandemic and Other Natural Disasters.

The activity was geared towards the directors and advisors of participating SBDCs and completing participants and SBDCs were provided a digital badge of completion.

Working Group of the Inter-American Committee on Tourism (CITUR)
At the Special Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Tourism (CITUR) held virtually August 14, 2020, the CITUR agreed to establish four (4) Groups related to the tourism sector, and its recovery in relation to the impact of COVID-19. Jamaica, through its Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Edmund Bartlett chairs the Working Group to develop a recovery action plan for the cruise and airline industries in the post-pandemic stage (Working Group 4).

The First Meeting of this Working Group was held virtually, December 10, 2020, under the Chairmanship of Minister Bartlett. The meeting addressed, inter alia (a) Working Group Terms of Reference, (b) Exchange of ideas on the structure and framework for the action plan (national, regional and hemispheric view), (c) Dialogue on proposed content for the action plan, i.e., effective measures for the recovery of the airline and cruise industries.

Membership in the Working Group is open to OAS member states, airline and cruise industry stakeholders, as well as other regional and international organizations with a tourism remit. The Jamaica Ministry of Tourism serves as the Working Group's Secretariat.

Webinar on Inventory of Heritage Places, June 29, 2020
The Webinar provided the opportunity for beneficiary countries of the OAS Cultural Heritage project in the Caribbean to highlight their experiences with implementing the Inventory of Heritage Places component of the project. The webinar featured presentations from Debra Kay Palmer, Director, World Heritage and Cultural Conventions in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport and Jasinth Simpson, Manager, Heritage Preservation and Planning Unit with the Jamaica National Heritage Trust. It also received presentations from Dr. Sheron Johnson, Senior Cultural Policy Officer, Ministry of Creative Economy, Culture and Sports of Barbados and Jessica Parris, of the Community Independence Celebrations Secretariat, Ministry of Creative Economy, Culture and Sports Barbados.

Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI/DHDE)

Department of Human Development, Education and Employment

Scholarships and Loans

7 interest-free loans were granted to Jamaican students in the amount of $46,500. As of September 2020, the Rowe Fund is managing 29 active accounts of Jamaican interest free loan recipients. The total amount granted is US$317,580; of which US$196,083 remains to be repaid.

69 scholarships were awarded to Jamaican nationals to pursue masters and bachelor's degree as well as professional development training in various areas of study, including: Natural disaster risk management and climate change, Renewable technologies in power generation, Project Management, Early Childhood Development and Family Studies, Nursing,

Computer and Information Sciences, International Business Administration, Legal Studies and Law Enforcement, Guest Service Gold Tourism Certification, Health Services Administration, Emergency Management, ServSafe Re-Opening Guideline ServSafe Takeout ServSafe Delivery.

OAS and partner contribution: US$57,536 / US$91,373.

Scholarships awarded to Jamaicans in 2020 in OAS Priority Areas	No. of Scholarships
Economic Diversification and Integration, Trade Liberalization and Market Access	1
Female	1
Education	10
Female	8
Male	2
Scientific Development and Exchange and Transfer of Technology	1
Male	1
Social Development and the Creation of Productive Employment	3
Female	3
Sustainable Development and the Environment	16
Female	8
Male	8
Sustainable Development of Tourism	38
Female	27
Male	11
Grand Total	**69**

Inter American Teacher Education Network (ITEN)
The following ITEN initiatives in collaboration with partners in Jamaica took place between May and November 2020.

Jamaica's Ministry of Education, Youth and Information collaborated with the Center for Continuing Training (Suriname), George Mason University (USA), and the Ministry of Education of Antigua and Barbuda on a 6-month project to create model lesson plans for integrated STREAM teaching practices.
A seed grant of approximately US$10,000 was awarded.

Shortwood Teachers' College (Jamaica) collaborated with the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill campus) and Louisiana Tech University (USA) on a 6-month project to develop guidelines for helping students learn how to collect and analyze data in a STEM context.
A seed grant of approximately US$10,000 was awarded.

Jamaica's Ministry of Education, Youth and Information collaborated with Iowa State University, Florida International University, and Fairfax County Public Schools (all of the USA) on a 6-month project to develop and provide professional development for teachers to improve students' scientific and academic literacy skills through engaging in inquiry-based instruction. Interrelated disciplines such as meteorology and physical science will be incorporated to highlight preparedness for disastrous weather. This will result in citizens that are better prepared to solve the complex problems of future generations.

Sam Sharpe Teachers College of Jamaica collaborated with the University of South Florida of the USA to create a database of STEM and inquiry resources of proven strategies for educators by conducting professional development that models effective strategies to support educators so that they can create their own STEM/inquiry unit(s). The team will offer guidance during design and implementation and provide follow up reflections after implementation.

University of Technology (UTech) of Jamaica collaborated with Swaliga Foundation of the USA to create a toolkit of pedagogical resources and best practices geared towards improving teachers' knowledge and application of the STEAM approach in lesson planning and delivery at the primary and secondary level.
A seed grant of approximately US$10,000 was awarded.

Mico University College was previously in a Project Team. With the support of an ITEN Seed Grant, The Mico University College developed and implemented an integrated STEAM Seminar for the teachers of Jamaica and is in the process of using the seed grant to advance computational thinking in early childhood classrooms.

ITEN Cooperation Exchanges

- **Bhagya Malladi of Immaculate Conception High School and Conroy Hall of Shortwood Teachers' College** in Jamaica participated in an ITEN Exchange at Stanford University in the USA. The exchange included two days of collegial discussions and learning experiences with some of the top research professionals in teacher education, assessments, language acquisition and understanding and education policy, all surrounding topics in STEM and STEM teacher education. The focus of the exchange was to explore ongoing research on how aspects of race, ethnicity, and linguistics affect STEM teaching and evaluation.
- Multiple Jamaican ITEN Teacher Fellows supported the ITEN-UWI STREAM Virtual Community and inclusion of STREAM into two courses for the Early Childhood and Family Studies Certificate program through UWI's Open Campus.

ITEN Jamaican Teacher Fellows and other Teacher Leaders participated in ongoing leadership activities, including the development of personal teacher leadership plans that included the following activities:

- Peta-Gay Kirby
- Janet Lewis (awarded a $1,000 USD Teacher Leadership Fund)
- Bhagya Malladi (awarded a $1,000 USD Teacher Leadership Fund)
  - "Youth Power STEM Fair" event (11 February)
  - Pre-Service Forum presentation (20 February)
- Marsha Russell (awarded a $1,000 USD Teacher Leadership Fund)
- Mikhael Davis (awarded a $1,000 USD Teacher Leadership Fund)

ITEN Jamaican Teacher Fellows led numerous ITEN-supported activities:

- From March 31 - April 8, 2020, ITEN Teacher Fellow Bhagya Malladi and STEM teacher educator Conroy Hall collectively provided four days of online training to the science teachers of Jamaica through an initiative of the Association of Science Teachers of Jamaica. The workshop, which was developed in response to a call from the country's teachers via their national WhatsApp group included the use of various free, digital tools for teaching interactively, including Edpuzzle, Kahoot, Nearpod, and Padlet. National chairman of the association, Elaine Williams, acknowledged Bhagya for her "sacrificial service to the organization and to the professional development" of her colleagues. 100 science teachers trained in the use of online tools.
- Bhagya Malladi of Immaculate Conception High School in Jamaica, on May 26, 2020, hosted the webinar: Effective Tools to Enhance Online Learning and Assessment. Over 500 attendees from 19 OAS member states.
- Conroy Hall of Shortwood Teachers' College, Jamaica, hosted Effective Use of Virtual Manipulatives to Build Conceptual Understanding in a Virtual Space on June 4, 2020. Approximately 250 attendees from 17 OAS member states.
- Master Teachers from Jamaica Teaching Council, Ministry of Education Youth and Information, Jamaica on June 29, 2020 hosted Teaching STEM in Quarantine: Perspectives from Master Teachers in Jamaica in Their Subject Areas. Over 600 attendees from 15 OAS member states.

- On July 8, 2020, the Association of Science Teachers of Jamaica (ASTJ), with support from ITEN, hosted their annual conference in an online format to respond to teachers' professional needs while still under quarantine due to COVID-19. Approximately 400 teachers from all over the hemisphere participated in the event.
- Peta-Gay Kirby, Wayne Thompson and Megan Hylton of The Mico University College, Jamaica, on August 24, 2020 hosted STEMission Possible. Approximately 180 attendees from 9 OAS member states.
- COVID-19 Special Series - STEM in Blended Learning: Perspectives from Jamaica's Master Teachers, August 31-Sept. 2, 2020; Over 2700 attendees from 12 OAS member states.

Labor and Employment

On April 1st, 2020, the **Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL) launched the Portfolio of Responses from Ministries of Labor to COVID-19**, which includes information and links to actions taken by the labor administrations in the region to protect workers, employment and income. It also presented resources, such as reports on projections of the employment effects. This Portfolio has been updated permanently and by October 25th, 2020, **it gathered 394 measures and had more than 8,000 visits.** Representatives from the Ministries of Labor have indicated that the Portfolio has been useful to obtain information on their peers in the region and adopt elements that they find useful in their own scenarios.

Likewise, in May 2020, the RIAL published the **"Repository of Deconfinement and Return to Work Guidelines and Protocols."** This tool provides Ministries of Labor of the Americas information on the actions taken by countries outside the region to ease confinement measures, return to the workplace, and ensure the safety and health of workers at all times, considering those

countries were at a different stage of the pandemic. As of August 31, 2020, the Repository gathered over 60 resources. As in the case of the Portfolio, ministries and representatives from COSATE and CEATAL recognized the importance and usefulness of this tool and instructed the RIAL to update it permanently.

On May 22nd, 2020, authorities of the **Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML)** held a virtual Meeting to update and adapt the 2018 – 2020 Work Plan in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the main results of the meeting was the decision to postpone the XXI IACML to September 2021 in Argentina, and to keep it as an in-person meeting.

The Virtual Meeting of the **IACML Working Groups 1 and 2** took place on September 10 and 15, with the participation of 26 delegations and more than 130 representatives from Ministries of Labor, Permanent Missions, workers' and employers' organizations and international organizations. Delegates analyzed, exchanged experiences, identified lessons learned, and hemispheric recommendations on issues of utmost importance in response to the economic and social crisis generated by COVID-19. The issues included: telework and the platform economy, income protection measures, workforce development and re-skilling, occupational health and safety, and social dialogue.
The following delegation from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Jamaica participated in the September meetings:

- Audrey Deer-Williams, Chief Technical Director
- Marlon Mahon, Director, Occupational Safety and Health
- Camille Bennet-Campbell, Director, Legal Services
- Gillian Coorodus, Divisional Director - Industrial Relations and Allied Services
- Simone McKenzie, Director, Research and Analysis, Planning, Research and Monitoring Unit

The First Hemispheric Dialogue to advance the Institutionalization of Gender in Ministries of Labor was held in November. Mrs. Sasha Deer-Gordon, Director of Child Labor of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security of Jamaica participated. This Dialogue was held on 20 November 2020, with the participation of Directors and heads of gender units or areas from 29 Ministries of Labor of the Americas. The delegations discussed the main challenges posed by the pandemic for women in the region, adjusted the recommendations of the study to respond to the current reality, and proposed future cooperation activities.

Some of the results of the dialogue were: 1) Review and verification, by all delegations, of the difficult situation of women in the labor market, whose levels of unemployment, inactivity and informality have increased as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The delegates coincided in their concern regarding the deepening of gender gaps throughout the region.; 2) affirmation of the interest and willingness to strengthen cooperation among gender units/areas, as a means to strengthen their initiatives and organization; 3) identification of topics of great interest for further cooperation and training; 4) presentation and exchange on various programs and initiatives that target women in general, or some groups in particular (domestic work, for instance); as well as on recent developments regarding gender mainstreaming in the Ministries.; and 5) expression of willingness to share some initiatives and strategies. More Information on the Dialogue at: http://rialnet.org/en/dialgue_gender_units

Department of Sustainable Development (DSD)

Energy:

In 2020, Jamaica participated in the following meetings:
Public-Private Dialogues: 10 Virtual Meetings were held by the OAS and IDB between September and November 2020 to have in-depth discussions on the following select topics:

- September 14: Implementation of policies and regulations for utility-scale sustainable energy projects
- September 17: Creating a Virtual Pipeline: Opportunities & Obstacles for Small Scale LNG in Central America
- September 21: Procurement & use of modern tools to model long-term sustainable power resource planning
- September 28: Analysis and technologies for resilient power systems
- October 5: Benefits of Physical and Regulatory Regional Energy Integration
- October 19: Regulatory aspects of integration and interconnection of electricity markets
- October 26: Natural gas and LNG market integration
- November 2: Natural Gas as a Driver of Resilience and Energy Diversity
- November 9: Global Standards to Support Regional LNG Development & New Tech for Small-Scale Distribution
- November 16: Sustainable Economic Development through Natural Gas and LNG & Advantages of Conversion of Existing Energy Assets

Additionally, the following events were hosted with Jamaica's participation:

- Advancing Caribbean Energy Resilience (ACER): Island Energy Transformation: Electric Power Systems and Institutional Governance - December 8, 2020
- Covid-19 & the 2020 Hurricane Season: Sustainable Energy as a Building Block for Economic Resilience in the Caribbean - June 3, 2020
- Economic Recovery Post-Covid-19: The Role of the Energy Sector - May 7, 2020 (co-hosted with IDB)
- Outlook of Central America and the Caribbean Electricity Sector Post-Covid-19 - April 8, 2020
- IV ECPA Meeting of Energy Ministers - February 27-28, 2020

The General Secretariat of the OAS/DSD supported the Government of Jamaica with the organization of the **IV Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) Ministerial, held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, February 27-28, 2020.**

The Ministerial was held under the theme **"Energy Resilience and Investment Opportunities"** and included public-private policy dialogue between business and government leaders in the Americas on priorities, challenges, and opportunities for economic growth and development and issues relating to financial mechanisms for clean and renewable energy, investment opportunities in energy efficiency, electric mobility, as well as strategies to increase private sector engagement in energy infrastructure development.

The Conference provided an opportunity to address energy resilience and investment opportunities with LAC governments and the private sector, hemispheric and regional development agenda. The hosting of the Ministerial Meeting presented a valuable opportunity for Jamaica to highlight the progress made on the national level in its energy security and diversification efforts. It also offered an opportunity to demonstrate Jamaica's leadership in promoting regional energy cooperation, strategic partnerships and open dialogue on energy related issues.

The Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology (MSET), in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT), led the effort for the hosting of this High-Level meeting, which included Energy Ministers from over thirty member countries of ECPA and other regional dignitaries.

Security

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

Department of Public Security

A New Path: Promoting Productive Alternatives for Juvenile Remandees and Offenders in Jamaica

Project Manager: Cristian Gabriel Taboada, Chief of Security and Justice Section, Department of Public Security, Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

Outcome: The project promoted healthy emotional environments within correctional facilities, and increasing economic prosperity for incarcerated youth, as key strategies to reduce recidivism, and, ultimately, crime and violence.

Project objectives: "A New Path" was designed to improve the quality of, and access to, reintegration services (educational, vocational, and internship/employment opportunities), technical training (marketable technical skills, life/social skills), as well as individualized psychosocial/emotional services for juvenile detainees placed in the four juvenile centers: South Camp, Metcalfe, Rio Cobre, and Hill Top.

Project description: The project comprised two distinct tracks, each with its own objective:

Track 1 prepared young detainees at South Camp Juvenile Remand and Correctional Centre, Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Remand Centre, Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Centre, and Hill Top Juvenile Correctional Centre with marketable technical skills, life skills, and individualized psychosocial attention to enable their successful reintegration into society.

Track 2 assisted the releasees from South Camp Juvenile Remand and Correctional Centre, Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Remand Centre, Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Center and Hill Top Juvenile Correctional Centre to access educational, vocational, and internship/employment opportunities, while providing comprehensive case management for at least six months after release. Another important component of the project was the development of a comprehensive electronic case management system for DCS, which allows staff of all the facilities to work in a coordinated manner by developing individual plans for each detainee.

Time frame (Start date/End date): September 2014 to May 2020.

Total Budget allocation: GS/OAS received USD$4,436,542 from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID for project implementation.

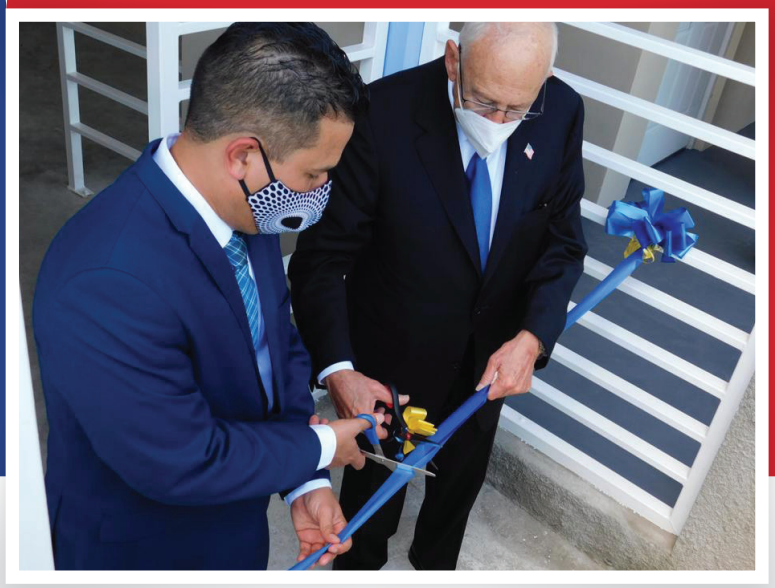
Disbursement to date: The project has ended and, as such, all the resources have been allocated.

Status of implementation: The project has been completed and all its targets were met.

Main accomplishments of the project were:

- 2,441 youth received some kind of assistance through the project, including post-release support through social workers across the country, who provide guidance and assistance to the youth in their reintegration process.
- 1,057 girls and boys successfully completed educational, recreational, and vocational courses that range from aquaponics, cosmetology, classical music, life skills to crafts and yoga.
- 143 young people were offered apprenticeships or jobs, through partnerships with the private sector.
- 271 releasees and at-risk youth participated in the three editions of the Pitch It! Learning and Investing in Your Future (2016, 2017, and 2018): 118 received extensive training in entrepreneurship during a one-week residence program, 63 of which were awarded micro-grants to start their own business, and 49 businesses were created (benefiting the youth and their communities)
- 22 young people received training and the resources to establish micro-farms in their rural communities of origin.
- 218 officers and staff of the Department of Correctional Services participated in a series of Training-of-Trainers.

- Development and implementation of a case management approach for juvenile facilities, as well as of an electronic system to facilitate the delivery of holistic reintegration care to the youth and the supervision of the activities in the facilities.
- Improvement of the infrastructure of the facilities: Construction of an outdoor sports court, renovation of space to accommodate classrooms in South Camp, and construction of a new multi-purpose building, with the capacity to accommodate up to three classrooms, in South Camp; Renovation of classrooms in Rio Cobre.



Main challenges:

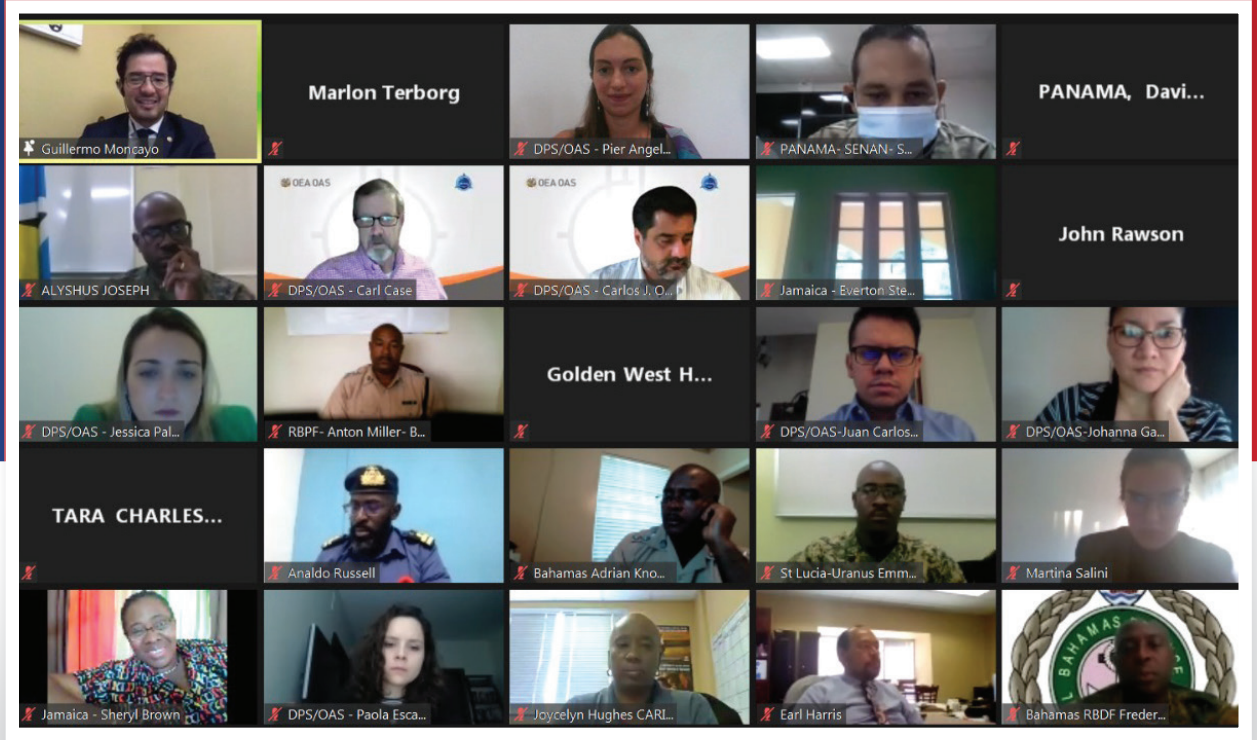
- Multiple challenges to connect more youth to economic opportunities due to their young age, and the resistance of the private sector to collaborate.
- Resistance of the major agencies responsible for adult education (Jamaica Foundation for Lifelong Learning and HEART Trust NTA) to work with the young people that had been in conflict with the law, which considerably limited the project's options for that type of reinsertion.
- Difficulties to institutionalize new processes in the juvenile facilities, and to ensure sustainability of the activities considering the focus of some of the staff in security in a traditional way. Although the staff has been trained to deliver the classes of the reintegration curriculum, there are obstacles regarding TORs and shifts that prevent them from teaching the classes.

II Regional Workshop in Good Practices in Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM)

The Department of Public Security of the OAS organized the II Regional Seminar on PSSM, from November 3rd to November 6th. The seminar was carried out under the framework of the project "Countering the Illicit Proliferation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Ammunition and their Impact in Latin America and the Caribbean", implemented by the DPS/OAS, with the valuable support of the European Union.

Due to the restrictive measures imposed by countries to address the COVID-19 crisis, this second-edition of the seminar, focusing on Caribbean countries had to be adapted to a virtual environment. Through the partnership with CARICOM IMPACS, the training was delivered on the CBSI-Connect platform. It gathered international subject matter experts, who addressed measures on physical security for SALW and ammunition, risk management, and stock management and control, among other topics.

114 officers from Armed Forces and Police Forces of 11 countries (Antigua and Barbuda; Barbados; Belize; Grenada; Jamaica; Panama; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Suriname; The Bahamas; Trinidad and Tobago) were certified in this training, which was implemented in collaboration with CARICOM IMPACS. 22 participants from Jamaica (Ministry of National Security; Jamaica Defense Force; and Jamaica Constabulary Force) were certified in the workshop.

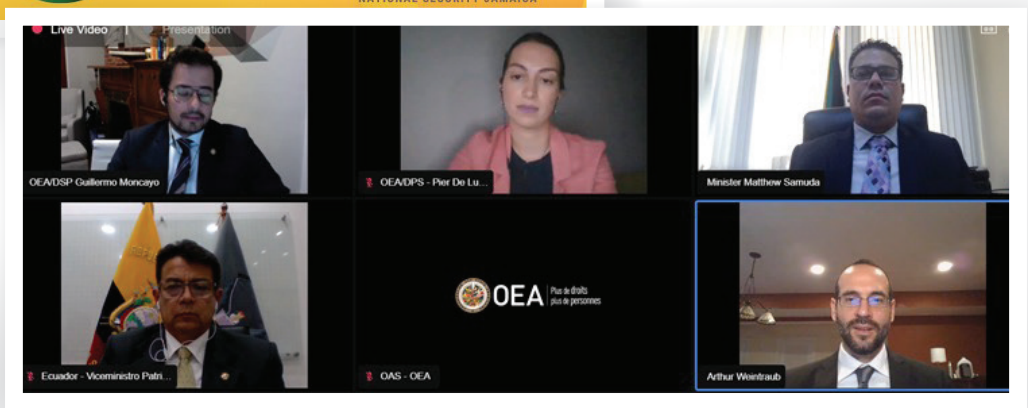


Virtual Roundtable with Ministers of Public Security – Demands and Challenges of the COVID-19 Crisis

The Department of Public Security of the OAS organized a Virtual Roundtable with Ministers of Public Security to discuss the demands and the challenges related to the citizen security agenda, considering the COVID-19 pandemic. The event took place on October 27th, 2020, via the Kudo Platform, and it was live webcasted on OAS Channels through Facebook and YouTube. The speakers included:

- Secretary General of the OAS, Luis Almagro
- Secretary of Multidimensional Security of the OAS, Arthur Weintraub
- Acting Director of the Department of Public Security of the OAS, Guillermo Moncayo
- Minister of Government of Ecuador, María Paula Romo
- Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of National Security of Jamaica, Matthew Samuda
- Vice-Minister of Government of Ecuador, Retired General Patricio Pazmiño

The ministers presented on the main challenges they have been facing in their respective ministries, in addition to lessen the impact of the crisis. After the presentations, the authorities had a frank dialogue about the importance of innovation and technology to confront the crisis, the long-term effects of the pandemic in citizen security, and the role of regional cooperation to assist countries in overcoming these challenges.



XXI Meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials (CIFTA)

The Department of Public Security and the Department against Transnational Organized Crime of the OAS, as the technical secretariat of CIFTA, have supported the organization and hosting of the XXI Meeting of the Consultative Committee of CIFTA, which took place virtually on December 17th, through the KUDO Platform.

Mexico presided over the meeting, 21 State Parties and 3 Signatory Countries (USA, Canada, and Jamaica) participated. The representatives of the countries presented the progress they have made in implementing CIFTA. Even though Jamaica has not yet ratified the Convention, it has presented on the progress made related to firearms control, including the review of the Firearms Act. The DPS/OAS has also supported Jamaica in the updating and reviewing the Firearms Act, making suggestions of improvement based on international standards.

Inter American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

Enhancing the cybersecurity capacity and detection capabilities of the Jamaican National CIRT

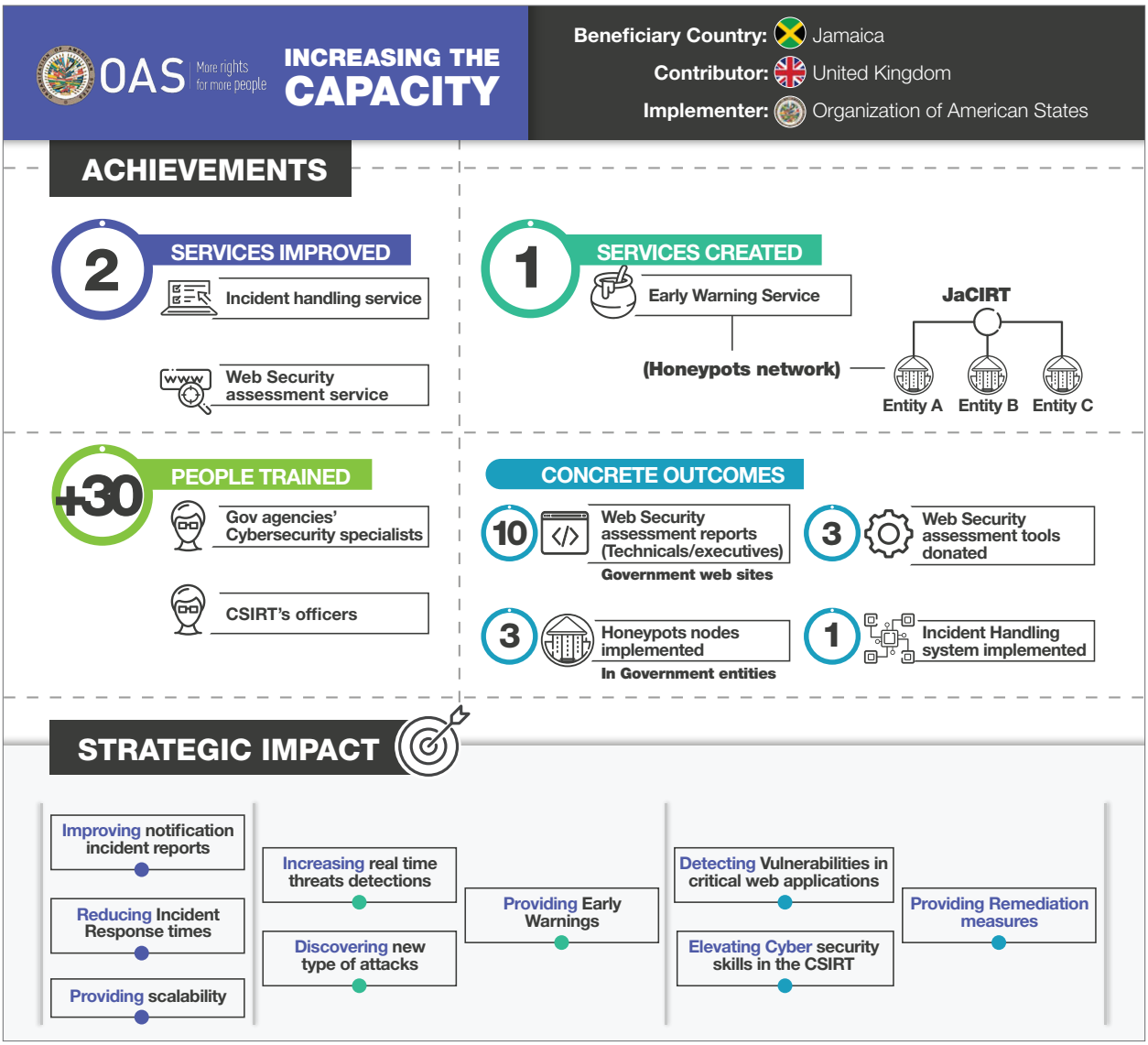
Project Objective: The project's purpose was achieved with the implementation and improvement of the following operational services in the National CSIRT of Jamaica:

1. An early warning system based on honeypot network deployed in 3 government agencies.
2. The cybersecurity assessment of web portals into JA-CIRT and other government agencies in the country.

Project duration: 2018 – 2020
Project budget: US$330,000

Achievements:

- Cybersecurity Incident ticketing system (NGEN) was installed and it is presently operational. This system has been integrated to the regional CIRTAmericas network, allowing the Jamaican CIRT (CIRT-JM) to automatically identify and respond to a greater number of incidents reported in the Americas.
- Two sensors to detect malicious traffic (Honeypots) implemented in the Jamaican Supreme Court, MSET, and a central node in the JA-CIRT one node is pending to be implemented in EGOV facilities.
- Technical staff and cybersecurity specialists from the three agencies were trained in Incident Manage Analysis, Ethical Hacking and Deception Strategies. A total of nine (9) staff members, 2 women and 7 men, were trained throughout the 2-year implementation of the project.
- Ten (10) web-evaluations in critical Jamaican government websites were made. packages were provided to the JA-CIRT to reinforce cybersecurity.



Virtual Workshop for the development of a National Cybersecurity Strategy (NCS)

Date: October 27, 2020

Participants: 25 participants – National Cybersecurity Working Group and International Experts

Objectives: To provide the national experts of Jamaica good practices on NCS review and development

Target audience: Stakeholders were drawn from several Government entities including Ministry of National Security and Defense Force.

Government and local partners (executors in the beneficiary country): Office of the Prime Minister

Results achieved: This virtual meeting produced concrete and tangible results as the working group was engaged and undertook to continue working on the draft NCS.

Next steps:

- Bi-weekly meeting with drafting team - OAS/GoJ
- Questionnaire to be sent and shared. Subsequently the results are being analyzed and recommendations are being made based on these results - OAS/GoJ
- View possibility of having a separate session with the Netherlands - OAS.

Inter American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

Mapping of Treatment and Prevention Institutions and Training Needs Assessment in the OAS Caribbean Member States

Objective: identify those organizations that could benefit from training, through the UPC and UTC, in drug use prevention and/or drug treatment. Additionally, to update the 2011 listing of regional organizations to facilitate an improvement in communications between organizations with similar goals and/or objectives.

Duration: 2020-2021
Budget: US$50,000
Achievements: Coordination meeting with members of Demand Reduction Caribbean Advisory Council to define strategy for mapping methodology and identify local points of contact in selected member states (completed) ; Data collection and handling (in progress).

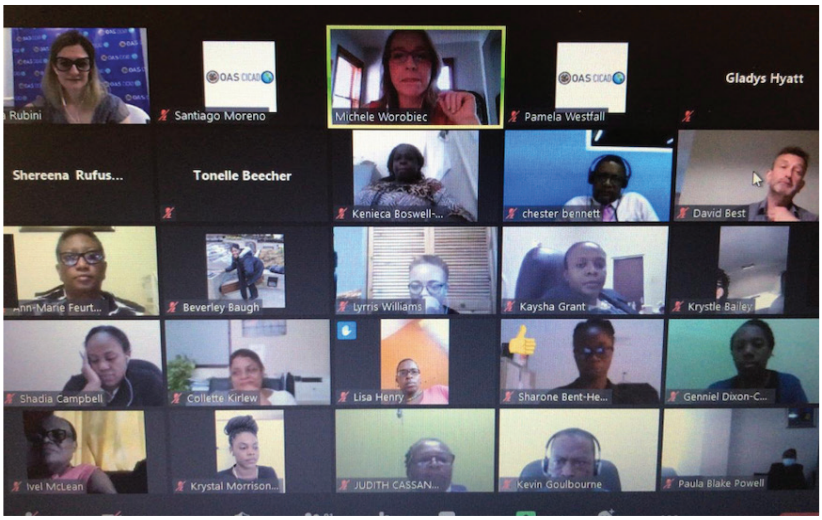
Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) -eighth evaluation round (2020-2025)
The MEM, mandated by the 1998 Summit of the Americas, is a peer review process – the only such multilateral evaluation tool in the world that measures the progress of actions taken by OAS member states to address the drug problem and related crimes.
During 2020, the Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG) of the MEM worked to have all the documents available with the parameters for the eighth evaluation round to be submitted for approval at the 68thregular session of CICAD at the end of 2020.

Caribbean Counterdrug Intelligence Training School

Objective: The Caribbean Counterdrug Intelligence Training School (CCITS) provides specialized training to counterdrug officers from the different agencies in charge of drug control in the Caribbean. In partnership with the School, and through a participatory approach based on strategic alliances with key counterparts and stakeholders, CICAD/SRU provides specialized training to OAS Caribbean member states, based on identified regional needs.
Duration: Aug. 10-14, 2020
Budget: US$25,000
Achievements: one training delivered in 2020; 12 drug officers participated in the online training; Regional Drug Investigations Course held from August 10 -14, 2020 through the CBSI-Connect virtual platform.

Precursor Chemical, Synthetic Drugs and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) Control.

Objective: Strengthen the capacity of drug investigators, forensic technicians, and counterdrug interdiction officers from Jamaica to counter the diversion of precursor chemicals that are being used to illicitly produce synthetic drugs, such as fentanyl and its analogues.
Budget: US$15,000
Achievements: Deliver one training for 30 drug officers from Jamaica from August 18-28, 2020: Online CCM Pilot Training (CCM2) for more than 70 participants from the judiciary, health, social system and civil society.



Online Case Care Management Pilot for Jamaica (August 18-28, 2020), including training on Problem Solving Courts (August 26- 27, 2020)

Objective

The Executive Secretariat of CICAD organized the online training as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The online training had the objective of meeting the expectations of the piloting and curriculum development as well as supporting Jamaican authorities to explore opportunities for implementing the Case Care Management System within the framework of Alternatives to Incarceration in the country.

In addition to the Case Care Management Training, as part of the online course, two sessions were dedicated to Problem-Solving Courts. Jamaican Judges have formally requested this course to address the linkages between substance abuse disorders and mental health through synergies with Case Care Management to improve the Alternative to Incarceration programs in the country.

Sessions

- Interactive exercise (Zoom poll and debrief with the participants) at Session 1 of the Case Care Management Training on August 18, 2020
- Group session of the training featuring trainers and participants at Session 3 of the Case Care Management training on August 20, 2020.

- Presentation of a case study followed by group discussion during Session 4 of the Case Care Management training on August 21, 2020.
- Judge Rogelio Flores, speaking at Session 1 of the Problem-Solving Courts series on August 26, 2020.
- Reporting out of one of the groups on the Action Plan Exercise during Session 7 of the Case Care Management training, August 282020
- Closing ceremony with final remarks by Mrs. Senior Puisne Judge Carol Lawrence-Beswick on August 28, 2020

Results
More than 90 participants were invited to attend the sessions, from a range of professional backgrounds including the judiciary, health sector, social services, the National Council on Drug Abuse and other professionals in the field of substance abuse and within civil society. Throughout the course, an average of 70 participants were actively engaged in the training and interactive group exercises, as well as in the group exercise for action planning on implementation of the Case Care Management System in their country. After the training, the ES-CICAD plans to follow up with Jamaica to touch base on their interest in the Technical Assistance toward the implementation of the Case Care Management system in the country.

Gender Project in the Criminal Justice System
Gender in the criminal justice system: exploring evidence-based alternatives to incarceration for drug-related offenses.

Objective: identify procedural and extra-procedural mechanisms as alternatives to incarceration, and the various options offered to women, men, and members of the LGBTI community when facing the criminal justice system for minor drug-related offenses, as well as analyzing whether these mechanisms present a gender bias.

Duration: 2020-2021

Achievements: In the five participating countries, including Jamaica, the planning phase has been concluded, achieving:

- An institutional and legal team to collect information in the courts.
- The methodology and operational route for the execution of the diagnostic study.
- The authorization of the courts to carry out the study.
- The awareness of judges, defenders and prosecutors of the courts assigned to the study, on the importance of incorporating the gender perspective in the justice system, and the application of alternatives to incarceration.

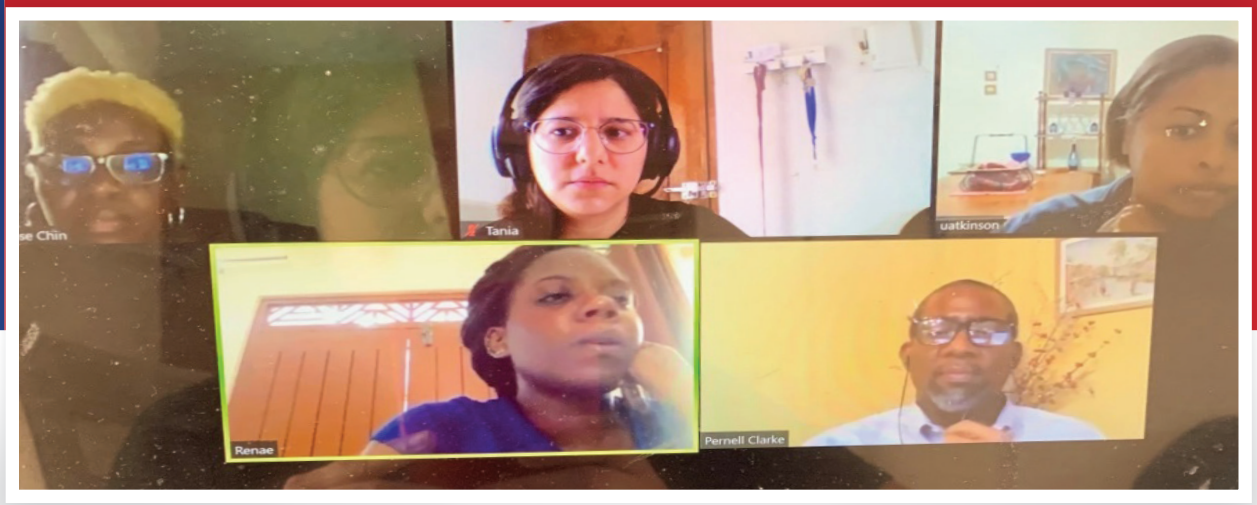
Executive meeting with Jamaican counterparts to follow up on projects on alternatives to incarceration with Institutional Strengthening Unit
Date: June 17, 2020 - Zoom meeting

Jamaica:

- Judge Carol Lawrence- Beisweick
- Judge Stephanie Haisley
- Judge Maxine Ellis
- Judge Chester Crocks
- Michael Tucker, Uki Atkinson, National Council for Drug Abuse

ES-CICAD:

- Antonio Lomba
- Elisa Rubini
- Luis Suarez
- Tania Gordillo
- Pernell Clarke



Coordination meeting for the beginning of data collection for the Diagnostic Study of the Gender Project in the Criminal Justice System

Date: September 16, 2020. Zoom meeting.

Jamaica:

- Uki Atkinson, National Council for Drug Abuse
- Renae Tuckett, on-site coordinator
- Denise Chin, on-site interviewer
- Dorothy Brown, on-site interviewer

ES-CICAD:

- Pernell Clarke
- Tania Gordillo

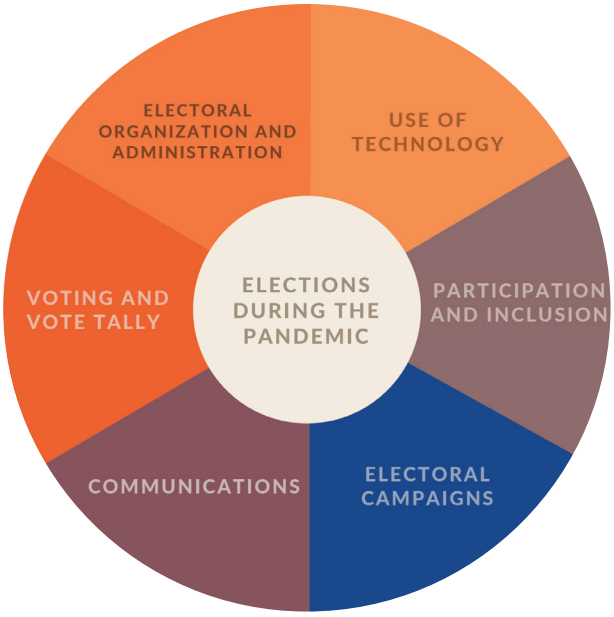
Democracy

Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy

Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO)

September 3, 2020 General Parliamentary Election in Jamaica

In keeping with the OAS' mandate to support member states in strengthening their democratic institutions, OAS/DECO began preliminary preparations to develop the OAS Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) to observe the September 2020 General Election in Jamaica, including mobilization of the necessary financial resources upon receipt of the invitation from the Electoral Commission of Jamaica on August 17, 2020 (dated August 13, 2020). The Jamaican Government's COVID-19 health protocol required that EOM members undertake a 14- day quarantine upon arrival in Jamaica. This would have required the EOM to arrive in Jamaica on August 19, 2020, two days after GS/OAS received the invitation. After continued discussions between the Electoral Commission of Jamaica, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica and the OAS Office in Jamaica, the Electoral Commission of Jamaica, on August 22, 2020 (by letter dated August 20, 2020), confirmed that it would not be possible to waive the 14-day quarantine for the EOM, thus making the deployment of an OAS EOM impossible for these elections.



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