



**MINISTRY OF
JUSTICE**
BALANCING RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL - MARCH
2022 - 2023



 <https://moj.gov.jm/>

 Ministry of Justice Jamaica

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HONOURABLE MINISTER'S MESSAGE



The Ministry's vision, **"To be the regional leader in facilitating effective access to justice for all"**, will guide the realisation of this Strategic Business Plan (Revised) for 2022/2023- 2025/2026.

Similar to other entities across Government during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Justice Ministry has re-imagined our operations to continue the delivery of quality and accessible justice services to all Jamaicans.

The services on which the Ministry prides itself are made possible by its dedicated staff and committed partners.

On the journey to realising a **First Class Justice System**, the Ministry will continue to place renewed focus on the use of technology to enhance our efficiency and effectiveness. The Judiciary will receive ongoing support to strengthen its capacity to efficiently administer justice and further reduce case backlog.

We will also expand the reach of alternative justice services including Restorative Justice (RJ), Child Diversion and Mediation. Additionally, we will continue to strengthen the capacity of our service providers through sensitisation sessions for Justices of the Peace and other stakeholders.

Further, the Ministry will increase the number of RJ centres across the island thereby increasing access to justice and reducing incidents of conflict. We will prioritise the upgrade and enhancement of our infrastructure with ongoing construction and renovations at our courts and other justice facilities.

The Justice Ministry remains committed to advancing the Government's agenda for a **safe, cohesive and just** Jamaica.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Delroy Chuck".

Hon. Delroy Chuck, QC, MP
Minister of Justice

PERMANENT SECRETARY'S MESSAGE



Notwithstanding the unprecedented challenges associated with the prevailing pandemic, the Ministry of Justice continues to stay the course in fulfilment of our mission to **"facilitate effective access to justice and deliver quality justice services to all"**.

We are achieving this through the commendable efforts of our dedicated staff across the island who epitomise the Ministry's core values- **Service,**

Professionalism, Integrity, Respect, Innovation and Teamwork (SPIRIT).

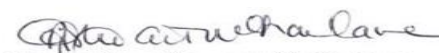
For the 2022/2023- 2025/2026 period, the Ministry intends to increase its investment in alternative justice services (AJS) as we provide more opportunities for Jamaicans to engage with the sector and resolve conflicts outside of the courts.

In tandem with our increased investment in AJS is the expansion of the role of one of the sector's key stakeholders, Justices of the Peace (JPs). The Ministry has embarked on a campaign to phase out the current JP seals and introduce new seals that will allow JPs to serve more citizens across Jamaica. Additionally, each JP will receive a dedicated email address that will foster greater communication with their constituents.

Also, on the Ministry's agenda for the period, is the establishment and renovation of our infrastructure including courts and justice centres to adequately respond to the growing need for access to justice.

Alongside these initiatives, we will pursue increased avenues to expand our engagement and opportunities for public education.

The Ministry remains resolute in its commitment to **take justice to the people of Jamaica**.


Grace Ann Stewart McFarlane
Permanent Secretary (Acting)
Ministry of Justice

FOREWORD

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is responsible for advancing, upholding and facilitating the Rule of Law in the delivery of justice. It administers and delivers justice services, as well as provides policy support and analysis on justice issues. The MOJ is mandated to ensure a balanced national legal framework, to provide an accessible, efficient and fair system of justice for all; to promote respect for rights and freedom, the Constitution and the Law and to promote an awareness of individual responsibilities and civil obligations.

In fulfilling its mandate, the Ministry has portfolio responsibility for the following Departments and Agencies:

- The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- The Attorney General's Chambers
- The Legal Aid Council
- The Administrator General's Department

Support is provided by the Ministry to the Council of Legal Education, which has responsibility for the Norman Manley Law School, through an annual grant consequent on the arrangement with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Government of Jamaica's (GOJ) obligations under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. The Dispute Resolution Foundation also receives a subvention from the Ministry of Justice to assist with delivering mediation services.

During the period under review, fiscal discipline was necessary as the country continues to recover from the global economic recession. The Ministry's budget was supportive of the targets established in the Fiscal Responsibility Framework (in the Financial Administration and Audit Act) that are geared towards the elimination of a public sector deficit, and the streamlining of expenditure and debt management. It is against this background that several policy priorities were identified and executed consistent with the Jamaica Justice System Reform Policy Agenda Framework (JJSRPAF) to facilitate the achievement of the Ministry's' mandate.

With the establishment of the Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs (MLCA) headed by The Honourable Marlene Malahoo Forte, KC, MP in January 2022, the jurisdiction of the MOJ was reduced as three (3) Departments were transferred from the Ministry of Justice to this new Ministry, namely the:

- Law Revision Secretariat;
- Legal Reform Department; and
- Office of the Parliamentary Counsel

The MLCA through the previously mentioned Departments will be giving focused attention to the Government's legislative agenda and its legal and constitutional reform aspirations. A major area of focus for the Ministry will be the reform of the Constitution to enable Jamaica to transition from a constitutional monarchy to a republic.

INTRODUCTION

BRIEF HISTORY, AIMS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) of Jamaica plays a crucial role in upholding the principles of justice, law and order within the nation. Established with the objective of safeguarding the rights and freedoms of Jamaican citizens, the Ministry has evolved over the years to meet the changing needs of the justice system.

Early Origins and Development

The origins of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) can be traced back to Jamaica's colonial era when the British Legal system was implemented. However, it was not until Jamaica gained independence in 1962 that the Ministry was formally established. Initially known as the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Department, its primary aim was to provide legal advice to the government and represent the State's interest in legal matters.

The MOJ is the lead administrator of justice in Jamaica and is headed by the Minister of Justice. Over the years, it has been paired and separated from the Ministry of National Security on several occasions. The MOJ was established as a single Ministry in 2001 following the last separation of the Ministry of National Security and Justice. While this enabled the formation of two separate Ministries, it allowed the MOJ to focus on delivering justice policy and services fairly and efficiently, and promote confidence in the rule of law.

VISION STATEMENT

To be the regional leader in facilitating effective access to justice for all.

MISSION OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

To deliver quality service and effective access to justice for all by establishing a robust GOJ legislative framework and the provision of Justice services through our first-class justice systems and partnerships

This mission is to be achieved through:

- Protecting the Constitutional Rights of citizens
- Maintaining the independence of the judiciary
- Reinforcing confidence in Legal Institutions
- Carrying out law reform to effect greater social justice
- Providing means of redress when people are abused by agents of the state
- Carrying out legal directives ordered by the Courts for the protection of society

The Ministry implements its strategies through:

Political Directorate:

Minister of Justice

The Honourable Delroy Chuck,
KC, MP

Attorney General

Dr Derrick McKoy, CD, JP.

Executive Management:

Permanent Secretary

Mrs. Grace-Ann McFarlane

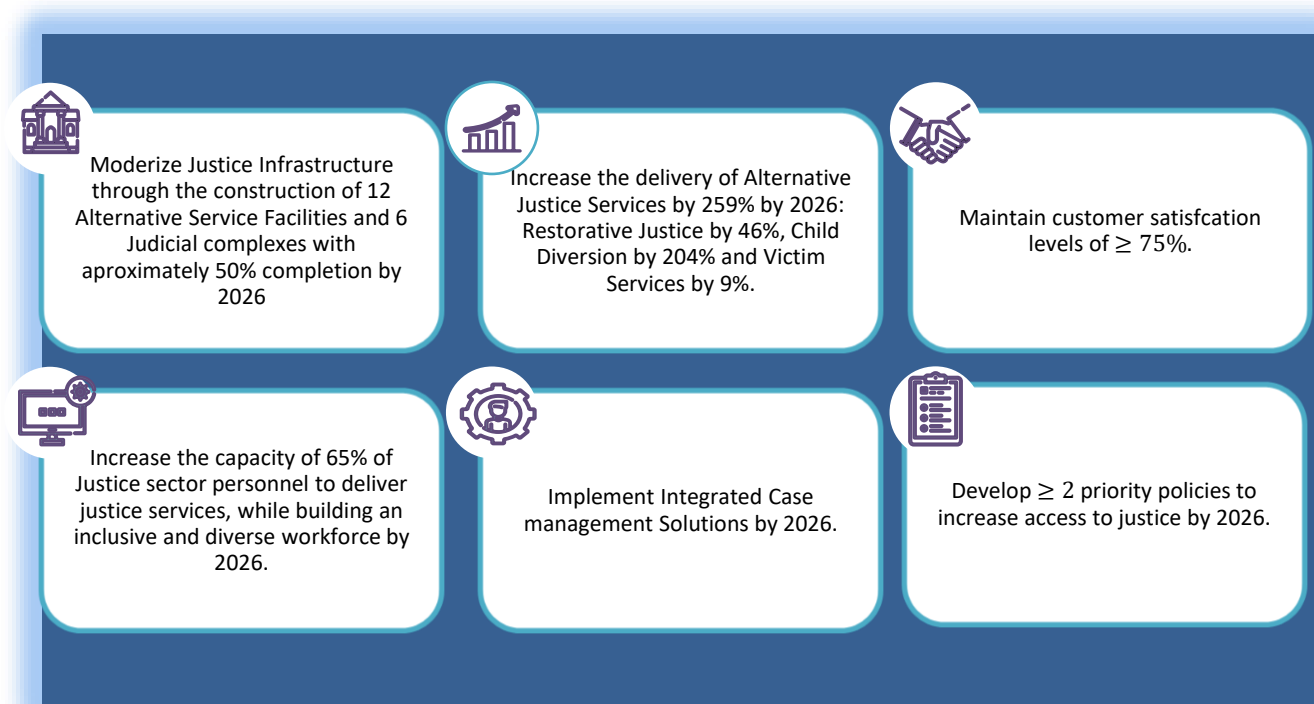
Ms. Kayla Sewell Mills

Chief Technical Director

CORE VALUES	
S	SERVICE
P	PROFESSIONALISM
I	INTEGRITY
R	RESPECT
I	INNOVATION
T	TEAMWORK

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
Ensuring Fair and Timely Case Resolution
Improving Access to Justice
Strengthening the Judiciary and its Workforce
Strengthening Linkages between Justice Sector
Establishing a Sound Court Infrastructure
Strengthening Public Trust and Confidence

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



PORTFOLIO AREAS

The Ministry of Justice fulfills its mandate through the execution of two Programmes: Executive Direction and Administration; and Facilitation of Access to Justice. The general planning and management of the Ministry of Justice is executed by the Executive Direction and Administration Programme, headed by the Permanent Secretary. The sub-programmes delivered under the Executive Direction and Administration are:

- Central Administration
 - Financial Management and Accounting Services
 - Corporate Services
 - Management and Information Systems
 - Public Relations and Communications
 - Human Resource Management
 - Procurement

- Documentation, Information and Access Services
 - Safety and Security Services
- Policy Planning and Development
 - Executive Office
 - Legislative Programme
 - Internal Audit
 - Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
 - Strategic Planning and Performance Management
 - Public Law Restorative and Preventative Justice Unit
 - Research Modernisation and Reform
 - Criminal Civil and Family law Unit

The Facilitation of Access to Justice Services Programme seeks to modernise and expand critical physical infrastructure, the delivery of a social component to justice, the provision of trained personnel, and accompanying administrative structures to improve justice service delivery. This is done through the following sub programmes:

- Justice System Reform and Modernisation
 - Project Management and Technical Services
- Social Justice Services
 - Restorative Justice (RJ) Programme
 - Child Diversion Programme
 - Victim Services Programme
 - Mediation Services (Pilot Programme)
- Legal Assistance
 - Legal Aid Council
- Justice Sector Professional Development
 - Justice Training Institute

Departments and Agencies

The Ministry of Justice also administer justice services to achieve its mandate through its Departments and Agencies. Indeed, work to efficiently administer and provide greater access to justice as part of an integrated justice system is carried out through three additional Programmes:

- Provision of Legal Advice and Representation to the Government
 - Attorney General's Chambers
- Litigation and Criminal Prosecution
 - Office of the Department of Public Prosecution (ODPP)
- Administration of Estates and Trusts
 - Administrator General's Department

The Ministry's programmes are planned and developed with great consideration of the Vision 2030 Jamaica - National Development Plan; Medium Term Economic Programme (MTEP); Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework and the Medium-term Results Based Budgeting for Jamaica.

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION SUMMARY 2022/2023

BAS 1: BUDGET ALLOCATION SUMMARY

<i>Head Name</i>	<i>Approved Vote 2022/2023 '000</i>	<i>Revised Budget 2022/2023 '000</i>
Ministry of Justice - Recurrent	2,743,834	3,086,756
Ministry of Justice - Capital C	95,000	146,500
Office of the DPP (Stats)	14,600	14,600
Office of the DPP (Recurrent)	502,121	723,452
Attorney General's Department	1,320,942	1,385,419
	4,676,497	5,356,727

SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS APRIL 2022 TO MARCH 2023

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

5604 Jamaicans benefitted from Restorative Practices / RJ Training
 32,297 persons benefitted from sensitisation in RJ
 2,541 Case Conferences Conducted, of which 79% resulted in signed agreements
 MOU signed with 14 church denominations to have members trained in RJ

LEGAL AID

2,309 persons provided with Duty Counsel
 2,301 Court Matters closed through legal representation provided to citizens
 151 communities were visited by the Legal Aid Bus
 79 Legal Aid Sensitisation Session

CHILD DIVERSION

252 Sensitisation Sessions held
 273 Children had Treatment Plans designed
 161 children successfully completed the Programme
 88% of children (follow-on) were serviced by the NCDP Service providers

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Preliminary work commenced for the construction of Regional Court Complexes in St. Catherine, Manchester and St. Ann

Preliminary work commenced for the construction of AJS Facilities in St. Thomas and Hanover

17 Justice Facilities provided with maintenance and refurbishing work

MARRIAGE LICENCES AND EXPUNGEMENT

8,038 Marriage Licences processed
 2,011 new expungement applications received of which, 1,203 were approved

VICTIMS SERVICES

5,717 new clients supported through counselling and emotional support
 7,027 follow up clients provided with emotional support
 13,303 counselling sessions facilitated
 304 promotional meetings held/attended

MEDIATION

558 persons benefitted from the MOJ Short Term Mediation Programme

JTI

26 Qualifying Trainings held for JPs, with 920 participants

1 Lay Magistrate Court training conducted with 47 participants

19 paralegal course sessions delivered benefiting 39 participants

1 Customized training for Justice Sector personnel conducted with 13 participants

SO JUST

The So Just Project, which has a budget of \$ 1.3 Billion JMD was launched in the FY to increase access to justice across communities. The project is to be implemented from 2023-2030

SOCIAL JUSTICE SERVICES

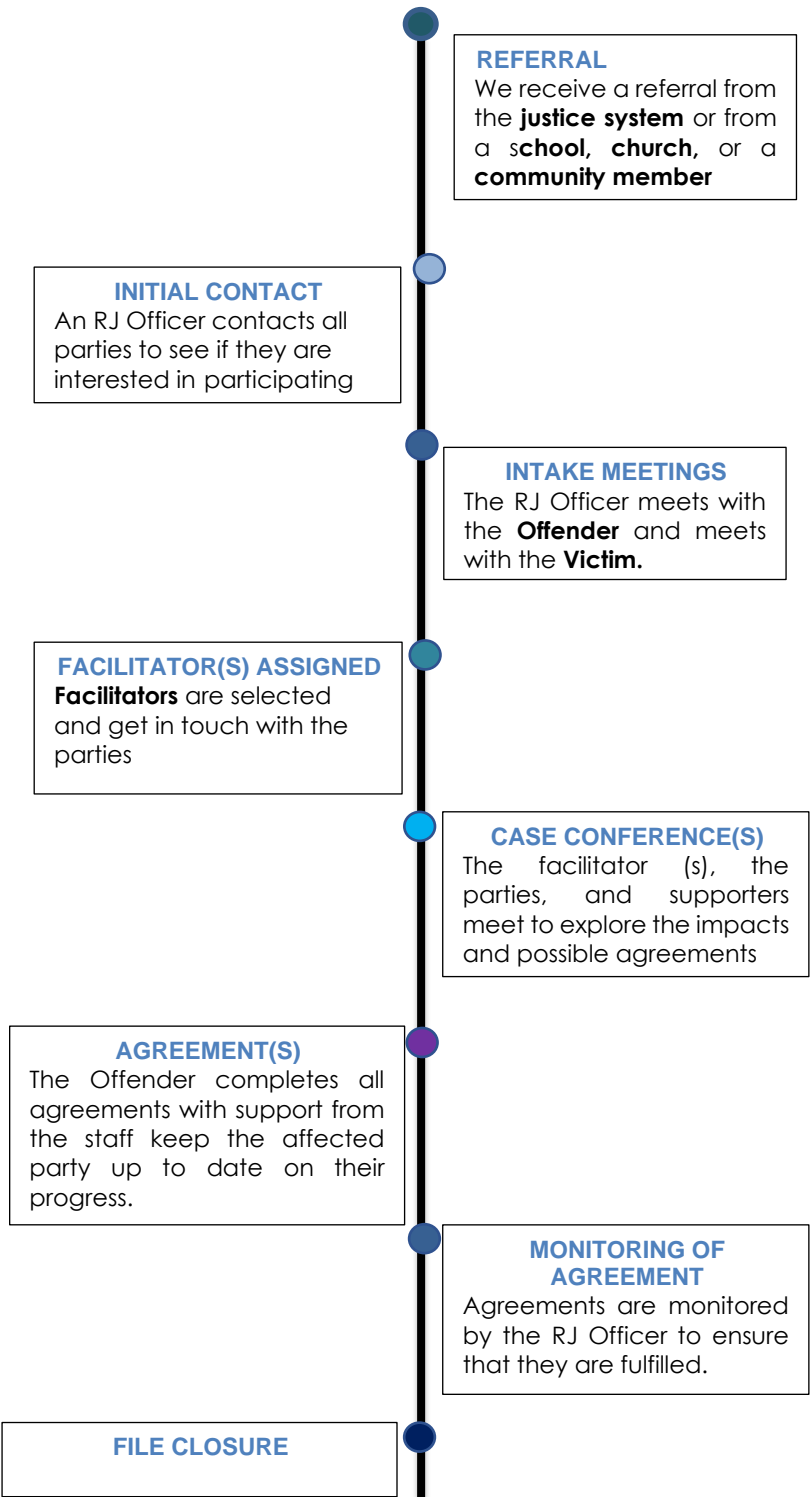
Over the year, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) continued to implement a social component to the delivery of justice, to increase access to justice consistent with the Jamaican Justice System Reform Task Force Report (JJSRTFR). Initiatives and actions focused explicitly on alternative approaches to resolving disputes and alternative justice services. The MOJ continued to capitalise on the social value of justice by delivering a range of programmes, which includes diversionary and restorative practice approaches and provision of psychosocial support to victims of crime, as they move through the criminal justice process.

The Ministry intends for conflict resolution through the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (ADRM), and Alternative Justice Services (AJSs), specifically the Restorative Justice and their principles to be second nature to our Justice System, to assist in preventing crime by early intervention, promoting community engagement and positive relations.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMME (RJ)

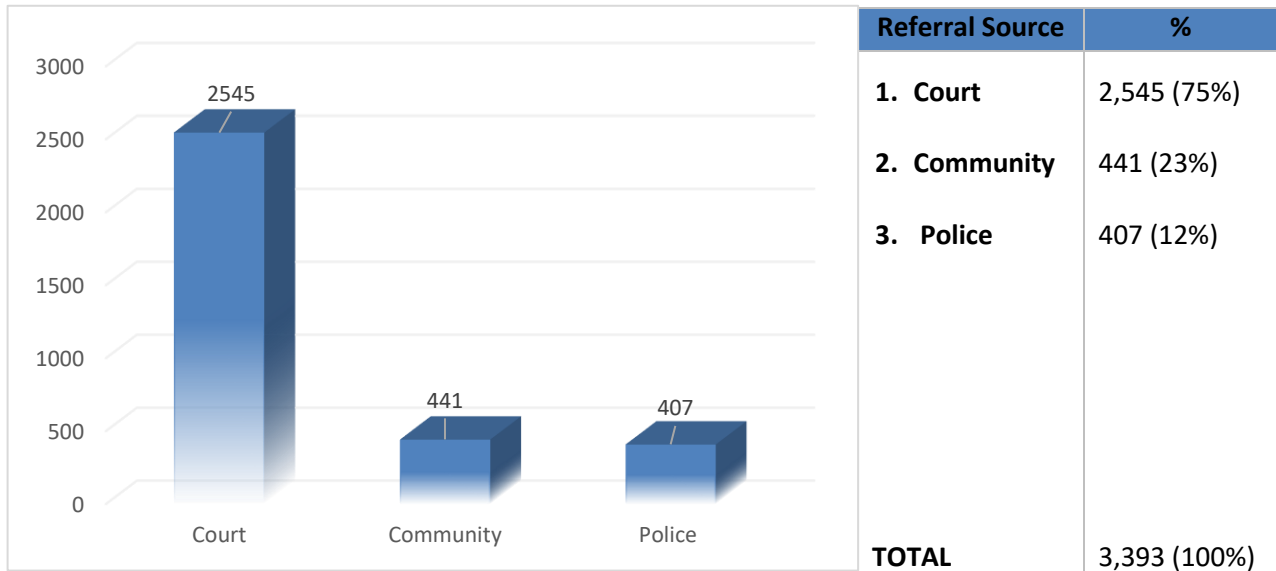
Over the 2022/2023 Fiscal Year, the Ministry of Justice continued to expand and implement the Restorative Justice Programme across Jamaica. Currently, RJ services are provided in fourteen (14) parishes across the island, represented by twenty (20) service points which include nine (9) standalone Restorative Justice Centres and eleven (11) Parish Justice Centres. Restorative justice is at all times voluntary for participants, and a great deal of screening and preparation goes into each case. The Programme accepts referrals for minor offences from the Criminal Justice System, i.e. the Courts or the Police, as well as referrals for matters not involved with the justice system but made by the community, or clients themselves at no cost to clients.

This is an outline of the main steps that RJ process often takes.



During the FY 2022/23, 3,393 cases were referred to the RJ Programme. Of the total, 75 percent of these cases were referred by the Courts; followed by 23 percent coming from communities; and 12% being referred by the Police.

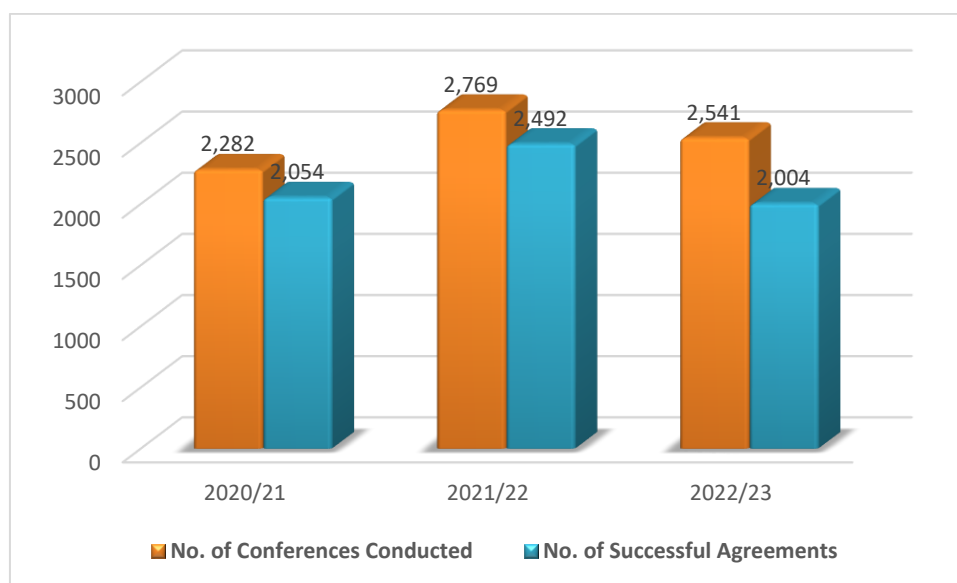
FIGURE 1: REFERRAL SOURCES



Conferences and Agreements

At the end of the 22/23 FY, 2, 541 case conferences were conducted of which 2,004 resulted in signed agreements, a success rate of 79%. A gender breakdown of parties at the case conferences showed a roughly equal proportion of males, 5,079 (50%) and females, 5,019 (50%).

Over the last three years the average success rate for the RJ Programme is 86%, when it comes to the question of peaceful resolution of matters referred to the programme. For the 20/21 FY, 2,282 conferences were conducted and 2,054 (90%) resulted in signed agreements; and for the 21/22 FY, 2,769 conferences were conducted of which 2,492 (90%) resulted in signed agreements.

FIGURE 2: CASE CONFERENCES OVER AGREEMENTS, 2020/21 - 2022/23

Notwithstanding the 79 per cent success rate produced over the year, most of the remaining case conferences resulted in partial agreements and so returned to the referral source. The RJ programme has several benefits to victims of crime and participants overall. Indeed, the Programme boasts a high satisfaction rate. Over the fiscal year 2020/21 and 2021/22 there was an average satisfaction rate of 92 per cent, as parties rated their experience using RJ before and after case conferences. The analysis of the client satisfaction surveys for 2022/23 is currently underway.

Restorative Practices/Restorative Justice Training

During the reporting year, 237 RP training sessions were done; this represents a 717% increase over the previous fiscal year. These training sessions in particular focused on approaches to build and strengthen relationships to prevent crime, while at the same time building social capital. A total of 5,604 persons benefited from training in restorative practices, surpassing the year's target (1,200) by 367 per cent. This notable increase in beneficiaries is consistent with the Ministry's approach to addressing social problems, and responding to harm it causes through proven dispute resolution methods. Of the total number of beneficiaries, 2,156 (38%) were males and 3,448 (62%) were females.

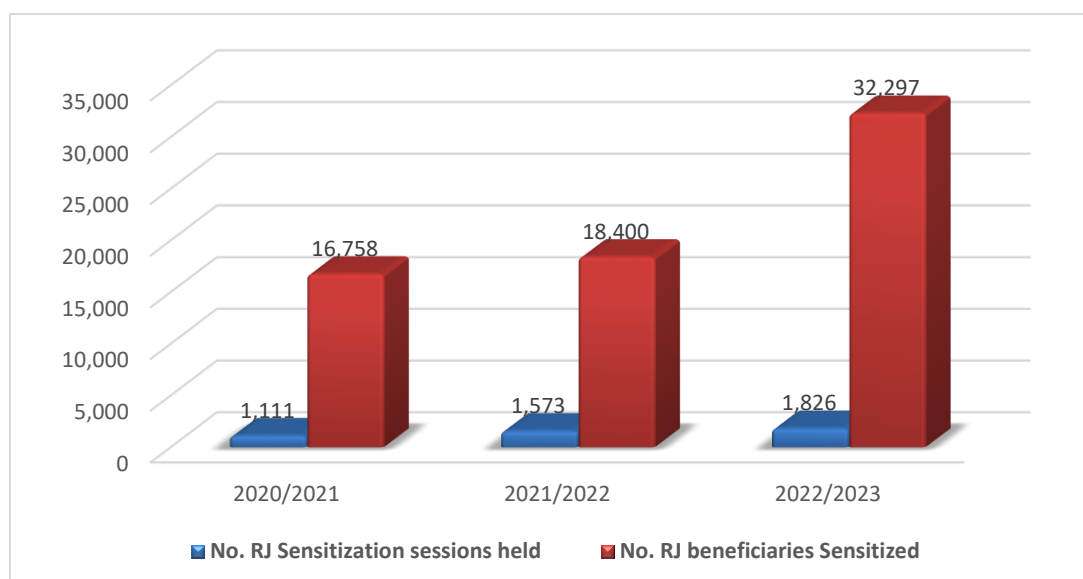
SJS 1: RP/RJ TRAININGS CONDUCTED OVER PAST THREE YEARS

	Year		
	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Number of RP/RJ training sessions conducted	33	29	237

Restorative Justice Sensitizations

In order to increase public awareness of the RJ programme, by the end of the 2022/2023 FY, 1,826 RJ Sensitization Sessions were conducted with a total of 32,297 beneficiaries sensitized. The Ministry surpassed the year's targets for the number of sensitizations (1,260) by 45% and beneficiaries (15,120) by 114%. In terms of a gender breakdown of beneficiaries, 60 per cent were females (19,402) and 40 per cent males (12,895).

On aggregate over the past three years 4,510 RJ sensitization sessions were done which impacted 67,455 beneficiaries.

FIGURE 3: RJ SENSITAZIONS AND BENEFICIARIES, 2020/21-2022/23

Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) Signed and Implemented

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with the Ministry of Education and Youth to expand Restorative Practices training in schools to prevent and reduce conflicts. This inclusive approach to relationship building, fosters respecting the voice of others and the collective responsibility of the group for the wellbeing of all members of the school community. Over one hundred and eighty (180) schools island wide have participated so far in the trainings, which have benefited over 3,500 students.

The Ministry also partnered with Churches island-wide over the year through a MOU to facilitate training of the church fraternity in restorative practices, as part of the thrust to increase access to justice via resolution of conflicts via peaceful means. Approximately 10 churches participated in the training sessions held up to the close of the fiscal year under this agreement, while plans are afoot to undertake more training interventions in the 2023 / 24 fiscal year.

As the Ministry continues to invest in this approach to deliver better outcomes for the public, we are working to embed restorative practices in our culture, for the development and maintenance of healthy relationships, which are critical for improved social outcomes.

SJS 2: RJ ACTIVITIES BY SERVICE DELIVERY POINTS, 2022/23

Centre	Referrals	Conferences	Agreements Reached	Sensitizations Sessions/Fairs/Pub Ed, etc.	Number of RP Workshop	People trained in RP
Denham Town	109	86	67	62	22	323
St. Thomas	113	89	76	187	11	194
August Town	112	115	68	55	12	314
May Pen	351	279	254	40	14	406

St. Andrew	143	101	82	81	10	156
Trench Town	86	63	44	75	13	246
St. James	228	222	113	131	18	341
St. Elizabeth	195	154	129	57	8	240
St. Mary	154	123	98	80	8	220
St. Ann	319	271	194	93	10	304
Portland	249	205	184	78	9	264
Manchester	379	103	76	92	13	392
Tivoli	136	142	150	86	17	249
Spanish Town	195	132	94	85	13	370
Westmoreland	126	92	92	68	11	342
Tower Hill	144	130	117	50	11	246
Trelawny	67	45	30	52	4	110
Hanover	100	68	52	231	13	273
Pembroke Hall	113	74	60	120	8	251
Greenwich Town	74	47	24	103	12	363
Total	3393	2541	2004	1826	237	5604

NATIONAL CHILD DIVERSION PROGRAMME (NCDP)

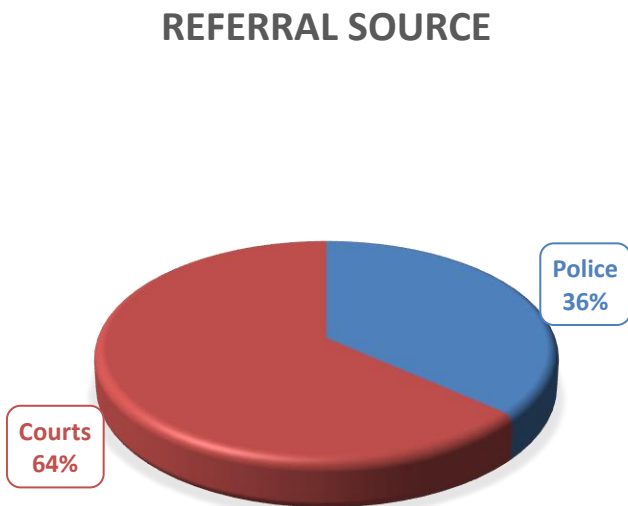
During the 2022/2023 FY the National Child Diversion Programme continued to provide services to children in conflict with the law, redirecting them from the formal justice system in order to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society. The Programme enables the treatment of children not as criminals, but as children who require help and support to enable them to realise their potential to grow into productive members of society. Work continued to address offending, through interventions targeting the root causes of their behaviour, in order to prevent further offending.

The interventions under the NCDP contribute positively to a child's development, targeting both reducing risk factors, as well as strengthening the protective factors for crime prevention. Therapeutic interventions delivered under the NCDP include:

- Vocational skills training
- Life skills programme
- Mentoring programme to support children
- Individual Counselling
- Substance Misuse/Drug Treatment
- Empowerment Sessions

These interventions were delivered through service providers contracted by the Ministry based on diversion plans underpinned by the principles of risk, need and responsivity. The MOJ coordinates these services and conducts case management activities.

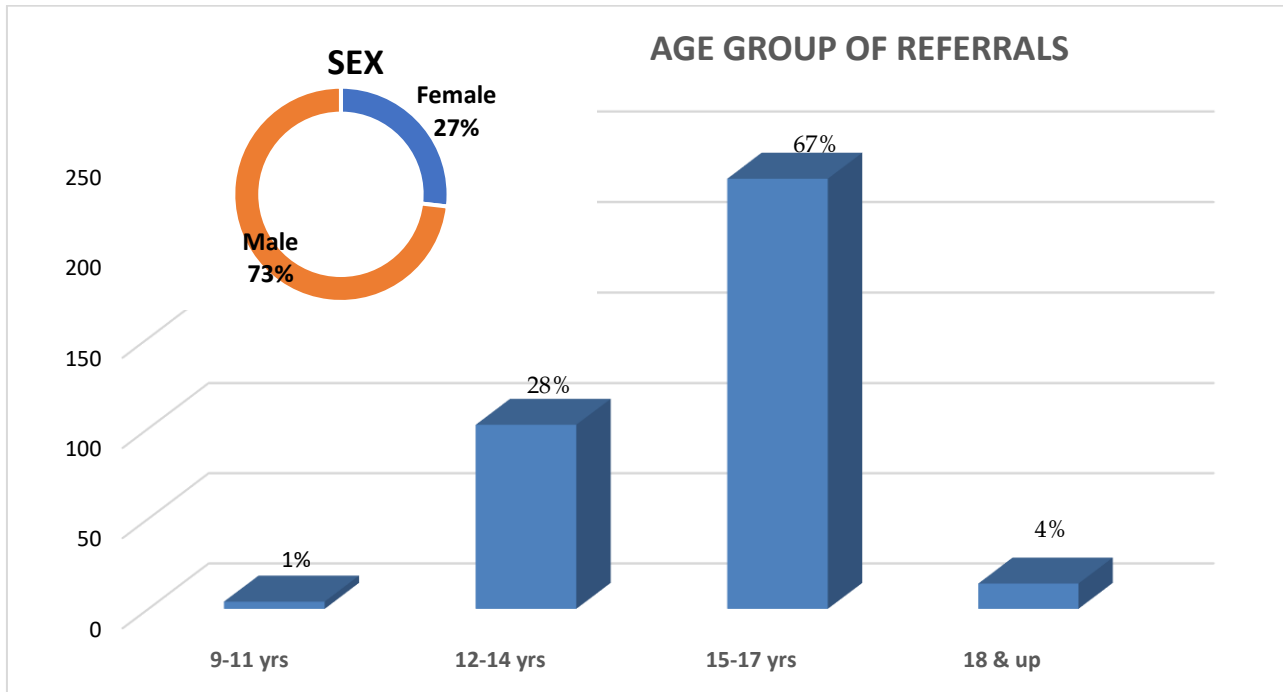
FIGURE 4: REFERRAL SOURCES



Over the year 2022/23, the Programme received 362 new referrals: 64% from the Courts, and 36% from the Police.

Of the 362 new referrals to the Programme, children of age group 15 to 17 years were the most prevalent in the programme, accounting for 67%. The age group 12 to 14 years, 18 years and up and 9 to 11 years accounted for 28%, 4%; and 1% respectively.

Of the 362 persons referred to the programme males accounted for 73% whilst females comprised 27% of total referrals.

FIGURE 5: SEX AND AGE GRUP OF REFERRALS

Reflecting on the past year in delivering the NCDP, significant work was undertaken to increase the number of successful outcomes for children to not only benefit them, but their families, communities, and the justice system. Over the reporting period, 83 % of medium to high risk children referred to the NCDP were assigned a mentor. This was a 3 per cent increase over the annual target of 80% and a 2.5% increase over the 2021/2022 achievement. The mentoring aspect of the NCDP helps to support a child's positive development in order to reduce the of negative influences from the wider community.

During the year, the Ministry continued efforts to sensitize first responders which include police officers, probation officers, social workers, Justices of the Peace, teachers, Pastors and community members about the NCDP so as to increase referrals to the programme. Additionally, the sensitisation sessions also sought

to increase public awareness about the programme and its importance for treating children in conflict with the law, not as criminals, but as children in need of assistance to allow them to develop into productive members of society. For the reporting period, 252 sensitization sessions were conducted. This represents a 50% reduction over the targeted 504 sessions slated to be held during the fiscal year.

In the implementation of the NCDP, the Parish Child Diversion Committees (PCDC) are responsible for the development of individualized diversion/treatment plans for children in conflict with the law who are referred to the Programme, as well as the monitoring of these diversion plans that utilize appropriate services. As such, 104 meetings of the PCDC were targeted to be conducted over the reporting period. However, 79% (82) of these meetings were held to sign-off on diversion/treatment plans. Although this represents a 21% reduction in the target for the year, it also reflects a 27% increase in the number of meetings held over the previous year.

It is also very important to highlight that notwithstanding the foregoing, treatment plans were developed for approximately 99% of the children referred to the programme for whom intake assessments were completed, reflecting a 29% increase over a target of 70%. In fact, over the last three years, there has been consistent improvement in the number of treatment/diversion plans created with the appropriate methods for treating children referred to the programme.

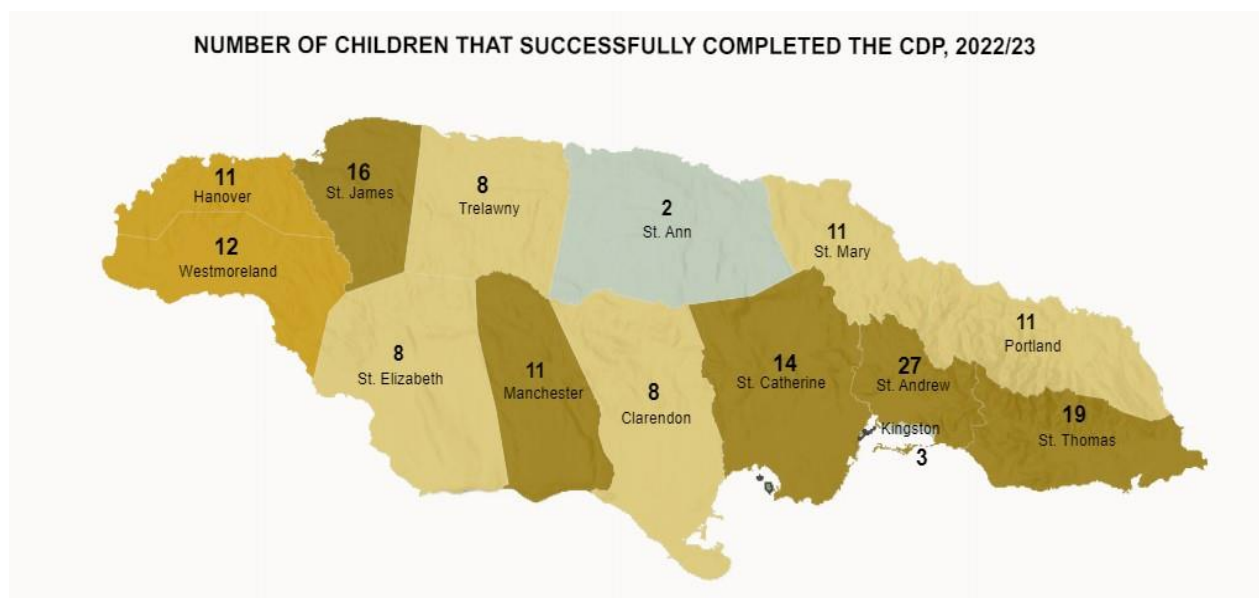
SJS 3: INTAKE ASSESSMENTS VS TREATMENT PLANS CREATED, 2022/23

Year	Number of Treatment Plans Created	Number of Intake Assessments Completed	Percentage
2020/21	209	295	71%
2021/22	296	305	97%
2022/23	273	275	99%

For children (new) in conflict with the law being serviced by the NCDP service providers during the year, this indicator saw a 26% reduction over the planned target of 70% for the year. Overall, only 44 per cent of these children were serviced. Notwithstanding a reduction over the planned target, there was a 7% improvement over the previous year. Of note is the fact that of the number of children (follow-on) in conflict with the law serviced by the NCDP service providers, approximately 88 percent received treatment interventions. This was a 13 per cent increase over the years' targeted 75 per cent.

It is important to note that there were several operational challenges that the Programme encountered which negatively affected several of the stated targets. These challenges are now being addressed by planning and effective communication with all members and service providers of the Programme.

At the end of the 2022/2023 FY, 161 children successfully completed the Child Diversion Programme, marked by completion of their treatment plans. Of that number, 143 entered the programme in the previous financial year, while the remaining 18 were referred during the reporting period. St. Andrew and St. James had the most children who completed their treatment plan over the year.



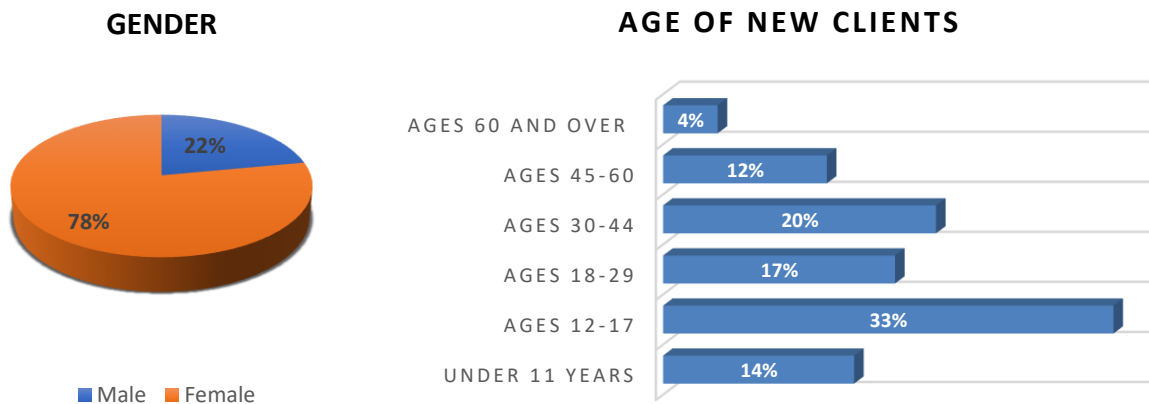
In general, children who successfully completed the programme left with an understanding of the impact of their choices and avoided permanent and negative outcomes related to the Criminal Justice System, including stigma and having a criminal record. Therefore, the Ministry plans to continue to strengthen and expand the NCDP, which has proved to be effective in addressing offending and other social pathologies, rather than putting children in conflict with the law in lockups.

VICTIM SUPPORT PROGRAMME (VSP)

The Ministry through the Victim Services Branch (VSB) continues to provide victim services through a network of fully-staffed Parish Offices supported by volunteers. Over the 2022/2023 FY, help was provided to victims of crime and the necessary support as required to move through the criminal justice process. As the Ministry focused on improving access to justice over the reporting period, focus was also placed on improving the experience of victims.

The Victim Services Branch (VSB) provided counselling assistance to 5,717 new clients (2,680 children; 3,037 adults) and also provided assistance to 7,027 follow-up clients with the majority of new clients being females (78%). A further breakdown of gender across new clients served showed that for adult clients served, 75% (2,279) were females and 25% (758) males; while for children clients served, 81% (2,165) were females and 19% (515) males. For the year, the VSB facilitated thirteen thousand three hundred and three (13,303) counselling sessions with victims of crime, which is a 31.5% increase over the Branch's target of 10,120 for the year.

FIGURE 6: GENDER AND AGE BREAKDOWN OF NEW CLIENTS



Over the past three years, the VSB has provided counselling services to 17,228 new victims of crime and 22,249 follow-up clients. For the period, the Branch has conducted approximately 41,291 counselling sessions.

In response to the COVID 19 pandemic, the VSB expanded its service offerings to include e-counselling as a means of reaching more victims, and victims of specific target groups. This mechanism has continued and since its inception has been utilised to serve over 16,000 clients.

SJS 4: VSB CLIENTS AND COUNSELLING SESSIONS, 2020/21-2022/23

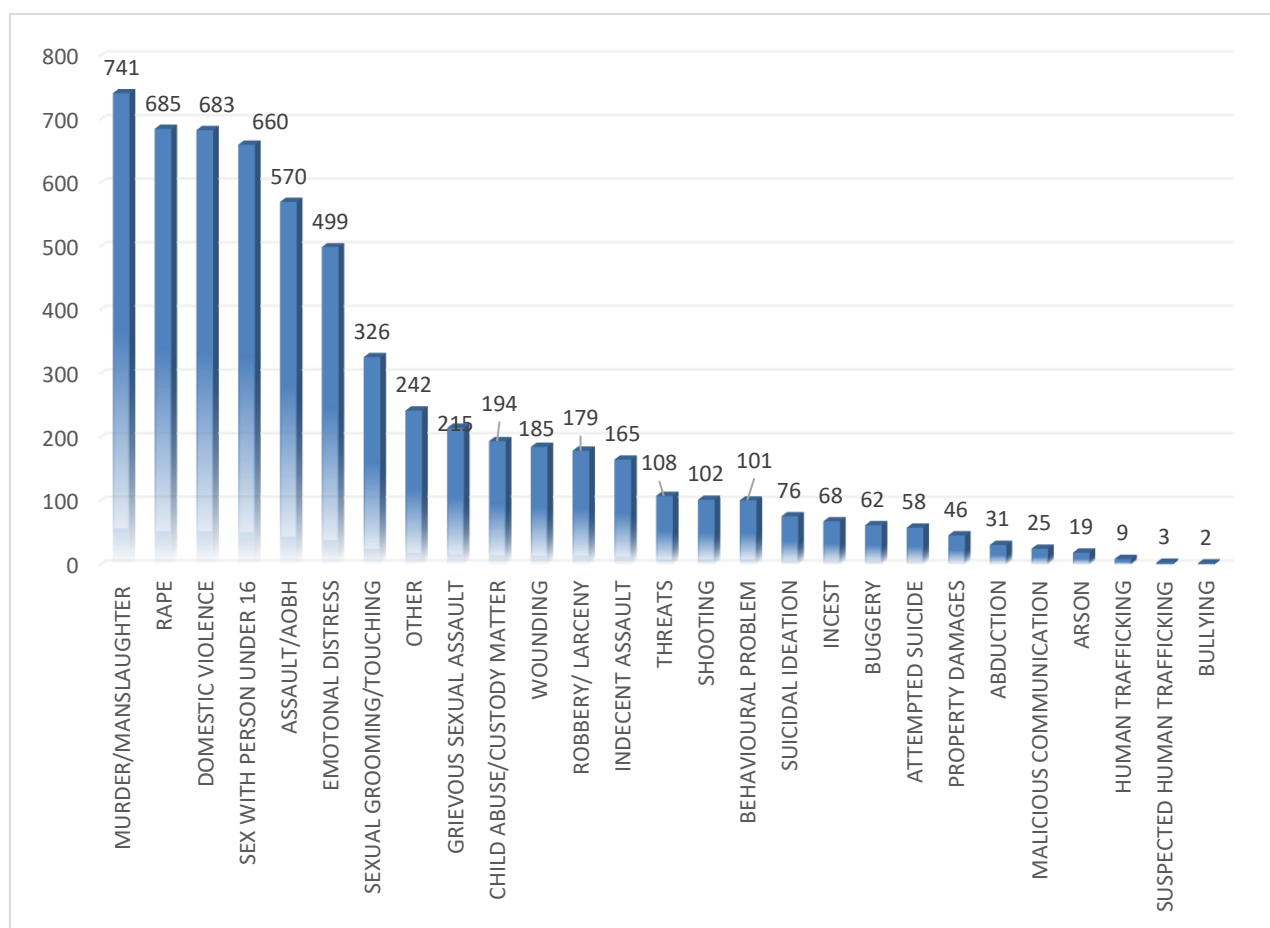
Service	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	TOTAL
New Clients Provided with Counselling	5,579	5,932	5,717	17,228
Follow Up Clients	7,860	7,360	7,029	22,249
Counselling Sessions	13,492	14,496	13,303	41,291
E Counselling Sessions		9,786	6,405	16,191

Additionally, over the reporting period, 100% of court support requests were addressed within 3 working days of receipt. This involves providing support to victims of crime to understand and participate in relevant court and justice processes. This includes, approximately 913 children who were provided with necessary court orientation and accompaniment services; and 219 adult victims, who were also provided with the necessary support throughout the court process.

Throughout the fiscal year the VSB continued engagement and communication to improve awareness of the availability and scope of its services. As such the Branch participated in approximately three hundred and four (304) promotional sessions with an approximate reach of 15,055 attendees.

The Victim Services programme statistics also showed that over the year, the Branch's clientele were often victims of serious offences/ major crimes (Murder, Rape, Assault/AOBH¹), and Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse. In total, 5,717 victims were supported across 6,054* offences/incident type.

¹ Assault Occasioning Bodily Harm

FIGURE 7: INCIDENT TYPE BY NEW VICTIMS SUPPORTED

* Several victims were supported across more than one offence category

SHORT-TERM MEDIATION PROGRAMME

During the year, the Ministry continued to partner with the Dispute Resolution Foundation to deliver its short-term mediation programme launched in the Parish Courts on December 1, 2021, to facilitate greater access to justice by the public, and support the Judiciary in its drive to improve court clearance rates. Over the 2022/2023 Fiscal Year, over 500 cases were referred by the parish courts to be dealt with by mediation.

A snapshot performance evaluation was conducted to examine the efficiency of the Programme, which presented results that were encouraging.

Based on a representative sample of cases assessed from mediation services delivered under this Programme between January and September 2022, there are several key findings that were emphasized in respect of the positive impact of this investment so far on the justice system. For the cases assessed, it was found that:

1. 29% of the cases were completed on the same day;
2. there was an average of 16 working days from date of referral to completion;
3. 87% of the cases were completed by the next court return date and
4. 75% of cases were fully or partially resolved; 14% unresolved and 8% pending.

The Ministry intends to use the results garnered through further research initiatives to assist with the continued rollout and expansion of service.

SOCIAL JUSTICE (SO JUST) PROJECT LAUNCH

A new Social Justice (So-JUST) Project, funded by Canada was launched in the fiscal year. The project has a budget of Can\$12million, and will be implemented from 2023 to 2030 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The So-JUST Project will seek to strengthen and promote a rights-based and gender-sensitive justice system to achieve equitable outcomes for all Jamaicans. Specific focus will be placed on strengthening the rights and access to justice for women, girls, people with disabilities and residents of rural and vulnerable communities. Planned events include expanding alternative justice services, enhancing witness care, improving child justice coordination mechanism and services, and legal aid programmes. Other features of the Project will focus on enhancing partnerships with civil society groups that serve disadvantaged groups. The project will also assist in modernising the records management systems utilised by the island's courts.

MOJ, UNDP and Global Affairs Canada launch So-JUST Project



Distinguished guests seated at the Head Table at the So-JUST Launch. From left: Minister of Justice, Hon. Delroy Chuck; Minister of International Development of Canada, Hon. Harjit Sajjan; Chief Justice of Jamaica, Hon. Mr Justice Bryan Sykes; High Commissioner of Canada to Jamaica, H.E. Emina Tudakovic; and Resident Representative United Nations Development Programme, Ms Denise Antonio.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Legal Services Unit (LSU) facilitates the Ministry's Legislation Programme by researching, guiding and advising on policies that inform the development of the law. Consequently, the LSU conducts research, provides information, makes recommendations and engages in programmes relating to law reform.

During the 2022/2023 fiscal year, several pieces of legislation were drafted, placed before the Cabinet, and passed and amended. These include, *inter alia*:

1. Amendment to the Legal Aid Act

An Act to validate and confirm as lawful the payment of fees in variance of the fees prescribed under section 24 of the legal aid act and provide for indemnification in respect of such payments. Drafting instructions were prepared and a revised draft Bill received. Additional comments received from the Legal Aid Council.

2. Amendment to Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act

To amend various pieces of legislation to broaden the rules regarding joinder of offences and the removal of the jurisdictional restrictions of courts and other matters. A draft Cabinet Submission will be finalised to support the proposed amendments.

3. Mediation Bill

To enact legislation to ratify the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation ("the Singapore Convention on Mediation"), and to create a legislative framework for greater use of domestic mediation. Cabinet has approved the drafting Instructions being sent to the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (OPC).

4. Amendment to the Maintenance Act

An act to centre obligations on spouses to maintain each other, on parents to maintain their children and on persons to maintain their parents and grandparents, and for connected purposes. Awaiting comments from the OPC on the draft Cabinet Submission.

APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE AND NOTARIES PUBLIC

A Justice of the Peace (JP) in Jamaica is a person who has been appointed by the Governor General to perform certain civic and legal functions in the community. JPs are volunteers who are not paid for their services and have an important role in upholding the rule of law and ensuring the rights of citizens are protected across communities.

JPs have a variety of legal functions, including but not limited to:

- Attesting and authenticating documents
- Perform Judicial functions in the Parish Courts (Lay Magistrates)
- Attend the Children's and Drug Court
- Attend prisons, lock-ups, Homes for the Aged and Children
- Serve on the Licensing Authority for applicable Spirit Licences
- Give counsel and advice

During the reporting period, work continued to expand access to JP services across communities. Indeed, the year 2022/2023 saw a total of 829 new Justices of the Peace being commissioned across eleven parishes. The gender breakdown showed 374 males and 455 females.

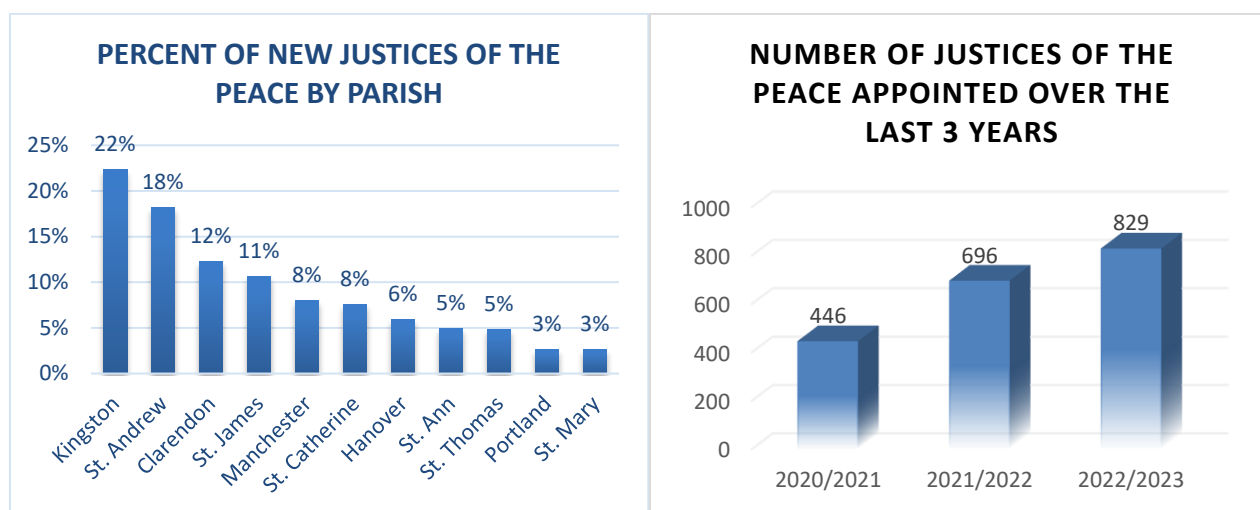
APJP 1: NUMBER OF JPS APPOINTED DURING FISCAL YEAR 2022/23

Month	Parish	Number Appointed	Male	Female
April 2022	Kingston	18	5	13
	St. James	45	15	30
July	St. Thomas	40	19	21
September	Portland	22	12	10
	St. Mary	22	10	12
	Hanover	49	18	31
	Manchester	49	23	26
October	Clarendon	37	19	18

	St. Andrew	151	62	89
November	St. Catherine	63	33	30
December	St. James	43	16	27
	St. Ann	41	13	28
March 2023	Clarendon	65	27	38
	Kingston	167	91	76
	Manchester	17	11	6
Total		829	374	455

For the year, the top three (3) parishes that had the highest total number of JPs appointed were Kingston, St. Andrew and Clarendon with 22%, 18% and 12% respectively. Importantly, these are urban spaces.

Over the past three years 1,971 JPs were appointed to serve across the island. A year on year comparison shows a 56% increase in appointment between 2020/21 and 2021/22, and a 19% increase in appointment of JPS over 2021/22 and 2022/23. The Ministry's thrust for the appointment of more JPs is consistent with its strategic intent to provide a multi-option justice system that provides timely justice outcomes, through early resolution of disputes; and protection of human rights, contributing to peace, safety and security within the Jamaican society. The intent is also to expand the pool of JPs available to perform quasi-judicial functions, which include serving in the Lay Magistrates, Drugs or Children's Court.

FIGURE 8: PERCENT OF NEW JPS BY PARISH & NUMBERS APPOINTED OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS

During the reporting period Six (6) targeted online sensitizations sessions were conducted for Justices of the Peace to highlight various issues and improvements across the justice system and wider government, while at the same time strengthening their capacity to serve communities effectively. These sessions impacted an approximate 4,115 Justices of the Peace and covered areas such as: The Molly Drug; Role and Functions of the Public Defender; Child Abuse; Crime and Violence; and the Digital Currency JAM-DEX and LYNK.

A Notary Public in Jamaica is a public officer authorized to perform certain legal functions, such as: attesting to the authenticity of signatures; Notarizing documents; taking affidavits; and protesting bills of exchange. Notaries Public in Jamaica are appointed by the Governor General. As a custom, Notaries Public are normally attorneys-at-law with at least 10 years of experience. They are required to maintain a register of all documents that they notarize.

The services of a Notary Public are often required in connection with international transactions. For example, a Notary Public can be used to authenticate the signatures on a power of attorney or a contract that is being executed in Jamaica but will be used in another country. During the fiscal year 2022/2023 eight (8) Notaries Public were appointed.

MINISTER'S (MARRIAGE) LICENCES AND EXPUNGEMENT

MINISTER'S MARRIAGE LICENCES

A Minister's Licence is one of four (4) methods used to facilitate marriage in Jamaica. A Minister's Licence authorises a Marriage Officer to perform a marriage ceremony². This license is issued by the Minister of Justice on the basis of a declaration by a third party in the presence of a Justice of the Peace. The licence requires a stamp duty of four thousand Jamaican dollars (\$4,000). Over the Past three years, the Ministry processed approximately, 19, 818 Minister's (Marriage) Licenses.

MLE 1: TOTAL MARRIAGE LICENCE PROCESSED, 2020/21-2022/23

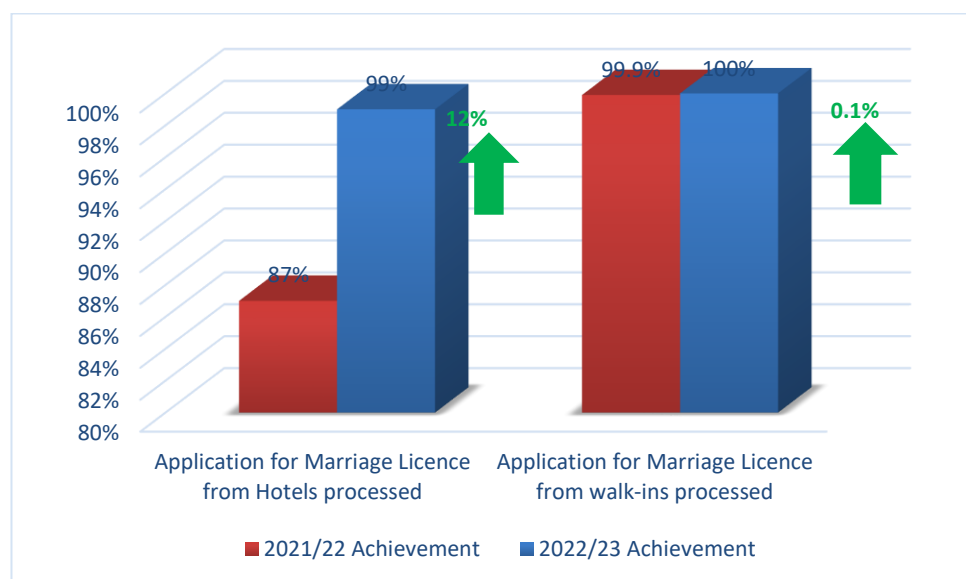
2020/2021	3150
2021/2022	8630
2022/2023	8038

During the financial year, the Ministry of Justice had 9,105 applications for Marriage Licences to be processed. Of this number, 1,248 were carried forward from the previous year and 7,857 new applications were received. A total of 8,038 licences were processed, contributing approximately \$32.152 million in Stamp Duty to the Consolidated Fund. Over the period, the Ministry continued to deliver this service efficiently, as 99% of the applications received from hotels and 100% of the walk-in applications received during the year were processed within established turnaround times (TAT) thereby satisfying the expectations of the public. Overall, both performance indicators showed an improvement over the previous year, with the number of applications processed within established timelines for hotels and walk-ins, increasing by 12% and 0.1% respectively.

² See Section 21 of the Marriage Act for reference

It is important to note that in the processing of Marriage Licences, all applications must meet the Government of Jamaica requirements, and as such some applications require in-depth checks. Additionally, close to the end of each financial year several applications are usually received and are carried forward for processing in the new financial year. Therefore, of the 9,105 applications that were to be processed at the beginning of the fiscal year, 1,067 applications will be carried forward for processing in the next fiscal year.

FIGURE 9: MARRIAGE LICENCE TAT IMPROVEMENT, 2021/22-2022/23



EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL RECORDS

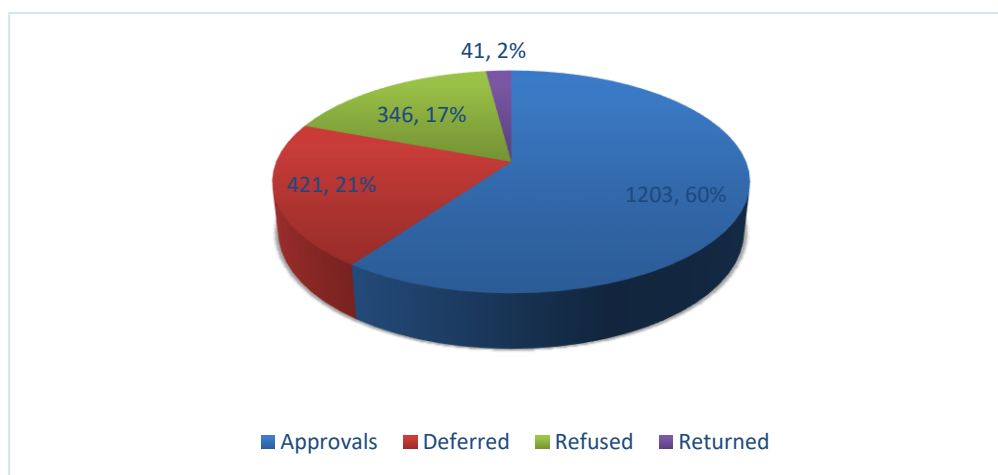
The Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act, 1988 introduced a process which provides for the non-disclosure of a Criminal Record in certain circumstances. The principle underlying these provisions is that a person who has made a sincere and successful attempt to be rehabilitated should be given the opportunity to start afresh without being haunted by an unfortunate past. A criminal record usually creates many difficulties and impediments for the person involved, as it can adversely affect that person's ability to migrate, to find employment, to gain acceptance into certain

professional and/or service clubs and organisations, to obtain housing, credit or even that person's ability to travel to countries which require visas.

Over the 2022/2023 FY the Ministry of Justice received 2,305 new applications for expungement of criminal records. Of that total, 2011 were presented to the Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Board for a decision. It must be noted that not all 2,305 applications received by the Ministry were submitted to the Board for a final decision: only those applicants whose police reports had been received from the Criminal Records Office, hence applications classified as complete. Therefore, the Civil, Criminal and Family Law Unit submitted 100% of completed applications (2011) received to the Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Board for consideration.

Of the 2,011 submitted, 1,203 were approved; 41 were returned because of ineligibility, incompleteness and for additional information; 421 were deferred to another date; and 346 were refused (not approved).

FIGURE 10: DISTRIBUTION OF DECISIONS MADE BY THE BOARD, 2022/23



The expungement of criminal records ensures that there is equal access to justice among those eligible to have their records cleared, which is crucial to their ability to move forward. Overall, there was a 5% increase in the number of completed

applications submitted to the Board for consideration compared to the previous years' 1,907.

Additionally, an assessment of the last three years percentage approval versus submission to the board showed that on average, approximately 63% of applications were approved.

MLE 2: NUMBER OF EXPUNGEMENT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED VS NUMBERS APPROVED, 2020/21-2022/23

Year	Number Approved	Number Submitted to Board	Percentage
2020/21	450	646	70%
2021/22	1146	1907	60%
2022/23	1203	2011	60%

LEGAL AID

The Legal Aid Council (LAC) is the body established by the Legal Aid Act of 1997 which came into operation on May 1, 2000. Its role is to administer and supervise the provision of legal aid services across the island of Jamaica. The Council is administered by a Board of Directors, comprising of a Chairman and not less than thirteen (13) or more than fifteen (15) members.

The members of the Board include the Chief Justice, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Solicitor General, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, or their nominees. Also included on the Board is a representative of the Jamaican Bar Association, the Advocates Association of Jamaica, the Council of Legal Education, the General Legal Council, a member of the Jamaica Independent Council for Human Rights, a member of the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the Jamaica Council of Churches; each of these selected are by the Minister from a panel of three (3) that are nominated by these bodies. The Board also includes the Director of the Norman Manley Law School; the Directors of both Legal Aid Clinics may attend a board meeting with the consent of the Board.

The day-to-day operations of the Council are supervised by an Executive Director and four (4) members of Staff. Currently, legal aid is provided only for criminal matters with two programmes/clinics being operated in Kingston and St. James.

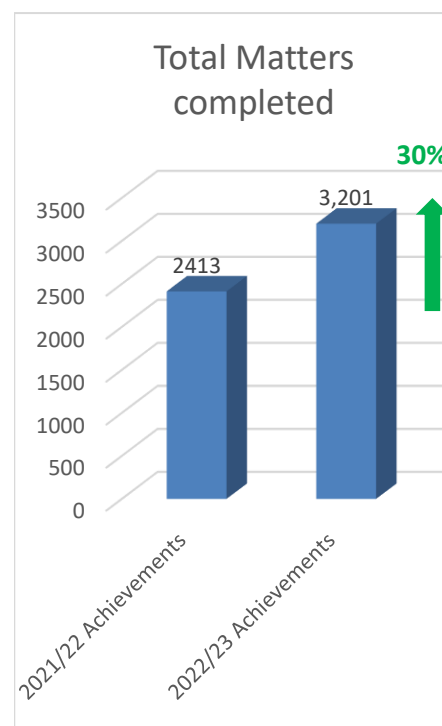
The LAC provides free legal advice via Duty Counsel for anyone who has been detained by the Police, whether or not they are charged. The Council also provides assistance and representation for defendants who have been charged, after the conduct of a means test to determine financial eligibility. As the LAC continues to enhance access to justice, it endeavors to utilize its resources efficiently, and so those who can afford to do so, will contribute, as the entity seeks to ensure that the services continue to be available to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. The LAC seeks to fulfil at least 90% of Duty Counsel requests; as well as assign attorneys for court representation to at least 95% of eligible applicants on an annual basis.

During the 2022/2023 fiscal year the Legal Aid Council (LAC) completed a total of three thousand, two hundred and one (3201) matters across the different courts, reflecting an increase of 33% over the annual target. Indeed, the LAC performed above targets across all courts except the Gun Court. Increases reflected for Court matters completed were: Parish Courts, 37%; Circuit Court, 31%; and Appeal Court, 188%. For the Gun Court the LAC achieved only, 94% of its planned target.

Additionally, the achievement of 3,201 court matters completed also represents a 30% increase in number of matters completed across the courts, when compared to the previous year.

LAC 1: COURT MATTERS COMPLETED OVER ANNUAL TARGET

Matters Completed for the Period 2022 – 2023 FY			
Courts	2022/23 Annual Target	2022/23 Achievements	Percentage Change (Achievement vs Target)
<i>Parish Courts</i>	1,699	2,330	137%
<i>Gun</i>	248	234	94%
<i>Circuit</i>	450	591	131%
<i>Appeal</i>	16	46	288%
Total Matters	2,413	3,201	133%



With respect to Duty Counsel, during the reporting period there were 2,309 assignments to persons in police custody. This was 1% more than the previous years' total of 2,282.

The LAC continued its mandate to increase public access to justice and strengthen Legal Aid services by way of outreach activities, comprising community visits and consultations, and sensitisations. The LAC, through the deployment of its mobile bus, conducted 151 Community Visits island wide, providing legal advice and information to citizens. Further, the Council also conducted 351 consultations virtually, as well as by way of telephone. Seventy-nine (79) sensitisation sessions were done over the year to increase public awareness of the Councils' mandate and services; as well as to ensure that the rights of citizens, who are detained or arrested, are fully observed, including their right to legal advice and representation.

For Mentally Ill Incarcerated Persons (MIIP) locked away in correctional facilities, the Government continues through an inter-ministerial approach to address this issue of indefinite detention. Therefore, the LAC continued efforts to assign attorneys to represent MIIP. Over the reporting period 148 MIIP were represented by Legal Aid attorneys, a massive 335% increase in representation of these clients over the previous year.

A total of \$366.891M was paid to attorneys for services rendered under the Legal Aid Scheme.

ESTABLISHING A SOUND COURT INFRASTRUCTURE

During the fiscal year, the Ministry spent over \$464M to construct, rehabilitate and refurbish a number of justice facilities, including the islands Courts. Construction spend included expenditure for preliminary works for two Justice Centres: St. Thomas, conceptual designs and Hanover, geotechnical survey. Additionally, initial steps were taken towards the development of detailed designs for the Manchester Court Complex and St. Catherine Court Complex.

The year also saw major renovation and upgrading works to the tune of 90.2 Mil undertaken at the Clarendon Parish Court. Works included inter alia, refurbishing, installation and commissioning of an elevator and a security system, installation of new air conditioners, and replacement of plumbing fixtures. Renovation and construction works were also completed at the Offices of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) costing approximately 47.8 mil. Works include among other things ceiling and electrical work, supply and installation of ACs, painting works, supply and installation of a new elevator, tiling and installation of dry wall partitioning. In general, the Government continued over the year to support major capital investments across the justice sector, to enhance the delivery of these services to citizens. In addition, efforts were also dedicated to the restoration and rehabilitation of several court facilities.

CI 1: COURT INFRASTRUCTURE SPEND, 2022/23

Items	Expenditure
Capital Expenditure:	
Renovation and Upgrading Works at the Clarendon Parish Court	\$90,210,813.90
Construction & Improvement of Courthouses	\$47,857,804.21
Total	\$138,068,618.11
Rehabilitation, Maintenance and Repairs	
AIA	\$160,018,064.14
GOJ	\$166,840,924.68

Total AIA/ GOJ	\$326,858,928,82
Total	\$464,927,546.93

The Ministry continued to undertake infrastructural projects to improve the built environment that support the delivery of justice services. Over the reporting period, 17 courthouses were rehabilitated or renovated, and / or provided with major ICT equipment to improve service delivery. These include inter alia:

- Renovation and Upgrading Works, Clarendon Parish Court (90.2 Mil)
- Renovation and Refurbishing Works, St. Mary Parish Court (36.6 Mil)
- Painting Works at Trelawny Parish Court and improvement of Parking Lot (6 Mil)
- Renovation Work, Santa Cruz PC & Lay Magistrates Court (9.7 Mil)
- Refurbishing Works, to supply and install breaker, Manchester Parish Court (5.9 Mil)
- Expansion Work, St. James Family Court (5 Mil)
- General Maintenance & Refurbishing Works, Kingston & St. Andrew Family Court (5.5 Mil)
- Construction of Bathroom facilities, Westmoreland Parish Court-Whithorn (18.1 Mil)
- Emergency Work, Supply & Delivery of Office Furniture, Supply & Installation of Network Cabling, Switches, Access Points & UPS, St. Ann Parish Court (49.7 Mil)
- Architectural Service; Additional Works; Supply and Installation of Security and Surveillance System and Access Control System; inter alia, St. Ann Family Court (30.4 mil)

Major equipment was also procured to improve the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure, as well as the general interior of several courts. These include but are not limited to:

- Lease of Audio-visual Equipment, Supreme Court (20 Mil)
- Supply & Delivery of ICT Equipment, Melbourne Traffic Court (12.3 Mil)
- Supply & Delivery of ICT Equipment, Corporate Area Traffic Court (5.2 Mil)
- Supply & retrofit buses with reverse cameras, Court Administration Division (219K)

- Supply & Install AC Units, Portland Parish Court (8.6 Mil)
- Supply & Delivery of Office Furniture, Brown's Town PC (6.5 Mil)

CORPORATE SERVICES

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

During the year, the Ministry continued to collaborate with the Court Administration Division (CAD) to improve case management across the courts, through the development of a digital Judicial Case Management System (JCMS). This was done through facilitating additional support to the tune of approximately of 27.3 million for the build out and further customization of the system. The system is in its pilot phase across a few courts; therefore, the support services also cover addressing issues, concerns and glitches in the software functionality. The Ministry continues to monitor the implementation of this project to ensure the goals are achieved.

In terms of increasing the adoption of Information Communication Technology (ICT) systems across the Ministry, its Departments and Agencies, the Information Communication and Technology Branch (ICTB) is far advanced with the development of an internal procurement tracking system. This is intended to allow for procurement requests, follow-ups and general information to be efficiently disseminated internally, to improve the TAT of the procurement of goods and services, to increase the Ministry spend.

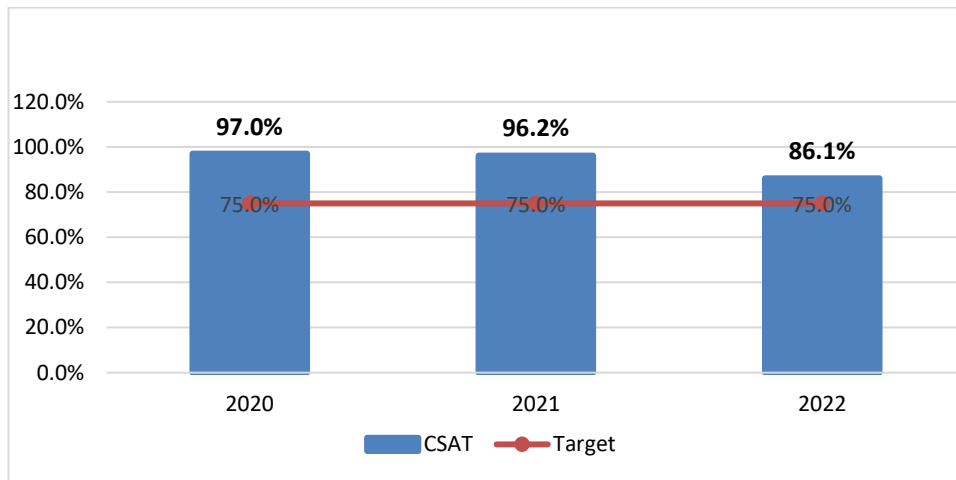
CUSTOMER SERVICE

Over the reporting period the Ministry continued its annual measurement of customer satisfaction levels to evaluate service delivery and identify problems that the Ministry would need to resolve in order to effectively meet customer needs. The survey targeted customers that visited the MOJ's Head Office and four (4) Parish Justice Centres. It was conducted over a period of two (2) months.

For the 2021/2022 reporting period the Ministry surpassed its customer service satisfaction target by 11.1%. Notwithstanding, it was a 10.1% decrease in the Customer Satisfaction (CSAT) Score achieved when compared to the previous year.

Overall, the Ministry continues to surpass its strategic target of maintaining a $\geq 75\%$ Customer Satisfaction (CSAT) score in its charge to deliver efficient and effective justice services.

FIGURE 11: CSAT SCORE VS CSAT TARGET, 2019-2022



HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (HRMD)

As part of reforming and improving the justice sector, the MOJ has made a concerted effort to prioritize training and development interventions for an improved workforce. Over the reporting period, staff were trained in critical areas to facilitate their appointment, or to improve leadership skills and capabilities. Priority training interventions provided to staff include:

1. Enterprise Risk Management
2. Leading with Emotional Intelligence
3. Certificate in Administrative Management – level 2
4. Secretarial Qualifying Examinations

The Ministry through its HRMD Division also focused over the year on the development and implementation of an Employee Retention Policy and Strategy. So far, a plan and strategy

document has been developed and is being implemented; work will continue to strengthen this area over the next fiscal year.

THE JUSTICE TRAINING INSTITUTE

The Justice Training Institute (JTI) was established in July 1997 to serve the training needs of the justice sector. It was established to design, develop, organise, co-ordinate and conduct training programmes for personnel employed in the various agencies (Public and Private Sector) that serve the justice sector. The Institute, in consultation with the Chief Justice, seeks to meet the training needs of the Judiciary by organising and co-ordinating appropriate training programmes. The JTI also has responsibility for the training of Justices of the Peace and may where required, undertake, participate in, or commission research into areas relevant to the Administration of Justice, and publish those research findings. It further structures its training programmes/offerings on the basis of any relevant research findings.³

During the period under review, the JTI continued to deliver training sessions consistent with the drive to increase access to justice, by increasing the training of justice system personnel to support ongoing justice reform. Indeed, the Institute ensured that the core training programmes and development activities were designed and delivered consistent with the respective curriculum that underpins all trainings. Over the 2022/2023 fiscal year, training was conducted in the following areas:

- Qualifying Training for JPs
- Specialized Training for JPs - Lay Magistrates' Court
- Specialized Training for JPs – Introduction to Law and The Jamaican legal System
- Paralegal Studies
- Customized Training for Justice Sector Workers

As the Ministry sought to expand access to JP services Island wide with a focus on underserved communities, the Qualifying Training for JPs saw an 86% increase in the number of training sessions held in the 2022/2023 fiscal year, compared to 2021/2022. Although proportionally less, there was also a 44% increase in the number of

³ See MOJ website www.moj.gov.jm for more information on the JTI.

participants trained to become JPs. Similarly, there was a 137% increase in the number of Paralegal Courses delivered, backed by a 50% increase in participants. It is important to note that a major policy focus over the reporting year was increasing the number of JPs island wide, which resulted in the stark increase in the number of Qualifying Training sessions done by the JTI.

Therefore, within the context of resources available and stated targets, several other targeted training interventions were deferred. This accounted for the reduction in the number of targeted trainings including, training for Justice Sector workers, and planned refresher trainings for JPs. Five (5) training sessions were planned for Specialized Training: JPs Introduction to Law & the Jamaican Legal System, but seven were conducted representing a 40% increase over the year's target; while a year on year comparison shows a 30% reduction.

JTI 1: JTI TRAINING ACROSS 5 AREAS, 2021/22 VS 2022/23

Training for Justices of the Peace	No. of Sessions	Total # of Participants	No. of Sessions	Total # of Participants
	(2022/23)	(2022/23)	(2021/22)	(2021/22)
Qualifying Training for JPs	26	920	14	636
Specialized Training for JPs: Introduction to Law & the Jamaican Legal System	7	355	10	656
Specialized Training for JPs: Lay Magistrates' Court	1	47	2	40
Training/Programme for Justice Sector Personnel	Total # of courses	Total Participants	Total # of courses	Total Participants
	(2022/23)	(2022/23)	(2021/22)	(2021/22)
Paralegal Studies Courses	19	39	8	26
Customized Training for Justice Sector Personnel	1	13	2	100

As the JTI continues to support and promote training for the efficient and effective delivery of justice through appropriate learning interventions, plans are afoot to conduct a comprehensive strategic review to reorganise, remodel and expand the entity. During the

2021/2022 fiscal year, a review of the Institute was done under a European Union (EU) Technical Assistance to the Justice Sector. Indeed, this review was located in the understanding that training and capacity development sit at the center of the justice reform efforts in Jamaica; and so, over the 2023/2024 this work will be expanded to serve as the foundation for a realignment of the entity.

APPENDIX 1: ADDITIONAL DATA TABLES ON PERFORMANCE

Key Achievements				
Criminal, Civil and Family Law Unit				
Measures (CCFLU)	2021/22 Annual Target	2021/22 Achievement	2022/23 Annual Target	2022/23 Achievement
Percentage of complete applications submitted to Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Board for consideration	100%	124% (1907 of 1536)	100%	100% (2011 of 2011)
Application for Marriage Licence from Hotels processed	85%	87% (3050 of 3490)	85%	99% (3196 of 3218)
Application for Marriage Licence from walk-ins processed	90%	99.9% (5137 of 5140)	90%	100% (4639 of 4639)
Victim Services Branch				
Measures	2021/22 Targets	2021/2022 Achievement	2022/23 Targets	2022/2023 Achievement
No. of new clients provided with counselling and support services	5,036	117% (5932 of 5036)	5,036	113% (5717 of 5036)
No. of counselling sessions conducted	10,120	143% (14496 of 10120)	10,120	131% (13303 of 10120)
No. of adult court support requests addressed within 3 working days of receipt	100%	100% (201 of 201)	100%	100% (219 of 219)
No. of children court support requests addressed within 3 working days of receipt	100%	100% (952 of 952)	100%	100% (913 of 913)
No. Follow-up clients		7360		7027
No. E-counselling sessions		9,786		6,405
No. of public educational and promotional request satisfied	90%	100% (159 of 159)	90%	100% (304 of 304)

Child Diversion Branch				
Measures	2021/22 Annual Target	2021/22 Achievement	2022/23 Annual Target	2022/23 Achievement
Children referred for Child Diversion for whom intake assessments are completed	70%	92% (305 of 333)	70%	76% (275 of 362)
Children referred from the formal Justice System receiving treatment plans	70%	89% (296 of 333)	>60%	75% (273 of 362)
Percentage of children (new) in conflict with the law serviced by CD Service Providers	840	39 (318 of 840)	70%	44% (120 of 273)
Percentage of children (follow on) in conflict with the law serviced by CD Service Providers	274	106% (290 of 274)	75%	88% (314 of 358)
Percentage of medium to high risk children assigned a mentor	80%	81%(88 of 108)	80%	83%(98 of 118)
Number of meetings of the Parish Child Diversion Committee held	156	52% (81 of 156)	104	79% (82 of 104)
Number of sensitization sessions held	504	37% (186 of 504)	504	50% (252 of 504)
Legal Aid Council				
Courts	2021/22 Annual Target	2021/22 Achievements	2022/23 Annual Target	2022/23 Achievements
Court of Appeal	14	114% (16 of 14)	16	288% (46 of 16)
Gun Court	239	104% (248 of 239)	248	94% (234 of 248)
Circuit Court	484	93% (450 of 484)	450	131% (591 of 450)
Parish Courts	1620	105% (1699 of 1620)	1699	137% (2330 of 1699)
Total Matters	2357	102% (2413 of 2357)	2,397	134% (3201 of 2397)
Duty Counsel	1100	207% (2282 of 1100)	2,282	101% (2309 of 2282)

Restorative Justice Branch				
Measures	2021/22 Annual Target	2021/22 Achievement	2022/23 Annual Target	2022/23 Achievement
Number of RJ Sensitization Sessions	1280	123% (1,573 of 1,280)	1260	145% (1826 of 1260)
Number of Beneficiaries Sensitized in RJ Sensitization Sessions	14,080	131% (18,441 of 14,080)	15120	214% (32,297 of 15,120)
Number of Case Conferences conducted	2200	126% (2,769 of 2,200)	2400	106% (2541 of 2400)
Percentage of Conferences ending in Agreements	90%	74% (2,054 of 2,769)	90%	79% (2004 of 2541)
Number of Beneficiaries trained in Restorative Practices workshops	3045	26% (799 of 3,045)	1200	467% (5604 of 1200)

Victim Services Branch			
In 2022/2023 The VSB Supported			
OFFENCES/INCIDENT TYPES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE OF OFFENCES	PERCENTAGE OF VICTIMS
MURDER/MANSLAUGHTER	741	12.2%	13%
RAPE	685	11.3%	12%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	683	11.3%	12%
SEX WITH PERSON UNDER 16	660	10.9%	12%
ASSAULT/AOBH	570	9.4%	10%
EMOTIONAL DISTRESS	499	8.2%	9%
SEXUAL GROOMING/TOUCHING	326	5.4%	6%
OTHER	242	4.0%	4%
GRIEVOUS SEXUAL ASSAULT	215	3.6%	4%
CHILD ABUSE/CUSTODY MATTER	194	3.2%	3%

WOUNDING	185	3.1%	3%
ROBBERY/ LARCENY	179	3.0%	3%
INDECENT ASSAULT	165	2.7%	3%
THREATS	108	1.8%	2%
SHOOTING	102	1.7%	2%
BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEM	101	1.7%	2%
SUICIDAL IDEATION	76	1.3%	1%
INCEST	68	1.1%	1%
BUGGERY	62	1.0%	1%
ATTEMPTED SUICIDE	58	1.0%	1%
PROPERTY DAMAGES	46	0.8%	0.8%
ABDUCTION	31	0.5%	0.54%
MALICIOUS COMMUNICATION	25	0.4%	0.44%
ARSON	19	0.3%	0.33%
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	9	0.1%	0.16%
SUSPECTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING	3	0.0%	0.05%
BULLYING	2	0.0%	0.03%
TOTAL	6054	100.0%	105.9%

APPENDIX 2: INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS AND SPEND

Court Type	Infrastructural Spending	Description of Work
Clarendon Parish Court	90,210,813.90	Renovation and Upgrading Works
St. Ann Family Court	30,442,375.10	Architectural service; additional works
St. Ann Parish Court	49,772,810.38	Emergency work, supply & delivery of office furniture, Supply & install network cabling, switches, Access points & UPS
Supreme Court	20,067,219.98	Lease of Audio visual equipment
St. Mary Parish Court	36,661,840.78	Renovation and refurbishing works
Westmoreland Parish Court-Whithorn	18,103,327.51	Construction of bathroom facilities
Portland Parish Court	8,636,089.29	Supply & Install AC Units-Portland Parish Court
Brown's Town PC	6,510,531.67	Supply & delivery of office furniture
Melbourne Traffic Court	12,310,322.63	Supply & Delivery of ICT Equipment
Trelawny PC- Duncans	6,040,415.10	Painting works at Trelawny Parish Court-Duncans improvement of public parking lot
Santa Cruz PC & Petty Session Court	9,774,400.00	Renovation work
Manchester Parish Court	5,947,470.00	Refurbishing Works, to supply and install breaker
CAD	219,893.89	Supply & retrofit buses with reverse cameras
Corporate Area Traffic Court	5,220,240.00	Supply & Delivery of ICT Equipment
St. James Family Court	5,091,638.46	Expansion work
Kingston & St. Andrew Family Court	5,562,300.00	General Maintenance & Refurbishing works

