



# Spotlight Initiative

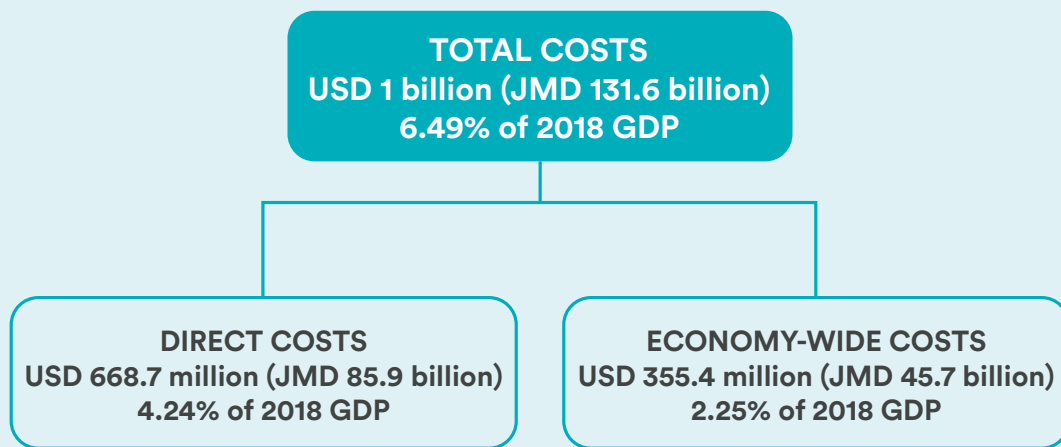
To eliminate violence against women and girls

## CALCULATING THE TOTAL COSTS OF VAWG – JAMAICA STUDY

An initiative of the United Nations funded by the European Union



In Jamaica, the estimated total costs of VAWG for the full coverage case<sup>1</sup> was estimated at USD 1 billion or 6.49 per cent of the 2018 Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This is made up of an estimated direct cost<sup>2</sup> of USD 668.7 million or 4.24 per cent of the GDP, and an economy-wide indirect cost of USD 335.4 million or 2.25 per cent of the GDP.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COURT COSTS OF VAWG



**Chart 1** shows law enforcement and court costs associated with violence against women and girls (VAWG). The estimated costs are based upon the following parameters: registration and administration costs and protection; probation and eviction orders issued; and long-term detention (prison). Bear in mind, there are different factors that contribute to each cost, such as different salary rates for judges and other human resources involved in law enforcement and court cases (e.g., number and hourly rates of judges required per case and per day).

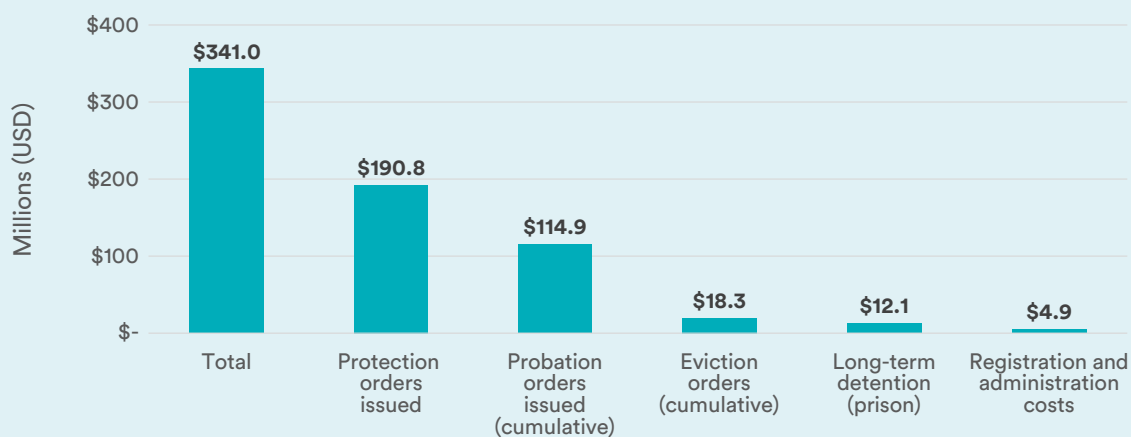
In a full coverage case, law enforcement and court costs associated with VAWG cases reached an estimated USD 341 million in Jamaica, representing 2.16 per cent of the 2018 GDP. The highest costs were related to protection orders, which were estimated at USD 190.8 million, making up 56 per cent of law enforcement and court costs, and probation order costs, which were estimated at USD 114.9 million, making up 34 per cent of law enforcement and court costs. In comparison, eviction orders cost an estimated USD 18.3 million and long-term detention (prison) was estimated at USD 12.1 million.

<sup>1</sup> For the full coverage case, the simulated (or derived) number of VAWG survivors was based on population data of women aged 15-64 in 2018 (n=955,206). Using this population data and a VAWG prevalence rate of 19 per cent from the Women's Health Survey 2016 Jamaica, the number of VAWG survivors in the full coverage case is estimated at 181,489. In comparison, the number of VAWG survivors recorded in official administrative data is 5,673.

<sup>2</sup> Direct costs include service costs estimated at USD 452 million (JMD 58.1 billion) or 2.87 per cent of the 2018 GDP and household costs estimated at USD 216.7 million (JMD 27.8 billion) or 1.37 per cent of the 2018 GDP. Services costs include healthcare costs, law enforcement and court costs, specialized services costs and education services costs. Household costs include personal costs and costs of income lost.



**Chart 1. Estimated law enforcement and court costs related to VAWG, 2018 (full coverage case, USD)**



**Note:** Estimated law enforcement and court costs are based upon a full coverage case calculation, using data from 2018. Probation and eviction orders issued had two different unit costs; therefore, the costs represented are combined costs. Original calculations were performed based upon JMD and were converted into USD for this policy brief (1 USD = 128.53 JMD).

**Source:** Data obtained from family courts across Jamaica and the Ministry of Justice.

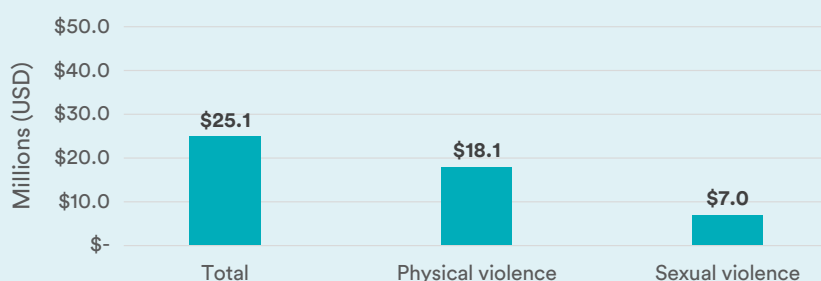


## HEALTHCARE COSTS

Administrative data collected from hospitals and health facilities across Jamaica, coupled with police data on incidents of sexual assault/rape and physical assault (including robberies and shootings) allowed for a calculation of costs for physical injuries related to physical and sexual violence offenses. **Chart 2** illustrates that the costs of healthcare services related

to VAWG were estimated at USD 25.1 million, which was equivalent to 0.2 per cent of the 2018 GDP. More specifically, the costs of healthcare services for physical violence against women were estimated at USD 18.1 million, which is 70 per cent of overall healthcare costs; whereas the costs of healthcare services for sexual violence against women were estimated at USD 7 million. Bear in mind, globally, it is well documented that sexual violence is an underreported crime, compared to physical violence, resulting in a substantially lower costing value for healthcare services related to sexual violence.

**Chart 2. Estimated costs of healthcare services related to VAWG, 2018 (full coverage case)**



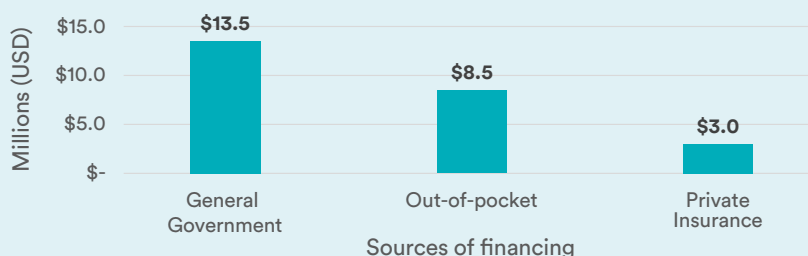
**Note:** Estimated costs of healthcare services related to VAWG are based upon a full coverage case calculation, using data from 2018. Original calculations were performed based upon JMD and were converted into USD for this policy brief (1 USD = 128.53 JMD).

**Source:** UN Women (2022). *National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence against Women and Girls in Jamaica*. UN Women: Bridgetown, Barbados

**Chart 3** illustrates the sources of financing for costs of healthcare services related to VAWG. The largest proportion of financing for healthcare services related to VAWG are the general government, at an estimated

USD 13.5 million, followed by an estimated USD 8.5 million in out-of-pocket costs paid by VAWG survivors and their families. Healthcare services costs related to VAWG covered by private insurance was estimated at only USD 3 million.

**Chart 3. Sources of financing for costs of healthcare services related to VAWG, 2018 (full coverage case)**



**Note:** Sources of financing for costs of healthcare services related to VAWG are based upon a full coverage case calculation, using data from 2018. Original calculations were performed based upon JMD and were converted into USD for this policy brief (1 USD = 128.53 JMD)

**Source:** UN Women (2022). *National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence against Women and Girls in Jamaica*. UN Women: Bridgetown, Barbados



## SPECIALIZED SERVICES COSTS



Costs related to specialized services include shelter and hotline costs, as well as costs related to services provided by the Child Protection Unit of the Child Protection and Family Service Agency (CPFSA), the

Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Victim Services Division and the Bureau of Gender Affairs. **Table 1** shows that in 2018, the full costs of specialized services was estimated to be USD 11.2 million.

**Table 1. Costs for specialized services, 2018**

Services/Agencies	Costs (JMD)	Costs (USD)
Shelter	312,000	2,427
Hotline	547,500	4,260
Child Protection Unit of the CPFSA	1,305,356,116	10,156,042
MoJ Victim Services Division	88,530,000	688,789
Bureau of Gender Affairs	38,693,648	301,048
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,433,439,264</b>	<b>11,152,566</b>

**Note:** Original calculations were performed based upon JMD and were converted into USD for this policy brief (1 USD = 128.53 JMD).

**Source:** UN Women (2022). *National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence against Women and Girls in Jamaica*. UN Women: Bridgetown, Barbados



# EDUCATION SERVICES COSTS



Education services costs are learning time lost by children of VAWG survivors. Using primary and secondary education budget data from 2018, and 15

per cent of learning time lost as the parameter, the education services costs were estimated at USD 74.8 million.<sup>3</sup>



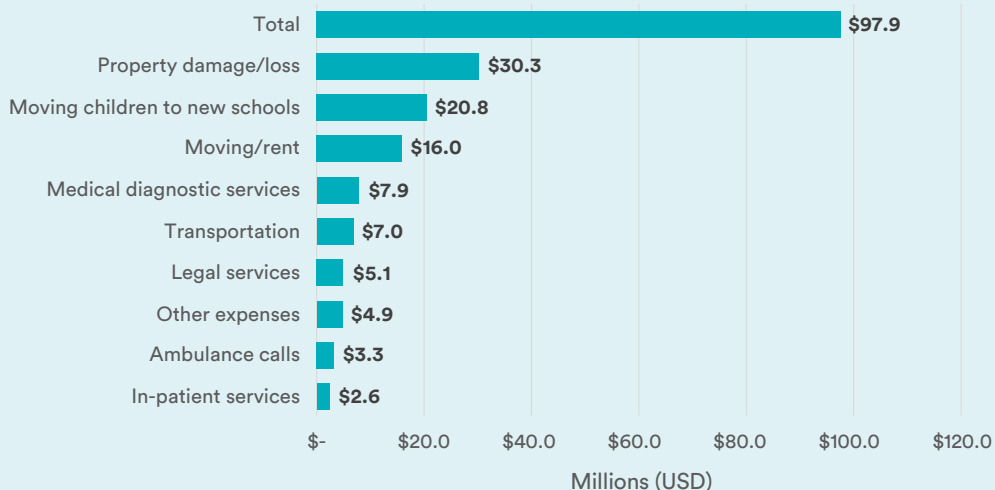
# PERSONAL COSTS



**Chart 4** shows estimated personal costs related to VAWG. Personal costs include out-of-pocket expenses that VAWG survivors are forced to pay, such as transportation costs, ambulance costs, diagnostic and medical costs, costs of in-patient health care services, legal services, property management and costs of moving residences, which could require children to be moved to a different school.

Personal costs related to VAWG reached an estimated USD 97.9 million, representing 0.62 per cent of the 2018 GDP. The highest personal costs are associated with property damage at an estimated USD 30.3 million and the lowest costs are for in-patient services at USD 2.6 million. Personal costs of VAWG account for an estimated 57 per cent of household costs.

**Chart 4. Estimated personal costs of VAWG in Jamaica, 2018 (full coverage case, USD)**



**Note:** Estimated personal costs are based upon a full coverage case calculation, using data from 2018. Original calculations were performed based upon JMD and were converted into USD for this policy brief (1 USD = 128.53 JMD).

**Source:** UN Women (2022). *National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence against Women and Girls in Jamaica*. UN Women: Bridgetown, Barbados.

<sup>3</sup> Original calculations were performed based upon JMD and were converted into USD for this policy brief (1 USD = 128.53 JMD).

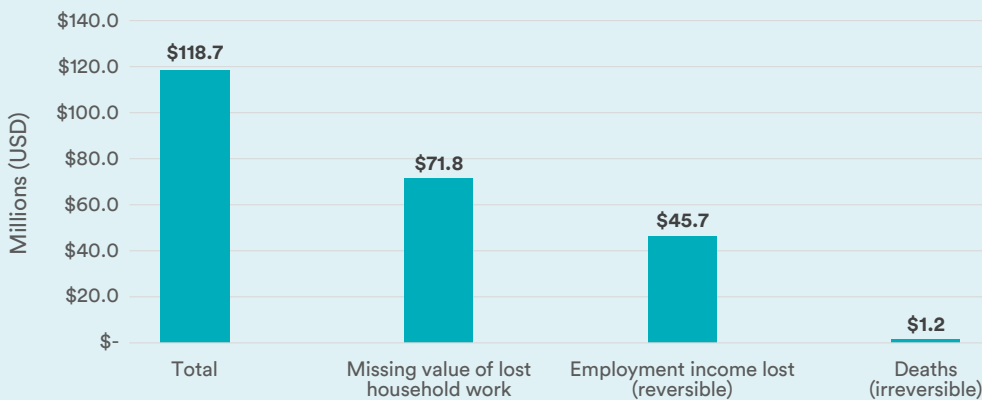
Income losses are another cost related to VAWG that has micro- and macro-economic effects. In other words, income losses have negative consequences for VAWG survivors and their families/households, as well as communities and society at-large. VAWG survivors are often forced to take time off from work due to violence-related injuries (i.e., reversible income losses) and sometimes income is lost because women are left disabled or even dead from violence-related injuries (i.e., irreversible income losses). When this happens, there is less income coming into the family/household.

VAWG survivors may also be unable to perform household chores or care for children because of

violence-related injuries. Although this is typically unpaid work for women, it can still have economic costs for families as it places an undue burden on women and households.

**Chart 5** illustrates that an estimated USD 118.8 million in income was lost due to VAWG, which accounts for 0.75 per cent of the 2018 GDP. More specifically, income loss due to death (irreversible) was estimated at USD 1.2 million, whereas employment income lost (reversible) was estimated at USD 45.7 million. In addition, the highest income loss category was related to missing value of lost household work, which was estimated at USD 71.8 million.

**Chart 5. Estimated income lost costs of VAWG in Jamaica, 2018 (full coverage case, USD)**



**Note:** Estimated incomes lost costs are based upon a full coverage case calculation, using data from 2018. Original calculations were performed based upon JMD and were converted into USD for this policy brief (1 USD = 128.53 JMD).

**Source:** UN Women (2022). *National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence against Women and Girls in Jamaica*. UN Women: Bridgetown, Barbados



## ECONOMY-WIDE COSTS OF VAWG



**Table 2** shows the economy-wide costs related to VAWG by sector (i.e., measured as sectoral output losses due to reduced personal income lost related to VAWG). In total, economy-wide costs related to VAWG were estimated at USD 355.4 million or 2.25 per cent of the 2018 GDP. Three broad sectors – agriculture, industry and services – were aggregated from output losses related to 17 economic sectors. The services sector has been most impacted by VAWG with an estimated

USD 180.6 million in output losses (1.27 per cent of the 2018 GDP), followed by the industry sector with an estimated USD 140.4 million in output losses (0.99 per cent of the 2018 GDP). Within the industry sector, the trade sector was the most impacted subsector with losses totaling USD 52.6 million, followed by the real estate sector with losses totaling USD 34.5 million, and the financial services sector with losses totaling USD 30.7 million.

Although the agriculture sector is less likely to be impacted, compared to the other two sectors; the agriculture sector had an estimated USD 34.4 million in output losses (0.24 per cent of the 2018 GDP). When

VAWG survivors are unable to attend work (miss work), it means that their duties at work are not attended to, resulting in lost productivity and by extension losses to the GDP.

**Table 2. Economy-wide costs related to VAWG by sector, 2018**

Sector	JMD (millions)	USD (millions)	% of 2018 GDP
Agriculture	4,425	34.4	0.24
Industry	18,046	140.4	0.99
Services	23,212	180.6	1.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,682</b>	<b>355.4</b>	<b>2.25</b>

**Note:** Original calculations were performed based upon JMD and were converted into USD for this policy brief (1 USD = 128.53 JMD).

**Source:** UN Women (2022). *National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence against Women and Girls in Jamaica*.

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## CREDITS

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