

NATIONAL STUDY ON THE ECONOMIC COSTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN JAMAICA

Policy Brief¹



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Introduction

The terms violence against women (VAW) and gender-based violence (GBV) are frequently used interchangeably, but there are important differences between the two terms that policymakers must be mindful of when developing responses to VAW and GBV.

VAW is defined by the United Nations as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.”² Gender-based violence (GBV), in its original meaning, is violence that is directed against a person, because of the roles they are expected to play in society. Originally, it reflected the violence perpetrated against women because of the expected gender roles women should play based on stereotypes and unhealthy ideologies.. Violence against Women and Girls is one form of GBV. GBV includes acts that inflict physical, mental and/or sexual harm or suffering, as well as threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty. GBV impairs or nullifies women’s fundamental human rights and freedoms under international law or human rights conventions. While GBV and VAWG are often used interchangeably in literature and by advocates, the term GBV highlights the gender dimension of violence and the relationship between women’s subordinate status in society and gender inequality, and women and girls’ increased vulnerability to violence. Women are typically victims of GBV perpetrated by men, but can also be victims of GBV perpetrated by women who use violence to reinforce the patriarchal order (e.g., violence at the hands of mothers or mothers-in-law). GBV provides a broader context in which to examine and understand the phenomenon of VAWG.³

1 Dr. Robin Haarr copy-edited this brief.

2 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, UN General Assembly Resolution 48/104, December 1993, Article 1. Retrieved on 4 September 2022 from: [Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women | OHCHR](#)

3 UNFPA (2016). *Measuring Prevalence of Violence Against Women: Key Terminology*. kNOwVAWdata. UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office: Bangkok, Thailand. Retrieved on 22 February 2023 from: [kNOwVAWdata Key Terminology.pdf \(unfpa.org\)](#)

Both VAW and GBV impair or nullify the enjoyment of women's human rights and fundamental freedoms advanced in international human rights legal frameworks, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)⁴ and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. For the purposes of this study the terms VAW or violence against women and girls (VAWG) are used.

VAWG is a global pandemic that affects one in three women in their lifetime; where 35 per cent of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence.⁵ VAWG occurs across cultures and societies, and impacts women and girls regardless of their ethnicity, socio-economic status and other demographic characteristics (e.g., age and educational background). Still, however, particular groups of women and girls may be more vulnerable to violence and exposed to multiple forms of violence due to compounded forms of discrimination and exclusion. Because of a lack data on the prevalence of VAWG, in all of its forms, and the impact of violence on women and girls' lives, the economic costs of VAWG are typically calculated based upon the prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV) and non-partner sexual violence.

In Jamaica, many women and girls experience GBV in their lifetime and on a daily basis. The *2016 Women's Health Survey in Jamaica*⁶ found that one in four or 25 per cent of women aged 15-64 experienced physical violence by a male partner and 8 percent were sexually abused by their male partner. Lifetime prevalence of intimate physical and/or sexual violence was 28 per cent for women aged 15-64 years. There were no significant differences across rural and urban areas or by marital/union status; yet, women who entered into a live-in partner relationship at an early age (under the age of 19 years) had a higher prevalence of lifetime intimate partner physical violence (45 per cent) than women who entered into such relationships at 19 years of age and older (25 per cent). The survey also found that 29 per cent of women aged 15-64 experienced emotional violence and 9 per cent experienced economic violence in intimate relationships in their lifetime.

VAWG has negative consequences for survivors and their households, as well as for communities and societies at-large. VAWG decreases women's choices in almost every aspect of their public and private lives. In particular, it restricts women's choices by disrupting their lives, damaging their health and well-being, limiting their activities and freedoms, and eroding their self-esteem and self-confidence.⁷ Women who experience GBV often experience physical injuries and psychological harms that can be both short- and long-term. VAWG often restricts women from fully participating in public life and achieving their full potential, which contributes to a loss in women's productivity.⁸

4 General Recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 1992.

5 Gender-based violence (Violence Against Women and Girls). The World Bank Group, 25 September 2019. Retrieved on 9 September 2022 from: [Gender-Based Violence \(Violence Against Women and Girls\) \(worldbank.org\)](https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/sexual-reproductive-health-and-family-planning/overview)

6 The *2016 Women's Health Survey in Jamaica* was commissioned by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women); Williams, C.W. (2018). *Women's Health Survey 2016 Jamaica*. STATIN, IDB & UN Women: Bridgetown, Barbados..

7 Consequences and costs, UN Women, 31 October 2010. Retrieved on 5 September 2022 from: [Consequences and costs \(endvawnow.org\)](https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2010/10/consequences-and-costs)

8 Ibid, 2010; Violence against women. World Health Organization, 9 March 2021 Retrieved on 5 September 2022 from: [Violence against women \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women)



VAWG has tremendous personal and household costs, but also cost the government and businesses. The costs of VAWG impacts health care systems, social protection and welfare systems, the police and justice systems, and the economic and human development of society.⁹ For the past four decades, studies and calculations have focused on estimating the economic and social costs of VAWG.¹⁰ This includes VAWG costing studies conducted in countries such as Australia, Lesotho, Seychelles and Viet Nam.

VAWG costing is the “financial valuation of the added monetary and non-monetary resources and efforts that have to be invested for the implementation of a law or a policy to end VAWG, or to estimate the costs to an economy of not implementing such laws or policies.”¹¹ The monetary costs of VAWG are determined by measuring and quantifying the economic consequences and costs for women who experienced violence, and on their households, as well as for service providers and businesses (across sectors), and on the national economy or gross domestic product (GDP). Different methodologies can also be applied to understand the costs of preventing and responding to VAWG, along with the estimated costs associated with implementing laws and policies aimed at ending VAWG and delivering a minimum pack of essential services to VAWG survivors.¹²

VAWG costing studies are also relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly, SDG 5, which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, and SDG 16, which aims to end poverty in all its forms everywhere.

This policy brief aims to provide an overview of the purpose, methodology and findings from the *National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Jamaica* that was conducted in 2020-2021, and supported by the UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean.

2021 National Study on the Economic Costs of VAWG in Jamaica

The **purpose** of the *2021 National Study on the Economic Costs of VAWG in Jamaica* was to estimate the economic costs of IPV against women in Jamaica, particularly the economic costs on VAWG survivors and their households. This included:

- **Direct costs of IPV** – Costs related to accessing essential services, such as health care, shelter, police protection and justice, and to replace damaged property.
- **Indirect costs of IPV** – Income losses due to missed work and an inability to perform domestic and care work, as well as harms to children’s health and school performance (e.g., missed school days and failing grades).

9 Haarr, R.N. (2018): *ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Violence against Women and Girls Data Collection and Use*. UN Women: Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific: Bangkok, Thailand.

10 The High Cost of Violence Against Women. OECD The Forum Network, 29 March 2021. Retrieved on 5 September 2022 from: [The High Cost of Violence Against Women | The OECD Forum Network \(oecd-forum.org\)](https://www.oecd.org/forum-network/the-high-cost-of-violence-against-women/)

11 Original definition of “costing gender equality policies” in UNDP, *Costing of Social and Equality Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean Concept Note* (2013). Amended for the purposes of this report.

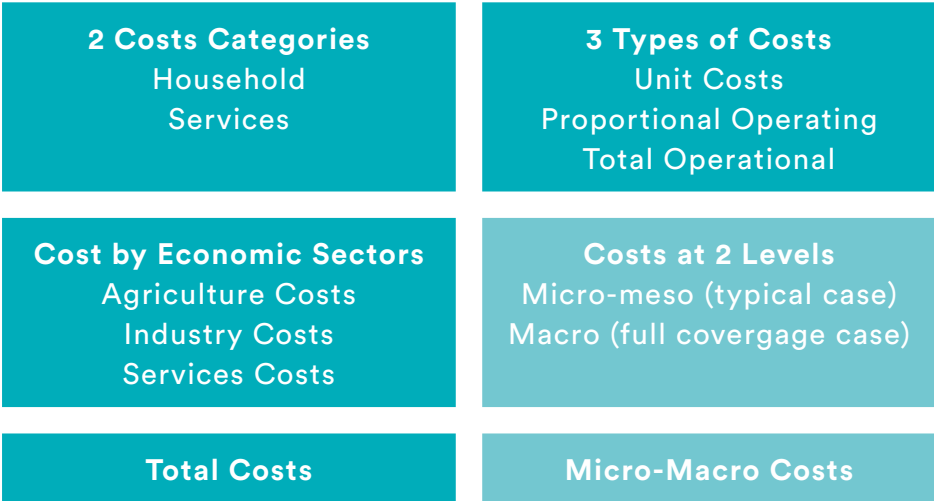
12 Haarr, R.N. (2018): *ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Violence against Women and Girls Data Collection and Use*. UN Women: Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific: Bangkok, Thailand

The VAWG costing study also focused on estimating the costs of service provision across sectors (e.g., health, police and judicial systems, and services provided by CSOs/NGOs) and the determining macro-economic costs (e.g., estimated cost for the national economy, costs of service provision and costs due to lost productivity).

Methodology

To estimate direct costs and economy-wide costs of VAWG, the 2021 *National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence Against Women and Girls in Jamaica* used a modified version of the costing methodology used by the Commonwealth Secretariat and supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Kingdom’s Department of International Development (DFID). This costing methodology consists of four building blocks (**Figure 1**).

Figure 1: Costing Building – four building blocks



Source: *National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence Against Women and Girls in Jamaica*, UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean, 2022.

Economic cost estimates produce two categories of direct cost of VAWG, including:

- **Household costs** – Costs incurred by VAWG survivors and their households, which can be broken down into two cost components – out-of-pocket expenses incurred by VAWG survivors and their families – and individual income losses due to lost work productivity (reversible) and death (irreversible) related to VAWG.
- **Costs of services** – Costs of services provided to VAWG survivors by governmental and non-governmental service providers, including health and social services, and the police and courts. It also includes estimated costs of learning time lost in school by children of VAWG survivors, and potential long-term earning losses for children due to poor academic performance, absenteeism and dropout from school.

The economic costs of VAWG are also estimated at the micro- and macro-levels. These include:

- **Micro-level (referred to as a ‘typical case’)** – Estimated economic costs of VAWG based upon official data, such as victim and budget data (i.e., crime data from the Jamaica Constabulary Force and budget data from the Ministry of Health).
- **Macro-level (referred to as a ‘full coverage case’)** – Estimated economic costs based on a simulation model using VAWG prevalence rates and the number of females aged 15-64 in the population, in keeping with population census data or population projections.

Estimated ‘typical case’ costs tend to be lower than estimated ‘full coverage case’ costs because most incidents of VAWG go unreported for a number of reasons, including VAWG survivors’ fears of retaliation and damage to one’s reputation, as well as experiences of ostracism and stigmatization.

Economic Sector Costs

An economy-wide model and data set was used in the *2021 National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence Against Women and Girls in Jamaica* to capture economy-wide costs of VAWG. This model measured reductions in gross domestic output caused by the decline in private consumption due to the loss of earnings among VAWG survivors (i.e., an element of direct cost).

The two most widely used economy-wide data sets are the **input-output matrix (I-OM)** and the **social accounting matrix (SAM)**. Economy-wide data sets are then converted into a multiplier framework to capture economy-wide indirect costs of VAWG. For this study, the 2015 SAM for Jamaica was updated to reflect a more recent year of 2018, to align with the year for cost estimations and to assess the economy-wide cost of VAWG.

As it relates to **micro-macro costs**, there are three types of costs that can be used to estimate the direct costs of VAWG. These include unit costs, proportional operating costs and total operational costs. These three costs were chosen because of their data availability.

- **Unit cost approach** – Estimates the costs of a package of essential services delivered to VAWG survivors in a single case (e.g., medical services for VAWG survivors with grievous injuries, per visit hospital costs, and fees for doctors or lawyers).
- **Proportional operating costs** – Calculated based upon the share of VAWG survivors in the total number of service recipients, such as 30 per cent of the total social services budget spent on VAWG survivors.
- **Total operational costs** – Applicable to 24 hours a day, 7 day a week or full-year services, such as a telephone helpline/hotline service for VAWG survivors.

Data Sources

This study used demographic, administrative and economic data sources, including a combination of primary and secondary data sources. In addition, an online questionnaire was administered to 25 VAWG survivors to collect data related costing, given this was a data gap in the *2016 Jamaica Women’s Health and Life Experiences Survey*. More specifically, 2018 data were used since the majority of data needed to estimate parameters and the economic costs of VAWG were available for that year.

Economy, Population and Employment Data

The study used two official data sources – statistics related to the economy, labour market and population obtained from the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), and data and information related to the number of VAWG survivors and services obtained from service providers. **Table 1** shows the data and statistics used in the costing study to highlight key indicators related to the economy, population, employment and earnings.

Table 1. Key indicators related to economy, population, employment and earning

Indicators	Value
Economy	
GDP market price 2018 (JMD)	2,027,251,000,000
Exchange rate 2018 (USD to JMD)	128.53
GDP market price 2018 (USD, 1 USD = 128.53 JMD)	15,772,590,057
Population	
Total Population (Persons)	2,730,982
Total Male Population (Persons)	1,350,919
Total Female Population (Persons)	1,380,063
Total Population, aged 15-64 (Persons)	1,890,241
Total Female Population, aged 15-64 (Persons)	955,206
Employment and Earnings	
Estimated number of employed persons	1,633,127
GDP/Employed person	1,241,331
GDP per employed person per day – LC (@250 day/year)	4,965
GDP per employed person per hour – LC (@8 hour/day)	621
Share of Employed population (Percent)	59.80

Source: *National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence Against Women and Girls in Jamaica*, UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean, 2022.

Victim Data

Victim data came from three administrative sources – health, police and courts – which were used to calculate cost estimates for each of these sectors. More specifically, violent crime data, including physical assaults and sexual offences, obtained from the Jamaica Constabulary Force were used to estimate the costs of healthcare services for physical and sexual violence, because such data were not available from health services. **Table 2** shows victim data used to estimate costs of VAWG by the police, courts and health sectors.

Table 2. Number of female victims identified in administrative data by sector, 2018

Police		Courts		Health	
Crimes	N	Crime processing	N	Violence-related	N
Murder	129	Complaints	5,673	Injury	3,046
Sexual offences	1,649	Protection orders	4,560		
Rape	527	Probation orders	1,234		
Sexual offence	437	Eviction orders	147		
Sexual intercourse (< 16 years)	685	Persons sent to prison	76		
Physical offence	2,321				
Shooting	240				
Robbery	665				
Total aggravated assault	101				
Total assault	1,315				
Total (sexual + physical)	3,970				

Source: National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence Against Women and Girls in Jamaica, UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean, 2022.

Online Survey of VAWG Survivors

An online survey of 25 VAWG survivors was conducted in an effort to measure out-of-pocket expenses incurred by VAWG survivors and their households. Among the 25 VAWG survivors surveyed, they ranged in age from 24 to 72 years of age, with a median age 36.8 years, of which 85 per cent had a secondary education or higher (of which 42 per cent had a tertiary and other education), 30 per cent were employed (23 per cent were self-employed) and 77 per cent had children under 16 years of age.



Table 3 provides estimated units costs of VAWG in JMD and USD for each of the categories of personal expenses.¹³ The largest proportion of personal expenses related to VAWG were for transportation (47 per cent), rent and/or moving costs (35 per cent), purchases to replace lost/damaged property (29 per cent) and costs of moving children to a new school (29 per cent).

Table 3. Estimated personal out-of-pocket expenses of VAW (JMD & USD)

Personal expenses	%	Unit Cost (JMD)	Unit Cost (USD)
Transportation	47	10,500	82
Rent and/or moving costs	35	32,187	250
Purchases to replace lost/damaged property	29	73,000	568
Costs of moving children to a new school	29	50,000	389
Diagnostic treatments and medicine	24	23,750	185
Inpatient services	18	10,625	83
Legal services	18	20,500	159
Ambulance services	12	20,000	156
Other costs	18	19,600	152

Note: Original calculations were performed based upon JMD and were converted into USD for this policy brief (1 USD = 128.53 JMD)
Source: *National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence Against Women and Girls in Jamaica*, UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean, 2022.

Total Costs of VAWG

The economic cost of VAWG were estimated for the ‘typical case’ and the ‘full coverage case’. In Jamaica, the total costs of VAWG for a ‘typical case’ were estimated at USD 121.8 million or 0.77 per cent of the 2018 GDP (**Table 4**). This includes estimated direct costs of USD 105.8 million or 0.67 per cent of the 2018 GDP, which includes services costs estimated at USD 97.8 million (0.62 per cent of the 2018 GDP) and household costs estimated at USD 8 million (0.05 per cent of the GDP), plus economy-wide costs are estimated at USD 16 million or 0.10 per cent of the 2018 GDP.

¹³ *National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence Against Women and Girls in Jamaica*, UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean, 2022, p. 26.



Table 4. Summary of VAWG costs in Jamaica for a typical case, 2018 (JMD & USD Millions)

Cost categories	Typical case		
	Cost (JMD Million)	Cost (USD Million)	% of 2018 GDP
Direct costs (services costs + household costs)	13,600	105.8	0.67
Services costs	12,574	97.8	0.62
Healthcare costs	152	1.2	0.01
Law enforcement and court costs	1,370	10.7	0.07
Specialized services costs	1,433	11.1	0.07
Education services costs	9,619	74.8	0.48
Household costs	1,026	8.0	0.05
Personal costs	393	3.1	0.02
Costs of income lost	632	4.9	0.03
Economy-wide costs	2,056	16.0	0.10
Agriculture sector	199	1.5	0.01
Industry sector	812	6.3	0.04
Services sector	1,045	8.1	0.05
Total cost (direct costs + economy-wide costs)	15,655.6	121.8	0.77

Notes: Services costs = healthcare costs + law enforcement and court costs + specialized services costs + costs of learning time lost (or education costs); Direct costs = services costs (all of its subcategories) + household costs; Total costs = direct costs + economy-wide costs. Original calculations were performed based upon JMD and were converted into USD for this policy brief (1 USD = 128.53 JMD).

Source: *National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence Against Women and Girls in Jamaica*, UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean, 2022.

Table 5 shows that the total cost for a ‘full coverage’ case was estimated at USD 1,024 million or 6.49 per cent of the 2018 GDP. This includes estimated direct costs of USD 668.7 million or 4.24 per cent of the 2018 GDP, which includes services costs estimated at USD 452 million (2.87 per cent of the 2018 GDP) and household costs estimated at USD 216.7 million (1.37 per cent of the 2018 GDP), plus economy-wide costs of USD 355.4 million or 2.25 per cent of the 2018 GDP.

Table 5. Summary of VAWG costs in Jamaica for a full coverage case, 2018 (JMD & USD Million)

Cost categories	Full coverage case		
	Cost (JMD Million)	Cost (USD Million)	% of 2018 GDP
Direct costs (services costs + household costs)	85,948	668.7	4.24
Services costs	58,101	452.0	2.87
Healthcare case	3,224	25.1	0.16
Law enforcement and court costs	43,824	341.0	2.16
Specialized services costs	1,433	11.1	0.07
Education services costs	9,619	74.8	0.48
Household costs	27,847	216.7	1.37
Personal costs	12,584	97.9	0.62
Costs of income lost	15,263	118.8	0.75
Economy-wide costs	45,682	355.4	2.25
Agriculture sector	4,425	34.4	0.24
Industry sector	18,046	140.4	0.99
Services sector	23,212	180.6	1.27
Total cost (direct costs + economy-wide costs)	131,629	1,024.1	6.49

Notes: Services costs = healthcare costs + law enforcement and court costs + specialized services costs + costs of learning time lost (or education costs); Direct costs = services costs (all of its subcategories) + household costs; Total costs = direct costs + economy-wide costs. Original calculations were performed based upon JMD and were converted into USD for this policy brief (1 USD = 128.53 JMD).

Source: *National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence Against Women and Girls in Jamaica*, UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean, 2022.

Direct Cost of VAWG

- **Typical case** – In the ‘typical case’, the direct costs of VAWG were estimated at USD 105.8 million or 0.67 per cent of the 2018 GDP. Direct costs include **services costs** estimated at USD 97.8 million or 0.62 per cent of the 2018 GDP, which includes education services costs estimated at USD 74.8 million (0.48 per cent of the GDP), specialized services costs estimated at USD 11.1 million (0.07 per cent of the 2018 GDP), law enforcement and court costs estimated at USD 10.7 million (0.07 per cent of the 2018 GDP), and healthcare costs estimated at USD 1.2 million (0.01 per cent of the 2018 GDP). Direct costs also include **household costs** estimated at USD 8 million or 0.05 per cent of the 2018 GDP, which includes personal costs estimated at USD 3.1 million (0.02 per cent of the 2018 GDP) and costs of income lost estimated at USD 4.9 million (0.03 per cent of the 2018 GDP).

- **Full coverage case** – In the ‘full coverage case’, the direct costs of VAWG were estimated at USD 668.7 million or 4.24 per cent of the 2018 GDP. Direct costs include **services costs** estimated at USD 452 million or 2.87 per cent of the 2018 GDP, which includes law enforcement and court costs estimated at USD 341 million (2.16 per cent of the 2018 GDP), educational services costs estimated at USD 74.8 million (0.48 per cent of the 2018 GDP), health care costs estimated at USD 25.1 million (0.16 per cent of the 2018 GDP), and specialized services estimated at USD 11.1 million (0.07 per cent of the 2018 GDP). Direct costs also include **household costs** estimated at USD 216.7 million or 1.37 per cent of the 2018 GDP, which includes personal costs estimated at USD 97.9 million (0.62 per cent of the 2018 GDP) and costs of income lost estimated at USD 118.8 million (0.75 per cent of the 2018 GDP).

The direct costs of VAWG for the ‘typical case’ are significantly less than for the ‘full coverage case’ because the ‘typical case’ excludes the costs for women and girls who are at-risk of violence.¹⁴

Personal and Household Costs

Personal and household costs include the costs of income lost due to VAWG.

- **Typical case** – Household costs related to VAWG were estimated at JMD 1,026 million or 0.51 per cent of the 2018 GDP. More specifically, this includes personal costs related to VAWG estimated at JMD 393 million (0.02 per cent of the 2018 GDP) and income lost due to VAWG estimated at JMD 632 million (0.03 per cent of the GDP). Income lost could be due to death (irreversible) or temporarily being unable to carry out paid work and unpaid domestic and care work (reversible).
- **Full coverage case** – Household costs related to VAWG were estimated at JMD 27,847 million or 1.37 per cent of the 2018 GDP. More specifically, this includes personal costs related to VAWG estimated at JMD 12,584 million (0.62 per cent of the 2018 GDP) and income lost due to VAWG estimated at JMD 15,263 million (0.75 per cent of the 2018 GDP).

Economy-Wide Indirect Costs

The Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) for Jamaica was updated for 2018 using the 2015 SAM and other national accounts data for 2018 (i.e., sectoral value added, household consumption, exports and imports, and sectoral prices data for 2018). Data for the 2018 SAM were converted into a SAM multiplier model. To carry out personal income (consumption) reduction shocks on GDP in the SAM, 2018 consumption values were adjusted downward for each of the activities, according to their shares for 2018. Following this approach, two consumption shocks were set up, one for the

¹⁴ Estimated costs of a typical VAWG case were calculated based on administrative data that captures the utilisation of VAWG-related services in Jamaica (e.g., police, legal, social and healthcare services). Estimated costs of a typical case are generally lower than estimated costs of a full coverage case because typical case is based on administrative data which fails to capture the estimated costs of the total population at-risk of VAWG. The full coverage case, however, estimates the costs of VAWG experienced by women aged 15-64 in the population, and is derived from data sources that are representative of the women aged 15-64 population (e.g., 2016 Jamaica Women’s Health Survey, national population data, economic estimates). See *National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence Against Women and Girls in Jamaica*, UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean, 2022.



‘typical case’ and the other for the ‘full coverage case’. These shocks were then used with the SAM multiplier model to simulate output loss under the ‘typical case’ and ‘full coverage case’.

- **Typical case** – Income loss in the ‘typical case’ was estimated at USD 4.9 million; thus, household (private consumption) was reduced by USD 4.9 million to simulate the impact on domestic output/product. Simulated output loss in the ‘typical case’ was estimated at USD 16 million or 0.1 per cent of the 2018 GDP. Among the three broad sector categories, the services sector was most affected with an estimated cost of USD 8.1 million (0.05 per cent of the 2018 GDP). Output loss for the industry sector was estimated at USD 6.3 million (0.04 per cent of the GDP), with food processing bearing a major loss; whereas agriculture was least affected, with an output loss of USD 1.5 million (0.01 per cent of the 2018 GDP).
- **Full coverage case** – Income loss in the ‘full coverage case’ was estimated at USD 118.8 million; thus, the household (private consumption) was reduced by USD 118.8 million to simulate the impact on domestic output/product. Simulated output loss under the full coverage case is USD 355.4 million or 2.3 per cent of the 2018 GDP. Among the three broad sector categories, output loss for the services sector was estimated at USD 180.6 million (1.27 per cent of the 2018 GDP) and for the industry sector was estimated at USD 140.4 million (0.99 per cent of the 2018 GDP). Agriculture was least affected, with an output loss estimated at USD 34.4 million (0.24 per cent of the 2018 GDP).¹⁵

Policy Recommendations

- **Strengthen data collection systems and capacities** – There is a need to strengthen the national statistical system to improve the collection and production of data related to services, and to be able to disaggregate data by VAWG. There is also a need to strengthen the capacities of the national statistics agency and relevant stakeholders involved in the collection and production of data related to VAWG. There is also a need to develop the capacities of frontline service providers (e.g., police, health and social service providers) to effectively deliver services to victims and improve the collection and maintenance of data records in appropriate formats and situations.
- **Defining the role of the workplace** – Due to the high cost of VAWG to the workplace, including the private sector, ending VAWG in Jamaica should be a primary objective for employers. Employers can take an active role by investing in workplace policies that prevent sexual harassment and protect women. This includes investing in VAWG preventative initiatives, including providing all staff with training on gender equality, sexual harassment and VAWG prevention.
- **Improving institutional capacities** – Efforts should be taken to improve institutional capacities for future VAWG costing studies or exercises through the development of training materials and facilitator guides, and the provision of specialized trainings. In addition, educational exchange programmes may need to be arranged with renowned institutions for expanding and improving specifications, coverage and scopes of the VAWG costing framework.

¹⁵ *National Study on the Economic Costs of Violence Against Women and Girls in Jamaica*, UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean, 2022.



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