

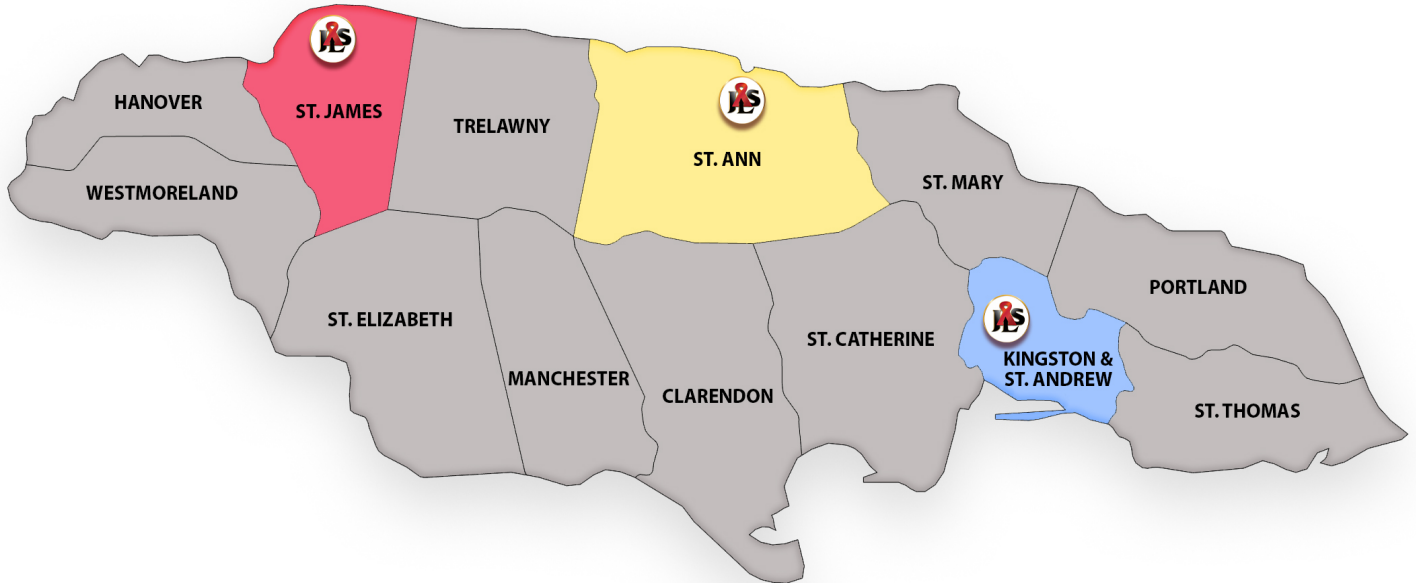


Jamaica AIDS Support For Life

Love. Action. Support

2020
ANNUAL
REPORT

Jamaica AIDS Support for Life Locations



Montego Bay Chapter

Van Haze Building,
16 East Street,
Montego Bay,
St. James

Serves:

1. St. James
2. Hanover
3. Westmoreland
4. St. Elizabeth
5. Trelawny (west)

St. Ann's Bay Chapter

14 King Street,
St. Ann's Bay,
St. Ann

Serves:

1. St. Ann
2. St. Mary
3. Portland
4. Manchester
5. St. Catherine (north)
6. Trelawny (east)

Kingston Chapter

3 Hendon Drive,
Kingston 20,
St. Andrew

Serves:

1. Kingston
2. St. Andrew
3. St. Catherine
4. St. Thomas
5. Clarendon

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Organizational Profile

OUR MISSION

JASL aims to be a world class leader creating and utilising best practices in the delivery of services to persons living with and affected by HIV and AIDS in Jamaica and participating in the fight against the spread of HIV and AIDS in Jamaica in an enabling environment.

OUR VISION

A Jamaican society which celebrates human diversity; preserves the rights and dignity of all; and provide services to all based on Love, Action and Support.

OUR GOAL

To be the lead civil society partner to the government in the national response to HIV/AIDS through rights-based programme implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation for the promotion of universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support services.

AS we look forward to celebrating our 30th anniversary in 2021, did you know?

When HIV first reached the shores of Jamaica in 1982, the country was woefully unprepared to deal with the disease from a clinical standpoint and as a society. A movement dedicated to the response of the HIV epidemic in Jamaica quickly moved from a want to a need. In 1991, a group of friends responded to the needs of one of their peers who had been infected with this strange new virus and from that, the organization was formed to support people living with the disease. Realizing the stigma and discrimination that their friend faced, they sprung into action to assist. The group of friends used personal resources to purchase groceries, pay

rent and the medical expenses of their critically ill friend. When they could no longer sustain him from their own pockets and cupboards, they hosted a party to raise additional funds. The very night the party was being hosted, tragedy struck, as the friend took his last breath and passed due to AIDS-related complications.

In 1992, the team behind JAS secured a start-up grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to formally pursue their vision of setting up an organization to provide care and support to people living with and affected by AIDS and to develop their program of HIV prevention and advocacy.



WHO WE SERVE

Persons living with and affected by HIV and AIDS

including:

- ***Men who have sex with men (MSM)***
- ***Sex workers (SW)***
- ***Trans women***
- ***Adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV) /***



Orphan and vulnerable children (OVC)

- ***Hearing***



Impaired (HI) / deaf

- ***Key groups of women at a high risk of experiencing violence***



- ***General***

population (GP)

Strategic Pillars

JASL developed its five (5) year strategic plan 2020-2024

Focus Area 1- Enabling Environment and Human Rights

Strategic Objective 1: Improve the quality of life of persons living with and affected by HIV by reducing discrimination and improving access to national social protection mechanisms.

- **Key result areas:** Stigma and discrimination, Advocacy and policy monitoring, access to justice, community empowerment and mobilization, gender equality and gender-based violence.

Focus Area 2- HIV Prevention and Testing

Strategic Objective 2: HIV/AIDS prevention - Increased access of key populations of SW, MSM, TG and people of high-risk to combination prevention services and are aware of their HIV status.

- **Key result areas:** HIV education and information, combination prevention, HIV Testing, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), condoms and lubricants, community engagement and empowerment.

Focus Area 3- HIV Treatment, Care and Support Services

Strategic Objective 3: Client-centred HIV Treatment, Care and Support Services for PLHIV to realize 95% viral suppression among 1500 beneficiaries.

Key result areas: client enrolment, treatment retention, viral suppression, medication, psycho-social support, OVC.

Focus Area 4 - Governance and Institutional Development

Strategic Objective 4: Strengthen accountability, visibility and transparency of the organization with a clearly defined and flattened organizational decision-making structure.

- **Key result areas:** governance and management,



Focus Area 5- Sustainability

Strategic Objective 5: Ensure a strong, sustainably financed and programmatically relevant JASL capable of providing services to its beneficiaries in the long-term

- **Key result areas:** resource mobilization strategy: service delivery contracts (government and private sector), fee for service models, grant funding and large grant management.

Focus Area 6- Strategic Information and Research Strategic Objective 6: Enhance organizational learning and accountability to stakeholders

- **Key result areas:** monitoring, evaluation and learning, operational research, the development of knowledge products and service packages for monetization.

Governance



Cannon Garth Minnott
Chairman



Ian McKnight
Co-Founder



Trevor Blake
Board Member



Andrea Chinsee
Board Member



Deborah Manning
Board Member



Alicia Reid
Board Member



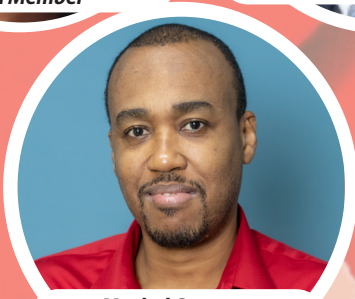
Omar Robinson
Board Member



Marilyn Thompson
Staff Representative



Gervaise Mcleod
Board Member



Machel Stewart
Board Member



Kandasi Walton-Levermore
Executive Director

BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman's Message

Dear Stakeholders...

The year 2020 was one of the most challenging years in the history of Jamaica AIDS Support for Life (JASL). The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic greatly shifted the plans of the organization. While the team had to adapt to the new norms, we kept our doors and hearts open to our beneficiaries. The Board of Directors worked cohesively with the management team to define and implement measures to protect both staff and clients. A dedicated committee was formed whose primary focus was the implementation of measures to protect the health and safety of JASL's employees. This was done through the creation of an Infection, Prevention and Control Protocol that outlines gradual measures to protect everyone who enters JASL's offices. This year reinforced the promise we made in 1991 to serve our constituents with Love, Action and Support.

With our nation now reliant on the health sector more than ever, we have maintained our long standing partnership with the Ministry of Health and Wellness. We sustained constant dialogue with the Ministry to guide the provision of accurate information to our clients and donors. JASL, cognizant that we remain in the eyes and ears for persons living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, ensured that full representation of the constituents'



needs were made known to the government and partners. We continued to provide comprehensive services to our communities including persons living with HIV (PLHIV), and vulnerable populations including men who have sex with men (MSM), sex workers (SW) and women of Trans-experience, where the disease is most concentrated and requires the greatest attention.

JASL's provision of service extended to engaging our donors and partners in making available psychosocial support for all its clients, many of whom had lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19. Good nutrition is vital to help maintain the health and quality of life and improved health outcomes; and as such, we provided care packages in our three (3) chapters. In spite of the challenges that beset us in 2020, JASL's team worked assiduously to meet the targets set before us. Both our treatment and prevention teams rose to the task of finding new methods of engaging our clients while the EEHR team continued to advocate for the rights of the populations which we serve. JASL, in tandem with other partners in the Joint Civil Society Forum on HIV & AIDS, charted the way for the development of a model Anti-Discrimination legislation. The issue of stigma and discrimination has continued to have significant impact on the health outcomes of persons living with and affected by HIV.

The strength of the Board is revealed in the work of a resilient JASL staff. In challenging times, the Board is an anchor ensuring the steadiness of the vessel; and while 2020 saw many challenges, it is through the commitment of each and every employee that JASL remained steadfast and resilient in the face of COVID-19. I applaud each and every member of staff for their efforts and unwavering support.

As 2021 approaches, we look forward with anticipation for a better year.

2021 marks our 30th anniversary: thirty (30) years of excellence, thirty (30) years of resilience, thirty (30) years of commitment to people living with and affected by HIV.

Love, Action and Support.

**Cannon Garth Minott
Chairperson**

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Executive Director's Message

Dear Partners....

Undoubtedly, 2020 will be etched in the minds of many for a long time. The outbreak of the novel coronavirus sent shockwaves around the world, which resulted in many losing their lives, many losing their jobs and several organizations closing their doors. As a team, JASL remained committed to delivering the best service to our clients. We quickly pivoted and developed a robust plan that would allow us to meet our objectives around HIV prevention and education, treatment care and support and advocating for an enabling environment.

Our prevention efforts saw us moving away from community interventions to a more virtual approach. We rolled out our Online Reservation Application (ORA), which allowed for clients to schedule their testing and clinic appointments using any mobile device at their own convenience. This was not only timely but proved a great success to better monitor testing appointments. We amplified our one-on-one peer testing by appointments only at the organization's offices and at locations convenient to people who want to be tested. These strategic efforts saw us reaching 6,187 and testing 5,185 individuals across the island, of which 100 were reactive to HIV.



Despite the many challenges and delays, 2020 saw JASL making tremendous strides with the roll out of our Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) services. JASL became the first organization to offer PrEP in Jamaica and officially launched the PrEP programme via a pilot study in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Wellness. To effectively undertake the same, a successful campaign dubbed BEPrePared was done, which helped in sensitizing potential clients around PrEP and improved the PrEP uptake. At the end of the year, we had 63 clients on PrEP, including gay, bi-sexual and other at-risk men.

JASL's success as a healthcare provider is grounded in comprehensive case management model and improving all aspects of our clients' lives. We have strengthened our programmatic suite of services to meet their professional and academic needs. These included skills building opportunities for 22 members across various programmes, which included Project Management, Supervisory Management, and Principles of Marketing. Many of JASL's clients who benefitted from these opportunities are now gainfully employed.

We have remained one of the

preferred treatment sites among PLHIV. This is primarily due to our well trained and professional staff, who continues to provide exemplary service in a confidential and enabling environment. Despite the pandemic, we were able to grow our clientele by over 12% with 890 PLHIV on register. Our treatment cascade remains commendable with 822 persons retained in care, 807 on ARVs and 519 virally suppressed.

JASL recognizes the importance of advocacy in ensuring an enabling society for its clients'. As such, we have continued to seek dialogue with the government to enact policies that would bolster the work that we do. Our social media campaign called on the government to open shelters for abused

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Executive Director's Message con't

women. A team of JASL staff visited the House of Parliament and made presentation to the Joint Select Committee regarding the submission on the proposed Sexual Harassment Act 2019.

Another major milestone of 2020 was that JASL renewed its cooperative agreement with United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Our key donor agencies such as Elton John Foundation, MAC AIDS Foundation, UNDP, Global Fund and the AIDS Healthcare Foundation all

responded to the needs of our clients and helped to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. The continued partnerships provided an opportunity for us to ramp our prevention efforts, create messages that directly targeted our clients and greater support to our treatment sites. This year also signaled greater synergy and collaboration with our sub sub-recipients and sub awardees by way of increased referrals and linkages, as well as a joint campaign dubbed "With You All The Way." We applaud our partners that ensured that targets

and deliverables were met.

The very foundation of this organization rests on the shoulders of the staff. As a team, we planted seeds and we reaped great success. As we approach our 30th anniversary, we remain resilient and move onward with a strong Board of Directors, Management, staff, partners, friends and volunteers.

Kandasi Walton-Levermore
Executive Director



Programme in numbers

JASL IS HOME TO 890 PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV. 807 OF WHOM ARE ON ANTI-RETROVIRAL MEDICATION.

Despite COVID-19, JASL made significant achievements across all its programme areas:

6187 persons received HIV voluntary counselling and testing.

100 persons newly diagnosed; 83% of whom linked to care.

175 orphans and vulnerable children received educational and psycho-social support.

29 at-risk youths and adolescents received skills building.

130 at-risk youths empowered through life skills sessions.

42 marginalized and vulnerable persons commenced entrepreneurship training.

6 female survivors of domestic and sexual violence received continued business management support.

63 persons enrolled after the successful roll out of pre-prophylaxis (PrEP).

104 persons living with and affected by HIV increased their legal and human rights knowledge.

33 active legal support cases for persons who were subjected to discrimination and harm.



COVID-19 Response

Jamaica, like the rest of the world, is in unprecedented times as it continues to manage and reduce the impact of COVID-19 on the workforce, public health systems, and the broader country levels. Jamaica AIDS Support for Life, as an essential service provider, balanced its obligations to ensuring adequate service provision to its clients as well as maintained the safety of its staff. This is an ongoing process, which began with the development and adoption of an Infection, Prevention and Control Protocol, in addition to changing the modalities of how the organisation delivered services to its clients.

JASL's Infection Prevention and Control Protocol

JASL's IPC Protocols were developed to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the organisation in order to continue to provide uninterrupted service to the clients. The document provides guidelines for interfacing with the public, included requirements for equipping the staff and clients with personal protective equipment and sanitization throughout the office. Both staff and clients were encouraged to take responsibility for one's own behavior and not endangering anyone else.

The organisation adjusted its programme to the COVID-19 realities by undertaking the following:

- Emphasis on linkage to care of those persons already identified as positive or lost to follow-up.
- Online and peer to peer strategies were strengthened to mobilize individuals for services such as HIV testing and making clinic appointments to get enrolled in care.
- Case management conferences refocused on beneficiaries with poor adherence or lost to follow up.
- Clinics appointments were prioritized for beneficiaries with poor adherence (unstable patients).
- Stable patients were provided with multi-month scripts and benefitted from telemedicine.
- Virtual platforms were used for adherence, support

Are there side effects associated with taking a vaccine?

There are minor and temporary side effects:

On the arm where you got the shot:

- Pain
- Redness
- Swelling

Throughout the rest of your body:

- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle Pain
- Chills
- Fever
- Nausea

GET VAXXED!

JASL Caribbean Vulnerable Communities

Andre Steen, Television/Radio Presenter

groups, psychology sessions.

- Transportation support preference given to those beneficiaries whose vulnerability had increased as a result of COVID-19.
- Clients who were caught in lockdowns and states of emergency were supported with filling and dropping off prescriptions at their home.
- Multi-month scripting and adherence counselors expedited refills of antiretroviral medications and a Retention Monitoring system developed for beneficiaries.
- Pre-ART initiation immediately done after a positive result; this was

done in response to slow return of confirmatory result from the National Public Health Lab.

Nutritional Support provided to over 1000 persons living with HIV; 2500 indirect beneficiaries

Jamaica AIDS Support for Life conducted a detailed assessment among its beneficiaries to assess the impact of COVID-19 on their lives – employment, health, education and food security.

Approximately 70% of JASL's clients, especially those from the rural areas, are living in low-income households and have further lost their jobs during the COVID crisis. Food insecurity and lack of adequate housing have been associated with increased HIV transmission risk, inability to maintain regular medical appointments, poor antiretroviral therapy (ART) uptake and adherence and lower efficacy of ART. To mitigate a negative impact on the clients' treatment outcome, the organisation solicited corporate and other partner support through the donation of cash and/or non-perishable in-kind items to relief care packages and PPEs. Through partnership support, relief packages were provided to clients, which included non-perishable food and various hygienic items. In some instances, cash grants were provided to clients based on their individual vulnerabilities.

Donor Relations and Resource Mobilization

Leveraging partnerships sustainability...

Jamaica AIDS Support for Life forges partnerships with international donors, private and public partners. The organization also benefits from the goodwill of the public and its staff. These partners resulted in the organization strengthening its employee giving programme; finalizing its new website to allow for online donations; and importantly, retrofitting a space for its pharmacy. Through partnerships from international development agencies and the Ministry of Health and Wellness, JASL strengthened the infrastructure of its clinics for improved service delivery to clients, secured contact investigators for increase case findings among those most at risk for contracting HIV, as well as general training among its staff as healthcare workers providing essential services to better diagnose and treat clients.

Corporate and International Donors' Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has gravely impacted a number of the organisation's clients, leaving them unemployed and not being able to provide for themselves and their families. In an effort to

alleviate the clients existing problems and foreseeing ones, JASL spearheaded an initiative dubbed "Help us to help people Living with HIV (PLHIV) during this time of crisis", which involved JASL calling on local organisations and international donors to provide financial and other support.

The response from corporate Jamaica resulted in cash and in-kind:

Company	Contributions
Development Bank of Jamaica	JMD \$75,000
CIBC First Caribbean	JMD \$50,000
National Commercial Bank	600 masks
Blue Dot	1000 masks
Digicel Foundation	30 care Packages
Council of Voluntary Social Services	JMD \$500,000 worth of care packages
Wisynco	15 cases of juice
Very Amazing Products	15 cases of juice
LASCO	15 cases of Icool

International Donors	Contributions (USD)
USAID	\$300,000
MAC AIDS Fund	\$125,000
United Nations Development Programme	\$47,000
Global Fund (Ministry of Health)	\$225,000
Elthon John Foundation	\$25,000
AIDS Healthcare Foundation	\$10,000
	\$732,000

The funds were used to purchase, among other things, personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff and care packages and psycho-social support for clients, as well as developed a communication campaign that disseminated appropriate messages to the relevant populations to help reduce fear and anxiety while promoting adherence.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



The Global Fund
To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Donor Relations and Resource Mobilization

JASL and other NGOs also got support for business continuity with the purchase of computers and mobile phones to support work from home.

LISTING OF 2020 DONORS

JASL's life-changing work is only possible because of the supporters that share our goal and values. Their financial assistance comes in many forms: regular monthly donations; corporate monetary and in-kind donation organizing and taking part in events; and general spirit of goodwill.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

Jamaica AIDS Support for Life is funded primarily through international development partners. We thank each for the continued unwavering support.

- Global Fund
- USAID
- UNDP
- European Union
- AHF
- Mac AIDS Fund
- Elton John Foundation

EMPLOYEE GIVING CORPORATE



PARTNERS

- British Caribbean Insurance Company (BCIC)
- Jamaica AIDS Support for Life
- Sagicor Bank

INDIVIDUALS

- Andrew Foreman
- Lorice Taylor
- Lorie-Ann Turner
- Lisa Walker
- Anthony Howard
- Roger McKenzie
- Kirk Brown

CORPORATE DONATIONS (IN-KIND AND MONETARY GIFTS)

- C B Chicken
- Continental Baking Company Co.
- CIBC First Caribbean International Bank
- Council of Voluntary Social Services
- Development Bank of Jamaica Limited
- Digicel Foundation
- Food For the Poor
- Grand Bahia Principe
- Island Grill (Chicken Mistress)
- Great House Pharmacy
- Jamaica Biscuit Co. Ltd



- Knutsford Court Hotel
- Lasco Distributors Limited
- National Commercial Bank Jamaica Limited
- Secrets Wild Orchid & Secrets
- Very Amazing Products Limited

ESTABLISHING THE JASL PHARMACY

JASL commenced the process of registering a Pharmacy with the Pharmacy Council of Jamaica. A consultant was engaged to produce drawing to ensure the layout met specifications of Pharmacy Council. The drawing was reviewed and approved. Already, with funding support from USAID, the organization has retrofitted its space and secured all the necessary equipment for the pharmacy to be fully functional and operational. With funding support from Global Fund, the organisation has engaged a pharmacist to ensure all processes are followed in accordance to regulatory standards as the organisation prepares for approval from the Council.

The pharmacy will operate as a social enterprise venture processing both prescription medications and over the counter supplies. Specifically:

- Dispensing of prescription and over-the-counter medication, including anti-retroviral medication for persons living with HIV
- National Health Fund provider (Sagicor, Medicus and Canopy)

Donor Relations and Resource Mobilization

LOVE IS THE ANSWER...

Partner with **Jamaica AIDS Support For Life** by having a **Love Box** installed in your organization.



Provide your clients with the **opportunity** to give with love to impact the lives of others.

For more information contact:
**Jamaica AIDS Support For Life at
(876)-925-0021**



JASL Love Box

JASL recognizes that strategic growth requires wholesale involvement and cannot be seen solely as an administrative or executive level activity. As an entity that is driven by and dependent on community participation in effecting change JASL also applies this concept to how we coordinate support activities. The JASL Love Box represents our efforts to involve the general population in the support needed to stem the spread of HIV in Jamaica. JASL Love Box is a voluntary cash donations tool that allows the general public to donate to the work of JASL anonymously. These boxes are crafted with an understanding of the need to maintain the institutional aesthetics and as such each box is made from clear acrylic embossed with the JASL logo and crowned with a minimal information header. Each box is approximately 4 X 6 inches with a total height of 8 inches and was so sized to be easily accommodated and minimally obstructive.

Financial Statement

JASL 2020 Income and Expense information summary

Statement of Sources of Funds/Cost of Activities as per Funder

Revenue	Notes	JM\$ Jan-Dec 2020 Current period	Funding Percentage
Grant funds from GF JASL + SSRs	-	212,244,640.22	43%
Grant funds from USAID (JASL CA)	-	239,660,191.75	48%
EU Project	-	14,152,886.28	3%
UNDEF (UNIFEM a/c)	-	0.00	0%
JASL Domestic	-	14,536,216.13	3%
Elton John AIDS Foundation (UNFPA a/c)	-	0.00	0%
AIDS Health Foundation (AHF)	-	8,629,367.67	2%
University of Toronto (CIHR)	-	2,851,013.70	1%
MAC AIDS – Tides Foundation (amEAR)	-	7,196,421.37	1%
Sex Worker Association of Jamaica (SWAJ-LCI)	-	0.00	0%
Total		499,270,737.12	100%

Statement of Sources of Funds/Cost of Activities as per Category

Revenue	Notes	JM\$ Jan-Dec 2020 Current period
1. International Funding Agencies	-	484,734,521.00
2. Foreign Companies and Individuals	-	0.00
3. Local Funding Agencies	-	0.00
4. Local Companies and Individuals	-	0.00
5. Total Donations (Add Lines 1 to 4)	-	484,734,521.00
6. Government Subventions	-	826,999.56
7. Investment Income	-	0.00
8. Rental Income	-	0.00
9. Fund Raising Activities	-	0.00
10. Other Sources of Income	-	13,709,216.57
Total Income from all sources		499,270,737.12

Statement of Detailed Expenses/Cost of Activities as per Funder

Expenses	Notes	JM\$ Jan-Dec 2020 Current period	Expense Percentage
Grant funds from GF JASL + SSRs	-	205,415,417.41	41%
Grant funds from USAID (JASL CA)	-	243,494,070.30	49%
EU Project	-	15,383,518.60	3%
UNDEF (UNIFEM a/c)	-	0.00	0%
JASL Domestic	-	14,074,179.95	3%
Elton John AIDS Foundation (UNFPA a/c)	-	0.00	0%
AIDS Health Foundation (AHF)	-	10,112,549.85	2%
University of Toronto (CIHR)	-	1,871,499.00	0%
MAC AIDS – Tides Foundation (amEAR)	-	7,306,255.20	1%
Sex Worker Association of Jamaica (SWAJ-LCI)	-	0.00	0%
Total		497,657,490.31	100%

Financial Statement

Statement of Detailed Expenses/Cost of Activities as per Category

Expenses	Notes	JM\$ Jan-Dec 2020 Current period
Administrative Expenses: 1. Salary and Wages	-	126,458,640.74
Administrative Expenses: 2. Staff Welfare	-	0.00
Administrative Expenses: 3. Employer Statutory Contributions	-	0.00
Administrative Expenses: 4. Management Professional Fees	-	0.00
Administrative Expenses: 5. Rental Expenses	-	0.00
Administrative Expenses: 6. Other Expenses	-	53,211,824.53
7. Total Administrative Expenses (Add Lines 1 to 6)	-	179,670,465.27
Programme Expenses: 8. Housing	-	
Programme Expenses: 9. Welfare (food, medical supplies, etc.)	-	
Programme Expenses: 10. Community Assistant		
Programme Expenses: 11. Scholarship and Grants		
Programme Expenses: 12. Other Programme Expenses		317,987,025.04
13. Total Programme Expenses (Add Lines 8 to 12)		317,987,025.04
14. Total Expenses (Add Lines 7 and 13)		497,657,490.31

COVID 19 Response Income & Expenses 2020

Donor Funds	Notes	INCOME	EXPENSE	BALANCE
USAID	Care packages, ICT Equipment & Pharmacy	\$44,004,156	\$42,269,172	\$1,734,984
Global Fund	Care packages, PPEs & Phone Cards	\$2,415,099.00	\$2,072,284.80	\$342,814.20
UNDP	Care Packages, Vouchers, PPEs, Travel, etc	\$6,761,240.67	\$6,651,270.58	\$109,970.09
EJAF	Care Packages, Vouchers, PPEs, Travel, etc	\$3,125,000.00	\$3,085,180.75	\$39,819.25
AHF	Nutritional Support, PPEs & Cleaning Supplies	\$1,250,000.00	\$1,157,943.73	\$92,056.27
	-	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	-	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	-			
Total		57,555,495.67	55,235,851.86	2,319,643.81

HIV Prevention and Education

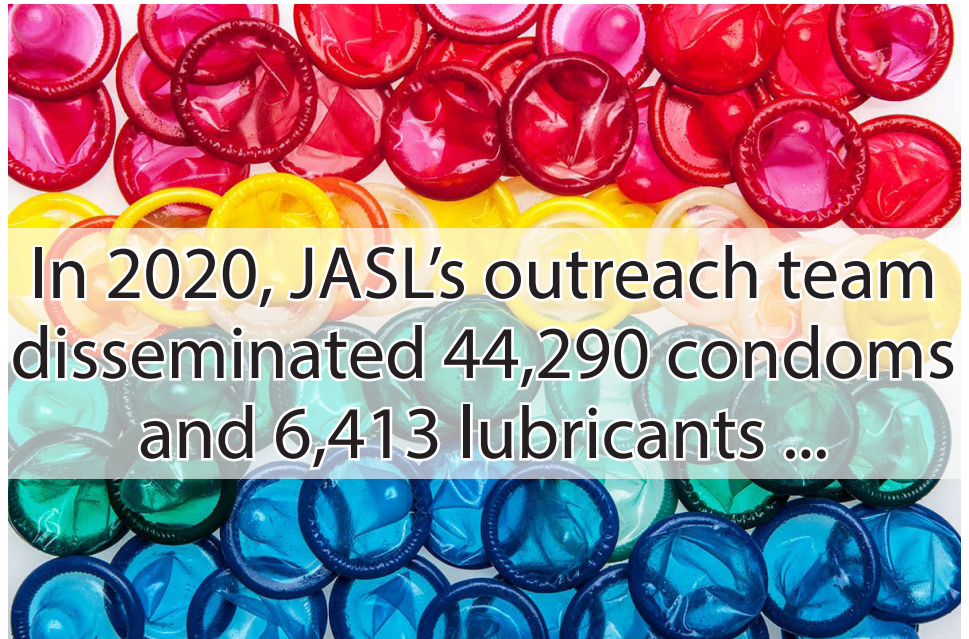
To mitigate the impact of COVID-19, mixed modalities were utilized such as peer-to-peer support, as well as the peer navigators utilizing ICT-based strategies and community-led interventions to engage the target populations for HIV prevention and testing services. The ICT strategy was augmented by an online reservation application, www.myhealthja.org, which became operational mid-year 2020.

INCREASED ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND SUPPORT

In 2020, JASL's outreach team disseminated 44,290 condoms and 6,413 lubricants in an effort to encourage people to practice safe sex.

INCREASED KNOWLEDGE, RISK PERCEPTION AND ACCESS TO HIV PREVENTION COMMODITIES

Overall, there were approximately 6,187 instances of people reached across general and key populations with information on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, discussion and analysis around their risk perception, condom demonstration, information on Jamaica AIDS Support for Life and referral to the organisation's services. Of this total, 2778 instances of reach were among the general population, disaggregated as 1341 among males and 1437 among females; 2018 among men who have sex with men (MSM), 1239 among sex workers (SW) and 152 among Trans women. Arising from those engagements



In 2020, JASL's outreach team disseminated 44,290 condoms and 6,413 lubricants ...

were 5,185 instances of HIV testing and counselling. Two thousand seven-hundred and seventy-eight 2,778 members of the general population were tested and a total of 2,407 members of key populations with 1463 being MSM, 862 being SW, 82 being Trans women.

Of those tested, 100 newly HIV diagnosed across all populations with 23 persons among the general population, 66 among MSM, 4 Trans women and 7 SWs. There were also 198 instances of syphilis among all population with 141 among MSM, 31 among general population, 16 among Trans women and 10 among FSWs.

IMPROVED SELF-EFFICACY AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

To reduce the vulnerability and structural barriers of key popu-

lations at risk of contracting or transmitting HIV, JASL provided life skills support groups, skills building training opportunities and educational grants to at-risk youths, men who have sex with other men, high risk females and female sex workers, as well as trans women.

SKILLS BUILDING INTERVENTIONS

29 people received skills training opportunities

In the JASL Kingston chapter, eleven (11) participants enrolled at the University College of the Caribbean in certificate courses:

- Four (4) Human Resource Management
 - Five (5) Supervisory Management
 - Two (2) Introduction to Business
- Of the 11 clients enrolled in UCC by Kingston Chapter, seven (7) are employed, noting that three got

HIV Prevention and Education

employment since participating in the course.

In the JASL Kingston chapter, three (3) persons living with HIV accessed skills building delivered by the Guadeloupe Skills Training Centre in housekeeping and sewing.

In the JASL St. Ann, eleven (11) clients benefitted from certified skills building with the St. Monica College, nine (9) would have completed during the reporting period with the remaining two (2) still undergoing the training. To date, at least (3) sent out application seeking job opportunities, one (1) working in the field part-time, three (3) unable to find employment in the hotel sector due to COVID-19 and four (4) applied for income generating grants.

Four (4) at-risk young gay men were provided with school support during the reporting period.

LIFE SKILLS SESSIONS

130 at-risk youths provided with life skills and empowerment support

The organisation's Life Skills and Empowerment sessions are delivered to young at-risk gay and bi-sexual men, high risk females and female sex workers, as well as trans-women. The topics included self-efficacy and building self-esteem; conflict resolution and mental wellness in the workplace; resume and job applications and



dating and healthy relationships. Among females, the sessions included topics on sexual and reproductive health, where issues such as importance of getting a pap smear and breast examination periodically, as well as sexual health and caring of the vagina.

During the 2020 reporting period, the chapters revisited its GLAB-COM (Gays, Lesbians and Bi-Sexual Community) support group, which acts as a life skills session for the gay community. This support group provides a safe space for the community, basic skills

and other targeted interventions to improve their lives and health outcomes.

JASL ROLLS OUT PREP; 63 CLIENTS ENROLLED

A significant achievement of the Jamaica AIDS Support for Life is the successful rolling out of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), now as a service being offered by the organisation. In 2020, JASL partnered with the MOH around the PrEP pilot to be offered to fifty (50) at-risk men. Forty-one clients were enrolled and successfully

HIV Prevention and Education



completed the three (3) month protocol with good adherence, minimal side effects and will continue in care.

Since the pilot, JASL developed a protocol for the administration of PrEP to gay men, who are notably more at-risk of contracting HIV, and negative partners of sero-discordant couples. The potential clients are currently screened for HIV and other STIs, including Hepatitis B and interviewed to determine their risk profile. Those clients at substantial risk are offered adherence support and regular clinical and lab monitoring in addition to the medication and treatment for STIs as necessary. Clients are

reviewed after one month on treatment and then every three (3) months to monitor for adherence, side effects and changes in their risk profile.

There are currently sixty-three (63) clients enrolled in the PrEP clinic, which is held once per week in the Kingston chapter. JASL will try to enrol 100 clients to benefit from this service in 2021. The treatment teams across the chapters will be sensitized and introduced to the protocol as JASL seeks to expand the service to the other chapters. The prevention teams as well as community workers in the CSOs will also be sensitized regarding the use of PrEP in different vulner-

able groups in the next quarter.

To complement the efforts of the treatment team and ensure that clients are aware of the expanded service, the communication team launched a campaign called #BePrepared. The campaign is geared towards educating MSM and TG about PrEP and the role it plays in reducing HIV. The campaign has gained tremendous traction online; to date it has reached over one hundred thousand (100,000) people across the island.

KEY PREVENTION OBSERVANCE, 2020

SAFER SEX WEEK ENCOURAGED COUPLE TESTING AND KNOWING ONE'S STATUS

Safer Sex Week was celebrated from February 10-14, 2020 and coincides with the hugely popular Valentine's Day. This special day, for lovers and love-making is also known for sexual risk-taking and not-so-conscious decision-making, some of which have been known to have life-altering repercussions. In an effort to reduce the risky sexual practices, Jamaica AIDS Support for Life (JASL) deployed its team across Jamaica with a very clear-cut message; "use a condom every time!" JASL's St. Ann chapter hosted a rap session on HIV and AIDS and condom demonstrations at its office before heading to the St Ann bus park and Trelawny Market to offer free HIV and syphilis testing. The St

HIV Prevention and Education

James intervention team targeted the Montego Bay bus park also offering free HIV and syphilis tests. The team also took to the busy streets of Montego Bay with their test kits for 'Walk, Talk and Test' providing on-the-spot HIV and syphilis test to the commuters. The Kingston Chapter partnered with radio station ZIP FM to host a live outside broadcast on the grounds of Spartan Health Club. The initiative engaged numerous men to promote getting an HIV and syphilis test before starting their workout routine at the gym. To round up the week of activities the team journeyed to Golden Spring and hosted a 'mini-concert' chockfull with exciting dance-offs and singing competitions. It had the community buzzing with excitement and prompted many residents and bystanders to have their tests done.

JASL LAUNCHED FLAGSHIP PREVENTION CAMPAIGN CALLED "DWEETS SAFE!"

As part of the prevention efforts, JASL developed a multi-tiered #DweettSafe campaign geared towards developing messages that increases awareness about HIV and reducing the incidence of HIV among key populations. With a particular focus on reaching young gay men, at-risk females/female sex workers and transwomen, the campaign was implemented through online social marketing strategies, mass communication and community level interventions. Several small special events and edutainment sessions were conducted, which significantly contributed to the organisation's HIV testing uptake.

WORLD AIDS DAY 2020 – #DWEETS SAFE VIRTUAL FAIR & DRIVE THRU TESTING

Annually, December 1 commemorates World AIDS Day (WAD) as an acknowledgement and reflection for people who are living with or have been affected by HIV or AIDS. In mitigating the impact of COVID-19, JASL demonstrated its leadership



and innovation through a virtual weeklong event. Dubbed the #DweetSafe Virtual Fair & Drive Thru Testing, 2020 World AIDS Day commenced on November 23rd and culminated on December 1st.



Promoting JASL services and encouraging its usage, key among the messaging was partner testing – encouraging sexual partners to get tested together. Several "pop up" WAD chats were conducted via social media

lives with key influencers such as Lijitimate, Dutty Berry and Carla Moore. On World AIDS Day, a five (5) hour live online event was held and streamed across all JASL's social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter & Youtube) and on radio. The live was held simultaneously with drive thru testing held across all three chapters. Fully observing protocols and mitigating COVID transmission, the drive thru concept had tents positioned and vehicles were able to drive directly through the tent, with an arm extended to get the test administered.

Treatment, Care and Support

JASL's programme strongly emphasizes the differentiated model of care to improve service delivery to the varying populations served by the organisation, which include women and girls living with HIV, transgender women, men who have sex with other men and PLHIV – deliberately addressing their specific needs such as stigma, displacement, sexual abuse and disclosure. These services are delivered through a comprehensive case management approach, which involves all staff at the organisation's treatment sites/clinics.

Improved Linkage to Care

At the end of 2020, JASL's linkage to care rate for those found reactive to HIV was 83% – an improvement of 5% when comparing the efforts of 2019.

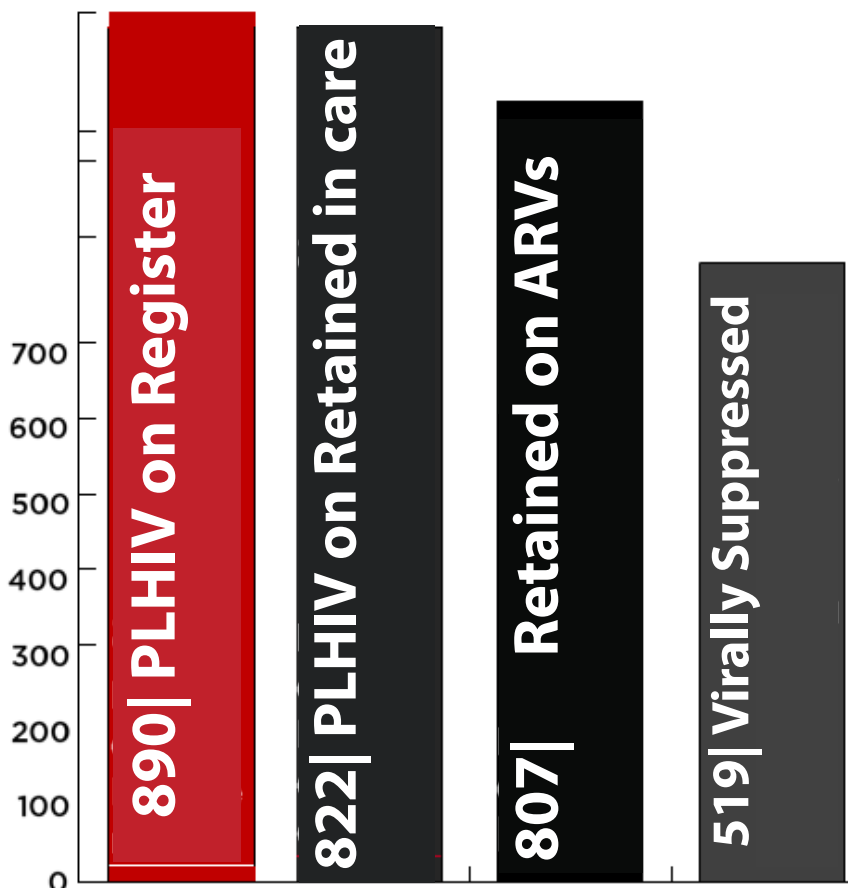
Increased Retention in Care for PLHIV Clients

JASL, through its three (3) treatment sites in Kingston, St. Ann and Montego Bay had 890 clients on its register at the end of December 2020, representing a growth of 107 new clients or 12% compared to its 2019 client count. Eight hundred and seven (807) were on ARVs.

Increased Viral Suppression Rate

The organization continues to work toward the "third 90" of the UNAIDS Global Target for viral suppression. JASL's viral suppression rate at the end of 2020 was 64% with 519 clients achieving suppression. While the overall viral suppression is 64%, JASL notes of the five hundred seventy-five (575) clients who took a viral load test in 2020, 519 of them are suppressed, which means 90.2% of those who took a test and for whom results are available are virally suppressed.

JASL's Treatment Cascade, 2020



Biomedical Support

Contributing to JASL's retention in care and viral suppression rates were its biomedical programme. The biomedical programme allowed for the hosting of 373 clinic sessions with a doctor and nurse, which facilitated 3,687 instances of clients being seen. With the support of USAID, AIDS Healthcare Foundation and MAC AIDS Fund, JASL expended over \$2M filling prescriptions for clients with drugs for opportunistic infections. Over \$5.5M was spent on over-the-counter drugs and medical supplies with the kind assistance of the partners mentioned, as well as through the Global Fund. Clients also benefitted from diagnostic and specialist services such as CT Scans, ultrasounds and X-rays which amounted to over \$2M. Phlebotomy to conduct viral load testing was also carried out. Also, pap smears were conducted for JASL's female clients.

Treatment, Care and Support

Psychosocial Support

In order to provide comprehensive health and improvements in health outcomes for clients, JASL conducted 1310 sessions with a psychologist, 3321 general counselling sessions and 1659 adherence counselling sessions to improve the resilience of people with HIV (PLHIV) to take their medication as prescribed. Counselling sessions were also provided for adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV) and young mothers in collaboration with the Mustard Seed Communities and Eve for Life, respectively.

In 2020, JASL conducted 38 home and hospital visits across its three chapters. With funding support from MAC AIDS Foundation, \$5mil monetary value of basic living items such as beds, toilets, roofing materials, ply boards, cement, 2X4 boards, zinc and other construction materials were provided to clients experiencing difficult living conditions that were deemed to be undermining to their ability to become virally suppressed. Additionally, funding support of J\$3mil from all donor agencies facilitated clients' travel stipend to help with the cost of transportation to attend JASL's various treatment, care and support services.

Psychoeducational Support

PLHIV, especially newly diagnosed, use support groups to see and relate to others who have been in or are in a similar situation as themselves and share best practices to how they deal with their condition and offer moral support. Last year, five (5) treatment literacy sessions were held to help 54 PLHIV understand medical information about the HIV treatment process and have more control over their health.



Sixty-four (64) PLHIV Support Group sessions were also held to provide a bridge between medical treatment and the need for emotional support experienced by persons affected by the disease and its treatment.

175 vulnerable children supported with school attendance

COVID-19 proved to be a significant hindrance to how 2020 new school term was rolled out. Therefore, procurement of books was affected due to short supply by the book-

stores, as well as the uncertainty around the modality for class delivery. Nevertheless, 175 orphaned, vulnerable children and adolescents living with HIV were supported across JASL and its implementing partners. The support includes tuition fee payment, uniform and miscellaneous support, school books and stationery items, as well as tablets and phone cards to support virtual learning. At least four (4) of the students who were supported in the past have matriculated to university and given their vulnerabilities, JASL provided continued support.

Income Generating Grants for increased economic empowerment

Site visits and other business development support continue for the persons who had received IGG support in 2019. Businesses include poultry, chicken rearing, grocery, ground provisions and material trading. The organization had previously supported six (6) women experiencing domestic and gender based violence, some of whom are living with HIV and a disability. Approximately, twenty-five (25) Trans women, twelve (12) MSM and five (5) FSWs are being trained in entrepreneurship. Following this, they will be reviewed for possible grant support.

Enabling Environment and Human Rights

A supportive and enabling environment where the human rights of vulnerable populations at a risk for HIV are respected and upheld is a strategic priority for Jamaica AIDS Support for Life (JASL). Through its advocacy initiatives, the organisation

lobbies for the repealing of punitive laws and other policies and pieces of legislation that infringe on the rights of these key groups. It also works towards reducing stigma and discrimination among service providers through sensitisation and training.

Policy Monitoring and Advocacy

Anti-discrimination policy research paper and advocacy strategies

The Civil Society Forum on HIV and AIDS, with JASL as co-chair, has been working since early 2020 in partnership with the Office of the Public Defender and other civil society partners to get an anti-discrimination legislation enacted in Jamaica. To date, a model legislation and a policy research paper have been developed.

- The Model is intended to be enacted as “ordinary” companion legislation and supplement the attributes already protected in the charter.

Parliamentary Submission on Sexual Harassment Act

Following a parliamentary submission made to the Joint Select Committee of parliament reviewing the newly proposed Sexual Harassment Act 2019, JASL appeared before the committee on Wednesday January 29, 2020. An oral submission was made to nine (9) policy makers present. Some of the key recommendations that were in the written submission were:

- Broaden the definition of sexual harassment to include stalking;
- Broaden the coverage of the Bill to include sexual harassment in the streets;
- Include a specific provision to deal with sexual harassment committed by an outsider towards an employee of an institution on the premises;
- Be more explicit in terms of gender harassment;
- Mandate public education around sexual harass-

ment in multiple spaces.

Advocacy to address legislation related to Sexual Harassment and Domestic Violence

In 2020, JASL developed two policy papers around Gender Harassment and Unauthorized.

Training of Key Duty-bearers and agencies

JASL conducted one (1) training session on October 14, 2020 with 28 healthcare, which include doctors, nurses, and pharmacists within both the public sector. Sessions focussed on integrating human rights approaches to service provision and delivery. The training was done virtually due to COVID-19 and the prioritization of HCWs as first responders.

HR Code of Conduct

The Regional Health Authorities were engaged to develop a healthcare worker Code of Conduct. Some of the areas the documents focuses on are:

- The provision of service using a human rights approach
- Issues of Consent
- Appropriate conduct relating to treatment advice
- Reporting the conduct or co-workers
- Responding to vulnerable groups
- Universal Precaution
- Privacy and confidentiality.

115 law enforcement officers trained in human rights

There were five (5) 2-day and one 1-day session were held with 94 police officers and 21 correctional officers.

Enabling Environment and Human Rights

The areas covered in both sessions include:

- Stigma & Discrimination
- HIV & Human Rights
- Gender, GBV & HIV

Private sector engaged around human rights and HIV best practices within the workplace
To mitigate instances of workplace discrimination, five (5) companies were engaged on June 30, 2020 on Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) in the context of COVID-19 and HIV.

The objectives of the consultation were:

- To explore the OSHA and its implications for the new world of work as dictated by the realities of COVID-19
- To highlight the unique placement of HIV in the legislation and what it means for employers.
- To examine the different internal policies that will be necessary for companies to be fully compliant.
- To outline JASL's role in supporting the development of these policies.

Capacity building for Collective Advocacy Documentation and Reporting training

The session was held on January 29-31, 2020, there were twenty-five (25) participants and two (2) facilitators. The participants involved redress officers who are involved in the collection of HIV related violations, certified parale-



gals who were involved in collection of reports at different entities, JASL's Legal Peer Navigators who are the first point of contact before matters reach the attorneys, policy officers, monitoring and evaluation personnel, programme leads and peer influencers.

The training sought to build the capacity of civil society to monitor, document and report human rights violations. The training was

divided into two content areas: understanding human rights violations and the basic principles for human rights documentation.

Community Mobilization training – Through funding support from the European Union, JASL in partnership with other agencies, hosted two community mobilization sessions as projected. The trainings were held separately among the two target groups:

Enabling Environment and Human Rights

October 2-3 for the community leaders and September 30th, October 1st, 6th and 7th for the NGO staff.

The training saw the participation of 12 community leaders and 15 staff representing Jamaica AIDS Support for Life, Eve for Life, Children First Agency, Transwave, Jamaicans for Justice, Equality for All Foundation, Jamaica Network of Seropositive and Jamaica Community of Positive Women.

The training broad objectives were to increase the capacity of NGO staff and increase awareness among community leaders around using community social mobilization to promote community monitoring and redress of rights violations. Specific objectives were:

- Creating awareness about and an open dialogue around HIV/AIDS in communities
- Enhancing the communities' understanding of, participation in, and enthusiasm for social justice
- Fostering understanding and acceptance of HIV

positive members of the community (stigma reduction); and

- Promoting HIV risk reduction among all community members.

Training of trainers session in Legal Literacy

To increase the human rights violations reporting among partner agencies, JASL hosted the training of trainers' session July 22 – 26, 2020 among 25 community paralegals and community representatives from eight (8) CSOs.

The purpose of the training is threefold:

- ensuring that the SSR staff has sufficient knowledge to facilitate their own legal literacy session, as required under the GF grant.
- Utilize the legal literacy session to boost awareness of the legal referral systems so there are increased



Enabling Environment and Human Rights

reports and increased legal cases.

• Following the conclusion of

the training, agencies have been engaged and are being provided

with funds to facilitate their own legal literacy sessions.

Increasing legal awareness and service uptake among clients

Provision of legal services to persons living with and affected by HIV

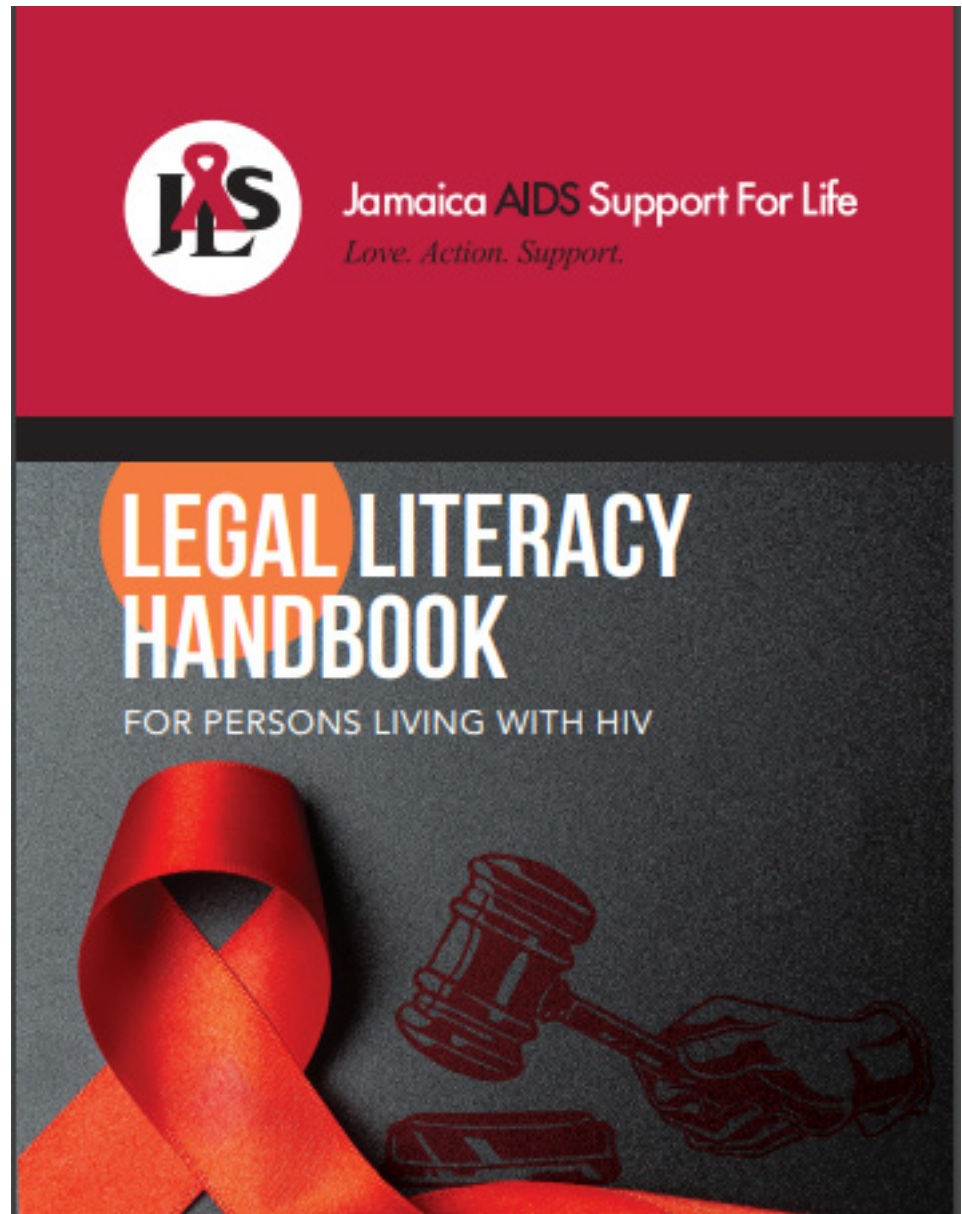
During the reporting period, the organization received twenty-two new reports and currently has thirty-three (33) active cases with key population members: 13 PLHIV (12 females and 3 males); 3 women experiencing violence; 10 MSM; 3 women with disabilities; 1 FSWs; 1 TGs; and 1 woman having sex with another woman. The types of legal matters are multiple per cases and vary across physical assault, employment discrimination, sexual abuse, domestic violence, and child custody issues.

The types of legal cases being addressed include 5 physical assault; 1 healthcare, 3 employment; 4 police setting; and 23 other matters, which include child custody issues, unpermitted and malicious disclosure of status.

104 persons with increased human rights knowledge and legal awareness

During the reporting period, JASL trained a total of 104 key population and PLHIV were engaged via seven (7) legal literacy sessions July 1st – 3rd; 29th – 31st, August 17th – 19th, October 29, October 30, November 4 – 6, November

25



13 and December 6, 2020. Due to COVID-19, some of the sessions were held virtually. The purpose of the sessions are to empower clients to know their rights, the situations in which to assert them

and how they should seek redress if they are breached.

Legal Literacy handbook - JASL has done further revision of PLHIV Legal Literacy Handbook. After

Enabling Environment and Human Rights

further recommendations were incorporated, the Legal Literacy Manual for PLHIV was revised and submitted for review. Post review, it will be sent to the graphics designer. This is expected to provide PLHIV with a simple, easy to read, comprehensive manual that informs them of their rights and responsibilities in law and outlines how to address the usual issues they face in accessing both health and legal services. The manual is expected to accompany the legal literacy sessions and better equip PLHIV to know and claim their

rights. This is another avenue to reduce the frequency of violations committed against PLHIV.

Speakers Bureau Training - A speaker's bureau training was held by JASL with key population and other community representatives on November 12-13 and 17-18, 2020. The training was designed to prepare speaker to represent their respective communities and speak at different levels about the challenges they face.

The content included:

- Public Speaking as Advocacy
- Media engagement (radio, televi-

sion and newspaper)

- Writing for public advocacy - writing op eds, press releases, policy briefs, human interest stories, position papers, etc)
- social media for advocacy
- Public Advocacy - how important is disclosure and family engagement?

While not reported by the organization in its GF monthly report, with other funding support, Equality for All Foundation does extensive work around training their beneficiaries in Speakers Bureau.

Silent Protest 2020

Into its sixth staging, COVID-19 was not enough to put a halt to Silent Protest – an event held annually to mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (IDEVAW). Held on November 25th, 2020 saw a virtual event being hosted, rather than the now accustomed large march and the recent added concert. The virtual event was a panel involving agency heads/leads from JASL, EVE for Life, Woman Inc. and Jamaicans for Justice, as well as two survivors of domestic violence.

In addition to the virtual event, JASL hosted a number of media interviews to sensitize the public around violence against women and their role in ending that pandemic. Further, JASL and the partner agencies “painted their pages purple” by having selected set of messages that would normally be placed on placards now designed and placed via social media pages.



Strategic Information and Research

HIV and Access to Justice Situational Analysis Report

The HIV and Access to Justice situational analysis report on key issues faced by key populations affected by HIV and AIDS is an initiative of Jamaica AIDS Support, which was done in partnership with Jamaicans for Justice with funding from the European Union. The report broadly focuses on key human rights violations faced by key populations, where they go to address them, and challenges they encounter when seeking redress. A review of 298 human rights violations and legal cases was undertaken using composite data from JASL, Equality for All Foundation and JN Plus. Additionally, nine (9) focus group discussions were conducted with 45 persons identified as key and vulnerable populations; fourteen (14) key informant interviews were conducted among stakeholders such as INDECOM, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, other NGO and government partners. To further substantiate the report, an online survey was conducted, using convenience sampling, among 71 respondents of the key population groups. Conclusively, the research used a mixed methodology approach which informed its findings.

The conclusion from the findings suggests that a broader concept of access to justice must be tapped into. Much of the scholarly work demonstrates that a limited focus on courtroom advocacy will not

do much for marginalized communities because of the myriad of challenges they face. Therefore, legal literacy sessions and improved relationships with alternate dispute resolution systems must be strengthened. Given the significant distrust that these communities have for police and other justice actors, much preliminary work needs to be done with sensitization of the duty-bearers. A significant human

rights violation faced by the community is physical and emotional abuse within their communities with their

health or other status being disclosed with permission. Accordingly, civil society actors must advocate for protective legislation to address stigma and discrimination faced by members of marginalized groups, in particular comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation which prohibits discrimination in the context of employment, education, health, housing and provision of services. The Government should also establish the

National Human Rights Institution as an official independent legal institution established by the State of law for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

Jamaica AIDS Support For Life (JASL) in collaboration with Dr. Carmen Logie (Principal Investigator) from the University of Toronto is spearheading a three-phase study - Social and Ecological Approaches to Research

Strategic Information and Research

HIV AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Situational Analysis of Access to Justice among Key Population affected by HIV and AIDS
2020



JAMAICA AIDS SUPPORT FOR LIFE



THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY
THE EUROPEAN UNION

on Care for HIV (S.E.A.R.C.H.), which continues into 2021. The purpose of the study is to understand the challenges and successes that young (16-29 years old) gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men, transgender

women and sex workers living with HIV have in taking their anti-retroviral treatment.

To date, focus group discussions have been conducted across chapters and key populations

served. Key informant interviews will be done in 2021.

Caribbean Public Health Agency through the PANCAP-CVC-COIN Regional Global Fund Project

JASL's Infection Prevention and Control protocol and subsequent interventions was submitted to CARPHA as a model for the uninterrupted provision of prevention, treatment care and support services in the context of a pandemic. With the various stay at home orders in place and the reduced public gathering numbers, JASL adjusted its service delivery modalities to ensure staff was protected and clients still provided with the best care. This resulted in increased use of online strategies for prevention and other programme areas. For example, use of webinars and online meetings. Treatment services saw the introduction of tele-medicine and teleconferencing options for client, as well as appointment-based approaches to reduce the number of clients seeking care on a given day.

The implementation of the interventions saw the continued provision of services to clients with 100% of the clinics sessions maintained when compared to the pre-COVID period; JASL maintained a 93% retention across the sites and was also recognized as having the highest national retention at the 2020 Annual Treatment, Care and Support review meeting (September 14-16).

Communications and External Relations

The communication team continued to strive to showcase the work of the various programmatic areas and bring visibility to the organization. In an effort to achieve this, various methods of communication were utilized including:

1. Newsletter
2. Video Log (Vlog)- JASL After Dark
3. Public Service Announcement
4. Social Media
5. Mass Media
6. Online Reservation Application (ORA)

Newsletter

The newsletter which is called 'JASL Decoded' was redesigned and infused with a mix of editorial pieces and organisational achievements. This continued to be used as a tool to communicate with staff, clients, partners and other stakeholders. It was shared via email and social media platforms. The newsletter was also packaged in a reader friendly format that allowed users to click and read online in a magazine style.

Two newsletters were produced:

A. <http://online.fliphtml5.com/syppv/tpeo/#p=18>



B. <https://online.fliphtml5.com/syppv/nhbz/#p=1>

Communications and External Relations

Video Log (Vlog)- JASL After Dark

JASL After Dark continues to be fresh, informative and engaging. The show continues to grow with a number of popular guests appearing to give feedback around safe sexual practices. The show provides a space to promote sex positivity while engaging with clients and potential clients. It has remained one of our most effective ICT strategies and continues to offline individuals for prevention, treatment and EEHR services.

2020 consisted of two seasons of JASL After Dark, spanning over 20 episodes which explored topics such as: The Rise of Online Sex, Les-Bi-Honest (Girls Do Like Girls), Does Size Matter, Sex & Religion, Worst Sexual Experience, Getting On PrEP and Trans exploring the Spectrum. With the showing being streamed on both Facebook and Instagram, we were able to engage over 100 LIVE viewers each episode and reach over 8000 individuals in total.



Communications and External Relations

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

JASL remained one of the most identifiable HIV testing and treatment organisation, this was due to robust communication campaigns which involved several radio placements, digital boards, JUTC Bus and mega mart boards.

RADIO

Thirty second commercials were placed on various radio stations including Radio Jamaica, Nationwide, Mello, Roots, ZIP and Fyah. Several radio interviews were also done across these radio stations.

Two Outside Broadcasts were also done to highlight our Safer Sex Week and World AIDS Day activities.

DIGITAL BOARDS/MEGA MART BOARDS

High traffic areas such as Constant Spring Road in Kingston, Sam Sharpe in St James and Drax Hall in St Ann were used to place ads to promote various messages and campaigns. A partnership was also formed with Mega Mart where our prevention and treatment messages were placed on their digital boards.

JUTC BUS ADS

To spread our messages among commuters, we placed messages on JUTC buses along various routes



including those along the Spanish Town, Half Way Tree and Down area. These primarily carried messages around our PrEP and Treatment campaigns.



Communications and External Relations

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media remains one of the most utilized means by which we communicate and engage the public and our clients. We use various platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and our Website (jaslinfo.org)

We continue to grow across all platforms with a high engagement.

Followers	Following	Impressions	Reach
INSTAGRAM			
4,296	1,119	1,291,628	849,290
FACEBOOK			
12,880	-	1,416,806	35,681
TWITTER			
2,331	503	91,600	18,301

MEDIA COVERAGE 2020

The Gleaner

Publication Dates	Headlines
January 30, 2020	Outlaw catcalls in sex harassment bill, says lobbyist https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20200130/outlaw-catcalls-sex-harassment-bill-says-lobbyist
February 11, 2020	Fewer than 50% of people with HIV getting treatment https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20200211/fewer-50-people-hiv-getting-treatment
May 13, 2020	Come to care: COVID-19 and persons living with HIV https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/health/20200513/come-care-covid-19-and-persons-living-hiv
July 9, 2020	CIBC FirstCaribbean donates to Jamaica AIDS Support https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20200709/corporate-hands-cibc-firstcaribbean-donates-jamaica-aids-support
November 25, 2020	JASL to host drive-thru HIV/AIDS testing https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/health/20201125/jasl-host-drive-thru-hiv-aids-testing

Communications and External Relations

Jamaica Information Service

December 2, 2020	Since COVID-19 More Persons Living With HIV Seek Information On ART https://jis.gov.jm/since-covid-19-more-persons-living-with-hiv-seek-information-on-art/
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Loop News

March 27, 2020	Coronavirus: A 'sense of urgency' among people living with HIV https://jamaica.loopnews.com/content/coronavirus-sense-urgency-among-people-living-hiv
April 25, 2020	HIV/AIDS community sees similarities in stigma around COVID-19 https://jamaica.loopnews.com/content/hivaids-community-sees-similarities-stigma-around-covid-19
May 6, 2020	Charity group helps struggling sex worker after Loop article https://jamaica.loopnews.com/content/watch-charity-group-helps-struggling-sex-worker-after-loop-article
October 23, 2020	Jamaica AIDS Support for Life welcomes opening of state-run shelter https://jamaica.loopnews.com/content/jamaica-aids-support-life-welcomes-opening-state-run-shelter
December 1, 2020	Since COVID, more persons living with HIV seeking treatment https://jamaica.loopnews.com/content/covid-more-persons-living-hiv-seeking-treatment

Communications and External Relations

Jamaica Observer

January 30, 2020	Calls made for stalking to be included in sexual harassment Bill https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/calls-made-for-stalking-to-be-included-in-sexual-harassment-bill 185930
March 29, 2020	COVID-19 and the threat to people living with HIV Officials urge treatment for those not already on a programme https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/covid-19-and-the-threat-to-officials-urge-treatment-for-those-not-already-on-a-programme 190826
July 08, 2020	Frightening projection of COVID-19's effect on HIV treatment https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/editorial/frightening-projection-of-covid-19-s-effect-on-hiv-treatment 198017
October 05, 2020	Jamaica AIDS Support rolls out anti-HIV pill https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/jamaica-aids-support-rolls-out-anti-hiv-pill 204580
October 23, 2020	JASL welcomes new domestic violence shelter https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/jasl-welcomes-new-domestic-violence-shelter
November 27, 2020	HIV-positive people still being denied basic human rights, study finds https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/hiv-positive-people-still-being-denied-basic-human-rights-study-finds 208602
November 29, 2020	Several HIV positive cases due to gender violence — officials https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/several-hiv-positive-cases-due-to-gender-violence-officials 208682
November 29, 2020	Where is the domestic violence shelter? Victims, advocates against abuse still do not know https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/where-is-the-domestic-violence-shelter-victims-advocates-against-abuse-still-do-not-know 208713

Grants Management

JASL continues to demonstrate strong grant management oversight on behalf of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the United States Agency for International Development. JASL is the Principal Recipient (PR) of the USAID funds and the sub-recipient for the Global Fund grant via the Ministry of Health and Wellness' Project Coordinating Unit (PCU). The two grants had a combine obligation of JMD\$X for 10 implementing partner agencies.

GRANT OBJECTIVES

Through the efforts of both USAID and Global Fund, through the efforts of JASL and its implementing partners, prevention strategies are designed and implemented to address risk factors among target populations that are deemed especially vulnerable to

transmission based on epidemiological trends, such as female sex workers, transwomen and MSM. All key implementing partners are expected to do some level of HIV public education with their respective beneficiaries, but with agencies such as Ashe Company, Children First Agency and JASL provided direct HIV testing services for increased case findings.

Treatment, Care and Support services are aimed at reducing viral load levels, which reduces HIV transmission. This involves using both JASL and the other community-led agencies to identifying and supporting PLHIV members who are lost to follow up and unsuppressed by ensuring linkage to treatment sites and other social services. An important part of the treatment response is building the self-efficacy of the PLHIV popula-

tion and improving their abilities to navigate personal challenges and gaps in the health system.

Enabling Environment and Human Rights programme is viewed as a cross cutting and supportive underpinning to the prevention and treatment and care Strategies. Therefore, these activities aim to influence the legislative and policy landscape for increased supportive laws, as well as increasing the capacity of key populations to seek and claim their own rights. This particular focus area is directly funded by the Global Fund grant, but the referral support of both Children First Agency and Ashe is required for increased reporting of human rights violations.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

There are ten (10) implementing partners currently being managed by the organization:

ENTITY	GRANT	Amount Disbursed (2020)
JAMAICA AIDS SUPPORT FOR LIFE	Global Fund	\$ 135,987,318.99
JAMAICA NETWORK OF SEROPOSITIVES	Global Fund	\$ 34,458,731.00
JAMAICANS FOR JUSTICE	Global Fund	\$ 10,360,000.00
EQUALITY FOR ALL FOUNDATION	Global Fund	\$ 25,233,514.07
TRANSWAVE JAMAICA	Global Fund	\$ 5,225,076.16
EVE FOR LIFE	Global Fund	\$ 13,394,922.47
JAMAICA COMMUNITY OF POSITIVE WOMEN	Global Fund	\$ 4,425,000.00
LARRY CHANG FOUNDATION	Global Fund	\$ 10,678,321.48
JAMAICA NETWORK OF SEROPOSITIVES	USAID	\$ 22,289,497.44
CHILDREN'S FIRST AGENCY	USAID	\$ 36,719,767.00
ASHE COMPANY	USAID	\$ 42,069,244.01
TOTALS	-	\$ 312,323,148.67

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

Through the efforts of the finance and procurement team, procurement systems have been strengthened in accordance with Jamaica's regulatory framework, best practices and the ADS Chapter 303 Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Non-Governmental Organizations.

• **Global Fund** - obligated J\$236,834,634.72, of which J\$204,642,173.46 expended, represent-

ing 86% expenditure rate

• **USAID** – obligated J\$256,645,452.91, of which J\$209,325,224.54 expended, representing 82% expenditure rate

GRANT MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT

Through the efforts of the M&E team, Grants Manager, Grants Officer, with broad strategic oversight of the Executive Director of JASL, grants

Grants Management

management sought to improve the institutional capacity of the implementing agencies through the following:

- Scheduled and ad-hoc meetings were held to review programme implementation and corrective measures undertaken
- Capacity building exercises and training were held around prevention strategies, M&E reporting, indicator development and treatment programme areas. These sessions are delivered by various JASL subject matter experts such as the Medical Director and the Social Media team.

GRANT CHALLENGES, SUCCESSES AND WAY FORWARD

Challenges

- **Grant Compliance.** Grant compliance was a significant challenge for some implementing agencies in different areas. For example, monthly technical reports were late by some agencies and issues around adherence to procurement guidelines needed improvement. Nevertheless, once flagged and through ongoing technical assistance, agencies demonstrated improvement throughout the year.
- **Viral Load Tests Results.** The timely receipt of viral load tests results was a challenge during 2020. Due to the delay, the lack of results negatively affected the treatment monitoring of clients.

Successes and Way Forward

- **Linkages among implementing partners** - The implementing partnership provides the Global Fund and the national response a comparative advantage through: (i) increased synergy between and among agencies in ensuring resources are leveraged, reduced duplication of efforts; (ii) organisational mentorship; and importantly, (iii) increased linkages at the community levels where key populations who are lost to follow up are returned to and retained in care. Therefore, the grant implementation processes have seen clients linked to care upon new diagnoses made by agencies such as Ashe and Children First to a Jamaica AIDS Support for Life treatment site;

return to care for clients who are lost to follow up; increased index testing and positive prevention efforts between JN Plus and JASL; referrals and peer support from JN Plus to TransWave, JASL and TransWave. Importantly, all key programmes have been defined by the respective agencies and populations served use their knowledge to encourage others to benefit, as was as concerted effort between and among the agencies to facilitate referrals and linkages. For example, Jamaicans for Justice signed a memorandum of understanding with partner agencies to increase legal referrals to the agencies.

- To ensure an iterative process in the design and monitoring of actions and strategies, the Jamaica response utilizes community-led monitoring, which is a technique initiated and implemented by community-based organizations and networks of key populations to gather quantitative and qualitative data about HIV services. Currently being scaled up and undertaken by Equality for All Foundation and JN Plus, both agencies have established reporting/feedback loop with the public health facilities where both adverse and positive findings

are shared. For example, the Equality's Mystery Shopping exercises was done by 23 KPs in public health and community treatment sites. JN Plus also utilized their community scorecard, where persons living with HIV were convened to identify and score issues that affect their treatment and care regime. The scorecard exercise also creates an opportunity of an empowering mechanism that improves health care outcomes. As a result of the exercise, the following issues have identified: lack of confidential and meeting rooms; substandard customer services by health care providers; and poor education about side effects. Jamaicans for Justice, JASL and JN Plus, with data input from Equality, co-published an HIV and Access to Justice Report based on retrospective review of some 298 legal cases provided to all KPs served under the grant. This community data is being used to inform programmatic decision making and advocacy for social accountability and policy development.



The Global Fund
To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Management Team

Names	Position/Title
Kandasi-Walton Levermore	<i>Executive Director</i>
Dr Jennifer Tomlinson	<i>Medical Director</i>
Tresha Muir	<i>Administrator</i>
Kriston Simms	<i>Finance and Procurement Manager</i>
Xavier Biggs	<i>Monitoring and Evaluation Manager</i>
Mickel Jackson	<i>Grants Manager</i>
Davina Gayle Williams	<i>Programme Development Manager</i>
Nicole Morris	<i>Regional Programmes Manager (Kingston)</i>
Nilfia Hazel-Anderson	<i>Regional Programmes Manager (St Ann)</i>
Tisha Keane	<i>Regional Programmes Manager (St James)</i>

JASL's Team Members

ST ANN TREATMENT & PREVENTION



St Ann Treatment Team members from left are: Debbi-Ann Bailey, Psychologist, Janet Evans-Daye, Case Manager, Aneila McLeod, Adherence Councillor, and Latoya Berry, TCC Nurse.

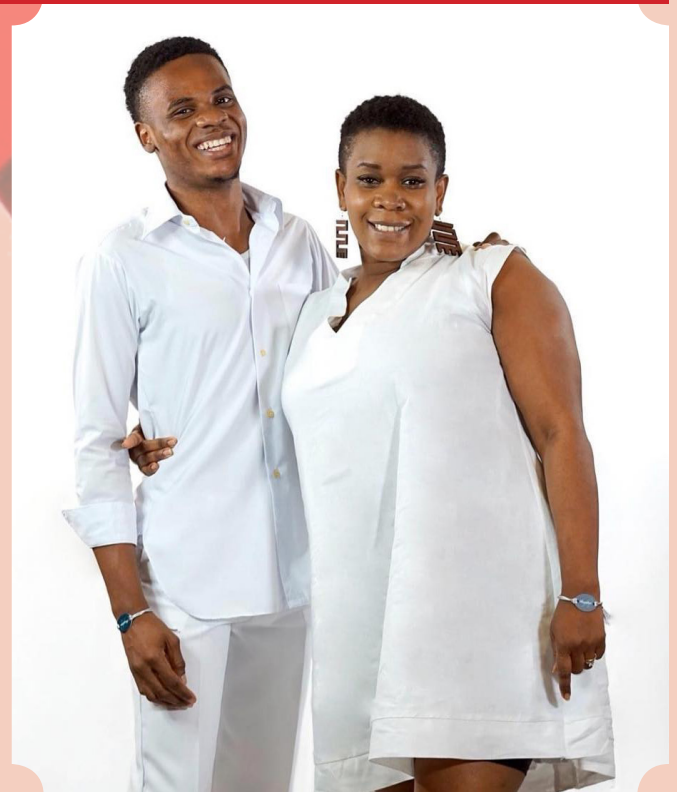


St Ann Prevention Team members from left are: Al Bailey, Targeted Intervention Officer, Claudette Johnson, Peer Navigator, Princess Brown, Peer Navigator and Rodger Picton, Peer Navigator

ST JAMES TREATMENT & PREVENTION



St James Treatment Team members from left are: Careece Anderson, Psychologist, Naomi Graham, Adherence Councillor, Yanieka Saunders-Brown, Case Manager and at front, Desmond Campbell, TCC Nurse.



St James Prevention Team members from left are: Shickille Walker, Peer Navigator and Simone Phillips, Peer Navigator.

JASL's Team Members

KINGSTON TREATMENT & PREVENTION



Kingston Chapter Nicola Sybliss-McLeod, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer.



Kingston treatment Team Members from left are: Xavier Broomfield, Psychologist, Yanique Williams, TCC Nurse, Michelle Getten, Adherence Councillor. At front from left are: Christina Gordon, Case Manager, and Marilyn Thompson, Social Worker.



Kingston Prevention Team members from left are: Odail Neil, Peer Navigator, Hanna-Lisa Morgan-Williams, Targeted Interventions Officer, Mario McKoy, Peer Navigator. At front are from left: Dwayne Boreland and Ryan Sherrington, Peer Navigators.

REGIONAL PROGRAMME MANAGERS



Regional Programme Managers from left are, Tisha Keane, St James, Nilfia Hazel-Anderson, St Ann and Nichole Morris, Kingston.

JASL's Team Members

HEAD OFFICE



Executive Director, Kandasi Walton-Levermore.



Medial Director, Dr Jeniffer Tomlinson.



Enabling Environment and Human Right (EEHR) team members from left are Jade Williams, Legal Officer and Patrick Lalor, Policy and Advocacy Officer.

JASL's Team Members

HEAD OFFICE



Communication Team members from left are: Jerome Burke, Communications Coordinator, Chad Morgan, Social Media Officer and Ronald Richardson, Content Developer.



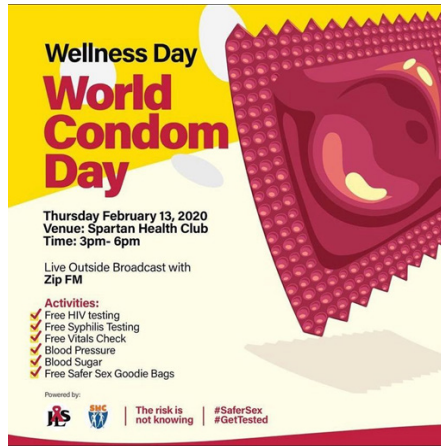
Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Xavier Biggs.

Keynote Events Observances

Safer Sex Week

This week remains one of the highlights on our calendar around pushing safer sex messages. The week which ran from February 10-14, 2020 was marked by various events and activities across the

chapters. The highlight of the week included a testing intervention at the Spartan Gym which was complemented by an outside broadcast from ZIP 93FM



USAID VISIT



Through funding from USAID, JASL spearheaded a campaign called 'With You All The Way.' To mark the official launch of the campaign we hosted a courtesy call that was attended by USAID's Country Representative, Jason Fraser. The campaign was geared towards combating the misinformation surrounding COVID-19 and assisting our clients through their fears and anxiety.

USAID also used the opportunity to hand over several laptops to JASL, which would later be distributed to our partners.

Keynote Events Observances



CandleLight Vigil

Jamaica AIDS Support for Life (JASL) hosted its Annual Candle Light Vigil on Tuesday, December 1, World AIDS Day, to remember those who have passed from AIDS related illnesses. The Vigil was streamed on JASL's social media platforms with viewership extended to hundreds of persons from several countries around the world including: United States of America, Canada and the Netherlands.



JASL's Corner

2020 Staff Awards



Most Outstanding staff

JASL's Corner

2020 Staff Awards



Most Outstanding staff

JASL's Corner

2020 Staff Awards



Gem Award

JASL's Corner

2020 Staff Awards



Gem Award

JASL's Corner

2020 Staff Awards



Rising Star Award

JASL's Corner

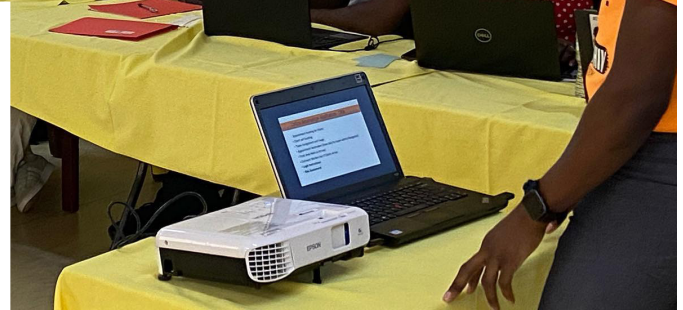
2020 Staff Awards



Rising Star Award

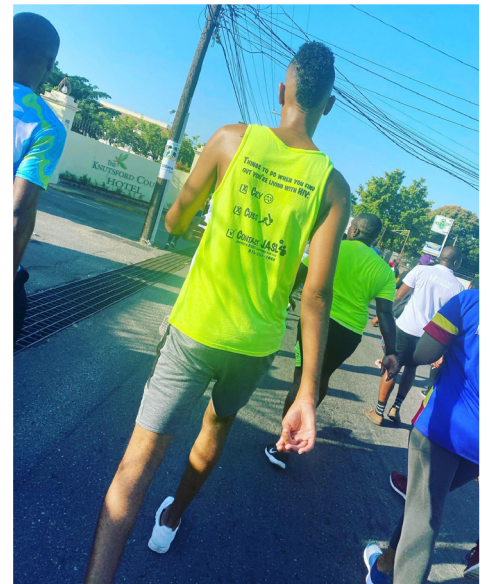
JASL's Corner

Highlights



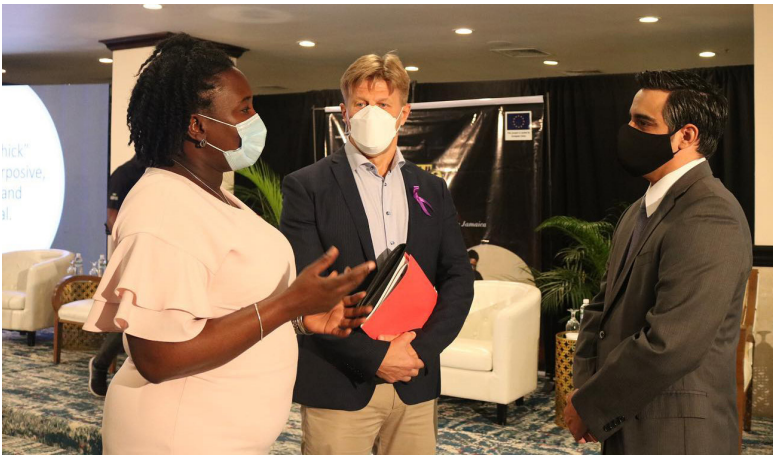
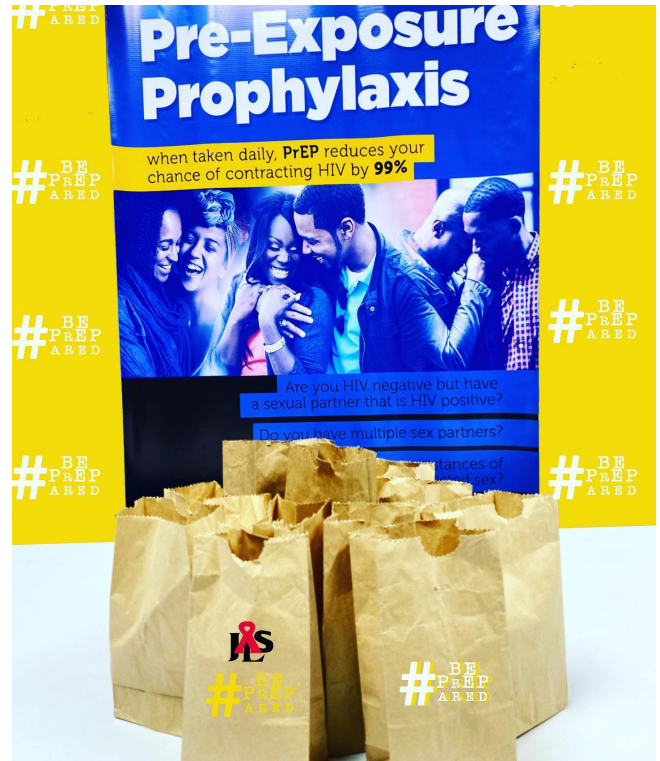
JASL's Corner

Highlights



JASL's Corner

Highlights





Jamaica AIDS Support For Life

3 Hendon Drive, Kingston 20

