



MONITORING THE STATE OF STATISTICAL OPERATIONS IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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BACKGROUND

- Jamaica registered its first COVID-19 case in March, 2020
- Measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 included:
travel restrictions, school closures, curfews, and restrictions on public gathering and entertainment events
- Operations at the NSO were significantly reduced but the office remained open
- Faced dilemma of suspending surveys at a time when access to information was critical as it the



IMPACT ON NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE

- Suspension/reduction in data collection activities
 - Quarterly Labour Force Survey was cancelled in April
 - Annual Survey of Living Conditions was cancelled
 - Monthly CPI was affected by the closure of some business or difficulty accessing establishments
- Reduction in budgetary support as resources transferred to COVID-19 mitigation measures
 - Population and Housing Census postponed from April 2021 to April 2022



MEASURES TO LIMIT IMPACT

- Work from home instituted among staff
 - Increased expenditure on IT and communication infrastructure
 - Internet connection issues
 - Develop systems to ensure that productivity was not negatively impacted
- Enhanced the coordination of efforts across Government, academia and the private sector to optimize research and production of data regarding the impact of COVID.
- Adjust operations to operate in the new normal with provision of PPEs to data collection staff



MEASURES TO LIMIT IMPACT

- Adjustment of data collection mode
 - First nationally representative telephone-survey to assess Knowledge, Attitudes and practices of Jamaicans regarding COVID-19
 - Technical support from the Statistics Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
 - Increased use of administrative data
- Meetings and training converted to the virtual platform