Relevance of human rights recommendations in responding to the pandemic

OHCHR aims to put human rights at the heart of the response of States, UN partners, civil society and the private sector to COVID-19. It focuses on supporting six priority areas: 1. Respect for all human rights and addressing specific issues which might be less visible or more sensitive; 2. Vulnerable people and groups; 3. Participation, inclusion and access to information; 4. Economic and social rights; 5. Integrating human rights into the UN system response; and 6. UN Human Rights Mechanisms contribution to COVID-19 response.

The graph shows recommendations addressed to Jamaica by the UN Human Rights Mechanisms: the Universal Periodic Review, the Special Procedures mandate holders and the Treaty Bodies in recent years prior to the pandemic, which OHCHR assesses as particularly relevant in responding to the pandemic in an inclusive and sustainable way. All recommendations addressed to Jamaica can be found at the Universal Human Rights Index at https://uhri.ohchr.org/.

1. **POVERTY**
   - Increase availability and access to quality health services for all, with special attention to vulnerable groups
   - Ensure access to health services for children, especially victims of abuse
   - Improve access to quality sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls
   - Address unemployment of rural women
   - Improve conditions in detention, especially overcrowding and access to medical, hygienic and food services
   - Ensure that the use of force is based on principles of legality, necessity and proportionality
   - Investigate abuses of force by law enforcement, including summary executions and arbitrary detentions
   - Prosecute perpetrators of trafficking in persons and provide redress for victims

2. **GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**
   - Increase access to education for children from vulnerable groups, including girls, particularly in rural areas
   - Provide inclusive education for children with disabilities
   - Address shortage of school facilities and ensure adequate funding for education

3. **QUALITY EDUCATION**
   - Combat domestic violence and criminalize marital rape
   - Ensure SGBV victims have access to legal and medical aid, rehabilitation and protection measures
   - Collect comprehensive and disaggregated data on violence against women and children

4. **QUALITY EDUCATION**
   - Combat child labour and exploitation both in the formal and informal sectors
   - Protect migrant workers against all forms of exploitation, especially in the informal economy

5. **GENDER EQUALITY**
   - Protect all citizens from violence and discrimination, including LGBT persons
   - Fully guarantee the economic, social and cultural rights of the Maroon community
   - Combat discrimination against persons with disabilities and ensure socioeconomic inclusion

6. **CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**
   - Address root causes of youth unemployment, child poverty and protect street children
   - Prohibit discrimination against persons with HIV/AIDS
   - Protect women and children from violence, particularly sexual abuse and exploitation

7. **PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**
   - Strengthen social protection to effectively mitigate the social, economic and environmental impacts of climate change
   - Adopt a national housing strategy, ensuring access to adequate and affordable housing
   - Strengthen measures to combat poverty, particularly of women and children, and in rural areas
   - Strive for universal social security coverage
   - Strengthen social programs for all, in particular on education, food and health

8. **DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**
   - Strengthen measures to combat poverty, particularly of women and children, and in rural areas
   - Strive for universal social security coverage
   - Strengthen social programs for all, in particular on education, food and health

9. **SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**
   - Stimulate recovery from COVID-19, ensuring economic stimulus packages benefit women and girls
   - Boost response to climate change and environmental challenges

10. **REDUCED INEQUALITIES**
    - Promote inclusive recovery from COVID-19
    - Ensure women and girls are at the center of recovery policies
    - Address gender inequalities in economic recovery

11. **CLIMATE ACTION**
    - Increased access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities, especially in rural communities
    - Ensure universal access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities, especially in rural communities
    - Ensure safe, just and healthy conditions of work
    - Combat domestic violence and criminalize marital rape
    - Ensure SGBV victims have access to legal and medical aid, rehabilitation and protection measures

12. **SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**
    - Address root causes of youth unemployment, child poverty and protect street children
    - Prohibit discrimination against persons with HIV/AIDS
    - Protect women and children from violence, particularly sexual abuse and exploitation

13. **CLIMATE ACTION**
    - Strengthen measures to combat poverty, particularly of women and children, and in rural areas
    - Strive for universal social security coverage
    - Strengthen social programs for all, in particular on education, food and health

14. **SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**
    - Increased access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities, especially in rural communities
    - Ensure universal access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities, especially in rural communities
    - Ensure safe, just and healthy conditions of work
    - Combat domestic violence and criminalize marital rape
    - Ensure SGBV victims have access to legal and medical aid, rehabilitation and protection measures

15. **SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**
    - Address root causes of youth unemployment, child poverty and protect street children
    - Prohibit discrimination against persons with HIV/AIDS
    - Protect women and children from violence, particularly sexual abuse and exploitation

16. **PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**
    - Stimulate recovery from COVID-19, ensuring economic stimulus packages benefit women and girls
    - Boost response to climate change and environmental challenges

Future opportunities to assess the status of implementation of these and other recommendations are during the upcoming review by the Universal Periodic Review in 2020, relevant Treaty Bodies as well as during upcoming visits by Special Procedures mandate holders in the country.