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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**National Security Minister welcomes social investment monitoring,  
evaluation and learning support programme**

Social investment for meaningful community transformation is for the first time, being treated as an all-of-government issue, through the strict monitoring, and evaluation component to social investment, states Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr Horace Chang.

He was addressing the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Jamaica Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Support (JAMEL) for the Caribbean Basin Security (CBSI) Initiative Component #2 Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Capacity Development Programme, last Friday at the UWI Regional Headquarters, St Andrew.

The programme runs for two years and aims to provide monitoring, evaluation and learning support to the Jamaican government, non-governmental organisations, research organisations, private foundations and other local entities working in youth crime and violence.

It also serves to provide an additional layer of support to ensure meaningful social transformation.

Minister Chang stated that the programme is a welcomed and timely initiative as it **“strategically aligns with the government’s efforts to develop and apply strong monitoring and evaluation frameworks for its various social investment policies, strategies and plans, as a means to tackling crime and violence effectively”**.

He said: **“In a world where various social issues continue to affect the lives of individuals and communities, we must employ systematic approaches to understand the effectiveness of our interventions and ensure that we are making a positive impact on those we seek to help. Monitoring and evaluation provide us with the necessary tools and insights to assess, improve, and maximize the outcomes of our unilateral and combined efforts.”**

He mentioned that the Ministry of National Security (MNS) is particularly pleased to be a primary beneficiary of the MEL Capacity Development Programme as it implements the Government-to-Government Targeted Youth Violence Prevention Programme in communities and schools.

Under JAMEL, USAID will provide technical support to the Ministry of National Security to strengthen its MEL systems and staff capacity to utilize evidence-based systems to improve citizen security/crime prevention through social development. USAID will also support targeted assessments within the youth crime and violence prevention space. A fundamental benefit of monitoring and evaluation lies in their ability to measure the effectiveness of crime prevention initiatives.