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Country Profile Jamaica Preliminary Findings on Best Practices

Jamaica Background

In its recent history, Jamaica has had many issues with police misconduct. Three agencies were previously mandated to receive and investigate these types of complaints: the Police Public Complaints Authority (PPCA), the Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI) and the Office of Professional Responsibility. The BSI and the Office of Professional Responsibility are institutions within the Jamaican Constabulary Force (JCF) the police while the PPCA is a State-funded independent body.

The PPCA was established in 1992 as an independent body to monitor and supervise investigations by the police regarding complaints against the police. However at the time reports said that PCA had limited effectiveness and independence as it could not conduct its own investigations and relied on the police force to conduct some of its investigations. It lacked the authority to make final determinations on criminal charges and to obtain statements from police officers if they were not willing to co-operate. The PPCA was understaffed and under-

The failure to hold people responsible for violent crime and to hold to account police officers accused of involvement in unlawful killings or extrajudicial executions, combined with widespread corruption, eroded confidence in the institutions of the state over many years. To try and address this, the government set up the Jamaican Justice System Reform project in 2007 to review the justice system and develop strategies and mechanisms for its modernization. The Task Force said that the current structures in place for the independent investigation of police were inadequate.

INDECOM received \$86 million Jamaican Dollars, which is roughly equivalent to \$USD 900,000. The
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