

# Progress Report on the **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS** 2019/2020



**PROGRESS REPORT**  
**ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE**  
**DEVELOPMENT AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
**2019/2020**

*Launching a Decade of Action and Delivery for the SDGs in Jamaica*

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# INTRODUCTION

The 2030 Agenda, which includes the 17 sustainable development goals and related development instruments represents an ambitious development framework for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. The framework embraces and promotes the tenets of sustainability, expressed in its development targets in the areas of social, economic and environmental development, underpinned by a system of partnerships. Jamaica's pursuit of sustainable development is expressed in Vision 2030–Jamaica National Development Plan, its first long-term development plan spanning 21 years; from 2009 to 2030. Consistent with international best practice, Jamaica has integrated the SDGs within its long-term development plan, providing a platform for prioritization of implementation towards the achievement of the targets and goals; financing; and monitoring and evaluation through an ecosystem of participatory development planning. The implementation strategy for the SDGs therefore embraces an inclusive 'whole of society approach', which encourages ownership and responsibility across all sectors, enabling achievement of the goals.

The process of coordination is central to the successful implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. It establishes a framework for inclusive planning and prioritization of the SDGs and the creation of a coherent system of monitoring and evaluation. It enables meaningful engagement of stakeholders through the maintenance of an institutional framework for governance in implementation, monitoring and oversight,

ensuring that there is accountability among all sectors for the outcomes under the 2030 Agenda. Through the process of coordination: mobilization of local and national action, strengthening capacity for implementation, statistics, monitoring, and reporting are enabled. The process also facilitates continuous engagement of all stakeholders, raising awareness of critical development issues whilst providing a framework for participation and accountability.

This report is one of three official country reports documenting progress on the SDGs. The others include the Statistical Report on the indicators prepared by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) and the annual report on the Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework, Vision 2030 Jamaica which document progress on the national development indicators aligned with the SDGs and on the process of implementing the SDGs through Vision 2030 Jamaica. This report focusses on the process of coordination and implementation, with emphasis on analyzing progress on the SDGs and emphasizing the role of SDG 17, strengthening the means of implementation.

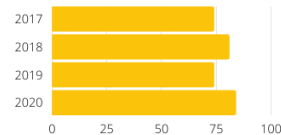


# HIGHLIGHTS

## Global Performance



68.7%



2020 SDG Index Score

Global rankings

## Goal Highlights



The prevalence of poverty declined from 19.3% in 2017 to 12.6% in 2018

Reduction in land ownership in the poorest groups



Extreme poverty declined to 3.5% in 2018

Low agricultural productivity threatens progress



Suicide rate of 2 per 100 000, well below global average of 10.6

NCDs remain the leading cause of death, 52.6% in 2017



Increase of 5.6% in gross enrolment in 2015 to 77% in 2018/2019 and increase in numeracy mastery to 65.6% from 62.6%

Decline in literacy mastery rate to 82.8% from 86.3%



Gender Development Index of 0.975, indicating a medium to high equality in achievement between sexes

28% of women have experienced violence from a partner



78.4% of households have a source of improved drinking water

39.9% of rural areas do not have a source of improved drinking water



10.7% of electricity from renewable sources in 2019, up from 6.1% in 2015

Disparity in rural household access to clean energy for cooking



Historic low unemployment level of 7.2% in 2019

26% of youth not employed, in education or training programmes



Increases in the access to broadband from 9.3% in 2015 to 14.6% in 2019

Stagnation in the manufacturing contribution to GDP averaging 8.6% annually

## Goal Highlights



**Improvements in gini coefficient to 0.36 in 2018 from 0.38 in 2015**

Remittance transaction cost of 7.5% remains higher than the SDG target of 3%



**Nationally Determined Contribution increased from a target of 7.8% to 10.0%**

Average cost of hydro-meteorological events at 1.3% of GDP



**36% reduction in physical violence cases from 597 in 2015 to 378 in 2019**

12.1% reduction in proportion of Jamaicans who feel safe walking home at night



**Increase in housing quality index of 75.8% in 2018, up from 72.2% in 2015**

0.9% of households reported as squatting in dwelling.



**15% coverage of protected marine areas surpassed the SDG target of 10% by 2020**

46.5% of rural households use informal garbage disposal methods



**28% Increase in merchandise and services exports from US\$5 billion 2015 to US\$6.4 billion in 2019**

Declining trends in ODA and FDI to US\$140 million and \$665 million in 2019



**A 32% increase in the export of used lead acid batteries**

11% recycling collection rate for plastic bottles



**Two legislation based SDG targets for 2020 were met related to forest management and controlling invasive species.**

Slow afforestation and reforestation rates



# Policy, Legislative and Programme Highlights

	COVID-19 Allocation of Resources for Employees (CARE) Programme 2020
	Implementation of National Seed Policy and implementation Plan in 2018 Implementation of guidelines on the consumption of sugary drinks in schools 2019
	Draft National Mental Health Policy 2020
	Introduction of the Primary Exit Profile in 2019
	Revision to the MSME Policy and Implementation Plan to be gender sensitive in 2018
	Launch of the Rural Water Supply Improvement Project 2020
	Drafting of the Jamaica Integrated Resource Plan 2018
	Development of the National Transition to Formality Action Plan 2020-2022
	National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2019-2029
	Drafting of the National Policy on International Migration and Development 2018
	Promulgation of the Building Act (2018) in 2019
	Revision and resubmission of the National Policy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Waste in 2020
	Revised Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement in 2020
	Introduction of the ban on single use plastic bags, plastic straws and expanded polystyrene foam products in 2019
	Launch of the 3 million trees in 3 years project in 2019
	Amendments to the Trafficking in Persons Act (2007) in 2018 Launch of the Liv Gud campaign in 2019
	Implementation of the External Cooperation Management Information System in 2020

## CONTEXT

In 2015 Jamaica adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, built on the principles of universality; leaving no one behind; interconnectedness and indivisibility; inclusivity and multi-stakeholder partnerships. The Agenda embodies an ambitious pathway of action on the dimensions of people, prosperity, planet, partnership and peace. At the core of the agenda is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), supported by international frameworks and development instruments including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015), Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (2015), Paris Agreement (2015), and the Small Island Developing States “SIDS” Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway (2014). The “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, embraces the traditional tenets of social inclusion, economic growth, and environmental protection, as well as the promotion of peace and partnerships.

Subsequent to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Jamaica embarked on efforts to ‘localize’ the SDGs and received funding support from the United Nations Development Programme. A series of consultations were held to create awareness and engage stakeholders, demonstrating the whole of society approach adopted at the implementation of the SDGs. During May 2018, three national consultations were held — in St Thomas, Mandeville and Montego Bay — with approximately 578 participants. In promoting the inclusive and universal nature of the agenda, special

consultative sessions were convened with targeted stakeholders including persons with disabilities, women, youth, workers in the agriculture sector, the private sector, community based organizations and non-governmental organizations. These engagements served to both sensitize attendees to the SDGs and consult on key issues for inclusion in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report. Following the presentation of the VNR in July 2018, a post VNR roundtable was conducted targeting academia and civil society to facilitate further information sharing and build consensus around the next steps for SDGs implementation and to facilitate ownership among stakeholders. The event was held in September 2018 and included presentations on experiences and lessons learnt from the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, who also presented the VNR at the HLPF.

Critical to the process of localization is the alignment and integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into the national planning framework. The preparation of the Medium-term Socio-economic Policy Framework (MTF) for Vision 2030 Jamaica is a consultative process, which includes ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) of government in the planning and prioritization process of Vision 2030 Jamaica. The process of formulating the MTF for the period 2018–2021 involved the incorporation of the targets of the sustainable development goals in alignment with the goals and outcomes of Vision 2030 Jamaica. This process was critical to positioning the SDGs among the priorities to be pursued and was further strengthened

through alignment of the corporate and operational plans of the MDAs with the goals and targets of the SDGs.

The establishment and strengthening of components of the institutional framework was critical to the localization process. The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) were the established focal points for the SDGs, with the PIOJ playing a coordinating role. The development of the 2030 Agenda benefited from the guidance of an inter-ministerial committee, which guided the definition and prioritization of development results within the Agenda. Subsequently, a National SDG Core Group was established with representation from the three focal points. Additionally, the establishment of a National Agenda Oversight Committee (NOC) was approved by Cabinet, with broad stakeholder participation, including ministries, departments and agencies of government, the private sector, civil society and non-governmental organizations.

The National SDG Core Group was established to:

- facilitate inter-institutional coordination
- facilitate multi-stakeholder coordination, as well as horizontal and vertical policy coherence
- provide continuous oversight and coordination for the National SDGs Roadmap for implementation
- coordinate sectoral and national consultations and meetings to facilitate the integration of the SDGs and other frameworks of the post-2015 development agenda into national planning frameworks
- advise political and technical directorate, as well as the National 2030 Agenda Oversight Committee on priority areas for acceleration and policy support
- liaise with international development partners (IDPs) on support for the implementation of the SDGs
- provide support to the mainstreaming process within ministries, departments and agencies, as well as among IDPs and civil society to support implementation of priority activities
- coordinate the ongoing monitoring, reporting and accountability framework (including Corporate and Strategic Plans of MDAs) for the SDGs at the national and sub-national levels
- manage public education campaign/awareness and advocacy for the SDGs
- undertake risk assessments and foster adaptability.

The National Agenda Oversight Committee was established to provide policy and strategic level advice for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs, and reports to the Cabinet. Specifically, the Committee's responsibilities are to:

- provide technical and programmatic advice to the Government and Parliament on the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs and related platforms of action
- provide strategic direction for implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs, using successive Medium-Term

Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTFs) as the implementation mechanism

- oversee the process of aligning the SDGs with national policies, plans and programmes, including corporate and operational plans
- participate in the strategy mapping exercises to identify required interventions, interlinkages and resources needed to fill implementation gaps
- provide advice on ensuring policy coherence as it relates to Vision 2030 Jamaica and the priorities presented in each MTF, the SDGs and other post-2015 development frameworks
- provide oversight for the measurement and reporting framework for the SDGs, to ensure data quality, effective monitoring of the SDGs against agreed indicators and targets and timely reporting to relevant stakeholders
- review and provide input on relevant national and sector specific reports to the:
  - a. UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
  - b. Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development
  - c. Other sector specific national, regional and global meetings and commissions
- establish strategic partnerships at the global, regional and local levels that advance the attainment of the SDGs

- facilitate the resource mobilization for implementation of the SDGs
- act as champions of the national SDGs implementation process.

Cabinet approved the National Agenda Oversight Committee in September 2017 to provide oversight to the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. In addition to its scope of work, the Committee is tasked with oversight for the implementation of the Roadmap for SDGs Implementation in Jamaica.

The Roadmap was developed following a request of the Government of Jamaica to the United Nations to field a Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) mission, to provide technical support to its development. The document was subsequently drafted through consultations with key stakeholders in policy development and implementation. The process also included a rapid integrated assessment, which revealed over 91.0 per cent alignment of Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs. This high level of alignment reflects Jamaica's active participation in the process of framing the 2030 Agenda and subsequent prioritization process. In addition, the Roadmap identified a set of accelerating actions aligned to the four goals of Vision 2030 Jamaica, which are anticipated to have a multiplier effect across the 17 SDG goals. The identification of innovative financing mechanisms for development were also explored and proposals documented in the Roadmap. This includes recommendations for domestic financing, particularly taxation and customs administration reforms, as well as for improving capacity for tax audits to address transfer pricing; implementation of 'green

fees', development finance assessments to situate and analyse overall development finance flows; international financing sources; debt for nature swaps, blue economy investments, diaspora bonds and private financing sources to include social impact investments, public-private partnerships in key economic sectors, venture capital investments for innovative SMEs and a philanthropy platform to finance national development priorities.

In 2018, the Auditor General's Department conducted an audit of Jamaica's preparedness for implementation of the SDGs. The scope of the Audit involved assessing the institutional framework for the implementation of the SDGs, resource allocation and capacity building mechanisms, strategies for raising awareness, and monitoring and reporting on the progress of SDG implementation. The Audit confirmed the over 91.0 per cent alignment of Vision 2030 Jamaica and the Sustainable Development Goals and that the goals were largely integrated into the national development planning context. Targets related to the natural environment, inequality and partnership for the goals reflected low levels of alignment, however, it was noted that further alignment would be reflected in planning documents, particularly the MTF. The report indicated that evidence was found of an existing institutional framework to guide the implementation of the SDGs, however, no evidence of confirmation was found for the leading role assumed by the PIOJ, and that lines of accountability were unclear and that MDAs were not aware of the Institute's role in SDGs coordination. The Audit further revealed the need to strengthen the Committee with representation from the Ministry of Finance and further

recommended participation of the Ministry on the National Core Group to facilitate continuous alignment of funding to SDGs priorities, in the medium to long term, with the government's fiscal programme. It was noted that preparatory work had begun to promote inclusiveness in the implementation of the SDGs, as the Roadmap for implementation made provision for the inclusion of vulnerable groups in its priorities, and the existence of targeted programmes for vulnerable groups, which are coherent with Vision 2030 Jamaica and its sector plans. The 'Leaving No one Behind' report prepared by the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) with funding support of the United Nations Development Programme, was also cited to include identification, and opportunities for inclusion, of at-risk groups. National consultations and engagements were also put forward as the means to raise awareness, as well as the establishment of a communications subcommittee of the National Agenda Oversight Committee, and the preparation of the Communications and Advocacy Roadmap for the SDGs. At the time of the Audit, STATIN identified sources to report on 51.0 percent of the 234 global indicators deemed relevant to Jamaica, and was unable to measure the remaining 115 indicators due to unavailability of data. In June 2017, STATIN established an internal 2030 Agenda Committee to improve statistical capacity to report on the SDGs indicators. The Audit found that there was no evidence of a work plan in place for the committee to measure progress on these objectives. Furthermore, STATIN indicated resource constraints including a high staff turnover that impeded its efforts at improving statistical activities and producing data for

the SDGs indicators. Recognizing that the Statistics Act and the policies of MDAs did not mandate adherence to common statistical standards or coordination in statistics with other MDAs, STATIN recommended amendments to the Act, which were approved in June 2013 by Cabinet. However, at the time of the Audit, the amendment was yet to be done. Additionally, there was no formal monitoring and evaluation framework existing to track progress on systems and programmes of MDAs that contribute to the implementation of the SDGs. The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MoFPS) had sought external funding to procure software to aid in monitoring public investment projects that are supporting the achievement of the SDGs.

The Roadmap for SDGs implementation approved by Cabinet in April 2017 was recognized by the Audit for including critical steps towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, covering its alignment with national priorities, acceleration, financing, data requirements, institutional coordination and advocacy. The Audit recognized the process of alignment of ministries departments and agencies of government of their strategic and business plans to SDGs delivery and the requirement of MDAs to align their strategic and business plans to the SDGs Roadmap for implementation. In March 2018, the Audit recognized that 5 of 14 MDAs were yet to present plans that would enable the office of the Cabinet to complete the whole of government business plan and be assured of the alignment of the MDAs strategic and business plans to Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs. The Roadmap identified nine sources of funding, including innovative financing options to support SDGs

implementation. The Audit found evidence of the pursuit of six of the nine sources in various degrees but recognized that a long-term financing strategy to support the delivery of the SDGs was outstanding.

Arising from the Audit, recommendations were made to strengthen the institutional framework for SDGs implementation and monitoring as well as the strategic planning and financing frameworks to support the SDGs.

The Department, based on its findings recommended that:

- Cabinet should consider delegating overarching responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the SDGs to a specific entity, and documenting and communicating this information to all stakeholders. This would provide greater ownership and commitment for the successful implementation of the SDGs as well as identify clear lines of accountability.
- MoFPS should consider representation on the National SDG Core Group, as participation would reinforce the continuous alignment of the medium and long-term funding arrangements for SDG implementation with the government's fiscal programme. In the interim, the MoFPS should consider PIOJ's request to designate a representative to the National 2030 Agenda Oversight Committee.
- The National 2030 Agenda Oversight Committee, in collaboration with MoFPS and MDAs responsible for priority projects, should guide the



development of a comprehensive funding strategy for the preparedness and implementation of the SDGs.

- The Office of the Cabinet should consider enforcing the relevant legislations so that MDAs submit their Strategic Business Plans within the stipulated timeframe for the timely completion of the 2018–2021 Whole of Government Business Plan. The Office of the Cabinet should also actively pursue government’s approval of the plan to outline the crosscutting nature of MDAs programmes and activities to achieve Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan and SDGs.

In response to the recommendations, the following actions were taken:

- Strengthening of the Monitoring and Evaluation framework for Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs
- Cabinet Decision 6/12 gave approval for the PIOJ to be the National Focal Point for coordinating and mainstreaming Agenda 2030 and instructed ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) of government to support the implementation of MTF 2018–2021 through alignment of corporate and strategic plans.
- In response to the recommendation for the appointment of a representative of the Ministry of Finance to the National Agenda Oversight Committee, the Ministry named a representative and two alternates.

- By way of Cabinet Decision 26/17, the Government of Jamaica approved the Implementation Roadmap for the Sustainable Development Goals in Jamaica, inclusive of a commitment to continue to utilize budgetary resources to effectively achieve the SDGs. The SDGs are integrated into the National Development Plan and successive MTFs are the means of implementation. Financing for the SDGs is therefore within the existing financing framework.

Following the process of localization, Jamaica completed its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) process. The process included the preparation of the first Sustainable Development Goals report, a Communications and Advocacy Roadmap, an assessment of statistical capacity, an assessment of financing, a Leaving No One Behind Report and a Statistical Annex to the VNR. The reports supported the preparation of the main VNR report.

The VNR process revealed that accelerating the implementation of the SDGs requires full and effective implementation of the national priorities in the Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework of Vision 2030 Jamaica, strengthening the national statistics system, improving the monitoring and evaluation framework, identifying strategies for financing, improving policy coherence, building capacity of policy makers in policy integration and continuing public engagement strategies. The process revealed the need for capacity building in policy coherence, strategic planning, integration and strengthening of statistical capacity for evidence-based practice.

Acknowledging the centrality of economic growth to development, the process assessed structural factors that constrain or inhibit growth. The report indicated that growth was constrained by:

- weather-related shocks
- inefficient plant and equipment particularly in the mining and quarrying, electricity and water supply and manufacturing industries
- crime, whose related costs amounted to 3.99 per cent of GDP in 2016; level and quality of human capital
- weak linkages between industries within the economy
- access to finance particularly for micro, small and medium enterprises
- the high cost of energy;
- a high debt to GDP ratio of 103.3 per cent at December 2017, which constrained the level of investment in growth
- the need for improvement in the business environment particularly trading across borders and registering property.

As a small island developing state, Jamaica is also exposed to vulnerabilities including the impact of natural disasters, climate change, external economic shocks and high levels of indebtedness. In addition, constraints to development were identified by ensuring inclusiveness, mainstreaming the SDGs at the level of civil society bodies, increasing public awareness and effective subnational level mechanisms for policy implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

As one of the main principles of the SDGs, the review process included an assessment of persons at risk of being left behind, and the enabling factors that contribute to this status. The process identified, through a study completed by the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies that children living in poverty, unemployed youth, persons with disabilities, residents in rural areas, older persons, fisherfolk, informal settlers, rural farmers, pregnant and lactating women, adolescent and youth, were at greatest risk of being left behind. Limited access to basic social services, low human capital, susceptibility to natural disasters, and belonging to impoverished households and communities were identified as enablers. The report acknowledged that leaving no one behind required several structural and systemic adjustments, in the areas of: evidence-based policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, including timely disaggregated data for effective targeting; financing the SDGs, with consideration to adequate provisions and equitable resource distribution; effective governance and political prioritization of marginalized groups. Provision of essential services and social welfare; and cultural change—a normative change that promotes and sustains progressive attitudes and actions by stakeholders including policymakers who work with marginalized groups were identified as important pathways.

The implementation of the SDGs through a whole of society approach requires a robust strategy of stakeholder engagement designed to target all members of the society in all sectors. With the financial support of the United Nations Development Programme, the University of the West

Indies was contracted to prepare a Communications and Advocacy Roadmap for the SDGs, 2019–2022. The Roadmap supports the creation of an enabling environment that promotes inclusiveness among all sectors of society. It is an audience driven and proactive strategy premised on the notion that meaningful stakeholder engagement is central to the implementation of Vision 2030 Jamaica and the Sustainable Development Goals. The overarching goal of the Roadmap is “...accelerated movement towards achieving Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs as a result of raising awareness in the population, strengthening broad-based support and action, and increasing individual engagement in the SDG-related policies and practises”. Thus, the guiding principles proposed are inclusiveness and representation, reciprocity and partnership, clear and transparent communication, accountability and follow up, integrity, mutual learning, flexibility and adaptability, and respect and relationship centred. Guided by these principles, the strategies of the Roadmap aim to increase uptake and acceptance of the goals through mainstreaming, partnerships, increasing awareness, motivating participation and advocacy.

## SUMMARY GLOBAL REPORT

### Global Performance on the SDGs

In September 2019, at the Global SDGs Summit, a Decade of Action was launched to reinforce commitment of member states to achieving the SDGs by 2030. This decade of action was launched due to the recognition that whilst progress was made, the world was not on track to achieve the SDGs. The Global SDGs Report, which documents progress towards the SDGs globally, indicated areas of progress and regression on the 17 goals. Up to the end of 2019, progress was recorded in the areas of poverty reduction, maternal and child mortality rates, access to electricity, development of national sustainable development policies and signing international agreements for environmental protection. Global targets that experienced reversal, or on which progress was stalled, included the number of people suffering from hunger, the rate of climate change and increasing inequalities within and among countries.<sup>1</sup>

### Jamaica's Comparative Performance<sup>2</sup>

The Global Sustainable Development Report is complemented by a dashboard that utilizes three metrics of SDGs performance. The ‘overall score’ gives an indication of the country’s overall performance towards achieving all 17 SDGs and may be interpreted as the percentage SDGs achievement. For the year

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<sup>1</sup> Progress towards Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary General [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26158Final\\_SG\\_SDG\\_Progress\\_Report\\_14052020.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26158Final_SG_SDG_Progress_Report_14052020.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Complete information on Jamaica’s performance globally may be accessed at <https://dashboards.sdindex.org/profiles/JAM>

2019, Jamaica's overall performance on the SDGs was 68.7 per cent. The overall rank demonstrates country performance in relation to all countries that have adopted the SDGs. For the period, Jamaica's rank was 84 of 196 countries. The Spill-over Index measures transboundary impacts generated by one country on others, which may in turn undermine other countries' capacities to achieve the SDGs. It demonstrates how a country's negative or positive actions can impact another country's ability to achieve the SDGs. A higher score on the index indicates more positive effects. The index includes 'spill-overs' in four dimensions of development, namely environmental, economic and financial, social and security. Jamaica's positive performance on the spill-over index is attributable to positive performance and trends on the scarce water consumption embodied in imports and fatal work-related accidents embodied in imports indicators. Other indicators with positive performance included SO<sub>2</sub> emissions embodied in imports, nitrogen emissions embodied in imports, terrestrial fresh water biodiversity threats embodied in imports, corporate tax haven score and exports of major conventional weapons.<sup>3</sup> CO<sub>2</sub> emissions embodied in imports remains a challenge, with stagnating trends. Challenges also remain in marine biodiversity threats embodied in imports.

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<sup>3</sup> It should be noted that the country is considered to have 'achieved' the substantive targets of these indicators however the latest **available data** is used. See dashboard for details [Sustainable Development Report 2021 \(sdgindex.org\)](https://sdgindex.org)

<sup>4</sup> See section below on country performance for locally generated data on the relevant SDGs indicators in summary. For full report on the indicators, see SDGs Statistical Report on the official website of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica. It should be noted that the data on the

Jamaica's spill-over index score was 92.9/100.

#### *Progress on the Goals Based on Global Measurements<sup>4</sup>*

The Global SDG Report is prepared annually and utilizes data from a range of sources including the World Bank's database, the UNSTATS database, other UN agency databases and other sources. The global report uses a dashboard to graphically represent progress on the indicators on two levels: the first level denotes the level of challenge or achievement related to progress on the goals. This level uses a scale denoted by red—major challenges remain; orange—significant challenges remain; yellow—challenges remain; and green—the goal is achieved or is on track to be achieved by the target date, 2030. The second level shows trends on the global indicators, using similar codes where red denotes decrease in the value of the indicator; orange indicates that there is stagnation or an increase of less than 50.0 per cent of the required rate to meet the target; yellow, that the indicator value is moderately improving but is insufficient to attain the goal; and green indicates being on track or maintaining achievement of the goal.<sup>5</sup>

The country dashboard for Jamaica indicates that no SDG goal was achieved. Challenges remained in the achievement of

global dashboard is not entirely consistent with the year under review. Country status is presented based on the latest available data for the indicator related to each goal.

<sup>5</sup> Trends on each indicator are compared against an established long-term value, for example, the long term objective for the indicator, literacy rate for the population aged 15 to 24 years is 100, denoting that in the long term, the literacy rate for this population should be 100 per cent.

SDGs 1–No Poverty, 7–Affordable and Clean Energy, 11–Sustainable Cities and Communities, 13–Climate Action and 17–Partnerships for the Goals. Significant challenges remain in the achievement of SDGs 3–Good Health and Wellbeing, 4–Quality Education, 5–Gender Equality, 6–Clean Water and Sanitation, 8–Decent Work and Economic Growth, 9–Industry Innovation and Infrastructure, 12–Responsible Consumption and Production, 15–Life on Land and 16–Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Major challenges were noted in the achievement of SDGs 2–Zero Hunger, 10–Reduced Inequalities and 14–Life Below Water.

The performance trends on the goals indicate that one goal was on track; SDG 8–Decent Work and Economic Growth. Moderate improvements were observed for SDGs 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 17. SDGs 2, 9, 11 and 16 were observed to be stagnating whilst SDGs 4, 14, and 15 were trending downwards. Trend data was unavailable for SDGs 10 and 12 in this report.

### **Global Representation**

At the international level, Jamaica continues to participate in, and lead critical conversations to advance the Agenda 2030 locally and globally. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade during the year 2019 continued its advocacy on behalf of Jamaica at the multilateral and other levels and brought to the attention of development partners its significant developmental challenges as well as its achievements in realizing some development goals.

The UN High Level Political Forum on SDGs—the SDGs Summit—provided an effective platform for countries to demonstrate the continued strong

commitment of the international community to the 2030 Agenda and the attainment of the SDGs by 2030. One of the key messages of the summit was the commitment to the 2030 Agenda at the highest level of government. However, one message that was not very positive was that financing the 2030 Agenda remained a challenge and in this regard, the private sector was noted as having a critical role to play in providing the means of implementation for realizing the 2030 Agenda.

Jamaica has been actively involved in the work of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Since 2019, Jamaica through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade has been a member of ECOSOC, a position which it occupied on at least 8 other occasions for two-year terms and for which it has maintained a noteworthy profile in the work of the UN on economic and financial issues. Jamaica attaches great importance to the role that ECOSOC plays as the principal United Nations organ responsible for making recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, and coordinating the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals. In this regard, Jamaica has contributed to the work of the Council on, among other things, the UN development agenda, gender equality and the empowerment of women, and development financing. In addition, Jamaica, as member of ECOSOC is well placed to be the voice to advocate on behalf of Small Island Developing States and middle-income countries, especially those with heavy debt burdens, as well as to continue to contribute to deliberations on the development agenda.

Jamaica has also been actively engaged in discussions on the SDGs at the multilateral level both as co-chair and as member of informal groups. In particular, Jamaica, through its Permanent Mission in New York, co-chairs with Canada, the Group of Friends for SDG Financing; co-chairs with Belgium the Group of Friends on Decent work; participates in the Group of Friends For Disaster Risk Reduction; co-chairs the Group of Friends on Children and SDGs; and is a member of the Group of Friends on Oceans, Sports and Development, among others.

In the area of Agriculture, during the 41st Session of the FAO Conference in July 2019, Jamaica supported the candidacy of the incoming Director General. The delegation participated in discussions surrounding the appointment of a new local FAO representative whose role would encompass the expansion and repurposing of the national schools' nutrition programme.

The Jamaican Permanent Mission in Geneva continues to actively participate in the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) International Dialogue on Migration 2019. The Dialogue's focus was on gathering knowledge, expertise, and facilitating evidence-based global awareness on youth and migration, and aimed at encouraging collaboration and partnership between youth and key actors in migration and related policy areas.

### **High Level Political Forum (HLPF)**

The HLPF is held annually over a period of eight days at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The main objective of the HLPF is to guide the follow-up and review process of the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at an international level. In addition to the HLPF in July 2019, the UN Summit on the SDGs was held in September 2019. The event was the first UN summit on the SDGs since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015. This summit sought to review comprehensively, progress on the implementation of the SDGs. At the summit, UN member states adopted a political declaration "Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development".

The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2020 was held from Tuesday, 7 July to Thursday, 16 July 2020. The theme was "Accelerated Action and Transformative Pathways: Realizing the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development".

The Forum examined the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on progress towards SDG implementation, as well as measures to accelerate progress. The daily sessions covered poverty and food security, financing and economic recovery, building resilience in the environment, financing, inter alia. Participants debated the status of SDG implementation in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The running theme throughout the forum was "local and global action towards building back better" as we grapple worldwide to respond to the pandemic in a way that puts us back on track to achieve the SDGs whilst aiming to accelerate progress during this decade of action and delivery.

Jamaica delivered three statements at the Forum, inclusive of the statement of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade at the Inter-Ministerial Segment. The



Planning Institute of Jamaica delivered statements on “Responding to the Economic Shock, Relaunching Growth, Sharing Economic Benefits and Addressing Developing Countries’ Financing Challenges”, which focused on economic recovery from the COVID- 19 pandemic, highlighting the government’s response through the implementation of the CARE Programme and forecasting recovery based on previously implemented policies to strengthen the economy, as well as the effect of stimulus packages implemented both locally and globally; and “Are we leaving no one behind in eradicating poverty and working towards the 2030 Agenda?”, which demonstrated the importance of data and targeted interventions critical to the response to the pandemic.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade delivered its statement on the role of science, technology and innovation in the response and recovery efforts.

The PIOJ also delivered a statement at the side event hosted by Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the new global and regional context: scenarios and projections in the current crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean”. The statement spoke to the possible long-term impact of the pandemic on Jamaica’s development goals, and highlighted Jamaica’s plans, strategies, and interventions to respond and recover sustainably from the effects of the pandemic.

#### **Supporting Instruments within the 2030 Agenda**

The Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, SAMOA Pathway, and the Addis Ababa

Action Agenda were also monitored within the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

#### ***The SAMOA Pathway***

The Mid-Term High-Level Review of the SAMOA Pathway was held on September 27, 2019, during high-level week at the UN Headquarters and included the following:

1. A multi-stakeholder dialogue on progress, gaps, and challenges. Areas addressed included gaps in financing, the devastating effects of natural disasters, and the long-term benefits of investing in resilience building and Disaster Risk Reduction
2. A multi-stakeholder dialogue on priorities, solutions and the way forward considered the proposal for a “debt for climate adaptation swaps” to fund resilience; the potential of the blue economy and the digital economy to drive economic growth, development and employment
3. High-level Political Declaration of the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway outlined progress, gaps and challenges in implementing the SAMOA Pathway, as well as calls for action.

Throughout the review, Jamaica promoted the SAMOA Pathway as an effective framework for engendering genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS. The Prime Minister of Jamaica, whose participation in the Review was well received, spoke about Jamaica’s successes in addressing a number of issues including reducing the debt to GDP ratio. He however, warned that highly indebted countries faced severe financial limitations for implementing the SDGs.

### ***Sendai Framework***

During discussions at the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, 2019, Jamaica continued to: prioritize the promotion of continued international cooperation, as well as bilateral, regional and multilateral partnerships to comprehensively manage disaster risk in accordance with the Sendai Framework; explore opportunities for increased capacity building of developing countries, including SIDS, to meet the reporting and evaluation expectations of the Sendai Framework through strengthened national disaster loss databases; enhance national and local risk profiles and available capacities; strengthen early warning systems; and explore additional options to strengthen fiscal resilience to natural hazards through public-private partnerships, insurance mechanisms and other measures in order to reduce the effects of contingent liabilities on the national economies.

### ***The Paris Agreement***

The Paris Agreement is aimed at strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change. The Government of Jamaica is in the process of updating the Climate Change Policy Framework (2015) to include considerations from the Paris Agreement, and the State of the Jamaican Climate Report, among others. Jamaica has updated its Nationally Determined Contribution from a target of 7.8 per cent to 10.0 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, reductions in the forestry and energy sectors of between 25.4 per cent (unconditional) and 28.5 per cent (conditional upon international support) and has, through three entities, engaged the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Jamaica played a co-leading role with France and Qatar in an effort to accelerate climate finance investments that would promote green energy, mitigate the impact of climate change, and help the most vulnerable countries adapt. Jamaica's position as Co-Chair was the perfect opportunity to highlight the dilemma of Caribbean SIDS, which are caught between the actions of human beings and nature. This occasion was also an opportunity for Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean to take bolder steps within the United Nations to ensure that the message and call for urgent action by all countries and international bodies resonate during the UN Climate Summit.

# REGIONAL PERFORMANCE

## *Regional Performance*

Jamaica is ranked 12 of 24 ranked countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a performance score of 64.16. This performance on the SDGs falls just below the regional average of 70.4 per cent. Jamaica is, however, the highest ranked country in the Caribbean sub-region.<sup>6</sup>

The Global SDG Report 2020 notes “Latin American and Caribbean countries perform best on SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy). They have also been experiencing progress on SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). Yet, compared to other parts of the world, greater efforts are needed to reduce income and wealth inequalities, which is underlined by the poor performance of all countries in the region on SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). Improving access to and quality of key services would help strengthen performance on SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 4 (Quality Education). In most countries in the region, a high homicide rate is associated with a low share of people who feel safe walking alone at night. Combined with high and often stagnating (or even increasing) perceptions of corruption, these factors explain poor performance and trends on SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). Finally, as for other parts of the world, economic growth has not been decoupled from negative

environmental impacts, which is evident in large achievement gaps on SDGs 12 through to 15”.<sup>7</sup>

The 2019 SDG Index Report for Latin America and the Caribbean identified lack of innovation, income inequalities and insecurity as the most pressing challenges in the region. According to the report, the lowest average Index scores are depicted in SDG 9–Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 10–Reduced inequalities and SDG 16–Peace, justice and strong institutions. Besides, in these specific goals a significant proportion of the countries face major or important challenges. A relatively low public expenditure on R&D, high-income inequalities and homicide rates, matched with a widespread feeling of insecurity and growing corruption are the source of it.

Though the global report identifies SDG 1 as being among three goals in which LAC Countries are performing best, Jamaica is among 11 of 31 ranked countries in the region with challenges remaining in the progress towards achieving SDG 1. Although 21 of 31 countries in the region have achieved or are on track to achieving SDG 7, Jamaica has experienced challenges and despite a modest increase, is not at the required rate to achieve the goal. Whilst the report indicates that progress is being made regionally on SDG 6, significant challenges remain for Jamaica. Jamaica is however progressing on SDG 8–Decent Work and Economic Growth. Although significant challenges remain, the country, like others in the region is on track to achieve this goal by 2030.

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<sup>6</sup> 2019 SDG Index for Latin America and the Caribbean

<sup>7</sup> Excerpt from the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020, pg. 38.

## **Regional Engagement**

In addition to the local institutional framework for SDGs implementation, Jamaica participates at the regional and global levels through mechanisms for strengthening cooperation on SDGs implementation, as well as reporting. In this regard, the Economic and Social Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean, during this period convened various fora at the regional level. Jamaica participated in the Network for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean. The objective of the Network is to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of the governments of the region engaged in establishing or seeking to establish national mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the 17 SDGs.

# **COUNTRY PERFORMANCE**

## **Country Progress on the Goals**

The integration of the SDGs into the National Development Planning framework enables an integrated and coherent system of monitoring progress towards achieving the goals and targets of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. The goals of the SDGs are aligned to the goals and outcomes of Vision 2030 Jamaica, whilst the targets are aligned at the strategic level. The implementation of the National Development Plan therefore enables the implementation of the SDGs. This process

is strengthened with the alignment of the strategic and operational plans of ministries, departments and agencies of government to Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs.

A report on the performance under Vision 2030 Jamaica is prepared for successive MTFs, whilst the Statistical Institute of Jamaica is mandated to report on the SDGs indicators annually. This report is therefore intended to highlight main areas of progress and gaps to inform the process of coordination and implementation.

## **Localization and Integration**

### **Localization**

The implementation of a UNDP-supported project "Advancing the Achievement of the SDGs through Vision 2030 Jamaica" with counterpart funding from the GOJ, commenced in 2019 and was slated for completion in 2020. The project includes support to the Programme for Localization of Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs, which aims to:

- align the local sustainable development planning process at the parish level with the national development planning process and the SDGs
- develop an online platform and database to support the monitoring of Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs
- develop a Data Information Management System (DIMS) for monitoring the contribution of international development partner (IDP) support towards the achievement of Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs

- develop a Policy Brief on Innovative Financing for Development.

The localization tenet of the project primarily comprised the implementation of “Parish Talk 2019” which included visits to the 14 parishes of Jamaica, up to December 2019, to advance knowledge and information sharing with the citizenry, private sector/Chambers of Commerce, and schools, including tertiary institutions; and consultations and capacity building with municipal corporations (MCs) and Parish Development Committees (PDCs).

- Development of capacity within local authorities/municipal corporations across the 14 parishes of Jamaica to integrate and mainstream Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs in local level planning, such as the Local Sustainable Development Plans (LSDPs) as well as the corporate and operational plans of these authorities.
- The engagement of 12 entities in 13 workshops in capacity building to support the alignment of corporate and operational plans with Vision 2030 Jamaica–National Development Plan, during April–June 2019.

The main achievements included the engagement of 13 of 14 (MCs) in workshops to support the alignment of local sustainable development planning with Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs

### **Integration**

The country has progressed from an alignment of the Sustainable Development

Goals with Vision 2030 Jamaica to an integration of the SDGs in its implementation, including the planning and operational framework of ministries, departments and agencies and other development actors. Vision 2030 Jamaica has completed the alignment of the SDGs targets and indicators to the national sector strategies and outcomes of the Vision 2030 Jamaica, as reflected in the relevant sections in the Medium-Term Socio-Economic Framework document 2018/2021.

An integrated monitoring and evaluation system for Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs is expected to support the integrated development framework through the strengthening of the results-based management system and revision of the institutional framework for more efficient monitoring and reporting. The tender process for a consultancy to strengthen the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework and system for both the Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs is ongoing. The outcome should include an updated or developed M&E Framework and stakeholder training sessions.

The Community Systems Foundation has also been contracted to develop a platform named ‘Data for All’, which will implement areas of the SDGs and Vision 2030 Jamaica. The platform is intended to enable stakeholders to report more effectively and monitor Jamaica’s progress towards its achievement of the Vision 2030 Jamaica and the targets of the SDGs. An online platform is to be established to complement and strengthen the country’s national capacity to monitor and report on the achievement of its 4 national goals and 15 national outcomes and report on



progress in advancing the global agenda. The Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat commenced the process of establishing the platform which will host the indicators from Vision 2030, JAMSTATS and other key projects and programmes.

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

Activities to promote public education and stakeholder engagement during the year included public sensitization sessions targeting community leaders, local business owners, the elderly, persons with disabilities and youth. Through the parish Talk Initiative, parish libraries; academic institutions from the early childhood to tertiary levels; chambers of commerce and other private sector partners; Parish and Community Development Committees (PDCs, CDCs); the media; churches; civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); and the public were engaged in activities to raise awareness of Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs.

### **Institutional Framework**

The institutional framework for the SDGs comprises the National Agenda Oversight Committee which is made up of representatives of ministries, departments, agencies of government, civil society and private sector representatives. In addition to the National SDGs Core Group and its sub-committees, comprising focal points from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade; Statistical Institute of Jamaica and

the Planning Institute of Jamaica; with the thematic Working Groups of Vision 2030 Jamaica comprised of sector leaders and experts.

### **Strengthening the Institutional Framework**

In March 2019, Cabinet Decision No. 6/12 confirmed the PIOJ as the Focal Point for the Sustainable Development Goals, with responsibility for coordinating and mainstreaming the Global Agenda. The Sustainable Development Goals Secretariat within the PIOJ was strengthened as part of the national coordination mechanism to support Jamaica's integrated, inclusive and comprehensive approach to localizing and mainstreaming the SDGs at the national and sub-national levels. The continued GOJ budgetary support for the Vision 2030 Jamaica and Sustainable Development Goals Secretariats within the Planning Institute of Jamaica, facilitated and strengthened coordination, Plan implementation and related activities. This included monitoring, reporting and evaluation of progress made toward the development objectives outlined in Vision 2030 Jamaica–National Development Plan and the 2030 Agenda.

Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)<sup>8</sup> serve as the main consultative mechanism for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) under Vision 2030 Jamaica. The integration of the SDGs into Vision 2030 Jamaica, and by extension an integrated monitoring and evaluation framework, extends this role of the TWGs to the monitoring of the sustainable development goals. By 2019,

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<sup>8</sup> TWGs are typically led by two co-chairs comprising Permanent Secretaries and senior technical officers in government as well as other key stakeholder groups, including academia. The

membership of TWGs consists of representatives from the public and private sectors, academia, civil society and non-governmental organizations, and international development partners (IDPs).



fourteen TWGs were established with 10 being active. In March 2019, a Sport TWG was established with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport (MCGES) serving as the chair, and the Head of the School of Sport Sciences, University of Technology serving as the vice-chair. During the reporting period, 25 TWGs meetings were held. The TWGs for Health, Population, Education and Training, Social Protection/National Social Protection Committee and Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change were convened.

A process of review was also initiated for the institutional frameworks for SDGs and Vision 2030 Jamaica as part of a monitoring and evaluation consultancy, which commenced in 2019. This review was necessitated by the process of integrating the SDGs into Vision 2030 Jamaica and the need for a more efficient institutional system to enable meaningful engagement of stakeholders at all levels. In response to the recommendation of the Audit on Jamaica's Readiness to Implement the SDGs, a recommendation was made to include a representative from the MoFPS on the National Oversight Committee and the National SDGs Core Group. Since then, two representatives have been nominated to sit on the National Oversight Committee.<sup>9</sup>

Terms of reference were drafted for the three subcommittees of the National Agenda Oversight Committee. These subcommittees are: (i) Data, Monitoring

and Evaluation; (ii) Communication and (iii) Resource Mobilization. The Data, Monitoring and Evaluation and Reporting Sub-Committee is tasked with providing oversight for the measurement and reporting framework for the SDGs, to ensure data quality and effective monitoring of the SDGs against agreed indicators and targets. The Communications Sub-Committee is responsible for the advancement and maintenance of the communication programme for the SDGs, to ensure effective public awareness and engagement on the SDGs. The Resource Mobilization Sub-Committee was conceptualized to ensure that adequate funds are available to effectively implement the SDGs, to identify innovative financing solutions and opportunities to support the achievement of the SDGs.

Two meetings of the National SDG Core Group were convened. The deviation from the required frequency was due to the process of strengthening the SDGs Secretariat.

#### **Summary Development Report**

The Sustainable Development Goals are integrated into the Vision 2030 Jamaica–National Development Plan. The goals and targets were integrated into the MTF 2018–2021. The goals were further aligned to the four goals and 15 national outcomes of Vision 2030 Jamaica and the targets at the strategic level. In the first five years of implementing the SDGs through Vision 2030 Jamaica, the harmonized framework

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<sup>9</sup> Deputy Financial Secretary and the alternate was Acting Deputy Financial Secretary for the Economic Management Division.

revealed that there are among indicators that met or exceeded the target.

The assessment of progress on the harmonized framework reveals that life expectancy at birth, population growth rate, grade 4 literacy rates (male and female), annual inflation rate, infrastructure index, percentage change in foreign exchange earnings from tourism, unemployment rate, child (<5 yrs.) mortality ratio, government effectiveness index and the case clearance rate are among outcome indicators that met or exceeded the target. These results impact SDG 3, 4, 8, 9, and 16. Aligned to objectives under SDG 8, 16, 7, 2 and 11, six of the fifteen national outcome indicators improved over the baseline. The Human Development Index; percentage of labour force that is certified; control of corruption Index; Energy Intensity Index; Agriculture Production Index and the Housing Quality Index, demonstrated positive change over the period. Four outcome indicators remained the same as baseline (2007) or worsened: Attendance rates - Early Childhood to Secondary Education; Regulatory Quality Index; Environmental Performance Index and the Proportion of households with access to secure tenure. All four had an impact on SDG 4, 16, 6, 11, 12, 13, and 15.

Performance at the strategic level was also recorded for the period. Development gains were attained in the areas of human capital development and social protection, macroeconomic stability, reduction in unemployment, energy security, effective governance, key economic sectors of tourism, agriculture and manufacturing, as well as infrastructural development. These areas of progress are aligned with development objectives within goals 1, 8, 7,

16, 2, 11 of the sustainable development goals.

Four targets within the area of social development were met- the prevalence of poverty, including child poverty and food poverty rate; maternal and child mortality, life expectancy and child literacy; were achieved impacting targets under SDG 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively. In the area of security, justice and cohesion, targets were met for the government effectiveness indicator, as well as case clearance—the rate of clearance for case backlog—aligned to SDG 16. In the area of economic development, the state of economic infrastructure, earnings from manufacture and tourism, unemployment, number of scientific publications, nominal GDP per capita, as well as the debt to GDP ratio, targets were met. The economic development results are aligned with the objectives of SDG 8, promoting decent work and economic growth.

The data indicate that some development indicators were trending in a positive direction, moving towards achievement of the target. The human development index, voice and accountability index, rule of law index, serious crimes, including the murder rate, the energy intensity index, labour market efficiency index, resident patent filing, agriculture production index and the housing quality index showed positive trends over the period of review. These indicators will have an impact on results under goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11 and 16.

# GOALS AND TARGETS



*End poverty in all its forms everywhere.*

## Targets

- 1.1) the eradication of poverty defined as people living on less than \$1.90 a day
- 1.2) Reduce by at least half the population living in poverty in all dimensions as defined nationally
- 1.3) Implement social protection and achieve substantial coverage for the most vulnerable
- 1.4) Ensure equal rights to economic resources including land, property and financial services.
- 1.5) Build resilience of the poor and vulnerable to extreme shocks and disasters
- 1.6) Ensure significant mobilization of resources to implement programs and end poverty
- 1.7) Create policy frameworks based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive strategies to support poverty eradication.

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The national poverty rate is determined by households' ability to afford the minimum

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<sup>10</sup> The revised series is based on changes made to the sampling and weighting methodologies for the 2018 survey. Consequently, comparisons cannot be made with data prior to 2017.

cost of a basket containing essential food and non-food items. Based on this metric, 1 out of every 5 Jamaicans was poor in 2015, with poverty being more prevalent among young people; 27.8 per cent of adolescents (aged 10–19) 26.5 per cent of children and 26.2 per cent of youth. Poverty was also more prevalent in rural areas, 28.5 per cent compared to 14.3 per cent for the Kingston Metropolitan Area.

The national poverty prevalence was estimated within the revised series<sup>10</sup> at 19.3 per cent for 2017, and 12.6 per cent for 2018.

*The Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions (JSLC) 2018* estimated that 12.6 per cent of the population was living in poverty, with the overall adult equivalent poverty line being \$194 541.29.<sup>11</sup> This compares with 19.3 per cent in the previous year, representing a 6.7 percentage point decline. The largest prevalence was recorded for Rural Areas (RA) at 15.0 per cent, while Other Urban Centres (OUC) was estimated at 12.0 per cent, and the Greater Kingston Metropolitan Area (GKMA) at 9.2 per cent. The comparative data for the revised 2017 estimates were 20.2 per cent for RA, 19.8 per cent for OUC and 17.7 per cent for GKMA. Food poverty prevalence stood at 3.5 per cent in 2018, a decline from 5.4 per cent in 2017. The overall adult equivalent food poverty line was \$127 002.00. OUC was the region with the highest prevalence of the food poor (3.9 per cent), followed by RA with 3.7 per cent and GKMA with 2.9 per cent. Comparative 2017 regional data was 5.6 per cent in RA, 5.5 per cent in GKMA and 4.8 per cent in OUC.

The consumption methodology for estimating poverty continued to be used,

<sup>11</sup> Planning Institute of Jamaica and Statistical Institute of Jamaica.2020. *Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions 2018*

and the trend indicated that inroads were being made in improvement to the quality of life. It can be inferred that a combination of factors assisted the households measured in the relevant survey to consume at a higher level. These factors included macroeconomic indicators such as low inflation and sustained economic growth, social transfers and improved food security. The data indicate that the country was on target to significantly reduce extreme (food) poverty, and to achieve prevalence targets below 10.0 per cent. As national goals, these targets are closely aligned with the SDGs.

The government has maintained several integral social protection programmes, particularly in the context of social assistance to the vulnerable. The Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) had a registration of 331 780 persons at December 2020. Some 64.8 per cent of beneficiaries were from the children categories of the programme, followed by elderly persons, at 23.9 per cent. These most vulnerable categories, therefore, constituted 88.7 per cent of programme beneficiaries.<sup>12</sup> Household applications to PATH were consistent at approximately 35.0 per cent nationally, over the recent data series (JSLC 2018). Some 71.7 per cent of households in the poorest quintile, and 61.6 per cent of those in the second quintile applied for the programme in 2018. Some three-quarters of the poorest applicant households were accepted for benefits on PATH in 2018, with a corresponding 63.7 per cent of Quintile 2. The data show that the programme continued to serve some of the poorest and most vulnerable families, with the delivery

of cash transfers, as well as school-related support and case management interventions. Other major poverty programmes such as Poor Relief assistance, School Feeding Programme and in-kind supports continued to be effected through government entities and the private sector. The Steps-To-Work Programme, which seeks to enable working members of welfare households, continued to support employability and livelihood experiences, benefiting over 400 persons in 2020. Additionally, government made provisions for post-secondary and tertiary scholarships to support academic pursuits by students of welfare households.

To advance the social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities, the government in 2015 created a budget allocation for an Economic Empowerment Grant of \$15.0 million, to provide eligible applicants with capital support for small businesses and livelihoods, as well as for purchase of assistive aids. The programme budget increased to \$17.0 million in the 2019/20 fiscal year.

The government committed to increasing the range of social protection services offered. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government has implemented the COVID-19 Allocation of Resources for Employees (CARE) programme, which provides grants to persons who were laid off due to the economic impacts of the pandemic. CARE also provides tax cuts on supplies crucial to the fight against COVID-19 such as customs duty on the import of masks and waivers of special consumption tax on alcohol used for sanitizers.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> MLSS administrative data

<sup>13</sup> Ministry of Finance, Fiscal Stimulus Response to the COVID-19. Retrieved from: [\[centre/press/2633-fiscal-stimulus-response-to-the-covid-19.html\]\(https://mof.gov.jm/mof-media/media-centre/press/2633-fiscal-stimulus-response-to-the-covid-19.html\)](https://mof.gov.jm/mof-media/media-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

The experience of the COVID-19 pandemic reinforced the need for effective benefit delivery systems, and extended the reach of social protection services. The modality of PATH and other social transfer programmes accommodated swift delivery of cash and in-kind benefits to both registered and unregistered clientele across the country. Needs were met through a combination of municipal and community efforts, and through channels facilitated by technology and collaboration with the private and non-government sectors. Government, through the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service responded to several areas of vulnerability through the We CARE Programme, a stimulus package valued at some \$10.0 billion in 2020, to sustain employment and provide income support for various groups. The intention was to stem labour market fallout and the social and economic impacts that could result in the reversal of social gains. Part of the government's response was also to initiate the development of a new social pensions intervention to benefit categories of elderly persons. Efforts were immediately advanced to conduct a feasibility study into an Unemployment Insurance Scheme as a buffer for involuntary income loss. These measures form part of the continued expansion of social protection coverage, as both social pensions and unemployment insurance were described as elements of the country's social protection floor in the Social Protection Strategy.

Disruptions in livelihood gave rise to the need for greater support to the most vulnerable. The government responded through increased social transfers, including cash and in-kind support, shelter and medical assistance. Public entities across the country were galvanized to create access for beneficiaries to services and benefits at the community level.

Flexible programming enabled responsive social assistance to persons and families not registered with the main social protection programmes, while the use of electronic transfers mitigated restricted mobility.

The National Insurance Scheme is the minimum guarantee social security provision available to all workers. Registration on the scheme has traditionally been lower than anticipated, largely because of the size of the informal labour economy. The Vision 2030 Jamaica–National Development Plan recognizes that increased coverage by NIS may cushion some of the poverty risks faced by persons at a time of income loss, including retirement. NIS coverage of the eligible population, 18 years and over, was estimated at some 55.4 per cent in 2018 by way of survey data. Coverage of the informal and own account sectors remains weak. Plans have been put in place to encourage formalization among groups of workers, supporting the attachment to social insurance as an avenue for greater access to social security. In April 2021, the Insurable Wage Ceiling for the NIS was increased from \$1.5 million to \$3.0 million, with a further increase expected in the next fiscal year, to shore up the viability of the National Insurance Fund.

Based on the revised methodologies, coverage in 2018 was 55.4 per cent. The portion of people in quintiles 1 and 2 covered by the NIS was 28.7 per cent and 35.3 per cent, respectively, in 2015, and 41.3 per cent and 49.2 per cent for 2018, respectively.

Programmes and policies that enable the reduction of poverty in Jamaica include, inter alia, the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (2013), the Food Safety Policy (2013), the Jamaica Social Protection Strategy (2014) and the National Policy on Poverty and National Poverty

Reduction Programme (2017). Notable achievements over period the include continued implementation of programmes to increase access to economic resources, including access to land titling services; access to finance; and on-lending facilities through the Foundation for Competitiveness and Growth Project (FCGP), which was funded by the World Bank.

To support the ongoing delivery of poverty-related programmes and services, the government instituted a National Poverty Reduction Policy and Programme in 2017. An extensive institutional framework, consisting of a nationally representative Programme Monitoring Committee was established, and functions as a knowledge sharing and collaborative forum for enhancing the scope and reach of poverty programmes and provisions. The Poverty Reduction Coordinating Unit (PRCU) of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) continued to give oversight to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Poverty Reduction Programme (NPRP). The first Medium-term NPRP (2018–2021) commenced in April 2018, following the approval of the National Policy on Poverty and National Poverty Reduction Programme by Cabinet in September 2017. The multi-sectoral National Poverty Reduction Programme Committee (NPRPC) was established in 2018 to provide oversight to the implementation of the NPRP. The NPRPC feeds into the broader oversight mandate of the National Social Protection Committee, established in 2014, to provide strategic and policy guidance to the development and strengthening of a comprehensive social protection system. Both institutional

frameworks have established partnership linkages and networks to better facilitate collaborative actions.

During 2020, the coordination of the National Poverty Reduction Programme (NPRP) gathered momentum despite challenges encountered as a result of containment measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2000, the Land Administration and Management Programme (LAMP) was established by the Government of Jamaica to increase regularization of land ownership. Between 2013 and 2015, an average of 39.5 per cent of households owned the land on which they lived. In the subsequent periods, 2016 to 2017, the overall percentage of Jamaicans that own the land on which they live increased to 43.8 per cent in both years. The proportion of landowners in the two poorest quintiles however declined, from 41.8 per cent in 2015 to 36.0 percent in 2017 for quintile 1 and 41.3 per cent in 2015 to 39.2 per cent in 2017 for quintile 2, indicating the need to improve accessibility to land and affordable housing for the vulnerable.

During the 2015–2019 period, the total government expenditure on social protection, and poverty reduction programmes increased. Total spending on programmes such as the Poverty Alleviation Programme rose from \$1.7 billion in the 2014–2015 fiscal year to an estimated \$1.9 billion in the fiscal year 2018–2019.<sup>14</sup> There was also an approximately 41.0 per cent increase in spending on the school nutrition programme, which aims to provide nutritional support to vulnerable students attending public institutions, from \$4.2

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<sup>14</sup> Ministry of Finance, 2020-2021 budget estimates. ( Figure refers to capital expenditure, i.e. exclusive of recurring expenditure)

billion in 2015/2016 fiscal year to \$6.1 billion in the 2018–2019 fiscal year.<sup>15</sup>

Timely, quality disaggregated data is necessary to support the principle of leaving no one behind, through improved targeting of interventions. Jamaica is pursuing the development of a multidimensional poverty index. Currently, the methodology that is used for estimating poverty is a consumption-based monetary measure. Efforts are under way to explore alternative, non-income measures of poverty, which are intended to better facilitate human development through improved targeting.

### Outlook and conclusion

Jamaica has made improvements in reducing the national poverty prevalence. Just prior to the outbreak of the pandemic in 2020, Jamaica had been enjoying steady economic growth and positive macroeconomic indicators. Poverty was on a downward trend, with increased mean consumption expenditure, and improvements in food security and employment levels. Under the new series of poverty estimates, so far revised to 2017, extreme poverty was at approximately 3.5 per cent by 2018, signalling the possibility that, if sustained, eradication could be achieved. The social protection system responded agilely to the shock of the pandemic, providing unprecedented levels of social transfers to both registered and unregistered beneficiaries. Actions were advanced to extend social protection coverage to vulnerable elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and unemployed workers, through budgetary allocation for social pensions, and the examination of

unemployment insurance modalities. The digital economy became more imperative as a delivery modality for information, benefits and services, with moves being made to advance electronic transfers and expand financial inclusion in formal banking systems.

A primary area of concern involves the low level of land ownership and the persistence of people in lowest income quintiles. Coverage of the National Insurance scheme is lowest among people in the lowest income quintiles. This is against the backdrop of a high level of labour informality, which is associated with low enrolment in social security programmes like the NIS, leaving a large portion of the population without social security coverage. The need to address systemic issues and barriers to accessing social protection has become more evident with the impact of the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, which has affected employment and livelihood. It is expected globally that the pandemic thrust between 71 and 100 million people into extreme poverty (World Bank 2020, as cited by UNDESA).<sup>16</sup> The impact of the pandemic is more evident among persons in lower income categories who are less resilient to shock as a result of their vulnerabilities, thus exacerbating poverty and inequality. The World Bank further estimates that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Asian region will be most affected by growing inequality and a deceleration in growth.

There is still a need to improve financing to, and coverage of social programmes, as well as increasing resilience of the vulnerable, particularly in rural areas. Addressing the

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15. Ministry of Finance estimates of expenditure, <https://www.mof.gov.jm/documents/documents-publications/document-centre/file/2337-estimates-of-expenditure-2020-2021.html>

16 UNDESA, The Long-Term impact of COVID-19 on poverty <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/un-des-policy-brief-86-the-long-term-impact-of-COVID-19-on-poverty/>



issue of the informal economy is also a critical step to promoting increased social protection coverage, through participation in major social protection schemes.



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*End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*

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### **Targets:**

**2.1)** End hunger and ensure access by all, especially the vulnerable, including infants, to safe nutritious and sufficient food all year round

**2.2)** By 2030 end all forms of malnutrition including achieving by 2025 targets on stunting and wasting in children and the nutritional needs of adolescence girls and lactating women

**2.3)** Double the agricultural productivity and income of farmers, particularly those from vulnerable groups

**2.4)** Ensure sustainable food production and implement resilient practices that boost efficiency and capacity to adapt to climate change and natural disasters

**2.5)** Maintain genetic diversity of seeds, plants farmed and domesticated animals

**2.a)** increased investment to enhance agriculture productive capacity,

**2.b)** correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural prices and

**2.c)** adopt measures to ensure proper functioning of food commodity prices to limit extreme food price volatility.

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Food security has been flagged as an integral aspect of social protection in several policy documents. These include the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, the Jamaica Social Protection Strategy, the National Policy on Poverty and National Poverty Reduction Programme, inter alia. Since food security questions were canvassed in the national survey beginning in 2016, there were some improvements in the subsequent series, ahead of the 2020 pandemic. The proportion of the population having sufficient food to eat on a regular basis was 59.3 per cent in 2016, 58.2 per cent in 2017 and 62.7 per cent in 2018.

In 2015, approximately 6.9 per cent of the population lived in extreme poverty. This was higher than the average for countries in the Latin America and Caribbean Region (5.5 per cent), but lower than Small Island Developing States (18.0).<sup>17</sup> In 2018,<sup>18</sup> the prevalence of extreme poverty was 3.5 per cent, which is within the medium-term target range specified by Vision 2030 Jamaica for the period 2018–2021. Issues of food security and hunger were addressed in the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (2013), which provides a framework for actions that support accessibility, affordability, and stability of food supply, with focus on ensuring food is treated as a basic right for all citizens and particularly the most vulnerable. The school feeding programme implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) and the Ministry of Education Youth and

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<sup>17</sup> UN STAT database source:  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>

<sup>18</sup> Based on the revised estimates.

Information (MOEYI) seeks to address food and nutrition security for children enrolled in school. The programme provided meals to students at the early childhood to secondary levels and was funded at \$4.5 billion in 2016 but decreased to \$3.8 billion in the 2019/2020 fiscal year.<sup>19</sup>

Both stunting and wasting are measures of malnutrition. Stunting is defined as abnormally low height for age. This is less than two standard deviations from the median height-for-age for children under five. In 2018, the percentage of children under five years old whose height was too low for their age was 4.1 per cent. Wasting is defined as low weight for height based on the global median from the World Health Organization child growth standards. The prevalence of wasting in 2018 was 2.6 per cent.

Programmes to improve food security and nutrition among children include in-kind benefits provided by PATH, the Food Based Dietary Guideline Social Marketing Campaign, development of the draft National Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy and Strategic Plan, and the Launch of a National Food Industry Task Force.<sup>20</sup> The drafting of the National School Nutrition Policy will also seek to promote health and well-being in young children. This policy, which is to be finalized by the Ministry of Education Youth and Information, will seek to facilitate increased access to safe and nutritionally adequate food, and ensure physical activity among children. This is coupled with new guidelines that were introduced in 2019 to place restrictions on the sale of sugary beverages in and around schools as recommended by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

To achieve greater food security and a more efficient market, limiting food price

volatility is important. The FAO's recommended method to track price volatility is through the Indicator of Food Price Anomalies (IFPA). This gives an approximation of the number of periods of abnormally high and volatile markets that may be due to improper local market mechanisms or shocks. The price of bread and cereals were tracked as the main food commodity, due to cereals still accounting for roughly 45.0 per cent of a person's daily caloric intake, particularly for persons from developing countries (FAOSTAT 2017). During the period leading up to the adoption of the SDGS, the years (2012–2015) there had been months of highly volatile agricultural prices where the average price increase for the month was relatively high compared with prior years. The post-2015 period saw lower levels of abnormally high price increases with the more recent years enjoying relatively low-price volatility, coinciding with the general level of stable inflation (Figure 1).

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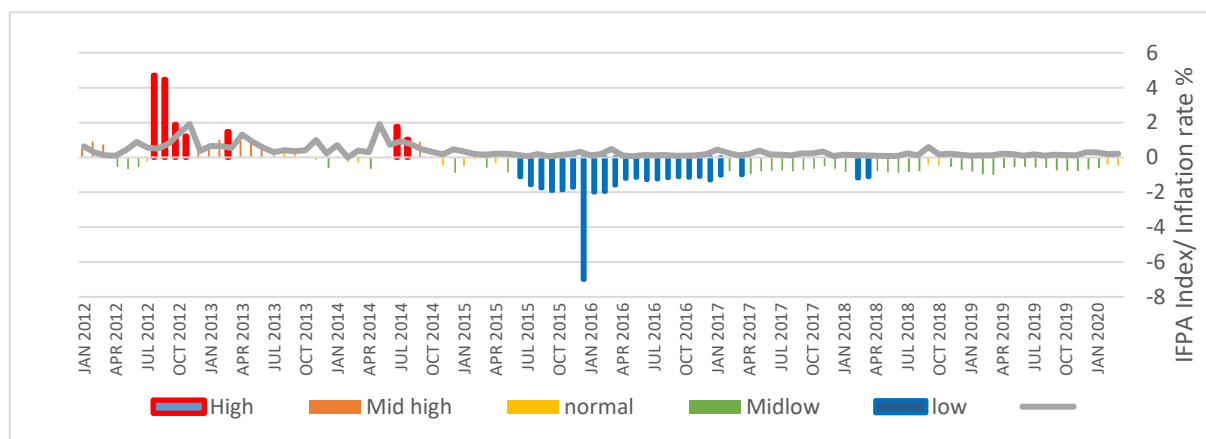
<sup>19</sup> Ministry of Finance, Expenditure Estimates 2019/2020.

<sup>20</sup> Ministry of health and Wellness, <https://www.moh.gov.jm/programmes-policies/>

Food security is linked to sustainable agricultural practices, and, in the case of Jamaica, where agricultural production consists of many small-scale farmers, the livelihood and productivity of these small farmers. Through MDAs as well as through NGOs and IDPs, programmes offer agricultural support, in the form of knowledge sharing and technical support, to build capacity as well as measures to improve land tenure, irrigation, and access to markets. Specific programmes that aim to enhance sustainability include the Import Substitution Programme that aims to achieve self-sufficiency in select agricultural industries. The Agro Parks

scale for small farmers and to mainstream climate resilience (Economic and Social Survey Jamaica 2019).<sup>21</sup> Additionally, there has been increased investment in research and technical development in the agricultural sector in 2019. This includes a \$26.2 million outlay for the purpose of refurbishing a seed storage facility for vegetative seeds that are of economic importance, as well as training sessions that focus on disseminating information on pest management and best postharvest techniques for storage. This is executed through the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (ESSJ 2019).

Figure 1 Indicator of Food Price Anomalies (Source: Planning Institute with data from the BOJ)



project (2012) that aims to build on the productive capacity of the Agricultural sector through infrastructure development and the GLOBALGAP CERTIFICATE programme is designed to improve agricultural productivity.

To ensure further progress on the targets of goal 2, adequate funding is required. In 2015, in alignment with target 2.A, the total funding to the agricultural sector was US\$0.98 million in grants and US\$75.39 million in loans. For 2020, the preliminary figures were approximately US\$3.04 million in grants and no loan inflows. In 2019, a loan of US\$40.0 million was secured from the World Bank to the agricultural sector to improve economies of

To maintain the diversity of seeds, the National Seed Policy and Implementation Plan was implemented in 2018. The plan seeks to ensure a consistent and reliable supply of seeds to improve production, efficiency, and biodiversity.

### Conclusion and Outlook

Progress has been made to meet targets pertaining to undernourishment, evidenced by a decline in the incidents of wasting and stunting in children under five. There have also been several policies aimed at ensuring nutrition and food security for children from the early childhood to secondary

<sup>21</sup> Planning Institute of Jamaica. *Economic and Social Survey Jamaica* 2019.

levels. There however remains issues with the level of agricultural productivity, primarily the level of crop yield and the susceptibility to transitory price instability due to climate-related events such as drought, despite overall relative stability in prices in recent years. It is therefore expected that if the rate of climate change continues, price anomalies that are driven by weather-related events may become more frequent, thus there is a need for more investment in climate resilient technology and practices.



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*Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*

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Targets:

- 3.1)** Reduce global mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100 000 livebirths
- 3.2)** Neonatal mortality as low as 12 per 1 000 live births and under-5 to as low as 25 per 1 000 live births
- 3.3)** End AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and tropical diseases. Combat hepatitis, waterborne diseases, and other communicable diseases
- 3.4)** Reduce by one third, premature mortality from non-communicable diseases
- 3.5)** Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse

**3.6)** Halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

**3.7)** Universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and the integration of reproductive health into national development strategies

**3.8)** Universal health coverage and affordable essential medicines and vaccines

**3.9)** Reduce the number of deaths and illness from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

**3.a)** Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate

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The Vision for Health 2030- Ten Year Strategic Plan 2019–2030 and the Extraordinary 5-Year Capex Plan for Health 2019–2024, promote sustainable development in the health sector. Among the goals of the Ten-Year Strategic Plan are: ensuring safe motherhood; improving the health of the population by reducing morbidity due to communicable and non-communicable diseases; and reducing neglected infectious diseases, particularly among the poor and vulnerable. The Capex Plan plays a pivotal role in health financing, improving infrastructure and digitization of speciality care in Jamaica.<sup>22</sup>

Improving the well-being of women and children is a vital part of achieving the targets of SDG goal 3, and for Jamaica's National Development Plan. Since 2015, the maternal mortality rate has remained consistently above the SDG target of 70 per 100 000 live births with a current rate of 87.1 per 100 000 live births (ESSJ 2019). Jamaica has, however, shown a steady decline in the infant mortality rate from

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www.moh.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/MOH-CAPEX-2019.pdf>

16.7 per 1 000 in 2015 to 15.5 in 2018. During the 2015–2020 period, there was a continuation of the Programme for the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (PROMAC), which was initially implemented in 2013 with funding from the European Union. PROMAC aims to support the following functions: improve primary health care and referral services, provide information about effective reproductive health, and assist the ministry and its affiliates to strengthen their capability in infant and maternal health.<sup>23</sup> Notable achievements of the programme include the distribution of midwife equipment bags, procurement of hospital equipment and ambulances, training of nurses and physicians, and designing and equipping of maternal and neonatal high dependency units.

Target 3.3 involves ending the epidemic of certain diseases and viruses. According to baseline data from 2015, Jamaica had a low incidence of malaria. Since 2012, Jamaica was on the official register as having eradicated malaria. Since then there have been reports of only two imported cases, which were contained. Jamaica has been able to prevent its reintroduction through strong public health surveillance. Jamaica experiences low incidences of Tuberculosis (0.38 per 100 000), based on 2015 data (Jamaica VNR 2018).<sup>24</sup> The number of new HIV cases in Jamaica averaged 1 399 per year from 2015 to 2018.<sup>25</sup>

The framework for the national response to HIV is focused on prevention, treatment and care; an enabling environment and human rights; and monitoring and evaluation. The National Integrated Strategic Plan for Sexual and Reproductive

Health and HIV 2014–2019 continues to govern the HIV response. Currently, a new HIV strategic plan is being developed. The HIV/AIDS response is funded through both government and development partners such as the Global Fund, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Bank. The Global Fund in 2019 allocated US\$12.0 million, of which US\$4.2 million was allocated to fight HIV AIDS. This is to reduce morbidity and mortality, as well as to implement biomedical and supportive interventions that aim to reduce new infections among key populations (ESSJ 2019). The Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization have completed over 29 projects that cover the areas of HIV/STI prevention; policy development; health promotion; health systems and capacity building, with total funding of US\$4.6 million. Key achievements have included an integration of the HIV/AIDS services in the National Family Planning Board, development of the draft National Integrated Sexual Health Strategic Plan, establishment of the National HIV/AIDS-Discrimination Reporting and Redress System, and development of the National HIV Workplace Policy (ESSJ 2019).

The 2017 MOHW Report on the HIV/STI Programme<sup>26</sup> indicates that in 2017, an estimated 34 000 Jamaicans were living with HIV, with 1 197 newly reported cases for that year. Of those living with HIV, a higher prevalence was noted among at-risk groups including female sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender persons, homeless persons and inmates. The largest proportion of newly diagnosed

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.moh.gov.jm/programmes-policies/promac/>

<sup>24</sup> Planning Institute of Jamaica. 2018. *Jamaica Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

<sup>25</sup> MOH annual epidemiological profile 2015–2017

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.moh.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/FINAL-NHP-Annual-Report-2017.pdf>

persons was in the 20–29 age cohort (26.0 per cent), followed by the 30–39 age cohort, (24.0 per cent). More than half (61.0 per cent) of those living with HIV reside in urban parishes. Budgetary allocations to the HIV/AIDS response was \$1.95 billion in 2017. The M&E component of the National HIV/STI Programme was subsumed into the Strategic Information component to inform and improve strategy and monitor progress.

During the reporting period, improvements were noted in the management and distribution of anti-retroviral drugs (ARV). There were no stock outs during the year, owing to improved forecasting. Additionally, an ARV tool was developed to support the process of ensuring that there were no stock outs. Improvement in procurement efficiencies through the GOJ’s E-Procurement System also facilitated the more efficient acquisition of supplies.

To expand delivery of services, the MOHW piloted the deployment of lay providers to provide one-to-one support to their peers at treatment sites, and work as members of the treatment team. A Treatment Site Monitoring Team was also launched in 2017 to conduct audits and provide recommendations on corrective measures. A Peer Navigation System was also rolled out in January 2017 to link persons to health-care systems, identify and reduce barriers to care, and provide health education to influence health-related behaviours and attitudes.

Currently non-communicable disease, according to the World Health Organization (2018), is the leading cause of death worldwide. The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) reported that non-communicable diseases are the leading

cause of death in the Caribbean. It is therefore important to promote lifestyles that reduce the general risk of developing non-communicable diseases. For Jamaica, the number of deaths from diabetes, hypertensive diseases, heart disease and cancer have been trending upwards over the period 2014–2017. The total death from these diseases have increased from 9 239 in 2014 to 9 773 deaths in 2017, representing 46.8 per cent and 52.6 per cent of total deaths for 2014 and 2017, respectively.<sup>27</sup>

It is approximated that in 2019 the leading cause of death in Jamaica continued to be non-communicable diseases. The leading cause of death for women in 2019 were diabetes, cerebrovascular diseases, and hypertensive diseases. For men, the leading causes were external causes, cerebrovascular diseases, and diabetes mellitus (Figure 2).

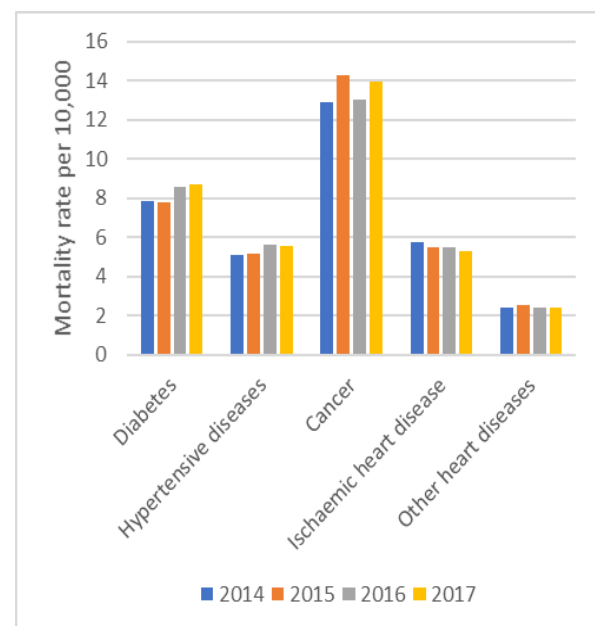


Figure 2 Mortality Rate for Select Non-communicable Diseases (Source: Ministry of Health)

Jamaica’s plan to combat the rise of non-communicable diseases is guided by the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs in Jamaica 2013–2018. Its main aim is to reduce the burden of

<sup>27</sup> Statistical Institute of Jamaica. 2019. *Demographic Statistics 2018*

preventable morbidity and disability, as well as avoidable premature morbidity due to non-communicable diseases by 25.0 per cent by 2025. Interventions that support the national plan address risk reduction, health promotion, governance, and capacity building. The Jamaica Moves programme aims to tackle non-communicable diseases by promoting a healthy lifestyle in the key settings: school, work, and community. The IDB Health Systems Strengthening for the Prevention and Care in the Management of NCDs programme was initiated in 2019, with the aim of consolidating integrated health networks, and improving management, quality and efficiency in handling NCD health-related issues.

As noted above, external causes remain a major cause of death among the population, particularly for men. Among this subcategory, Jamaica has aimed to reduce premature mortality from suicide and road traffic accidents in alignment with national development targets. The suicide rate for Jamaica was 2.2 per 100 000 in 2018, which was much lower than the global average of 10.6 per 100 000. The rate of road traffic deaths per 100 000 has trended upwards however, from 12.2 to 15.9 in 2019.<sup>28</sup> A national campaign with a target to decrease the number of road fatalities to under 300 is ongoing. However, the number of road fatalities have increased from 331 in 2014 to 432 in 2020, representing an increase of approximately 30.0 per cent relative to 2014. Measures to improve the safety of Jamaican roads include plans to invest US\$1.0 million to upgrade the country's road traffic signal system in the Kingston Metropolitan Area during 2020/21 fiscal year;<sup>29</sup> as well as the finalisation of the Road Traffic Act (2018) to be tabled in Parliament. The Act aims to improve road

safety and transport efficiency as well as reduce the cost of administering road transport. The Act includes measures such as requiring potential learner drivers to complete a road code test prior to the issuance of a provisional licence, as well as increasing the fines for traffic offences including those that could result in fatalities.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness has adopted a 'mental health in all' policy approach with the formulation of the draft National Mental Health Policy, as well as the Implementation of the Mental Health Action Plan 2013–2020. These instruments promote mental health and well-being toward reductions in the rate of suicide.

Broad coverage and affordable access to health services is a crucial aspect of ensuring a healthy population. This includes ensuring equitable access for the most vulnerable. For the year 2018, approximately 18.4 per cent of Jamaicans had health insurance. Coverage was 18.9 per cent in 2015. Persons in the two lowest wealth quintiles had health insurance coverage of less than 10.0 per cent each. Only 4.0 per cent of the poorest quintile had coverage compared with 40.8 per cent for the wealthiest quintile (JSLC 2018).

In terms of the delivery of health services, in 2018, the number of health-care workers per 10 000 was 11.91 for nursing professionals, 4.39 for General Medical Practitioners, 1.46 for Midwifery Professionals, 1.25 for specialist medical practitioners, 0.39 for Dental Assistants, 0.28 for Dentists and 0.17 for Pharmacists (MOHW). The number of health-care facilities as at 2020 was 614, inclusive of 236 Pharmacies, 34 Hospitals and 344 Health Centres. The distribution of these health-care facilities can be seen in Figure

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<sup>28</sup> National Road Safety Council, <http://www.nationalroadsafetycouncil.org.jm/statistics/reports/index.html>

<sup>29</sup> JIS source: <https://jis.gov.jm/kma-road-traffic-signals-to-be-upgraded/>



3. As of 2018, Jamaica has an 89.2 per cent immunization rate (people immunized with all six vaccines) which is below the national

target of 95.0 per cent. The birth registration rate was 99.3 per cent as at 2016 (JSLC 2018).

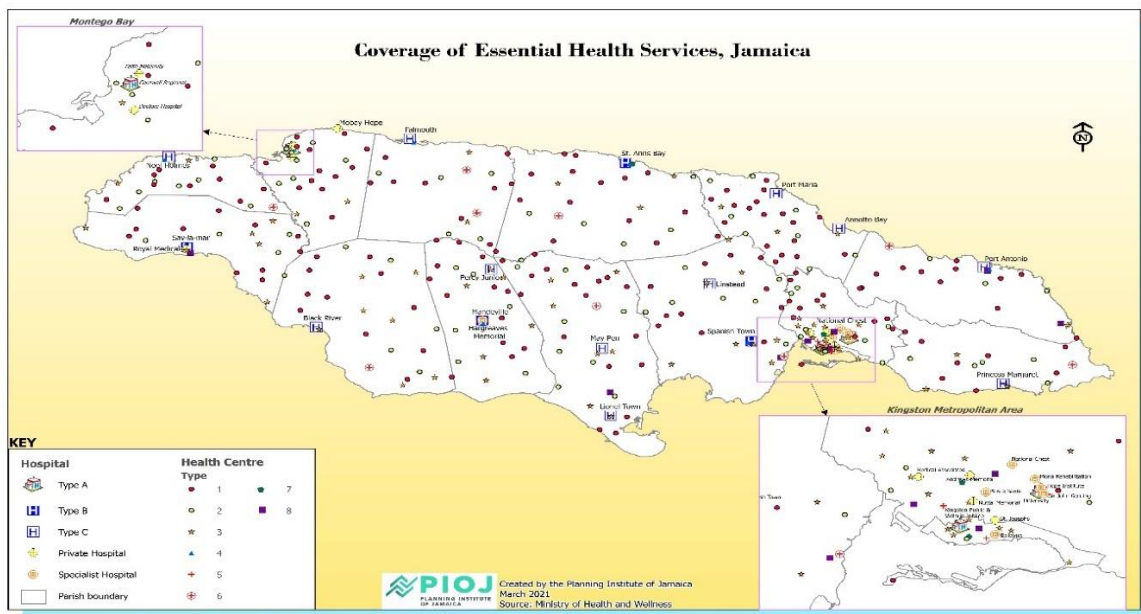


Figure 3 Distribution of Health Facilities of All Types (Source: PIOJ)

The Jamaican government in cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization conducted a study to identify recommended actions to ensure equitable and efficient provision of health services towards universal health for all. Given the low health insurance coverage, a National Health Insurance Plan was drafted<sup>30</sup> through a consultative process, which will form the framework for transitioning to universal insurance coverage for the population. In 2019, there were efforts to improve efficiencies at health centres by reducing wait times and increasing the drug subsidies for pharmaceuticals and improving the reach for benefit programmes such as the Jamaica Drug for the Elderly Programme (JADEP).

Ensuring the health-care sector is adequately funded through both domestic financing and foreign development aid is

essential for improving its capacity. With support from the National Health Fund, six hospitals and health centres were upgraded at a cost of \$500.0 million, and 10 health centres were refurbished through the IDP Policy investment loans. The amount of new development assistance that was directed to the health sector includes US\$115.75 million in 2020, with US\$100.0 million being in the form of loans while the remainder consisted of grants. This represented an increase from the US\$22.1 million in new official development assistance (ODA) in 2019, all of which was in the form of grants (ESSJ 2019).

Jamaica became party to the World Health Organization’s Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in 2013 and reported on progress in its implementation during the VNR 2018, and has continued efforts to implement the Convention.

Based on the multi-sectoral nature of the FCTC, various means of stakeholder

<sup>30</sup> Green Paper 2019

consultation were employed, through which several ministries, departments and agencies were engaged to ensure effective implementation and enforcement as well as capacity building. Consultation was also had with international stakeholders including the Convention Secretariat, PAHO/WHO, and civil society bodies such as the Jamaica Coalition for Tobacco Control (JCTC).

Some of the enforcement activities over the reporting period included:

- Increased collaboration with the private sector and business establishments, including bars and restaurants, with a view to enforcing the regulations within workplaces, including erecting “No Smoking” signage.
- Monitoring and inspection of restaurants and bars, including ‘smoking lounges’, through the Public Health Inspectors to ensure full compliance and enforcement.
- Ongoing engagement of and collaboration with ‘authorized officers’ named under the Regulations, including the Police, Customs Officers, Public Health Inspectors, Medical Officers (Health) and Inspectors appointed under the Standards Act.
- Specific engagement of the Police High Command, which had previously expressed an interest in having the MOHW assist with sensitization of the new recruits in understanding and enforcing the Regulations.
- Sensitization workshops with the support of the JCTC.

Additionally, Jamaica is at an advanced stage in its efforts to put in place comprehensive tobacco control legislation, which will bring the country in full compliance with all its obligations under the WHO FCTC. The Tobacco Control Bill was tabled in Parliament on December 1,

2020. This seeks to incorporate provisions under the FCTC, which were not addressed under the existing Regulations, including:

- Article 5.3, which regulates the interaction of government officials with the tobacco industry; and
- Article 13, which speaks to the full and mandatory prohibition on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship.

A Joint Select Committee of Parliament has been established to review the Tobacco Control Bill. The Committee has taken a consultative approach to reviewing the Bill and has invited stakeholders to make submissions in relation to the Bill. Following presentation of the submissions, the Committee will discuss recommendations to be adopted and make a determination regarding the final provisions to be adopted in the Bill.

### Conclusion and Outlook

Jamaica has national plans and strategies, with targets that guide strategic action in the health sector. Jamaica has made progress on several of the SDG targets inclusive of the infant mortality rate, reducing the spread of non-communicable diseases and promoting a healthy lifestyle. There is need for improvement on the maternal mortality rate, and the reduction of traffic accidents. A consistent increase in non-communicable diseases will threaten the well-being of the population and increase demands on health services. It will therefore be essential to continue and strengthen programmes that promote healthy lifestyles.

There is also a need to increase the number of facilities for HIV testing and to reduce the stigma associated with HIV. Another concern is the low coverage of health insurance for the general population,

particularly the most vulnerable. Ongoing discussions on the provision of universal basic health coverage is intended to remedy this situation in the long term. There is a need to fund such a social protection programme. This, as well as the need to improve critical infrastructure in the health sector will increase the demand for financing to the sector in a context of narrowing fiscal space given the current economic climate as the world rebounds from the COVID-19 pandemic.



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*Ensure Inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*

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Targets:

- 4.1)** Ensure all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to effective learning outcomes
- 4.2)** Ensure all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development care and pre-primary education
- 4.3)** Equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education
- 4.4)** Substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- 4.5)** Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and training for the vulnerable

**4.6)** Ensure all youth and a substantial portion of adults achieve literacy and numeracy

**4.7)** Ensure all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.

**4.A)** Build and upgrade facilities that are child, disability, and gender sensitive.

**4.B)** Substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries.

**4.C)** Substantially increase the number of qualified teachers.

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Jamaica's goal of empowering its citizens through the provision of world-class education and training is closely aligned to SDG 4 of ensuring inclusive, quality education. This necessitates high levels of gross enrolment rates for the cohort (3–24 years). In 2015, the gross enrolment rate was 71.4 per cent, which rose to 77.0 per cent in the 2018/2019 academic year (ESSJ 2019). The level of participation in organized learning for the early childhood levels (3–5 years old) in 2018 is measured by the proportion of children that were enrolled in either early education facilities or primary education. For that year, gross enrolment among this cohort was at 99.1 per cent (JSLC 2018). This represented an almost universal enrolment rate, which has remained relatively unchanged over the period 2015–2019.

Despite these high enrolment rates at the early childhood level children from lower-income households are more likely to not be enrolled at the secondary level. An indicator of this is the 14.0 per cent of children from the two lowest income quintiles, aged 15–16 who were not enrolled in secondary education compared with 0.0 per cent from the wealthiest quintile (JSLC 2018). In order to continue boosting enrolment rates and reduce the

financial burden on parents by reducing the cost of attending schools, which is often prohibitive, the government continued to implement tuition-free access at the public primary and secondary level.

While enrolment rates are a good indicator of the inclusivity of the educational sector, effective learning outcomes such as the literacy rate and the achievement of proficiency in subjects such as Mathematics and English Language are essential in measuring the quality of the education system. In 2015, the proportion of children achieving mastery in the grade 4 literacy test was 86.3 per cent while the proportion of students achieving mastery in the numeracy test was 63.6 per cent. For the academic year 2017/2018, the mastery rate for the literacy test fell slightly to 82.8 per cent while the mastery for the numeracy test rose slightly to 65.6 per cent. For both tests, girls continued to outperform boys. For the 2017/2018 academic year, girls had an average mastery rate of 90.3 per cent compared with 75.5 per cent for boys on the literacy test. For the numeracy test, girls had an average mastery rate of 72.5 per cent compared with 59.0 per cent for boys. (Figure 4)

The Primary Exit Profile (PEP) was introduced in 2019, and replaces the Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT) as the secondary school placement test. The profile is based on a series of assessments which commences in Grade 4 and ends at Grade 6. PEP places emphasis on the acquisition of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, which include critical thinking, creativity and communication. It assesses student's knowledge and is intended to provide a complete profile of the students' academic and critical thinking capabilities at the end of the primary-level education (ESSJ 2019).

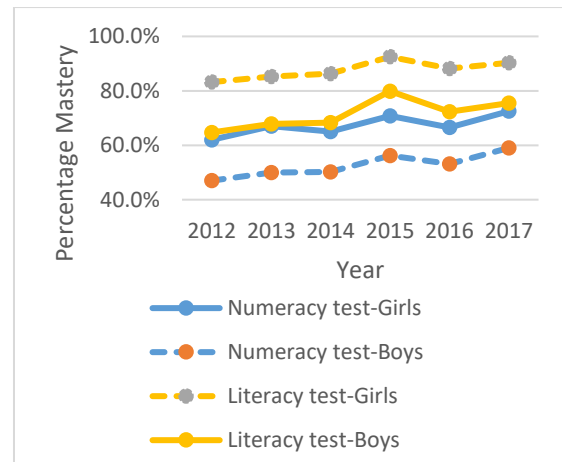


Figure 4 Literacy and Numeracy Grade 4 Mastery Girls vs Boys 2012–2017 (Source: MOEYI)

For the grade 11 Caribbean Secondary Schools Examinations (CSEC), the proportion of students scoring at least a grade 3 in both Mathematics and English Language improved in 2017/2018 academic year relative to 2015/2016. For the 2017/2018 period, this proportion was 68.7 per cent and 46.5 per cent, up from 65.7 per cent and 41.0 per cent, respectively, for Math and English in 2015/2016 based on the MOEYI education statistics. Of note, for the year 2018 some 50.9 per cent of the prime working age population had no CSEC passes (MOEYI educational statistics 2015–2018).

Efforts to further instil an appreciation for sustainable development, including human rights and environmental sustainability, included the introduction of courses such as Environmental Science at the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) level. Critical issues relating to sustainable development were also incorporated into the national curriculum, as well as through programmes such as the Health and Family Life Education and the implementation of the Family Life

## Education and the Citizenship Education Programme.<sup>31</sup>

In 2015, the number of Jamaicans that were afforded scholarship and training opportunities through ODA was 282, at a total value of US\$4.8 million. For the year 2019, development assistance in education through scholarships declined to US\$3.7 million, however the number of recipients increased to 612 (ESSJ 2019). The proportion of qualified teachers available declined over the period post-adoption of the SDGs. In the year 2015/2016, the proportion of trained teachers in early childhood, primary and secondary schools was 78.0 per cent, 93.1 per cent and 83.4 per cent, respectively. In the 2018/2019 academic year, the proportion of trained teachers was 79.0 per cent, 91.0 per cent and 81.0 per cent for early childhood, primary and secondary schools, respectively (Figure 5).

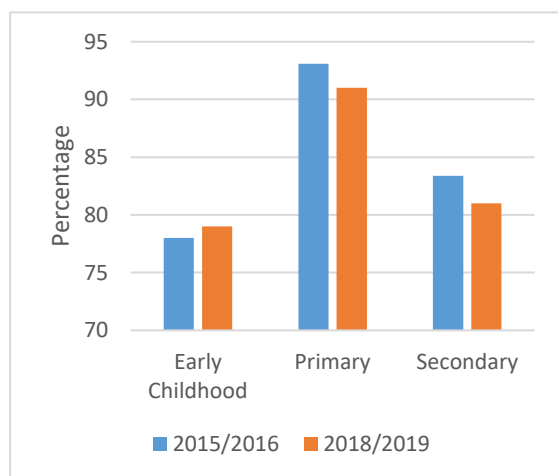


Figure 5 Proportion of Trained Teachers at Selected School Levels 2015/2016–2018/2019 (Source: MOEYI Educational Statistics 2018–2019)

<sup>31</sup> MOEYI, Education Ministry Focuses on Resocialization at Grade 7, <https://moey.gov.jm/education-ministry-focuses-resocialisation-grade-7>

<sup>32</sup> (MOEY, <https://moey.gov.jm/440-scholarships-awarded-stem-student->

This represents a marginal decline in the proportion of trained teachers in both primary and secondary schools. The government has however in the period attempted to improve the quality of teachers available, particularly in the STEM field, through the provision of 440 STEM teachers' scholarships.<sup>32</sup> These efforts have also been aided through the provision of needs-based professional development programs for mathematics coordinators, specialists, and coaches, where 93 coaches were trained in the first quarter of 2020.<sup>33</sup>

The quality of the educational system is also a function of the level of infrastructure available to teachers, students, and administrators. In 2016, the proportion of primary and upper secondary schools with access to electricity was 93.9 per cent and 100 per cent, respectively. In 2018, the proportions were 99.9 per cent and 100 per cent for primary and upper secondary schools, respectively (UN STAT). This represents efforts to ensure more facilities are attached to the grid and brings Jamaica closer to 100 per cent connectivity for schools. The availability of infrastructure to support students with disabilities is an area that requires improvement. In 2017, only 11.7 per cent and 13.2 per cent of primary and secondary schools, respectively, had adequate infrastructure for the persons with disabilities.<sup>34</sup>

### Conclusion and Outlook

Although Jamaica has achieved a high level of primary enrolment (nearly universal), there are challenges with net enrolment. Challenges are evident with the quality of outcomes at the primary and secondary

teachers#:~:text=JIS%3A%20The%20Ministry%20of%20Education,the%202017%2F18%20academic%20year.).

<sup>33</sup> MOEYI first quarter Performance report 2020

<sup>34</sup> Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness



level. These concerns include the level of mastery in numeracy at the grade 4 level, as well as the gap in performance between boys and girls at the primary level. This is even more important given the emphasis that is placed globally on STEM areas and therefore early development in numeracy is urgent to support the objectives of STEM education. The level of adult literacy however remains high. Gender-based differences still exist in performance and outcomes. This includes the relative underperformance of boys in both primary and secondary education. It is expected that with the continued training of teachers and the continued revamping of the primary curriculum and exams further progress will be achieved in delivering quality education in the future.

It is expected that the onset of COVID-19 will disproportionately affect children in lower quintiles due to uneven access to devices and internet connection that might show in lower attendance rates for online classes which can potentially affect long-term learning outcomes. Another concern is the low level of educational achievement for the prime working age population, as Jamaica seeks to empower its labour force. Lastly, investment in facilities that are disability friendly and safe also requires improvement to ensure inclusiveness and access for persons with disabilities.



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*Achieve Gender equality  
and empower all women  
and girls*

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#### Targets

- 5.1) End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls
- 5.2) Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres
- 5.3) Eliminate harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
- 5.4) Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work
- 5.5) Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making
- 5.6) Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights
- 5.a) Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources
- 5.b) Enhance the use of technology, in particular information and communication technology to promote women empowerment
- 5.c) Adopt and strengthen sound policies and legislation for the promotion of gender equality.

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Jamaica has made significant gains in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment. These areas of progress have been assisted by several institution-building initiatives and legislative measures

of the GOJ. The national gender mechanism, the Bureau of Women's Affairs was rebranded as the Bureau of Gender Affairs (BGA) in 2016 by Cabinet Decision No. 8/16, to ensure a more inclusive approach to combat violence, advance gender equality, and promote a gender sensitive approach to achieving balanced economic growth. This focus is ongoing in situating initiatives within the broader gender and development paradigm, which includes the engagement of men and boys regarding rigid gender norms, power relations, gender-based violence, and inequalities. The GOJ in 2016 also appointed a minister with specific focus on gender affairs.

Understanding the importance of extending basic human rights to the most vulnerable, Jamaica continued its obligations under previously ratified conventions that have gender policy implications such as the Equal Remuneration Convention, Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention and the Domestic Workers Convention ratified in 2016.

The crime rate has been volatile over the period 2015–2019. There has been progress in reducing violence against women however, with 33.0 per cent (2 380) of all crime victims being women in 2019, falling from 38.0 per cent (3 336) in 2015 (JCF Crime Statistics). Legislative instruments in force to curb gender-based violence/violence against women or girls include the Domestic Violence Act of 1995 (amended in 2004), the Offences Against the Person Act (2010), the Sexual Offences Act (2011) and the more recent Sexual Harassment Bill, which was originally tabled in 2015 and is awaiting approval.

The ongoing commitment to gender equality is demonstrated in the development and approval of Jamaica's National Policy for Gender Equality (NPGE) in 2011. Further, the GOJ launched

a 10-year national strategic action plan in December 2017 with specific targets to eliminate gender based violence. The National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence in Jamaica (NSAP-GBV) 2017–2027, is premised on five strategic areas; prevention, protection, intervention, legal procedures and protocols for data collection. It is aligned with Vision 2030 Jamaica and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the National Policy for Gender Equality. This Plan represents a coordinated and systematic approach to addressing the issue of gender-based violence in Jamaica.

The Eighth Periodic Report Under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 2018, notes that Jamaica's Gender Development Index (GDI) is 0.719 for women and 0.738 for men. The overall GDI value was 0.975, indicating medium to high equality in achievements between men and women. The Gender Inequality Index which measures gender-based inequalities in the dimensions of reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity ranks Jamaica at 93 of 159 countries. The report highlighted interventions through education that are aimed at promoting gender equality such as Standards Curriculum, and, the Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) Programme offered at the primary level (Grade 1–6) and at the Secondary level (Grade 7–9), as well as the Schools Education Programme that raises awareness on gender-specific issues including gender equality, female empowerment, and gender based violence both in educational institutions and the wider society. The Jamaica Broadcasting Commission's monitoring strategy, which includes measures to address the portrayal of violence and sexual violence in the media was also highlighted. At the time of the report, legislative revisions were under



way to address the issue of domestic violence.

At the Twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) convened in 2020, Jamaica reported on its commitments as party to the Declaration. The report highlighted plans to review the National Gender Equality Policy (2011) during 2019/2020 to address gaps and emerging issues. In recognition of the need to address issues affecting men and boys, a Special Service Desk was established at the Bureau of Gender Affairs. Major achievements<sup>35</sup> noted from the review process were:

- Legislative review for equality and non-discrimination under the law and timely access to justice for women and girls.
- Development of a Gender Mainstreaming Manual for the Public Sector informed by the National Policy for Gender Equality (NPGE).
- A Gender Advisory Council (GAC) established to oversee the implementation of the National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence (NSAP-GBV) 2017–2027 and the NPGE.
- The launch of a pilot Gender Ambassadors Programme (GAP) to engage secondary and tertiary level students.
- Preparation of a Resource Guide/Directory of Services for women.
- Active social media engagement that created visibility and accessibility to the services offered by BGA Instagram & Facebook pages.

- Development of the BGA website supported by the hand over of an online GBV Platform.

- Increase in government budgetary allocations for the National Gender Machinery's priority programmes.

- The ratification of Conventions such as C189 and ILO's Decent Work Agenda, to strengthen policy and legislative frameworks for the empowerment of women and protection of workers.

- Alignment of sectoral policies in the ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) of the GOJ with the SDGs, including SDG 5 (Gender equality and the empowerment of women).

- New and Emerging Policy Frameworks – International Migration and Development Policy, the Water Sector Policy, National Poverty Reduction Policy and Programme and the Social Protection Strategy.

- Progressive increase in the number of women in politics and decision-making/Boards & Commissions/Non-traditional sectors.

Challenges were noted in financing, particularly to the institutional framework for the advancement of women, and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice, due to a reduction in donor support. Challenges were also noted with negative social norms and gender stereotypes, lack of understanding of women empowerment and gender mainstreaming, slow uptake of the gender mainstreaming in the public sector and fragmented approaches to addressing the issue of gender-based violence. The Women's Health Survey conducted in 2016, indicates that throughout their lifetime, approximately

outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000), p. 10

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<sup>35</sup> Jamaica – National Review Report Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the

28.0 per cent of Jamaican women have experienced some form of physical and/or sexual violence by a male intimate partner. Physical violence was experienced by just over a quarter of Jamaican women in their lifetime, while approximately 8.0 per cent of women experienced sexual violence. Emotional violence was also experienced by a significant proportion of women. Other prevalent forms of violence included economic violence and sexual harassment. Measures to address these challenges included: increased advocacy for funding, public education, implementation of programmes that address gender stereotypes and the implementation of the abovementioned NSAP-GBV (2017–2027).

Practises such as early, child and forced marriage are harmful for the development of girls and is often linked to poverty and low labour force participation. The Jamaica Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey conducted in 2011 provided estimates on the proportion of women married before 15 years old and 18 years old. For that year, 7.9 per cent of women aged 20–24 years were married or in a union before the age of 18 years and 1.4 per cent before the age of 15.

Reproductive health problems, such as STIs, pregnancy-related illness and death, place a burden on the health of adolescents and women of reproductive age. Jamaica's reproductive health survey of 2008 showed high rates of unplanned pregnancies, high rates of pregnancies among adolescent girls and a large portion of adolescent girls stating that they currently faced an unmet contraceptive need. According to the 2008 health survey, approximately 18.0 per cent of all live births were to adolescent girls. To tackle these issues, the GOJ developed the National Strategic Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV (2014–2019). A major priority area is prevention

and outreach, which involves the distribution of contraceptives through a collaboration with the Jamaica Family Planning Association (FAMPLAN) and targeted educational campaigns for adolescents and the most vulnerable.

In response to measures to improve the health of women and girls, the review report on the Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action notes the continuation of the PROMAC, which provides critical care and neonatal services for mothers and children. Under the Newborn and Emergency Obstetric Care (Component 1) was the establishment of nine maternal and neonatal High Dependency Units (HDUs) across five referral hospitals in Jamaica. A maternal risk assessment score-card was also developed to assist health-care workers to standardize the approach taken to conduct risk assessments and to, ultimately, impact the level of risk perception within the target population. Additionally, 157 nurses/midwives and 173 Community Health Aids were trained in maternal and child health responsibilities at a primary health care level to promote improved health outcomes for high-risk women and their babies.

Provision of contraceptive products by the National Family Planning Board expands access to contraceptives. There is broad-based access for women and girls to primary health services including contraceptive and HIV/STI related services. In 2017, the Ministry of Health and Wellness rolled out a vaccination programme that offered the HPV vaccine to girls between the ages of 9 and 14 years, as a proactive measure to combat cervical cancer.

Jamaica also piloted the regional Every Caribbean Woman Every Caribbean Child (CARIWAC) programme. The programme has four pillars: reduction in violence

against women, cervical cancer, mother to child transmission of HIV and teenage pregnancies.

Public awareness campaigns were also executed, focusing on pregnancy, nutrition, physical activity, mental illness inter alia. In addition to public awareness campaigns, gender responsive training for health-service providers was conducted, including gender focal points in the MOHW who were sensitized to gender mainstreaming methodologies. Training was also offered to health-care workers and staff of the NFPB in the provision of services and referrals to survivors of gender-based violence.

The Adolescent Protocol for Managing Teenagers was also developed by the MOHW to guide health-care workers on gender sensitive ways to provide care to girls and boys. The Teenhub initiative was launched in 2017 as part of a collaborative effort between a non-governmental organization, MOH, and the MOEYI, to provide counselling, STD testing and educational services to teenagers. International Development Partners also provided funding toward the reduction of teen pregnancies in Jamaica.<sup>36</sup>

Measures have also been taken to expand women's access to economic resources. The GOJ approved the revision of the MSME Policy and Implementation Plan (2018), to foster a culture of entrepreneurship, which includes a gender component that ensures that businesses are gender sensitive. The objectives of the gender component are to identify factors that constrain the participation of women in entrepreneurship and enterprises, develop appropriate strategies to address these constraints, and build the capacity of

organizations to develop and deliver programmes that incorporate the unique challenges of female and male entrepreneurs. This includes the promotion of sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities and generating income among disadvantaged women, particularly among those living in poverty. Support services include the provision of grant funding, building technical capacity and expanding women entrepreneurship from subsistence type activities, thereby creating opportunities for growth.<sup>37</sup>

To ensure that future policy in both the political and private economic spheres take into consideration the realities of women, it is essential to provide equitable gender representation at the decision-making level. In 2018, all the mayors in local government were male, while 42.9 per cent of local government CEOs were females. In 2021, all the majors are male while 35.7 per cent of the CEOs are female. Despite this decline in female representation at the local government level, at the parliamentary level and at the senate, progress has been made in improving representation. As shown in Figure 6, in the September 15, 2020 swearing in, a record number of eight women (38 per cent) were appointed as senators and a record number of female Members of Parliament (MPs), 18 out of 63 (28.5 per cent) were elected.

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<sup>36</sup> Jamaica – National Review Report Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the

outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000), pp 78-85  
<sup>37</sup> Ibid., pp 17–20

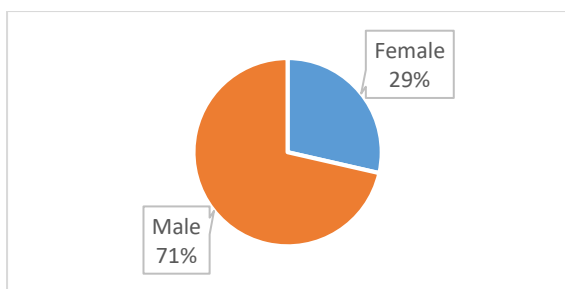


Figure 6 Proportion of Male to Female Members of Parliament (Source: Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development)

In the private sphere, the representation of women in managerial positions in Jamaica was high, relative to the region and the rest of the world. The International Labour Organization's Women in Business and Management Study<sup>38</sup> estimated that the proportion of women in Junior, Middle and Senior Management was 50.0 per cent, 50.0 per cent and 40.0 per cent respectively compared with Caribbean sub-regional medians of 30.0 per cent for all three levels. Gender equity and gender mainstreaming continued to be advanced through programmes offered at the tertiary level. A Bachelor of Science degree in Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies has been instrumental in preparing students to address issues of national concern through various gender modules.

### Conclusion and Outlook

Progress has been made under goal 5 in achieving gender equality, particularly in the area of women's participation in leadership and decision making. Jamaica continues to rank highly in the proportion of women in business management positions at all levels.

Progress has also been made in the areas of reducing discrimination and the rate of violence against women. While violence

against women is on a steady decline, challenges remain in significantly reducing or eliminating gender-based violence. Secondly there remains a need to expand the coverage of family planning services, particularly to the population whose family planning and contraceptive needs aren't being met by current facilities. Based on the 2008 health survey, a large segment of the population felt their needs were unmet. Since then, there have been several initiatives by national agencies, the results of which can be gauged by the next scheduled reproductive health survey. Lastly, the under-representation of women at higher level positions in the public and private sphere, also requires further attention. It is, however, to be noted that challenges remain in improving the representation of women at the decision making level in local government. This will require greater effort to meet defined goals by 2030.



*Ensure availability and sustainability of water and sanitation for all.*

### Targets

- 6.1) Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2) Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open

<sup>38</sup> retrieved from [https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WC\\_MS\\_700953/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WC_MS_700953/lang--en/index.htm)

defecation, with particular attention to women and girls.

6.3) Improve water quality by reducing pollution and minimizing release of harmful chemicals, halving proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increase recycling

6.4) Substantially increase water use efficiency and reduce water scarcity

6.5) Implement integrated water resource management at all levels

6.6) Protect and restore water-related ecosystems

6.a) Expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation-related activities and programmes

6.b) Strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

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Recognizing the importance of safe drinking water, the Government of Jamaica implemented the National Drinking Water Management Plan (NDWMP) 2015, which documents the procedure for the provision of safe drinking water by assessing supply and the monitoring and verification of operations. The Plan outlined the role of stakeholders and the necessary procedures to ensure safe drinking water for public consumption. These are nested in the much broader 2009–2030 Water Sector Plan, which is a part of the Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan. It promotes integrated and sustainable water resources management, safe water supply and sanitation to support socio economic development.

For the year 2018, some 86.3 per cent of all households; 86.4 per cent of OUC, 80.9 per cent of GKMA and 89.6 per cent of rural

households had exclusive access to sanitation facilities. Some 57.9 per cent of households reported use of a water closet linked to an onsite disposal system, 19.1 percent had water closets linked to a central sewer system and 4.5 per cent were linked to an offsite disposal system. The GKMA had the largest proportion of water closets linked to a central sewer system, whilst the OUC had the largest proportion being linked to onsite disposal systems (JSLC 2018).

For the year 2018, the proportion of the population with access to an improved drinking water source was 78.4 per cent for Jamaica, with 98.3 per cent of the GKMA, 89.0 per cent of OUC and 60.1 per cent of the rural areas (JSLC 2018).

While Jamaica is close to achieving universal access to water in the GKMA region, significant gaps remain in the rural areas. This is therefore a key policy area as a large portion of the poor and vulnerable population reside in rural areas, especially rural women who are often tasked with traversing for the collection of water. There, however, have been a number of plans to target these areas for improved drinking water access. The Rural Water Supply Improvement Project with funding from the Caribbean Development Bank valued at US\$30 million is expected to upgrade seven systems serving rural communities in six parishes. This is expected to provide reliable water access to nearly 100 000 Jamaicans.<sup>39</sup> Water shops have also been established particularly in drought-prone parishes to improve access to water.

In addition to projects to increase access to water, projects to improve the country's capacity to treat wastewater included

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<sup>39</sup> <https://jis.gov.jm/nearly-100000-rural-jamaicans-to-benefit-from-major-water-supply-project/>

several infrastructure projects by the National Water Commission, including a \$1.62 billion construction and rehabilitation of three wastewater treatment facilities. Currently, the NWC treats wastewater from over 700 000 persons and has nearly 100 waste-water treatment plants islandwide. There are issues however with the quality of the wastewater management systems. This is measured by the percentage of compliance with the National Environment and Planning Agency’s (NEPA) effluent discharge quality standard, which tests sewage water to ascertain if the chemical makeup of the treated water is within standard bounds/limits.<sup>40</sup> The NWC’s compliance rate is less than 50.0 per cent for each year from 2014-2018.<sup>41</sup>

Preserving our natural resources—especially fresh water and maintaining the ambient quality of our freshwater sources, ensuring efficient water usage and management—is important for sustainable development. Ambient water quality refers to water found in its natural form in rivers, lakes, and the ground. Jamaica generally has high ambient water quality, with 92.1 per cent of the rivers within the 10 hydrologic basins considered to be of good ambient quality in 2016. In 2018 the proportion of Jamaica’s total water body containing acceptable levels of Nitrate, Sodium, Chloride, Sulphate and total dissolved solids separately based on the National Ambient water quality standard or the WHO guidelines for drinking water was 97.0 per cent, 99.0 per cent, 98 per cent, 100 per cent and 80.0 per cent respectively (Figure 7).<sup>42</sup>

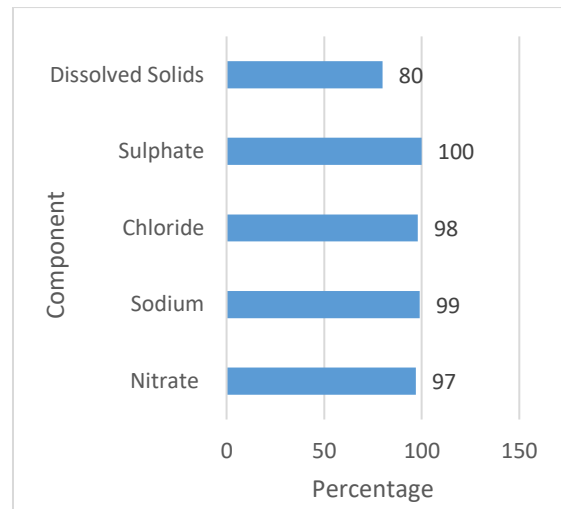


Figure 7 Portion of Water Bodies Containing Acceptable Levels of Select Chemical (Source: Water Resources Authority)

Integrated water resource management is the coordinated management and development of water resources to maximize economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of ecosystems and the environment. The indicator for this is the degree of implementation of integrated water resources management measured in percentage terms from 0 (no implementation) to 100 (fully implemented). In 2016, Jamaica achieved 42.9 per cent in overall implementation, which rose to 50.0 per cent overall implementation in 2020. This is above the average of 37.0 per cent for the Latin America and Caribbean region but below the global average of 54.0 per cent (UN STAT).

Other measures that have been taken to ensure sustainable use of our freshwater resources is the promotion of efficient water use. The level of water stress, which is defined as the portion of freshwater withdrawal as a portion of available

<sup>40</sup> (Wastewater and Sludge) Regulations, 2013 [https://www.nepa.gov.jm/sites/default/files/2019-11/Wastewater\\_and\\_Sludge\\_Regulations.pdf](https://www.nepa.gov.jm/sites/default/files/2019-11/Wastewater_and_Sludge_Regulations.pdf)

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.nwcjamaica.com/uploads/Misc/NWC%20Tariff%20Submission%202018.pdf>

<sup>42</sup> WRA, Water quality atlas 2019, retrieved from: <https://www.wra.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/WRA-Water-Quality-Atlas-2019.pdf>

freshwater resources, has been relatively stable throughout the period 2014–2016 at approximately 33.0 per cent.<sup>43</sup> Efforts to improve water efficiency include a water IQ initiative (WIQI), which is a conservation campaign aimed to raise awareness in schools of proper water management. Sector-wide campaigns include the encouragement of recycling wastewater in the Bauxite/Alumina industry (which has reduced the rate of freshwater withdrawal from aquifers) and institutionalized best practices for the treatment of wastewater in the hotel sector.

### Conclusion and Outlook

The progress made under goal 6 over the period has been disproportionate. Ensuring universal access to clean drinking water sources is almost at the targeted level for urban areas but severely lacking for rural areas. This therefore remains a challenging area in development for rural areas. Positive trends in access to sanitation over the 2015–2018 period, if sustained will lead to achieving the target by 2030.

While a large portion of Jamaica’s freshwater bodies remain of good ambient quality, challenges remain in the quality of the fresh water supply in the urban area which has remained relatively low. Challenges also exist with the quality of wastewater treatment across the country and the level of implementation of water resource management, which is of increasing importance given the recent history of periodic drought. Based on the financial constraints limiting national bodies such as the NWC, future improvements in the management of water resources, the quality of the treatment of waste water and the accessibility of water resources will greatly depend on the ability

to mobilize financing from the government, as well as improved efficiency or attraction of public-private partnerships to ensure the 2030 goals are met.




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*Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all*

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### Targets:

- 7.1) Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- 7.2) increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
- 7.3) Double the rate of improvement in energy efficiency
- 7.a) enhance international cooperation to access clean energy research and technology, and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology
- 7.b) expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy.

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Ensuring wide access to electricity as well as improvement in overall energy efficiency is important to drive economic development. Progress has been made in ensuring universal access to electricity.

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<sup>43</sup> Statistical Institute of Jamaica.2018. *Jamaica Voluntary National Review Report on the*



Over the period 2010–2018, the proportion of Jamaicans with access to electricity has trended upwards, with significant improvements being made post 2014. In 2018, some 98.9 per cent of Jamaicans had access to electricity; the urban population having universal access and the rural population lagging at 97.0 per cent.<sup>44</sup> In terms of using clean energy for cooking, 85.6 per cent of Jamaicans (93.9 per cent in GKMA, 87.4 OUC, and 79.7 per cent) used either LPG or electricity for cooking in 2018 compared with 83.0 per cent in 2015 (92.0 per cent in urban areas) (JSLC 2018).

To ensure there is a comprehensive plan to diversify our current energy sources, the 2018 Jamaica Integrated Resource Plan was developed. This plan is a 20-year road map for Jamaica’s electricity investment landscape and envisions goals such as 32.0 per cent of electricity generation by 2030 being met by renewables and 50.0 per cent by 2037. This plan is guided by the larger National Energy Policy 2009–2030, a long-term energy policy that aims to improve efficiency and diversification to provide high quality, affordable and environmentally friendly energy while reducing oil dependence.

In 2015, the proportion of the total electricity generation that was produced by renewable sources was 6.1 per cent. This proportion has increased over the period, with the proportion of renewables used in the electricity generation for 2019 being 10.7 per cent of total primary energy supply (ESSJ 2019). To increase the pace of progress being made on the goal to increase the use of renewables in the energy mix, a number of projects have been implemented between the years 2015 and 2020. This

includes the 37-megawatt Wigton Wind Farm plant in Manchester, the 37 megawatt Eight Rivers solar facility located in Westmoreland<sup>45</sup>, the 37bmr wind facility in St Elizabeth and a 20-megawatt solar plant in Clarendon. In terms of energy generating capacity in watts of renewable energy, data from the JPS indicates that steam and independent sources represented 1 240 and 1 679.4 giga watts of output in 2015 and 944.8 and 1 054 giga watts in 2019, showing a reduced dependence on steam energy (ESSJ 2019).

In terms of improving energy efficiency, major programmes include the Energy Management and Efficiency Programme (EMEP), which aims to manage Jamaica’s energy efficiency and conservation through the design and implementation of cost saving measures in the public sector, as well as the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programme (EECP). The EMEP aims to reduce the Government of Jamaica’s energy spend through energy efficiency interventions and was originally launched through a US\$40.0 million funding by the Inter-American Development Bank, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, and the European Union Caribbean Investment facility.<sup>46</sup> Current achievements to date of the project include investment audits at seven hospitals and training of over 272 Facilities Managers in 30 public facilities including schools, hospitals and government institutions.

In line with the government’s energy policy and target to have at least 50 per cent of electricity generation from renewables or cleaner fuels, a floating LNG terminal was commissioned in 2019 to provide

<sup>44</sup><https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EG.ELC.AC.CS.UR.ZS?locations=JM>

<sup>45</sup> <https://newenergyevents.com/topic/eight-rivers-company/>

<sup>46</sup> JIS retrieved from: <https://jis.gov.jm/govt-poised-for-significant-savings-under-us40m-energy-programme/>

environmentally friendly low cost fuel to facilities such as the Jamaica public Service (JPS) 190 mega-watt power plant in Old Harbour.<sup>47</sup> Additionally, the Jamaica Urban Transit Company (JUTC) successfully piloted the use of LNG in its fleet to promote the use of environmentally friendly cost effective fuel sources.<sup>48</sup>

In addition to this, the GOJ, with support of the IDB, is pursuing the Sustainable Transport and Renewable Energy-Powered Electromobility Support to Jamaica Project valued at 67.1 million through which an electric mobility strategic framework will be prepared to improve the technology transition in the transport and energy sectors.

### Conclusion and Outlook

Dedicated plans and strategic action frameworks are currently in place that have the potential to lead to the achievement of the targets under goal 7. Targets related to access to electricity have been met, with near universal access in both rural and urban areas. Clean energy for cooking has seen high penetration in the urban areas but is lagging for rural ones. There has also been achievement in integrating more renewable energy into the energy mix. With the great push for a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is expected that more attention will be paid globally to renewable sources of energy, and increasing access to finance, particularly to reduce CO2 emissions in line with the climate agenda.



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*Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.*

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Targets:

- 8.1)** Sustain per capita economic growth
- 8.2)** Achieve higher levels of economic productivity
- 8.3)** Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation and formalization of enterprises
- 8.4)** Improve global resource efficiency in consumption and production and decouple economic growth from environmental degradation
- 8.5)** Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men
- 8.6)** Reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- 8.7)** Take measures to eradicate forced labour, modern day slavery, and trafficking and by 2025 end child labour
- 8.8)** Protect labour rights and promote a safe and secure working environment for all workers

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<sup>47</sup> <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20190721/new-us1b-lng-terminal-pushes-jamaica-nearer-50-renewable-energy-target>

<sup>48</sup> <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/business/20201129/jutc-says-lng-pilot-positive-next-testing-electric-vehicle-buses>

**8.9)** Implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

**8.10)** Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking insurance and financial services for all

**8.a)** Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries

**8.b)** Develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the global jobs pact of the International labour organization.

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Jamaica experienced low economic growth and productivity over the period. Notwithstanding, the country achieved some progress lowering debt ratios through a fervent commitment to fiscal prudence, while adopting inflation targeting that has led to a more stable macro-economic environment. Post adoption of the sustainable development goals in 2015, the Jamaican economy grew at a cumulative annual growth rate of 5.3 per cent (1.3 per cent compound annual growth) over the period 2015–2019 (Figure 8).

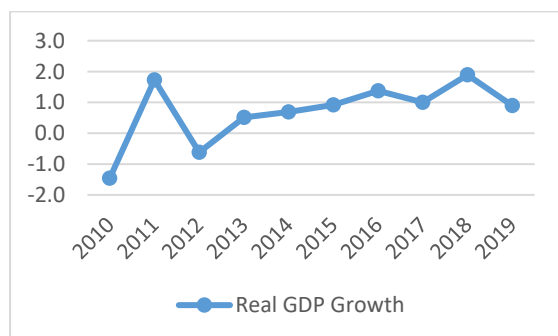


Figure 8 Annual Real GDP Growth Rate 2000–2019 (Source: STATIN)

While there has been consistent yearly growth in per capita real GDP over the period 2015–2019, this growth has outpaced the average compounded growth rate of the Latin America and Caribbean region (0.76 per cent). In terms of

productivity as measured by GDP per employed person, for the review period productivity declined for every year except 2018 (STATIN).

Identifying the need to augment a stable macro-economic environment with policies to spur economic growth, the Economic Growth Council was formed with stakeholders from various sectors of the economy amongst its membership. The Council, after meeting with other stakeholders, identified areas impeding growth such as: crime and violence, resource misallocation, high energy cost and high cost of capital. Since then, the government has followed through on a number of initiatives to facilitate growth including the divestment of government enterprises, the facilitation of foreign investment particularly through special economic zones, programmes and incentives to improve the availability of financing for SMEs through business loans from development agencies, and deepening of the local financial market amongst other policies.

Tourism, a major component of GDP for many small island developing states like Jamaica, directly contributed 9.4 per cent to total GDP in 2019, with this figure having risen upwards steadily from the base year value of 7.8 per cent in 2015 (Figure 9).



Figure 9 Tourism Share of GDP 2007–2019 (Source: STATIN)

The tourism sector continued to be a major foreign exchange earner and contributor to economic growth. The compound annual average real growth rate of Tourism characteristic industries was 2.7 percent between 2015–2019 (STATIN).<sup>49</sup> Several targeted interventions aimed at improving the sector were initiated over the period. These included creating greater linkages between the tourism sector and other sectors such as the agriculture and manufacturing industries, while broadening the participation of Jamaicans, thereby spreading the benefits of tourism to residents and communities. The sector is expected to decline significantly in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on visitor arrivals.

Job creation and meaningful employment is also essential for both economic growth and human development. According to STATIN, the unemployment rate trended downwards over the period 2015–2019, reaching a low of 7.2 per cent in October 2019, before rising to 12.6 per cent in July 2020 due to the economic fallout relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the following months there was some recovery of jobs, with the unemployment rate falling to 10.7 per cent in October 2020. The youth (14–

24 years) unemployment rate declined from 32.7 per cent in October 2015 to 21.1 per cent in October 2019. The period also saw a reduction in female unemployment with a female unemployment rate of 8.6 per cent in October 2019 compared with 18.5 per cent in the corresponding period in 2015.

A primary feature of most developing economies is the relatively large size of the informal economy as shown in Figure 10. A large portion of the employed population in Jamaica remains in informal employment. In 2017, the proportion of individuals in non-agricultural sectors who were in informal employment was 47.0 per cent and the proportions for male and female were 53.0 per cent and 40.0 per cent, respectively. In 2019, the level of informal employment declined slightly to 45.0 per cent overall while the proportions for male and female in 2019 was 52.0 per cent and 39.0 per cent respectively.

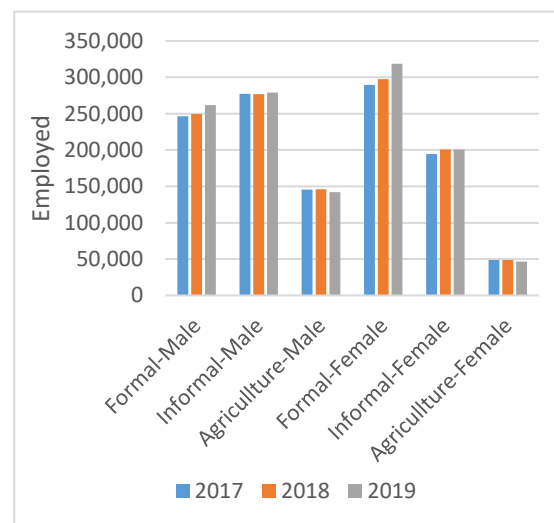


Figure 10 Formal vs Informal vs Agricultural Employment 2017–2019 (Source: STATIN)

High levels of informal employment impede participation in social security programmes; productivity; and economic growth. In addition to reducing informal employment, the government also sought to increase the formalization of enterprises,

<sup>49</sup> National Income and Product Accounts 2020

thereby reducing the large informal sector. Initiatives to tackle informality have included the revision and ongoing implementation of the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) & Entrepreneurship Policy. One of the objectives of the policy is to increase business formalization by 10.0 per cent each year (from baseline) through several activities. Other initiatives included simplifying and increasing efficiency in the business registration process through online access; assistance programmes offered by the Company Office of Jamaica; incentives such as the abolition of the minimum business tax,<sup>50</sup> entrepreneurship training sessions; and the development of a National Action Plan to transition domestic workers and fisherfolk to the formal economy with support from the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Elements of the Action Plan are expected to be implemented by several government ministries and agencies.

An educated and engaged youth population is essential for economic growth. Data from the Child Labour and The Youth Decent Work Deficit in Jamaica report (2018) estimated that 43.0 per cent of youth are in the labour force, while 56.0 per cent were engaged in education. The data also indicated that 11.6 per cent of youth were both inactive and out of school. Of those in the labour force, 38.0 per cent was unemployed. 'NEET youth', accounted for 28.0 per cent of the youth population.

Government initiatives to reduce the number of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) have been strengthened over the years. The policy framework for youth was strengthened with the revision of the National Youth Policy in 2017. Following this, a draft implementation plan was developed. Work

continues on the finalisation of the implementation plan. The revised policy focuses on increasing youth participation and engagement, and facilitating youth development. In 2019, a National Youth Policy Working group was established to develop a youth-friendly version of the Policy.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (MOEYI), through its Youth and Adolescent Policy Division, engages youth through Youth Innovation Centres (YICs) across the country. The YICs provide space for the continued empowerment of youth, specifically to create employment for themselves and others, among other activities. Mentors and resource personnel aid youth with the development and funding of business ideas. In 2018, approximately, 17 000 youth were engaged at YICs.

The Human Employment and Resource Training /National Service Training Agency Trust (HEART/NSTA Trust), the country's leading human capital agency, has developed several programmes aimed at engaging youth. In addition to providing skills training and certification as part of its core functions, youth programme offerings are varied and target unattached youth who have completed tertiary studies and are unemployed, and provide experience through apprenticeship programmes, as well as summer work programmes. New programmes that came on stream during the review period include the National Unattached Youth Programme which commenced in 2015 with focus on improving the livelihood of unattached youth (17–30 years) with requisite skills training. Recent data (2019) indicate that 1 926 males and 3 297 females were enrolled in the programme, of which 59 males and 182 females gained certification. In addition to these, the Youth Employment in

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<https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Budg>

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Digital and Animation Industries (YEDAI) project was launched 2017 and seeks to train 150 youth annually.

The prevalence of child labour deprives children of opportunities to access education, which impacts future participation in the labour force. The ILO defines child labour as work that deprives them of their childhood, potential and dignity and exposes them to physical, social or moral harm, and impedes their mental development and their ability to attend school fully. According to the 2016 Youth Activity Survey (2016), which aims to measure two types of child labour—hazardous work and child labour other than hazardous work—an estimated 5.8 per cent of Jamaican children aged 5–17 years are engaged in child labour. Of the children engaged in child labour, 67.9 per cent was in rural areas. Some 68.6 per cent was engaged in hazardous work.

To eliminate child labour in Jamaica, a National Action Plan was developed with aid from the United States Department of Labour. This action plan seeks, inter alia, to strengthen institutional capacity; increase public awareness; strengthen social protection mechanisms; undertake legal reform; and strengthen enforcement capabilities of various ministries, departments and agencies engaged in addressing child labour matters.

During the period, a Child Labour Risk Identification (Predictive) Model was developed, with support from the ILO and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The model will facilitate the identification of the geographical location and the industries

where the highest probability of child labour is likely to occur.

Jamaica continued efforts to ensure a safe working environment for all workers and the protection of labour rights. During the period, work on several legislative initiatives toward achieving the target was advanced through the amendment of some labour legislation and the drafting of new legislation and regulations. The Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Bill was tabled in Parliament in 2017 but work to strengthen the bill before final approval and promulgation continues. The OSH legislation when enacted will establish health and safety standards for all workplaces by repealing the existing Factories Act, which is deemed limited in scope and application.

Drafting of the Disabilities Regulation commenced and the development of Codes of Practice for employment and education and training started during the period. The Regulations will operationalise and allow for the effective application of the Disabilities Act,<sup>51</sup> which was enacted in 2014.

Jamaica ratified the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (C189) in 2016 and the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC) in 2017. The Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (P029) was also ratified in 2017. As part of its obligations, the country submitted reports on various ratified conventions to the ILO. The ratification of over 30 ILO Conventions, Protocols and Recommendations will be

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<sup>51</sup> The Disabilities Act seeks to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment by persons with disabilities for privileges, interests, benefits and treatment, on an equal basis with other persons

in society. (source: MLSS Annual Report, 2019/2020)

enabled with the promulgation of the aforementioned OSH legislation.<sup>52</sup>

To ensure that no one is left behind, financial inclusion and access should be prioritized in economic development policy. In 2016, the number of ABMs per 100 000 adults was 26.1 and this number has grown significantly to 34 in 2019 as seen in Figure 11.

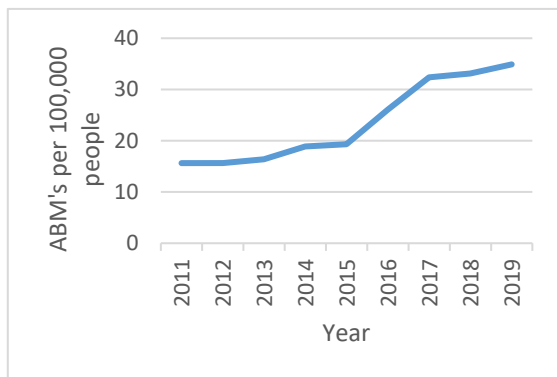


Figure 11 ABMs per 100 000 People from 2011 to 2019  
(Source: BOJ)

This shows increased coverage of banking services. However, in terms of the number of branches of deposit-taking institutions per adult (15 years and over) population, this has declined slightly over the period from 7.8 to 7.3 due to the increased digitalization of many local banks that aim to reduce the need for walk in branches and outlets.<sup>53</sup>

The National Financial Inclusion Strategy aims to achieve an inclusive financial system where every adult and enterprise has access to, and can make use of, a large range of suitable and affordable financial services.<sup>54</sup> The pillars of the Strategy includes financial access and usage, financing for growth, financial access and usage, financial resilience, financing for growth and responsible finance.

<sup>52</sup> (ILO retrieved from: [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11200:0::no:11200:p11200\\_country\\_id:103236](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11200:0::no:11200:p11200_country_id:103236))  
See Ministry of Labour and Social Security Annual Report 2017 at

Achievements in financial inclusion include a 57.0 per cent growth in the number of electronic retail payments per capita per year; a marginal increase in the value of loans to MSME as a percentage of total private sector credit from 11.0 in 2015 to 12.0 per cent in 2018; and a significant increase in the percentage of the adult population covered by credit bureaus (from 22.0 per cent in 2015 to 43.0 per cent in 2018), according to the Bank of Jamaica. Another notable achievement within the sphere of financial inclusion and access is the significant increase in the number of investors in the local stock market from 3 412 in 2015 to 16 450 in 2018, as well as the increase in the number of repo and stock accounts held at the Jamaica Central Securities Deposit from 121 932 in 2015 to 234 378 in 2019.

### Conclusion and Outlook

While Jamaica has reduced debt levels, the country is currently performing below expectation on targets of productivity growth and informality. Challenges remain with eradicating child labour. Data availability issues exist for quality of work, such as updated wage data and indicators for working conditions. Progress was noted in reducing the level of unemployment; improving the contribution of tourism to GDP; and enabling and improving linkages between tourism and other domestic markets; and the promotion of financial inclusion. Challenges remain however, as online banking grows, potentially adversely affecting less sophisticated bank users.

It is projected that most economies will contract due to COVID-19 for the 2020/2021 financial year. It is expected that

<sup>53</sup>[http://boj.org.jm/uploads/pdf/finstab/finstab\\_2019.pdf](http://boj.org.jm/uploads/pdf/finstab/finstab_2019.pdf)  
<sup>54</sup> <http://www.boj.org.jm/pdf/NFIS-Annual-Report-2018.pdf>



progress under goal 8 will take a hit due to the pandemic as the Jamaican economy is likewise expected to contract between the ranges of 10.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent for fiscal year 2020/21.<sup>55</sup> There are however plans to ensure sustainable development after the pandemic. Some of the strategic actions recommended by the government's COVID-19 Economic Task Force include a recommitment to macro-fiscal reform, a renewed focus on digitalization, and diversification of the country's economic base. The Jamaican economy is expected to recover to pre-COVID levels by 2023/24 and so progress on goal 8 is expected to improve.<sup>56</sup>



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*Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.*

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Targets:

**9.1)** Develop quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure to support economic growth

**9.2)** Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and by 2030 significantly raise industry's share of employment and GDP

**9.3)** Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises to financial services

**9.4)** Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound tech and industrial processes

**9.5)** Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors

**9.a)** Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries

**9.b)** Support domestic technology development, research and innovation

**9.c)** Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet.

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<sup>55</sup> PIOJ Quarterly Press Briefing October to December, February 23, 2021

<sup>56</sup> Planning Institute of Jamaica, Review of Economic Performance, October–December 2020

<https://www.pioj.gov.jm/product/review-of-economic-performance-october-december-2020/>

The Jamaican government has committed to spending on the development of key infrastructure. This was demonstrated in the US\$352.941 million Major Infrastructure Development programme which was partly funded by China EX-IM Bank (85.0 per cent of funding via loan to the GOJ) and the Government of Jamaica. The project included major road and bridge

Terminal Limited (KFTL). This was in response to a demand for a modern transshipment hub in the Caribbean. The company was given responsibility for the management and development of the Kingston Container Terminal.

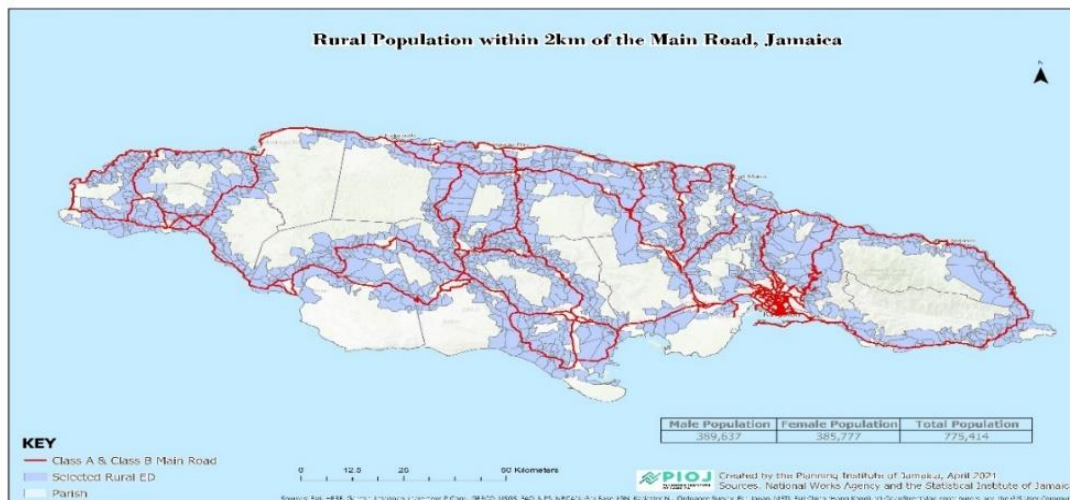


Figure 12 Rural All Seasons Roads Map (Source: STATIN, NWA, PIOJ)

construction across the island, as well as road rehabilitation works. Other major infrastructure work being done in the period was the continuation of the trans-Jamaica Highway project which aimed to connect Kingston with Montego Bay and Ocho Rios that was fully completed in 2016, as well as the South Coast Highway Improvement Project which commenced in 2020. An illustration of the network of Jamaica’s main roads can be seen in Figure 12. Based on the last 2011 census, roughly 62.3 per cent of rural residents live within 2km of these roadways.

Other key infrastructure developments supporting trade and transportation included the 30-year concession agreement between government and private investors that led to the creation of Kingston Freeport

For the period 2016–2020 the average volume of domestic cargo handled yearly was roughly 15 million tonnes Table 1. A relatively large decline in cargo handled was reported in 2020. Some of this decline had been associated with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on global trade. For air cargo, total cargo volume showed a steady increase for the period from 23.5 million tonnes in 2016 to 25.2 million tonnes in 2019, representing a 7.2 per cent increase.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Sea	14,297,996	14,501,529	17,177,640	15,837,579	13,164,578
	23,543	25,535	27,698	2,5226	--

Table 1 Sea and Air Cargo Volume 2015–2020 (Source: PAJ)

Improving the manufacturing sector, primarily by supporting and strengthening MSME's, culminated in several initiatives such as trade facilitation through the implementation of a one-stop import and export information portal, the removal of certain requirements in the form of permits and licences, as well as export capacity building through the JAMPRO Export Max programme.<sup>57</sup> Over the period however, according to data from STATIN, the proportion of manufacturing value added to real GDP per capita remained unchanged at roughly 8.6 per cent for the past 10 years. Gross domestic product per capita in absolute terms, specifically for the manufacturing sector, has seen an increase of roughly 1.5 per cent a year over the 2015–2019 period. The manufacturing sector has also employed on average 80 900 people over the period 2012 to 2019, which is on average, 6.1 per cent of the total labour force. The number of persons employed in the manufacturing sector, post SDG adoption, increased slightly over the period with 78 300 employed in 2015 compared with 79 400 in 2019.

Jamaica has also been committed to ensure adequate funding is made available to small and medium-sized enterprises across all sectors. This has been achieved indirectly through the decline in government debt leading to less crowding out of funding as well as through the central bank remaining accommodative, maintaining a low interest rate environment. Direct initiatives to improve the capabilities of MSMEs in smaller industries include increased loan financing from the Development Bank of Jamaica, which approved over \$4.8 billion

in loans to MSMEs in the 2017/18 fiscal year while aiming to increase the amount of targeted loans to over \$ 7.0 billion in the 2020/21 fiscal year.<sup>58</sup> The implementation of the social stock exchange as a separate platform on the Jamaican Stock Exchange also adds another avenue for MSMEs that are classified as social enterprises i.e. (have as their main mission solving social, cultural, economic or environmental problems) to acquire funding.<sup>59</sup>

Technological advancement, which aids efficiency, is a major driver of growth. Jamaica aimed to improve its capability to implement and develop efficiency/improving technology and innovation. This was formalized with the development of a Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy. There have been several legislations that support STI development including the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act (2015), which governs the management of radiation and nuclear technology; DNA Evidence Act (2015), which establishes a DNA register and rules for the treatment of DNA samples; and the Cybersecurity Act, (2015), which provides for criminal sanctions for cybercrimes.

Resource mobilization from foreign sources to aid the development of social and economic infrastructure enhances efforts to promote resilience in domestic infrastructure in middle to low-income countries. In 2019, Jamaica attracted a total of US\$65.0 million in new official development aid for infrastructure. This is subdivided into US\$38.0 million for social infrastructure and US\$27.0 million for

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<sup>57</sup> Port Authority of Jamaica. Statistical Publication 2021 January. [http://www.portjam.com/stat-report/Statistical\\_Publication\\_January\\_2021.pdf](http://www.portjam.com/stat-report/Statistical_Publication_January_2021.pdf)  
Total air cargo for 2020 was not available.

<sup>58</sup> Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. Jamaica Public Bodies Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Year Ending March 2021.

<sup>59</sup> Jamaica Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) & Entrepreneurship Policy <https://www.miic.gov.jm/content/updated-msme-entrepreneurship-policy-2018>

economic infrastructure. This compares with a total of US\$98.0 million in infrastructure aid in 2015, with US\$79.5 million being for social infrastructure and US\$18.5 million for economic infrastructure (ESSJ 2019).

An important aspect to infrastructure development is improving the ability of the average Jamaican to access information and technology (e.g. the internet). Over the period, the proportion of people with fixed telephone and fixed broadband access increased significantly from 9.3 per cent and 6.0 per cent in 2015 to 14.6 per cent and 11.7 per cent, respectively in 2019. Mobile penetration and broadband penetration by mobile subscriptions was relatively stable over the period, at 115.0 per cent and 55.5 per cent in 2015, and was approximately 110.9 per cent and 59.8 per cent in 2019 (ESSJ 2019). There has therefore been progress in improving access to internet through fixed line services but there is still progress to be made to achieve universal access.

### Conclusion and Outlook

Progress has been made in the area of infrastructure investment to bolster economic development. Jamaica has also begun the process of becoming a prime logistic location, and has experienced increases in both sea and air freight volume and has divested some of these operations (such as the Kingston terminal) in a bid to increase efficiency. The mobilization of development financing has supported the expansion of physical infrastructure to support economic growth.

Challenges remain in improving the share of manufacturing in real GDP, which has been relatively unchanged over several years. Challenges also remain in recording the level of domestic investment in research

and development, for which there are plans to integrate into the National Accounts.

Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is anticipated to present fiscal constraints that will impact on the sectors under goal 9, which require investments to finance expansion in critical areas such as infrastructure development, expansion of the manufacturing sector and private and public investment into research and development might, which are highly sensitive to the macro-economic environment.



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*Goal 10: Reduce inequality  
within and among  
countries*

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Targets:

**10.1)** Progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

**10.2)** Empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all

**10.3)** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws

**10.4)** Adopt policies especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies and progressively achieve greater equality

**10.5)** Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations

**10.6)** Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global institutions

**10.7)** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of managed migration policies

**10.a)** Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements

**10.b)** Encourage official development assistance and financial flows to where need is greatest

**10.c)** Reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.

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While economic growth is important and is often at the forefront of the fiscal and monetary policy mandate, equitable distribution of the gains of growth is just as important for human development. A measure of the level of inequality in society is the Gini coefficient, which ranges from 0, representing perfect wealth equality, and 1 representing perfect inequality. In the year 2015, the Gini coefficient in Jamaica was 0.38, representing a decline from inequality levels from 2013 (coefficient of .41). In 2018 the value was 0.36. This shows some level of improvements in income inequality but the progress post 2015 has been sluggish.

Measures aimed at reducing income inequality include having a progressive tax

regime and social intervention programmes.

Another measure that can show the level of income distribution in a country is the proportion of GDP paid to labour. This metric provides an indication of the income paid to labour vis-à-vis to owners of factors of production in an economy and shows whether incomes are declining or increasing. Compensation to employees includes total cash or in-kind remuneration for the accounting period as well as social insurance obligations payable by employers. In 2015, the portion of labour share in GDP was 43.7 per cent while in 2019 the share was 42.8 per cent, representing a slightly smaller share (of note is that income to self-employed persons is not included in labour income and own account workers account for over a third of the Jamaican labour force) according to STATIN data.

Supporting the promotion of equality to improve human development and promote human rights is the need for sound and well-planned migration policies. Jamaica has so far taken steps to integrate migration policy into the broader framework of development policy through the National Policy on International Migration and Development (IMD). The key themes addressed by the policy include governance, human rights and social protection, diaspora and development, labour mobility and development, remittances and development, return and reintegration, public order, as well as data and information systems and others.<sup>60</sup> Jamaica has also ratified the 1951 Convention Treaty on the Status of Refugees and developed a Refugee Policy, which was approved in 2009. While migration can lead to the loss of skilled

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<sup>60</sup> International Organization for Migration.2018. Migration in Jamaica: A Country Profile 2018.

[https://caribbeanmigration.org/sites/default/files/repository/migration\\_in\\_jamaica\\_-\\_profile\\_2018.pdf](https://caribbeanmigration.org/sites/default/files/repository/migration_in_jamaica_-_profile_2018.pdf)

labour, the remittances received is the largest earner of foreign exchange for the country. The average total cost in percentage terms over the period 2015–2020 for a US\$200, CA\$200 and £120, the largest sources of remittances to Jamaica, was 7.5 per cent, 8.02 per cent and 9.07 per cent, respectively, as seen in Figure 13.

This is currently above the global UN target of 3.0 per cent by 2030 for all major currencies. However, the remittance costs for the UK and Canada reached five-year lows of 7.18 per cent and 5.98 per cent in 2020, respectively.

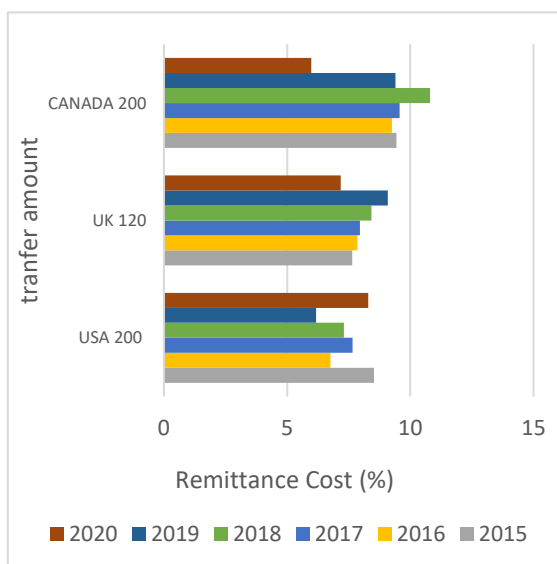


Figure 13 Remittance Cost 2015–2020 (Source: World Bank)

Financial intermediaries are important to the financial system as they allow for the transformation of assets, which enables efficient allocation of funds from those with surplus (savers) to those with a need for funds (borrowers/investors). The financial system thus facilitates economic growth, therefore it is imperative to have sound macro-prudential regulations. One indicator of the soundness of the financial system is the capital adequacy ratio, which

is the proportion of capital to risk weighted assets of financial institutions, which gauges whether they have sufficient cushions to protect from shocks. The international benchmark for this ratio is currently 10.0 per cent. In 2015, both deposit-taking institutions (DTIs) and security dealers were adequately covered with capital ratios of 15.0 per cent and 21.5 per cent, respectively. The capital adequacy ratio has trended slightly downwards for the period 2015–2018 for both DTIs and security dealers with an average ratio of 14.6 per cent and 20.5 per cent in 2019, respectively, which was also higher than the 10.0 per cent benchmark.<sup>61</sup>

Return on equity gives a measure of profitability of an entity and essentially shows how efficient a corporation is with its net assets. A healthy financial system also involves intermediaries who are making a healthy return on assets. For the period, every type of financial intermediary, except for general insurers (a market which is often highly competitive) have seen a trend increase in return on equity over the period 2015–2018 pointing to increased resilience of local financial institutions (Bank of Jamaica Financial Stability reports 2015–2020).

### Conclusion and Outlook

Based on indicators such as the Gini coefficient and the labour share of income in GDP, Jamaica is currently not on track to meet targets to reduce inequality. A large proportion of Jamaicans depend on remittances to supplement income. Currently, with average remittance costs at its lowest (from the US) 7.5 per cent, Jamaica is currently below the target of 3.0 per cent. Increasing the rate of progress on

<sup>61</sup> Bank of Jamaica Financial Stability reports 2015–2019.



this indicator would require increased education of the populace on remittance fees (i.e. making fee information more public for popular remittance/money transfer providers) combined with greater competition and technology in the space. The country has however performed well on indicators relating to the quality of governance and strength of the local financial sector.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on inequality is a concern for the outlook on goal 10. With the population in the lower income categories less able to cope with the restrictions and the economic downturn more likely to be impacted on them, increased inequality is anticipated in the short term. It is however expected that the financial sector will recover from the pandemic due to the capital buffers that were in place prior to the pandemic, which would aid resilience.




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*Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*

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Targets:

**11.1)** Ensure access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

**11.2)** Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all

**11.3)** Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for integrated and sustainable settlement planning

**11.4)** Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage

**11.5)** Significantly reduce the number of deaths and economic loss due to disasters.

**11.6)** Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities

**11.7)** Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces, in particular for the vulnerable

**11.a)** Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas

**11.b)** Substantially increase the number of cities with inclusive integrated policies on resource efficiency, climate change and disaster risk management

**11.c)** Support least developed countries in building sustainable and resilient buildings, utilizing local materials.

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Ensuring human settlements are safe and sustainable involves ensuring adequate sanitation, access to safe and reliable water, proper waste disposal and overall adequate living conditions. Therefore, the prevalence of informal settlements—defined as lacking access to improved water, sanitation, sufficient living area, poor housing durability and lack of tenure security—presents significant challenges for sustainable human development. According to the ESSJ, for the year 2017, some 0.9 per cent of households were squatting in their dwelling. The National Survey of Squatter Settlements is being undertaken to assess the level of squatting



across the island to inform policy responses. A technical working group has also been established to formulate these policy measures towards the development of the National Squatter Management Policy and Implementation Plan.

The housing quality index, which measures the quality of the housing stock assessed by indicators such as material of outer wall, source of drinking water, number of inhabitants inter alia, provides an overview of housing quality in Jamaica. The HQI for 2018 was 75.3 per cent. Improvement has been observed in all but one metric, electricity for lighting, for the period 2015–2017, demonstrating progress towards the SDG targets for safe and resilient housing. The largest increase was the availability of exclusive water closet use (JSLC 2018).

Government policies that have been promulgated to ensure access to affordable housing and upgrading informal settlements includes, the launch of the Housing, Opportunity, Production and Employment (HOPE) programme, which aims to improve the accessibility to homes through the housing component. The policy aims to achieve the objectives of reducing squatter settlements, relocating squatters when possible and introducing self-aid and access to employment. Other policies to improve the accessibility of homes include the National Land Titling Programme that aims to improve security of tenure, and amendments to the Mortgage Bank Act that reduced down payments from the 10.0 per cent–15.0 per cent band to 3.0 per cent. In terms of improving the quality of homes in slums and other informal settlements, over the 2015–2020 period, the government

continued the GOJ/ World Bank funded Integrated Community Development Project, which aims to provide basic infrastructure and social services in 18 communities islandwide, as well as the expansion of the Downtown Kingston Urban Renewal Project which aims to develop and rejuvenate the area to promote investment.<sup>62</sup>

A good public transportation network also helps to create more sustainable cities and communities. Not only does it ease traffic congestion and lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, it also enhances efficiency by allowing free movement of labour. In 2011, more than half the population used the public transport system in the six months leading up to the census.<sup>63</sup> Public transport is also the main source of transportation for school-aged children according to the *JSLC 2018*. Understanding the need to improve the coverage of public transport, particularly to rural areas, the Rural–Urban Public Transport Plan was devised to make the JUTC bus service more accessible to people in the rural areas. This commenced in 2017 with the introduction of three new routes connecting the May Pen area.<sup>64</sup>

Local governments through the Municipal Corporations are primarily responsible for community development.

Planning and development is led nationally by entities such as the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) with the support of other agencies with responsibility for related civil and other infrastructure works. The planning and development framework is also supported by a number of legislations such

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<sup>62</sup> Urban Renewal and Sustainable Development in Jamaica: Progress, Challenges and New Directions <https://www.intechopen.com/books/an-overview-of-urban-and-regional-planning/urban-renewal-and-sustainable-development-in-jamaica-progress-challenges-and-new-directions>

<sup>63</sup> Statistical Institute of Jamaica. 2011. Population and Housing Census. Kingston: Statistical Institute of Jamaica.

<sup>64</sup>[https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/auto/jutc\\_to\\_make\\_rural\\_run\\_108860?profile=1052](https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/auto/jutc_to_make_rural_run_108860?profile=1052)

as the Town and Country Planning Act and the Building Act 2018, along with other planning instruments including Development Orders. Efforts are being made to strengthen development planning including ensuring plans are guided by a special planning framework as well improving citizen participation through the implementation of the Local Sustainable Development Planning Framework. Currently, six Local Sustainable Development Plans have been completed and three are in the draft stage.

The sustainable management of cities includes efficient waste management and the accessibility of open spaces for public use. In 2019, the volume of solid waste collected and managed through the formal system was 1 006 166 tonnes kg/day compared with 744 283 tonnes in 2018, with estimated waste generation per capita of 1.4 kg/day, a 0.4 kg/day increase (ESSJ 2019).

The portion of households using formal garbage disposal methods was 70.5 percent; the GKMA had the largest proportion of households using this method at 96.2 per cent, followed by the OUC 72.4 percent and Rural Areas 53.5 per cent (JSLC 2018).

Jamaica's social development agenda, which is aligned to the Medium-term socioeconomic policy framework, incorporates the Sendai framework as well as other international environmental agreements.<sup>65</sup> Specific policies and plans include the National Disaster Risk Management Act (2015) that complements the National Disaster Fund which facilitates mitigation, disaster recovery, early response and preparedness, as well as the Climate Change Policy Framework and Action Plan (2015) which mainstreams

climate change policy and development planning and the Building Act which was promulgated in 2019, and includes provisions for climate resilience.

To reduce the risk of natural disasters and climate change, Jamaica has purchased insurance coverage from the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF SPC). The Excess Rainfall Policy paid out \$500.0 million in December 2020<sup>66</sup> following the intense and persistent rainfall that was caused by tropical storms Zeta and Eta, which caused major damage to the roadways. Other natural disaster risk measures taken include the installation of and training in the use of seismographs in a number of schools, a tsunami-warning siren installed by the ODPEM in Old Harbour, as well as a \$1.6 billion grant from the Government of Japan to implement the improvement of an emergency communication system project.

The Rio Cobre Early Warning System was also established to aid in the management of water-related disasters by providing timely and accurate measurements and warnings to reduce loss of life and property caused by flooding in the region. The system, originally installed under the Improving Climate Data and Information Management Project of the PPCR, was upgraded by the Water Resources Authority with grant funding of \$34.0 million from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), ESSJ 2019.

### Conclusion and Outlook

Challenges exist with the quality and accessibility of public transport, as the majority of the population relies on public transportation. Rural areas are generally

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<sup>65</sup>See goal 13 on Climate Action for more detailed reporting on climate change measures

<sup>66</sup> <https://jis.gov.jm/jamaica-receives-j500-million-tropical-cyclone-zeta-eta-pay-out-from-ccrif-policy/>

underserved in the provision of services and infrastructure including transportation and continues to lag in most HQI indicators. There is also a need to strengthen the policy response in addressing informal settlements, and general access to homes is required to meet 2030 goals. However, with the implementation of legislation reducing mortgages and the development of a National Squatter Management Policy and Implementation Plan, as well as a Resettlement Strategy, progress on these targets is anticipated. The National Squatter Survey is slated for completion in 2021, and will give a better indication of the state of informal settlement in the country as well as inform policy responses.

Globally, the volatility in weather conditions due to climate change is likely to mean more frequent extreme weather events. Given this context and the government’s commitment to improve climate change resilience, it is expected that Jamaica will continue to strengthen its disaster risk reduction and mitigation efforts in the long term.



*Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*

**Targets:**

**12.2)** By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

**12.4)** By 2020, achieve the environmentally-sound management of chemicals and all waste throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

The global pursuit for sustainable consumption and production has been emphasized by the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP) that was formulated out of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPIOJ) 2002 at the World Summit of Sustainable Development (WSSD) 2002. The 10YFP is a global framework for action to enhance international cooperation and accelerate a shift towards Sustainable Consumption Patterns (SCP) in both developed and developing countries.<sup>67</sup> A regional strategy and action plan for SCP, which includes Jamaica, also established a 10YFP focal point who sits at NEPA. Jamaica has also adopted sustainable production and consumption measures through its Vision 2030 Jamaica–National Development Plan and through national policies and frameworks. This includes the National Energy Policy (2009-2030), National Food and Nutrition Policy (2013), Climate Change Policy Framework for Jamaica (2015), Water Sector Policy (2018) inter alia.

Another aspect of promoting sustainable production and consumption is the implementation of sustainable procurement policies for the public sector. SPP involves

<sup>67</sup> Interim progress report prepared by the 10YFP Secretariat on behalf of the 10YFP Board for the High Level Political Forum

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1444HLPF\\_10YFP2.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1444HLPF_10YFP2.pdf)

the process by which public entities balance the three pillars of sustainable development—economic, social and environmental—when procuring goods or services. The Public Procurement Regulation 2018, supports MSMEs through the provision of reserves equal to 20.0 per cent of the government’s total annual procurement budget for MSMEs, industry provisioning, which reserves contracts in select industries for Jamaican suppliers and a domestic preference in selecting organizations in bids as long as their bid is within a margin vis-a-vis international bids. This ensures there are domestic providers for contract offerings. Although Jamaica’s procurement mandate does consider social implications for domestic industries and wealth distribution, environmental considerations are not specifically outlined in the regulation.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme, 17.0 per cent of the food available to consumers worldwide was thrown out by households, retailers, and other institutions.<sup>68</sup> Avoiding food waste is a necessary step to ensuring sustainable consumption. A report by the FAO in 2017, *Reducing Food Losses and Waste in the Caribbean*, estimated that around 20.0 per cent to 30.0 per cent of national domestic food production is lost annually in Jamaica, which is equivalent to US\$7.0 billion.<sup>69</sup> Actions towards reducing food losses along production and supply chains typically include control processes, investment in post harvesting infrastructure and capacity building. Some of the programmes that were implemented include the Agro-Parks & Agricultural Economic Zones programme, which will

integrate all aspects of the value chain for agricultural production and limit food loss. The Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation Division (FSPID) which is a department of MICAF continues its mandate for the provision of food and for the prevention of loss of food by infestation.

In keeping with Jamaica’s National Development Plan (Vision 2030), goal 4, fostering of a healthy natural environment, the National Policy on Environmental Management systems, includes the internalization of pollution and environmental damage into production cost and the decrease of hazardous waste. The National Policy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Waste green paper was put forward in 2017 and amended for resubmission to cabinet in 2020, and includes directives that are in line with key multilateral environmental agreements and arrangements for management of chemical and hazardous waste. Included in these multilateral agreements is the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement (1989), which the country has continued to implement over the period 2015–2020. Other International conventions for hazardous waste that Jamaica has entered and/or ratified includes the Montreal Protocol on substances; the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Pesticides (1998) and Chemicals in International Trade (1998), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001); and the Minamata

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<sup>68</sup>Nearly A Fifth Of All Food Reaching Consumers Wasted: UN  
<https://www.barrons.com/news/nearly-a-fifth-of-all-food-reaching-consumers-wasted-un-01614868507>

<sup>69</sup> Caribbean experts strategize for a reduction in Jamaica’s food losses and waste.  
<http://www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/en/c/1054536/>

Convention on Mercury that was ratified in (2017).<sup>70</sup>

Over the period 2010–2019, the amount of e-waste generated has increased gradually. In 2015, the amount of e-waste was 16.5 thousand tonnes compared with 17.8 thousand tonnes in 2019 (Figure 14).



Figure 14 E-Waste Produced (Source: UNSTAT)

E-waste is described as any electrical or electronic equipment that has been discarded. E-waste is dangerous due to toxic chemicals that may drain naturally from its metal components. To combat this issue, the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) over the period 2014–2019 includes chemical management legislation for e-waste, updating of the National Chemicals Management Profile (2006), National Chemicals Risk Management Plan (2017) and capacity building of entities in Hazardous Waste Emergency Response (HAZWOPER).

In keeping with the mandate of ensuring proper disposal of hazardous materials, including e-waste, the Government of

<sup>70</sup> National Policy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes (Green Paper) [https://megjc.gov.jm/docs/policies/august\\_2018\\_national\\_hazardous\\_waste\\_policy.pdf](https://megjc.gov.jm/docs/policies/august_2018_national_hazardous_waste_policy.pdf)

Jamaica has continued its partnership with private retailers for the disposal of used lead acid batteries (ULAB). Since conclusion of this project in 2006, there has been numerous private collectors that export ULAB for recycling. In 2015, some 2 472 million tonnes of ULABs were exported, which increased by 32.0 per cent to 3 288 million tonnes in 2017. The total amount of hazardous waste exported in 2015 and 2017 was 2 472 and 3 495 million tonnes, respectively.<sup>71</sup>

To further protect the natural environment, it is necessary to ensure the country has the capacity to recycle waste and provide incentives that encourage citizens to recycle. The government has attempted to reduce the use of non-biodegradable waste, specifically plastic waste through its ban in January 2019 on single-use plastic, plastic drinking straws and expanded polystyrene foam products used in the food and beverage industry. This ban was enforced by two orders, the Trade (Plastic Packaging Materials Prohibition) Order and the NRCA (Plastic Packaging Materials Prohibition) Order. Along with the plastic ban, the deposit refund scheme for polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) bottles/plastic bottles was implemented. The government has also partnered with the private sector in supporting the Recycling Partners of Jamaica Limited through its contribution of approximately \$50.0 million per annum to facilitate collection and recycling of plastic bottles. It was noted however that despite this, only 11.0 per cent of plastic bottles generated in 2018 were collected.<sup>72</sup>

<sup>71</sup><https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/35382/WLAB10.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

<sup>72</sup> Reduction of plastic waste. Statement by Hon. Daryl Vaz, MP <https://megjc.gov.jm/reduction-of-plastic-waste/>

In order to provide guidance on the structure and attraction of domestic and foreign investments, the Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, commenced work on the Green Economy Investment Strategy for Jamaica. The strategy, due to be completed in 2021 is to accompany the National Investment Policy and provide a guide to sustainable development projects.

Lastly, initiatives to both promote education and appreciation of sustainable development, and for sustainable lifestyles were pursued. These include the declaration of observation days to the preservation of environmental resources such as the Jamaica Million Tree Challenge that encourages Jamaicans to plant a tree, as well as the National Tree Planting Day that aims to contribute to increasing forest cover by engaging the public to play their part in tree planting. Sustainable development issues are also mainstreamed in the national curriculum through the National Committee on Sustainable Development. Efforts are also under way to increase the availability of climate-related data through the development of national platforms for climate and disaster risk information.

### Conclusion and Outlook

Significant progress has been made on targets pertaining to the development of policies and action plans that promote sustainable consumption and production. This includes having a local focal point for the 10YFP, national policies on healthy consumption, the use of clean and renewable energy, and having a public procurement system with consideration for sustainable practices such as promotion of small businesses and sectors. Jamaica therefore has a broad range of both policies and implementation agencies for governance and management of a sustainable environment.

Overall progress on goal 12 however is mainly impeded by data challenges. Data challenges exist for example in monitoring the material footprint and the current rate of recycling in Jamaica. Ensuring that monitoring agencies are adequately funded and staffed to monitor and evaluate outcomes will be crucial to evaluate how well we transition to a green recovery post pandemic. Plastics also constitute a large percentage of the waste produced in Jamaica and while there are recycling programmes by select organizations, recycling is still not institutionalized within the culture or normalized within the average household.



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*Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

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Targets:

**13.1)** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters

**13.1.2)** Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

**13.1.3)** Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies



**13.2)** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

**13.3)** Improve education, awareness and capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

**13.a)** Implement the commitment undertaken by developed country parties to the United Nations Framework convention on climate change goal of mobilizing US\$100 million annually by 2020 to address developing country needs and to operationalise the green climate fund

**13.b)** Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing states.

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Climate change is a global phenomenon that affects all countries and evidence of its effects are seen in more frequent extreme weather conditions. Between 2000 and 2017, hydro-meteorological events (hurricane, tropical storms, droughts and extreme rainfall specifically) cost on average 1.3 per cent of GDP and have affected roughly 33.1 people per 100 000 of population in Jamaica (PIOJ 2017). Acknowledging the importance of building resilience to climate change, the country advanced several policy instruments in the context of the Sendai Framework. The updating of the Climate Change Policy Framework (2015), the State of the Jamaican Climate Report (2015- in draft), Disaster Risk Management Act (2015) and the Forest Policy for Jamaica (2017) promote climate resilience and mitigation. Efforts to strengthen climate action within the context of a global response also included ratifying the Paris Agreement. The Agreement requires each party to define their nationally determined contributions, which are reported on, as well as progress on implementation. Jamaica submitted its Updated Nationally

Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC in 2020. The updated NDC sets more ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Jamaica has also completed the Third National Communication and Biennial Update Report submitted to the UNFCCC. Recognising the increased importance of drought management and mitigation plans, the Drought Management Committee was activated in 2020, which will aid in executing a proactive drought management plan. A Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Policy has also been drafted, in alignment with the Sendai Framework. The disaster risk management structure for Jamaica operates at the national, regional, parish and community levels. As at 2021, all Municipal Corporations (MCs) have implemented disaster risk management strategies in alignment with the national risk management framework and the Sendai DRM framework. A draft outline Parish DRM Plan is currently being developed in tandem with the formulation of the national DRM policy and national DRM plan to ensure that all parish disaster plans are of the same standard. In addition, all MCs have a disaster coordinator who is responsible for carrying out DRM activities at the local level. Active parish disaster committees are established as part of the national DRM framework. Local Sustainable Development Plans (LSDPs) and development orders are also required to include disaster and climate risk information in an effort to ensure that informed decisions are made regarding the development of the municipalities and parishes.

To streamline climate change education into the tertiary curriculum, in 2017 there were 20 new and existing courses relating to climate change that were offered by the University of the West Indies, with a total enrolment of 508 students (ESSJ 2019). To



promote climate change research at the University, research grants and funding opportunities valued at \$40.0 million to fund climate and natural environment research were offered (ESSJ 2019). Other data and research focused initiatives include implementation of the investment projects under the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR). This includes the Improving Climate Data and Information Project, which involved the expansion and upgrading of the islands hydro-meteorological network to support real-time data collection and early warning systems. Equipment installed included Automatic Weather Stations, stream flow gauges, intensity rain gauges, soil moisture probes and tidal gauges. Under the Caribbean Regional Track of the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience, a Scientific Platform for Applied Research and Knowledge Sharing (SPARKS), a computerized storage system for climate modelling which will facilitate big data analytics to enable risk assessment against the impacts of climate change impact was established. In 2019, a US\$2.4 million contract was signed for the design, supply and replacement of the Doppler weather radar in Coopers Hill, St Andrew to increase availability of comprehensive climate information (ESSJ 2019). By the end of 2020 the weather radar tower was installed and the replacement weather radar was procured.

The country has also attracted financing from several sources to build capacity to handle climate change. A US\$14.8 million grant was received from the Global Risk Financing Facility for financial protection against natural disaster risks. The sector allocation of new ODA also shows that, in 2015, environment and climate change attracted inflows of US\$28.7 million compared with inflows of US\$3.3 million in 2019 (ESSJ 2019). The majority of the

external funding received for climate change initiatives have been channelled towards building adaptive resilience and capacity building. The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), for example, comprised 21 national projects that supported capacity building for NGOs across a range of initiatives, including conservation of biodiversity, climate resilience and marine conservation. Examples of these projects include:

- Youth in Action–Combating Climate Change through Innovation and Technology in Agriculture, which aims to build resilience and productivity in the agricultural sector
- Building resilience and adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in Jamaica
- Climate Change training and capacity building for NGOs/CBOs and persons with disabilities
- Mitigating impacts of climate change through the Albion Heights green community project.

The Caribbean Climate Innovation Centre (CCIC) seeks to combat climate change through support to entrepreneurial development. The Centre focuses on thematic areas that include sustainable agribusiness, resource use efficiency, water and waste management, renewable energy and energy efficiency, tourism, and transportation. The Caribbean Climate Innovation Centre supports clean tech entrepreneurs at different stages in their business development lifecycle. This is inclusive of providing mentorship, tailored training, and access to finance in an effort to build an enabling environment and institutional capacity in the Caribbean where climate innovation entrepreneurs can grow and develop, thereby creating jobs.

This is in response to the Centre’s identification of challenges facing Jamaican and other Caribbean clean Tech entrepreneurs such as: access to financing and institutions to foster business skill development, the need for strong public policy and regulation, small and fragmented markets, a risk averse culture and a need for climate change awareness and behaviour change. Jamaica also has access to approximately US\$1.1 million in grant funding from the Green Climate Fund to aid in the development of the first National Adaptation Plan (NAP), which is a comprehensive medium and long-term climate adaptation plan.<sup>73</sup>

### Conclusion and Outlook

The government has shown commitment to building climate resilient infrastructure through public expenditure and by attracting international partnerships for climate adaptability; capacity building in terms of emergency response; and preventative measures such as disaster risk insurance policy. Progress is evident in targets involving the development of disaster risk management strategies at the local level as well as the commitment to climate change measures as indicated by the updated nationally determined contribution submitted by government, as well as plans to update Climate Change Policy Framework and State of the Jamaican Climate report.

The impact of natural disasters, particularly the increased frequency of droughts affects agricultural production, which remains a large component of GDP and is central to food security. Drought management will therefore be a key component in managing climate risks. Future performance on several of the indicators for goal 13, however, lies heavily on funding

availability to build out more climate resilient infrastructure, and warning systems, which may be impeded by the recent economic downturn resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, with key entities applying for Green Climate Fund accreditation, to access financial support to build climate adaptation and resilience.



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*Conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*

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Targets:

- 14.1)** By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds
- 14.2)** By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts
- 14.3)** Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification
- 14.4)** By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and implement science-based management plans
- 14.5)** By 2020, conserve at least 10.0 per cent of coastal and marine areas
- 14.6)** By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing and refrain from introducing any such new subsidies

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<sup>73</sup> <https://jis.gov.jm/government/ministries/housing-urban-renewal-environment-and-climate-change/>

**14.7)** By 2030, increase the economic benefits, to small island developing countries, from the sustainable use of marine resources

**14.a)** Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the intergovernmental oceanographic commission criteria Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to development

**14.b)** Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

**14.c)** Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

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Ensuring sustainable ocean, seas and marine resources is vital to the preservation of biodiversity, protection of marine resources and sustaining life. Protection from pollution requires adequate systems for the disposal of garbage. In 2018, based on JSLC data, the proportion of households that were disposing garbage by formal means was 70.5 per cent. The proportion of people that dump directly into gullies/river/sea/pond or bury their garbage was roughly 1.7 per cent in 2018. Based on the composition of waste collected at the annual beach clean-up day, it is also evident that plastic beverage bottles is the largest category of garbage found polluting Jamaican beaches and coastal areas; the proportion of which declined marginally from 45.0 per cent in 2015 to 42.0 per cent in 2019 (ESSJ 2019). Marine pollution is currently being addressed through a broader waste management strategy in which government and civil organizations seek to raise awareness and change behaviour. ‘Nuh Dutty up Jamaica’ as well as recycling and waste management

programmes are examples of ongoing initiatives.

The GOJ, has also, through legislation, imposed a ban on single use plastic bags, plastic straws and expanded polystyrene foam products. The ban took effect in January 2019, and is implemented in three phases. Phase one banned the manufacture, importation, distribution and use of specific types of single use plastic bags. Phase two commenced in January 2020, banning the manufacturing, distribution and use of expanded polystyrene foam products, whilst phase 3 is anticipated to commence in January 2021.<sup>74</sup> The implementation of the Plastic Waste Minimization Project by NEPA resulted in 15.2 tonnes/33 580 lbs of plastic material being collected as part of a drive to reduce the amount of waste entering the Kingston Harbour.

While average beach erosion over the 2015–2019 period has been low (mainly accretion) with most beaches increasing in width over the period, from an average width of 24.6 meters in 2015 to 29.8 in 2019 the health of coral reefs on the other hand has declined (ESSJ 2015–2019). Coral reef assessment was conducted at 29 reef sites in 12 locations islandwide using the Coral Reef Health Index (CRHI). The CRHI score for 2019 was 2.2, which was the same as in 2015, representing poor coral reef health (fair coral reef health starts from a score of 2.7).<sup>75</sup> In examining marine water quality by the proportion of sites that exceeded target levels for nitrates, phosphates, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and fecal coliform, for freshwater sources the proportion of samples that met the standard was 76.0 per cent, 57.0 per cent, 67.0 per cent and 95.0 per cent respectively, while for marine sources this

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<sup>74</sup> <https://jis.gov.jm/govt-to-make-announcement-on-third-phase-of-plastic-ban/>

<sup>75</sup> NEPA Coral Reef Health Status Report, 2020.

was 46.0 per cent, 50.0 per cent, 4.0 per cent and 19.0 per cent respectively over 80.0 percent exceeded the standard for nitrates and phosphates.<sup>76</sup>

The action plan for the protection and restoration of coral reefs prepared by NEPA has targets for conducting research, mapping and monitoring, reducing pollution and habitat destruction and eventually restoring the coral reefs as well as keeping the public informed in order to change potentially damaging behaviour to conservation efforts.<sup>77</sup> The coastal and beach restoration guideline includes proposed interventions, some of which, have already been implemented such as armoring techniques like seawalls, revetments or sand-trapping structures like groynes in order to stop beach erosion. There has however been a move to more resilient intervention in recent years that mimics natural protection of the coral reef such as the use of artificial reefs and nourished beaches, which are more environmentally sound and aesthetically appealing.<sup>78</sup>

Jamaica has an exclusive economic zone that is roughly 21 times the size of the land. Policies and frameworks have been implemented to protect this marine area.

Currently the total coverage of protected marine area in Jamaica amounts to roughly 1,918 km<sup>2</sup>. It is estimated that the coverage of protected area in relation to marine areas—which is the percentage of designated key marine area for biodiversity—that is protected, was roughly 15.0 per cent, which is above the

SDG target of 10.0 per cent (PIOJ). Figure 15 highlights the location of Jamaica's marine protected areas. Two additional marine protected areas have been approved for declaration in 2020/2022—Black River Landscape and Pedro Cays and surrounding waters—which will add an additional 4.0 per cent to the protected marine areas of Jamaica.

Other policies that focus on improving biodiversity and the management of protected areas include the Protected Area System Master Plan (PASMP) 2014–2017. The PASMP aimed to align protected areas to national priorities and to establish a comprehensive and representative system and framework for managing protected areas and maintaining ecological processes and systems. The updated National Strategy and Action Plan for Biological Diversity (NBSAP) 2016–2021 was also prepared and implemented in the period post adoption of the SDGs which, along with advancing the approaches recommended for national bio diversity protection, includes biodiversity conservation aligned to the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Targets.

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76 National Environment and Planning Agency, State of the environment report 2013, retrieved from:

[https://websitesearchive2020.nepa.gov.jm/new/media\\_centre/news/articles/SoE\\_Jamaica\\_2013.pdf](https://websitesearchive2020.nepa.gov.jm/new/media_centre/news/articles/SoE_Jamaica_2013.pdf)

<sup>77</sup> Action Plan for Coral Reefs in Jamaica

[https://websitesearchive2020.nepa.gov.jm/new/services\\_products/](https://websitesearchive2020.nepa.gov.jm/new/services_products/)

[publications/docs/Action\\_plan\\_for\\_corals\\_and%20reefs\\_APCAR\\_Sept2019.pdf](https://www.gfdrr.org/sites/default/files/publication/Coastal%20Management%20and%20Beach%20Restoration%20Guidelines%20Jamaica%20FINAL.pdf)

<sup>78</sup> Coastal Management and Beach Restoration Guidelines: Jamaica

<https://www.gfdrr.org/sites/default/files/publication/Coastal%20Management%20and%20Beach%20Restoration%20Guidelines%20Jamaica%20FINAL.pdf>

Unregulated harvest of both plants and animals negatively affects biodiversity of the country. Several measures including laws and fines, to both protect areas from overexploitation and to deter potential

juvenile iguanas that were eventually released into the wild with the aid of local and international partners. The International Union for Conservation Network (IUCN) estimated in 2021 that

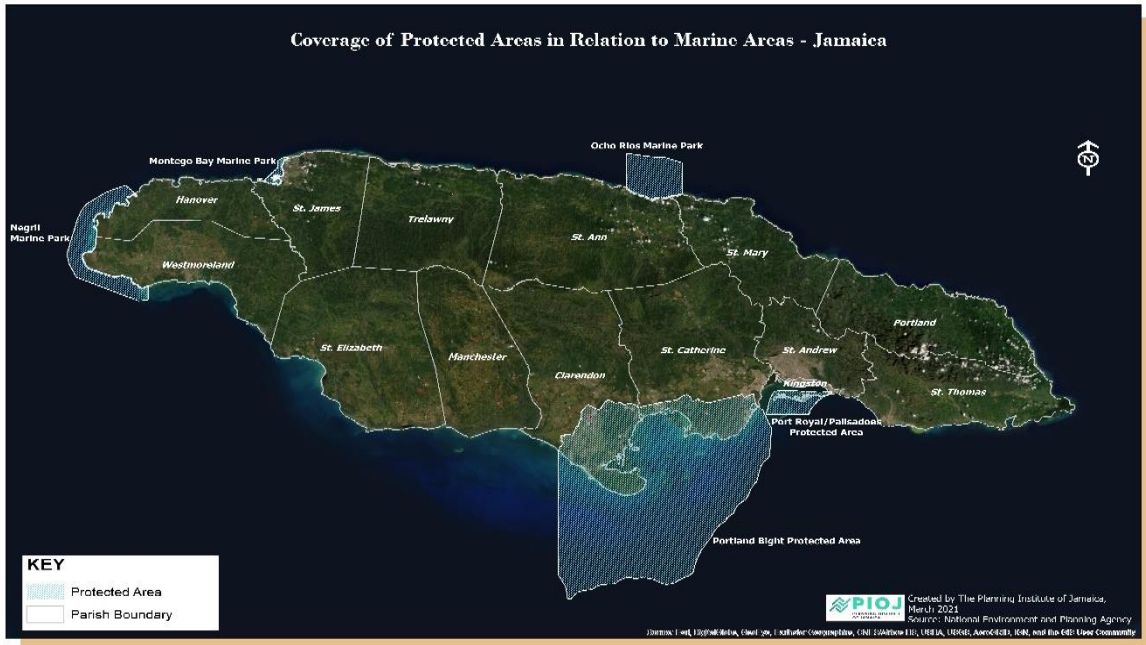


Figure 15 Protected Marine Areas 2020

perpetrators have been pursued. The number of marine areas under protection increased with the designation since 2015 of three special fisheries conservation areas (SFCA) bringing the total to 18. SFCA are ‘no fishing areas’ that are reserved for the reproduction of fish populations, with their protected status governed by the Agricultural Minister through the Industry Act of 1975. Measures to deter overfishing consist primarily of legislative amendments in 2018 to the Fishing Industry Act, 2015 and increased penalties to deter future offences.

Bio-diversity conservation activities during the period also included the monitoring of game bird species, the Jamaican Iguana and sea turtle nesting. The Head Start Programme for the critically endangered Jamaican Iguana for example raised 50

31.3 per cent of Jamaica’s endemic species were vulnerable, 18.8 per cent were critically endangered and 43.8 per cent were endangered.

### Conclusions and Outlook

Targets that have seen progress include target 14.2.1—the utilization of ecosystem-based approaches to marine system management through the number of legislation, strategic action plans and public education initiatives such as the Plastic Waste Minimisation Project put forward by agencies such as NEPA, and advocacy efforts from agencies such as the Jamaica Environment Trust. Target 14.5—having at least 10.0 per cent of coastal and marine areas protected—was also achieved and was further increased by establishing additional protected areas.

Overall, there are significant challenges to the achievement of goal 14. The main challenges include the collection and availability of data. This is evident for indicators such as the contribution of sustainable fisheries to GDP. There is also a need to continuously update, monitor and enforce legislation to combating illicit fishing and activities on protected areas. Ocean health and the coral reefs also continue to be in poor condition despite efforts to repair damages. It is anticipated that with the renewed focus globally on a green and blue recovery (recovery that considers the sustainable use of ocean resources), renewed focus will be placed by government and development partners on overcoming these challenges.



*Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*

Targets:

**15.1)** By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems

**15.2)** By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests

**15.3)** By 2030, combat desertification and degraded land and soil

**15.4)** By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits essential for sustainable development

**15.5)** Take action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and by 2020 protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

**15.6)** Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources

**15.7)** Take action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species

**15.8)** By 2020, introduce measures to prevent and reduce the impact of invasive species

**15.9)** By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national development planning

**15.a)** Mobilise and increase financial resources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystem

**15.b)** Mobilise resources to finance sustainable forest management

**15.c)** Enhance global support to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species.

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Jamaica, known as the land of wood and water, is characterized by a diverse domestic ecosystem. Ensuring sustainable management of these natural resources is imperative to sustain life and promote the well-being of the population.



The Land Use Cover Analysis shows that the proportion of total land area that is covered by forests was approximately 32.4 per cent in 2018. According to The State Of the Environment report 2013, the total amount of land-based protected areas increased from 128 in 2010 to 137 in 2013, with a total area of 439 865 hectares in 2013. The total amount of marine-based protected areas increased from 19 in 2010 to 23 in 2013, while total area covered was 82 094 hectares.

and Action Plan 2016–2021, Protected Areas System Master Plan: Jamaica 2013–2017, as well as individual management plans for specific protected areas. This demonstrates progress being made in ensuring that our forest resources are being adequately managed.

Between 2010 and 2013, the rate of deforestation was minute at 0.4 per cent. Over the 2010 to 2013 period, there was a 4.0 per cent, 95.0 per cent and 78.0 per cent reduction in closed broadleaf forest, swamp

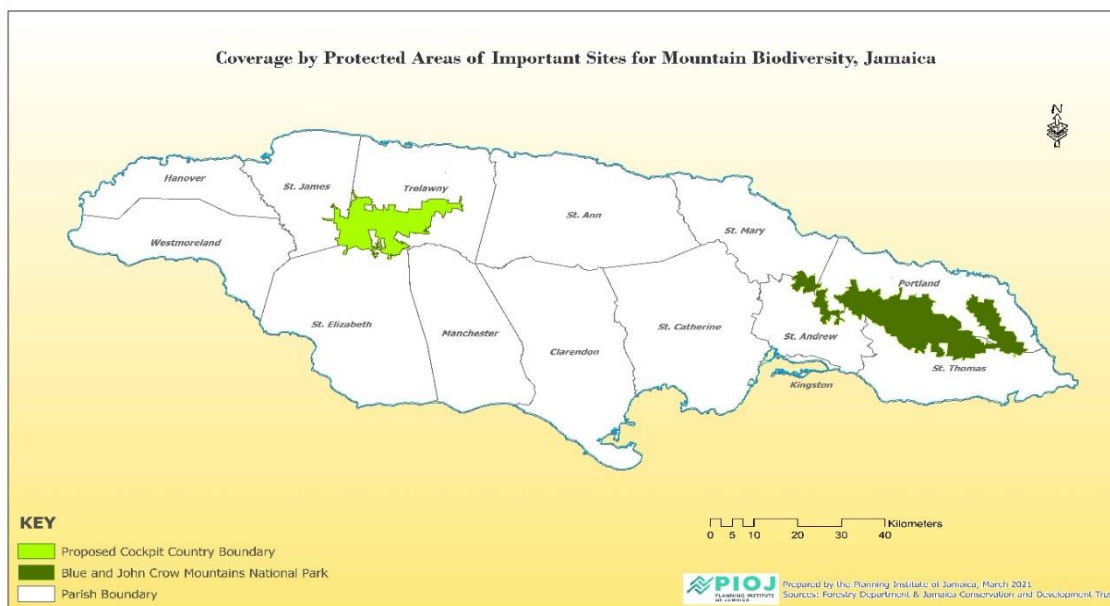


Figure 16 Protected Mountain Area 2021

Several national policies and frameworks were developed and implemented to promote sustainable forest management. These policies include Forest Policy for Jamaica (2017), the National Forest Management and Conservation Plan 2016–2026, as well as proposals for updating to Amendments of Forest Legislation. Other policies that are applicable to the management of forests include the previously mentioned National Strategy

forest and short open dry forest, respectively. The main losses were attributed to buildings and other infrastructure, as well as degradation to “Bare land and Rock”.<sup>79</sup> There is approximately 750.5 km<sup>2</sup> of area that is designated as a protected area for mountain diversity (495.2 km<sup>2</sup> for Blue and John Crow Mountains national Park and UNESCO World Heritage Site and 255.3 km<sup>2</sup> proposed area to be protected as

<sup>79</sup> Government of Jamaica, *Forestry Department, Land-use Change Forest Cover: The Jamaican Scenario*, retrieved from:

[https://www.forestry.gov.jm/resourcedocs/forest\\_cover\\_the\\_jamaican\\_scenario.pdf](https://www.forestry.gov.jm/resourcedocs/forest_cover_the_jamaican_scenario.pdf)



Cockpit Country). The declaration of Cockpit Country as protected area will increase the protected land territory from 18.0 per cent to 24 per cent. These areas are highlighted in Figure 16.

Interventions to protect biodiversity include reforestation and the distribution of seedlings to farmers and the general population. With the recognition of the environmental benefits of these areas, the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation (REDD+) programme aims to increase the environmental benefits from the sustainable management of forest resources. The objective is to reduce greenhouse gases emissions produced by the forest sector and enhance the capacity of the forest sector as a carbon sink.

Conservation efforts have been focused on the iguana through the Jamaican Iguana Head Start Programme, and sea turtles. These efforts to protect and increase the population of these endangered species were complemented by efforts to limit both predators and invasive species. This was aided by the launch of the Jamaica Invasive Species Database. A proposed National Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan (NIASSAP) for the period 2014–2020 aims to guide the government and its partners on the appropriate legislative action and soft laws to handle invasive species.<sup>80</sup> These include the Plants (Quarantine) Act (1994), which controls the importation of plants, plant products and articles that pose a threat through injurious plant pests; the Endangered Species Act (2000); and the Animal (Disease and Importation) Act (1948), which continue to be in force. There is however, a need to develop and expand existing laws pertaining to invasive species after relevant terms are defined and the non-

native species are identified correctly. The main legislation to deter poaching is the Wildlife Protection Act (1945), which makes broad provision for the protection of certain wild animals from gaming, collecting, and poaching. Educational campaigns that have been implemented by NEPA are ongoing to strengthen these efforts, and target communities and youth. This was particularly important because the American Crocodile, the largest native reptile, has come under increasing threat from habitat loss and poaching.

Jamaica has aligned, through its national development goals of Vision 2030 Jamaica and its policy frameworks and action plans, such as the Protected Areas System Master Plan (2012), with the Aichi Biodiversity targets. It is essential to mobilize resources to support these development objectives to maintain a healthy natural environment. In 2019, the UN Environment (UNEP) funded six projects totalling US\$6.2 million in forestry, energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste management and biodiversity.<sup>81</sup>

### Conclusion and Outlook

Legislation-based targets for goal 15, such as targets 15.6 and 15.8, were met during the period. These pieces of legislation include forest management and controlling invasive species. While the rate of deforestation has slowed, the country has not met the target of halting deforestation completely or recovering degraded forests and increasing afforestation. There are several critically endangered species, as identified by the Red List Index, which will require continued monitoring and conservation efforts.

<sup>80</sup> [http://www.ciasnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/NIASSAP\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.ciasnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/NIASSAP_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>81</sup>

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/financing/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.financing/files/2021-04/SDG%20Fair-%20Final%20Portfolio-%20Jamaica.pdf>.

Despite the array of legislation and policy prescriptions, implementation and enforcement require strengthening. This will therefore require enhanced financial and technical capacity, particularly through partnerships. Improving technical capacity for monitoring and evaluation of the health of the ecosystem is also necessary, as well as investment in measures to reverse degradation and expand both forest lands and protected mountain areas.




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*Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels*

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**Target:**

- 16.1)** Reduce all forms of violence and related death
- 16.2)** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against, and torture of children
- 16.3)** Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure access to justice for all
- 16.4)** By 2030, reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat organized crime
- 16.5)** Reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

**16.6)** Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

**16.7)** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

**16.8)** Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

**16.9)** By 2030 provide legal identity for all including birth registration

**16.10)** Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms

**16.a)** Strengthen relevant national institutions for building capacity to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

**16.b)** Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

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High levels of crime and violence impact economic growth and development both directly and indirectly. Direct costs include public expenditure on crime fighting efforts, which could have been used in other productive areas, and indirectly through deterring private investment. During the period 2015–2019 the rate of homicide per 100 000 averaged 50; rising from 44.3 in 2015 to 48.7 in 2019 (Figure 17). Males were more likely to be the perpetrators of crime, at a proportion of 96.8 per cent in 2019 and also more likely to be victims of crime, at a proportion of 66.6 per cent.

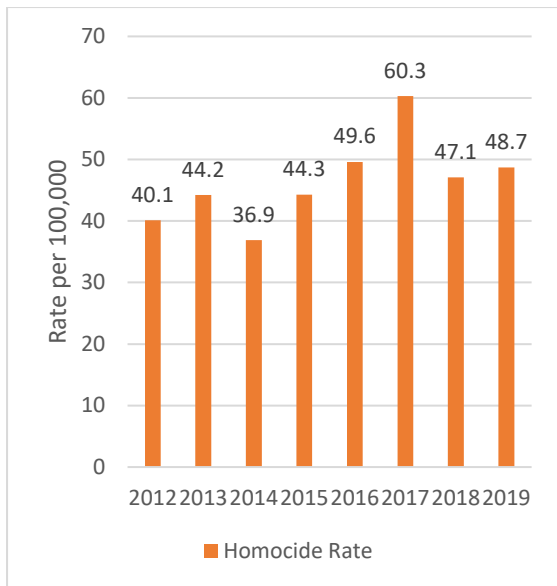


Figure 17 Homicide Rate 2012–2019 (Source: JCF)

The number of physical violence cases has however been on the decline since 2015, falling from 597 cases to 378 cases in 2019, while the number of victims of sexual violence (rape, statutory rape and other sexual offences) has fluctuated during the period from a high of 1 817 in 2015 to a low of 1 288 in 2016 as seen in Figure 18.

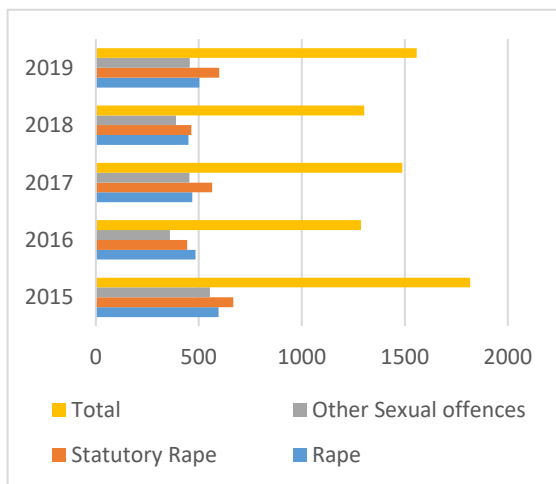


Figure 18 Sexual Offences for the Period 2015–2019 (Source: JCF)

In terms of the public perception of crime, survey data from the Jamaica National Crime Victimization Survey 2019 (JNCVS) reports that the proportion of citizens that feel safe walking in the area they live by

night was 69.6 per cent and by day, 91.0 per cent, which lower than outturn of 81.7 per cent and 95.5 per cent, respectively, which was recorded in 2016.

The government and by extension the Jamaica Constabulary Force has employed a number of targeted policy actions to reduce the level of crime and violence both in the short term and the long term, including actions to reduce the culture of violence. The Law Reform (Zones of Special Operations) (Special Security and Community Development Measures) Act was enacted in 2017 and gives the government the authority to declare a community as a Zone of Special Operation (ZOSO). By the end of 2019, two communities had been declared ZOSOs and in addition to security operations, a number of social intervention programmes were being implemented in these communities. The government also declared States of Emergency in various police divisions to manage incidents of crime in these areas.

Plan Secure Jamaica was developed in 2017. This is a whole of government plan which focuses effort on ten strategic subject areas namely: violence and crime; public order; corruption; community safety; territorial integrity; crisis response and recovery; justice; cyber defence; critical infrastructure protection; and economic security.

There has also been the continuous strategic reform of the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the judiciary, which involved upgrading the quality of physical infrastructure of the island’s courts and police stations through retrofitting or rebuilding. The technological capacity of the security and justice sectors were also enhanced, with the introduction of the Jamaica Eye programme that uses CCTV to monitor and track incidences of crime in major areas island wide. There has also

been the piloting of a traffic ticket management system and the establishment of data collection systems to collect statistical data in the courts to track cases and to better monitor and evaluate reform programmes as well as a case management system to automate case and document management islandwide in courts.

Measures to reduce violence at the community level included a social media campaign and a number of social intervention programmes. The ‘Liv Gud’ campaign was launched in 2019 as the national anti-violence campaign and aims to promote a culture of respect for life, law and order through community engagement to disrupt criminal activity and encourage every Jamaican to be socially responsible. The main social intervention programme was the Citizens Security and Justice Programme (CSJP). A Violence Interruption Programme (VIP) was implemented as part of the CSJP which is a peace building approach to reduce violence in communities. Under the VIP, 51 communities were engaged through violence interrupters.<sup>82</sup>

Other ongoing programmes include continuation of the Restorative Justice Programme where all parties at stake in an offence come together to deal with the aftermath of the offence; the Child Diversion Programme which is a social justice programme that aims to channel child offenders away from the criminal justice system and on a path to being law-abiding citizens; the Poverty Reduction Programme; the Integrated Community Development Programme; the Community Renewal Programme; and the Peace Management Initiative (PMI), which was

established in 2002 and uses alternative dispute resolution methodologies to handle community-based violence such as violence interrupting, mediations, counselling and life skills training for at-risk youth.

These efforts promote the rule of law by changing attitudes and societal norms at the national level. In this regard, public perception and awareness of these policies and the judicial system itself is important. In 2013, according to the JCF National Crime Victimization Survey, 16.8 per cent of people were aware of the CSJP. The rate is higher for those living in CSJP communities, at 27.5 per cent. In 2019, the proportion of people aware of the programme decreased to 11.0 per cent. Out of the seven programmes listed, only the Peace Management had an awareness level greater than 20.0 per cent. While awareness was low, the perceived effectiveness and reliability of all the programmes were relatively high; the poverty reduction program had over 70.0 per cent of Jamaicans perceiving it to be effective and reliable. Another aspect of encouraging rule of law is promoting the crime reporting. According to the NCVS 2019, over 54.0 per cent of people who were victims of physical assault did not report it to the police and for the ones that did report, 42.7 per cent was not satisfied with how it was handled. This is an improvement since 2013 where over 62.0 per cent of assaults were not reported and over 52.6 per cent was not satisfied with how it was handled.

Combating human trafficking is an important aspect of creating a safe environment for the most vulnerable. According to the United Nations human

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<sup>82</sup>A Violence Interrupter is an individual who canvasses a “community, detecting and interrupting potential shootings, mediating conflicts that can lead to violence, identifying high-risk individuals and facilitating treatment of these individuals”. See

Orville A. Simmonds and Adenike Stephenson, “Violence Prevention through the engagement of Violence Producers”, Citizen Security and Justice Programme III, Ministry of National Security, Jamaica, 2020.

trafficking is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people through force or deception with the aim of exploiting them for profit. Jamaica recorded its first conviction for human trafficking in 2015, there were two cases in total for the year, four victims rescued, and four persons arrested. In 2016, according to the ESSJ 2019, there were two additional convictions. To aid the fight against human trafficking there has been several legislative changes and policies enacted during the period 2015–2020. The Trafficking in Person Act (2007) was amended in 2018 to allow judges to try trafficking offences without the presence of a jury. The Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking was also established in 2015, which will aid in monitoring human trafficking, the protections afforded to victims and the implementation of preventative measures. There have also been efforts to promote public knowledge on the issue through the launch of anti-trafficking in person clubs in 10 secondary schools, the development of a human trafficking curriculum for use in secondary schools, and development of a comic book for primary level students and a docudrama to share widely.

Corruption increases the cost of doing business, reduces the incentive to conduct business and undermines trust in institutions. In 2012, roughly 0.8 per cent and 1.1 per cent of the adult population reported that they personally experienced bribery by the police and government officials respectively. In 2019, these proportions fell to 0.4 per cent and 0.2 per cent, showing declines in the instances of bribery and increased progress on target 16.5 based on the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015&2019. Efforts to address corruption over the period included a strategic review of the Major Organization Crime Investigation Division

(MOCA) that allowed for their independence. The MOCA team in 2015–2016 conducted 489 operations that lead to 300 charges for crimes such as police corruption, public sector corruption, organized crime, and financial crime. In 2019 MOCA conducted 45 operations, resulting in 40 arrests and 39 charges (ESSJ 2019).

The introduction of the Integrity Commission Act (2017) created a single anti-corruption body with the power to prosecute. A tangible boost to the efforts to fight corruption also included an increase in the ranking of the country in the corruption perception index from a high of 83 in 2016 to 69 in 2020. The Counter Terrorism and Organized Crime investigation branch aims to combat terrorism and all forms of organized crime. This includes goals such as targeting illicit financial flows and the seizure of firearms. In 2016, over JMD\$15.0 million and US\$533 000.00 were seized/forfeited under the Proceeds of Crime Act (2007), over JMD\$346 580 690.00 and US\$1 328 424.00 of defrauded monies were also recovered and J\$1.5 billion worth of items in breach of intellectual property rights were confiscated (ESSJ 2016).

Jamaica has an operational policy for access to information, freedom of speech and human rights. Under the Access to Information Act (2002), Jamaicans can request information held by government to improve transparency and accountability. In 2019, some 22 requests were received and processed by the Access to Information Unit (ESSJ 2019). Jamaica is known for the high level of freedom for journalists and for general freedom of speech. The Paris-based Reporters Without Borders prepares a World Press Freedom Index and conducts political advocacy surveys on issues relating to information freedom and press.

In 2020, Jamaica was ranked 6<sup>th</sup> of over 180 countries up from 9<sup>th</sup> in 2015. Thus, currently Jamaica ranks amongst the top countries for press freedom. It was also noted that physical attacks on journalists were rare and no serious act of violence or threat to media freedom has been reported since February 2009.<sup>83</sup>

In 2014, the Government of Jamaica initiated the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution to protect the rights of nationals, and which complies with the principles relating to the Status of National Institutions known as the Paris Principles. These principles encompass a core mandate based on human rights, adequate funding, and inclusive and transparent corporate governance policies. In 2018, a submission was made to Cabinet for the establishment of the institution and work is currently still ongoing. Jamaica also ratified seven treaties on human rights, some of which were already mentioned under previous goals, others include the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 1969 (ICERD), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966 (ICCPR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (CRC) and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006 (CRPD).<sup>84</sup>

### Conclusion and Outlook

Challenges are evident for many of the targets under goal 16. Homicide rates have increased with less than 50.0 per cent of crimes being solved. There is a consistent issue of controlling illegal firearms, which is the main weapon used in committing homicides. In addition, there was an increase in the number of Jamaicans who

reported feeling unsafe walking home alone at night. Progress has been made in combating corruption based on Jamaica's rank on the corruption index, but it remains an impediment to growth. Other targets on which the country has performed well include press freedom and access to information, and the relatively low rates of human trafficking which was aided by the formation of a dedicated institution—The National Rapporteur on Trafficking.

In terms of outlook, more will need to be done to achieve targets such as 16.1, to significantly reduce all forms of violence by 2030. The rate of crime and the general lack of trust in public officials creates a self-reinforcing challenge to crime fighting efforts. There is need for technological advancement that can increase the capacity of investigative agencies to improve the clearance rate for homicides, capacity to prosecute corruption, as well to aid in clearing the backlog in the court system.

In addition, improving the public's perception of civil servants and reducing the incentives for corruption by for example increased prosecution will also aid in efforts at fighting crime.

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<sup>83</sup> Reporters Without Borders  
<https://rsf.org/en/ranking>

<sup>84</sup> The Establishment of a National Human Rights Institution: The Case for Jamaica

<http://jnfpb.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/The-Establishment-of-a-National-Human-Rights-Institution-The-Case-for-Jamaica.pdf>




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*Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development*

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**Targets:**

*Finance*

**17.1)** Strengthen domestic resource mobilization

**17.2)** Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments

**17.3)** Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple resources

**17.4)** Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability.

**17.5)** Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries.

*Technology*

**17.6)** Enhance regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation, and enhance knowledge sharing

**17.7)** Promote the development, transfer, dissemination, and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries

**17.8)** Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology, and innovation

capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries

*Capacity Building*

**17.9)** Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries

*Trade*

**17.10)** Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization

**17.11)** Significantly increase the exports of developing countries

**17.12)** Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions

*Systemic Issues*

**17.13)** Enhance global macroeconomic stability

**17.14)** Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

**17.15)** Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

**17.16)** Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

**17.17)** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships

*Data, monitoring and accountability*

**17.18)** By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data

**17.19)** By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.



## Finance

Development assistance aids the Government of Jamaica to attain the development goals included in the Vision 2030 Jamaica–National Development Plan. Along with aid, domestic resource mobilization is also important to funding the development goals, including through efficient taxation and efficient government spending. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda for financing development is also an integral component of the implementation of the national development framework, which recognises the importance of aligning financial flows to economic, social, and environmental priorities.

Over the period 2015–2019, Jamaica attracted on average US\$184.0 million of new official development assistance, with a noticeable downward trend over the period, barring a peak of US\$787.2 million in 2017 as seen in Figure 19.

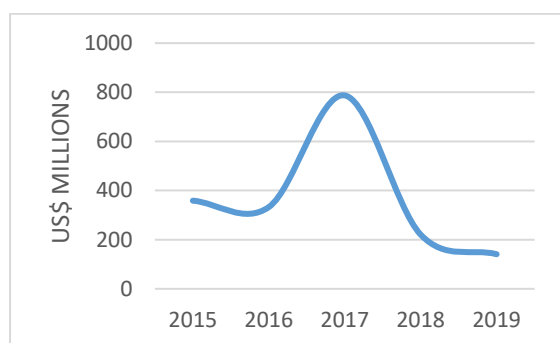


Figure 19 New ODA 2015–2019 (Source: PIOJ)

This peak was associated with a signed loan agreement between the government and the People’s Republic of China for the Southern Coastal Highway Project, of US\$326.4 million and an IDB loan for public sector reform of US\$160.0 million. In terms of overall ODA in 2019, the total new and ongoing ODA was US\$273.3

million (with a net outflow of US\$147.0 million) compared with US\$444.3 million (with a net inflow of US\$168.6 million) in 2015 (ESSJ 2019). Foreign direct investment—which is defined as an investment from a party in one country into a business or corporation in another country with an intent to establish long-term interest—as a percentage of gross national income declined over the period 2015 to 2019. FDI Inflows represented 6.8 per cent of GNI in 2015, declining to 4.3 per cent of GNI in 2019 with an absolute decline from US\$925.0 million in 2015 to US\$665.4 million in 2019.<sup>85</sup>

The trend in foreign direct investment in the period 2015–2019 is in contrast with the relatively stable trend in global FDI flows to the Latin America and Caribbean region during this period. For 2020, the FDI inflows to the region declined from US\$160.0 million to US\$101.0 million, as FDI to developing countries declined as the fallout from the pandemic took shape in 2020. It is further projected that FDI to developing countries and to the Latin America and Caribbean region will fall even further in 2021 as economies recover unevenly from the pandemic and global investors remain cautious in committing funding to overseas projects (UNCATD 2020).<sup>86</sup>

Jamaica’s international development partners provide support to several areas that are subdivided into administrative, directly productive, social infrastructure, economic infrastructure and environment & climate change. In 2015, the majority of ODA was focused in the administrative category (64.3 per cent) which includes funds for public sector reform, budgetary support, and governance. This is in contrast

<sup>85</sup> Calculated using data from PIOJ and STATIN.

<sup>86</sup> *Investment Trends Monitor*, retrieved from: [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/diaeiainf2021d1\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/diaeiainf2021d1_en.pdf)

with 2019 where most new ODA fell under the directly productive category (48.0 per cent of new ODA). Development assistance has traditionally been from mostly multilateral financial institutions, constituting of on average over 50.0 per cent of development assistance over the 2015–2019 period, except for 2017. In terms of development funding for specific goals, it was noted that of the approximately US\$2.0 billion in loans and grants received by Jamaica, over 41.0 per cent was aligned to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) (ESSJ 2019).

There have been several projects conducted over the period with assistance, either funding or technical, from international development policies that align to the SDGs. Some of these projects have been mentioned under the progress updates for the specific SDGs for which they are most closely aligned. Funding from the European Union and the IDB provided for the Jamaican administrative sector to aid the government in addressing the trade deficit and increase export. To integrate the Jamaican economy to the global markets directly contributed to efforts to advance the targets of SDG 8. The UNDP also partnered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, PIOJ and the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies and hosted the conference for Caribbean Development, the 2030 Agenda in Perspective in 2017. This conference included stakeholders from government and high-level technical experts, academia, and the private sector to create knowledge synergies and foster partnerships targeting financial support to advance progress on the sustainable development goals.

Other development initiatives supported by development partners included, but is not

limited to, agricultural projects financed by the Department for International Development, Global Affairs Canada, IDB, GEF small grants and the FAO, advancing SDG 2. These funds were to aid the productivity of the agricultural sector while increasing access to local and international markets. Budgetary support to the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries was provided by the European Union, advancing SDG 2 and 8. UNICEF financing for projects aiding children with disabilities and for national campaigns to improve access to HIV treatment, and on sexual abuse, contributed to advances on SDG 3.

The achievement of the national development goals will require sustained support from partners to tap innovative approaches to funding to tackle challenges. Understanding the importance of these partnerships, the United Nations and the Government of Canada established the Group of Friends for SDGs financing which aims to provide a platform for Member States of the UN, the private sector and other stakeholders to share ideas that will enable the flow of funds for the implementation of the SDGs. Jamaica currently co-chairs along with France, the Group of Friends and played a co-leading role with France and Qatar to accelerate climate investment that would promote green investment and mitigate the impact of climate change. It is expected that these partnerships will also have long-term development impact and outcomes for SDG financing.

Beyond the use of the standard development financing and taxation, the use of innovative financing options has been promoted as an additional source of funding for implementation of the SDGs. The innovative financing options explored,

included, but were not limited to, utilizing diaspora bonds; blue bonds which is debt financing particularly to raise capital for SDGs related to the blue economy; promotion of impact investing, and debt for nature swaps. In preparing the road map for SDGs Implementation in Jamaica a workshop was also held with representatives of ministries, departments and agencies of government to sensitize them to these and other innovative financing options. In 2019, the PIOJ, with aid from the United Nations Development Programme, examined opportunities for innovative financing to strengthen capacity for development financing. A consultancy was conducted and a concept paper on innovative financing options for Jamaica was produced. In 2020, a concept was developed and submitted to the SDG Fund for the development of an Outcome Fund, an innovative financing instrument aimed at financing development priorities under Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs. The increasing capacity of the country to identify and implement these financing options is therefore expected to play an important role in Jamaica’s development plan, particularly in the context of sustainable recovery post COVID.

Domestic resource mobilization is an integral part of funding the development goals. This requires adequate taxation policies and systems to strengthen the collection capabilities of the government. Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP averaged approximately 29.0 per cent of GDP over the period 2015–2019 and has shown a steady increase. Total government revenue has grown at a compounded annual growth rate of approximately 11.0 per cent over the period with the majority of government revenue

being from tax and non-tax components with decreasing dependence on bauxite levies. Tax revenue grew by 4.3 per cent during the 2015–2020 period but declined by an estimated 12.1 per cent for the 2020/2021 fiscal year due to the economic downturn caused by the pandemic. Tax revenues currently cover an average of 88.7 per cent of government expenditure yearly, with this ratio falling to 80.0 per cent in 2020/2021 according to preliminary data from the Ministry of Finance, primarily due to the impact of the pandemic (BOJ).<sup>87</sup>

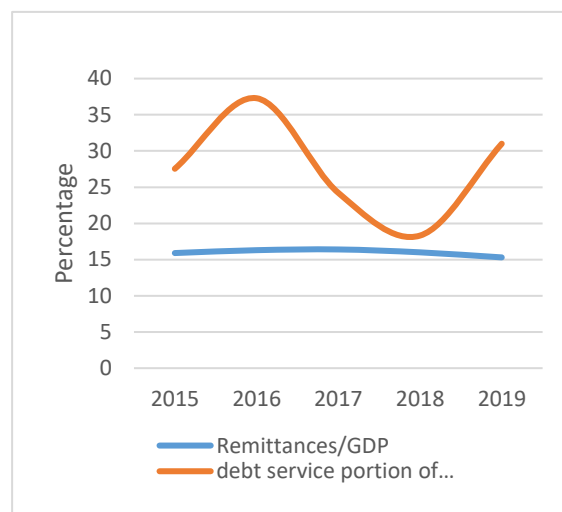


Figure 20 Remittances Share of GDP and Debt Service Portion of Exports (Source: BOJ)

Under multiple IMF programmes, Jamaica has institutionalized fiscal prudence, which has primarily been seen through a reduction in the debt to GDP ratio. This has primarily been possible through meeting a strict primary balance target of 7.0 per cent throughout the years 2015–2019 with an overachievement, an out-turn of 7.5 per cent noted in 2018/2019 fiscal year. Currently debt service cost as a percentage of exports was 31.0 per cent in 2019, down from a high of 37.0 per cent in 2016. Debt servicing cost declined from \$4.7 billion in

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<http://www.mof.gov.jm/downloads/budgets/egdds/econ-cgo.xls.xlsx>

2015 to approximately \$3.0 billion in 2019, again reflecting enhanced fiscal discipline (Figure 20). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the projected decline in economic growth, revenues are projected to be lower while expenditure on needed social intervention programmes is expected to increase. The primary balance is therefore projected to decline to 3.1 per cent of GDP for the 2020/2021 fiscal year.<sup>88</sup>

Remittance serves as a key earner of foreign exchange and provides a livelihood for many of Jamaica's vulnerable groups. Inflows as a proportion of GDP has been stable at approximately 16.0 per cent of GDP for the entire 2015–2019 period (Figure 20). For 2020, total remittance inflows was 20.0 per cent higher than 2019. Remittance inflows have performed well despite the impact of the pandemic and was a vital source of foreign exchange during this period.<sup>89</sup>

### Technology

Continued technological advancement and innovation is critical for long-run growth and development. The Vision 2030 Jamaica–National Development Plan includes strategies such as the promotion of disruptive technology and sound science. Similarly, SDG goal 9 included targets such as access to the internet and mobile phone usage. As noted under goal 9, the number of fixed broadband users per 100 inhabitants has improved from six in 2015 to 11.7 in 2019. In the 'Measuring the Information Society Report' published by the International Telecommunication Union, the ICT Development Index (IDI),

Jamaica ranked 98 out of 176 countries in 2017 falling two places from 2016. The report measures categories such as broadband internet accessibility, mobile transcriptions and household internet access and usage.<sup>90</sup>

There have also been improvements in the level of internet penetration. In 2015, roughly 1.7 million Jamaicans had access to the internet, which improved to 1.9 million in 2020. From the inclusive Internet Index which is a measure commissioned by Facebook and developed by the Economist, Jamaica ranks 81 out of 120 countries in 2021, an improvement from its rank of 61 in 2018. This measures the extent to which the internet is not only accessible but also affordable to all, as well as the relevance and readiness, which is the capacity to accept and cultural acceptance of the internet of the populace. Currently Jamaica's highest rank in the sub-indices is 63<sup>rd</sup> for affordability while its lowest ranks are for affordability (99<sup>th</sup>) and relevance (100<sup>th</sup>).<sup>91</sup>

There have been several technological advancements and innovation that have been utilized across several sectors to advance the national development goals and the SDGs. These applications include crime fighting, climate and disaster risk management, agricultural output as well as productivity in the public sector through increased digitalization of records, particularly in business registration and interfacing with government agencies. There have also been efforts to advance technology and innovation through the funding of technology parks that aim to promote innovation-based economic

<sup>88</sup> Ministry of Finance 2020 fiscal paper.

<sup>89</sup> Bank of Jamaica, remittance Data source: <https://boj.org.jm/statistics/external-sector/remittances/>

<sup>90</sup> International telecommunication Union <https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/idi/2017/index.html>

<sup>91</sup> Inclusive Internet Index 2021 retrieved from <https://theinclusiveinternet.eiu.com/explore/countries/JM/>

growth and promote knowledge creation and transfer into domestic and regional development, and foster a research-led private sector. Additionally, there has been partnership to improve internet access through the Community Access Points (CAPS) programme which was implemented through the Universal Service Fund (2012) in collaboration with NGOs and CBOs. There are over 240 active CAPS as at 2020.<sup>92</sup>

### Capacity Building

It is important to strengthen the capacity of the stakeholders to support the monitoring and reporting framework for the SDGs and Vision 2030 Jamaica. A process to improve the monitoring and evaluation framework and plan for Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs funded through the European Union, which involves the training of MDAs to support a coordinated system of monitoring national development, commenced in 2020. An online platform for the monitoring of the SDGs and Vision 2030 Jamaica was developed with funding from the UNDP. There was also the implementation of the External Cooperation Management Information System (ECMIS), designed to monitor the contribution of development partners to advancing national development. These two initiatives will allow not only for the tracking of the SDG goals and targets but also complement the JAMDATA mobile application that will allow for ease of access to data for all stakeholders

### Trade

Trade is among the means of implementation of the SDGs and the provisions on sustainable development are outlined in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA) and the EPA. It is also

an important component of the EU's Trade for All strategy. However, for the first time, trade and sustainability was placed on the agenda as a substantive item. The EU now has a strong interest in prioritizing the trade and sustainability nexus in the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). This agreement facilitates sustainable growth and poverty reduction for CARIFORUM countries and goes beyond just trade to include socio-economic circumstances. It is now anticipated that the issue of trade and sustainability will remain a substantive item at future trade and development committee meetings.

Jamaica is a member of the WTO and trades with members under the most favoured nation preference for goods. This is an agreement to ensure nations are treated equally by barring discrimination between trading partners. Jamaica is also governed by the General Agreement for Trade in Services (GATS) for service trade, with the overall goal of removing barriers to trade. Regionally, Jamaica trades with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) under the Treaty of Chaguaramas, which established the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME). Jamaica currently has other trading agreements including Generalised Systems of Preference (GSP) with bilateral partners such as the USA, Canada and the EU, and several other bilateral agreements with both developed and developing countries.

Jamaica's exports over the period increased from US\$5.0 billion in 2015 to US\$6.4 billion in 2019 before declining to US\$4.7 billion in 2020 following the effects of the COVID- 19 pandemic (Figure 21)

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<sup>92</sup> USF Jamaica, <https://usf.gov.jm/community-access-points>)

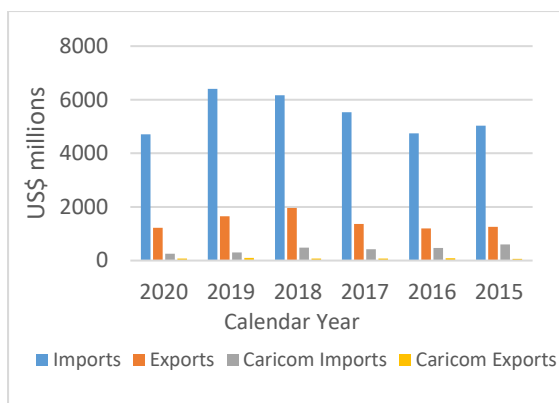


Figure 21 Annual Exports and Imports by Value 2015–2020 (Source: BOJ)

During the 2015–2020 period, Jamaica’s imports from CARICOM declined from US\$597.9 million to US\$253.4 in 2020 while the exports to CARICOM increased marginally. This has led to a decline in the deficit with CARICOM from US\$534.8 million to US\$177.1 million in 2020. Challenges that have limited the benefits to be earned from multilateral and bilateral trade agreements that Jamaica currently has in place included high energy input costs, reliance on imported capital goods, diseconomies of scale, a fluctuating exchange rate, climate change risk and limited trade financing. To overcome these challenges focus has been placed on promoting high value industries and the operationalization of a logistic hub, non-traditional exports, and the use of green energy solutions to reduce cost.<sup>93</sup>

### Policy and Institutional Coherence

To ensure the sustainable development goals are met there is a need to ensure policy and institutional coherence with respect to setting and evaluating performance measures. Jamaica’s National Summary Data Page, which was implemented in 2017, serves as a one-stop shop for macroeconomic data from the Bank of Jamaica, the Ministry of Finance,

and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica. This was part of the recommendation of the enhanced General Data Dissemination System established by the IMF in May 2015 to support improved data transparency, encourage statistical development and enable easy monitoring by stakeholders such as development partners and rating agencies. Jamaica was the second country in the western hemisphere to implement this recommendation and the first in the Caribbean.

To ensure policy coherence and coordination on development goals, the SDGs were integrated into the Vision 2030 Jamaica–National Development Plan. The SDGs are implemented through the medium-term socioeconomic policy framework of Vision 2030 Jamaica, enabling the prioritization of the SDGs by implementing agencies.

Understanding the importance of a monitoring and evaluation framework for successful national development Vision 2030 has in its goals the development of a robust rules-based monitoring and evaluation system. This will build on existing national and sectoral monitoring and evaluation frameworks. This system will engage with stakeholders such the government, private sector, civil society and international development partners. The implementation of the monitoring and evaluation framework, as well as the Road Map for SDG implementation, ensures that policy and implementation is properly coordinated between development agencies and stakeholders at the national and subnational levels.

<sup>93</sup> PIOJ, *Jamaica Voluntary national review*, 2018 pg 103

### Data, monitoring and accountability

The Statistics (amendment) Act of 1984 is currently being revised to remedy this. As of 2020 the board of directors of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, the national statistics body has approved amendments to be made to the Act which is currently pending approval from the relevant authorities. After meeting with stakeholders, the proposed amendments will enable STATIN to strengthen their capacity to produce quality statistics and to keep up to date with the latest advances in world standards from statistics and data since the legislation was last amended in 1984. The proposed amendments also ensure that the legislation follows the UN Fundamental principles, which includes professional standards, scientific principles, ethics, accountability, transparency, prevention of misuse, confidentiality, national coordination, use of international standards and international cooperation.

In order to ensure that statistics are harmonized and coordinated between the producing agencies a National Statistics System (NSS) is needed to respond to the data needs of policy makers, businesses and the public as well as the launch of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics. An in-depth analysis of the readiness and capacity of the MDAs was done in assessing the NSS of Jamaica and several findings were made. These include: 1) MDAs are the largest producers of data, usually on an annual basis. 2) The current system is decentralized and fragmented. 3) There are difficulties in obtaining disaggregated data from administrative data sources and 4) there is no legislation that governs the production of statistics in Jamaica. Recommendations put forward in response to these findings include revamping the technological systems to

accommodate multiagency cost sharing packages for data dissemination, and harmonising standards and definitions to facilitate data linkages and sharing and comparability.

Further to the completion of the assessment, the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) commenced activities to develop a coordinated national statistics system/National Strategy for the Development of Statistics in coordination with PARIS21. The STATIN, which is championing the development of the NSDS, is also partnering with the Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat (Planning Institute of Jamaica) to strengthen the alignment of data plans with national development priorities under Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs. This includes exploring utilisation of the Advanced Data Planning Tool (ADAPT), PARIS21.

There has also been communication with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC) regarding support to improve the quality of statistics in Jamaica. Arising from these discussions is the proposal for collaborative initiatives with the Management Institute for National Development (MIND) and the Department of Economics at the University of the West Indies, Mona to develop and deliver training to improve the quality of the statistical infrastructure in Jamaica. STATIN has also embarked on a partnership with the Mona School of Business and Management (MSBM), to improve the nation's information technology infrastructure and develop a national reporting platform. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between STATIN and MSBM regarding the roles and responsibilities of the National Reporting Platform. STATIN has



submitted the data to MSBM for the finalization and roll out of the platform.

### Conclusion and Outlook

In the area of financing, concerns remain as the recovery from COVID-19 presents challenges globally to rebuild in keeping with the principles of substantiality. The amount of foreign direct investment and the attraction of new ODA (barring the spike in 2017), for example, has declined over the period. Despite this decline, we have, however, seen improvements in the amount of tax revenue collected and a decline in the share of debt service cost to exports. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has weakened the outlook for the majority of these indicators in the near term, with expected decreases in government revenues, ODA, and foreign direct investment, and a general increase in debt levels relative to exports. This view is also expressed by UNCTAD which has shown that greenfield investments into SDG sectors are expected to fall while overall global FDI flows have fallen significantly.

Other challenges in trade include the weakened ability to take advantage of trade agreements due to unfavourable productivity levels. This signals a need for advancement in technology to aid productivity and continued promotion of export opportunities to local firms.

For data monitoring and accountability, the major challenge lies in the building of the statistical capacity to monitor development outcomes generally, and for specific SDG goals such as environment indicators. It is expected that with the increased development of supporting mechanisms for data collection between institutional partners, there will be further improvement in the monitoring and implementation process, which will complement the current

existence of strong national multi sectoral cooperation in achieving the SDGs.

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## THE WAY FORWARD

In September 2019 at the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly, a decade of action and delivery for the sustainable development goals was launched. The Secretary General indicated the need for global action in the form of leadership, resources and smart solutions; local action in the form of policies, budgets, institutional and regulatory frameworks; and people action to push for required transformations. The decade of action is intended to mobilize people around the globe, identifying risks to ensure that no one is left behind, and collective action to promote urgency and ambition towards ending extreme poverty; addressing climate change, injustice and gender equality and accountability; and highlighting solutions to expand access, and drive sustainable innovation, investments, technology and youth leadership.

Jamaica remains committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and to embracing the whole of society approach to promote inclusiveness and collective action to achieving the shared development priorities. The continued alignment and integration of the SDGs at the outcome and strategic levels of Vision 2030 Jamaica for the upcoming MTF cycle is anticipated to strengthen the framework for coordination and will give focus to strengthening the

strategic framework to support Medium Term Results-Based Budgeting and Results-Based Management (RBM) priorities of the government. It will provide a framework for alignment of corporate and operational planning, and monitoring and evaluation at the MDA level with Vision 2030 Jamaica and the MTF, and strengthen their alignment with the SDGs and broader 2030 Agenda.

Further to this, the strengthening of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework of Vision 2030 Jamaica, through a European Union (EU) supported Consultancy to develop a Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework and Plan for Vision 2030 Jamaica that integrates the SDGs, is expected to be advanced. In addition, the Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat, PIOJ and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), Jamaica's National Statistical Office (NSO) are anticipated to partner in strengthening the Vision 2030 Jamaica National Outcome Indicator Framework and in integrating the SDG Indicators.

The “Advancing the SDGs through Vision 2030 Jamaica” project funded by the UNDP is slated to conclude its activities with the establishment of an online monitoring platform that will strengthen access to data to facilitate reporting on the NDP and the SDGs, as well as facilitate the objectives of the results-based budgeting framework.

Strengthening Jamaica’s response to climate change impacts through updating of the policy framework is slated for completion in the upcoming period. This includes the advancement of the Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Policy in keeping with the Sendai

Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and updating the State of the Jamaican Climate Report.

The second Statistical Report on the SDGs is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2021, whilst efforts continue toward the creation of a coordinated national statistics system, and supportive capacity-building programme.

### *Acceleration*

The Roadmap for SDG Implementation in Jamaica recognizes that not all goals of the Agenda can be pursued equally and in tandem, and therefore requires strategic approaches to implement policies that have multiplier effects across several goals. The accelerators identified and documented in the Roadmap are aligned to the four goals of Vision 2030 Jamaica.

In September 2019, at the UN General Assembly, during the launch of the decade of action and delivery, countries registered accelerators that were being pursued. Jamaica, in keeping with the priorities of the MTF, registered accelerators in the areas of health promotion, social protection provision, access to education, access to justice services, national statistics, support to the MSME sector and trade, financial inclusion, strengthening economic linkages and disaster risk reduction.

Accelerators initially identified in the Roadmap are to be further evaluated and developed to fast-track progress at a required rate within the targeted timeframe.

### *Participation*

The implementation of the SDGs requires all sectors of society to participate fully and meaningfully. The deliberate alignment to and ownership of the development process

and outcomes including shared accountability for results is paramount. The SDGs are based on principles of inclusiveness and leaving no one behind, which require both provision of the means by which meaningful participation in the economic and social spheres are facilitated, as well as personal responsibility expressed through uptake in existing programmes, and participation in community development and advocacy, enabled through knowledge, awareness and access.

### *Recovery*

The COVID–19 pandemic has presented peculiar challenges, as the health crisis has threatened slippages in key development areas, owing to the containment measures employed. Economic decline, job loss and learning loss are among the challenges presented by the pandemic, both locally and globally. Efforts at recovery are anticipated to continue within the framework of sustainable development, promoting greener, bluer, more resilient and innovative solutions to recovery. Jamaica’s recovery strategy is closely aligned with Vision 2030 Jamaica and the sustainable development goals, demonstrating the country’s prioritization of sustainable recovery.

# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1- Jamaica's Performance on the Global SDGs Index and Dashboard

### JAMAICA

Latin America and the Caribbean

#### OVERALL PERFORMANCE

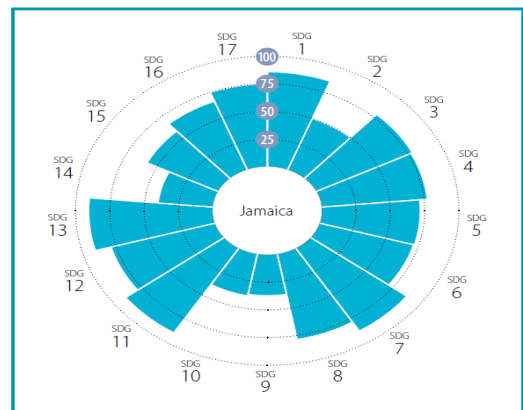
Index score



Regional average score



SDG Global rank 84 (OF 166)



#### AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BY SDG

#### SPILOVER INDEX

100 (best) to 0 (worst)



#### CURRENT ASSESSMENT – SDG DASHBOARD



■ Major challenges ■ Significant challenges ■ Challenges remain ■ SDG achieved ■ Information unavailable

#### SDG TRENDS



↓ Decreasing → Stagnating ↗ Moderately improving ↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement • Information unavailable

Notes: The full title of Goal 2 "Zero Hunger" is "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture".  
The full title of each SDG is available here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>

Source: Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020. <https://dashboards.sdindex.org/profiles/jam>

## Appendix 2- Performance by Indicator

# JAMAICA

Performance by Indicator

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend	Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend	
<b>SDG1 – No Poverty</b>					<b>SDG9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</b>					
Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90/day (%)	1.0	2020	●	↑	Population using the internet (%)	55.1	2017	●	↑	
Poverty headcount ratio at \$3.20/day (%)	13.7	2020	●	→	Mobile broadband subscriptions (per 100 population)	51.2	2018	●	↓	
<b>SDG2 – Zero Hunger</b>					<b>SDG10 – Reduced Inequalities</b>					
Prevalence of undernourishment (%)	8.0	2017	●	↑	Logistics Performance Index: Quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure (worst 1–5 best)	2.3	2018	●	↓	
Prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years of age (%)	6.2	2014	●	↑	The Times Higher Education Universities Ranking: Average score of top 3 universities (worst 0–100 best)	37.0	2020	●	●	
Prevalence of wasting in children under 5 years of age (%)	3.6	2014	●	↑	Scientific and technical journal articles (per 1,000 population)	0.1	2018	●	→	
Prevalence of obesity, BMI ≥ 30 (% of adult population)	24.7	2016	●	↓	Expenditure on research and development (% of GDP)	0.1	2002	●	●	
Human Tropic Level (best 2–3 worst)	2.3	2017	●	→	<b>SDG11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities</b>					
Cereal yield (tonnes per hectare of harvested land)	1.2	2017	●	→	Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5) (µg/m³)	13.4	2017	●	↗	
Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index (best 0–1.41 worst)	1.1	2015	●	→	Access to improved water source, piped (% of urban population)	93.4	2017	●	→	
<b>SDG3 – Good Health and Well-Being</b>					<b>SDG12 – Responsible Consumption and Production</b>					
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	80	2017	●	→	Municipal solid waste (kg/capita/day)	1.8	2016	●	●	
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	10.2	2018	●	↑	Electronic waste (kg/capita)	5.9	2016	●	●	
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)	14.4	2018	●	↑	Production-based SO <sub>2</sub> emissions (kg/capita)	138.4	2012	●	●	
Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 population)	2.9	2018	●	↑	SO <sub>2</sub> emissions embodied in imports (kg/capita)	3.4	2012	●	●	
New HIV infections (per 1,000 uninfected population)	NA	NA	●	●	Production-based nitrogen emissions (kg/capita)	16.5	2010	●	●	
Age-standardized death rate due to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease in adults aged 30–70 years (%)	14.7	2016	●	↑	Nitrogen emissions embodied in imports (kg/capita)	3.2	2010	●	●	
Age-standardized death rate attributable to household air pollution and ambient air pollution (per 100,000 population)	25	2016	●	●	<b>SDG13 – Climate Action</b>					
Traffic deaths (per 100,000 population)	13.6	2016	●	↓	Energy-related CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> /capita)	2.5	2017	●	→	
Life expectancy at birth (years)	76.0	2016	●	↗	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions embodied in imports (tCO <sub>2</sub> /capita)	0.6	2015	●	→	
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 adolescent females aged 15 to 19)	52.8	2017	●	↗	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions embodied in fossil fuel exports (kg/capita)	0.0	2017	●	●	
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	99.1	2011	●	●	<b>SDG14 – Life Below Water</b>					
Percentage of surviving infants who received 2 WHO-recommended vaccines (%)	89	2018	●	↓	Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity (%)	30.6	2018	●	→	
Universal health coverage (UHC) index of service coverage (worst 0–100 best)	65.0	2017	●	↗	Ocean Health Index: Clean Waters score (worst 0–100 best)	44.7	2019	●	→	
Subjective well-being (average ladder score, worst 0–10 best)	5.9	2017	●	●	Fish caught from overexploited or collapsed stocks (% of total catch)	74.1	2014	●	↓	
<b>SDG4 – Quality Education</b>					<b>SDG15 – Life on Land</b>					
Net primary enrollment rate (%)	81.0	2018	●	↓	Mean area that is protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity (%)	20.4	2018	●	→	
Lower secondary completion rate (%)	82.4	2018	●	↓	Mean area that is protected in freshwater sites important to biodiversity (%)	NA	NA	●	●	
Literacy rate (% of population aged 15 to 24)	96.3	2014	●	●	Red List Index of species survival (worst 0–1 best)	0.7	2019	●	↓	
<b>SDG5 – Gender Equality</b>					<b>SDG16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</b>					
Demand for family planning satisfied by modern methods (% of females aged 15 to 49 who are married or in unions)	79.2	2009	●	↑	Homicides (per 100,000 population)	57.0	2017	●	↓	
Ratio of female-to-male mean years of education received (%)	105.3	2018	●	↑	Unsented detainees (% of prison population)	29.3	2018	●	↑	
Ratio of female-to-male labor force participation rate (%)	82.0	2019	●	↑	Percentage of population who feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where they live (%)	62.1	2017	●	●	
Seats held by women in national parliament (%)	17.5	2020	●	↗	Property Rights (worst 1–7 best)	4.4	2019	●	●	
<b>SDG6 – Clean Water and Sanitation</b>					<b>SDG17 – Partnerships for the Goals</b>					
Population using at least basic drinking water services (%)	90.6	2017	●	→	Government spending on health and education (% of GDP)	9.0	2016	●	↓	
Population using at least basic sanitation services (%)	87.3	2017	●	→	For high-income and all OECD DAC countries: International concessional public finance, including official development assistance (% of GNI)	NA	NA	●	●	
Freshwater withdrawal (% of available freshwater resources)	26.9	2015	●	●	Other countries: Government revenue excluding grants (% of GDP)	29.3	2017	●	↑	
Anthropogenic wastewater that receives treatment (%)	3.0	2018	●	●	Corporate Tax Haven Score (best 0–100 worst)	*	0.0	2019	●	●
Scarce water consumption embodied in imports (m <sup>3</sup> /capita)	3.7	2013	●	↑	<b>SDG7 – Affordable and Clean Energy</b>					
<b>SDG7 – Affordable and Clean Energy</b>					<b>SDG8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth</b>					
Population with access to electricity (%)	99.5	2017	●	↑	Adjusted GDP growth (%)	-3.5	2018	●	●	
Population with access to clean fuels and technology for cooking (%)	90.5	2016	●	↑	Victims of modern slavery (per 1,000 population)	2.6	2018	●	●	
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from fuel combustion for electricity and heating per total electricity output (MtCO <sub>2</sub> /TWh)	1.7	2017	●	↗	Adults with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider (% of population aged 15 or over)	78.5	2014	●	●	
<b>SDG8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth</b>					<b>SDG9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</b>					
Unemployment rate (% of total labor force)	8.0	2019	●	↑	Population using the internet (%)	55.1	2017	●	↑	
Fatal work-related accidents embodied in imports (per 100,000 population)	0.2	2010	●	↑	Mobile broadband subscriptions (per 100 population)	51.2	2018	●	↓	

\* Imputed data point

Source: Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020. <https://dashboards.sdindex.org/profiles/jam>

## Appendix 3- Spill-over Index Score

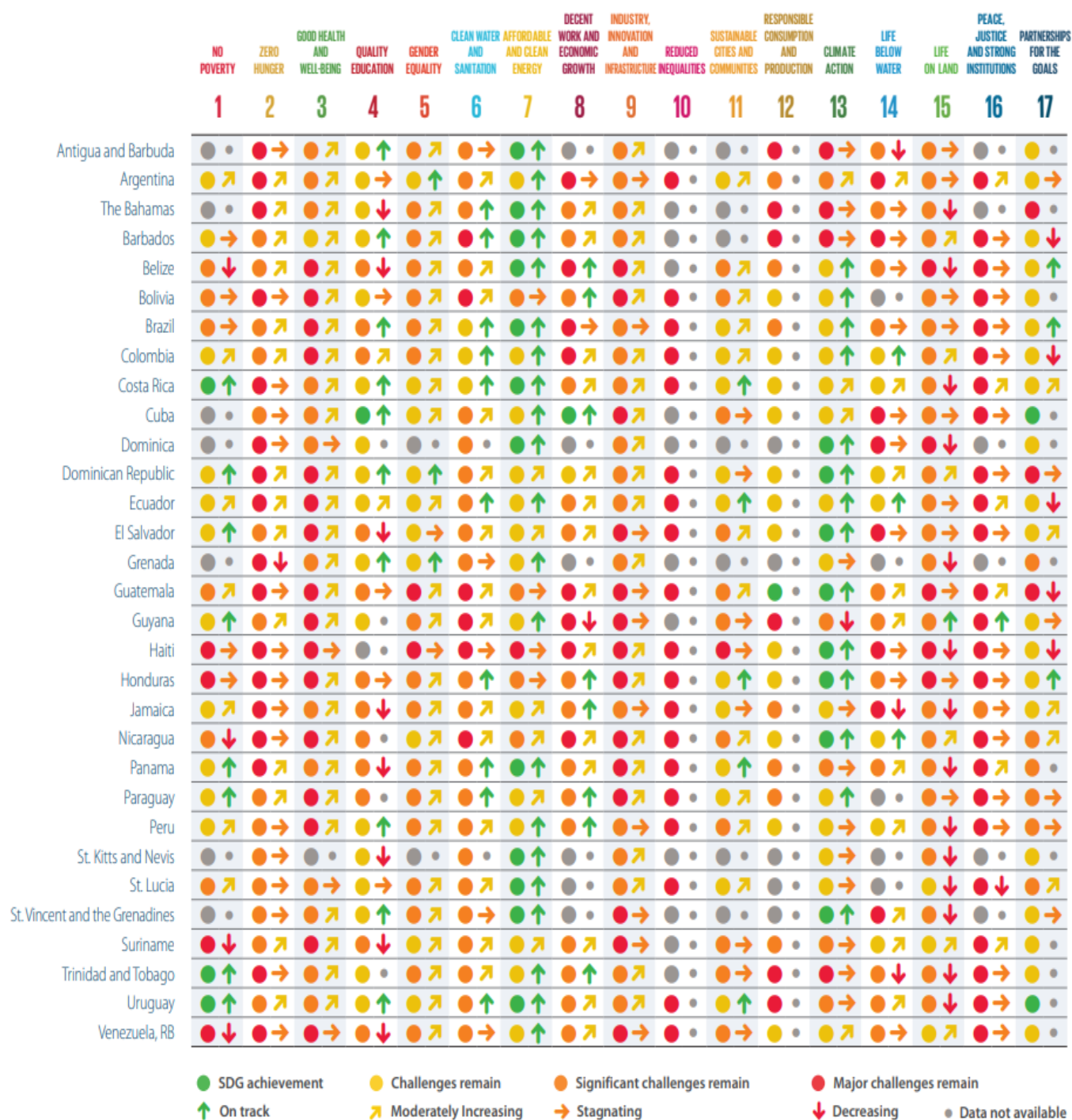
Country	Spillover Index Score	Spillover Index Rank	SDG Index Rank
Comoros	100.0	1	146
Congo, Rep.	97.7	54	135
Costa Rica	89.6	106	35
Côte d'Ivoire	99.5	18	128
Croatia	83.1	113	19
Cuba	97.1	61	55
Cyprus	59.9	150	34
Czech Republic	69.7	129	8
Dem. Rep. Congo	99.4	22	158
Denmark	66.4	141	2
Djibouti	98.2	43	138
Dominican Republic	95.9	72	73
Ecuador	96.8	63	46
Egypt, Arab Rep.	98.5	37	83
El Salvador	92.6	98	77
Estonia	69.4	130	10
Eswatini	82.9	114	144
Ethiopia	99.7	9	136
Fiji	92.4	99	74
Finland	66.6	140	3
France	51.1	158	4
Gabon	93.0	95	111
The Gambia	97.9	52	129
Georgia	90.8	102	58
Germany	57.0	153	5
Ghana	97.4	59	100
Greece	69.4	131	43
Guatemala	97.0	62	120
Guinea	99.5	17	150
Guyana	22.2	165	124
Haiti	99.6	13	154
Honduras	96.0	71	105
Hungary	77.1	124	29
Iceland	60.3	148	26
India	98.8	36	117
Indonesia	97.6	56	101
Iran, Islamic Rep.	95.5	74	59
Iraq	98.3	40	113
Ireland	57.8	152	14
Israel	66.7	138	40
Italy	69.0	132	30
Jamaica	92.9	96	84

Source: Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020. <https://dashboards.sdindex.org/profiles/jam>



## Appendix 4- Performance by the LAC region

2020 SDG dashboards (levels and trends) for Latin America and the Caribbean



Source: Authors' analysis

Source: Sustainable Development Report 2020, Cambridge University Press, June 2020



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