

MAKING MIGRATION WORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT JAMAICA

2011-2023

An estimated 1.3 million Jamaicans reside abroad – at least 36 per cent of the population. Many Jamaicans return home each year, which accelerated because of COVID-19 border closures. Ensuring safe migration back to and from Jamaica is a priority for the wellbeing of all residents. High emigration and the large Jamaican diaspora therefore pose both development challenges – from brain drain to ethical recruitment – and development opportunities – from circular migration to exchanging knowledge, skills and remittances.

The **M4SD Programme** has been a transformational programme for Jamaica. Jamaica was part of all three phases. Without the programme, migration would not have been mainstreamed into policy and development work as quickly or as seamlessly. Migration has been prioritized and mentioned in medium-term planning processes. Human mobility is now talked about in the context of development - social, environmental and economic. During the development of a joint Caribbean Strategy, Jamaica also shared their policy experiences to support other countries align migration to national development planning.

POLICY COHERENCE

National

SDGs impacted

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
Indicator 10.7.2
Countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
Target 17.14
Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

National International Migration and Development Policy and Action Plan

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| Extended migration profiling in 2010 and 2018 (MP) | Facilitated creation and growth of a national governance mechanism for migration, the National Working Group on International Migration and Development (NWGIMD) | Strengthened institutional capacities to support implementation |
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National Diaspora Policy and Action Plan

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| Technical and capacity support to develop policy and action plans; facilitated policy implementation through resource mobilization | Trained national stakeholders to engage diaspora for sustainable development |
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Vision 2030 Jamaica (National Development Plan) - Medium Term Framework (MTF)

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| Migration mainstreamed into policy's monitoring mechanism and Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Frameworks (2012-2015, 2015-2018 and 2021-2024) | Migration results reflected in SDG National Voluntary Review (2018 and 2021) |
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Disaster Risk Management and Prevention Plans

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| Aid to strengthen carrying capacities of local stakeholders, resource mobilization, communications | Migration included in local sustainable development plans |
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COORDINATION MECHANISMS

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
Target 16.7
Ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SDGs impacted

Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)

NGOs, CBOs and civil society

Private sector

Academia

UN agencies

National Working Group on International Migration and Development (NWGIMD)

Multi-sectoral body; reviews and recommends strategic priorities; manages and coordinates implementation of policy

Community based organizations (CBOs)

Clarendon Parish Development Committee Benevolent Society

Voluntary organization coordinating planning, implementation & monitoring of parish development

Drawn from membership of NWGIMD; each subcommittee is led by primary national MDA focal point for thematic area

4 Sub-Committees on thematic areas

Execute goals, actions and recommendations within 9 thematic areas of policy

National

Local

Representatives of the diaspora living abroad

Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC)

Principal organ of National Diaspora Policy; creates modalities to realize policy's goals

Focal point on migration

Focal point on the SDGs

Focal point for national planning

Planning Institute of Jamaica

Main agency developing policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development. Ensures national planning prioritizes human mobility

PUTTING POLICIES INTO PRACTICE TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY WELLBEING

National

SDGs impacted



Sensitization sessions on trafficking in persons with NWGIMD membership organizations (est. 60 people) to ensure safe human mobility, protect rights and reduce vulnerability

Target 8.7
Eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking

Technical support to private sector and government to reduce remittances costs, facilitate financial inclusion

Target 10.c
Reduce transaction costs of migrant remittances

Assessed data collection methods and tools to collect data used by different government ministries

Target 17.18
Increase availability of data disaggregated by migratory status, etc.

Standardized predeparture messaging and procurement of ICT tools to better inform migrants before departure (with Ministry of Labour and Social Security)

Virtual ICT platform created to facilitate diaspora engagement

Local

Island-wide

Worked with the Ministry of National Security and other local stakeholders to aid with the (re) integration of forced returnees

2,000 circular migrants received pre-departure orientation
550 returning migrants provided with care packages to support reintegration; assistance with birth certificates (with National Civil Registration Office)

Kellits and May Pen, Clarendon

Strengthened capacity of local governance groups to manage migration at community level
Aided establishment of Kellits Women in Action Group, a CBO of women-headed households whose livelihoods were adversely impacted by migration

80+ returning migrants received livelihoods and entrepreneurship support, farming kits and week wackers
Connected families to national social security systems



Target 16.9
Provide universal legal identity

SDGs impacted



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

MAKING A REAL AND MEASURABLE IMPACT IN COMMUNITIES OF JAMAICA

This fiche has been developed under M4SD, a global programme operating in 11 countries from 2019-2023. The M4SD Programme aims to harness the development benefits and reduce the negative effects of migration for host and home communities, migrants and their family members. It is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The fiche illustrates not only the work of this programme but also the country's overall achievements on migration and sustainable development.

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