



NATIONAL DIASPORA POLICY

GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE

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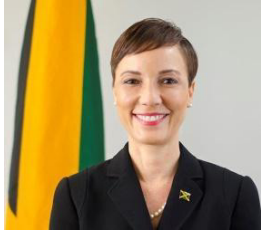
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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CAPRI	-	Caribbean Policy Research Institute
DAD	-	Diaspora Affairs Department
GoJ	-	Government of Jamaica
ICT	-	Information and Communication Technology
IMF	-	International Monetary Fund
IOM	-	International Organisation for Migration
M&E	-	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDAs	-	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MFAFT	-	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
MSME	-	Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
MTF	-	Medium Term Socio-Economic Framework
NDP	-	National Diaspora Policy
NGOs	-	Non-Government Organisations
NPIMD	-	National Policy on International Migration and Development
NWGIMD	-	National Working Group on International Migration and Development
ODA	-	Official Development Assistance
PIOJ	-	Planning Institute of Jamaica
PPP	-	Public-Private Partners
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
STATIN	-	Statistical Institute of Jamaica
UK	-	United Kingdom
USA	-	United States of America



FOREWORD

There is increasing recognition that Diasporas are key actors on the international stage. Given their spheres of influence in their host countries, they often bring tremendous value to their countries of origin. Diasporas also play multiple roles in the socio-economic development of their homelands. They are investors, philanthropists, bridge-builders, Brand Ambassadors, lobbyists, marketers, and of course, consumers.

Given the importance of the role that members of the Diaspora play in Jamaica's development, the Government must implement mutually beneficial mechanisms to strengthen this dynamic relationship. This is particularly important taking into consideration the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This National Diaspora Policy (NDP) therefore provides the institutional framework for engagement with our Jamaican Diaspora. The Policy embodies the commitment of the Government of Jamaica to the nation's development and the Diaspora's well-being. In particular, it addresses issues and concerns of the Diaspora while assisting them to live in harmony and to prosper in the countries where they and their descendants reside. Secondly, it seeks to optimise the Diaspora's contribution to Jamaica's sustainable development. A main thread throughout the Policy is the focus on the people, the places from which they come and currently reside, prosperity agendas, and facilitating peaceful Jamaican communities and trusted partnerships.

The policy development process was led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) in collaboration with members of the Diaspora, including members of the Diaspora Advisory Board¹ and broader members of the overseas Jamaican community, Jamaican Overseas Missions, the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) and members of the National Working Group for International Migration and Development (NWGIMD).

The MFAFT is grateful to the Diaspora and local stakeholders who contributed to the development of this new National Diaspora Policy. It is anticipated that the strategies and expected outcomes of this Policy will maximise the value of the contributions of the Diaspora to Jamaica's national development and simultaneously contribute to the growth and prosperity of the Diaspora.

[Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith](#)
[Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade](#)
[JAMAICA](#)

¹ The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC) established in January 2020 is the successor to the Diaspora Advisory Board

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Preamble

The National Diaspora Policy reflects the commitment of the Government of Jamaica (GoJ) to pursue Diaspora-related strategies and initiatives that are mutually beneficial to national development processes and the well-being of its Diaspora population. The Policy is in alignment with Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan and is a comprehensive framework and guide to harness the power of the Diaspora to ensure that Jamaicans at home and abroad are empowered; the Jamaican society is secure, cohesive and just; the economy is prosperous; and that the health of the natural environment is enhanced.

The GoJ, through the work of its respective Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), will work assiduously to ensure that there is an improvement in the engagement and involvement of Jamaicans in all aspects of national development and that the rights of Jamaicans in the Diaspora are protected and their contributions acknowledged and valued. The GoJ also commits to implementing this Policy to ensure that its Foreign Policy and negotiations consider the issues and challenges being faced by the Diaspora population that may impede the achievement of their fullest potential.

Since the initial drafting of the National Diaspora Policy, the global community has experienced and continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic which has eroded socio-economic advancements, and has claimed the lives and livelihoods of many citizens across the world. Many of those affected are frontline workers who migrated from Jamaica to bolster the healthcare systems of their countries of residence. Despite their own challenges, our “Diasporans” have remained committed to supporting Jamaica and have done so remarkably, through sustained remittances and philanthropic activities.

Indeed, while the pandemic has changed the way GoJ engages the Diaspora, it has not changed the Government’s resolve to strengthen its relationship. Instead, the pandemic has presented new opportunities and modalities for strengthening our engagement, including through the use of digital technology. As the Government continues to navigate the various challenges wrought by the pandemic, it will redouble efforts to maintain and strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation with the Diaspora.

Background and Policy Context

Migration is closely intertwined with the development of countries worldwide. Within this context, Jamaica has implemented a National Policy on International Migration and Development (NPIMD) of which the effective engagement of the Diaspora in national development is an integral component. The continuous implementation of the NPIMD utilises an overarching framework that is reflective of the priorities of the national development agenda. The Diaspora, within the context of the migration and development nexus, is considered to be a positive

consequence of the migratory patterns of Jamaicans and their descendants. The migration and development nexus is based on the premise that migration provides opportunities for broadening a person's freedom while facilitating opportunities for social and economic advancement.

The National Diaspora Policy is undergirded by Jamaica's National Development Plan: Vision 2030, which is closely aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. The elaboration of this National Diaspora Policy is illustrative of the entrenched and cohesive alignment of national policy development with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The GoJ is committed to facilitate an enabling environment for the realisation of the vision, goals, outcomes and actions of the National Diaspora Policy. The GoJ also aims to establish and implement the necessary legislative, policy and governance frameworks required for the successful implementation of the Policy.

Purpose of the National Diaspora Policy (NDP)

The purpose of the NDP is to establish a framework for the coordinated engagement of Jamaica's Diaspora in keeping with the Government's commitment to:

- broad inclusion of the Diaspora in nation-building, recognising the tremendous capacity, interests and resources within the distinct Diaspora groupings and
- promote their interests and well-being in the countries where they reside.

The NDP envisages that by 2030, there will be transformative engagements and partnerships providing an enabling environment for the empowerment of the Jamaican Diaspora to realise their fullest potential and enhance their well-being while optimising contributions to national development.

The NDP anticipates that the strategies and plans to be developed will result in the establishment of robust systems and processes for increased Diaspora engagement. The Policy also serves as the framework for the creation of standards and protocols to facilitate mutually beneficial engagement of the Jamaican Diaspora.

Guiding Principles

There are nine guiding principles that encompass the beliefs and values of the Government of Jamaica and serve to inform its operations in Diaspora matters. The guiding principles are: patriotism, inclusive participation, trusted partnerships, inter-generational engagements, respect for human rights, gender equity, evidence-based approaches, mutuality, and communication. These principles set a framework within which the promotion and protection of Jamaica's interests and that of the Diaspora can be fostered. They provide certainty and

assurance of the importance of the Diaspora to Jamaica's sustainable development path and provide a foundation that underpins the conceptualisation and context of the Policy. The alignment of these principles with the global thrust for credible engagement of the Diaspora in economic, governance and social matters represents Jamaica's commitment to facilitate the achievement of the Diaspora's fullest potential.

Policy Goals

Eight major policy goals have been established for the National Diaspora Policy. These treat with the following priority considerations:

- facilitation of the Diaspora's partnership in national development processes;
- recognition and facilitation of Diaspora institutions and networks;
- facilitation of enabling environments for Diaspora contributions;
- enhancement of service delivery to Jamaican citizens located in the Diaspora;
- promotion of Diaspora research, human capital exchanges, well-being, safety;
- engagement of Diaspora youth;
- development of a functional global network of Jamaicans.

Key Thematic Areas

It is anticipated that with active participation from the Diaspora, Government and interest and stakeholder groups, will enable strategies related to the following key thematic areas, namely:

1. Socio-economic Engagement and Involvement
2. Human Capital Exchanges and Philanthropy
3. Integration and Return
4. Economic Inflows, Investments and Trade
5. Safety and Security
6. Governance
7. Engagement of Diaspora Youth and Young Adults
8. Diaspora Tourism and Cultural Exchanges
9. Legislative and Policy Reform
10. Data and Information

Policy Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

The MFAFT is the lead entity tasked with ensuring the successful implementation of the NDP. The Diaspora Affairs Department (DAD), within the Ministry, will have primary responsibilities for policy implementation and monitoring. Through strengthened capacities, partnerships and the

facilitation of an enabling environment for Diaspora engagement and involvement, the Government will facilitate the implementation of a governance framework to guide the successful execution of the strategies derived from these thematic areas. The strategies will include appropriate, measurable and achievable metrics and targets. A monitoring and evaluation framework will be integrated and aligned with Jamaica's National Policy on International Migration and Development to support the National Diaspora Policy.

In executing this responsibility, the MFAFT will work in collaboration with the Planning Institute of Jamaica, the National Working Group on International Migration and Development (NWGIMD) and the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council, successor to the Diaspora Advisory Board.

Financing

Funding to support the implementation of the National Diaspora Policy will largely be secured through the Government's annual Consolidated Fund and through innovative solutions. For example, through diversified sustained partnerships, the Government will seek to acquire additional funding from international development partners, the private sector and the Diaspora to support specific components of the Policy.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Diaspora refers to groups of people who identify themselves as being from their respective countries of origin, and who often share certain values, and generational and cultural linkages. In the past, the lack of technology and distance often played a role in inhibiting the Diaspora from connecting effectively with their ‘homelands’. More recently, however, and particularly in the past two to three decades, the communications revolution and rapid transformation of transportation has made it much easier for people to migrate and explore international linkages and business opportunities. This has encouraged members of the Diaspora to utilise their cross-cultural skills to suit their own needs, often developing people-to-people links across diverse sectors including business, trade and science.

The Jamaican Diaspora is defined as the collective of long-term emigrants and their descendants, who are currently resident abroad². The Jamaican Diaspora has long been a strategic partner to the Government of Jamaica in its development pursuits. There are renewed efforts to broaden engagement across all MDAs and nationals residing abroad. Jamaica had the third largest stream of migrants travelling to the United States in the 1990s with particularly large numbers of skilled emigrants among the group.³

For the purpose of this Policy, Diasporic engagement and ‘Diaspora and Development’ can be considered as a three-fold issue:

- development of the Diaspora in the host country
- involvement of the Diaspora in homeland development
- partnership and interaction between the Diaspora and institutions in the country of origin

Therefore, Diaspora and Development connotes a host of issues regarding the Diaspora, the home country, the relationship between the two; the relationship between the Diaspora and host country; and the interaction between governments in the home and host countries, including issues relating to rights, citizenship, protections, and governance.

The renewed attention given to Diaspora and Development in the global community since the 2000’s has revived questions regarding the Diaspora’s contribution to national development. Since 2007, the Global Forum for Migration and Development has promoted a growing awareness of the impact of migration and the Diasporas’ contribution through economic, human and social remittances to the countries of origin. The political will to integrate the Diaspora into development planning at the national level has involved concrete efforts, which resulted in the

² Elizabeth Thomas Hope: Migration in Jamaica – A Country Profile 2018

³ Elizabeth Thomas-Hope: Skilled Labour Migration from Developing Countries: study on the Caribbean Region, 2002

need to formulate a policy that will guide strategic actions within a timeframe as envisioned in Vision 2030 Jamaica. Of equal importance are the strategies and initiatives to address the well-being of our Diaspora in their respective locations.

1.2 Policy Context

Jamaica's history and development have been significantly shaped by the forces of migration. Jamaicans migrated in the 19th and early 20th Century to Cuba, Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras among other countries in the region. The significance of the Windrush Generation's post World War II migration to the United Kingdom is widely acknowledged. The paths for migration diversified following the country's independence in 1962 and with the opening up of opportunities for migration and employment in countries such as the United States of America (USA) and Canada. The result of this movement is a large group of Jamaicans and their offspring, who currently reside across the globe.

For the purpose of this Policy, Jamaica's definition of its Diaspora is consistent with that used by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in its World Migration Report 2018. In this publication, Diaspora is defined as "migrants or descendants of migrants, whose identity and sense of belonging have been shaped by their migration experience and background".⁴ This concept covers settled expatriate communities, migrant workers based abroad temporarily and second/third-generation migrants and beyond.

The National Diaspora Policy is undergirded by Jamaica's National Development Plan: Vision 2030, which is closely aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. In recognition of the importance of the migration and development nexus and the role of the migrants as development agents in influencing the national development landscape, the Government of Jamaica believes that it is timely and necessary to establish and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with the Diaspora. The Government has also committed to advocate, serve and respond to the needs of its Diaspora population which is estimated at 3 million.

1.3 Expected Policy Outcomes

The National Diaspora Policy aims to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Increased trust and co-operation between the Diaspora and Jamaica and greater confidence in engaging with Jamaica;
2. Stronger systems and mechanisms for the establishment and extension of investment opportunities and support for businesses operating in the Diasporic economy;

⁴ International Organisation for Migration, World Migration Report, 2018 - Appendix B

3. A more cohesive approach in addressing some of the more pressing challenges faced by the Diaspora at home and in the countries where they reside;
4. Stronger engagement between the Diaspora and Jamaica through improved systems and processes, including communication;
5. Enhanced contribution of the Diaspora in Jamaica's social and economic development;
6. Reduced costs, scaling up and strategic targeting of philanthropic engagement as informed by national and community development plans;
7. Increased role of the Diaspora through Diaspora diplomacy and advocacy;
8. Greater national and cultural affinity to Jamaica; deliberate targeting and increased strategic engagement of second, third and fourth generation Jamaicans in the Diaspora
9. Increased understanding between the Diaspora and Jamaicans at home of the variety of ways in which they may partner for mutual benefit;
10. Reduction in duplication in roles and functions of existing organisations in the Diaspora;
11. Strong engagement with private sector and civil society who serve the Diaspora;
12. Increased communication and coordination between the Diaspora and the Government and Jamaicans at home;
13. Stronger and more empowered Diaspora communities and a more prosperous Jamaica;
14. Engender a greater understanding across MDAs of the Diaspora engagement process and the Diaspora itself.

2. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

2.1 Historic Migration Patterns and Growth of the Diaspora

Jamaica's history and development have been significantly impacted by migration. In the 19th to early 20th century there were discernible waves of migration beginning with Panama and Costa Rica, to build railways and to work in the banana industry respectively, as well as to build the Panama Canal. Additionally, Jamaicans also migrated in lesser numbers to Nicaragua, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and Cuba to work in other development projects such as banana plantations and forestry projects⁵.

Migration Pattern of Jamaicans in the Modern Era - Traditional Destination Countries

During the post-World War II era there was mass migration from Jamaica to the United Kingdom. Five hundred and thirty-six⁶ Jamaicans journeyed on Her Majesty's Ship Empire Windrush and arrived at the Tilbury Docks on 22nd June 1948. They included masons, welders, carpenters, electricians, painters, cabinet makers, clerks and accountants.

Up to 1962, over 82,000⁷ Jamaicans accepted the British Government's invitation to assist with the reconstruction efforts to rebuild the country from the ravages of war. However, given the public outcry and fear displayed by the locals to the increasing number of immigrants, a stringent immigration law, entitled "The Commonwealth Immigrants Act in 1962" was implemented. Its purpose was to stem the flow of migrants entering the UK.

New opportunities for Jamaicans to emigrate emerged with the enactment of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 in the United States of America, as well as the Immigration Appeal Board Act of 1967 in Canada. This opened new doors to Jamaicans and enabled the emigration of tens of thousands in specialised occupational classes.

Factors of Migration 1948 -1971

The main factor that led to the exodus of Jamaicans during the period 1948 -1971 was the search for better economic opportunities. The migrants also believed that their socio-economic status would improve through migration and family reunification. This resulted in the creation of Diaspora communities in the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States of America. The allure of higher incomes and foreign exchange played a decisive role in influencing the direction of Jamaican nationals to these countries over the years.

⁵ Elizabeth Thomas Hope: Migration in Jamaica – A Country Profile 2018

⁶ Arthur Torrington, Chairman Windrush Foundation, UK

⁷ Economic and Social Survey, Planning Institute of Jamaica 1960, 1965

However, since then, the main destination countries such as Canada, the USA and the UK have implemented more stringent immigration policies which have curtailed the numbers of persons who have emigrated to the aforementioned countries.⁸ This is reflected in data from the Planning Institute of Jamaica, as indicated in Figure 1 below. It should be noted that the increase in the numbers of Jamaicans migrating to Canada reflect the introduction of the Express Entry Programme and the Temporary Work Programme introduced by the more liberal Trudeau Administration following its electoral victory in 2015.

Figure 1: Flow of Jamaican Emigrants to the USA, Canada and the UK, 2016-2017

YEAR	USA	CANADA	UK
2016	23,350	3,650	2,313
2017	21,905	3,830	1,652

Source: Social Policy, Planning and Research Division, Planning Institute of Jamaica, September 2019

Migration to Non-Traditional Destination Countries - post 1990

Since the 1990s, there has been a significant increase of Jamaicans migrating to other Caribbean states, Africa, the Middle East, the Far East and Oceania.⁹ The main motivation continues to be the increasing employment opportunities and attractive remuneration especially in critical professional categories such as teaching and nursing. This is also true for the non-traditional areas such as the hospitality sector.

2.2 Size of the Jamaican Diaspora

The Diaspora consists of first-generation Jamaicans and their descendants of up to five generations. The specific size of the Diaspora population is undetermined; however, a working estimate is 3 million¹⁰. Statistics have been compiled from selected countries which reflect that 1.6 million of that number represents the first generation¹¹.

⁸ Appendix 7- Jamaican Emigrants to the USA, UK AND Canada by decade 1970s-2015

⁹ Appendix 2- Jamaican Diaspora Population- Selected countries

¹⁰ Prof. N. Ying, JDI, 2014 – Summary of Size and Geographical Distribution of the Jamaican Diaspora

¹¹ Appendix 2- Jamaican Diaspora Population - Selected Countries

United States of America

The Diaspora population in the USA is estimated at 1,124,120¹². The largest community is located in the metropolitan centres of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. The next largest concentration of “Diasporans” resides in the South East region, mainly in Miami, Orlando and Tampa in Florida; Atlanta, Georgia; and Houston, Texas. There are fewer numbers in the West and Mid-West regions.

Canada

In 2016, the size of the Jamaican Diaspora in Canada stood at 309,485 with the vast majority residing in the Greater Toronto Area including among others Scarborough, North York, Etobicoke, York, Brampton and Mississauga, all of which are located in the Province of Ontario¹³. There are approximately 257,055 residing in the Province of Ontario who cited their ethnicity as being Jamaican. A significant number of Jamaicans also live in other provinces including Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia.

United Kingdom

The size of the UK Diaspora is documented as 143,000¹⁴; however, the figure is estimated as closer to 800,000 and includes individuals born in Jamaica and those of Jamaican descent. The majority of Jamaicans reside in the Greater London Area. They are also well represented in Birmingham, Bristol, Gloucester, Leeds, Manchester, Nottingham, Preston, Sheffield, Wolverhampton, among other areas.

Europe

Based on information provided by Jamaican Missions in Europe, there are over 3,500 Jamaican nationals living in European countries. The majority of these persons are spouses of EU nationals, while there are a number who are working and some who are students. The majority of the European-based Jamaican Diaspora can be found in Germany and in the Netherlands.

The Caribbean

There are significant numbers of Jamaicans in the Caribbean including Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, the Cayman Islands, the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Republic of Cuba, the Republic of Guyana, the Turks and Caicos Islands as well as other territories and constituencies like the British Virgin Islands¹⁵.

¹² 2017 American Community Survey, Estimates

¹³ Statistics Canada 2016 Census

¹⁴ Office of National Statistics, UK Census 2011

¹⁵ Appendix 2 – Jamaican Diaspora Population – Selected Studies

Asia and Australasia

The population size of Jamaicans in Asia and Australasia is approximately 2,394. The largest numbers reside in Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea¹⁶.

Africa

There are Jamaican communities across the African continent in several countries including Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The numbers are, however, yet undetermined but are being researched. The majority appears to reside in West Africa.

Middle East

The Jamaican population in the Middle East is increasing as Jamaicans continue to seek opportunities outside of the country. The vast majority of the Diaspora in the region is located in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with persons also notably located in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait and Qatar. The majority is employed in the education sector. It is estimated that there are over 1,000 Jamaicans living in the Middle East.

2.3 PROFILE OF THE JAMAICAN DIASPORA

The Diaspora comprises Jamaican born emigrants together with subsequent generations of foreign born persons.¹⁷ The Jamaican Diaspora is diverse in composition in terms of age and educational level. The age-profile of first-generation (Jamaica-born) “Diasporans” has been progressively aging in the main destination countries, given the length of time they have remained.¹⁸

There is a large cohort of second, third and fourth generation Jamaicans in the major locations, with new migrants who are youthful and of working ages added each year, maintaining a youthful profile of the Diaspora as a whole.

The Jamaican Diaspora is well-educated given the migration of tertiary students. It must be noted that the number of tertiary educated Jamaican-born emigrants in the countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was recorded at 85,100.¹⁹

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Elizabeth Thomas-Hope, Migration in Jamaica: A Country Profile 2018

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Elizabeth Thomas-Hope “Migration in Jamaica: A country profile 2018”, IOM

The sex ratio composition of the migrants tends to fluctuate. Below age 20, females outnumber males; however, from 20 - 49 years the pattern changes from year to year. After age 49 the females usually outnumber the males.²⁰

Diaspora Philanthropy

Jamaicans abroad have an abiding affinity to Jamaica and in this regard, continue to make significant donations to their communities, as well as to educational and health institutions in the country. According to statistics from the Health for Life and Wellness Foundation of the Ministry of Health, contributions received from the Diaspora and Friends of Jamaica for the period January to December 2017 amounted to USD\$9,129,499.27²¹. The Medical Missions facilitate the provision of free medical services to the underserved populations across Jamaica.

Similarly, the education sector receives significant support from the Diaspora inclusive of alumni associations and other charitable organisations. This support is in the form of scholarships, grants, clothing, food, infrastructure development, educational materials and computers. The total Diaspora contributions made through the National Education Trust (NET) for the financial year 2019/2020 stands at US\$246,261²². There is no available data on the quantum of contributions received from the network of Alumni Associations in the UK, USA and Canada.

Diaspora Organisations

There are large numbers of Jamaican Diaspora organisations in the three major Diaspora locations²³. It is estimated that there are over 250 in the United States, 108 in the United Kingdom and over 100 in Canada.

Figure 2: Jamaican Diaspora Organisations in major Diaspora locations

Diaspora Region	Number of Jamaican Diaspora Organisations
United States of America	256
Canada	65
United Kingdom	108
Total	429

Source: Jamaica's Overseas Mission in the USA, Canada and the UK 2018

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Health for Life and Wellness Foundation 2019

²² National Education Trust 2020

²³ A current comprehensive list is not available and there is no consistency in terms of registered, formal and informal organizations. The numbers are therefore an estimate only.

Diaspora organisations have historically, among other functionalities, been instrumental in remitting philanthropic donations to Jamaica and within the Diaspora through faith based and non-faith based organisations and/or charities or as individuals. These gifts are largely sent to schools, hospitals and clinics, churches and in some cases, to individuals in desperate need.

Needs Served by Diaspora Groups and Associations

An assessment of these groups and associations (Ying et al, 2010, op cit) indicate that they are organised around major need sectors as follows:

- Education and Sport
- Charitable Foundations
- Social Services
- Healthcare
- Business, Investment and Trade

Education and Sport

Educational interest groups in the Diaspora, in particular alumni associations, make significant contributions to a variety of educational institutions in Jamaica. Other groups include Nurses Associations, Religious Affiliations, Private Groups, Teachers Networks and the Diaspora Education Taskforce, all of which provide financial assistance; infrastructure and services to educational institutions in Jamaica; professional skills and best practices; social network for members in the Diaspora locations; professional development workshops for middle and senior management in select educational institutions and support in the recruitment of athletes to attend overseas educational institutions.

Charitable Foundations

These are legal entities for delivering social services and financial support for activities in the Diaspora, as well as in Jamaica.

Social Services

These groups and associations provide a range of social services, namely, counselling, mentoring, and mediation for members and groups primarily in Diaspora locations and to a lesser extent in Jamaica. They include Youth Clubs and Youth Leadership Organisations; Cultural Clubs and Organisations and Faith-based Organisations.

Healthcare

An estimated 300 medical missions visit Jamaica annually from the United States of America, Canada and the UK. They provide a wide range of services free of cost inclusive of general surgery, vision screening, dental, ophthalmology, immunization and pharmaceutical services. The medical teams also donate medical equipment and pharmaceutical supplies and contribute to infrastructure development of hospitals and health centres.

Business, Investment and Trade

There are several Trade Councils based in the metropolitan centres of the USA, particularly in Connecticut, Philadelphia, Florida and Georgia which facilitate business, and trade in goods and services with Jamaica. There is a need to expand these organisations across Diaspora regions to create and develop business networks thereby strengthening linkages and relationships with the Jamaican private sector.

2.4 STRATEGIC VALUE OF THE JAMAICAN DIASPORA

Diaspora as Drivers of Economic Development and Investment

It has been recognised that Jamaican nationals abroad represent a wealth of human capital (skills, knowledge and expertise), social capital (relationships and networks) and financial capital. Vision 2030 Jamaica emphasises the importance of the Diaspora to national development as both participants and beneficiaries. Successive Mid-Term Socio-Economic Frameworks have given strategic focus to strengthening the involvement of the Jamaican Diaspora in national development planning and implementation processes.

In 2016, the Economic Growth Council (EGC), established by the Government of Jamaica, indicated in its publication *Call to Action* that optimising the power of the Jamaican Diaspora was a key element that could assist in driving the country's economic growth agenda. In an effort to facilitate and enable greater interaction between the Diaspora and Jamaica, the EGC proposed several initiatives that are being considered, inclusive of the repurposing of the Jamaican Diaspora Foundation and the Jamaica Diaspora Institute, issuance of a Diaspora Bond, creation of business-to-business networks and the establishment of a One Stop Shop to enable Diaspora investor requests, among others.

Export of Non-traditional Foods and Products

With respect to trade, the Diaspora represents a key market for Jamaica's exports, particularly for nostalgic and non-traditional export foods. The significant Jamaican population residing overseas, particularly in the United Kingdom, the USA and Canada has resulted in increased demand for Jamaican domestic produce, giving rise to a market for local fruits, vegetables,

ground provisions, sauces, condiments, baked products, nostalgic goods, as well as soaps, cosmetics and other goods.

Top agricultural exports to the USA, Canada and the UK, are yams, sweet potatoes, papaya, dasheen, pumpkins, mangoes, breadfruit and callaloo. During the period 2005 and 2013, the major market for agricultural exports was the USA. According to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, in 2019 total (non-traditional food) exports grossed USD\$626,284 compared to USD\$598,502 the previous year. The outlook for non-traditional exports to the three main destination countries remains positive as the demand for indigenous food products gradually increases.

Figure 3: Export trends for non-traditional food exports during the period 2014-2020: (USD 000)

Non Traditional Exports	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Non-Traditional Exports	596,007	436,259	464,660	554,052	598,502	626,284	567,765
Food	146,483	137,412	169,755	181,274	176,494	185,081	207,397
Pumpkins	461	365	245	257	243	318	352
Other Vegetables & Preparations thereof	2,225	2,240	2,488	2,675	2,828	2,840	2,166
Dasheen	1,387	1,024	1,445	1,496	1,875	1,854	1,785
Sweet Potatoes	2,621	2,701	3,066	3,335	3,211	3,813	4,340
Yams	22,141	21,698	25,761	29,496	29,637	30,059	37,363
Papayas	3,777	4,247	4,426	4,386	3,845	1,986	731.2642
Ackee	11,925	14,876	21,077	15,886	15,665	20,219	21,661
Other Fruits & Fruit Preparations	5,620	4,293	5,867	6,122	6,973	5,910	5,470

Source: Statistical Institute of Jamaica, 2021

Diaspora Investments

According to a study conducted by the Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CAPRI), the current value of Diaspora Investment in Jamaica is US\$1.2 billion as at 22nd June 2017.²⁴ The findings of the research on the Economic Value of the Diaspora suggest that there are four principal areas in which the Diaspora invests in Jamaica, namely, investments in banks, real estate, business and the stock exchange. There is growing evidence that the Diaspora also invests in Tourism and Information Technology.

²⁴ Caribbean Policy Research Institute-Economic Value of the Diaspora

The Government of Jamaica has implemented measures to encourage increased investments from non-residents, including the Diaspora. The Income Tax (Amendment Act) 2016 provides tax incentives for companies listed on the Junior Market of the Jamaica Stock Exchange, including exemption from payment of corporate income tax in the first five years of admission to the Junior Market, and tax-free issuance of all dividends while listed. The Income Tax Act, 2009, provides for special tax relief for companies designated Approved Venture Capital Company.

Similarly, the Government has introduced measures in the fiscal year 2019/2020, in an effort to create a more favourable business environment. These include reform of the Stamp Duty; reduction of the Transfer Tax payable on the transfer of real property and financial instruments; and abolition of the Minimum Business Tax.²⁵

With respect to the ease of doing business, the Companies Office of Jamaica has implemented a number of reforms aimed at improving business processes. These include an online business registration platform which allows registration of businesses or companies from anywhere in the world, reducing the timeline for registering a business from six days to 24 hours.

Jamaica is party to a host of bilateral treaties for the avoidance of double taxation²⁶. Jamaica is also a signatory to the Agreement among the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, Profits or Gains and Capital Gains and for the Encouragement of Regional Trade and Investment, 1944.

It is imperative therefore that greater efforts be made to encourage the Diaspora to avail themselves of these measures which have modernised and improved the country's investment and business environment, as part of the wider thrust to promote Jamaica as a destination for investment.

Remittances

It is recognised that the Diaspora contributes to a significant portion of the country's foreign exchange earnings. During the period 2014-2020, remittance inflows to Jamaica averaged US\$2.4 billion annually which represented approximately sixteen percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product. Remittances are crucial to the livelihood of thousands of families in Jamaica²⁷. An average of 75 percent (75%) of the total remittances received in the country originates from

²⁵ Ministry Paper 13/19, Revenue Measures for Financial Year 2019/2020, Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, 7th March 2019

²⁶ Appendix 10 - List of bilateral treaties

²⁷ Appendix 3 – Usage of remittances for frequent remittance recipients

the three locations with the highest concentration of Jamaicans overseas – Canada, UK and the USA²⁸.

In a survey conducted by the Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) in 2010, it was revealed that eighty-five percent (85 %) of remittances received were spent on basic consumption namely; utilities, food and education.²⁹ It was also found that twenty-three percent (23%) depended on remittances for their livelihood. With respect to investment, only six percent were used for that purpose.³⁰

It should be noted that there are non-monetary remittances which have not been captured. These include donations of items in the health and education sectors among others. Additionally, there are also informal remittances which cannot be officially captured and quantified and as such are not represented in the figures above. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that the value of non-monetary and informal remittances is significant.

Diaspora Tourism

The Jamaica Tourist Board has provided data for the period 2015 – 2017 which indicates that the Jamaican Diaspora accounts for approximately 7% of all stopover visitors to the island. It is significant to note that the data is understated with respect to the total Jamaican Diaspora arrivals as those Jamaicans who have acquired a foreign passport and use it to enter the island are considered “*Foreign National Arrivals*”. Therefore, there is an unknown percentage of Jamaicans who live abroad and travel to Jamaica on foreign passports who are not accounted for in the data³¹. There is a need to devise specific programmes targeting the various segments of the Diaspora population, particularly the youth and young adults which will enhance their affinity to Jamaica.

²⁸ Appendix 9 – Total remittance inflows from USA, Canada and UK 2014-2019

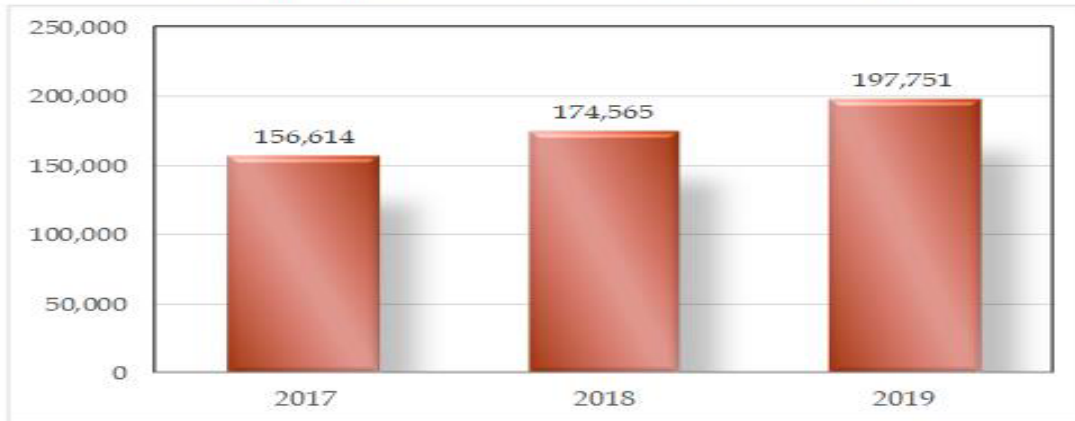
²⁹ E. G. Ramocan, Bank of Jamaica Remittances to Jamaica-Findings from a National Survey of Recipients 2010

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ Jamaica Tourist Board, Research and Market Intelligence Department 2019

Figure 4: Diaspora stop-over arrivals as tourists during the period 2017-2019

Stopover Arrivals to Jamaica			
	2017	2018	2019
Non-Resident Jamaicans	156,614	174,565	197,751
% Share	6.7%	7.1%	7.4%
Total Stopover Arrivals	2,352,915	2,472,727	2,680,920



Source: Jamaica Tourist Board 2020

2.5 DIASPORA CHALLENGES

Host Country Challenges

The Diaspora, especially in the principal destination countries, face wide ranging socio-cultural challenges which impact not only their well-being, but also the sustainability of the Diaspora communities. These challenges are related to the imposition of unfavourable immigration legislation, discrimination and deportation. The Government’s role in the promotion and protection of the well-being and welfare of the Diaspora is dealt with in cross-cutting thematic areas in the Policy.

The Windrush Immigration Crisis in the UK, “Carding” in Canada and the harsher Immigration Legislation in the USA are examples of critical issues which adversely impact the Diaspora’s well-being. These issues are detailed in Appendix 4 Diaspora Challenges.

The above-mentioned challenges demonstrate the need to develop a structured framework which will guide the engagement of the Diaspora in all its dimensions. It is also critical that the necessary resources are secured and provided to ensure the successful implementation of the Policy.

Key Challenges Informing the Thematic Areas of the Policy

The Situational Analysis has identified some of the critical challenges which the Government of Jamaica will consider in the Policy and in elaborating an Action Plan.

These include:

- **Creating an entity** that facilitates human, financial and knowledge transfers. The Economic Growth Council proposed the repurposing of the Jamaican Diaspora Foundation which would facilitate and encourage the Jamaican Diaspora to invest in Jamaica.³² This will optimise the socio-economic engagement and involvement of the Diaspora. The central purpose of the proposed entity would entail connecting Jamaicans in the Diaspora, promoting Brand Jamaica globally and pairing leading entrepreneurs with local businesses and entrepreneurs who are seeking to expand their businesses. This will require a Public-Private Partnership to finance and identify suitably qualified individuals to staff this entity.
- **Streamlining the procedures for philanthropic donations** which continue to be a source of concern to the Diaspora. The GoJ has established special entities to streamline the donations process since 2010³³, in particular, as it relates to the health and education sectors. There remains an information deficit regarding customs clearance and taxation which must be addressed as it impinges on the level of philanthropic activities undertaken by the Diaspora in Jamaica.
- **Establishment of a singular communication network** and platform to disseminate information to the Jamaican Diaspora globally.
- **Enhancing service delivery to Jamaicans worldwide.** There is a recognition that the GoJ needs to provide improved and effective consular services to the Diaspora. Ministries, Departments and Agencies, as well as the private sector will be required to put in place strategies and mechanisms to extend their outreach to Jamaicans and their descendants worldwide. This includes the expansion of services offered online and more effective use of technology, to reflect the technological evolution of a number of Government agencies.
- **Improving data collection and research** on the size, composition, location and experiences of the Jamaican Diaspora which would give a better profile of individuals and communities in their respective locations. Further, the data and research will inform engagement strategies, particularly those geared to enhance the welfare and well-being

³² Economic Growth Council: Call to Action 2016

³³ National Education Trust established in 2010.

Health for Life and Wellness Foundation established in 2015.

Department of Cooperatives and Friendly Societies established in 2013

of the Diaspora, the development of targeted initiatives including those related to trade, investment and the tourism sectors and the development of a civil registry database.

- **Attracting and building the relationship with the younger generation** so that they maintain an affinity with Jamaica. There is a large population of youth and young adults who span the first to fourth generations who represent a key demographic for engagement. Greater emphasis should be placed on developing a range of initiatives to deepen this connection with the younger generation to ensure the sustainability of the Diaspora movement.
- **Reducing the high levels of crime** in Jamaica which impact the Diaspora's confidence to either return to live, undertake short term consultancies or invest in Jamaica.
- **Reducing the transaction cost of remittances**, in addition to promoting financial literacy programmes on the use of remittances.
- **Addressing the lack of portability of social security benefits** for "Diasporans" when they return to Jamaica.

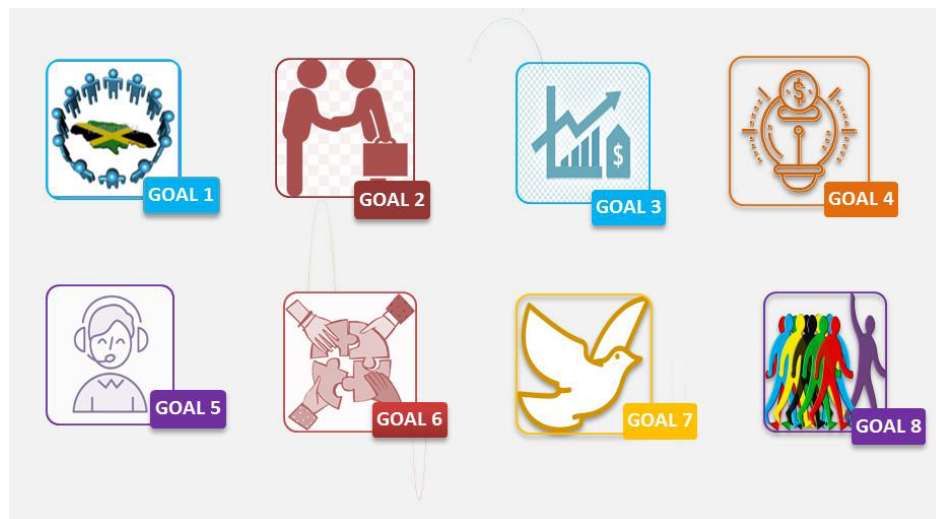
3. THE NATIONAL DIASPORA POLICY

3.1 Vision Statement

Transformative engagements, symbiotic relationships and partnerships with the Jamaican Diaspora and their full integration into national development processes.

3.2 Policy Aim and Goals

The aim of the National Diaspora Policy is to provide a framework for the coordinated engagement of the Diaspora with a view to realising the eight (8) goals of the Policy.



GOAL 1: Increased Diaspora engagement and participation in National Development processes.

GOAL 2: Improved facilitation and recognition of Diaspora institutional mechanisms, networks and partnerships.

GOAL 3: An enabling environment for optimizing Diaspora investment, trade and advocacy.

GOAL 4: Robust systems/processes for research and measurement of Diaspora contributions to development.

GOAL 5: Improved service delivery to Diaspora populations.

GOAL 6: Increased human capital exchanges, and stronger support mechanisms for the return and integration of Diasporans into the local population.

GOAL 7: Well-being and safety of members of Jamaican communities at home and abroad.

GOAL 8: Greater and more targeted engagement of youth and young adults in the Diaspora.

These Policy goals are a universal call to action for strategic partnerships to ensure that the Diaspora is empowered to reach their fullest potential in the countries where they reside; enjoy peace and prosperity; and contribute to the sustainable development of their homeland, Jamaica.

3.3 Guiding Principles

The people-based and service-driven values of the GoJ are based on several broad interconnected philosophies. They are represented in the nine (9) principles set out in the chart below, and inform the Government's operations in Diaspora matters, irrespective of changes in its goals, strategies or operations.

Figure 5: Guiding Principles of the National Diaspora Policy



These guiding principles will foster not only a culture of understanding of the importance of the Diaspora to Jamaica's sustainable development, but also provide a foundation that underpins the conceptualisation and context of the Policy:

- 1. Patriotism** - National identity, pride and cultural affinity with Brand Jamaica are tenets which will be embraced by all Jamaicans and future generations, at home and within the Diaspora.
- 2. Inclusive Participation** - Provide all stakeholders with sustainable opportunities for inclusion, participation and contribution to development dialogue and processes, regardless of sex, age, ability, health, religion, beliefs, political ideology, or socio-economic status.

3. **Trusted Partnerships** - Advocate collaborative efforts that promote trust, confidence and engagement in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Diasporic interventions and relations in host countries and in Jamaica.
4. **Inter-Generational Engagement** - Recognise the value of engagement and involvement of all generations of Jamaicans and their descendants that reside in host countries.
5. **Respect for Human Rights** - Guarantee and affirm an equitable platform that recognises the inherent dignity, inalienable rights and non-discriminatory practices in the delivery of goods and services, access to and utilisation of resources and opportunities, regardless of gender, age or ability.
6. **Gender Equity** - Enable an equitable platform that recognises the inherent dignity, inalienable rights and non-discriminatory practices in the delivery of goods and services, access and utilisation of resources and opportunities, regardless of gender.
7. **Evidence-Based Approach** - Commit to continuous data collection, measurement, monitoring and evaluation regarding Diaspora engagements, interventions and relations.
8. **Mutuality** - Mutually respectful engagement, dialogue, and delivery to serve the interest of Jamaica and its Diaspora and to ensure the needs and rights of the Diaspora are addressed both in Jamaica and their adopted country.
9. **Communication** - Facilitate open, transparent flows of information, data and feedback in a timely manner enabling knowledge sharing and informed decision making.

3.4 Pillars of the Policy

The Five Pillars of the National Diaspora Policy are based on the five areas of critical importance to our Diaspora objectives and are embodied in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 Agenda³⁴. These are: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.

³⁴ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/2030agenda-sdgs.html>

Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 Agenda: A plan of action for people, planet and prosperity

Figure 6: Pillars of the Sustainable Development Goals



The inter-linkages and integrated nature of the National Diaspora Policy are of paramount importance in ensuring that the purpose of the Policy is realised. If, in turn, Jamaica's ambitions across the full extent of the Policy are realised, the lives of all will be profoundly improved as we aim, together with the rest of the world, to ensure that no-one is left behind.

In the context of the National Diaspora Policy, the enabling strategies that will stimulate actions in areas of critical importance will therefore be centered around:

- **People – Jamaicans and their descendants at home and abroad**
Diaspora's contribution to ending poverty and hunger in all their forms and dimensions in Jamaica.
- **Planet – Jamaica**
Protecting Jamaica from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.
- **Prosperity – well-being of Jamaicans and their descendants at home and abroad**
Ensuring that all Jamaicans can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.
- **Peace – Jamaican communities**
Fostering peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

- **Partnerships**

Mobilising the means required to implement this National Diaspora Policy through revitalised global partnerships, including with the Jamaican Diaspora.

3.5 Policy Objectives

The overall objectives of the Policy are:

- 1) To develop and implement strategies that strengthen Diasporic outreach, empowerment, engagement and relations across all stakeholder groupings;
- 2) To provide guidance for the design, implementation and monitoring of initiatives that facilitate Diaspora participation in national development;
- 3) To create and maintain standards and guarantees to enhance the well-being of the Diaspora in host countries;
- 4) To improve inter-sectoral coordinated partnerships that provide mutual benefits and opportunities for investments;
- 5) To strengthen measures for improving service delivery and protection of the Diaspora and their rights;
- 6) To create platforms for the accurate statistical measurement of the Diaspora according to their demographic, spatial and economic value as well as their contributions to development at home and abroad;
- 7) To catalyse the implementation of strategic programmatic interventions that promote and incentivise investment, exchanges and transfers of human, social and economic capital;
- 8) To align legislative provisions with agreed and approved Diasporic reform provisions.

3.6 Policy Thematic Areas and Strategies

It is anticipated that with active participation from the Diaspora, the Government and its partners will enable strategies and processes related to the key thematic areas, as defined by the Diaspora, to be developed. The individual strategies proposed for each thematic area are the means by which the vision, goals and objectives of this Diaspora Policy are expected to be achieved.

Strategies pursued under each thematic area will aid in accomplishing the stated Policy Goals and the synergies among the thematic areas will undoubtedly lead to the realisation of the shared vision for the Jamaican Diaspora.

3.6.1 Thematic Area 1: Socio-Economic Engagement and Involvement

The GoJ understands the importance of engaging its Diaspora and facilitating their participation in national development, inclusive of dialogue and processes. Engagement and participation methods will also facilitate and present avenues for the Diaspora to communicate their concerns, interests, opinions and recommendations on matters concerning their own well-being in countries where they reside, as well as those affecting stakeholders residing in Jamaica.

This thematic area is related to the following specific policy goals:



Goal 1 – Increased Diaspora engagement and participation in National Development processes

Goal 2 – Improved facilitation and recognition of Diaspora institutional mechanisms, networks and partnerships.

Goal 3 – An enabling environment for optimizing Diaspora investment, trade and advocacy.

Strategies

The Government and its partners will:

- a. Assess the feasibility of establishing a Diaspora agency focused on strengthening and sustaining relationships and partnerships in the Diaspora and addressing support needs of the Diaspora.
- b. Implement policies, programmes and projects that support the building of networks and synergies around national priorities.
- c. Promote good governance among Diaspora communities.
- d. Facilitate institutional strengthening programmes and initiatives between home and destination countries for Diaspora engagement.
- e. Increase opportunities for structured dialogue among Diaspora members and Jamaica’s Overseas Missions to discuss matters critical to Diaspora integration.
- f. Increase the use of technology to enable virtual interface between Diaspora and government representatives.
- g. Encourage the establishment of structures to enable active engagement on issues pertaining to the Diaspora’s well-being and welfare.
- h. Increase the number of Consulates-General in specific locations, where feasible.
- i. Engage in bilateral and multilateral agreements on issues of Diasporic importance.

- j. Forge partnerships with governments within traditional and non-traditional destination countries to promote dual citizenship and advocacy for voting rights for the Diaspora in the countries where they reside.

3.6.2 Thematic Area 2: Human Capital Exchanges and Philanthropy

Improved human capital transfers will result from deliberate inclusion of the Diaspora in programmes which encourage virtual or physical participation through cyclical or permanent return of talent and expertise. This type of engagement and exchange serves Jamaicans overseas and their businesses based in the Diaspora while simultaneously supporting Jamaican organisations in their bid to enter and thrive in those markets.

This thematic area is related to the following specific policy goals:



Goal 1 – Increased Diaspora engagement and participation in National Development processes

Goal 2 – Improved facilitation and recognition of Diaspora institutional mechanisms, networks and partnerships.

Goal 4 – Robust systems/processes for research and measurement of Diaspora contributions to development

Goal 5 – Improved service delivery to Diaspora populations.

Strategies

The Government and its partners will:

- a. Develop a database of persons in the Diaspora that can be utilised for opportunities in technical, scientific, and professional arenas, academic, sporting and entrepreneurial exchanges, job placements and consultancies, advocacy, outreach and mobilisation as well as in research and development in Jamaica³⁵.

³⁵ In developing this database, consideration will be given to privacy and the storage of personal information, in light of pertinent data protection legislation in the respective Diaspora jurisdictions

- b. Formulate and promote the visibility of sector and skill-specific groups/knowledge networks within the Diaspora, including lawyers, experts in security, technology, science and innovation among others.
- c. Advertise government consultancies and contracts within the Diaspora.
- d. Strengthen engagement mechanisms with Diaspora partners and practitioners to fill resource and knowledge gaps.
- e. Increase data collection and accounting of charitable donations from the Diaspora.
- f. Increase liaison between charities and philanthropic initiatives in the Diaspora and local planning and development agencies to ensure greater synchrony between donations and the developmental needs of communities and Jamaica at large.
- g. Encourage the Diaspora, through its networking role, to forge partnerships between organisations (public, private and voluntary) in their respective host countries and those at home.

3.6.3 Thematic Area 3: Integration and Return

Recognising that the overall health and wellness of emigrants is impacted by their physical and social surroundings and emotional and mental health, the ability to access supportive information, goods and services is critical for their integration in countries where they reside and their return to Jamaica.

This thematic area is related to the following specific policy goals:



Goal 1 – Increased Diaspora engagement and participation in National Development processes

Goal 2 – Improved facilitation and recognition of Diaspora institutional mechanisms, networks and partnerships.

Goal 5 – Improved service delivery to Diaspora populations.

Goal 6 – Increased human capital exchanges and stronger support mechanisms for the return and integration of “Diasporans” into the local population.

Goal 7 – Well-being and safety of members of Jamaican communities at home and abroad.

including the Federal Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, 2000 of Canada, the European Union General Data Protection Regulation 2016, and Jamaica’s Data Protection Act 2020.

Strategies

The Government and its partners will:

- a. Improve awareness and understanding of emigrant and Diaspora experience.
- b. Facilitate access to statutory and voluntary services in countries where the Diaspora reside for example health and pension benefits.
- c. Support the integration or reintegration of the voluntary and forced returnees, returning residents and vulnerable groups into Jamaican communities.
- d. Reduce logistical channels associated with return to Jamaica.
- e. Develop an emigrant support programme that provides guidance, direction and logistical support for settlement in host countries.
- f. Connect emigrants and Diaspora to local community based organisations that are linked to social development processes.
- g. Address ongoing social issues, including child protection and support, the need for increased opportunities for youths, women and excluded groups such as the disabled.
- h. Create enabling environment for the appropriate MDAs to respond to and take responsibility for the respective strategic objectives.

3.6.4 Thematic Area 4: Economic Inflows, Investments and Trade

A large Diaspora population in global markets, with a strong appetite and affinity for Jamaican culture, products and services is a valuable and growing market for Jamaican businesses and entrepreneurs. Diaspora capital markets can contribute significantly to national development by mobilising savings for investments and providing long-term alternatives to facilitate wealth creation.

In keeping with the thrust of the Policy, the Diaspora will be a significant facilitator of international trade and investment and a key player in promoting and monetising Brand Jamaica.

This thematic area is related to the following specific policy goals:



Goal 1 – Increased Diaspora engagement and participation in National Development processes

Goal 2 – Improved facilitation and recognition of Diaspora institutional mechanisms, networks and partnerships.

Goal 3 – An enabling environment for optimizing Diaspora investment trade and advocacy.

Goal 6 – Increased human capital exchanges and stronger support mechanisms for the return and integration of “Diasporans” into the local population.

Strategies:

Given the critical nature of the relationship and linkages of economic remittances, investments and trade to Jamaica’s sustainable development, the Government and its partners will:

- a. Create an enabling environment to attract Diaspora investments to foster entrepreneurship, business development, innovation, and direct investment (including Diaspora bonds, financial and money market instruments) for priority sectors of the economy by eliminating unnecessary red tape, providing tax breaks and other incentives.
- b. Develop a formalised approach for Diasporic trade with focus on fresh and processed foods in collaboration with the manufacturing and export sectors.
- c. Develop an awareness campaign to apprise the Diaspora of trade issues of concern to Jamaica arising from their markets to secure their support and involvement in advancing Jamaica’s interests.
- d. Partner with private entities to facilitate research, dialogue, development and implementation for the safe and efficient transmission of remittances and promote financial literacy for senders and recipients of transfers.
- e. Launch an education and public awareness campaign on the various uses of remittances and promote financial literacy for migrants and recipients to enhance the management and development impact of remittances.
- f. Mobilise remittances for investments and for national development purposes.
- g. Support the use of technology, for example mobile wallets to facilitate financial transactions for the unbanked sector of the Diaspora.
- h. Expand and strengthen existing transfer monitoring systems for remittances (inclusive of baseline, monitoring, impact evaluation) to estimate the overall impact of flows (to and from Jamaica) on national development.
- i. Promote greater compliance and competition within the remittance transfer markets to facilitate further reduction in remittance charges and greater benefits to migrants and migrant households.
- j. Re-evaluate regulatory framework for the remittance industry.

3.6.5 Thematic Area 5: Safety and Security

The Government of Jamaica recognises the impact of crime on its citizens at home and in the Diaspora, as well as its impact on the economy. It will continue to investigate and support measures for addressing this issue, through partnerships with the host country, the Diaspora, the international development community and Jamaicans at home. The Government will also undertake awareness-raising initiatives, including public education and advocacy aimed at empowering the Diaspora and those at home towards regularising immigration status and reducing the risks for deviance and criminality.

The above-mentioned thematic area is related to the following specific policy goals:



Goal 1 – Increased Diaspora engagement and participation in National Development processes

Goal 2 – Improved facilitation and recognition of Diaspora institutional mechanisms, networks and partnerships.

Goal 4 – Robust systems/processes for research and measurement of Diaspora contributions to development

Goal 5 – Improved service delivery to Diaspora populations.

Goal 7 – Well-being and safety of members of Jamaican communities at home and abroad.

Goal 8 – Greater and more targeted engagement of youth and young adults

Strategies:

The Government and its partners will:

- a. Heighten its engagement with its international partners, to address transnational criminal activity.
- b. Improve communication and exchange across relevant Ministries, as well as with international development partners in addressing issues of transnational crime.
- c. Strengthen linkages at the local government level to enhance the contributions of the Diaspora in local sustainable planning processes.
- d. Enhance safety and security measures through the strengthening of immigration policies.
- e. Forge bilateral agreements which are geared at preventing clandestine migration, human trafficking and labour exploitation of Diaspora members with irregular migrant status.
- f. Implement policies that support the regularisation of Diaspora members' immigration status.

- g. Provide strategies for the exchange of information across relevant Ministries, inter-state agencies as well as International Development Partners to address transnational criminal activities.
- h. Support crime prevention and reduction initiatives established by members of the Diaspora through partnership with key professionals such as lawyers, counsellors, alternative dispute resolution specialists.
- i. Establish public education programmes on security issues to assist members of the Diaspora with their resettlement and reintegration in Jamaica.
- j. Strengthen the linkages across MDAs to facilitate Diaspora contribution at the national and sub national levels.
- k. Utilise sport as a strategy to strengthen relationships and improve safety and security both in the Diaspora and locally.
- l. Encourage international partners to adhere to treaties and other agreements that will protect members of the Diaspora.

3.6.6 Thematic Area 6: Governance

Governance, advocacy and policy coherence are indispensable agents to the integration of reciprocal Diaspora relations. Transparent, accountable and participatory governance structures allow for the promotion of increased development benefits and will assist the Diaspora to fulfill its fullest potential in host countries. Transparency and accountability in governance are critical ingredients to enable policy coherence and the facilitation of advocacy.

The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council was established in January 2020 and is the successor to the Jamaica Diaspora Advisory Board. This body also represents a key mechanism for Diaspora engagement and part of the governance structure in the Diaspora. The GJDC can also be a powerful tool for advocacy. It is to be noted that the main function of the Council is advisory but it will be useful in fulfilling other roles and functions especially with regards to the realisation of the Work Programme and the goals of the Policy.

This thematic area is related to the following specific Policy Goals:



- Goal 1 – Increased Diaspora engagement and participation in National Development processes
- Goal 2 – Improved facilitation and recognition of Diaspora institutional mechanisms, networks and partnerships.
- Goal 4 – Robust systems/processes for research and measurement of Diaspora contributions to development
- Goal 5 – Improved service delivery to Diaspora populations.

Strategies:

Government and its partners will:

- a. Enhance and enable diplomatic and consular representation and reach in host countries to cultivate confidence and trust in governance mechanisms.
- b. Build networks of business, professional and community leaders.
- c. Establish training and capacity building programmes for national and Diaspora institutions.
- d. Facilitate research co-operation between research institutions in the Diaspora and Jamaica.
- e. Support the strengthening of Jamaican associations and charitable foundations.
- f. Devise mechanisms and initiatives to extend its outreach to Jamaicans and their descendants who reside in countries outside of the major Diaspora locations.
- g. Examine legal and technical requirements needed for the participation of the Diaspora in the national democratic process of the countries where they reside.
- h. Support the design of public education campaigns that build awareness among Diaspora members of their rights and responsibilities in the countries where they reside, as well as provide information on policy changes that affect the well-being of the Diaspora.

3.6.7 Thematic Area 7: Engagement of Diaspora Youth and Young Adults

It has become increasingly evident that the engagement of second, third and fourth generation Jamaicans, especially the youth in the Diaspora, is vital for the sustainability of the Diaspora movement. In that regard, the promotion of cultural connectivity and linkages, as well as the creation of a sense of identity are key elements to strengthen the affinity of young “Diasporans” with Jamaica as they are more likely to have less affinity to Jamaica than their parents.

This thematic area is related to the following specific policy goals:



Goal 1 – Increased Diaspora engagement and participation in National Development processes

Goal 2 – Improved facilitation and recognition of Diaspora institutional mechanisms, networks and partnerships.

Goal 6 – Increased human capital exchanges and stronger support mechanisms for the return and integration of “Diasporans” into the local population.

Goal 8 – Greater and more targeted engagement of youth and young adults

Strategies:

The Government and its partners will:

- a. Devise special programmes aimed at connecting youth in the Diaspora with youth in Jamaica.
- b. Promote initiatives to encourage the second, third and fourth generation to become citizens of Jamaica.
- c. Facilitate cultural and educational exchanges aimed at fostering national affinity.
- d. Develop Public-Private Partnerships to allow for mentorship and coaching of youth in the Diaspora.
- e. Facilitate the development of a database of young professionals to leverage their skills and expertise
- f. Develop specific tourism initiatives to attract the younger generation.
- g. Increase the number of festivals and events that promote Jamaica’s cultural heritage.
- h. Use new and emerging social media platforms to engage youth and young adults.
- i. Encourage where possible cultural penetration through academic institutions in the Diaspora including primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. International patty day, reggae month festivals, black history month, among others would be useful.

3.6.8 Thematic Area 8: Diaspora Tourism and Cultural Exchanges

Diaspora tourists are generally more willing to stay in locally owned or smaller accommodations (including with friends and relatives), eat in local restaurants, and buy locally produced goods than other international travelers.

The Diaspora can help open markets for new tourist destinations for Jamaica. As Diaspora tourists travel to less-visited regions to see friends and family or participate in various cultural events, they can promote the creation of new restaurants, attractions, and general services for tourists outside of the major cities. These pioneering tourists might choose to invest in businesses in the region after making connections on their visits.

This thematic area is related to the following specific policy goals:



Goal 1 – Increased Diaspora engagement and participation in National Development processes

Goal 2 – Improved facilitation and recognition of Diaspora institutional mechanisms, networks and partnerships.

Goal 6 – Increased human capital exchanges and stronger support mechanisms for the return and integration of “Diasporans” into the local population.

Goal 8 – Greater and more targeted engagement of youth and young adult

Strategies:

The Government and its partners will:

- a. Create programmes dedicated specifically to Diaspora tourists.
- b. Offer educational, sports and cultural exchange programmes.
- c. Promote and support heritage and sporting events.
- d. Increase linkages among Jamaica's cultural products and tourism industry, including hoteliers and tour operators.
- e. Leverage the skills, expertise and the capital available within the Diaspora to create a strong community-centred tourism product.
- f. Explore and facilitate the development and implementation of incentive programmes geared towards medical, business, sport, entertainment, heritage and eco-tourism.
- g. Improve local capabilities to plan and develop controls and regulations, monitor and track approvals, service customers and enforce planning regulations.
- h. Increase affinity of the Diaspora through sports partnerships with national sporting bodies.
- i. Promote a closer working relationship and collaboration with the Jamaica Tourist Board to design and implement strategies for promotion among Diaspora groups and in Diaspora locations.

3.6.9 Thematic Area 9: Legislative and Policy Review

The participation of the Diaspora in the areas of policy and legislation is to be accomplished through the inclusion, where possible, of a member of the Diaspora with the appropriate area of expertise on policy development committees that would benefit from the input of the Diaspora. In other instances, where policies and legislation are already in existence, efforts should be made, moving forward, to include a member of the Diaspora on the implementation and review committees. The reality is that technology now affords opportunities for the participation of the Diaspora in numerous areas of Jamaican life. As such, participation does not always need to be physical but can be facilitated virtually.

This thematic area is related to the following specific policy goals:



Goal 1 – Increased Diaspora engagement and participation in National Development processes

Goal 2 – Improved facilitation and recognition of Diaspora institutional mechanisms, networks and partnerships.

Goal 6 – Increased human capital exchanges and stronger support mechanisms for the return and integration of “Diasporans” into the local population.

Strategies:

Government and its partners will:

- a. Amend and/ or formulate policies and pieces of legislation that facilitate return migration.
- b. Review the transaction costs for Returning Residents.
- c. Engage the Diaspora through agreed mechanisms.
- d. Review Jamaican Constitution, Nationality Act and other relevant pieces of legislation relating to citizenship rights attached to emigration.
- e. Examine legislative provisions for unconditional landing status for second generation and beyond when holding a non-Jamaican passport.
- f. Mainstream Diaspora participation in the implementation and monitoring of existing policies.

3.6.10 Thematic Area 10: Data and Information

Generally, there is dearth of consistent and reliable information on the Jamaican Diaspora. The lack of data affects the development of policies and strategies and hinders effective engagement. The Government is aware that in order to develop robust policies to inform and support the Diaspora's welfare and well-being, timely, accurate and reliable data³⁶ on size, location, composition and experiences are critical in ensuring engagement, analysis of migratory trends and the development of bilateral agreements on migrants' rights.

Mapping of the Diaspora and developing a methodological framework for estimating the Diaspora composition, experiences, skills and expertise and willingness to participate in areas of national development are some of the critical indicators required for robust planning.

This thematic area is related to the following specific policy goals:



³⁶ Consideration will be given to privacy and the storage of personal information, in light of pertinent data protection legislation in the respective Diaspora jurisdictions including the Federal Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, 2000 of Canada, the European Union General Data Protection Regulation 2016, and Jamaica's Data Protection Act, 2020

Goal 1 – Increased Diaspora engagement and participation in National Development processes

Goal 2 – Improved facilitation and recognition of Diaspora institutional mechanisms, networks and partnerships.

Goal 4 – Robust systems/processes for research and measurement of Diaspora contributions to development

Goal 6 – Increased human capital exchanges and stronger support mechanisms for the return and integration of “Diasporans” into the local population.

Strategies:

The Government and its partners shall:

- a. Create an integrated database with expanded migration indicators and systemically update datasets to meet current development needs.
- b. Promote and market Diaspora mapping in destination countries.
- c. Develop indicators and capture baseline data for the setting of benchmarks on Diaspora engagement and the expected benefits.
- d. Develop robust methodology to capture complex transnational migratory patterns.
- e. Publish annual statistics on Diaspora composition, skills, expertise as well as investment preference to facilitate Diaspora engagement.
- f. Develop a programme for linking websites in the public and private sectors in Jamaica and the Diaspora with vital Diaspora information.

3.7 Leveraging Digital Technology

In keeping with Vision 2030 Jamaica, technology will play a significant role in the economic activities that will be undertaken in collaboration with the Diaspora. With this in mind, digital transformation is an urgent imperative, as organisations and indeed government agencies will need to digitize their process and business models.

Technology is a critical driver of Diaspora engagement and will be a significant feature in the various initiatives and processes emanating from an enhanced partnership with the Diaspora. While it continues to provide a space for interaction between the Diaspora, the various communities and the sectors it is involved with, advancements in technology will improve and further enhance how the relevant stakeholders communicate and are able to work.

This will involve making investments in manufacturing and other business opportunities more accessible. A key feature of which is making doing business easier and removing some of the impediments to doing business for the Diaspora and the various sector partners.

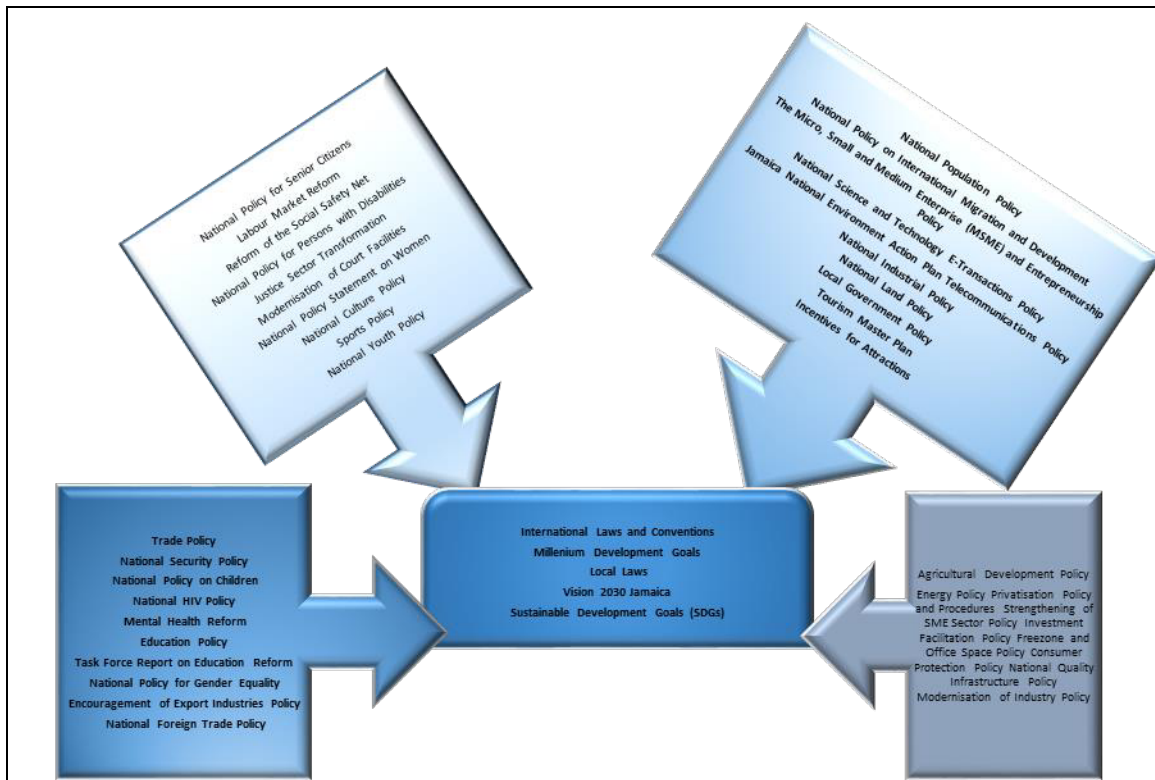
Given the recognition that strategies and mechanisms will need to be put in place to provide improved and effective services from both the GOJ and the private sector, there will need to be an evolution in the technology available and as such there will be a focus by the GOJ to advance the technology currently in place in Jamaica.

4. POLICY COHERENCE

The National Diaspora Policy is consistent with the spirit, thrust and provisions of several national policies, legislation, and strategic documents. The Policy recognises the diverse and complex nature of the interactions required for policy success and underscores the high levels of integration among the stakeholders expected within the society and economy. Coherence is achieved not only through synergies among the policy documents, but also with regard to symbiosis of actions and shared development objectives.

The National Diaspora Policy is aligned with Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan, and the main mechanism for its implementation, the Medium Term Socio-Economic Frameworks (MTFs). It is also aligned with Jamaica’s National Policy on International Migration and Development (NPIMD) and relevant aspects of other related government policies and international and regional agreements which are considered in that document. See Fig 7.

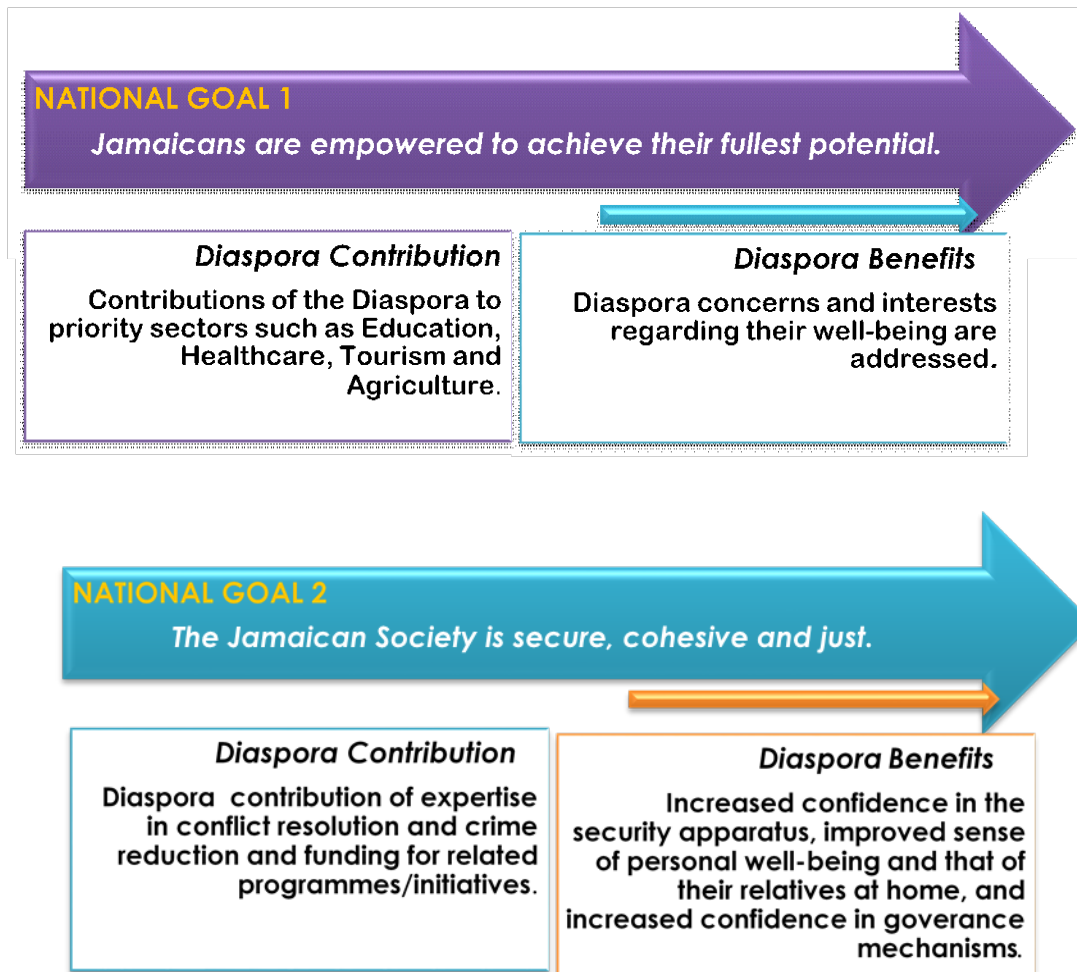
Figure 7: Policy Alignment

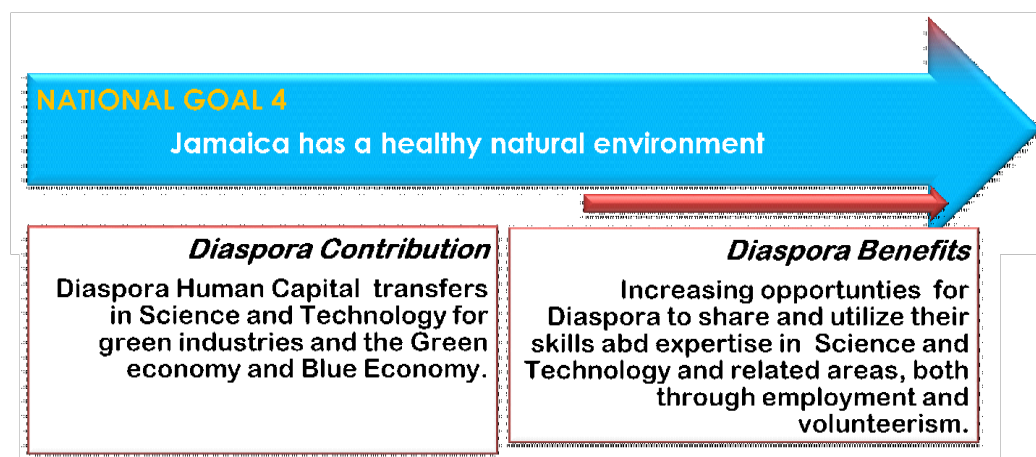
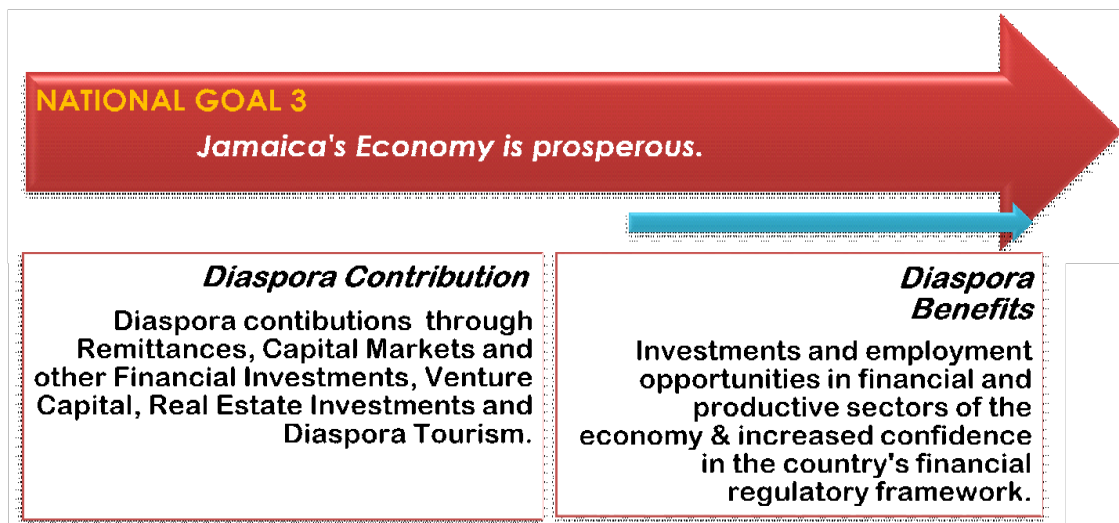


4.1 Vision 2030 Jamaica and the Diaspora

Diaspora engagement and participation is dynamically linked to Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan, in that the Diaspora is a key contributor to achieving its goals as well as beneficiaries of its outcomes. The National Diaspora Policy aims to promote partnerships with the Diaspora that are geared towards achieving the four goals of Vision 2030 Jamaica. The figure below illustrates this.

Figure 8: Vision 2030 Jamaica- National Development Plan and the Diaspora Policy





4.2 Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework 2018-2021 (MTF)

The aim of the Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework 2018-2021 (MTF) is to operationalise Vision 2030 Jamaica by providing medium term priority outcomes, strategies, programmes and targets to be pursued over successive three year periods. The current framework, MTF 2018 – 2021 is the fourth such medium term strategic programme. It is based on the nation’s development aspirations and guiding principles as articulated in Vision 2030 Jamaica and is aligned to Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

From the outset of Jamaica’s MTF, the large Diaspora was noted as one of the country’s main assets. MTF 2018-2021 also specifically recognises the Diaspora as a key resource for its implementation and highlights Diaspora Engagement as one of the strategic areas of focus under **National Outcome # 8 An Enabling Environment** of Jamaica’s National Development Plan: Vision 2030. Specific initiatives and actions which relate directly to the Diaspora are included in the framework under the following sector strategies:

- Strengthen the involvement of the Jamaican Diaspora in national development
- Position migration as a tool for national development and create an enabling environment for the empowerment and protection of migrants.

The MTF also highlights several priority sectors for economic enhancement and competitiveness, including the development of a logistics hub, ICT Parks, tourism, and the creative industries. These sectors are incorporated within the National Diaspora Policy as key areas in which the Diaspora is already engaged to different degrees and in which their involvement can be increased in line with the MTF. Other areas relating to the environment, disaster relief, health and education are also prime areas for Diasporic involvement, particularly given the recognised role of the Diaspora in assisting the country in meeting healthcare, education and training needs.

4.3 The National Policy on International Migration and Development

The National Diaspora Policy is integrally related to Jamaica’s National Policy on International Migration and Development (NPIMD) and therefore is influenced by policies which are linked to the NPIMD.³⁷ The NPIMD notes that even though the Diaspora plays a significant role in Jamaica’s development, particularly through remittances and contributions to health and education, other areas for Diaspora collaboration include business, investments, trade and skills and technological transfers (NPIMD, 2017:26). The National Diaspora Policy seeks to introduce proposals and strategies aimed at focusing on some of these areas.

Jamaica has enacted several laws which are particularly relevant for the Diaspora and their ability to engage with Jamaica. These include the Charitable Organisations (Tax Harmonisation) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2013, which amends various pieces of legislation in an effort to harmonise them under The Charities Act, 2013 — such as the Customs Act and the Income Tax Act – making it easier for the Diaspora to donate and partner with philanthropic and community groups at home, in key areas such as health and education, which have traditionally benefited from significant partnership with the Diaspora. Indeed, this marks a significant commitment by the Jamaican Government to ease the constraints faced by the Diaspora and their local partners in the area of philanthropy.

Key legislation relevant to the Diaspora includes those relating to citizenship, and the resulting rights attached to this status and immigration. These include the Jamaican Constitution and the Jamaican Nationality Act. Of particular import for the involvement of the second and third generations are provisions allowing for a claim of citizenship by descent, for those whose parents or grandparents are/were Jamaican. There is an additional facility for the same group who are holders of non-Jamaican passports, to obtain unconditional landing status.

³⁷ Appendix 5 – Governance & Administration Structure & Relationships for Diaspora Policy Implementation

5. KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND THEIR ROLES

The thrusts and provisions of several national plans, policies, legislations and strategic programmes increasingly recognise the breadth and comprehensive nature of interactions necessary to harness the power of the Diaspora. To achieve this, efforts have to be timely, sequenced and integrated to bring about the desired reciprocal changes, outcomes and impact. Also, the management and facilitation of efforts have to be trusted and timely to ensure that the best interests of the plethora of diverse stakeholders are served.

As it relates specifically to the Tourism and Manufacturing sectors, there will need to be a significant focus on Diaspora engagement to increase the involvement in, and the contribution to, these sectors. This will not only be from the Diaspora's point of view, as both sectors will need to be fully engaged since they will be beneficiaries of any increased investment/contribution. Additionally, both sectors will be asked to contribute to funding the implementation of the Policy given the importance of the Policy to each. The key stakeholders are:

- ✓ Government of Jamaica
- ✓ Diaspora
- ✓ Private Sector
- ✓ Non-Government Organisations and (NGOs) and Civil Society
- ✓ Media
- ✓ International Community and Development Partners

5.1 Government of Jamaica

The Parliament, Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Government acknowledge that their role in Diaspora partnerships is critical and assume responsibilities for same. GoJ defines its roles both as a driver and facilitator of the National Diaspora Policy as it works to: -

- Build and transform capacities to meet the changing needs of the Diaspora in a more timely and meaningful manner;
- Forge and maintain strategic partnerships at the local, national and international levels with interest groups, foreign governments and those with affinity to Jamaica, who wish to serve the needs of persons who have left or need to leave, or want to support Jamaica's growth;
- Recognise the value and worth of Diasporic contributions to homeland and domicile countries;
- Create an enabling environment that reduces the obstacles that hinder effective reciprocal engagement;
- Catalyse the advancement of partnerships;
- Implement a wide range of programmes and activities at the local, national and international levels that build on and develop two-way Diaspora engagement.

5.2 Diaspora

As beneficiaries and partners, the Diaspora will play a crucial role in the development and implementation of the National Diaspora Policy. This involves acting as investors, partners, marketers, networkers, and key collaborators with the Government of Jamaica, businesses and civil society. The Diaspora will also be key sources of information and funders in the monitoring and implementation of this Policy.

The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council, the Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council, Foundations and organisations in the Diaspora, will be linked to and/or made part of the institutional arrangements for Diaspora administration and governance.

Meeting in Conference, regional or otherwise, will remain an integral means of Diaspora consultation and engagement.

5.3 Private Sector

The private sector has historically been a role model in Diasporic engagement and has garnered much experiential knowledge through its years of offering goods and services to the Diaspora. The private sector will offer vital lessons to the Government on engaging with the Diaspora, as well as potentially assist in providing funding for the implementation of this Policy. As the recipient of investments from the Diaspora, the private sector will also play an active role in helping to inform the development of investment options and awareness of opportunities for scaling up and diversifying the uses of remittances among recipients.

The private sector is also well-placed to partner with the Government in its effort to increase the amount of information on the Diaspora including their capacity, location, interests, resources and numbers and aid in the design of more targeted services and assistance.³⁸ As such, Public-Private Partnerships will be a definitive feature of the Policy, with private sector actions complementing those of the GOJ.

³⁸ Consideration will be given to privacy and the storage of personal information, in light of pertinent data protection legislation in the respective Diaspora jurisdictions including the Federal Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, 2000 of Canada, the European Union General Data Protection Regulation 2016, and Jamaica's Data Protection Act 2020.

5.4 Non-Government Organisations and Civil Society Organisations

Non-Government Organisations include: academic institutions, voluntary and community groups, faith-based groups, the media and beneficiaries of the Diaspora's philanthropy. These groups are important in encouraging engagement between the Diaspora and Jamaica, at the national and community levels and also serve as sources of feedback on needs. They also have a role to play in monitoring and evaluating the Policy for effectiveness and identifying areas for improvement.

The role of academic and research institutions is important in providing the avenue for the Diaspora to contribute their human capital and transfer of technology through partnerships and exchanges. Academic institutions will be the source of valuable research and insights in the implementation of this Policy.

5.5 International Community and Development Partners

This group has played a major role in the more recent evolution of engagement between Jamaica and its Diaspora. This has been achieved through the sharing of best-practices, funding and technical assistance. It is expected that this form of engagement and support will continue with the international community acting as a key partner to the Government and people of Jamaica in assisting in the full implementation and review of this Policy, including assistance with funding.

5.6 Media

Digital and social media will play an important role by providing information, raising awareness and educating the public on the achievements of the National Diaspora Policy in a timely manner.

6. FINANCING

The areas for funding for the implementation of the National Diaspora Policy fall under the following major areas:

- a. Strengthening the staffing of the Diaspora Affairs Department in the MFAFT and Jamaica's Overseas Missions.
- b. Staffing or other support for the Diaspora coordinating board or other institutions as relevant.
- c. Technical studies, research and report commissioned by the Diaspora coordinating board.
- d. Enhancement of ICT capacity and operational application to enable more effective communication between the Government and the Diaspora.

6.1 Contributions from the Government

The Government is fully cognizant of the environment in which it currently operates. This is one marked by fiscal constraints and ongoing vulnerability to economic threats, which limit the extent to which the Government can fund the implementation of the strategies under the National Diaspora Policy. As such, efforts will be made to adopt innovative solutions and the approach will be diversified sources of funding. Through the principles of partnership and mutual gain, the Government will adopt a proactive approach to identify financing to support the implementation of the National Diaspora Policy.

6.2 Contributions from the International Community and Development Partners

The International Community and Development Partners play a key role in assisting Jamaica towards the engagement of the Jamaican Diaspora through the development of national policies such as the NPIMD and the NDP. The Government will approach this community for continued support under the National Diaspora Policy. It is recognised that the incentives for further collaboration reside not only in Jamaica but also in the Diaspora. Furthermore, the countries in which the Jamaican Diaspora resides represent a source of assistance. There is also a benefit to be derived by the country of destination. As noted within the NPIMD, financial support need not only be to the Government but also directly to civil society organisations.

6.3 Contributions from the Private Sector

The local private sector has also been an active partner and the GoJ will continue to encourage the development of strategic collaboration between the Diaspora and local businesses for mutual economic gain. The remittance companies will be enlisted to provide financial support for implementation of the Policy.

Additional opportunities exist for funding the various activities and goals under this Policy. As such, the Government will collaborate with the private sector and other relevant public bodies to encourage the use of existing innovations and emerging developments in sourcing and distributing funds for project development at all levels, including national, community, as well as at the individual level. Opportunities for funding will also come from cost recovery from bodies providing services directly to the Diaspora.

6.4 Contributions from the Diaspora

Key partners will be constituents within the Diaspora through their roles as funders, marketers and networkers for Jamaica. The Diaspora has already demonstrated a desire and commitment to assist Jamaica in investment funds and charitable donations. Opportunities for funding will be created through a greater variety of measures and opportunities for investing and charitable giving, including the gift of money, time and skills, and direct engagement in initiatives that complement the activities of the Government.

7. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

An Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation (IM&E) Framework to guide, monitor policy and programme implementation as well as track programme outcomes will be developed. The IM&E will be designed to have coherence with all related policies, particularly the National Policy on International Migration and Development (NPIMD), National Population and Sustainable Development Policy among others as well as the various regulations and practices within MDAs which would impact the Policy.

The IM&E Framework will identify key indicators, targets, deliverables, responsible stakeholders and timelines. It will detail the relevant institutional arrangements for implementation and monitoring as well as the communication format and frequency. The IM&E Framework also includes the baseline measurements and will assist in tracking the progress towards the goals of the Policy.

The IM&E activities will be governed by the National Working Group on International Migration and Development (NWGIMD) of which the Ministry is Co-Chair. The NWGIMD will be responsible for the activities outlined above as well as the conduct of periodic formative evaluation to use achievements, challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt for continuous assessment and improvement of the policy implementation process. The NWGIMD will establish ICT driven reporting systems to generate early-warning indicators on variance from the objectives of the policy. The IM&E will be designed to respond to the organic growth of the policy in line with other relevant policies which will be assessed and monitored by the NWGIMD every second planning cycle which is six years.

In executing the IM&E activities, a Programme of Action will be developed to guide implementation. This activity is expected to be funded by the International Organization for Migration which has already given an indication to that effect. The Programme of Action will be directly linked to the goals, objectives and broad action fields for implementation of the Policy and is critical to the progress of the IM&E as it includes indicators to monitor the progress for each action field with timelines. This will allow for timely interventions or adjustments which may be necessary.

The key bodies that will be involved in the overall policy review will be the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Planning Institute of Jamaica, the Cabinet and the Parliament.

8. APPENDICES

Alignment of Vision 2030 Jamaica with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

GOAL 1: Jamaicans are Empowered to Achieve their Fullest Potential

National Outcomes -Vision 2030 Jamaica	Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)		
A Healthy and Stable Population			
World Class Education and Training			
Effective Social Protection			
Authentic and Transformational Culture	<p>With AGENDA 2030, CULTURE IS VIEWED AS A CROSS CUTTING THEME RELATED TO EDUCATION, SUSTAINABLE CITIES, FOOD SECURITY, THE ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMIC GROWTH, SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS, PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES.</p>		

Source: Vision 2030, 2016

GOAL 2: The Jamaican Society is Secure, Cohesive and Just

National Outcomes -Vision 2030 Jamaica	Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)		
Security and Safety	 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	
Effective Governance	 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	 <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>
Source: Vision 2030, 2016			

GOAL 3: Jamaica’s Economy is Prosperous

National Outcomes -Vision 2030 Jamaica	Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)		
A Stable Macroeconomy	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 		
Enabling Business Environment	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	
Strong Economic Infrastructure	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	
Energy Security and Efficiency	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 
A Technology-Enabled Society	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 		
Internationally Competitive Industry Structures	2 ZERO HUNGER 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 
	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	

GOAL 4: Jamaica has a Healthy Natural Environment

National Outcomes -Vision 2030 Jamaica	Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)		
Sustainable management and use of environmental and natural resources	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 
	15 LIFE ON LAND 		
Hazard risk reduction and adaptation to climate change	13 CLIMATE ACTION 	15 LIFE ON LAND 	
Sustainable urban and rural development	1 NO POVERTY 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 

Source: Vision 2030, 2016

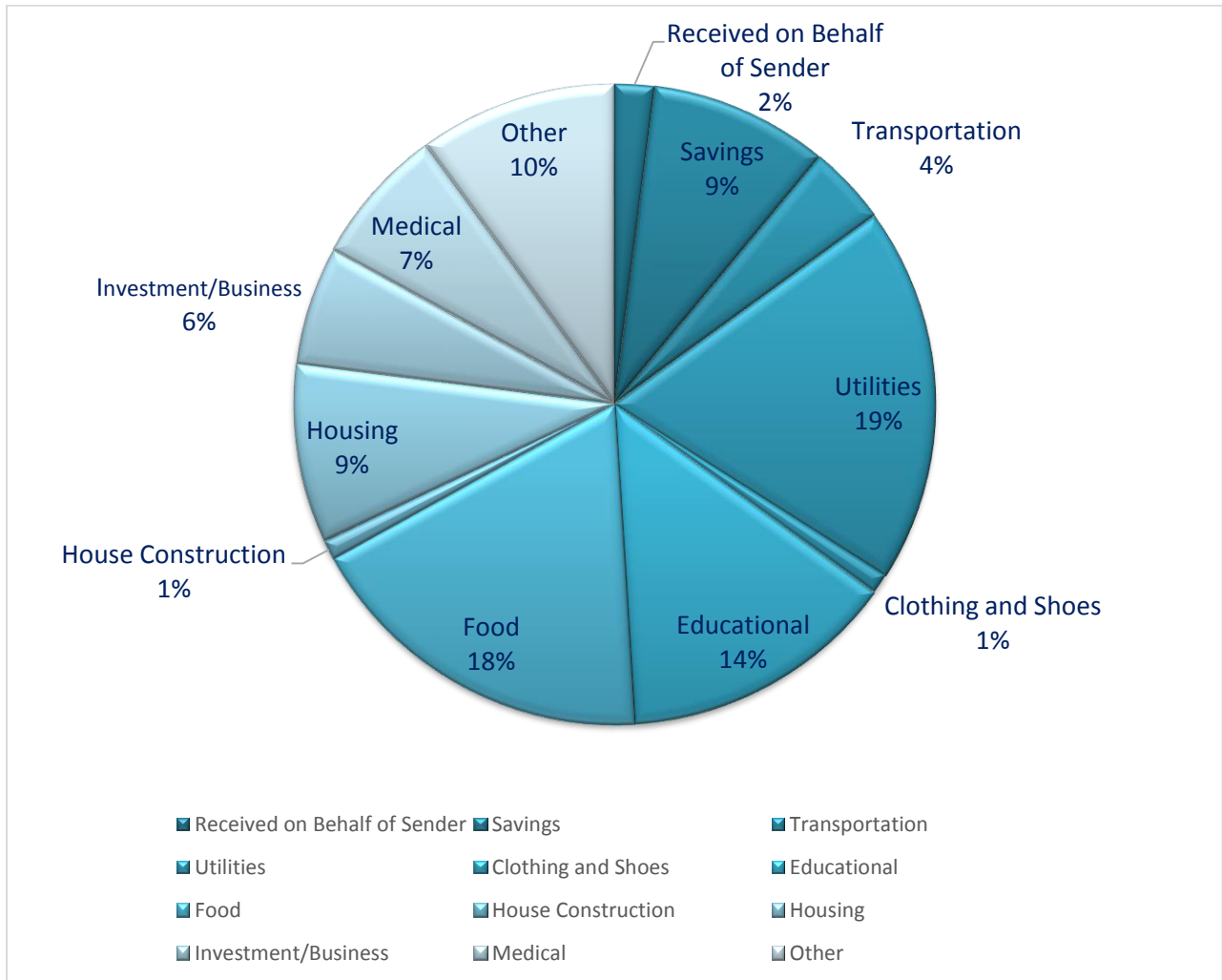
APPENDIX 2

Jamaican Diaspora Population - Selected Countries

COUNTRY	POPULATION	SOURCE
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	16,000	Immigration Department
AUSTRALIA	1,022	Australia Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census
COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS	5,572	Statistical Office, Nassau 2010
BELGIUM	232	Department of Statistics, Belgium 2018
CANADA	309,485	Canada Census, 2016
CAYMAN ISLANDS	17,456	Department of Statistics Cayman Islands 2019
FRANCE	511	Department of Statistics, France 2018
HUNGARY	11	Immigration & Asylum Office Hungary 2018
INDONESIA	3	Embassy of Indonesia, Tokyo 2018
JAPAN	895	Ministry of Justice, Japan May 2020
LUXEMBOURG	13	Department of Statistics, Luxembourg 2018
MALAYSIA	10	Malaysian Embassy, Japan January 2018
NETHERLANDS	1,275	Dept. of Statistics, Netherlands 2018
NEW ZEALAND	387	Statistical Authority, New Zealand 2013 Census
PHILIPPINES	18	Department of Justice, Bureau of Immigration, Philippines 2018
SOUTH KOREA	59	December 2017, Korean Immigration Service
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	8,000	Ministry of National Security T&T (Jamaica High Commission Port of Spain) 2018
UNITED KINGDOM	143,000	Office of National Statistics, UK 2011
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	1,124,120	2017 American Community Survey, 1 year estimates
TOTAL	1,628,069	

Compiled by: Diaspora Affairs Department, Updated 4th May 2020

Usage of Remittances for Frequent Recipients



Source: E. G. Ramocan Remittances to Jamaica, Findings from a National Survey of Remittance Recipients, Remittance Survey 2010 Bank of Jamaica

APPENDIX 4

DIASPORA CHALLENGES

- **Impact of Immigration Legislation in the USA**

Jamaican migrants to the United States continue to be adversely affected by the inability of the US Government to agree on comprehensive immigration reform despite attempts by successive Administrations and policy makers to consider the economic, security and humanitarian concerns which affect the migrant community. Following attempts by the Trump Administration to tighten the US' borders, the Biden Administration will present its Immigration Reform Bill to Congress which proposes among other things:

- An eight-year path to citizenship for millions of people who were living in the United States unlawfully on 1 January 2021. They would be eligible to apply for a green card after five years in temporary status if they pass background checks and pay their taxes, and could then apply for citizenship three years later.
- Allows people with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) protection, a group known as “Dreamers”, who were brought to the United States illegally as children, farmworkers and people with temporary Protected Status to immediately apply for a green card if they meet specific requirements. They would have a three-year path to citizenship.
- Permits certain immigrants who were deported during the Trump Administration and had lived in the United States for three years to return to reunite with family or for other humanitarian reasons.
- Raises annual per-country limits on family-based immigration and eliminates them from employment visas.
- Exempts spouses and children of green card holders from employment-based immigration quotas, expanding the number of green cards available to employment-based immigrants.

The Biden Administration has also signalled its interest in restoring faith in the US Legal Immigration System and promoting integration of new Americans

If successful, there will be multiple ways for undocumented persons to achieve a suitable path to citizenship.

- **Windrush Immigration Crisis in the UK**

In the UK, the Windrush Generation and their descendants have been adversely affected by successive immigration legislative changes culminating in a Bill passed in 2014 that required systematic checks of one's immigration status, including when opening a bank account, securing driving license, renting accommodation and accessing the National Health Service. Thousands lost their jobs, housing, welfare and pension benefits and ultimately their livelihood because they were unable to provide sufficient documentary or other evidence to substantiate their claims to having been long term residents with a right to remain in the UK. The resultant effect was those who could not prove their right to remain in the UK were subjected to removal orders, confined for extended periods in detention centres while seeking legal appeals and indeed scores were deported, some wrongfully.

The Government of Jamaica played a proactive role in advocacy, information sharing, daily monitoring of developments, and provided feedback and updates. The plight of our UK Diaspora was escalated to the highest levels of the UK Government resulting in their apology for the handling of the Windrush Immigration Crisis and thereafter there was an articulation of procedural steps to assist those affected. The Government of Jamaica reaffirmed that every effort should be made to ensure that the injustices experienced by the Windrush Generation victims should be redressed so that they are able to feel a sense of the restoration of the dignity of which they have been robbed.

The matter of compensation for victims remains a priority issue. The UK Government instituted a Windrush Compensation Consultation with the assistance of an Independent Advisor of Caribbean heritage. The Government of Jamaica, for its part, made a submission with respect to the design of the compensation scheme. In April 2019, the UK Government implemented a Windrush Compensation Scheme for those individuals who did not have the right documentation to prove their status in the UK and suffered adverse effects on their lives as a result. Individuals may claim losses related to employment, immigration fees, detention and removal, housing, health, education, driving licenses, banking and impact on normal daily life.

- **Impact of Community Contacts Policy in Canada**

A major challenge of the Diaspora is discrimination especially as it relates to policing. In Canada, the Community Contacts Policy otherwise referred to as "Carding" has significantly affected minority communities over many years. The practice which dates back to 1957 involves the random stopping and questioning of individuals not suspected of any offence or suspicious activity. These checks also involve the supplying of identifying information which is recorded in law enforcement databases.

Over the last several years, street checks have been subject to increasing scrutiny given its disproportionate number of information on minority groups, particularly blacks being recorded in the law enforcement database. Instead of capturing people involved in criminality, it has recorded the identity and personal information of individuals who did not have any criminal

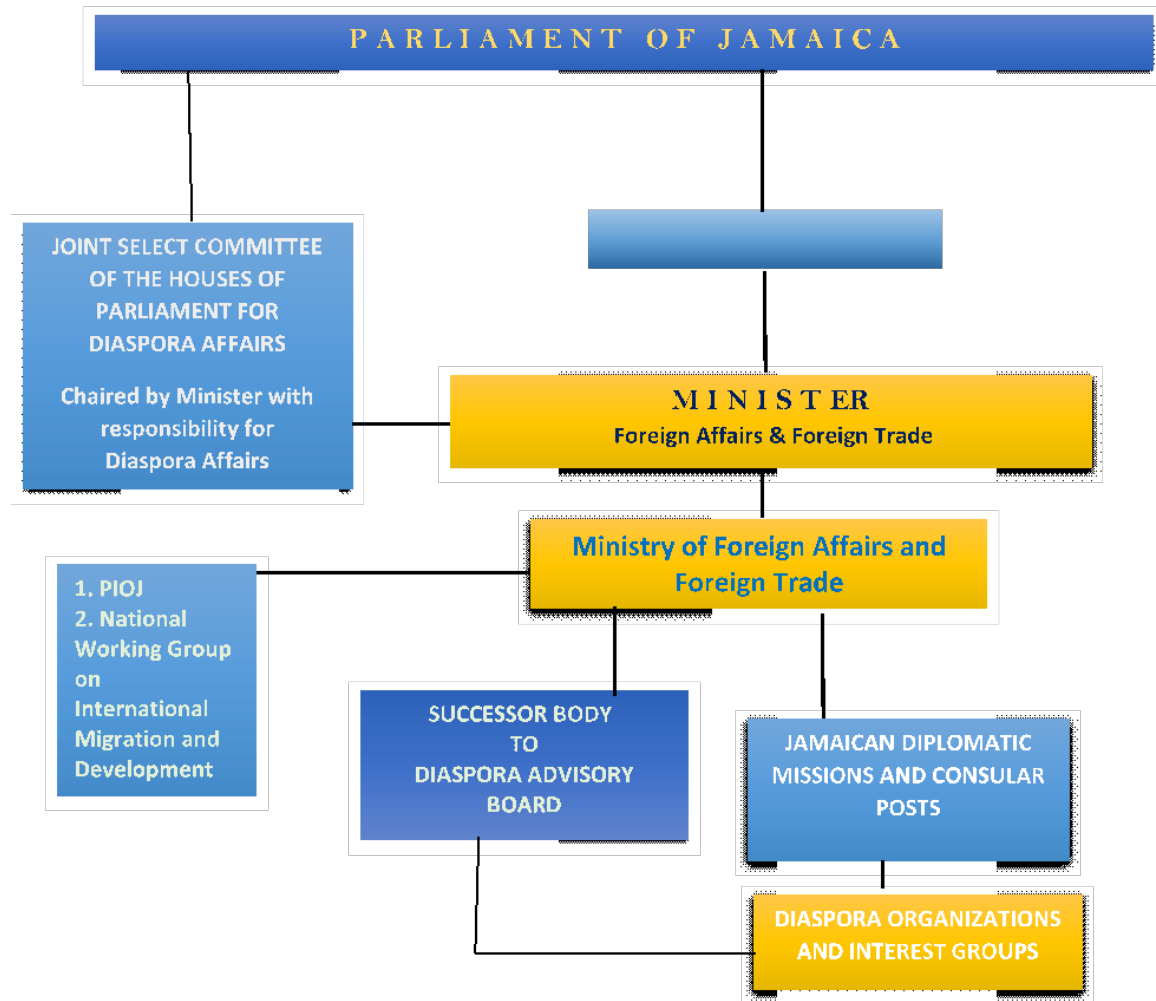
history. There are significant ramifications for the Jamaican Diaspora Community as negative contact with the police erodes trust and confidence, reducing levels of co-operation and support of the law enforcement officials. Additionally, the stigma derived from negative interactions with law enforcement, even while innocent, can potentially impact their immigration status and ability to find work, access social welfare services as well as housing.

In 2017, Canadian Government appointed Justice Michael Tulloch of the Jamaican Diaspora, to conduct an independent review to assess the effectiveness of new regulations, introduced in 2016. The new regulations indicated that individuals should be duly informed by the Police that they would not be required to provide identifying information during street checks.

The findings of the review were presented in the Report of the Independent Street Checks Review, 2018. The Report included wide ranging recommendations inclusive of the methodologies being utilised by the Police; the discontinuation of the random collection of personal information of individuals randomly stopped by the Police; definition of the terms 'identifying information' as well as 'suspicious circumstances'.

APPENDIX 5

Governance & Administration Structure & Relationships for Diaspora Policy Implementation



LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The instruments listed below are selected based on their relevance to the eight thematic areas outlined in the Policy. The references to the listed legislation include their amendments and accompanying Orders and Regulations. The approach is primarily to present a synopsis of the main elements of the laws and related instruments. A critical analysis of the adequacy of these laws pertaining to their linkages to development will be undertaken at a later stage.

Migration Legislation

- **The Jamaica (Constitution) Order in Council 1962** is the highest law in Jamaica and gives force and effects to other laws of the country. It addresses relevant issues such as [a] citizenship; [b] fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals; [c] institutions which are forefront in the political governance of the country; [d] political representation; and [e] the roles of the executive and the judiciary in legal and economic development.
- **The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (Constitutional Amendment) Act (2011)** addresses in total the fundamental rights and freedoms afforded to all Jamaicans (i.e., life, liberty, security of persons, freedom of thought, freedom of expression, opinion, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement, the right to equality before the law, rights of children, right to a passport, etc.). In addition, it also deals with protection of property rights, the right to due process, freedom of religion, and the status of marriage.
- **The Jamaican Nationality Act (1962)** examines the rights, procedures and conditions of accessing Jamaican nationality. The Act examines the [a] retention of nationality; [b] minors; [c] naturalization; [d] conditions regarding deprivation of citizenship; and [e] regulations and offence.
- **The Registration (Birth and Death) Act 1881** outlines the procedures and conditions for the registration of all births and deaths occurring in Jamaica. The Act outlines the roles and functions of the Registrar General and his office in executing this function and the parameters within which he and his office shall operate. The Act establishes the legal framework under which official documentary information regarding births and deaths are kept and stored and also, the mechanism by which official transcripts of said births and deaths can be provided, upon request/application.
- **The Passport Act (1935)** embodies the legal force of this identifying document to be used primarily for the purpose of international travel. It covers [a] document issue and renewal;

[b] validity of passports; [c] power (through the Minister) of representative institutions overseas; [d] appointment of officers; [e] fees; and [f] offences and penalties.

- **The Aliens Act (1946)** examines the [a] retention of nationality; [b] eligibility for admission and restriction on landing; [c] inspection and detention of aliens; [d] supervision and deportation of aliens; and [e] revocation and variation of orders.
- **The Foreign Nationals and Commonwealth Citizens (Employment) Act (1964)** addresses [a] employment controls of foreign nationals; [b] application for and production of work permits; and [c] offences and penalties.
- **The Extradition Act (1991)** deals with [a] extraditable offences; [b] application of provisions to stipulated Commonwealth and foreign states; [c] extradition to and from approved states; [d] proceedings for extradition; and [e] appeals and repeals (for Jamaica).
- **The Immigration Restriction (Commonwealth Citizen) Act (1945)** outlines provisions for [a] general powers of immigration officers; [b] prohibited immigrants; [c] persons deemed not prohibited; [d] certificate of identity upon re-entry; [e] orders for leave and removal; [f] extension of leave to remain; [g] in-transit passengers and crew; [h] visitors; [i] warrants and places of detention; and [j] recovery of expenses.
- **The Emigrants Protection Act (1925)** cover [a] application to leave the island; [b] need to procure a permit to travel; [c] powers of the Minister (country provisions, reparation fees etc.); [d] registration of recruiting agents; [e] obtaining documents by false pretenses; [f] offences for false documents; [g] penalties and the powers of constables; and [h] agreement with foreign country.
- **The Caribbean Community Act (2005)** provides for [a] the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas having force of law in Jamaica; [b] financial provisions; [c] evidence; [d] objectives of the Community; [e] non-discrimination; [f] the organs of the Community and their roles; and [g] Councils for Human and Social Development, and Foreign and Community Relations.
- **The Caribbean Community (Free Movement of Skilled Persons) Act (1997)** incorporates provisions for [a] indefinite and provisional entry of skilled persons; [b] qualification and occupations required for the issue of a qualifying certificate; [c] spouses and dependents; [d] revocation of permission; and [e] offences and penalties.
- **The Caribbean Community (Establishment, Services, Capital and Movement of Community Nationals) Act (2006)** includes [a] the rights of establishment (movement of restrictions, and treatment of monopolies, etc.); [b] provision of services; [c] movement of capital and foreign exchange provisions; [d] safeguard measures, security restrictions; and [e] appeals.

Trade and Investment

- **The Jamaica Promotions Corporation Act (1990)** deals with [a] establishment and functions of the corporation (i.e., trade and industry, export, investment activities in all areas of the Jamaican economy, etc.); [b] financial powers of the organisation; and [c] regulations and exemptions from stamp duties.
- **The Fiscal Incentives (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (2013)** which took effect on January 1, 2014, repealed approximately 10 pieces of legislation under which incentives had previously been granted. While arrangements were made to validate incentives granted prior to that date, no further incentives could be granted. This was in compliance with a structural benchmark under the then current IMF Extended Fund Facility; Incentives repealed included those granted under the Export Industry Encouragement Act; The Hotels (Incentives) Act; The Resort Cottages (Incentives) Act; The Shipping (Incentives) Act; the Industrial Incentives Act and the Industrial Incentives (Factory Construction) Act.

The Ministry of Finance and Public Service has indicated that any modified incentive will be credit-based and will require productive action before a reward is provided.

- **The Charities Act, (2013)** deals with Registered Charitable Organisations (RCO) operating in Jamaica. Charitable Organisations incorporate charitable trust and any institution, whether incorporated or not, which is established for charitable purposes exclusively and is intended to operate for the public benefit only. Under the Act, RCO are entitled to Waivers and Tax Relief from the Customs Act, the General Consumption Act, the Income Tax Act, the Property Tax Act, the Stamp Duty Act and the Transfer Tax Act.
- **The Customs Act (1941) (last amended 2014)** provides for *inter alia* the imposition of customs duties on goods imported and exported from the Island. It also provides for the exemption of import duty in respect of articles imported into Jamaica or taken out of bond, where a charitable organisation has shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the said articles were required for charitable purposes.

Under the Act, the Minister may, upon application by the importer or exporter, remit or refund, in whole or in part, any customs duty whenever he shall deem it expedient so to do and any such remission or refund may be subject to such special conditions as the Minister may see fit to impose.

The Act also provides for duty on goods, which have been re-imported into the island and stipulates cases in which there would be exemptions in respect thereof. Pursuant to the 2014 amendment of the Act, and in respect of Operators of Private Bonded Warehouses, duties will be levied at the rate of duty prevailing at the time the goods are being removed from the warehouse and not at the time the goods are entered for warehousing, which was previously the case. Further, the value of the goods (in Jamaican Currency) is determined by the use of the applicable Exchange Rate at the time the Declaration removing the goods from the Private

Bonded Warehouse, is registered with ASYCUDA World. It is worth noting that the aim of the amendment was to ensure compliance with the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

- **The Transfer Tax Act (1971) (last amended 2019)** imposes a rate of tax on the market value of certain property transferred after the 3rd day of April 1984. The Transfer Tax charged is the rate in existence at the date of the document for inter vivos transactions and the date of death for transfers under an estate. The current amendment will effect an increase in the threshold from \$100,000.00 to \$10,000,000.00 (\$10M). The increase in the threshold is aimed at enabling beneficiaries to utilise the equity in inherited properties to leverage economic opportunities. The rate of tax on inter vivos transactions was last increased from 4% to 5% on April 1, 2013.

The decrease in rate under the 2019/2020 Revenue Measures is aimed at stimulating: (i) greater competition and activity in, and access to credit markets, (ii) greater business and economic activity and (iii) property development, real estate activities and (iv) economic growth and job creation.

Cabinet approved a reduction of the Transfer Tax payable on the transfer of property from 5% to 2 %, effective April 1, 2019. As a result of Cabinet's approval and The Provisional Collection of Tax (Transfer Tax) Order 2019, documents dated April 1, 2019 and later, will benefit from the reduced rate and will be assessed at two percent (2%) of the market value of the property.

As Transfer Tax is charged on the transfer of property, the rate of tax applicable is the rate in existence at the execution date of the instrument. B. The 2% rate of tax will be applied to all affected instruments submitted for assessment on or after April 1 2019 with an execution date of April 1, 2019 or later. C. In accordance with Section 3 of the TT Act, the affected instruments include all of those for the sale or transfer of interests in land, lease of land, shares and some securities such as debentures.

- **The Companies Act (2004) (last amended 2013)** addresses the incorporation of companies and the matters incidental thereto. To this end, it stipulates that one or more persons may form a company by signing and sending articles of incorporation to the Registrar and otherwise complying with the requirements of the Act.

It stipulates the capacities and powers of companies specifically that: a company has the capacity, and, subject to the Act, the rights, powers and privileges of an individual. Further, a company has the capacity to carry on its business, conduct its affairs and exercise its powers in any jurisdiction outside Jamaica to the extent that the laws of Jamaica and of that jurisdiction permit.

It addresses other issues such as: the registration of articles, names of companies, regulation of unlimited companies, membership of companies, private companies, contracts (including

pre-incorporation contracts), share capital and debentures, allotment, prospectus, companies incorporated outside the island, directors and officers.

- **The Settled Land Act (1888) (last amended 1995)** sets out the powers of a tenant for life. Such powers include the power to sell, lease, exchange (under limited circumstances), mortgage, enter into contracts regarding the settled land and the power to execute any deed in relation to the land. The policy behind the Settled Land Act is to make land freely marketable despite the existence of a life interest.

In keeping with the Act, a tenant for life has the right to such property for life, that is, to enjoy the property until death and any contrary intention to be deemed from the Will of a testator is void and cannot be acted upon by the beneficiaries in remainder.

The Act also places a duty on a life tenant, to inspect, maintain and repair the property, having regard to the interests of all the parties entitled under the settlement, and the life tenant is deemed to be in the position and to have the duties and liabilities of a trustee for those parties.

Where a life tenant does anything inconsistent with his or her rights, any person having any estate or interest in the settled land in possession, remainder or reversion would be entitled under the Act to bring an action against the tenant for life. The estate of the tenant for life, after his or death, will be liable to make restitution to the persons entitled for any damages occasioned by such default or act.

- **The Intestates Estates and Property Charges Act (1937) (last amended 1988)** stipulates the distribution of an estate whenever an individual dies intestate that is, without will or with some portion of his property not provided for under a will. It also addresses the administration of intestates' estates in certain cases and charges on property.

Section 12 of the Act mandates that the Administrator General to administer the estate of a deceased person who died intestate leaving behind a minor beneficiary.

- **The Trade Act (1955) (last amended in 2011)** prohibits the importation and exportation of certain goods for persons who did not obtain an import or export licence, as the case may be. It provides the power to control imports, exports, hiring and prices. It provides for the grant of import and export licences.

It grants the Minister, the power to, by order, *inter alia* provide for (a) prohibiting absolutely the importation or exportation of goods or any class or description of goods; (b) prohibiting the importation or exportation of goods or any class or description of goods from or to any country except under the authority of a licence granted by the Minister; (c) regulating the distribution, purchase or sale of goods or any class or description of goods.

The foregoing provision however exempts classes, which have already been provided for by other legislation for example, the Banana Board Act, the Cocoa Industry Board Act and the Sugar Industry Control Act.

- **The Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (2001)** stipulates the objectives of the Community, which are *inter alia*: (a) improved standards of living and work; (b) full employment of labour and other factors of production; (d) expansion of trade and economic relations with third States; (h) enhanced co-ordination of Member States' foreign and [foreign] economic policies; and (i) enhanced functional co-operation, including - (i) more efficient operation of common services and activities for the benefit of its peoples; (ii) accelerated promotion of greater understanding among its peoples and the advancement of their social, cultural and technological development; (iii) intensified activities in areas such as health, education, transportation, telecommunications.

It establishes the Caribbean Court of Justice. To this end, it affirms that the original jurisdiction of the Caribbean Court of Justice is essential for the successful operation of the CSME.

The Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas was signed by Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community on July 5, 2001 at their Twenty Second Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in Nassau, Bahamas.

The Agreement represents a resolve, on the part of the parties, to establish conditions which would facilitate access by their nationals to the collective resources of the Region on a non-discriminatory basis. To this end, the Agreement expressly states that "any discrimination on grounds of nationality only shall be prohibited."

Social Services

- **The National Housing Trust Act (1979)** deals with [a] establishment of the NHT, management and functions; [b] contributions; [c] benefits; [d] rates of interest, administration; and [e] offences and penalties.
- **The National Health Fund Act (2003)** deals with [a] establishment of the Fund; [b] beneficiaries of the Fund; [c] policy directions; [d] fund resources; [e] tax revenue exemptions; [f] specific diseases and specified medical conditions; and [g] penalties for false declarations.
- **The National Insurance Act (1966)** pertains to [a] insured persons and national insurance contributions; [b] descriptions and rates of benefits and contribution conditions; [c] old age

benefits; [d] invalidity benefit; [e] widow and widowers benefit; [f] orphan and special child benefits; [g] funeral grants; [h] maternity benefits; and [i] claims and adjudication.

- **The Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act (1988)** involves [a] application in Jamaica of orders made abroad (registration, confirmation, conversion to Jamaican currency, change of address, transmission of documents, etc.); [b] application abroad of orders made in Jamaica (transmission, variation and revocation of orders made in courts abroad or in Jamaica, provisional orders; [c] admissibility of evidence; [d] appeals; and [e] designation of reciprocating countries.
- **The Registration of Titles Act (1889)** covers [a] procedure in bringing land under the operation of the Act; [b] caveat against registration; [c] registration of land with doubtful title; [d] re-registration by plan; [e] establishment of a register book; [f] provision as to certificates; [g] registration of transfers, leases, mortgages and charges; [h] caveats against dealings with lands; [i] subdivision by lots; [j] execution of instruments; [k] powers of attorney; [l] fees and duties; and [m] offences against the Act.
- **Registration of Titles, Cadastral Mapping and Tenure Clarification (Special Provisions) Act (2005) (last amended 2020)** (hereinafter referred to as the “SPA”) [a] enacted to address the land tenure issues rooted in our culture which adversely impact the registration of land in Jamaica. The Act makes provision for [b] certain approvals, [c] exemptions and [d] waivers as incentives for landowners to register land.

The SPA was recently amended to provide the legislative framework for [e] Systematic Land Registration. Systematic Land Registration is the orderly and methodical registration of parcels of land in a designated area using Adjudication Process.

- **The Land Development Duty Act (1958)** includes [a] the power of the Minister to declare a special development area; [b] duty on capital gains; [c] betterment charges; [d] appeals; and [e] penalties for false statements and offences, etc.

Family

- **The Children (Guardianship and Custody) Act (1957)** involves [a] rights of surviving parents; [b] power of parents to appoint testamentary guardians; [c] power of guardians; [d] power of the courts; and [e] enforcement of orders for payment of money.
- **The Children (Guardianship and Custody) (Amendment) Act (2016)** allowed Jamaica to accede to The Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. It has responded to concerns expressed within the Diaspora and otherwise about the difficulties in recovering children abducted to countries with different legal systems and social structures but which are also party to the said Hague Convention.

- **The Child Care and Protection Act (2004)** focuses on [a] children and protection of children; [b] the Children's Advocate and Child Register; [c] general provisions for care of children; [d] child employment and exposure to health risks such as smoking and drug use; [e] licences for special homes for children; and [f] conditions of detention for children and criminal responsibility of minors.
- **The Children (Adoption of) Act (1958)** entails [a] establishment and functions of the Adoption Board; [b] power to make adoption orders; [c] evidence of consent by parties; [d] intestacies, wills and settlements; [e] jurisdiction and procedures; and [f] appeals and provisions.
- **The Maintenance Act (2005)** includes [a] obligation of spouses during marriage and cohabitation; [b] obligation of parties on termination of cohabitation; [c] obligation of non-minors; and [d] maintenance orders, the power of courts and payments under the Act.
- **The Marriage Act (1897)** pertains to [a] roles and responsibilities of marriage officers; [b] notices under the Foreign Marriage Act; [c] licences and stamp duties; [d] provision for a register; [e] duties of civil registrars and marriage officers; and [f] offences (tampering, falsification of documents, provisions related to punishment, etc.).
- **The Matrimonial Causes Act (1989)** covers [a] suits for dissolution and nullity; [b] recognition of foreign decrees; [c] practice and procedure of the courts; and [d] injunctions and other orders.
- **The Property (Rights of Spouses) Act (2006)** includes [a] use of the Act in place of rules of common law and equity; [b] entitlement to and transfers of interest in the family home; [c] property agreements and property rights; [d] division and disposal of property; and [e] powers of the Court.
- **The Inheritance (Provisions for Family and Dependents) Act (1993)** covers [a] application for financial provisions from the deceased's estate; [b] time limit for applications; [c] the power of the courts; [d] interim orders; [e] termination of orders upon remarriage of former spouse; and [f] contracts to leave property by wills.
- **The Status of Children Act (1976)** includes [a] equality of status, provisions in wills and protection in trusts; [b] evidence of parenthood and the power of the courts, paternity; and [c] blood tests, blood samples, and attendant regulations.
- **The Judgements (Foreign) (Reciprocal Enforcement) Act (1936)** is inclusive of [a] enforcement of judgement in foreign courts; [b] precedence of courts; and [c] jurisdiction in the Commonwealth.

Culture and Heritage

- **The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission Act (1968)** covers the promotion of cultural programmes and activities throughout the island and organizing celebrations of national interest.
- **The Jamaica National Heritage Trust (1985)** refers to a corporate body with the power to purchase, hold and dispose of land and other property. It covers the [a] protection of national monuments and heritage; and [b] tax and duty exemptions.
- **The Tourism Enhancement Act (2004)** covers [a] payment of fees or dues and transfer to a Fund; and [b] accounts, audit and reporting.

General

- **The Representation of the People Act (1944)** pertains to [a] franchise and registration of electors; [b] electoral procedures; [c] procedures on polling day; [d] halt of the taking of the poll on election day; [e] procedures subsequent to polling day; [f] voiding of the taking of a poll; [g] financial provisions; [h] administrative provisions; and [i] offences and penalties.
- **The Statistics Act (1949)** empowers the Statistical Institute of Jamaica to carry out its functions and includes [a] establishment and functions of the Institute; [b] control of exchange of information; [c] exemption from tax and duties; [d] power to direct taking of censuses; [e] access to public records; and [f] major offences and penalties.
- The Records Office Act (1879) pertains to all public records and “registered deeds and writings” in Jamaica. The Act outlines the procedures under law for the keeping and storing of these records, deeds and writings. The Act addresses issues to deal with wills, bills of sale, patent certificates and power of attorney among others.
- **The Criminal Justice (Administration) Act (1960)** examines the management of the local criminal justice system.
- **The Bank of Jamaica Act (1960)** deals with the establishment of the Bank and its Constitution. In addition, it addresses specifics such as [a] capital and reserves; [b] currency, coinage and legal tender; [c] foreign currency dealings; [d] money transfer and remittances; [e] supervision and estimation of banking and financial operations; [f] relations with government; and [g] accounts and reports.

International Agreements and Development Areas

- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948** was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. It is a pioneering instrument representing a global expression of rights entitled to all human beings. It consists of 30 articles, elaborated in international treaties, regional human rights instruments, national constitutions and laws.
- **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families**, also known as the Migrants Rights Convention, is the most comprehensive international treaty on the rights of all migrants and members of their families. The Convention sets forth international standards for the treatment, welfare and rights of migrant workers regardless of their status, as well as setting out the obligations of the states who host them.
- **Convention on Certain Questions Relating to the Conflict of Nationality Law 1930 (“Hague Convention 1930”)** was a codification conference held in The Hague to formulate acceptable rules. The Convention recognises the right of each state to determine its nationality laws while recognising the nationality laws of other states. This covers the nationality of married women and children. Only certain questions on the conflict of nationality laws were agreed upon at this Convention, however, this subsequently motivated the United Nations to strive for a permanent commission (International Law Commission) to proceed with the codification of international law.
- **International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) 1965**, of which Jamaica is a signatory (signed August 1966 and ratified June 1971), commits members to condemn racial discrimination and pursue means to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination and racial segregation. Currently there are 88 signatories and 182 parties.
- **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) 1966** is a treaty aimed at ensuring that the economic, social and cultural rights of individuals are protected. It includes the right to self-determination, the right to non-discrimination, the equal rights of men and women, the right to work, the right to form trade unions, the right to health and the right to an adequate standard of living. The Covenant, as of September 2019, has 170 parties. Jamaica became a signatory in December 1966 and ratified the treaty in October 1975.
- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) 1966** states that every human being has the inherent right to life, which shall be protected by law and no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life. The treaty also speaks to the right of each individual to freely determine his/her political status and the equal right of men and women to enjoy their civil and political rights. Jamaica became a signatory in December 1966 and ratified the treaty in October 1975. As of September 2019 the Covenant has 74 signatories and 173 parties.
- **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 1979** commits states to condemn discrimination among women and pursue measures to

eliminate discrimination against women. It stipulates that states commit to the full development and enhancement of women. Jamaica became a signatory in July 1980 and ratified the Convention in October 1984. As of September 2019, 189 states have ratified the treaty.

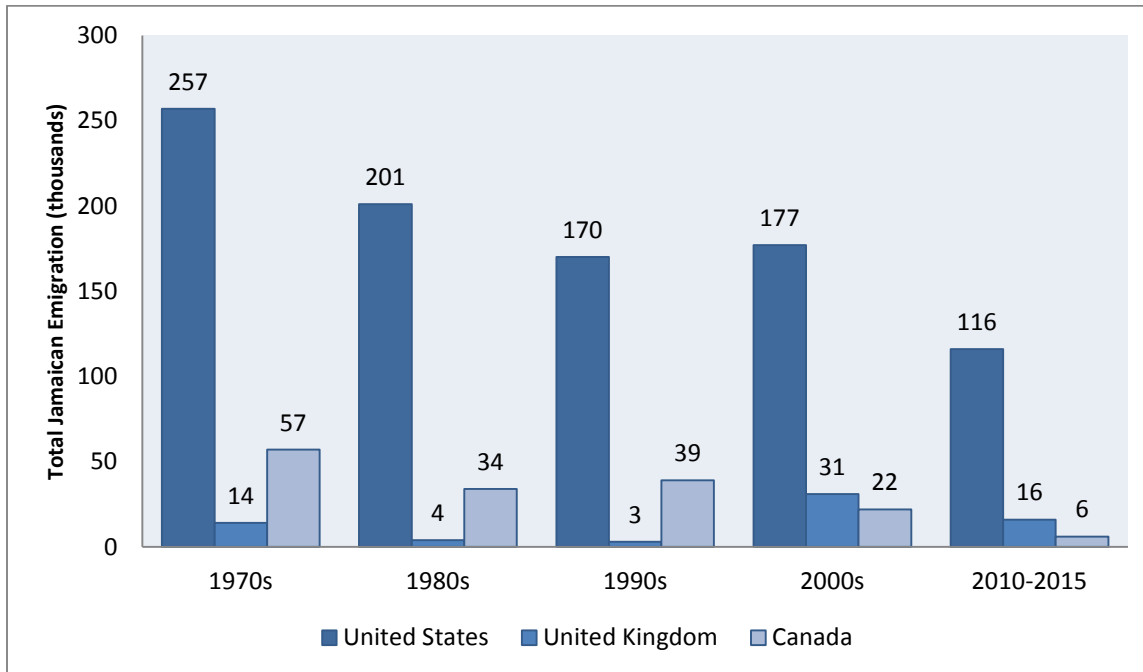
- **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989.** Under this convention, a child is deemed to be any human being not yet attaining age eighteen (18), unless under a state's own domestic legislation majority is attained earlier. This treaty speaks to the rights of the child. It commits states to taking appropriate measures for ensuring that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment. It stipulates that all actions concerning children shall have the best interests of the child as a primary consideration. Jamaica signed the treaty in January 1990 and ratified it in May 1991.
- **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006** promotes, protects and ensures the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. As of September 2019 there are 163 signatories and 181 parties. Jamaica signed and ratified this instrument in March 2007.
- **The American Convention on Human Rights, 1969** commits states to ensuring that persons are free and that the rights and freedom of those persons are recognized without discrimination. Jamaica signed and ratified this Convention.
- **United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000** promotes cooperation to prevent and combat transnational organized crime. The Convention is supplemented by three protocols:
 - i. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
 - ii. Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air
 - iii. Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms

Jamaica signed the Convention in September 2001 and ratified it in September 2003. As at September 2019, the Convention had 147 signatories and 190 parties.

- **General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), 1995** is a treaty of the World Trade Organisation created to extend multilateral trading to the service sector. All members of the WTO are signatories to GATS.
- **The CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)** is aimed at creating an enlarged market among participating states. The key elements of the CSME include the free movement of goods and services, the free movement of labour, the free movement of capital and a common trade policy.

APPENDIX 7

Jamaican Emigration to the USA, UK and Canada by decade 1970s to 2015



Sources: Reprinted from Migration in Jamaica: Country Profile 2018 by Elizabeth Thomas- Hope, 2018. 2016: Planning Institute of Jamaica.

APPENDIX 8

Total Remittances 2014-2020 (US \$ Mn)

	Inflows (US\$Mn)	Outflows (US\$Mn)	Net (US\$Mn)	Remittance Inflows to GDP (%)
2014	2,157.0	-227.7	1,929.4	15.6
2015	2,226.0	-232.9	1,993.1	15.7
2016	2,291.5	-235.6	2,055.9	16.3
2017	2,305.2	-241.1	2,064.1	15.6
2018	2,345.8	-249.1	2,096.7	15.0
2019	2,386.7	-262.0	2,124.8	15.2
2020	2,905.0	-226.2	2,678.7	21.1

Source: Bank of Jamaica, Statistics Department, 2021.

APPENDIX 9

Remittance Inflows from USA, Canada and UK 2014-2019 (US\$ Mn)

Years	USA	Canada	UK	Total
2014	1,109.24	214.14	297.99	1,621.37
2015	1,213.63	198.22	287.38	1,699.23
2016	1,271.36	199.16	262.11	1,732.62
2017	1,277.08	207.77	246.64	1,731.49
2018	1,269.57	207.30	247.05	1,723.91
2019 (as at April)	418.04	55.41	77.87	551.32

Source: Bank of Jamaica, Economic Information and Publications Department, 2019

APPENDIX 10

List of Countries where Jamaica has Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreements

Country	Entry into Force
Canada Agreement between Canada and Jamaica for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, 30 th March 1978	2 nd April 1981
China Convention between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of China for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, 4 th July 1996	16 th March 1997
Denmark Convention between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of Denmark for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, 16 th August 1990	10 th October 1991
France Convention between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of the French Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, 9 th August 1995	21 st May 1998
Germany Agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and Jamaica for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, 8 th October 1974	13 th September 1976
Israel Convention between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of Jamaica for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, 29 th June 1984	3 rd September 1985
Spain Convention between the Kingdom of Spain and Jamaica for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, 8 th July 2008	16 th May 2009
Mexico Agreement between the United Mexican States and Jamaica for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, 18 th May 2016	24 th March 2018
Norway Convention between Jamaica and the Kingdom of Norway for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, 30 th September 1991	2 nd November 1992
Sweden Convention between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of Sweden for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, 13 th March 1985	7 th April 1986
Switzerland Convention between the Swiss Confederation and Jamaica for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income, 6 th December 1994	27 th December 1995
United Kingdom Convention between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Jamaica for the Avoidance of Double Taxation	31 st December 1973

and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and Capital Gains, 16 th March 1973	
USA Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Jamaica for the Exchange of Information with respect to Taxes, 18 th December 1986	18 th December 1986

Source: <https://www.jamaicatax.gov.jm/tax-agreements>, retrieved 30th September 2019

9. GLOSSARY

Circular migration – the temporary movement of migrant workers based on labour needs of origin and destination countries.

Country of destination – in the migration context, a country that is the destination for a person or a group of persons, irrespective of whether they migrate regularly or irregularly. <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>

Country of origin – In the migration context, a country of nationality or of former habitual residence of a person or group of persons who have migrated abroad, irrespective of whether they migrate regularly or irregularly. <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>

Dependents – individuals requiring financial and related support in a family. Legally this refers to individuals under 18 years old in a family but there are cases where the elderly, college students and adults with disabilities fall into this category.

Diaspora– Jamaicans and their descendants who reside outside of Jamaica.

Economic Development – progress in an economy as measured through internationally accepted qualitative and quantitative measures on overall standard of living and economic wellbeing. This is inclusive of improvements in education and human capital, international competitiveness of goods and services, health, literacy, environmental sustainability, technology, democracy and social inclusion.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – value of all finished goods and services produced within a nation within a specified time period

Globalisation – any form of societal change having a transnational dimension.

Governance – the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels. It comprises the mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences.

Family – a group of individuals (normally related) living under one roof relating to one household head.

Human Development - a process of enlarging people's choices and building human capabilities (the range of things people can be and do), enabling them to live a long and healthy life, have access to knowledge, have a decent standard of living and participate in the life of their community and the decisions that affect their lives.

Human Rights - any condition that recognizes a reaffirmed faith in fundamental human rights and dignity and worth of the human person. This declaration commits all member states to universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, gender, language, or religion.

International migration - Movement of persons who leave their country of origin, or the country of habitual residence, to

establish themselves either permanently or temporarily in another country.

Involuntary return migrant – a person who has been compulsorily returned to his/her country of origin, transit or third country on the basis of administrative or judicial act. *(IOM, International Migration Law, Glossary on Migration 2nd Edition, 2011)*

Irregular migrant - A person who, owing to unauthorized entry, breach of a condition of entry, or the expiry of his or her visa, lacks the legal status in a transit or host countries. *(IOM, International Migration Law, Glossary on Migration 2nd Edition, 2011)*

Irregular migration – migration that takes place outside the norms and procedures established by the origin, transit and destination country.

Migrant - An umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons. The term includes a number of well-defined legal categories of people, such as migrant workers; persons whose particular types of movements are legally-defined, such as smuggled migrants; as well as those whose status or means of movement are not specifically defined under international law, such as international students. **Migration** – The movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a state. *(IOM, International Migration Law, Glossary on Migration 2nd Edition, 2011)*

Official Development Assistance - Flows of official financing administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as the main objective, and which are concessional in character with a grant element.

Policy – a plan or course of action intended to influence and determine actions, decisions, and other matters; a course of action, guiding principle or procedure considered expedient, prudent or advantageous.

Policy Coherence - the systematic promotion of mutually reinforcing policy actions across government Departments and Agencies creating synergies towards achieving the agreed objectives. Within national governments, policy coherence issues arise between different types of public policies, between different levels of government, between different stakeholders and at an international level.

Pull factors - the factors present in another country that pressure or motivate the migrant to seek or reside in that country.

Push factors - the factors present in a migrant's country that pressure or motivate the migrant to leave the country of origin and seek to reside elsewhere.

Remittances – transfer of resources (in cash or kind) made by foreign workers to their home country.

Return Migration - the movement of persons returning to his or her country of origin. Return migration may or may not be voluntary.

Sustainable Development - meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Voluntary return – return based on the voluntary decision of the individual. This is absent of physical, psychological, or material coercion.

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