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The background of the cover features a coastal scene with a body of water in the foreground. A small, yellow and green boat with the text 'NEW MONEY RT 517' on its side is being rowed by a person wearing a white shirt and a white head covering. In the background, a large, modern, multi-story building with a grid-like facade and a tower labeled 'ROK' is visible. The sky is clear and blue.

2025 COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSIS

JAMAICA



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List of Abbreviations

AI	Artificial intelligence	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
BPO	Business process outsourcing	SDR	Sustainable Development Report
CCA	Common Country Analysis	SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
CSE	Comprehensive sexual education	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
CSO	Civil society organizations	SOE	State of Emergency
CSEC	Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate	STEAM	Science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics
EPI	Environmental Performance Index	TREND	Transforming Education for National Development
ESSJ	Economic and Social Survey Jamaica	UN	United Nations
EU	European Union	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	UN JP	UN Joint Programme
FDI	Foreign direct investments	UNRCO	UN Resident Coordinator Office
GBV	Gender-based violence	VAC	Violence against children
GDP	Gross domestic product	VAWG	Violence against women and girls
GNI	Gross national income	VNR	Voluntary National Review
HCI	Human Capital Index	WFP	World Food Programme
HFLE	Health and Family Life Education	WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
ILO	International Labour Organization	ZOSOs	Zones of Special Operations
JSLC	Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions		
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual, and other gender or sexual orientations		
LNOB	Leaving no one behind		
MCSDCF	Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework		
MICS	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey		
MSM	Men who have sex with men		
MTF	Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework		
MVI	Multidimensional Vulnerability Index		
NCD	Non-communicable disease		
NIS	National Insurance Scheme		
ODA	Official development assistance		
PATH	Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education		
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica		
PLHIV	People living with HIV		
PPP	Purchase power parity		
PwD	People with disabilities		

Executive Summary

Jamaica, a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), is committed to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, as outlined in its Vision 2030 National Development Plan. This comprehensive analysis examines Jamaica's progress, challenges, and opportunities across the five pillars of the 2030 Agenda—People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. Despite notable achievements, structural vulnerabilities, global shocks, and systemic inequalities hinder transformative progress, necessitating integrated and inclusive strategies to accelerate SDG attainment.

Progress and Achievements

Jamaica has made significant strides in several areas. The poverty rate dropped to a historic low of 8.2% in 2023 (SDG 1), unemployment reached 4.2% in October 2023 (SDG 8), and gender parity improved, with women occupying 29% of parliamentary seats (SDG 5). The country's SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) score improved from 74 in 2020 to 76 in 2023, reflecting robust international collaboration. Fiscal reforms have reduced public debt from 147% of GDP in 2012 to under 70% in 2024, enhancing economic stability. Social programs like the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) and environmental initiatives, such as mangrove restoration, bolster resilience. However, Jamaica's SDG Index score slightly declined from 70 in 2020 to 69.5 in 2023, ranking it 77th globally, with only 27.5% of SDG indicators on track.

Key Challenges

Jamaica faces multidimensional constraints that impede SDG progress:

- **Economic Transformation:** High public debt (targeted at 60% of GDP by March 2028), low economic complexity, and reliance on services (60% of GDP) and remittances (16% of GDP) expose Jamaica to global shocks, such as commodity price volatility and potential U.S. remittance taxes.
- **Social Inclusion:** High incidence of gender-based violence (GBV - affecting at least

28% of women and costing 6.5% of GDP) and Violence Against Children (VAC - 76% Children age 1-14 experienced Violent Discipline), education gaps (78% male vs. 87% female secondary enrollment), and barriers for marginalized groups (LGBTQIA+, PLHIV, persons with disabilities, migrants) deepen inequalities.

- **Environmental Sustainability:** As a SIDS, Jamaica is highly susceptible to the effects of climate change, with increased frequency of major storms and hurricanes (16 between 2000–2023), extended periods of drought and higher rainfall events. These increase pressures on ecosystem functions that are already degraded through cycles of impact from forest loss, land clearing and development, pollution, introduction of invasive species, etc. These effects have manifested in coral reef loss (less than 20% cover), threatened species and ecosystems, and consequently, livelihoods that depend on the natural resource base. The country is also still highly dependent (87%) on fossil fuel energy.
- **Governance, Human Rights, and Institutional Capacities:** Declining voter turnout (37.9% in 2020), corruption perceptions, and high homicide rates driven by gang activity undermine trust and social cohesion. Overreliance on States of Emergency (SOEs) raises civil liberties concerns.
- **Financial Landscape:** Limited fiscal space, inefficient tax administration, low foreign direct investment (FDI, 2% of GDP), and declining Official Development Assistance (ODA) constrain SDG investments.

Interconnectedness of Challenges

These challenges are deeply interlinked, rooted in historical factors, creating reinforcing cycles. High debt and implementation capacities limit investments in education and health, perpetuating poverty and inequality. Environmental degradation and reliance on food imports exacerbates food insecurity (45% reported reduced food intake in 2024) and

economic losses, straining fiscal resources. Governance challenges and corruption deter FDI and erode trust, fueling crime and social exclusion. The digital divide and informal employment (46.8% of non-agricultural jobs) hinder innovation and social protection, while climate risks amplify vulnerabilities for marginalized groups.

Opportunities for Acceleration

Jamaica can leverage opportunities to transform vulnerabilities into pathways for sustainable development:

- **Economic Diversification:** Fiscal reforms (including progressive taxation, carbon pricing), green bonds, and investments in blue and creative economies can boost resilience and job creation (SDGs 8, 9).
- **Social Inclusion:** Comprehensive education reforms (STEAM-focused, inclusive for PwD), SRHR integration, and GBV and VAC prevention can reduce inequalities and empower children, youth, women, and marginalized groups (SDGs 4, 5, 10).
- **Environmental Resilience:** Scaling-up renewable energy (targeting 50% by 2030), climate-smart agricultural and industrial practices, marine conservation, and adoption of nature-based solutions to mitigate climate risks, reduce pressures on the resource base, and enhance food security (SDGs 2, 13, 14, 15).
- **Governance Reforms:** Progressive Constitutional reform, decentralization, and transparency mechanisms can rebuild trust and strengthen institutions, while regulating SOE use ensures human rights compliance (SDG 16).
- **Financial Landscape:** Enhancing tax administration, attracting non-traditional ODA, and leveraging diaspora platforms can mobilize resources for SDG priorities (SDG 17).

Acceleration Scenarios

Three scenarios outline Jamaica's potential SDG trajectories by 2030:

- **Pessimistic:** Stagnation due to persistent debt, AI-driven job losses (4 out of 5 jobs at risk), and climate impacts, with poverty rising to 15% and social exclusion worsening.
- **Business-as-Usual:** Incremental gains with debt reduction to 60% by 2028 and modest education and health improvements, but vulnerabilities like GBV, VAC, and climate risks persist.
- **Optimistic:** Transformative progress through bold reforms, reducing poverty to below 5%, achieving 50% renewable energy, and cutting GBV and crime by 50%, driven by inclusive policies and innovation.

Conclusion

Jamaica's path to the SDGs will require addressing interconnected challenges rooted in colonial legacies, patriarchal norms, and some challenges in the governance system, through integrated solutions. By leveraging fiscal reforms, green investments, inclusive education, and strong partnerships, Jamaica can overcome vulnerabilities and achieve a resilient, equitable, and sustainable future by 2030, ensuring no one is left behind.

Introduction

Jamaica, as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), embodies the unique vulnerabilities that typify this group of countries—limited natural and financial resources, economic dependence on tourism and imports, and high exposure to climate-related and external shocks. These structural constraints have shaped the country's development trajectory, conditioned its progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and heightened its exposure to global disruptions. In recent years, a combination of domestic and international shocks—including the COVID-19 pandemic, global geo-political spillovers amplifying inflationary pressures, as well as climate-related disasters—have tested the country's resilience and impacted the pace of development.

Despite these challenges, Jamaica has demonstrated a firm and sustained commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, embodied in Vision 2030 Jamaica, the country's long-term national development plan, and implemented through successive Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Frameworks (MTFs). The United Nations Development System in Jamaica works with the government, civil society, private sector and other partners to support the country's progress towards its national priorities and the SDGs, operationalizing the higher-level outcomes of the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MCSDF) for the Caribbean in concrete, measurable and time bound outputs and activities for Jamaica, through the Country Implementation Plan (CIP).

As part of the joint strategic planning process to develop the MCSDF and the CIP, the UN carries out a Common Country Analysis (CCA). The UN Common Country Analysis is a systematic, integrated, and evidence-based assessment of a country's development context and a forward-looking analysis of its development trajectory. It serves as a crucial analytical tool for the UN to understand the development challenges and opportunities within a country and to inform its programming efforts. The CCA helps the UN identify key development issues, analyse the national development situation, and ensure that the UN's response at the country level is aligned with national development priorities.

In line with the UN Sustainable Development Group's Guidance on the CCA process, the present analysis draws from a vast range of data and analytical sources¹ and adopted a participatory and inclusive approach to inform its findings as described in more details in the methodological annex (see Annex 1: Methodological Approach). These included key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and an online survey.

This report outlines the findings, organized around the key elements of the 2030 Agenda. It opens with a chapter describing the main trends in each of the 17 SDGs, including how progress (or lack thereof) is impacting different groups of people, exploring the determinants of the risk of being left behind (LNOB principle) in the context of Jamaica. It is followed by an analysis of key constraints and opportunities to advance the sustainable development agenda along its key dimensions: economic, social, and environmental sustainability; a review of the governance and human rights situation; and Jamaica's financial landscape. In its concluding chapters the CCA outlines possible future SDGs Acceleration Scenarios as well as identifying the key binding constraints and interconnected potential solutions. The main conclusions from the common country analysis are organised and aligned with the five Ps - People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership – interconnected elements of the 2030 Agenda, summarising their key binding constraints and related potential solutions.



CHAPTER 1:

STOCKTAKING JAMAICA'S PROGRESS TOWARDS FULFILLING THE 2030 AGENDA

Jamaica's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index score has seen a slight decline from 70 in 2020 to 69.5 in 2023, placing the country 77th out of 167 globally. While Jamaica remains committed to the 2030 Agenda, the pace of progress remains uneven, with multiple goals facing systemic, financial, and structural barriers.

CHAPTER 1:

STOCKTAKING JAMAICA'S PROGRESS TOWARDS FULFILLING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country's development framework² is well aligned with the SDGs, demonstrating the strong commitment of the government to fulfilling the 2030 Agenda. This commitment is embodied in Vision 2030 Jamaica, the country's long-term national development plan, which aims to make Jamaica "the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business" by 2030. Vision 2030 is operationalized through successive Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Frameworks (MTFs), including the current 2021–2024 iteration led by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ). These frameworks ensure alignment between short-term policy actions and long-term strategic priorities, while integrating national objectives with global development goals (see Box 1). This strategic approach has resulted in a high degree of coherence between national and international development frameworks, with approximately 98 percent of SDG targets reflected in Vision 2030.

While policy alignment is strong, implementation outcomes have been uneven across sectors and goals. As of September 2024³, progress has been mixed, with notable achievements in areas such as education, health, and institutional capacity, but setbacks in climate resilience, economic diversification, and poverty reduction.

This chapter provides an integrated stocktaking of Jamaica's SDG progress, considering recent global and domestic shocks and highlighting both the gains made and the challenges that lie ahead.

Box 1: The Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework

The Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF) 2021–2024 is a critical component of Jamaica's response to development challenges and the realization of Vision 2030 Jamaica. The MTF ensures continuity across successive administrations, as well as links short-term policy actions with long-term strategic objectives. The MTF incorporates evidence-based management principles, aligning medium-term priorities with national goals and global benchmarks. Addressing critical issues such as climate change resilience, socio-economic inequities, and infrastructure deficits, the MTF fosters a results-oriented approach to sustainable development.

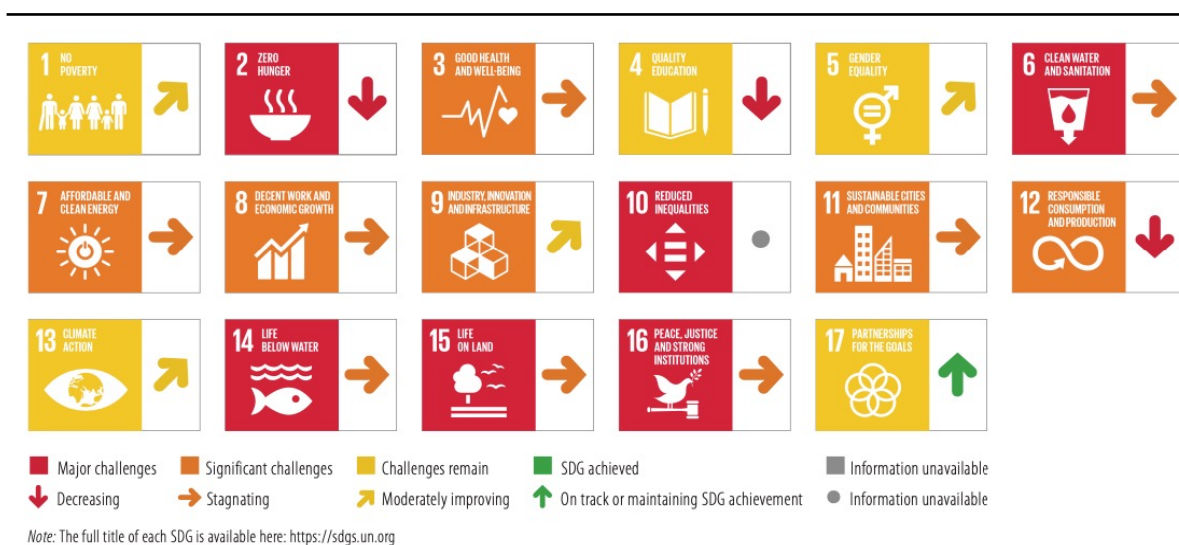
Coordinated by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), through its Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat, the MTF integrates the efforts of government entities, private sector stakeholders, and civil society to create a unified platform for progress. By embedding the SDGs into national development strategies and fostering stakeholder collaboration, the MTF supports Jamaica in building a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous society.

1. Overall SDG Progress

The Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2024⁴ shows Jamaica's progress toward achieving the SDGs as having faced several setbacks in recent years. The country's overall SDG index score has declined slightly from 70 in 2020 to 69.5 in 2023, resulting in a decline in its global ranking from 74th to 77th (out of 167 countries) as others recorded greater progress over this period. This stagnation reflects the slow or regressive progress on several critical goals, including SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 4 (Quality Education), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). Of all 17 SDGs, only Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) is currently on track to be achieved by 2030. Approximately 27.5 percent of the SDG indicators monitored for Jamaica are either achieved or on

track, while the remaining indicators show either limited progress or are in decline. This overall trend aligns with findings from Vision 2030 Jamaica, which reports that only about 32 percent of national goals and outcomes have been fully or mostly achieved since the plan's inception in 2009⁵.

Figure 1: Jamaica's SDGs Dashboard 2024



Source: Sustainable Development Report, 2024

Jamaica's development trajectory has been adversely affected by a series of global and domestic shocks. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted fiscal priorities, prompting a delay in the country's debt-reduction target, from reaching 60 percent of GDP by 2025 to now 2028⁶. Additionally, global geopolitical tensions, including the war in Ukraine and unrest in the Middle East, have triggered volatility in commodity prices. These developments have amplified inflationary pressures in Jamaica's import-dependent economy. These external stressors, combined with tight fiscal and monetary policies, have constrained the country's post-pandemic recovery and reduced the fiscal space available for critical SDG investments. As a result, Jamaica has made slow progress advancing sustainable development, with many of its SDGs shown to be stagnating or worse in decline, underscoring the urgency for strengthened partnerships, resilient financing mechanisms, and more adaptive policy frameworks.

Beyond these trends, it is important to underline the actual scores of each SDG. As outlined in Figure 2, the best-performing SDGs in Jamaica have been SDGs 1 (No Poverty) and 13 (Climate Action), while the SDGs featuring the lower overall score are 9, 10, and 15 (Life on Land).

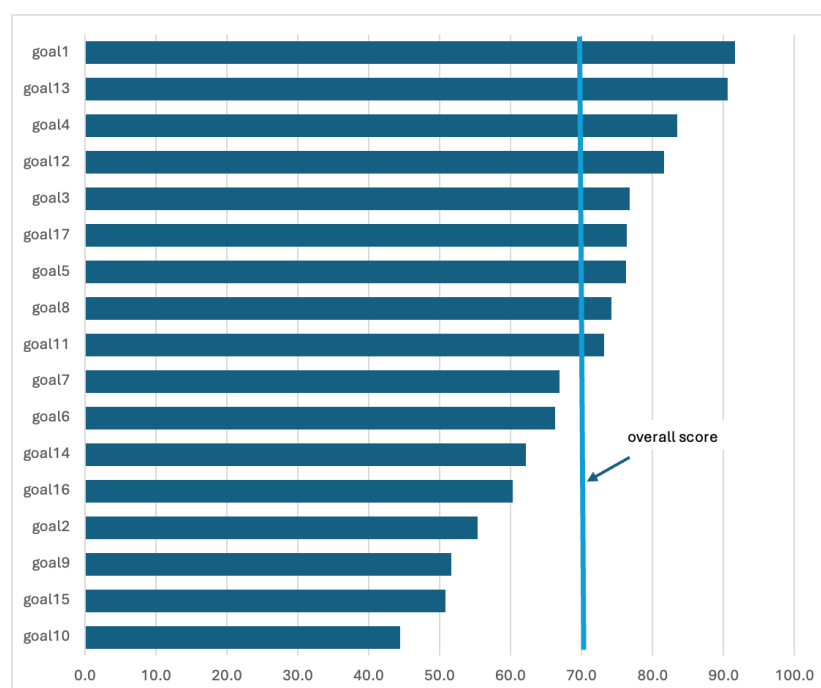
Table 1: SDG Scores 2021-2024

	Overall	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8
SDR 2021	70.0	88.7	57.7	77.5	81.8	70.8	64.6	66.6	73.8
SDR 2024	69.5	91.6	55.3	76.8	83.5	72.5	66.3	66.6	74.1

	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
SDR 2021	51.3	56.9	72.6	85.6	92.1	61.9	51.9	62.1	74.3
SDR 2024	51.7	44.4	73.2	81.6	90.6	63.2	50.8	60.3	76.4

Source: Own calculation based on the Sustainable Development Report, 2024

Figure 2: SDG Scores Jamaica (2024)



Source: Sustainable Development Report, 2024

2. SDGS-Specific Trends

SDG 1 No Poverty: Jamaica has made significant strides in reducing monetary poverty. The poverty rate declined from a pandemic-induced high of 16.7 percent in 2021⁷ to a historic low of 8.2 percent in 2023⁸. Rural poverty also fell sharply, from 22.1 percent to 11.5 percent. However, this success masks lingering multidimensional poverty, which affects 2.8 percent of the population (based on the 2018 Multidimensional Poverty Index⁹), with health-related deprivations being the primary driver¹⁰. Moreover, it is estimated that 70 percent of households below the poverty line are female-headed¹¹.

SDG 2 Zero Hunger: Food security remains precarious, driven by a growing incidence of obesity and persistent malnutrition¹². According to the 2024 Caribbean Food Security & Livelihoods Survey, 45 percent of Jamaicans reported reducing their food intake, and 38 percent lacked adequate food stocks. Financial barriers (97 percent) and transportation issues (13 percent) were the most cited constraints¹³. Rising obesity and persistent malnutrition highlight the country's dual burden of undernutrition and unhealthy dietary patterns, reflecting complex food system challenges¹⁴. In addition, economic vulnerability and high food prices not only affect food intake (and quality thereof) but inevitably affect other aspects of people's well-being. Almost three-quarters of the people resorted to tapping into their savings to buy food, and more than half had to reduce other expenses, such as education and health.

SDG 3 Health and Well-Being: There has been important progress noted in infant mortality, measles vaccination, and HIV infections¹⁵. Amongst the challenges, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) accounted for 77.3 percent of all deaths¹⁶, the maternal mortality rate remains high at 130.1 per 100,000 live births¹⁷ compared to the SDG target at 70, and road traffic injuries also remain high¹⁸. Life expectancy has been declining since 2014, predating the COVID-19 pandemic¹⁹, while healthcare delivery faces systemic stressors, including rising costs and workforce shortages.





SDG 4 Quality Education: While enrolment rates in early childhood and primary education are robust, secondary-level participation and learning outcomes have deteriorated. A stark gender gap persists, with 87 percent of girls versus only 78 percent of boys enrolled in upper secondary education (MICS 2022)²⁰. Disparities are also evident across socio-economic and geographic lines. In addition, measurement of foundational learning from the MICS (2022) shows that 62 percent of children of aged 7-14 years have foundational reading skills with 50 percent having foundational numeracy skills²¹. The TREND initiative²² is addressing some of these gaps, but issues related to infrastructure, curriculum relevance, and education financing remain pressing.



SDG 5 Gender Equality: Jamaica ranks 37th globally on gender parity out of 146 countries²³, reflecting progress in key indicators such as educational attainment and health. Women now occupy 29 percent of parliamentary seats—an improvement but still short of the 50 percent target²⁴. Gender-based violence (GBV), although a priority, remains widespread and underreported, highlighting gaps in access to justice and entrenched cultural norms.



SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation: Access to sanitation is high (93 percent of the population), but only 66 percent of the population has access to improved drinking water, with inequalities evident across income groups and regions²⁵. Rural and low-income communities are particularly affected, underscoring the need for targeted infrastructure investments.



SDG 7 Clean and affordable Energy: While Jamaica has achieved universal electricity access, the country remains heavily reliant on fossil fuels, which accounted for 87 percent of total energy consumption in 2022²⁶. Renewable energy penetration remains low despite policy efforts to accelerate the energy transition.



SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth: Unemployment reached a historic low of 4.2 percent in October 2023²⁷, reflecting economic recovery post-COVID. However, job informality remains high²⁸, and the quality of employment is uneven. Limited financial inclusion and social protection for informal workers hinder more inclusive economic growth.



SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Progress in industrialization and innovation remains sluggish. Manufacturing value added has stagnated at 8 percent of GDP²⁹, as the logistics performance index.³⁰ Investment in digital infrastructure and innovation ecosystems is critical to boost competitiveness and productivity.



SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities: Inequality remains entrenched. The Gini coefficient is high at 0.4 in 2021³¹, and remittance transaction costs for U.S. dollar transfers, another SDG indicator to measure progress towards this goal, remain elevated (between 7.2 and 7.4 percent).³² Despite expanded social protection programmes, structural inequalities and gaps in data (hindering targeted interventions) continue to undermine inclusive development.



SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities: Progress on urban resilience and sustainability has been minimal since 2015, though some improvements were noted between 2021 and 2023³³. Informal settlements, inadequate housing, and vulnerability to climate hazards persist in urban and peri-urban areas.³⁴



SDG 12 Sustainable Production and Consumption: Consumption patterns continue to diverge from sustainability targets, and performance has declined despite their inclusion in Jamaica's green growth strategies. Waste management, recycling rates, and sustainable production practices require urgent strengthening³⁵.



SDG 13 Climate Action: This remains one of Jamaica's strongest performing areas. Overall greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from fossil fuel per capita have declined (from 3.96 in 2000 to 2.71 in 2023)³⁶. The country has made notable commitments under international climate frameworks,³⁷ but disaster risk reduction remains a national priority due to its high exposure to hurricanes, flooding, and droughts.³⁸



SDG 14 Life Below Water: Progress has been limited. Marine protected areas increased marginally to 31.6 percent in 2023, but overall scores on the Ocean Health Index remain stagnant.³⁹ Challenges include coastal pollution, overfishing, and insufficient enforcement of marine protection regulations.



SDG 15 Life on Land: Performance on terrestrial ecosystem protection is limited. Forest cover continues to decline, and biodiversity indicators such as the Red List Index show deterioration.⁴⁰ Land degradation, unsustainable land use, and challenges in the enforcement mechanisms hamper progress.⁴¹



SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Systemic violence remains a major impediment to inclusive development. Jamaica continues to record high homicide and crime rates, and public trust in institutions remains low.⁴² While targeted interventions such as the Zones of Special Operations (ZOSOs) show some promise, systemic issues related to access to justice, VAC and GBV persist.⁴³



SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals: This goal shows the strongest and most consistent progress. Jamaica's SDG 17 score improved from 74 in 2020 to 76.4 in 2023, reflecting strengthened international partnerships, enhanced development financing mechanisms, and greater alignment with the 2030 Agenda. However, the volatility of official development assistance (ODA), persistent data gaps, and limited domestic fiscal space continue to constrain implementation.⁴⁴

This comprehensive update paints a nuanced picture of Jamaica's SDG progress. While there have been commendable advances, particularly in poverty reduction, education access, and partnerships, systemic issues—especially those relating to inequality, institutional capacity, environmental sustainability, educational outcomes and health—remain persistent barriers to the transformative ambition of the 2030 Agenda (see Figure 1).

3. Leaving No One Behind Analysis

The Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) framework serves as a cornerstone of Jamaica's sustainable development agenda, identifying groups most at risk of exclusion. The analysis is structured around interlinked and intersecting sources of inequality which compound disadvantage and marginalization (Figure 3). Human rights mechanisms have consistently identified women and girls, children, persons with disabilities (PwD), LGBTQIA+ individuals, migrants, and refugees as priority populations requiring targeted interventions (Figure 5). The analysis also shows that young men and boys are particularly vulnerable in today's Jamaica.

Figure 3: Five Factors of LNOB



DISCRIMINATION

Arising from sex and gender or marital/family or status (including widowhood), age, income, class, disability, race, ethnicity, language, religion, nationality, migration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other group identities and characteristics. This includes harmful social norms, stigma and discrimination, and their interaction with institutional and structural inequalities (e.g., discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, including those related to access to services).

GEOGRAPHY

Arising from residence or location, includes inequalities between and within countries, rural/urban, or other geographic divides, exposure to environmental risks, disasters, or conflict, and issues related to connectivity and access to infrastructure.

VULNERABILITY TO SHOCKS

Including conflict, disasters, climate or environmental, and economic shocks, as well as exposure to health emergencies (e.g., pandemics) and displacement.

GOVERNANCE

Exclusion from decision-making, voice, and participation, including through weak institutions, unaccountable governance, corruption, or lack of representation, civic space, or political rights.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

Encompassing poverty, inequality, employment, and education. This includes access to social protection, services, and resources; inequalities in wealth, income, and consumption; and intergenerational inequalities.

Source: Source: LNOB – UNSDG Operational Guidance for UNCTs

► A. Socio-Economic Status

Economic Disparities: Income inequality remains a persistent challenge. The Gini coefficient of 0.4 in 2021 shows a growing trend (up from 0.36 in 2018)⁴⁵. According to the 2018 Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2.8 percent of Jamaicans are multidimensionally poor, with an additional 5 percent vulnerable—primarily due to health-related deprivations.⁴⁶ The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated poverty, resulting in a 5.7 percent increase in poverty (2019–2021), with female-headed households disproportionately affected (8.5 percent increase compared to 2.9 percent for male-headed households).⁴⁷ Most of the characteristics surveyed by the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey were influenced by the income profile of the household.⁴⁸

Groups at Risk: Low-income households, particularly in rural and underserved urban communities, struggle with inadequate access to nutritious food, quality education, and health services. The informal economy, accounting for 46.8 percent of non-agricultural employment in 2020,⁴⁹ leaves many workers without social protections. Disturbingly, 97 percent of respondents in the April 2024 Caribbean Food Security Survey cited financial constraints as the main barrier to food access, underscoring the depth of economic vulnerability.⁵⁰

Age-Based Vulnerabilities: Children and adolescents from poor, rural households and volatile communities—particularly those with less-educated mothers—are more likely to face educational setbacks, violence, and limited upward mobility.⁵¹ Youth unemployment stands at 12.3 percent (Q1 2025),⁵² while young men face acute mental health challenges, with 90.6 percent of suicides in 2022 committed by males.⁵³ The elderly, particularly older women, are often excluded from pension⁵⁴ and SRHR systems.⁵⁵

Groups at Risk: Children are extremely exposed to recurrent violence. Adolescents, especially boys, face disconnection from education and increased susceptibility to gang recruitment. Elderly populations, particularly older women, encounter economic insecurity, health vulnerabilities, and social exclusion.

► B. Geography and Vulnerability to Shocks

Disparities by place of residence: Geographical disparities remain stark. Approximately 40 percent of Jamaicans live in rural areas,⁵⁶ where poverty was 11.5 percent in 2023,⁵⁷ compared to lower rates in urban centres. Access to drinking water on premises is limited at 78.1 percent in rural areas, while it is 85.9 in urban areas.⁵⁸ People living in low socio-economic communities often lack basic infrastructure, which affects their quality of life and access to essential services.⁵⁹ Living along coastal areas or in areas with land degradation, exacerbate the risks associated with rising sea levels and extreme and more frequent weather events.

Groups at Risk: Children and adolescents in rural areas, particularly those from low-income families, face higher dropout rates, increased exposure to violence, and reduced access to essential services. Coastal and remote communities also face increased climate risks, compounded by substandard housing and infrastructure.

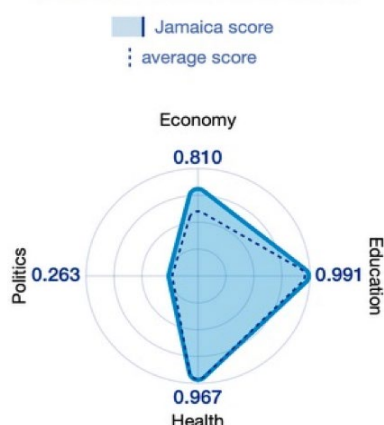
► C. Discrimination and Governance

Gender Inequality: Jamaica has made progress in some areas of gender parity—ranked 37th globally by the World Economic Forum (2024)—but significant gaps persist (see Figure 4). Gender-based violence (GBV) remains pervasive: 27.8 percent of women aged 15–49 have experienced intimate partner violence and almost 65 percent sought no help.⁶⁰ Women's representation in Parliament stands at 29 percent, and 77 percent of women endorse male family leadership,⁶¹ reflecting entrenched patriarchal norms. Concluding Observations of the CEDAW Committee identified lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women, rural women, women with disabilities and women heads of household, as being underrepresented or disadvantaged.⁶²

On the other hand, 'toxic masculinity' and male gender stereotypes and expectations affect young men and boys. Evidence indicates a decline in secondary-level enrolment rates, which disproportionately affects boys. Boys are underrepresented in tertiary education, with female

students accounting for 69 percent of tertiary enrolment, more than double that of their male counterparts.⁶³ Men are more likely to be affected by societal pressures and mental health issues (90.6 percent of suicides reported in 2022 were male)^{64 65}, and less likely to seek medical services.⁶⁶ Interpersonal violence is the amongst the highest causes of death for men,⁶⁷ one in every four homicide victims are young men between the ages of 25 and 34 years.⁶⁸ The LGBTQIA+ community faces discrimination and marginalization. Lack of anti-discrimination laws perpetuates barriers to employment, healthcare, and justice for these communities.⁶⁹ Jamaica's Offences Against the Person Act criminalizes consensual adult same-sex sexual relationships, while the country's legal framework does not explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex characteristics, when such discrimination happens, people are often without redress.⁷⁰

Figure 4: Global Gender Index 2024



Source: WEF Global Gender Gap Report

Groups at Risk: Women and girls, particularly in rural and low-income communities, are vulnerable to economic exclusion, violence, and limited access to sexual and reproductive health services (SRHR). Older women face rising rates of breast and cervical cancer, often due to limited screening.⁷¹ Young men and boys especially those living in underserved communities, are most likely to dropout from school, engage and/or being victim of violence. LBTQIA+ community remains at risk of discrimination.

Disabilities and Chronic diseases: Persons with disabilities (PwD) face significant hurdles in accessing services and participating fully in society. Of the approximately 40,000 registered PwD, only around 17,000 have completed the process for social benefits, largely due to the cost and complexity of medical certification requirements.⁷² However, data is very scarce,⁷³ making it difficult to prove their access to services and their opportunities compared to other segments of society.⁷⁴ Children with disabilities are often diagnosed late, hindering educational inclusion and long-term development outcomes. Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV) also face stigma, discrimination, and barriers to HIV treatment adherence, including limited access to non-discriminatory health services.⁷⁵

Groups at Risk: PwD in rural and low-income areas face compounded barriers—including stigma, inaccessible infrastructure, and insufficient specialized services—limiting their access to education, employment, and healthcare. PLHIV are at risk of discrimination often in conjunction with their sexual orientation.

Legal and governance barriers for Migrants and Refugees: The 2009 Refugee Policy, while a positive step, does not carry the force of law and excludes unaccompanied children from eligibility, contrary to international standards. Although the 2004 Child Care and Protection Act mandates school attendance for all children regardless of status, the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms limits the right to free pre- and primary education to Jamaican children. The absence of a reporting firewall between immigration enforcement and education services may deter non-Jamaican families, particularly those in irregular situations, from enrolling their children in school.

4. Intersecting Exclusions and Root Causes

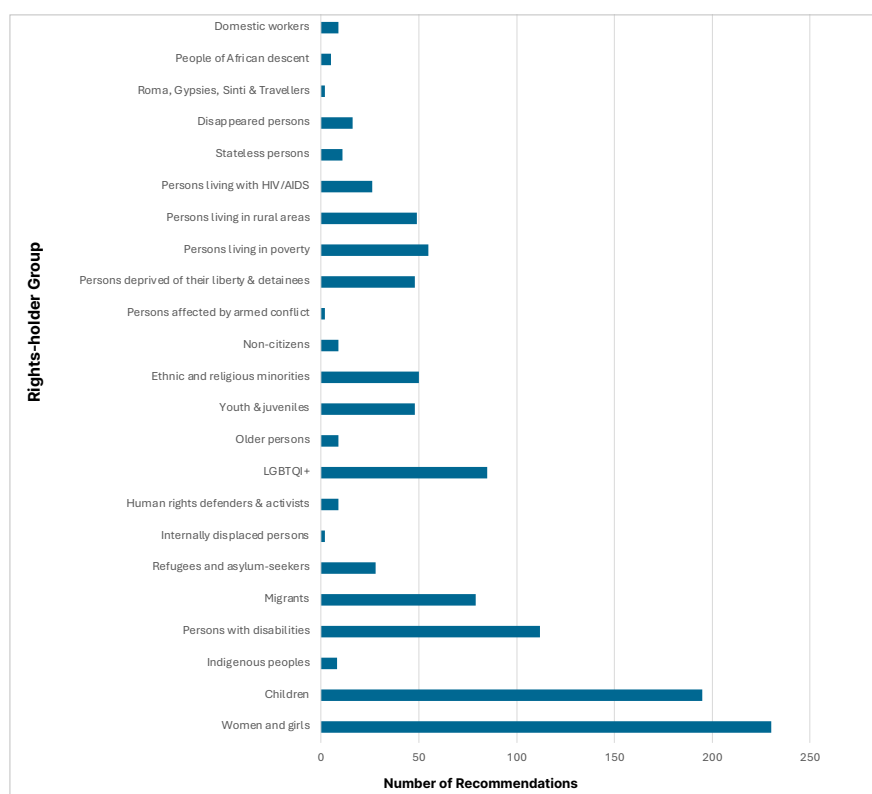
While Jamaica has demonstrated a commitment to the 2030 Agenda, its LNOB implementation is constrained by intersecting vulnerabilities rooted in history, governance, and social norms. The groups most at risk—elderly women with disabilities living in coastal areas; young men from lower income groups living in volatile communities; female migrant/refugees; poor PLHIV —face overlapping barriers that perpetuate inequality and limit access to rights, services, and opportunities (see Figure 6).

Patronage-Based Politics: Clientelist political systems reinforce inequality by privileging politically connected groups, thereby marginalizing rural, low-income, and unaffiliated populations. This dynamic entrenches intergenerational poverty and weakens institutional accountability. Additionally, the reliance on patronage often undermines efforts to implement broad-based social and economic reforms, as the status quo benefits the political and business elites who have long supported the system.⁷⁶

Colonial Legacy on land tenure: The lingering effects of colonial land tenure patterns remain stark. Four percent of the population controls 65 percent of arable land,⁷⁷ limiting access to land-based economic opportunities for the majority. Informal tenure and land insecurity undermine rural development and resilience.⁷⁸

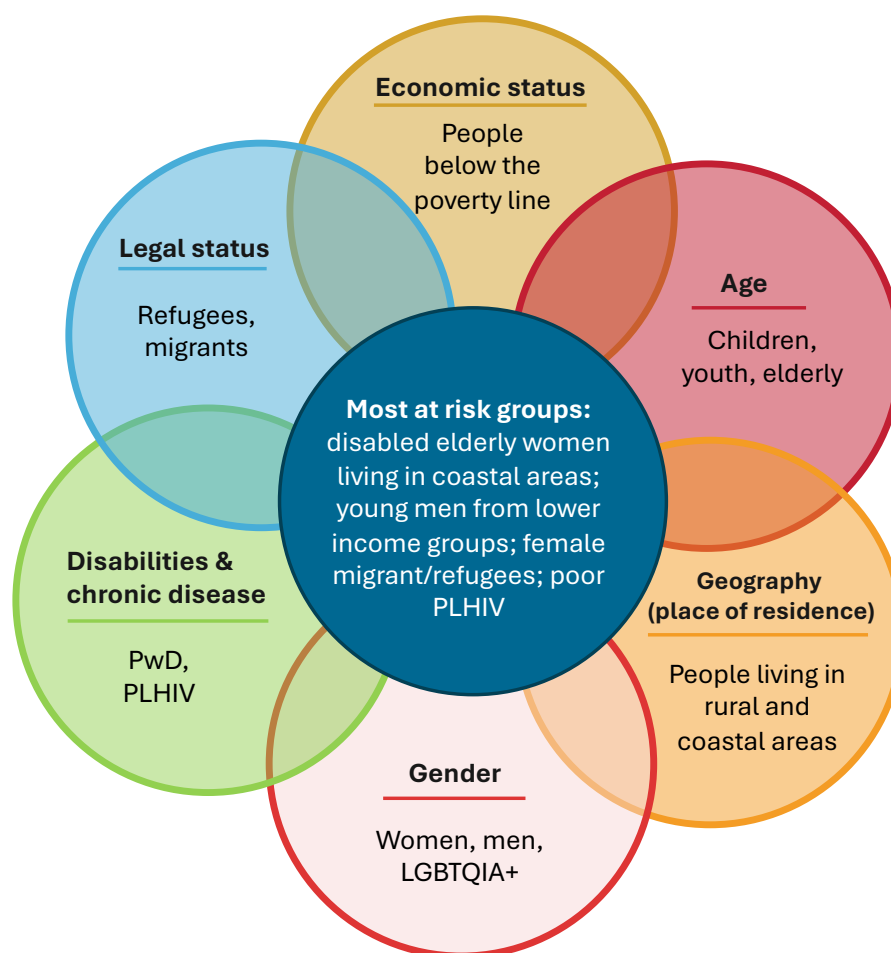
Migration and Displacement Dynamics: Jamaica's migration context is complex, functioning as a country of origin, transit, and destination, particularly for Haitian migrants. The absence of comprehensive asylum legislation and reliance on outdated migration laws hinder alignment with the 1951 Refugee Convention, limiting legal status, protection, and access to basic services. Migrants, asylum seekers, and stateless persons face risk of detention, exclusion from healthcare and education, and social marginalization. These realities intersect directly with SDGs 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Figure 5: Number of Human Rights Mechanisms' Recommendations by Rights holder Group



Source: The Danish Institute for Human Rights, 2022.
Based on data from the Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI), OHCHR.

Figure 6: Number of Human Rights Mechanisms' Recommendations by Rights holder Group



Chapter Summary

While Jamaica demonstrates strong policy alignment with the 2030 Agenda—reflected in the close integration of national frameworks like Vision 2030 Jamaica—progress toward the SDGs remains uneven and constrained by enduring structural vulnerabilities, external shocks, and persistent implementation challenges. Despite advancements in poverty reduction and gender equality, many goals—particularly those related to food security (SDG 2), quality education (SDG 4), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), and environmental sustainability (SDGs 12, 14, and 15)—remain off track.

Efforts to ensure no one is left behind must be grounded in inclusive and systemic change. This includes reforming social protection systems to better reach vulnerable populations, enacting comprehensive migration and asylum legislation to safeguard the rights of all individuals, and expanding access to essential services for marginalized groups. Addressing structural barriers—such as land inequality, entrenched clientelism, and discriminatory social norms—is also critical to fostering equity and long-term social cohesion.



CHAPTER 2:

ANALYSIS OF CONSTRAINTS AND IDENTIFICATION OF OPPORTUNITIES

This chapter focuses on the structural challenges that are constraining progress towards the SDGs across the pillars of economic transformation, social inclusion and environmental sustainability, in Jamaica.

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ANALYSIS OF CONSTRAINTS AND IDENTIFICATION OF OPPORTUNITIES

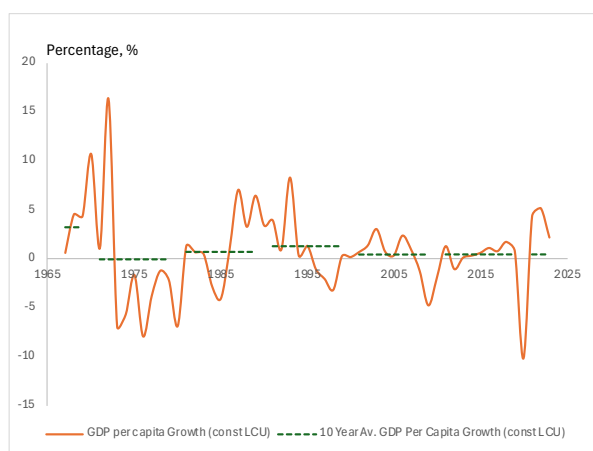
1. Economic Transformation

The analysis reveals a low-growth low-productivity economy, driven by a low level of economic complexity, and innovation. Unemployment, especially among young people, remains a challenge, although great strides have been made since the COVID-19 pandemic. Corruption, high criminality, and challenges with Jamaica's overall enabling environment negatively impact investment and private sector growth. Opportunities are identified in the creative, circular, green, and blue economy.

► Current Context

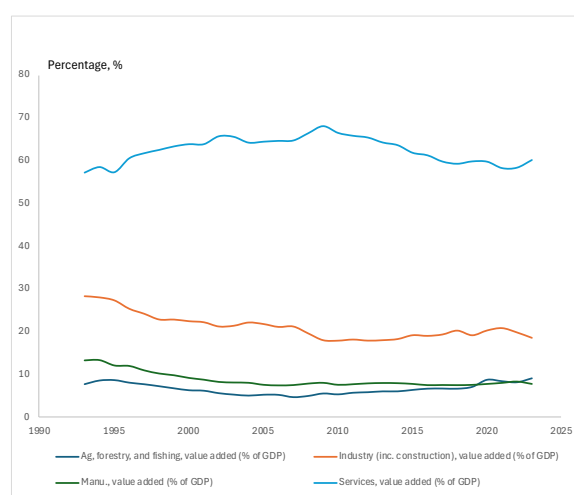
Jamaica's economic growth has stagnated, with real GDP per capita unchanged since 2000 (see Figure 7). The economy relies heavily on services, particularly tourism, which accounted for 60 percent of GDP in 2023, down from 68 percent in 2009. Manufacturing remains static at around 8 percent of GDP since 2010, while agriculture, forestry, and fishing have shown resilience, reaching 8 percent of GDP in 2022 (see Figure 8). Productivity in industry and services has declined, with only agriculture showing slight improvements.

Figure 7: GDP per Capita Growth (1965-2025)



Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators

Figure 8: GDP per Sector (1990-2024)



Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators

The economic complexity index indicates that Jamaica produces and exports less sophisticated, ubiquitous products, relative to other countries in international markets, limiting market value and growth potential (see Figure 9). Innovation has weakened, with declines in business sophistication, market development, and regulatory frameworks since the COVID-19 pandemic (see Figure 10).

Public debt, reduced from 147 percent of GDP in 2012 to under 70 percent in 2024, still limits fiscal space, both as a result of the burden of debt servicing and the government's firm commitment to reduce public debt to below a targeted level of 60 percent of GDP by 2028. In so doing, the financing of large-scale transformative investments has been constrained.

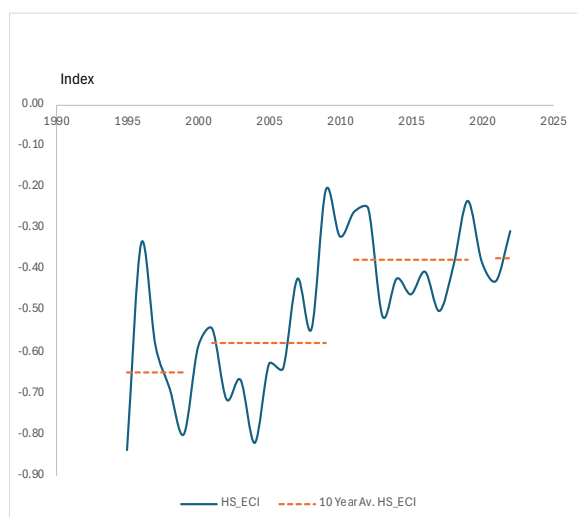
Unemployment reached a historic low of 3.5 percent in 2024, with youth unemployment at 12.3 percent in Q1 2025 (higher among women, 14.6 vs. 10.3).⁷⁹ Underemployment and informality

remain a challenge. Although no official data is available on underemployment, it reflects a mismatch between skills provided by the education system and those required by the labour market. This includes graduates having to adapt to jobs requiring lower skills than those they have acquired through their studies.⁸⁰

High informality is also an issue (46.8 percent of non-agricultural employment in 2020).⁸¹ Women face a gender wage gap (earning 75 percent of men's salaries with similar tertiary education) and limited access to credit and social protection.⁸² ⁸³ The data shows that Jamaican women are more likely to either leave or never enter the labour force due to unpaid care responsibilities, making them more economically vulnerable than men. Other factors, such as gender-based violence, lower representation as employers, land and business owners, top executive levels, and in STEM careers, and the level of maternity and childcare support, affect women's income stability and economic outcomes.⁸⁴

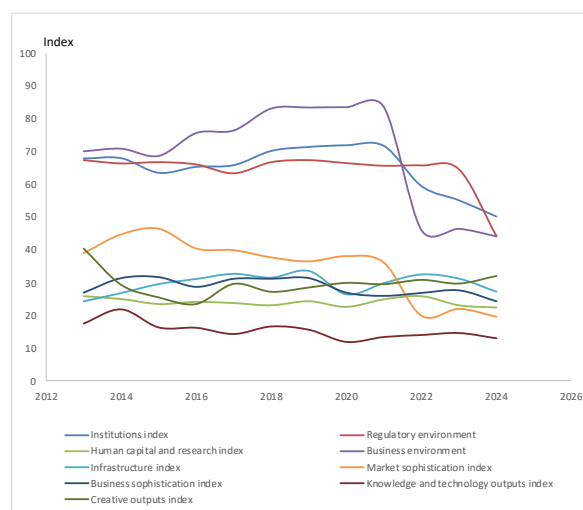
The labour market will be impacted by the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI). By 2050, four out of every five jobs in Jamaica, currently could become irrelevant.⁸⁵ Sectors like BPO (Business Process Outsourcing), transport, logistics, construction, agriculture, and finance are particularly vulnerable, where tasks can be easily codified or automated, with low- and semi-skilled workers (over 60 percent of the workforce) most vulnerable.

Figure 9: Economic Complexity Index (1995-2025)



Source: The Atlas on Economic Complexity

Figure 10: Global Innovation Index (2013-2024)



Source: The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), GII

▶ Binding Constraints

- **High Public Debt:** Limits fiscal space, with the 60 percent debt-to-GDP target by 2028 constraining public spending.
- **Low Economic Complexity:** Reliance on low-value products hampers growth and export competitiveness.
- **Low Productivity:** Particularly in agriculture and manufacturing,⁸⁶ restricts diversification and job creation and reduces food production.
- **High Informality:** Informal employment limits worker protections and tax revenue.
- **Vulnerability to External Shocks:** Dependence on tourism and imports, notably strategic imports of food and fuel, exposes the economy to changes in trade partner trade policies, international commodity price volatility, and real as well as financial spillovers that result from geopolitical tensions.
- **Impact of AI and Automation:** Threatens job losses without proactive education and re-skilling.
- **Corruption and Illicit Flows:** Undermines revenue mobilization and equitable growth.
- **Declining Innovation:** Weaknesses in the R&D ecosystems and regulatory environments hinder competitiveness.

► Opportunities

- **Fiscal Reform:** Progressive taxation, reduced exemptions, environmental taxes (e.g., carbon pricing), and tackling illicit financial flows can expand fiscal space for SDG investments.
- **Urban Development:** Projects in Kingston, Montego Bay, and new urban hubs, supported by public-private partnerships, urban renewal tax credits, and sustainable building standards, can drive economic activity.⁸⁷
- **Innovation and Investment:** Industrial policies promoting competitive markets, STEAM education, research and development, and incentives for startups can foster innovation and support automation and digital technologies.
- **Blue Economy:** Sustainable fishing, eco-tourism, ocean energy, and marine biotechnology offer job creation and diversification.⁸⁸ By enhancing sustainable fishing practices and expanding aquaculture, Jamaica can enhance food security and create jobs.⁸⁹
- **Creative Economy:** Investments in music, film, fashion, and cultural tourism can boost GDP (currently 5.2 percent) and employment (3 percent of total employment).⁹⁰
- **Circular Economy:** Recycling facilities, resource efficiency, and eco-design can reduce environmental impact and create jobs. For selected Caribbean countries,⁹¹ including Jamaica, the estimated economic value, for example, of secondary materials, notably base and precious metals – aluminium, copper, silver, gold, and palladium – from e-waste is about USD 0.5 billion for the period 2021-2025.⁹²
- **Green Transition:** Scaling renewable energy, energy efficiency, and green jobs training can enhance resilience and reduce fossil fuel dependency (87 percent of energy consumption in 2022). According to recent research,⁹³ should a green growth model be followed, the GDP will increase by 0.9 percent and employment is expected to be 0.6 percent higher than the baseline, with significant job creation in the service sectors, particularly in wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants, real estate, and government services.
- **Artificial Intelligence:** Scenario planning and foresight tools should be adopted for the government to play a proactive role in guiding the transition, reforming education, and supporting displaced workers.⁹⁴

2. Social Inclusion

In the social dimension, there are several persistent challenges that have emerged. Sections of the population continue to fall behind, with underlying factors linked to age, poverty, place of residence, and gender. Jamaica faces systemic challenges in education, health, and social protection compounded with high levels of violence. Opportunities are identified in all social dimensions, with a cross-sectoral focus on violence preventions, youth engagement, gender equality and agrifood system transformation.

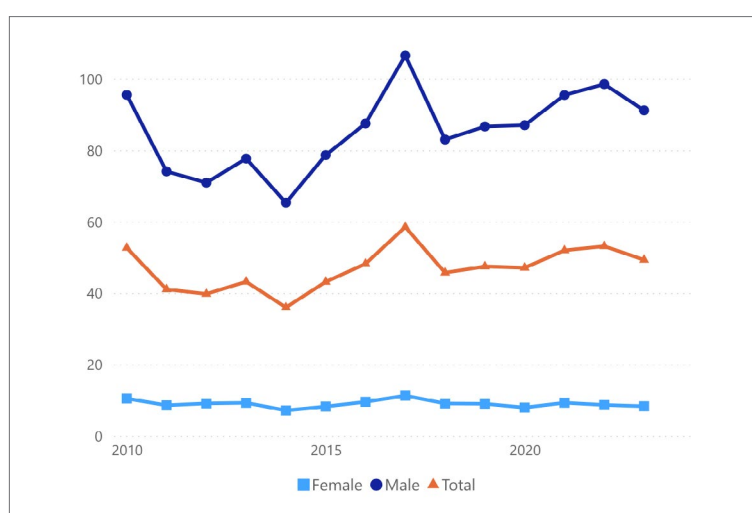
► Current Context

Jamaica's population of 2.8 million, with a median age of 32.8 years,⁹⁵ is experiencing significant demographic shifts that are reshaping its population structure and presenting both challenges and opportunities. It offers the opportunity to reap the demographic dividend but faces challenges from a declining fertility rate (1.9 births per woman⁹⁶ which is below the replacement level of 2.1) and negative net migration, signalling an aging population and shrinking workforce. Outmigration and brain drain threaten health and education sectors. This decline reflects increased access to contraception, delayed childbearing, and improved female education. However, the high rates of mistimed (36.9 percent) and unwanted (13.4 percent) pregnancies reveal systemic deficiencies in reproductive health services and limited reproductive autonomy.⁹⁷

Violence, including one of the world's highest homicide rates, gang activity, and gender-based violence (GBV), undermines social cohesion. Homicides rates are among the highest in the world

with no significant decline in the last 13 years (see Figure 11), gang crime is rampant, and domestic violence a serious concern (16 percent of mothers/caretakers recognize physical violence as necessary for educating a child and 57 percent of children aged 1-14 have experienced some type of physical violence⁹⁸). Apart from being a disruptive social phenomenon, violence also has a significant economic impact. According to the Global Peace Index, developed by Vision for Humanity,⁹⁹ the cost of 'lack of peace' is as high as 14.77 percent of Jamaica's GDP, or 2,044 USD PPP per capita. However, there are positive signs with murders dropped by 19 percent in 2024 after an additional 8 percent drop in 2023. December 2024 and January 2025 had the lowest monthly murder counts in over a decade, and February 2025 recorded the lowest in 25 years.¹⁰⁰

Figure 11: Homicides rate per 100,00 people (2010-2023)



Source: UNODC

The 2023 Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) reports 77 percent of youth aged 13-24 experienced violence, impacting physical and mental health. Children exposed to violence are at increased risk of developing chronic health conditions, mental health issues, and engaging in substance abuse.¹⁰¹ The trauma from such experiences can perpetuate a cycle of violence, where victims may become perpetrators in the future. Additionally, witnessing violence in homes and communities, including in schools, contributes to a pervasive sense of insecurity and fear, further hindering their development and educational opportunities.¹⁰²

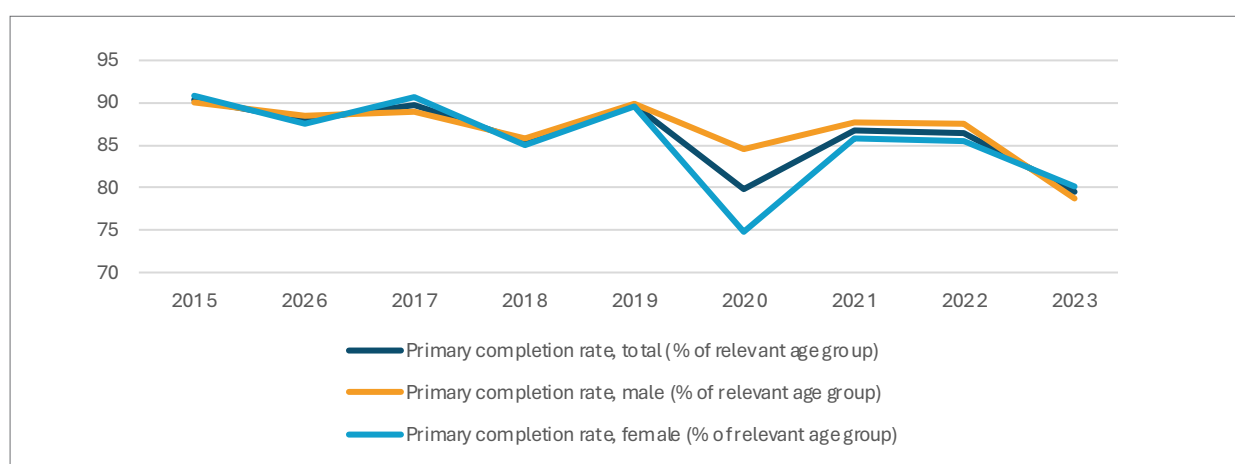
This aligns with other regional trends, where violence is both a symptom and a cause of social exclusion. The Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index (SCORE) regression model¹⁰³ in reducing violent attitudes shows that exposure to violence, combined with economic insecurity and weak civic belonging, significantly increases the likelihood of supporting violence as a problem-solving tool.¹⁰⁴ Violence and crime in Jamaica, as in other Caribbean countries, find their social roots in dysfunctional family structures and challenges in parental guidance.¹⁰⁵ The absence of strong family support systems often results in individuals, especially young boys, seeking belonging and identity through gangs.¹⁰⁶ This is coupled with a lack of attractive economic opportunities, pressure to provide for the family, and low value attributed to education.

GBV affects almost 28 percent of women,¹⁰⁷ costing 6.5 percent of GDP,¹⁰⁸ with low reporting. Traditional patriarchal norms¹⁰⁹ in Jamaica contribute significantly to GBV, with many women endorsing male dominance in families.¹¹⁰ Despite legal protections, under-reporting remains high, and survivors face systemic barriers to justice.¹¹¹ The COVID-19 pandemic worsened GBV, particularly intimate partner violence.

Education system presents challenges and gaps. On average, Jamaican children complete 11.7 years of schooling, but this equates to only 7.2 years of learning when benchmarked against top-performing systems¹¹². At the high school level, Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) results in Mathematics and English show a decline in pass rates for Mathematics, falling from 62.0 per cent of students in 2015 to 37.3 per cent of students in 2022. Pass rates in English Language have moved above the baseline, from 65.0 per cent of students in 2015 to 72.6 per cent in 2022, but have declined from the 85 percent of 2020.¹¹³

Disparities in learning outcomes are also determined by socio-economic status (children from low-income families often lack access to quality education due to financial constraints and are more likely to attend under-resourced schools); place of residence (with students in rural areas facing significant barriers, including inadequate school facilities, lack of internet access, and fewer educational resources); the specific needs of the children, due to shortages in funding for inclusive education and limited training for teachers to handle diverse learning needs and to implement innovative teaching methodologies. These challenges are further strained by a shortage of qualified workforce due to significant outmigration.¹¹⁴

Figure 12: Primary School Completion Rate by Gender 2015-2023



Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators

Primary school completion has declined over the last decade and suffered a serious fall during the pandemic, affecting girls more than boys (see Figure 12¹¹⁵). The dropout rate for secondary school students is approximately 20 percent.¹¹⁶ Boys are more likely to drop out of secondary school compared to girls, with boys accounting for about 60 percent of the total dropouts.¹¹⁷

Health challenges include a high burden of non-communicable diseases as well as violence, which is the second leading cause of death in the age of 35 to 45 years, claiming 1 out of 10 deaths.¹¹⁸ The rising prevalence of NCDs such as diabetes, hypertension, and cancer is driven by behavioural risk factors like tobacco use, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, and harmful alcohol consumption.¹¹⁹ NCDs were responsible for 77.3 percent of all deaths in Jamaica.¹²⁰ In this context, national data highlights that NCDs pose a significant and growing challenge to the country's health system. Notably, the burden of premature mortality from NCDs has increased, with the probability of a 30-year-old dying from cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease before age 70 rising to 21.0 percent in 2020, compared to 19.4 in 2000.¹²¹

Obesity and overweight are also prevalent, affecting 28.9 percent and 25.1 percent of adults respectively.¹²² Physical inactivity was reported in 34.7 percent of adults, and salt consumption averaged 9 grams per day—almost double the recommended amount.¹²³ Additionally, 24.2 percent of adults used tobacco and 60.7 percent consumed alcohol, with higher rates among men.¹²⁴ These lifestyle-related risk factors are compounded by poor nutrition, as seen in the 5.9 percent of children under five who were overweight in 2018,¹²⁵ and which reflects a consistent increasing trend.

The burden of NCDs places immense pressure on Jamaica's healthcare system, increasing the demand for long-term care and straining public health resources. These NCD challenges underscore the need for comprehensive prevention strategies, early detection, and improved access to care. Financially, the system relies heavily on government taxes, out-of-pocket payments, and external aid, with a growing share of government-funded expenditure and declining proportion of families' spending.¹²⁶ The health system itself faces limitations, including inadequate human resources and financial constraints. The shortage of the health workforce is significantly affected by outmigration.

HIV prevalence continues to decline,¹²⁷ but it is high among transgender persons (estimated at 51 percent) and men who have sex with men (nearly 30 percent).¹²⁸ Stigma, discrimination, and policy-related barriers continue to hinder equitable access to services, particularly for key populations.

Importantly, Jamaica achieved a major milestone in 2024 with the validation of the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis—a testament to sustained public health investments and commitment to gender-responsive, rights-based health interventions.¹²⁹

Adolescents face barriers to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) due to legal restrictions¹³⁰ and limited Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE), impacting both early pregnancies and risks to HIV infections. The Adolescent fertility rate has declined from 72 per 1000 in 2008 to 32 per 1000 in 2021; however, the rate still remains relatively high amongst adolescent females in the lower wealth quintiles,¹³¹ underpinned, *inter alia*, by social norms that hinder CSE and high rates of early union, affecting one out of every five young women age 15–19 years in early union (MICS, 2022).¹³²

Maternal health services have improved significantly, with 99 percent of births attended by skilled personnel and early antenatal care rising from 22 percent in 2018 to 45 percent in 2023. These improvements helped reduce the maternal mortality ratio from 211.3 in 2021 to a preliminary 133 in 2024.¹³³ This progress is due to better early care, clinical governance, facility upgrades, and updated guidelines. However, cervical and breast cancer screening remains low, mainly due to cost, fear, and limited access.¹³⁴

Social protection systems are fragmented, with limited coverage for informal workers and rural communities. Jamaica’s social protection system has shown responsiveness, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Key programs like the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) and the PATH conditional cash transfer program¹³⁵ provide essential support, including a newly introduced social pension for vulnerable elderly citizens, yet gaps persist—especially for informal workers, unemployed individuals, and marginalized groups. Coverage is relatively low, with only 32.6 percent of the population receiving at least one benefit in 2022,¹³⁶ and access barriers such as administrative hurdles and lack of awareness hinder effectiveness. The system lacks gender-responsive design, failing to address strategic inequalities faced by women, persons with disabilities, and caregivers.¹³⁷

Jamaica faces a deepening food security and nutrition crisis, driven by heavy reliance on food imports, low agricultural productivity,¹³⁸ climate-related disruptions, and economic barriers to healthy diets¹³⁹—further compounded by inequitable land ownership,¹⁴⁰ where a small minority controls most fertile land while the majority of small farmers are confined to marginal, rain-fed hillside plots, limiting their productivity and resilience. Over half the population faces moderate to severe food insecurity,¹⁴¹ exacerbated by import dependency and unequal land tenure. The digital divide further limits access to technology and financial services, particularly in rural areas.

► Binding Constraints

- **Gender Disparities:** GBV, wage gaps, underrepresentation in political roles and inequalities in social services access, limit girls and women’s empowerment, underpinned by patriarchal social norms.
- **Marginalized Groups:** Systemic barriers for LGBTQIA+, PwD, and migrants restrict access to services and rights.
- **Education Gaps:** Poor learning outcomes, particularly in STEM, high male dropout rates, and inadequate inclusive education hinder human capital development.
- **Health Challenges:** Workforce shortages, high NCD burden, and SRHR barriers strain healthcare delivery and people’s potential.
- **Social Protection Gaps:** Fragmented systems and limited coverage for informal workers and single-parent households with children, exacerbate vulnerabilities.
- **High Violence:** Homicides, gang activity, VAC, and GBV deter social cohesion and economic progress.
- **Digital Divide:** Rural-urban disparities in technology access limit financial inclusion and service delivery.
- **Food and Nutritional Insecurity:** Import dependency and unequal land tenure, weaknesses in food products marketing regulation and unhealthy habits hinder nutrition and agricultural productivity.

► Opportunities

- **Education Reform:** The Ministry of Education and Youth's TREND initiative and investments in STEAM education, digital literacy, and inclusive curricula can address skills mismatches and reduce male dropout rates.
- **Children and Youth Engagement:** Programs promoting civic participation, entrepreneurship, and positive male role models can counter 'toxic masculinity' and gang influence.
- **SRHR Integration:** Expanding SRHR services and integrating CSE into curricula can reduce teenage pregnancies and improve human capital outcomes.
- **Agrifood System Transformation:** Supporting smallholder farmers, improving land tenure, and reducing food loss can enhance food security and rural livelihoods.
- **Social Protection Expansion:** To broad coverage of informal sector workers, establishing unemployment insurance, and improving care policies can reduce vulnerabilities.
- **Violence Prevention:** Community-based initiatives, parenting programs, mental health services, and trust-building and legal reforms can address crime, GBV and VAC.
- **Gender Equality:** Legal reforms, civic and economic empowerment, and challenging patriarchal norms can reduce disparities.
- **Health System Strengthening:** Expanding primary health care, universal access to health and universal health coverage, and preventative care can address NCDs and communicable diseases.

3. Environmental Sustainability

As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Jamaica's reliance on natural resources and vulnerability to climate change pose significant challenges to SDG progress. Environmental degradation and limited renewable energy adoption further complicate sustainable development. Opportunities are identified in leveraging the green transition, sustainable tourism and marine conservation, strengthen climate resilience and policy frameworks.

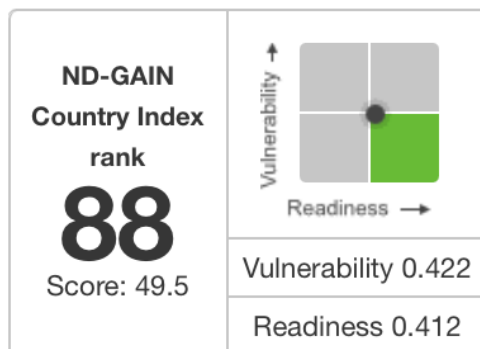
► Current Context

Jamaica is highly dependent on natural resources. Its geographical location and biophysical landscape make it vulnerable to climate change impacts, especially in the coastal areas where people depend on the ocean for their livelihoods. Jamaica's tropical location makes it susceptible to natural hazards, with 16 major storms from 2000 to 2023 causing significant economic losses.¹⁴² Climate change exacerbates risks, with rising sea levels threatening coastal communities and tourism. Environmental degradation is driven by industrialization, agricultural practices, deforestation, pollution, and has resulted in biodiversity loss. Coral reefs, weakened by decades of ongoing coastal pollution, are in critical condition (less than 20 percent cover), and fisheries production between 2017 and 2022 has declined by 35 percent.¹⁴³

The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) ranks Jamaica 68th globally in 2024 (out of 180 countries), with declines in agriculture, fisheries, and air pollution (ozone exposure) over the past 10 years. Terrestrial protected areas cover 20 percent of land, but marine protected areas are minimal (0.7 percent of territorial waters).¹⁴⁴ Pollution from various sources, including industrial effluents, untreated sewage, and improper waste disposal, affects air, water, and soil quality. Deforestation, driven by the clearing of forests for agriculture, urban development, and other purposes, leads to loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, and disruption of water cycles. Overexploitation of natural resources, such as overfishing, mining, and other extractive activities, depletes natural resources and disrupts ecosystems.

Waste management is a concern, with a 30 percent increase in solid waste from 2014 to 2017¹⁴⁵ and inadequate wastewater treatment (75 percent of sewage disposal uses soak-away systems).¹⁴⁶ Energy consumption remains fossil fuel-dependent (87 percent in 2022), despite renewable energy potential.¹⁴⁷ Challenges in the enforcement of environmental regulations and underfunded governance further hinder progress.

Figure 13: ND-GAIN Index (2024)



Source: <https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/>

Jamaica's preparedness and resilience profile reflects a country with high readiness but persistent vulnerabilities, particularly in the face of climate change and disasters. Jamaica is classified as "high readiness/low vulnerability" by the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (Figure 13), indicating strong potential to manage climate risks despite being highly exposed. Agriculture remains a key vulnerability, with low productivity and limited adaptive capacity. Social readiness is weak, especially in education and innovation, and logistical and bureaucratic inefficiencies undermine effective disaster response. Gender inequality significantly exacerbates disaster risk, with women, children, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQIA+ individuals facing heightened vulnerabilities and barriers to aid.

► Binding Opportunities

- **Climate Vulnerability:** Susceptibility to hydrometeorological hazards such as hurricanes or tropical cyclones, droughts, and sea-level rise threatens infrastructure, tourism, and livelihoods.
- **Environmental Degradation:** Deforestation, coral reef loss, and pollution degrade ecosystems and economic potential.
- **Limited Renewable Energy Adoption:** Fossil fuel reliance and slow transition to renewables limits progress towards climate action.
- **Inadequate Waste Management:** Insufficient infrastructure and lack of source separation exacerbate pollution.
- **Suboptimal DRR Coordination:** Bureaucratic inefficiencies and weak social readiness limit resilience.
- **Challenged Environmental Governance:** Underfunded and fragmented systems hinder effective resource management.

► Opportunities

- **Green Transition:** Scaling renewable and clean energy, energy efficiency, and climate-smart agriculture and tourism can reduce fossil fuel reliance and enhance resilience.
- **Sustainable Tourism and Marine Conservation:** Eco-tourism and marine protected areas can support biodiversity and improve the value-add of the country's tourism attractions.
- **Waste Management:** Investments in recycling, resource efficiency, sanitary landfilling and wastewater treatment can limit solid waste pollution.

- **Climate Resilience:** Increasing technology use and adoption, building resilient infrastructures, community-based projects, and training programs can strengthen disaster preparedness.
- **Policy Frameworks:** Implementing the Escazú Agreement can enhance transparency, public access and availability of environmental information, and protect vulnerable communities.

Chapter Summary

Jamaica's path to sustainable development is shaped by interlinked economic, social, and environmental challenges and opportunities. Economically, high public debt, low productivity, and limited economic complexity constrain growth, yet opportunities lie in innovation, the creative and circular economies, and incentivizing transitions to green and blue sectors. Socially, persistent inequalities—rooted in gender, age, and geography—are compounded by violence, education gaps, and health disparities, but can be addressed through inclusive reforms, youth engagement, and expanded social protection. Environmentally, climate vulnerability and resource degradation threaten ecosystem resilience, yet opportunities to promote a green transition, sustainable tourism, and marine conservation offer transformative potential. These dimensions are deeply interconnected, requiring a reorientation to integrated strategies to unlock inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development.



CHAPTER 3:

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

This chapter examines Jamaica's governance framework, human rights landscape, and institutional capacities, emphasizing their critical role in advancing the SDGs. It identifies opportunities for progress, binding constraints, and their interconnections, highlighting the need for integrated reforms to strengthen democratic processes, protect human rights, and enhance institutional effectiveness.

CHAPTER 3:

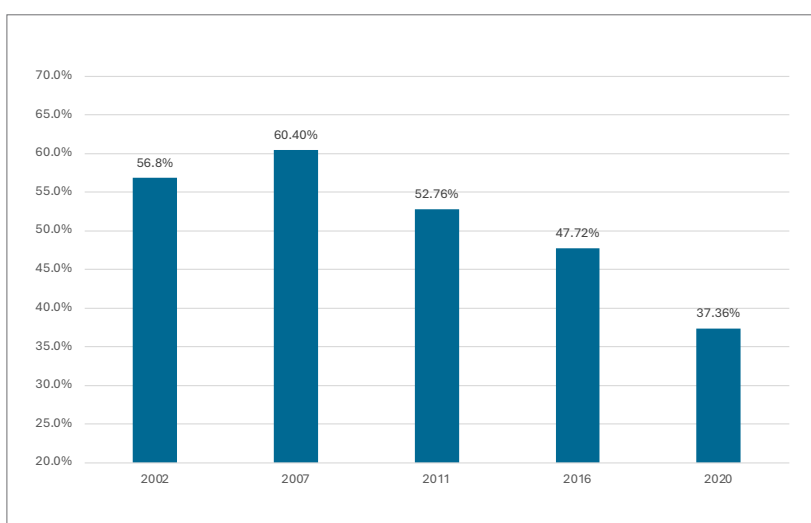
GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

1. Governance Structure

Jamaica maintains a stable parliamentary democracy with regular transitions between the People's National Party (PNP) and the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) since independence in 1962. Electoral reforms in the 1990s and the establishment of the Electoral Commission of Jamaica in 2006 have significantly reduced political fraud, ensuring violence-free elections. However, challenges persist. Patronage-based politics, where citizens engage through clientelist relationships, and business elites support both major parties, hinder significant reforms.¹⁴⁸

Declining voter turnout (37.9 percent in 2020, see Figure 14) reveals “participation and trust deficit,” particularly among youth and economically vulnerable groups.¹⁴⁹ The SCORE index indicates lukewarm support for democratic processes, especially among young men aged 18–29, with perceptions of corruption and impunity eroding trust,¹⁵⁰ as evidenced by Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index remaining stagnant over six years.¹⁵¹ Gender inequalities are stark: in the last elections (2020) out of 139 candidates, 105 were men, and 34 were women (24.5 percent), but still an improvement from previous polls.¹⁵²

Figure 14: Voters' Turnout for General Elections 2002-2020

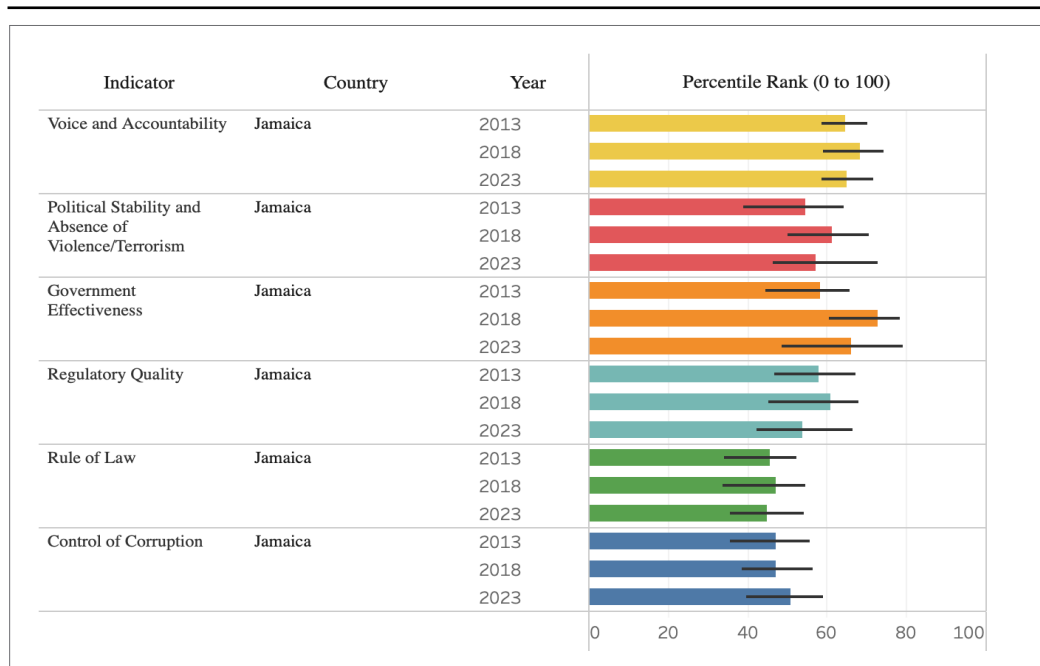


Source: <https://www.electionguide.org/countries/id/108/>

The government's focus on fiscal prudence has stabilized the economy but constrained investments in governance reforms. The ongoing constitutional reform process, aiming to transition to a republic and modernize institutions, presents a historic opportunity to enhance transparency and accountability. Phase 1 focuses on establishing a republic, while Phase 2 addresses electoral reform and institutional restructuring, potentially replacing the UK-based Privy Council with a Caribbean court to localize justice. Success hinges on robust public engagement, bipartisan consensus, and a national referendum, necessitating comprehensive education campaigns.¹⁵³

Local governance structures, such as Parish Development Committees and Community Development Councils, which are both supported by the Social Development Commission, remain underutilized due to unclear mandates and limited funding.¹⁵⁴ In high-risk communities, gangs often act as de facto authorities, filling service delivery gaps, which undermines state legitimacy and complicates law enforcement efforts.¹⁵⁵

Figure 15: Trends in Jamaica's World Governance Indicators



Source: World Bank, WGI Indicators

► Binding Constraints

- **Weaknesses in Local Governance:** Under-resourced subnational structures and uneven service delivery limit effectiveness, particularly in rural and high-crime areas.
- **Patronage-Based Politics:** Clientelism perpetuates inequality and obstructs meaningful reforms.
- **Low Civic Engagement:** Declining voter turnout and institutional distrust, especially among youth, weaken democratic processes.
- **Corruption and Inefficiency:** Persistent perceptions of corruption and bureaucratic inefficiencies erode public trust and hinder service delivery.

► Opportunities

- **Constitutional Reform:** Embedding mechanisms such as impeachment provisions and clearer rules for public office can strengthen accountability and localize justice systems.
- **Civic Engagement:** Targeted initiatives to engage youth and vulnerable populations can rebuild trust and boost democratic participation.
- **Decentralization:** Strengthening local governance through clearer mandates and increased financial autonomy can enhance service delivery, particularly in rural and high-risk areas.
- **E-Governance:** Expanding digital services can improve efficiency and access, especially in underserved communities.
- **Transparency Mechanisms:** Enhancing public procurement systems and data transparency can reduce corruption and foster public trust.

2. Human Rights

Jamaica is a signatory to nine core international human rights treaties but has not ratified critical conventions, including the Convention Against Torture, the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. The absence of a fully independent, Paris Principles-compliant National Human Rights Institution limits oversight and accountability. Legal protections for marginalized groups—LGBTQIA+ individuals, persons with disabilities (PwD), and migrants—remain inconsistent, with discriminatory laws, such as the Offences Against the Person Act, criminalizing same-sex relationships.

Jamaica's growing role in mixed migration, especially from Haiti, highlights critical human rights and governance challenges. Despite the 2009 Refugee Policy, the lack of comprehensive asylum legislation and reliance on outdated, colonial-era migration laws hinder compliance with the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 2030 Agenda. These laws criminalize irregular migration and lack safeguards, limiting access to protection, rights, and services for vulnerable individuals.¹⁵⁶ These gaps directly impact SDGs 10, 16, and 17, concerning inequality reduction, institutional integrity, and international cooperation.

The Disabilities Act, fully effective in 2022, has driven progress, with the Jamaica Council on Persons with Disabilities gaining legal autonomy and supporting improvements in education, employment, and accessibility. However, resource constraints and lengthy certification processes hinder implementation.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child's recommendation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including the family and schools, remains pending, as does the recommendation to ensure that the Child Justice System is fully aligned with the Convention.

Security measures, including States of Emergency (SOEs) and Zones of Special Operations (ZOSOs), have reduced gang activity from over 350 gangs in 2016 to fewer than 100 in 2025¹⁵⁷ but raise concerns about civil liberties and human rights violations.¹⁵⁸ Extended detentions, warrantless searches, and curfews have drawn criticism for eroding due process and disproportionately affecting marginalized communities.¹⁵⁹ Stakeholders, including educators, advocate for social investments in education and mental health to complement security measures.

Jamaica's ratification of the Escazú Agreement provides a framework to strengthen environmental access rights, promoting transparency and protecting environmental defenders, particularly in vulnerable communities.

► Binding Constraints

- **Inconsistent Legal Protections:** Outdated laws and gaps in protections for LGBTQIA+, PwD, children and migrants limit rights realization.
- **SOE Impacts:** Security measures erode civil liberties and public trust, particularly in marginalized communities.
- **Resource Constraints:** Limited funding and capacity curtail human rights initiatives, especially for PwD.

► Opportunities

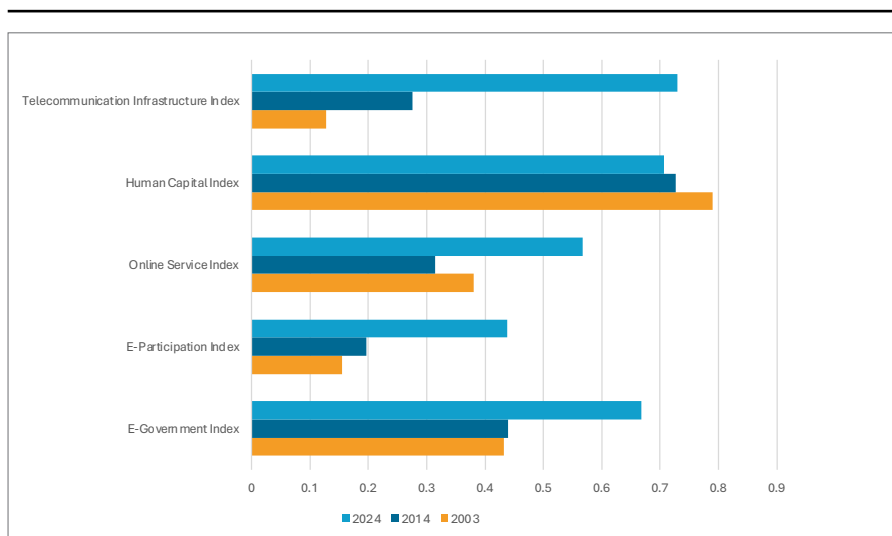
- **National Human Rights Institution:** Establishing a fully independent oversight body can enhance rights monitoring and accountability.
- **Legal Reforms:** Decriminalizing same-sex relationships, codifying protections for LGBTQIA+, PwD, and migrants, and advancing legal reforms to protect children, can advance inclusion.
- **Escazú Agreement Implementation:** Strengthening transparency and public participation in environmental governance can protect vulnerable groups.
- **Social Investment:** Integrating human rights education and increasing investments in mental health and violence prevention can address exclusion's root causes.

3. Institutional Capacities

Jamaica's public administration is relatively mature but faces uneven capacity, particularly at the local level. Public sector modernization and e-governance initiatives have improved efficiency, but rural and inner-city communities lack consistent access to these digital services.¹⁶⁰ The UN E-Government Development Index highlights progress in digital services but identifies a persistent human capital deficit, underscoring the need for investment in education and skills (see Figure 16).

The justice system, while structurally robust, is hampered by case backlogs, limited legal aid, and significant levels of recidivism¹⁶¹ disproportionately affecting marginalized groups. Measures to counter human trafficking are improving but the country is still classified as Tier 2 by the US Department of State.¹⁶² The "Justice Across the Island" program has improved access for PwD, but systemic inefficiencies persist.

Figure 16: E-Government Development Indexes



Source: <https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/en-us/data-cente>

Fiscal discipline has stabilized the economy but limits resources for institutional strengthening. The constitutional reform process offers an opportunity to modernize governance structures and enhance accountability, but implementation requires overcoming bureaucratic inefficiencies and ensuring public engagement.

► Binding Constraints

- **Uneven Institutional Capacity:** Implementation bottlenecks at the local level impede inclusive service delivery.
- **Justice System Inefficiencies:** Case backlogs and limited legal aid restrict access, especially for marginalized groups.
- **Limited Fiscal Space:** Budget constraints limit investments in institutional modernization and human capital.
- **Gang Influence:** Organized crime undermines state legitimacy and service delivery in high-risk communities.

► Opportunities

- **Justice System Reform:** Streamlining case management and expanding legal aid can improve access to justice, particularly for vulnerable groups.
- **E-Governance Expansion:** Scaling digital services can enhance efficiency and reach underserved

areas.

- **Institutional Strengthening:** Improving coordination across ministries and local governments can enhance service delivery.
- **Human Capital Investment:** Training programs and education reform can address capacity gaps and support modernization.
- **Community Engagement:** Strengthening subnational governance can rebuild trust and counter gang influence.

Interconnectedness of Binding Constraints

The binding constraints across governance structure, human rights, and institutional capacities are deeply interlinked, creating systemic barriers to SDG progress that demand integrated solutions.

- **Governance and Human Rights Linkages:** Patronage-based politics and corruption exacerbate inequalities, limiting legal protections for marginalized groups like LGBTQIA+, PwD, and migrants. Overuse of SOEs to address gang violence erodes civil liberties, undermining trust in governance institutions. Limitations in local governance fails to deliver services in high-risk areas, allowing gangs to fill the void, perpetuating human rights violations and social exclusion.
- **Human Rights and Institutional Capacity Linkages:** Inconsistent legal protections and high GBV prevalence strain the justice system, already burdened by inefficiencies and backlogs. Resource constraints limit the capacity to implement human rights initiatives, such as the Disabilities Act, and hinder access to services for vulnerable groups. Gang influence undermines institutional legitimacy, complicating efforts to strengthen justice and service delivery systems.
- **Governance and Institutional Capacity Linkages:** Limitations in local governance and uneven institutional capacity exacerbate inefficiencies in service delivery, particularly in rural and high-crime areas. Corruption and low civic engagement deter investments in institutional modernization, while limited fiscal space restricts funding for e-governance and human capital development, further reducing civic participation.
- **Cross-Cutting Impacts:** These constraints create a cycle where suboptimal governance fuels corruption and clientelism, undermining human rights protections and institutional effectiveness. This limits the state's ability to address gang influence and deliver inclusive services, perpetuating distrust and hindering SDG progress. For example, inadequate resources for justice system reforms exacerbate case backlogs, disproportionately affecting marginalized groups and reinforcing perceptions of impunity.

Interconnectedness of Across all Development Pillars

The binding constraints in governance, human rights, and institutional capacities are intricately linked with those in economic transformation, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability, forming a complex web of challenges that amplify each other and impede Jamaica's SDG progress.

1. **Economic Dimension:** Governance challenges, entrenched patronage systems, and limited institutional capacity undermine economic transformation. Corruption and opaque public procurement deter foreign direct investment (FDI), while high public debt and inefficient resource allocation reduce fiscal space for inclusive growth. Inadequate legal protections and discriminatory practices restrict economic participation for marginalized groups—particularly LGBTQIA+ individuals, persons with disabilities (PWD), and women—perpetuating informality, wage gaps, and low productivity. Deficiencies in the social protection system do not allow migrating the effects of poverty on the most vulnerable families. High levels of crime, justice system inefficiencies, and weak contract enforcement further discourage private sector development. These governance and rights deficits reinforce economic stagnation and limit the state's ability to invest in human capital and institutional modernization.
2. **Social Dimension:** Governance failures and human rights violations deepen social exclusion. Patronage politics and low civic engagement marginalize vulnerable populations, including rural communities, children, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and PwD, limiting their access to education, health, and social protection. High levels GBV and VAC, inadequate protections for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and discriminatory laws exacerbate vulnerabilities, especially for women, children and adolescents. Limited institutional capacity and uneven implementation of social policies—such as the Disabilities Act—further entrench inequality. Gang influence and violence, fuelled by distrust in governance, erode civic participation and hinder service delivery, particularly in underserved areas.
3. **Environmental Dimension:** Environmental sustainability is compromised by governance inefficiencies, corruption, and limited institutional coordination. Mismanagement of resources and challenges in the enforcement of environmental regulations contribute to deforestation, pollution, and biodiversity loss, reducing agricultural productivity and tourism revenues. Marginalized groups face heightened risks during climate-related disasters due to economic insecurity and limited access to aid. The lack of transparency and public participation in environmental governance disproportionately affects communities reliant on natural resources. Inadequate infrastructure for waste and water management, coupled with suboptimal disaster risk reduction (DRR) systems, increases vulnerability and diverts resources from social and economic priorities.
4. **Cross-Cutting Challenges:** These deficits are mutually reinforcing. Corruption and weak governance reduce fiscal space, limiting investments in education, health, and environmental protection. Social exclusion and violence undermine trust in institutions, deterring investment and exacerbating economic and environmental vulnerabilities. The digital divide and uneven e-governance capacity restrict access to services and innovation, particularly in rural areas. Without integrated reforms that strengthen governance, uphold human rights, and build institutional capacity, progress across all dimensions of sustainable development will remain constrained.

Chapter Summary

Jamaica benefits from a stable democracy and generally strong institutions. The ongoing constitutional reform presents a critical opportunity to modernize the governance system, making it more responsive to a changing society and more inclusive in its distribution of power—thereby strengthening social cohesion. Enhancing transparency can further support revenue mobilization, which is essential for driving economic transformation and expanding social protection. Integrating human rights into education and health policies can help reduce exclusion, while sustained investment in institutional capacity across economic, social, and environmental sectors will improve policy implementation and development outcomes.



CHAPTER 4:

MULTIDIMENSIONAL RISK ANALYSIS

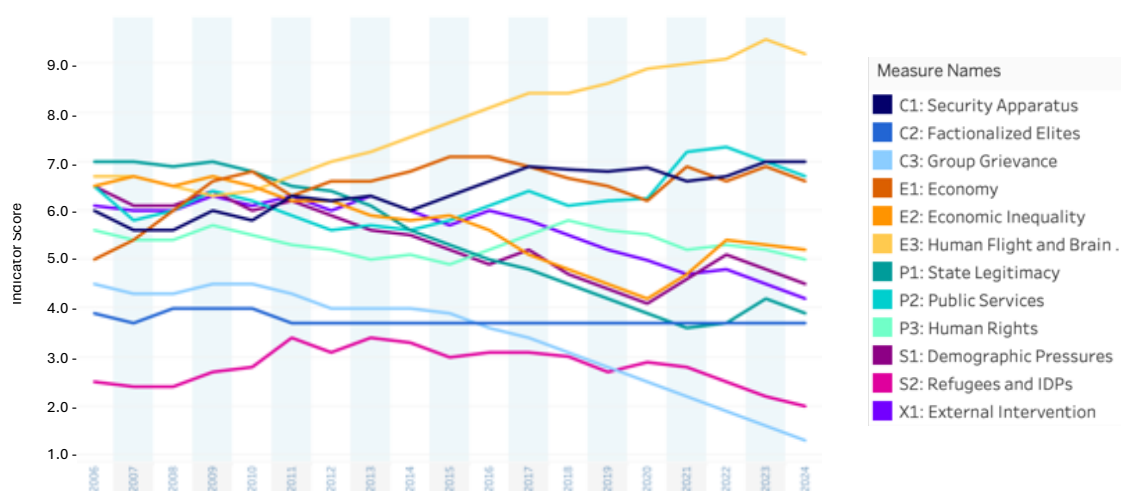
This chapter examines Jamaica's vulnerability, risk, and resilience in the context of its pursuit of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Jamaica faces unique challenges stemming from its geographic, economic, social, and environmental characteristics. Drawing on frameworks like the United Nations' Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), the Fragile States Index, the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN), and regional Caribbean reports, this chapter analyses Jamaica's multifaceted risks, their interconnections, and the resilience strategies employed to foster sustainable development.

CHAPTER 4:

MULTIDIMENSIONAL RISK ANALYSIS

Jamaica's MVI scores, ranging from 49.6 to 54.9, indicate moderate vulnerability and limited resilience,¹⁶³ particularly in economic and environmental domains. The MVI analysis underlines that economic vulnerability stems from reliance on tourism, external trade, and limited diversification; environmental vulnerability is driven by exposure to hurricanes, flooding, and deforestation; and social vulnerability includes challenges in social equity, access to sanitation, education, and healthcare. Likewise, the Fragile States Index (see Figure 17)¹⁶⁴ shows that the highest vulnerabilities in Jamaica's profiles lie on human capital-related indicators (human flight and brain drain have the highest score and continued to grow over the years), followed by its security system, overall economy, and public services.

Figure 17: Fragile States Index, Jamaica 2006-2024



Source: <https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/>

Below, we outline 12 key risk areas, their implications, and interconnections, providing a comprehensive view of Jamaica's development challenges. For further details on the scope of each risk area see Annex 2 Multidimensional Risk Analysis Framework.

SDG	Risk Area	Jamaica's risk profile
16 & 17	Political Stability	While Jamaica maintains a stable parliamentary democracy declining public trust in institutions, coupled with pervasive gang-related crime, poses long-term risks. Also low civic engagement and political tribalism can affect governance if left unaddressed, impacting SDG 16.
16 & 17	Democratic Space	States of Emergency (SOEs), and Zones of Special Operations (ZOSOs) measures taken to reduce crime has raised concerns about civil liberties, inc. extended detentions and warrantless searches. If mismanaged, public confidence public confidence and democratic space could be eroded, impacting SDG 16.
1, 5, 10 & 17	Social Cohesion, Gender Equality, and Non-Discrimination	Gender inequality can be increased through gender-based violence (GBV), violence against children (VAC) and discrimination against marginalized groups. Also worsening economic opportunities for Jamaica's large youth population may fuel social tensions. Patronage-based politics can perpetuate inequalities, impacting upon SDGs 5 & 10.
16 & 17	Regional and Global Influences	Jamaica's location as a transit hub for drugs and arms trafficking exposes its to regional crime networks. Its extensive coastline complicates border security. Changes to U.S. migrant deportation policies risks increasing crime by the influx of individuals with criminal records, impacting SDG 16.

SDG	Risk Area	Jamaica's risk profile
16 & 17	Internal Security	A rise in gang activity and community violence poses a continual risk to SDG progress. Crime deters investment, disrupts social cohesion, and strains public resources, impacting SDG 8 & 11.
16 & 17	Justice and Rule of Law	The justice system faces capacity constraints (notably case backlogs, limited legal aid) and imposes high costs on vulnerable groups. Over-reliance on SOEs and ZOSOs raises human rights concern and undermines public trust, impacting SDG 16.
1 & 8	Economic Stability	High public debt limits fiscal space for transformative investments, impacting SDG 8.
4, 6, 7, 9, 11 & 17	Infrastructure and Access to Social Services	Uneven infrastructure development, particularly in rural areas, restricts access to quality healthcare, education, and sanitation. These disparities exacerbate inequalities, impacting SDG 3, 4, & 6.
16 & 17	Displacement and Migration	High outward migration of skilled professionals in health and education threatens service delivery, while inflows of migrants and refugees, particularly from Haiti, strain resources, impacting SDG 10.
3 & 17	Public Health	The health system is challenged by the incidence of CDs and NCDs, workforce shortages, and infrastructure deficits. Climate change increases disease outbreak risks, while gaps in SRHR access, particularly for adolescents, impacts SDG 3.
2 & 17	Food Security, Agriculture, and Land	Low agricultural productivity and unequal land ownership contribute to food insecurity. High food prices limit access to healthy diets, particularly for low-income households, impacting SDG 2.
12, 13, 14, 15 & 17	Environment and Climate	Risks from hurricanes, droughts, and sea-level rise, deforestation, coral reef degradation, and low institutional capacity threaten ecosystems and livelihoods, along with an over reliance on fossil fuels, impacting SDGs 13, 14, and 15.

1. Interconnections

Economic vulnerability, driven by debt and import dependency, exacerbates food insecurity and limits climate adaptation funding. Governance limitations and patronage fuel distrust, enabling crime and undermining social cohesion. High crime rates deter investment, perpetuating economic stagnation and informal employment, which disproportionately affect marginalized groups. Environmental degradation, worsened by climate change, strains agriculture and tourism, further constraining fiscal resources.

2. Resilience Strategies

Jamaica has implemented strategies to build resilience across economic, social, and environmental pillars, aligning with its Vision 2030 National Development Plan and the SDGs.

Economic Resilience: The Economic Reform Programme (2013), supported by the IMF, has reduced public debt to 77 percent of GDP by 2024, enhancing fiscal stability. Investments in renewable energy, targeting 50 percent by 2030, reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels. Promoting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through the Jamaica Business Development Corporation diversifies income sources, particularly in rural areas. Sustainable tourism initiatives, integrating cultural and eco-tourism, mitigate environmental impacts while boosting local economies, supporting SDG 8.

Social Resilience: The Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) provides conditional cash transfers, improving access to education and healthcare for vulnerable populations. The National Policy on Poverty Reduction (2020) focuses on skills training and job creation for youth and women. Community-based initiatives like the Violence Prevention Alliance reduce crime through social interventions. Expanding technical and vocational training equips the workforce for emerging industries, aligning with SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 4 (Quality Education).

Environmental Resilience: The existing policy framework for Climate Change, resource protection, pollution and sustainable development can be strengthened through integrated approaches and greater emphasis on implementation and delivery of results, for better ecosystem protection. Protected areas, such as the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park – a World Heritage site

- preserve biodiversity. Renewable and clean energy projects, including green hydrogen, solar and wind farms, can diversify Jamaica's energy mix and reduce carbon emissions. Community-led non-profits like the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust, promote sustainable land use and reforestation and offer good opportunities for building long term partnership. International project-focused initiatives funded by donors such as the Green Climate Fund, support climate-resilient infrastructure, aligning with SDG 13.



Chapter Summary

Jamaica's pursuit of sustainable development reflects a delicate balance between addressing multidimensional vulnerabilities and leveraging resilience strategies. Economic diversification, social inclusion programs, and environmental conservation efforts demonstrate a commitment to the SDGs and Vision 2030. However, interconnected challenges—high debt, crime, social inequalities, and climate risks—require integrated solutions addressing root causes like colonial legacies and governance challenges. By embedding affirmative action in national policies and fostering international cooperation, Jamaica can accelerate progress toward sustainable and inclusive growth, serving as a model for other SIDS.



CHAPTER 5:

FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE

This chapter examines Jamaica's financial landscape for achieving the SDGs, identifying key financing channels, constraints faced, and opportunities to enhance resource and revenue mobilization. While data on Jamaica's SDG financing gap is not available, global estimates from UNCTAD indicate a widening gap for developing countries, rising from USD 2.5 trillion annually in 2014 to USD 4 trillion in 2024. The analysis disaggregates domestic and foreign financing channels, highlights binding constraints, and explores their interconnected impacts on Jamaica's economic, social, and environmental development pillars.

CHAPTER 5:

FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE

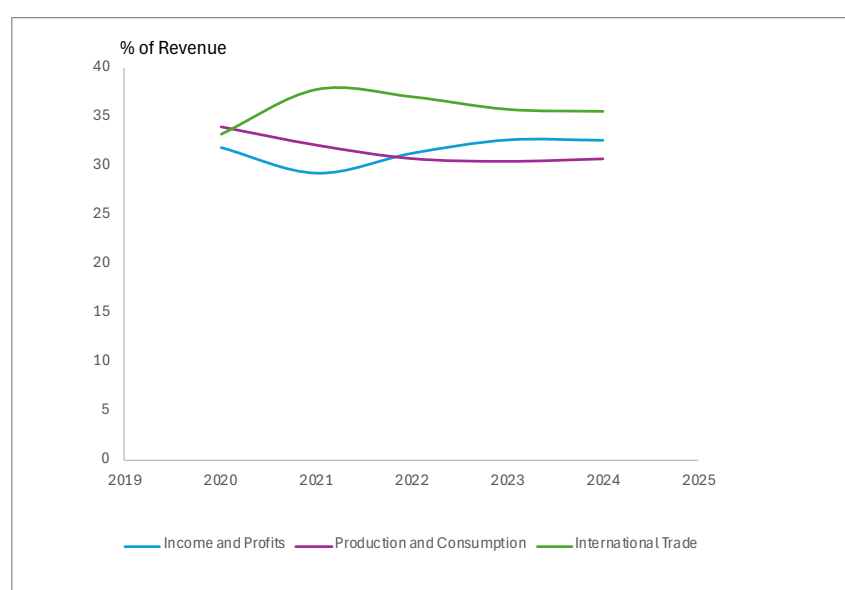
1. Domestic Channels

Domestic resource mobilization is critical for financing Jamaica's SDGs, encompassing public sources (taxation, borrowing, and other revenues) and private sources (businesses, financial institutions, and charities). Taking each in turn:

► Public Sources

Taxation: Taxation is the cornerstone of public financing, accounting for over 90 percent of government revenues. Jamaica's tax-to-GDP ratio averaged 26.3 percent from 2015 to 2019, dipped to 25.7 percent in 2020 due to COVID-19, and rose to 28.1 percent by 2024.¹⁶⁵ Taxes are evenly split between direct income taxes, indirect General Consumption Tax (GCT), and international trade taxes, with the latter increasing post-COVID (see Figure 18). The Tax Administration of Jamaica (TAJ) has improved operations, as assessed by the IMF's TADAT tool in 2021,¹⁶⁶ but challenges persist in on-time filing, accurate reporting, tax debt management, and dispute resolution.

Figure 18: Types of Taxation by Percentage Revenue (2019-2024)



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook Jamaica October 2024

Borrowing: Since 2013, Jamaica's fiscal reforms have reduced public debt from 147 percent of GDP in 2012 to 92.3 percent in 2019 and under 70 percent in 2024. However, the 2020 COVID-19-led economic contraction increased the debt ratio to 109.7 percent. The government's commitment to a 60 percent debt-to-GDP target by 2028, supported by near-balanced budgets since 2021, limits fiscal space for transformative SDG investments. IMF projections suggest subdued borrowing until 2028, constraining large-scale development projects.

Other Public Sources: Non-tax revenues (e.g., duties, levies) and grants contribute to about 8 percent and 1 percent of total government revenues, respectively. These sources are not anticipated to increase significantly by 2028, per IMF assessments, limiting their role in SDG financing.

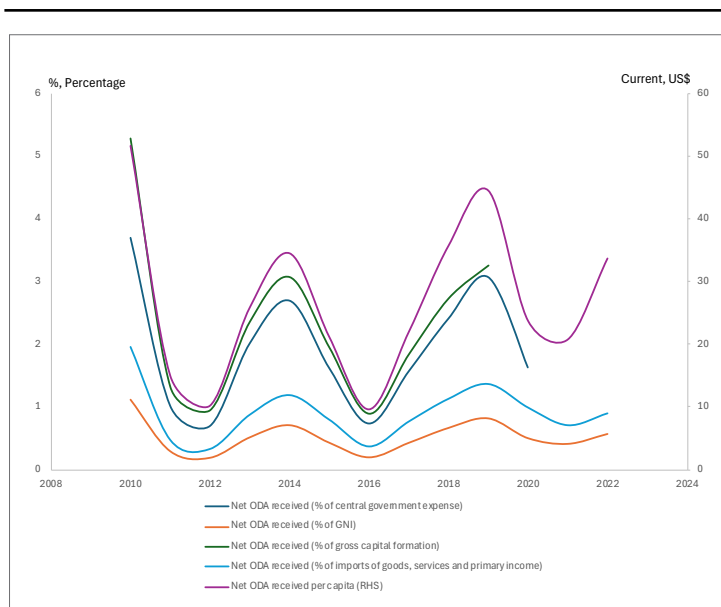
► Binding Constraints for Public Sources

- **Limited Fiscal Space:** High public debt and fiscal prudence restrict investments in transformative SDG projects, particularly in infrastructure, health, and education.
- **Inefficiencies in Tax Administration:** Low on-time filing rates, high tax debt, and dispute backlogs hinder revenue mobilization.
- **Dependence on International Trade Taxes:** Over-reliance on volatile trade taxes increases vulnerability to global economic shocks.
- **Low Non-Tax Revenue and Grants:** Minimal contributions from grants and non-tax revenues limit alternative public financing options.

► Private Sources

Businesses and Enterprises: Businesses contribute directly through taxes and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, and indirectly by promoting sustainable practices aligned with SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). Adopting the UN Global Compact's principles¹⁶⁷ can integrate sustainability into business operations, but uptake remains limited.¹⁶⁸

Figure 19: ODA Flows 2010-2022



Source: World Bank Development Indicators

Private Financial Sector: Banks, insurance companies, and stock markets can align strategies with SDGs by promoting sustainable investments and reducing negative environmental impacts. Signing onto UNEP-FI's Principles for Responsible Banking¹⁶⁹ and Sustainable Insurance¹⁷⁰ could enhance their contribution, but adoption is nascent.¹⁷¹

Charities: Jamaica's 121 registered charities,¹⁷² many church-affiliated, channel approximately JMD 4 billion (USD 25.8 million^{173 174}) annually toward education, health, and basic needs. While impactful for vulnerable groups, their small-scale limits broader SDG contributions.

Binding Constraints for Private Sources

Limited Scale of Charitable Contributions: Charities' small financial contributions restrict their impact on large-scale SDG goals

Low Adoption of Sustainable Practices: Few businesses and financial institutions integrate SDG-aligned strategies, limiting their role in sustainable development.

High Informality: A 46.8 percent informal employment rate (2020) reduces the tax base and limits

private sector contributions to formal financing channels.

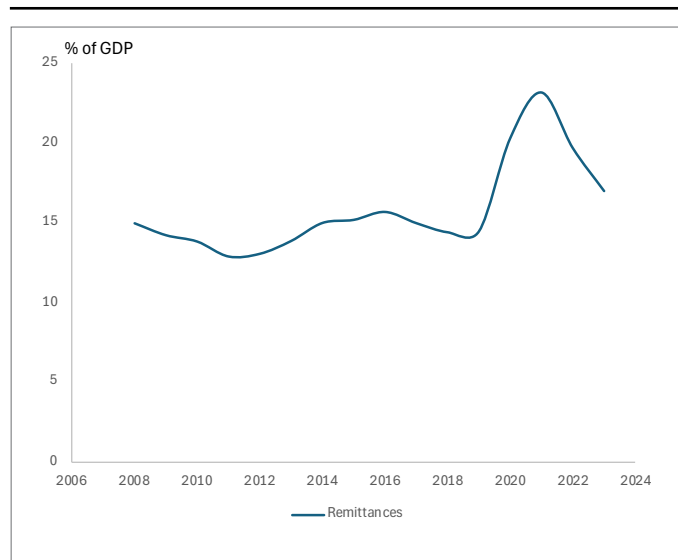
Weak Innovation Ecosystem: Low business sophistication and regulatory barriers deter private investment in transformative sectors like technology and green industries.

2. Foreign Sources

Foreign financing flows through Official Development Assistance (ODA), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Portfolio Investments, and remittances, with remittances being the largest contributor.

Official Development Assistance (ODA): As an upper-middle-income country, Jamaica's access to concessional financing is limited. Net ODA as a percentage of GDP¹⁷⁵ has trended slightly downward since 2010, and recent global policy shifts, particularly in the U.S., suggest further declines. This volatility complicates long-term planning decisions for SDG investments.

Figure 20: Remittances as Percentage of GDP (2008-2023)



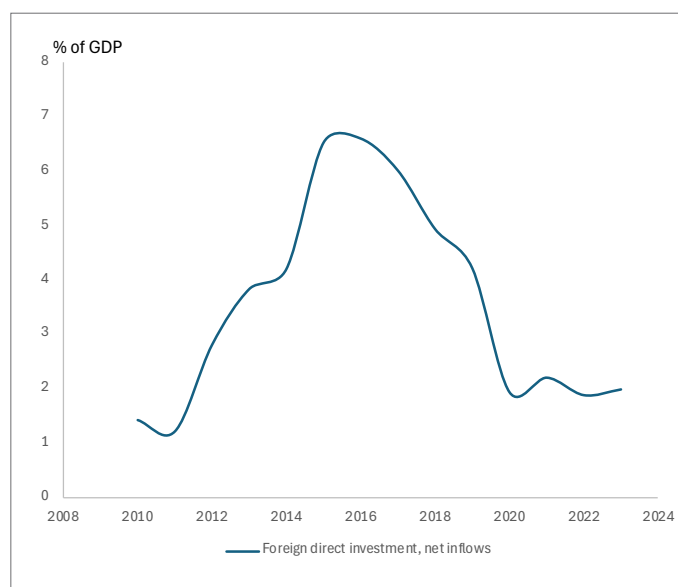
Source: World Bank Development Indicators

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): FDI peaked at over 6 percent of GDP from 2015 to 2017 but averaged 2 percent since 2020. Jamaica's rankings in global indices—71st in the World Bank's Doing Business Report (2020)¹⁷⁶, 80th in the Global Competitiveness Index¹⁷⁷, and 97th in the Logistics Performance Index¹⁷⁸—reflect constraints like high inflation, tight monetary policy, and perceived corruption (73rd in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index¹⁷⁹). These factors deter foreign investors compounded with high security costs, limiting FDI's role in SDG financing.

Portfolio Investments: Portfolio investments have been volatile, with net outflows in 2022–2023 due to debt repayments. Since 2023, small inflows have resumed, but growth depends on businesses' ability to innovate and attract equity investments. Macroeconomic instability and high borrowing costs further constrain portfolio investment flows.

Remittances: Averaging 14.3 percent of GDP pre-COVID, peaked at 23.1 percent in 2021 due to increased inflows and GDP contraction. By 2024, they stabilized at pre-COVID levels. A proposed U.S. 3.5 percent remittance tax could reduce Jamaica's GNI by 0.7 percent, impacting household consumption and SDG-related spending.¹⁸⁰

Figure 21: FDI Net inflows 2010-2023



Source: Bank of Jamaica and IMF World Economic Outlook October 2024

► Binding Constraints for Foreign Sources

- **Limited ODA Access:** Jamaica's upper-middle-income status restricts access to concessional financing, and volatile ODA flows hinder planning.
- **Low FDI Attractiveness:** High inflation, tight monetary policies, corruption perceptions, and logistical inefficiencies deter FDI.
- **Volatile Portfolio Investments:** Macroeconomic instability and debt repayment obligations limit consistent inflows.
- **Remittance Vulnerability:** Potential U.S. taxation and global economic shifts threaten remittance flows, critical for household-level SDG support.

3. Interconnectedness of Constraints and Impact on Sustainable Development

The binding constraints across domestic and foreign financing channels are deeply interconnected, amplifying challenges across Jamaica's economic, social, and environmental SDG pillars:

- **Economic Pillar:** Limited fiscal space (public sources) and low FDI (foreign sources) restrict investments in economic diversification, innovation, and infrastructure (SDGs 8 & 9). High public debt and dependence on volatile trade taxes and remittances exacerbate vulnerability to external shocks, stifling growth. Informal employment (private sources) reduces the tax base, limiting revenue for economic transformation, while low business sophistication and regulatory barriers deter FDI and portfolio investments, hindering industrial development.
- **Social Pillar:** Inefficient tax administration and low non-tax revenues (public sources) constrain funding for social protection, education, and health (SDGs 1, 3, 4, & 10). High informality (private sources) limits workers' access to social benefits, perpetuating inequality. Reduced remittance flows (foreign sources) due to potential taxation could decrease household spending on education and health, exacerbating social exclusion. Weak ODA flows limit support for programs targeting marginalized groups, such as women, youth, and persons with disabilities.
- **Environmental Pillar:** Limited fiscal space and low ODA (foreign sources) restrict investments in renewable and clean energy, climate adaptation, and best waste management practices (SDGs

7, 13, & 15). Dependence on international trade taxes (public sources) tied to fossil fuel imports perpetuates reliance on non-renewable energy, undermining climate goals. Low adoption of sustainable practices by businesses (private sources) and insufficient FDI in green technologies hinder progress toward a green transition, exacerbating environmental degradation and climate vulnerability.

These interconnections create a cycle where economic constraints (e.g., high debt, low FDI) limit social investments, which in turn perpetuate poverty and inequality, reducing the tax base and economic productivity. Environmental neglect, driven by insufficient financing, exacerbates climate risks, further straining economic and social systems. Addressing these requires integrated strategies, such as progressive tax reforms, enhanced tax administration, and policies to attract sustainable FDI, alongside leveraging remittances and diaspora engagement for targeted SDG investments.

4. Opportunities for Enhanced Financing

To address these constraints, Jamaica can pursue the following strategies:

- **Progressive Tax Reforms:** Increase GCT to pre-COVID levels, simplify corporate tax exemptions, introduce new personal income tax brackets, and implement carbon pricing to align with green goals. These measures can enhance revenue mobilization and equity.
- **Strengthen Tax Administration:** Improve TAJ's efficiency in filing, debt management, and dispute resolution to boost domestic revenue.
- **Attract Non-Traditional Donors:** Leverage vulnerability indices to access new ODA sources despite Jamaica's income status.
- **Enhance FDI and Portfolio Investments:** Improve the business environment through regulatory reforms, transparency, and innovation incentives to attract sustainable investments.
- **Modernize Remittance Systems:** Promote financial inclusion and diaspora engagement through digital platforms and impact investment funds to channel remittances toward SDG priorities.
- **Innovative Financing:** Issue green bonds, expand impact investment funds, and develop public-private partnerships to finance social and environmental projects.

Chapter Summary

Jamaica's financial landscape for achieving the SDGs is shaped by a complex interplay of domestic and foreign financing constraints and opportunities. High public debt and limited fiscal space restrict transformative investments, while inefficiencies in tax administration and low non-tax revenues hinder domestic resource mobilization. The private sector's contribution remains limited due to high informality and low adoption of sustainable practices. On the foreign front, declining ODA, volatile portfolio investments, and remittance vulnerabilities further constrain progress. However, opportunities exist through progressive tax reforms, improved tax administration, sustainable FDI attraction, diaspora engagement, and innovative financing tools like green bonds and impact funds to unlock the resources needed for inclusive and resilient development.



CHAPTER 6:

SDGS ACCELERATION SCENARIOS

This chapter explores potential, broad-brush scenarios to accelerate Jamaica's progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, addressing key drivers of change, risks, anticipated impacts, and mitigating actions. Informed and developed through stakeholder consultations,¹⁸¹ these scenarios outline pessimistic, business-as-usual, and optimistic future pathways. This chapter aims to explore what will provide the best chances of not falling into the pessimistic scenarios and move to the optimistic one. The scenarios are designed based on the feedback received from all stakeholders as well as existing futures analysis for Jamaica.

Each scenario considers the following trends:

- The advent of AI and automation, with impacts on the labour market, education, healthcare, transportation and logistics, manufacturing, and creative industries.
- Demographic shift – ageing population, but still a relatively large young population.
- Increasing impact of Climate change.
- Change in global geopolitics, multipolar world (including potential impact of tariffs on exports and remittances)

CHAPTER 6:

SDGS ACCELERATION SCENARIOS

1. Pessimistic Scenario: Stagnation and Regression

By 2030, Jamaica would struggle with entrenched economic stagnation, social exclusion, and environmental degradation. High public debt, projected to reach 60 percent of GDP by 2028, would continue to constrain fiscal space, limiting investments in critical sectors like education, health, and infrastructure. The economy remains heavily reliant on tourism and remittances, making it vulnerable to external shocks, such as global commodity price spikes triggered by ongoing geopolitical tensions (e.g., post-Ukraine conflict effects). A proposed U.S. remittance tax (3.5 percent) reduces inflows, causing a decline in GNI, further straining household incomes. AI and automation disrupt 4 out of every 10 jobs in sectors like business process outsourcing (BPO), agriculture, and transport, leaving low-skilled workers (60 percent of the workforce) unemployed and without adequate retraining programs.

Socially, deep-rooted inequalities are expected to persist, fuelled by a patronage-based political system and colonial legacies, such as skewed land ownership (4 percent control 65 percent of arable land). Rural poverty could rise from 8.2 percent in 2023 to pre-COVID levels (16.7 percent), with female-headed households disproportionately affected (8.5 percent poverty increase post-COVID). Crime would remain a significant challenge, with Jamaica retaining one of the world's highest homicide rates, driven by gang activity. Gender-based violence (GBV), costing 6.5 percent of GDP,¹⁸² would continue to affect women and girls, with low reporting rates due to limitations in the justice systems and cultural norms. Marginalized groups—LGBTQIA+, persons with disabilities (PwD), and migrants—face systemic exclusion, exacerbated by outdated migration laws and lack of asylum legislation.

Environmentally, Jamaica's vulnerability to climate change intensifies. Frequent hurricanes and droughts (16 major storms from 2000–2023) would devastate coastal communities and tourism infrastructure (7 percent of GDP). Deforestation (7.7 percent land degraded in 2019) and coral reef loss (coral cover less than 20 percent) worsen, with minimal progress in renewable energy adoption (87 percent fossil fuel reliance in 2022). Governance challenges, including declining trust in institutions (37.9 percent voter turnout in 2020) and overreliance on States of Emergency (SOEs), would erode civil liberties and public confidence, hindering inclusive development.

► Drivers of Change

- **Economic Constraints:** Persistent high public debt limits fiscal space, constraining investments in education, health, and infrastructure. Low economic complexity and reliance on tourism and remittances exacerbate vulnerability to external shocks.
- **Social Exclusion:** Deep-rooted inequalities, driven by patronage-based politics and colonial legacies, perpetuate poverty, particularly in rural areas and among female-headed households and drives outmigration, especially of young people.
- **Environmental Degradation:** Increasing frequency of natural hazards and limited renewable energy adoption hinder climate resilience.
- **Governance challenges:** Clientelism, declining trust in institutions, and overreliance on States of Emergency (SOEs) undermine democratic space and human rights protections.
- **AI and Automation:** Without proactive adaptation, AI will disrupt a high number of low-skilled jobs.

Risks

- **Economic Risks:** Global commodity price volatility (e.g., post-Ukraine conflict) and potential U.S. remittance taxes could deepen economic stagnation. Declining foreign direct investment (FDI, 2 percent of GDP post-2020) limits diversification.
- **Social Risks:** Rising crime (homicide rates among the highest globally) and GBV and VAC entrench social exclusion, particularly for young men and boys, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and people with disabilities (PwD).
- **Environmental Risks:** Unmitigated climate impacts (sea-level rise, hurricanes) threaten coastal communities and tourism. Deforestation and coral reef loss exacerbate vulnerabilities.
- **Governance Risks:** Continued use of SOEs risks eroding civil liberties, while limitations in local governance and corruption (Transparency International rank unchanged) hinder inclusive service delivery.

Impact on SDGs

SDG	Goal	Impact
SDG 1	No Poverty	Poverty rates could rise from 8.2 percent (2023) to pre-COVID levels (16.7 percent in 2021) due to limited fiscal space and job losses from automation.
SDG 2	Zero Hunger	Food insecurity (45 percent reported reduced food consumption in 2024) worsens due to high import dependence and climate-related crop failures.
SDG 3	Good Health and Well-Being	NCDs (77.3 percent of deaths in 2020) and mental health issues increase due to strained health systems and violence.
SDG 4	Quality Education	Educational disparities widen, with boys' secondary enrolment declining further due to gang recruitment and economic and social pressures.
SDG 5	Gender Equality	GBV and wage gaps (women earn 75 percent of men's salaries at tertiary level) persist, with limited progress in political representation.
SDG 10	Reduced Inequalities	Gini coefficient (0.4 in 2021) remains high, with marginalized groups (Children, LGBTQIA+, PwD, migrants) facing increased exclusion.
SDG 16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	High crime and weaknesses in the justice systems (case backlogs, limited legal aid) undermine trust and stability.

2. Business-As-Usual Scenario: Incremental Progress

By 2030, Jamaica would achieve modest progress toward the SDGs, maintaining economic stability but falling short of transformative change. Fiscal prudence reduces public debt to 60 percent of GDP by 2028, enabling limited investments in education and health. Tourism and remittances remain economic pillars, but vulnerability to global shocks would persist due to reliance on imports (food, fuel). FDI stabilizes at 2 percent of GDP, with incremental growth in creative and blue economies.

Socially, education outcomes improve slightly, with female secondary enrolment rising to 90 percent and male at over 80 percent, though gender gaps and STEM deficiencies are expected to remain. Health gains include a reduced maternal mortality ratio and increased HIV treatment coverage. However, GBV, VAC and youth unemployment persist, with slow progress for LGBTQIA+ and PwD inclusion. Outmigration continues to drain human capital, particularly in health and education.

Environmental efforts see incremental gains, with renewable energy reaching 15 percent of consumption and the Agro-Parks program (targeting 20,000 acres) boosting local food production. However, climate vulnerabilities (hurricanes, droughts) and inadequate waste management limit resilience. Governance reforms progress slowly, with Phase 1 of constitutional reform (republic transition) underway, but clientelism and low voter turnout hinder trust. AI adoption in BPO and

logistics grows modestly, with limited retraining mitigating some job losses.

► Drivers of Change

- **Economic Stability:** Continued fiscal prudence reduces debt, but limited fiscal space slows transformative investments. Tourism and remittances remain key drivers.
- **Social Progress:** Modest gains in education and health continue, but disparities persist across gender, income and age groups, and urban/rural areas.
- **Environmental Efforts:** Incremental adoption of renewables and climate-smart practices in agriculture (Agro-Parks program) show progress, but vulnerabilities remain.
- **Governance Reforms:** Constitutional reform progresses slowly, with Phase 1 (republic transition) underway. Electoral reforms reduce fraud, but clientelism persists.
- **AI Integration:** Gradual AI adoption in BPO and logistics, with limited workforce retraining, partially mitigates job losses.

► Risks

- **Economic Risks:** Reliance on tourism and imports (food, fuel) exposes Jamaica to global shocks (e.g., geopolitical tensions). FDI remains low.
- **Social Risks:** Persistent GBV, VAC, crime and youth unemployment (12.3 percent in 2025) limit social inclusion. Outmigration (negative net migration) drains human capital.
- **Environmental Risks:** Slow renewable energy adoption, inadequate waste management and limited adoption of nature-based solutions hinder climate resilience.
- **Governance Risks:** Low voter turnout and uneven local governance weaken civic engagement and service delivery.

► Impact on SDGs

SDG	Goal	Impact
SDG 1	No Poverty	Poverty stabilizes at 8–10 percent, with rural areas (11.5 percent in 2023) seeing slower gains.
SDG 2	Zero Hunger	Food insecurity persists (38 percent lack food stock in 2024), with incremental improvements in local production.
SDG 3	Good Health and Well-Being	NCDs burden remains high, but primary healthcare shows some improvements.
SDG 4	Quality Education	Education outcomes improve slightly, but gender gaps and STEM deficiencies persist.
SDG 5	Gender Equality	Gender equality advances modestly, with female parliamentary representation nearing 35 percent.
SDG 10	Reduced Inequalities	Inequalities decrease slightly, but Gini coefficient (0.4) and marginalization of Children, LGBTQIA+ and PwD remain challenges.
SDG 16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	Crime rates decline, but institutional trust remains fragile.

3. Optimistic Scenario: Transformative Leap

By 2030, Jamaica achieves a transformative leap toward the SDGs, driven by bold reforms and strategic investments. Progressive fiscal reforms, including carbon pricing and green incentives, expand fiscal space, reducing debt below 60 percent of GDP. Diaspora investment platforms and green bonds boost financing, enabling growth in the blue (from 7 to 10 percent of GDP) and creative economies (5.2 to 8 percent). FDI would rise to 4 percent of GDP, driven by an improved business environment.

Social inclusion advances significantly, with comprehensive education reforms (STEAM-focused, inclusive for PwD) achieving gender parity in secondary enrolment and doubling STEAM performance. SRHR integration reduces adolescent and unwanted pregnancies (13.4 percent unwanted in 2021 to less than 10), and GBV and VAC incidence is halved. Health improvements include NCDs reduction through preventive care and HIV viral suppression reaching 70 percent. Youth unemployment falls below 10 percent, with young men engaged in creative and green sectors.

Environmentally, Jamaica adopts 50 percent renewable energy and expands marine protected areas coverage (31.6 to 50 percent of Key Biodiversity Areas - KBAs). Climate-smart agriculture and robust disaster risk reduction (DRR) mitigate hurricane and drought impacts, enhancing food security (food insecurity drops to less than 30 percent). Constitutional reform establishes a republic, with decentralized governance empowering parishes and reducing clientelism. Public trust rises, supported by transparent institutions. The National AI Task Force's recommendations (2024) drive innovation, creating jobs in AI training, renewable energy, and digital services.

► Drivers of Change

- **Economic Diversification:** Robust fiscal reforms (e.g., carbon pricing, green incentives) and diaspora investment platforms increase fiscal space. Growth in blue, green, and creative economies drives diversification.
- **Social Inclusion:** Comprehensive education reforms (STEAM-focused, inclusive for PwD) and SRHR integration reduce gender gaps and youth unemployment. Integrate "health in all policies" to ensure that health considerations are not limited to the health sector. Schools become centres for community participation and effectively engage boys.
- **Environmental Resilience:** Aggressive renewable and clean energy adoption (50 percent by 2030) and increased marine conservation (31.6 percent marine KBAs protected in 2023 to 50 percent) enhance climate resilience.
- **Governance Transformation:** Constitutional reform establishes a republic with transparent institutions. Decentralized governance empowers parishes, reducing clientelism.
- **AI Leadership:** National AI Task Force recommendations (2024) are implemented, fostering innovation in education, health, and creative industries.

► Risks

- **Economic Risks:** Resistance to tax reforms and global economic volatility could limit fiscal gains. High remittance costs (7.2–7.4 percent for USD transfers) may persist.
- **Social Risks:** Cultural resistance to SRHR and CSE (inconsistent HFLE implementation) could slow gender equality and health gains.
- **Environmental Risks:** Insufficient prioritisation of clean and renewable energy and disaster preparedness may hinder progress.
- **Governance Risks:** Political polarization during constitutional reform could delay implementation.

► Impact on SDGs

SDG	Risk Area	Jamaica's risk profile
SDG 1	No Poverty	Poverty drops below 5 percent, with rural poverty nearing urban levels (from 11.5 percent to less than 8).
SDG 2	Zero Hunger	Food insecurity and malnutrition decreases driven by climate-smart agriculture, reduced import dependence, and lower quality food prices.
SDG 3	Good Health and Well-Being	NCDs decline through preventive care, and HIV viral suppression rises to 70 percent. Maternal mortality falls below 100 per 100,000.
SDG 4	Quality Education	Gender parity in secondary education achieved, with STEAM achievements doubling.
SDG 5	Gender Equality	Female parliamentary representation reaches 40 percent, and GBV incidence drops significantly.
SDG 10	Reduced Inequalities	Gini coefficient falls to 0.3, with inclusive policies for LGBTQIA+ and PwD.
SDG 16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	Homicide rates continue declining (47 murders in Feb 2025 to less than 30 monthly), with strengthened justice systems.

Chapter Summary

The pessimistic scenario envisions stagnation by 2030, with economic, social, and environmental challenges undermining SDG progress toward the SDGs, necessitating urgent interventions. The business-as-usual scenario projects incremental gains, constrained by persistent vulnerabilities, necessitating targeted reforms. The optimistic scenario outlines a transformative leap, leveraging diversification, inclusion, and resilience, but demanding bold governance and investment.



CHAPTER 7:

CONCLUSIONS

This chapter synthesizes the key findings of the CCA, aligning them with the five pillars of the 2030 Agenda: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. Each sub-section examines the constraints, root causes, interconnections, and potential solutions—both sectoral and interconnected—to address Jamaica’s challenges in achieving the SDGs by 2030.

CHAPTER 7:

CONCLUSIONS

The Common Country Analysis for Jamaica underscores the intricate interplay of challenges and opportunities across the five pillars of the 2030 Agenda—People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. Persistent social exclusion, environmental vulnerabilities, economic stagnation, high violence, and weaknesses in the governance structures collectively hinder Jamaica’s progress toward the SDGs. However, targeted and interconnected solutions—such as educational reform, agri-food system transformation, fiscal innovation, violence prevention, and enhanced partnerships—offer a pathway to transformative change. By addressing root causes like patriarchal norms, colonial legacies, and data gaps while fostering inclusive, multi-stakeholder collaboration, Jamaica can build a resilient, equitable, and sustainable future, ensuring no one is left behind by 2030. See also Figure 22 for a visual representation of the main intermediate and root causes of the key constraints.

1. People

Constraints	Jamaica faces persistent social inclusion challenges, particularly affecting marginalized groups such as women and girls, young men and boys, PwDs, the LGBTQIA+ community, and irregular migrants. High levels of VAC and GBV, limit children development and women’s economic and social participation. Young men experience high school dropout rates, exposure to violence, and societal pressures linked to toxic masculinity. Education gaps, especially in STEAM and digital literacy, hinder workforce readiness, while health challenges, including NCDs and limited access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), exacerbate vulnerabilities. Food insecurity, driven by high import dependence, affects 45 percent of households, with consequences on poverty levels and nutrition status.
Root Causes	▪ Social and Cultural Norms and Weak Social Fabric: Patriarchal norms, gender stereotypes, toxin masculinity and “gang culture”, perpetuate VAC and GBV, limit SRHR access and women’s empowerment, while driving boys’ disengagement from education and health services. ▪ Unequal Resource Distribution: Rural-urban disparities and historical land ownership patterns restrict access to services and opportunities compounded with suboptimal local governance and implementation capacities. ▪ Weaknesses in the Education System: Inadequate focus on STEAM and inclusive education fails to equip youth for modern labour markets. ▪ Economic Marginalization: High informal employment and limited social protection coverage deepen poverty cycles. ▪ Limited food production and unhealthy eating habits: High reliance on food imports, high price for quality food and lack of food marketing regulation leading to food insecurity and malnutrition.
Interconnections	▪ Education gaps reduce employability, increasing informal employment and poverty, which fuel social exclusion and crime. ▪ GBV and SRHR limitations lead to high adolescent pregnancy rates, perpetuating cycles of poverty and exclusion. ▪ Food and nutritional insecurity, linked to low agricultural productivity, exacerbates health issues like obesity and NCDs, straining the health system. ▪ Outmigration of skilled professionals, driven by limited opportunities, worsens health and education service delivery.
Sectoral Solutions	▪ Educational Reform: Promote inclusive, equitable, and safe schools that foster essential life and work skills, emphasizing STEAM, digital literacy, and education for persons with disabilities. Support continuous teacher training, infrastructure investment, integration of digital learning, and sustainable, fair financing. ▪ SRHR Expansion: Strengthen legal frameworks to ensure adolescent access to SRHR services and integrate comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) into schools. ▪ Social Protection Extension: Extend coverage to informal workers and single-parent households, establish unemployment insurance and strengthen care policies to reduce economic vulnerability; improve and digitalize registration processes.

Sectoral Solutions	- Health System Strengthening: Increase evidence-based strategies for preventive healthcare to address drivers of NCDs, reinforce primary health care, tackle workforce shortages, and expand mental health services. - Violence Prevention Strategies Reinforcement: Reinforce an ecological evidenced based approach empowering children, women, and youth transforming social and gender norms and strengthening social and justice services.
Interconnected Solutions	- Holistic Education and Youth Engagement: Transform schools into community hubs for dialogue, parental support, and youth civic engagement to address dropout rates and toxic masculinity, fostering skills for the fourth industrial revolution. - Integrated SRHR and Social Inclusion: Embed SRHR into poverty reduction, education, and health strategies to reduce adolescent pregnancies and GBV, targeting women, men, and gender-diverse groups. - Food Security and Health Linkages: Promote climate-smart agriculture and local food production to reduce import dependence, and enhance nutrition and health outcomes, particularly in rural areas.

2. Planet

Constraints	Jamaica's environmental sustainability is threatened by climate vulnerability, with frequent hurricanes, droughts, and sea-level rise impacting coastal communities and tourism. Deforestation, coral reef degradation, and inadequate waste management exacerbate environmental decline. Reliance on fossil fuels and limited renewable energy adoption hinders climate action, while low agricultural productivity and land degradation threaten food security.
Root Causes	- Geographic Exposure: Jamaica's geographic location and geophysical characteristics make it susceptible to natural hazards. - Economic Priorities: Growth-driven activities like industrialization and urbanization contribute to pollution and resource depletion. - Governance Challenges: Suboptimal coordination in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and environmental management, and inadequate waste management infrastructure hinder achievement of environmental outcomes. - Limited Investment: Fiscal constraints restrict funding for renewable and clean energy and climate resilience initiatives.
Interconnections	- Climate shocks damage tourism and infrastructure, reducing economic stability and increasing fiscal strain. - Land degradation lowers agricultural yields, increasing food imports and prices, which exacerbate poverty and food insecurity. - Poor waste management practices degrade ecosystems, impacting tourism and livelihoods, and incentivizes outmigration. - Deforestation disrupts water cycles, worsening drought impacts and food security.
Sectoral Solutions	- Renewable Energy Transition: Invest in solar, wind, and wave energy to reduce fossil fuel dependence and enhance energy resilience. - Waste Management Reform: Establish recycling facilities and enforce source-separation legislation to reduce environmental pollution. - Climate-Smart Agriculture and nature-based solutions: Promote sustainable farming practices and secure land tenure to boost productivity and food security. Promote nature-based solutions to halt degradation and enhance resilience. - Marine Conservation: Expand marine protected areas and promote eco-tourism to preserve biodiversity and support livelihoods. - Social Services Resilience Enhancement: Adapt essential social services to a changing climate, with more frequent natural hazards and a degrading environment. Also an enhanced disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response system building sectoral resilience.
Interconnected Solutions	- Green and Digital Transition: Integrate renewable and clean energy, digital monitoring for environmental management, and nature-based solutions to enhance resilience and reduce emissions, linking with urban development and tourism strategies. - Agrifood and Environmental Synergies: Combine climate-smart agriculture with waste management and land governance reforms to reduce food loss, improve rural livelihoods, and protect ecosystems, engaging Maroon communities for inclusive outcomes.

3. Prosperity

Constraints	Jamaica's economy faces stagnation due to low economic complexity, high public debt, and reliance on tourism and services. Informal employment limits worker protections, while low productivity in agriculture and manufacturing hinders growth. The advent of AI and automation threatens jobs in sectors like BPO and transport, and limited fiscal space constrains transformative investments. High remittance costs and declining foreign direct investment (FDI) further limit financial resources
Root Causes	- Colonial Legacy: Skewed land ownership and overreliance on tourism stem from historical economic structures. - Limited Diversification: Low economic complexity and dependence on services reduce resilience to external shocks. - Corruption and Inefficiency: Illicit flows and governance challenges deter investment and revenue mobilization. - Global Pressures: Geopolitical tensions and commodity price volatility exacerbate economic vulnerabilities.
	- Low economic complexity leads to fewer formal jobs, increasing informality and weakening social protection systems. - AI-driven job displacement risks higher unemployment, particularly among low-skilled workers, fueling social exclusion and outmigration. - Corruption reduces FDI, limiting infrastructure development and economic diversification. - Unequal power relations and clientelism limits entrepreneurship opportunities for marginalized groups, including women and young men from disadvantaged communities.
Sectoral Solutions	- Fiscal Reform: Implement progressive taxation, reduce exemptions, and introduce environmental taxes to increase fiscal space. - Economic Diversification: Promote blue, green, and creative economies through incentives for sustainable practices and innovation. - AI Preparedness: Align education with future labor demands, focusing on digital literacy and critical thinking. - Investment Attraction: Improve the business environment through regulatory reforms and transparency to boost FDI.
Interconnected Solutions	- Fiscal and Financial Innovation: Leverage green bonds, impact investment funds, and diaspora contributions to finance sustainable development, linking with governance reforms for transparency. - Blue and Creative Economy Synergies: Integrate sustainable fishing, eco-tourism, and cultural industries to create jobs and diversify revenue, supported by education and infrastructure investments.

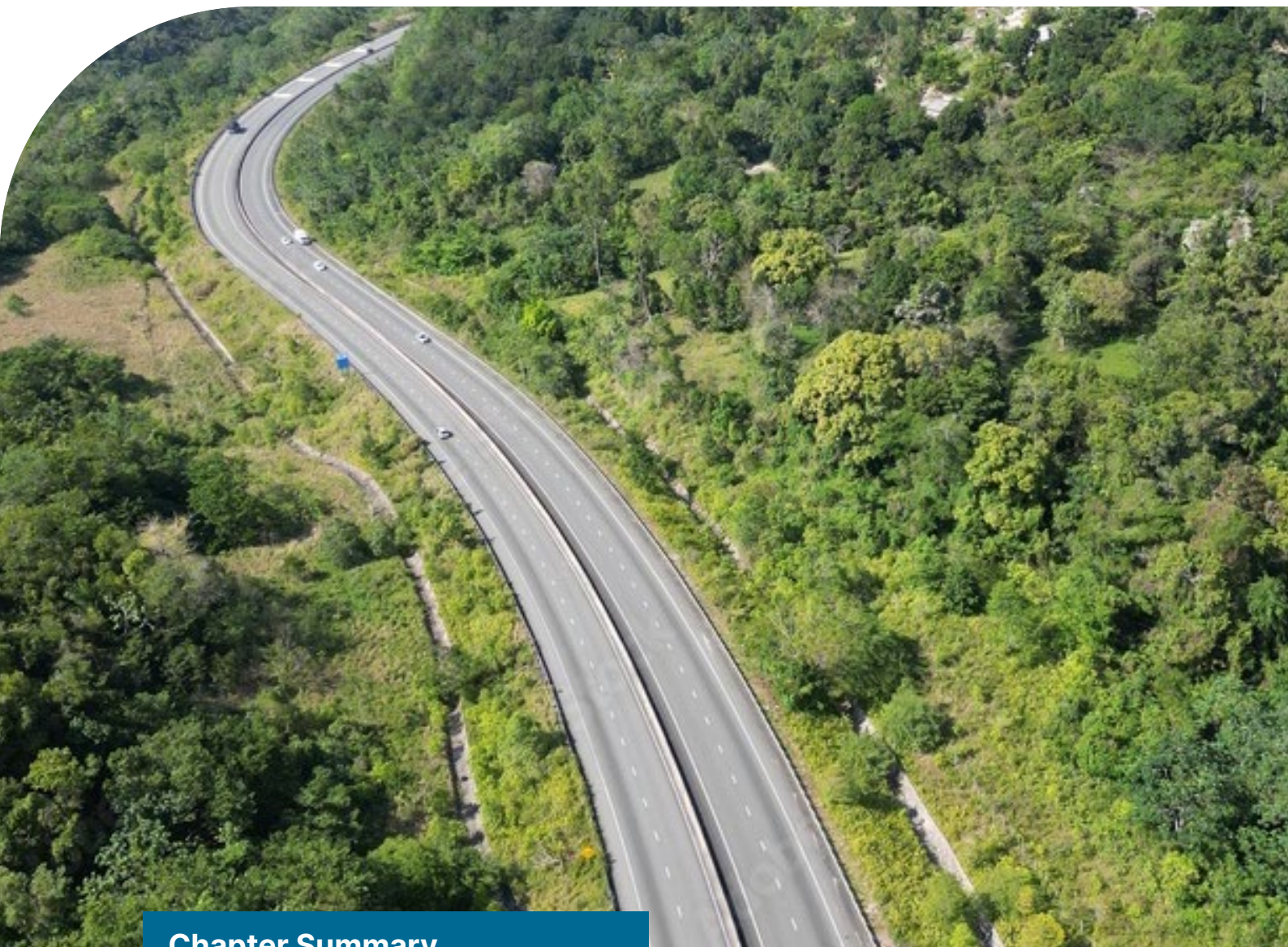
4. Peace

Constraints	Jamaica's high homicide rates, driven by gang activity, and pervasive GBV and VAC undermine social cohesion. Weaknesses in the justice systems, with case backlogs and limited legal aid, hinder accountability. Overreliance on States of Emergency (SOEs) and Zones of Special Operations (ZOSOs) raises concerns about civil liberties, while community violence disproportionately affects young men and boys. Social exclusion, rooted in poverty and governance issues, perpetuates cycles of violence.
Root Causes	- Poverty and Lack of Opportunities: Economic hardship drives gang recruitment and violence. - Clientelist Culture: Patronage-based politics embeds inequality and weakens community-state relations. - Weaknesses in the Justice Systems: Inefficiencies and limited access to legal aid undermine trust in institutions. - Social Norms: Violent discipline, toxic masculinity and gang culture normalize violence, particularly among the youngest population.
Interconnections	- High crime deters investment, reducing jobs and increasing informality, which fuels further crime. - GBV and VAC, and community violence reduce education outcomes and workforce participation, leading to economic losses and strained health systems. - Governance challenges and corruption erode trust, limiting civic engagement and perpetuating violence cycles. - Violence exacerbates mental health issues, straining healthcare and social services.

Sectoral Solutions	▪ Violence Prevention: Strengthen family and community-based programs and trust-building initiatives in high-risk areas. ▪ Justice System Reform: Expand legal aid and reduce case backlogs to improve access to justice. ▪ Mental Health Support: Increase counseling and peer support to address violence-related trauma. ▪ Youth Engagement: Create opportunities for young men in education and entrepreneurship to counter gang influence
Interconnected Solutions	▪ Holistic Violence Reduction: Combine education reform, youth engagement, and community policing with mental health services to address root causes of violence and build social cohesion. ▪ Governance and Security Alignment: Integrate human rights-compliant security measures with governance reforms to enhance trust and reduce reliance on SOEs, linking with social inclusion efforts

5. Partnerships

Constraints	▪ Jamaica's progress toward SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) is challenged by limited fiscal space, declining Official Development Assistance (ODA), and high remittance costs. Weaknesses in local governance and coordination bottlenecks hinder effective partnerships, while data gaps limit evidence-based policymaking. The absence of comprehensive asylum legislation restricts international cooperation on migration, and corruption undermines trust in partnerships.
Root Causes	▪ Upper-Middle-Income Status: Limits access to concessional ODA, reducing external financing options. ▪ Limited implementation capacities: Affect subnational governance and bureaucratic delays hamper partnership effectiveness. ▪ Data Limitations: Lack of disaggregated data hinders targeted interventions and LNOB compliance. ▪ Historical Governance Issues: Patronage and corruption deter international and domestic collaboration
Interconnections	▪ Limited fiscal space and low ODA reduce investments in social services, exacerbating inequalities. ▪ Weaknesses in governance and corruption deter FDI and partnerships, limiting economic diversification. ▪ Data gaps compound issues related to effective migration management, impacting regional cooperation and social inclusion. ▪ Declining trust in institutions reduces civic engagement, weakening multi-stakeholder partnerships
Sectoral Solutions	▪ Data Enhancement: Invest in disaggregated data collection to support evidence-based policymaking. ▪ Governance Reform: Strengthen local governance and transparency in public procurement to enhance partnership trust. ▪ Migration Frameworks: Develop comprehensive asylum legislation to align with international standards. ▪ Diaspora Engagement: Create platforms to leverage remittances and diaspora expertise for development
Interconnected Solutions	▪ Comprehensive Migration Management: Link diaspora engagement with fiscal reforms and regional partnerships to address migration challenges and finance development. ▪ Governance and Partnership Synergies: Combine constitutional reforms, data enhancement, and transparency initiatives to foster inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnerships, aligning with youth engagement and social inclusion strategies.



Chapter Summary

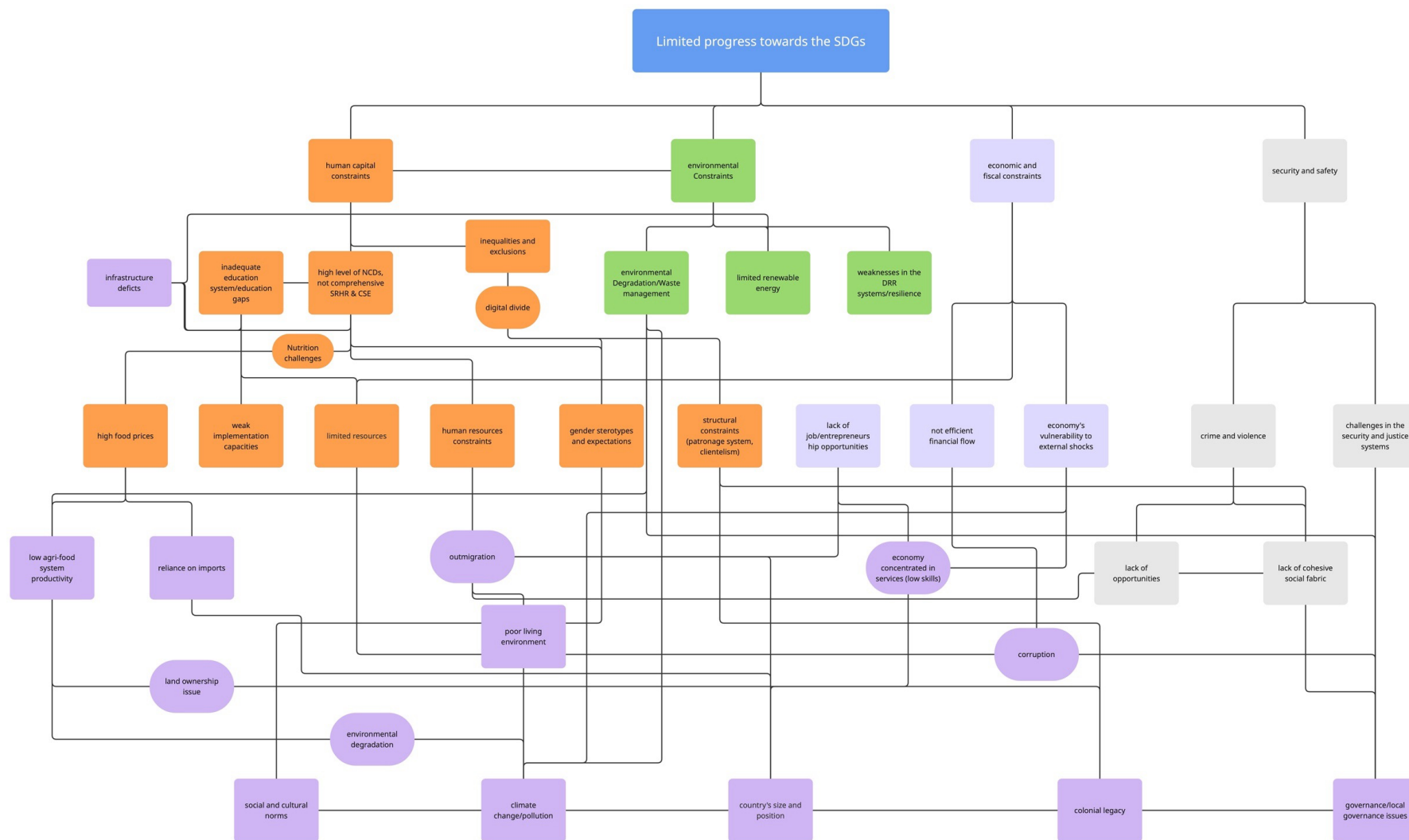
Based on the sectoral and interconnected solutions identified under each of the five dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the following areas emerge as “call to action”:

1. **Educational reform** – going beyond the education system per se, engaging local communities, parents and families. Transforming schools as spaces for dialogue and family development and equipping young people with the critical thinking and digital skills needed for the labour market of the future.
2. **Health sector resilience** – reinforce a resilient, rights-based, primary health care system that addresses the intersecting vulnerabilities of marginalized populations through evidence-based strategies. Prioritize integrated, gender-responsive, and community-driven health strategies that leave no one behind.
3. **Youth engagement** – linked to the previous solution, this would focus on engaging the youth across all interventions, with a special focus on young men and boys. It should span from providing opportunities for civic/community engagement, involve them in local policy-making, creating entrepreneurship prospects including in the creative industries, etc.
4. **Agrifood system transformation** – support land titling review, introduce climate-smart solutions, explore supply chain gaps and opportunities (including addressing food loss), engage young people in food production (see solution no. 2), facilitated investments in food production, promote healthy diets, etc.

5. **Fiscal/Financial reform** – explore blended finance solutions, green bonds and other investment solutions including engagement with the diaspora, as well as improving the social protection system.
6. **Green and digital transition** – including digitalization of services, strengthen connectivity (especially in rural areas), digital literacy (linkages with solution no. 1), promoting nature-based solutions, renewable energy, waste management and environmental protection.
7. **Governance reforms** – with a focus on increased transparency in public procurement and increased efficiency in the financial/public expenditure flow, enhance decentralization with increased financial autonomy at parish level, improve efficiency of the judicial system and effectiveness of the security system, address the legal and cultural constraints towards inclusion and reduced gender disparities.



Figure 22: Problem Tree



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Annex 1: Methodological Approach

The Common Country Analysis was developed by building on the previous CCA and the annual updates. An online repository to collect available evidence and analysis was created by the UN Resident Coordinator Office and populated by the members of the inter-agency CCA Task Team. A consultant was hired to support the development of the CCA, review the collected documentation, and conduct consultations with key stakeholders.

The process was structured in five main phases:

1. Desk review of available documentation.
2. Key informants' interviews, including UN CCA task team members and the government's planning agency.
3. Elaboration of preliminary findings and scenario building.
4. Consultant's in-country mission – focus group discussions with different groups of stakeholders to discuss Findings and scenarios, and collect views on key drivers for change.
5. Finalization of CCA to include future scenarios and drivers for change.

The consultations included a vast array of stakeholders, including Youth groups, Academia, and Civil Society Organizations representing or working with People Living with HIV, People with Disabilities, people living in disadvantaged areas, survivors of gender-based violence, and victims of human rights abuses. Private sector representatives, international development partners, and the Planning Institute of Jamaica were also part of three separate sessions where findings were presented and prospects for the future were discussed.

The analysis also benefited from the results of an online survey, which was distributed among all UN agencies and the stakeholders consulted. The survey was designed to collect views on the country's development constraints, vulnerabilities, and change agents, complementing and strengthening the qualitative inputs received during the consultation and FGDs. A total of 28 responses was collected (see Annex 4: Online Survey Outline and Annex 5: Survey's Results).

AI was used throughout the process, particularly to summarise key insights from interviews on challenges, opportunities, and root causes related to SDGs acceleration; to ensure that these main points were reflected in the draft documents; and to generate a first-cut of the future scenarios based on the analysis. Compared to the last CCA, the analysis of the interconnected challenges was enriched with more in-depth root cause analysis as outlined in the conclusions' problem tree, and the outlining of SDGs acceleration scenarios.

Annex 2: Multidimensional Risk Analysis Framework

SDG	Risk Area	Description	Scope
16 & 17	Political Stability	Risks to the stability of established political and government structures in the territory resulting from politically-driven factor	- Challenges to political system/ government - Politically compromised government/ institutions - Irregular changes to governance structures or principles
16 & 17	Democratic Space	Risks to democratic and human rights institutions, and to civil and political rights resulting from shrinking civic space, exclusion, repression, and intimidation	- Undue limits on democratic rights or freedoms - Constraints on civil society, rights actors or rights institutions - Active repression of civil society, rights actors, and others
1, 5, 10 & 17	Social cohesion, gender equality and non-discrimination	Risks to social unity and equality resulting from direct and indirect discrimination, horizontal inequalities and demographic trends.	- Discriminatory practices - Power imbalances within society - Gender based violence - Demographic pressures.
16 & 17	Regional and global influences	Risks to the integrity, stability, safety and prosperity of the territory and its people as a result of the actions of external actors or the influence of external events.	- International tensions - Fragility in neighbouring countries. - Sanctions, exploitation or dependencies.
16 & 17	Internal Security	Risks to the security of the territory, its people and infrastructure, and to the ability of the international community to operate effectively as a results of security issues.	- Internal conflict and insecurity. - Non-state armed groups and militia. - Crime and terrorism. - Cross border insecurity - Border management
16 & 17	Justice and Rule of Law	Risk to the fair, effective and comprehensive implementation and application of the principles of justice, the rule of law and accountability from issues.	- Weak or compromised institutions. - Security forces who act outside of or do not respect the law. - A culture of denial of rights or impunity.
4, 6, 7, 9, 11 & 17	Infrastructure and access to social services	Risks to society and the population resulting from a lack of availability or limitation on access to physical infrastructure, and/or basic social services.	- Inadequate provision of basic services or technologies. - Disruption to services, infrastructure, energy or transportation. - Inequitable access to basic services or infrastructure.
16 & 17	Displacement and Migration	Risks to the population and to the stability of the territory resulting from pressures associated with displacement and/or migration	- Movement of people within, into or from the territory. - Level of rights and protection afforded to migrants. - Social economic, cultural, environmental impact of migration.
3 & 17	Public Health	Risk to the population, the economy and stability of the territory resulting from actual and emerging health emergencies.	- Increase in preventable or treatable health issues. - Epidemics, pandemics and infectious disease. - Chemical, radiological and other biological agents.
2 & 17	Food security, agriculture and land	Risk to people, agriculture, and/or production in the territory resulting from crop, food production, livestock and related issues.	- Insufficient arable land, crops or - Inadequate food supply. - The use of and rights over land.
12, 13, 14, 15 & 17	Environment and climate	Risks to the ecology of the territory, its ecosystem and its people resulting from issues associated with the environment, climate and natural resources.	- Natural hazards or extreme weather events. - Ecological damage and climate impacts. - Exploitation of natural resources. - Climate change and conflict related insecurity

Annex 3: List of Organizations Consulted

Focus Group Discussions Based on Preliminary Findings

International Development Partners

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| 1. CAF | 5. IADB |
| 2. EU | 6. WB |
| 3. JICA | 7. UK FCDO |
| 4. Canadian High Commission | |

Private Sector

1. Jamaica Household Workers Union
2. Jamaica Stock Exchange
3. Lasco Chin Foundation
4. Alt Catalyst

Civil Society Organizations

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Rise Life Jamaica | 5. Jamaica Network of Seropositives |
| 2. Equality for All Foundation Jamaica | 6. Jamaica Red Cross |
| 3. Jamaica for Justice | 7. Food for the Poor |
| 4. Eve for Life | |

Youth

Representatives of the UN Youth Advisory Group and other Youth Advocacy Groups (Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network (JYAN))

Government of Jamaica

The Planning Institute of Jamaica

Organizations Consulted through Interviews

United Nations

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. WFP | 7. UNAIDS |
| 2. UNICEF | 8. FAO |
| 3. UNEP | 9. UNDP |
| 4. UNFPA | 10. UN Women |
| 5. PAHO/WHO | 11. IOM |
| 6. UNESCO | 12. OHCHR |

Other Stakeholders

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. PIOJ | 6. University of the West Indies |
| 2. Kingston Creative | 7. Ministry of Education, Youth and Information |
| 3. JCPD (Jamaica Council on People with Disability) | 8. Jamaica Employers' Federation |
| 4. Council of Voluntary Social Services | |
| 5. The Ministry of Finance and the Public Sector | |

Annex 4: Online Survey Outline

Current Issues

1. What do you see as the most pressing sustainable development issues that Jamaica needs to address today? Assess each issue (least pressing, somewhat pressing, very pressing)
 - security and safety
 - healthy and stable population
 - quality education and training
 - Inequalities
 - effective social protection
 - enabling business environment
 - digitalization and technology-enabled society
 - internationally competitive industry
 - sustainable rural and urban development
 - sustainable use of natural resources
 - hazard reduction and climate adaptation

1 B. Please indicate if there are any other most pressing issues that are not listed above
2. What do you see as the most binding constraints that prevent Jamaica from addressing these sustainable development challenges?
3. For which LNOB group to what extent do you perceive there has been progress? (from 1 to 6, with 1 being least progress and 6 most progress)
 - Women and girls
 - Young men
 - Children and adolescents
 - People with disabilities
 - LGBTQI+
 - People living with HIV
 - Irregular migrants
4. Please score each of the six transitions – transformative entry points identified by the UN to accelerate the SDGs – in order of importance to furthering sustainable development in Jamaica. (1 to 6, least to most)
 - Food systems
 - Energy access and affordability
 - Digital connectivity
 - Education
 - Jobs and social protection
 - Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution
5. Please score what you perceive as Jamaica's highest vulnerability (from 1 to 6, very low to very high vulnerability)
 - Exposure to fluctuation in international trade and financial flows
 - Exposure to fluctuations in export prices
 - Exposure to fluctuations in strategic import prices
 - Exposure to natural hazards
 - Exposure to extreme weather events
 - Exposure to ecosystem pressure
 - Exposure to global health shocks
 - Spillover effects of regional violence
 - Increased stress due to entrance of international forced displacement of people

6. Please select the three top areas where Jamaica faces the greatest resilience challenges? Select only 3
- Lack of capacity to integrate with international markets
 - Lack of economies of scale
 - Low domestic economic capacity
 - Inadequacy of water supply
 - Lack of resilience of agricultural system
 - Lack of resilience to heat shocks
 - Demographic pressure (e.g. aging population)
 - Ineffective social service provision
 - Lack of gender equity

The Future in 2030

7. Jamaica will be exposed to a range of global trends that will shape Jamaica's development in the future. Over the next 5 years please choose the top 3 trends that you feel will most affect Jamaica. Please select only 3.
- Climate change
 - Demographic shifts (ageing population)
 - Urbanization
 - Emergence of digital technologies
 - Inequalities
 - Geo-political tensions
8. Over the next 5 years (to 2030) how do you expect the following issues to evolve? Please indicate whether you expect each issue to decrease, remain the same, or increase.
- Violence and crime
 - Gender equality
 - Equal distribution of income and resources
 - Macroeconomic stability
 - Economic growth
 - Resilience to external shocks
 - Environmental preservation
 - Climate change impact
 - Health-related crises
 - Impact of regional geopolitical policies
9. Jamaica is ranked 77th of 169 countries with an overall SDG score of 69. On a scale of 1 (least optimistic) to 10 (most optimistic), how confident are you that Jamaica can accelerate its progress to achieve a score of 90 by 2030?
10. What are three priority actions should Jamaica take today to accelerate progress and maximize its chances of achieving the SDGs by 2030? Please state.

About You

11. Which type of organization do you work for?
- Government
 - Civil Society, NGOs
 - Academia
 - Private Sector
 - International Development Organization
 - UN System

Annex 5: Survey Results

Figure 23: Profile of Survey Respondents

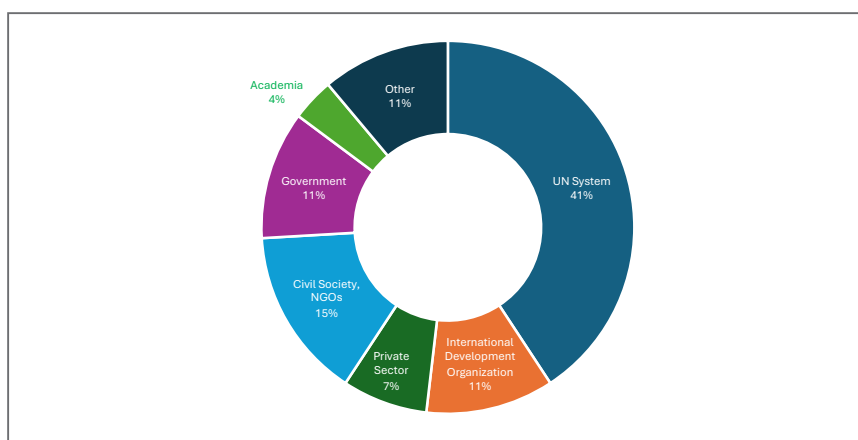


Figure 24: Survey's Response on Jamaica's Most Pressing Issues

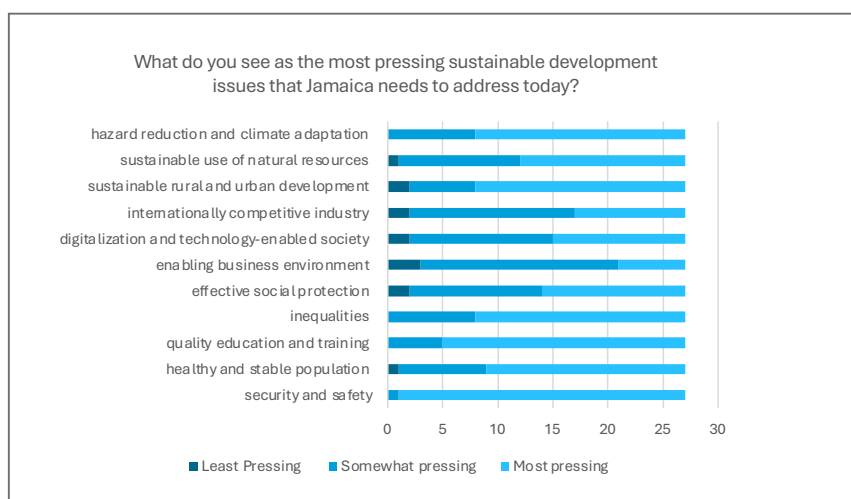


Figure 25: Survey's Response to the Open Questions on Jamaica's Binding Constraints

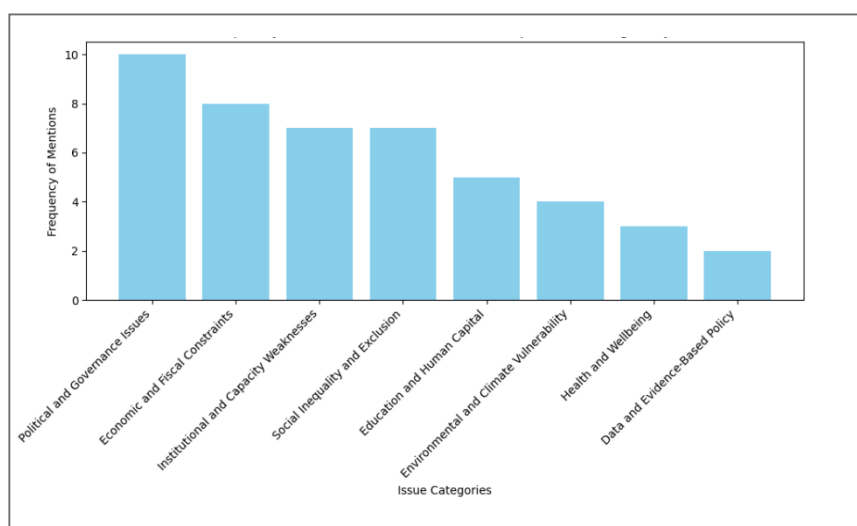


Figure 26: Jamaica's Highest Vulnerabilities

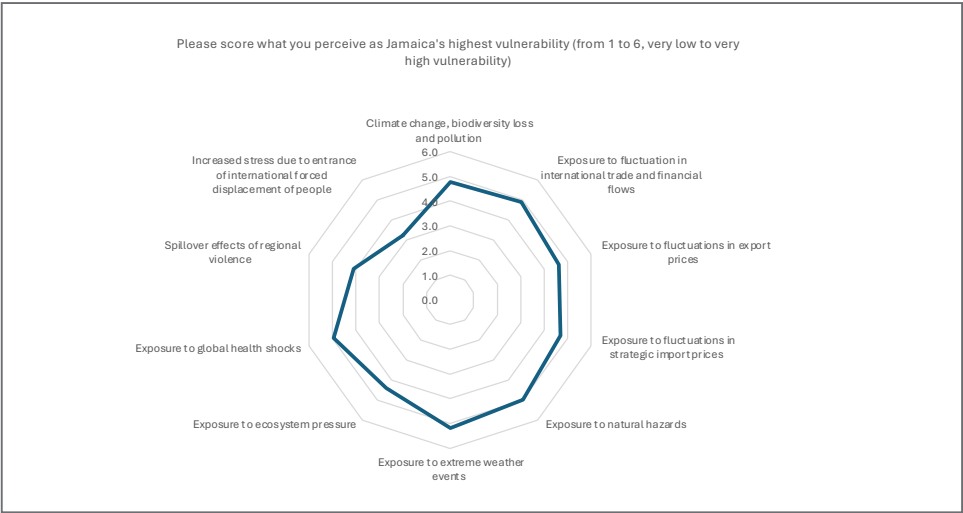
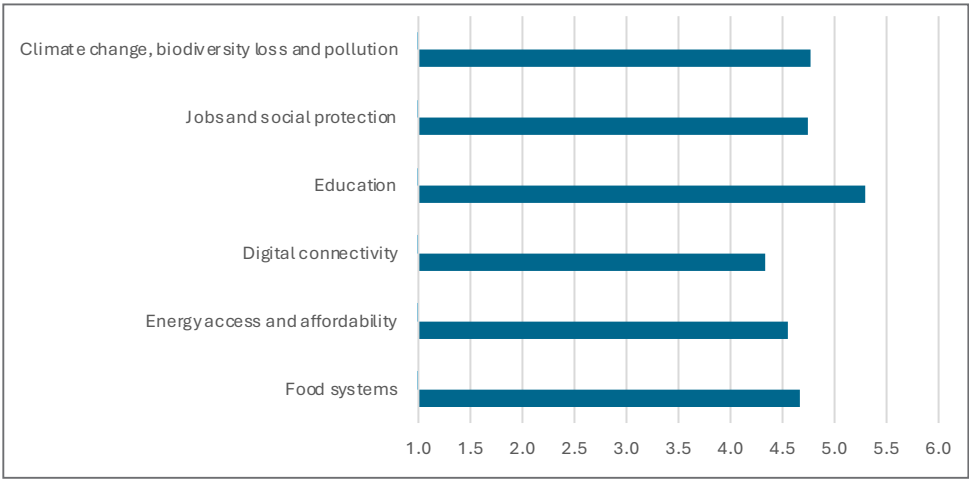


Figure 27: Average Score for Each of the Six Transitions*



* Transformative entry points identified by the UN to accelerate the SDGs – score in order of importance to furthering sustainable development in Jamaica (from 1 to 6)

Figure 28: Progress by LNOB Group

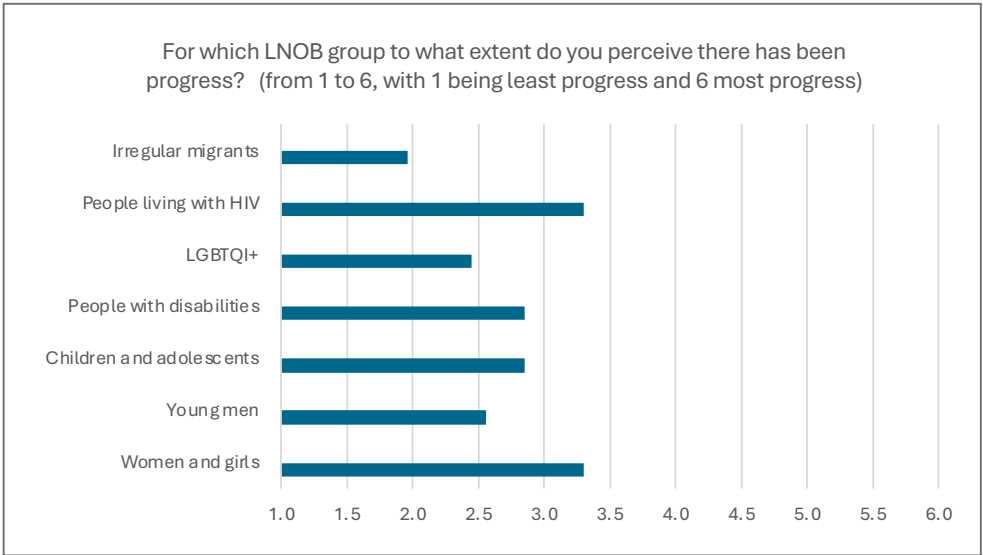


Figure 29: Progress by LNOB Group

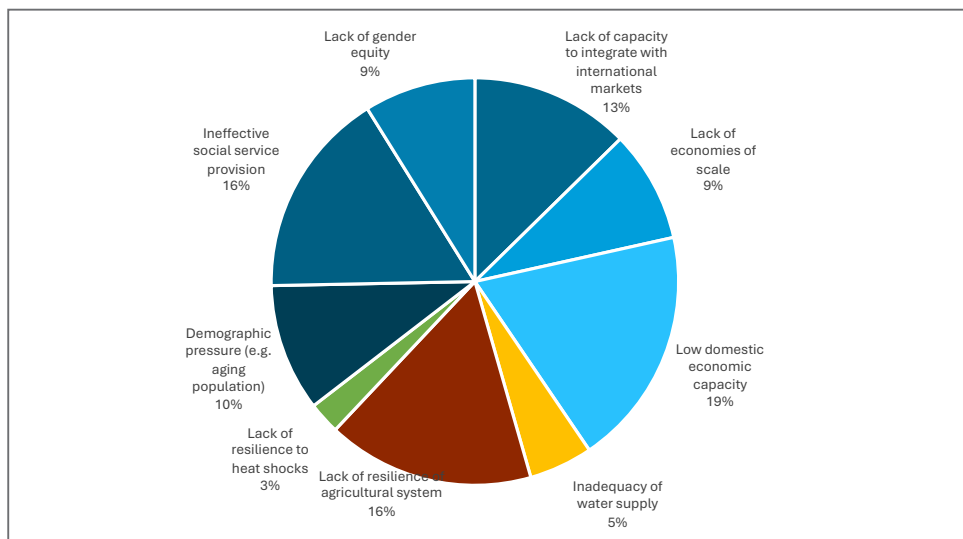
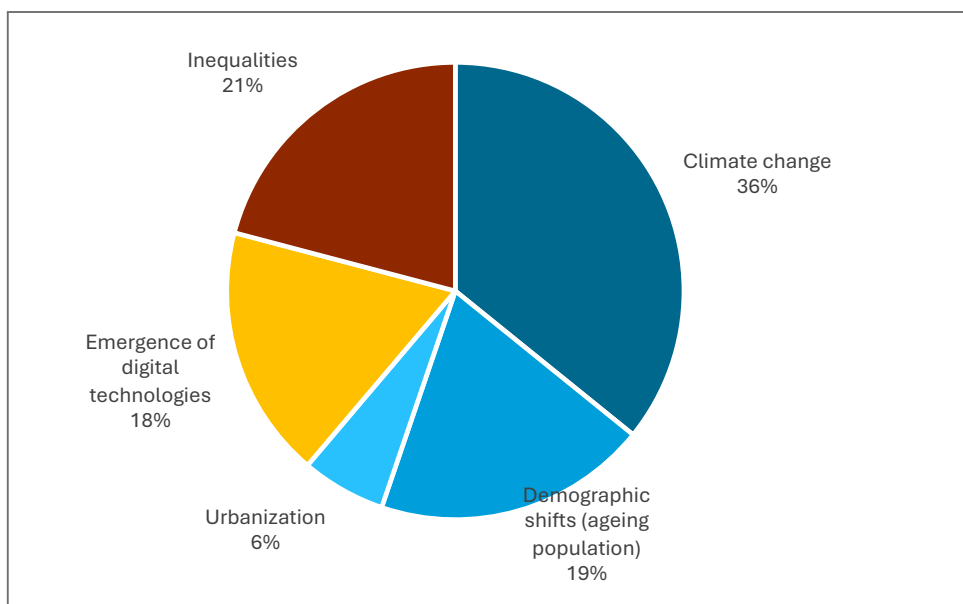


Figure 30: Top Global Trends that will Shape Jamaica's Development in the Future



Endnotes

1. The data cut off for this report is 31st May 2025.
2. See https://www.pioj.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Summary_Medium-Term-Socio-Economic-Policy-Framework-MTF-2021-2024.pdf
3. See [PIOJ 2024](#), Progress Report on the Sustainable Goals 2022-2023
4. [Sachs, J.D., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G. \(2024\)](#). From here on referred to as SDR 2024.
5. See [Vision 2030, Jamaica's Development Results 2024](#)
6. See <https://jis.gov.jm/jamaica-experiencing-strongest-economy-since-independence-pm-holness/>
7. See Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat 2024.
8. See <https://jis.gov.jm/decline-in-poverty/> Estimates are based on the 2023 Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions.
9. See <https://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/Country-Profiles/MPI/JAM.pdf>.
10. A new multidimensional poverty index is being developed, but unfortunately, results are not yet available to be included in this report.
11. See [EnGenDer Policy Brief, Jamaica](#).
12. The SDR projects the rate of obesity at 33.8 in 2022 and 8.3 prevalence of undernourishment in the population.
13. See <https://www.wfp.org/publications/caribbean-food-security-livelihoods-survey-april-2024>
14. Although the survey cannot be considered statistically representative, it signals a concerning picture worthy of further exploration in its intersection with agri-food systems, trade policies, and macroeconomic conditions.
15. See <https://hia.paho.org/en/country-profiles/jamaica>
16. See JPHSR, 2024. [Jamaica Population Health Status Report 2000-2022](#).
17. See <https://data.who.int/countries/388>
18. Estimated road traffic death increased from 12.52 in 2000 to 17.8 in 2021 per 100,000 people, higher than the global average (15). See SDR 2024 and [https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/estimated-road-traffic-death-rate-\(per-100-000-population\)](https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/estimated-road-traffic-death-rate-(per-100-000-population)).
19. Life expectancy at birth has worsened by 4.1 years from 74.2 in 2013 to 70.1 in 2021 and it was 72.1 in 2019. See <https://data.who.int/countries/388>.
20. [PIOJ 2023](#). MICS Statistical Snapshot.
21. Ibid. The surveys also shows that approximately two-thirds (67 percent) of girls age 7-14 years have demonstrated Foundational Reading skills, compared to about three out of every five (58 percent) boys.
22. Transforming Education for National Development. See <https://trend-ja.com>.
23. See <https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-gender-gap-report-2024/global-gender-gap-2024-dashboard/>
24. See SDR 2024. 50 percent is the long-term objective for this target.
25. See [PIOJ 2022](#), MICS Report.
26. See https://www.mset.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/JAMAICA-ENERGY-STATISTICS-2023_May-2024.pdf
27. See Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat 2024. As of Q1 2025, STATIN reports an even lower figure of 3.6%.
28. PIOJ reports in the 2022 VNR that the number of persons informally employed in 2020 was 453 500 or 46.8 per cent of non-agricultural employment.
29. See World Bank, World Development Indicators.

30. See SDR 2024.
31. See PIOJ 2024, p. 96
32. See <https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/corridor/United-States/Jamaica>
33. See SDR 2024.
34. See PIOJ 2022 (VNR) with regards to SDG 11.
35. Based on SDR 2024 reported trends on the SDG 12 indicators.
36. See SDR 2024.
37. See PIOJ 2024, where it is reported that “In 2020, Jamaica updated its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) with more ambitious emissions reduction targets and a broader sector scope. The revised targets for 2030 are—1.8 to 2.0 MtCO₂e, up from 1.1 to 1.5 MtCO₂e in the last NDC, representing a 25.4 per cent reduction relative to business-as-usual emissions in 2030 without international support (unconditional) and 28.5 per cent reduction relative to business-as-usual emissions in 2030 conditional upon international support.”
38. See PIOJ 2024.
39. See SDR 2024.
40. See SDR 2024.
41. See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/JAM>. However, the 2024 State of Forest Report by the Department of Forestry of the Government of Jamaica notes that “the trend reversed between 2013 and 2023, with forest cover experiencing a remarkable 7.9% increase, reaching 527,394.51 hectares, which now accounts for 47.9% of the mainland’s total area.
42. See for example the declining voter’s turnout reported under Chapter 4.
43. See Chapters 2 and 4 for more details and data.
44. See Chapter 5 for more details on the financial landscape.
45. The Gini coefficient measures the extent to which the distribution of income among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution (with 0 being perfect equality and 1 extreme inequality). Source SDR 2024.
46. See <https://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/Country-Profiles/MPI/JAM.pdf>.
47. See PIOJ 2024. Progress report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals 2022/2023
48. The MICS explore access to WASH services; exposure to mass media, communications and internet; birth registration; child discipline; child services; child marriage; child functioning; child health and care of illness; infant and young child feeding; early grade learning parental involvement; and education. See PIOJ 2023.
49. PIOJ reports in the 2022 VNR that the number of persons informally employed in 2020 was 453 500 or 46.8 per cent of non-agricultural employment.
50. See <https://www.wfp.org/publications/caribbean-food-security-livelihoods-survey-april-2024>
51. PIOJ 2023. MICS Statistical Snapshot.
52. See Statinja, <https://statinja.gov.jm/labourforce/newlfs.aspx>
53. See <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20230808/jamaicas-suicide-count-jumps-26-2022>
54. See for example, https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/latinamerica/undp-rblac-PNUD_bckPapers20-OK.pdf, p. 10
55. See <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11657184/#CR3>
56. See World Bank, World Development Indicators
57. See <https://jis.gov.jm/decline-in-poverty/> Estimates are based on the 2023 Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions.
58. See PIOJ 2022, MICS Report
59. See ESSJ 2023

60. See [UN Women \(2016\) Women's Health Survey Jamaica](#)
61. See [UN Women \(2016\) Women's Health Survey Jamaica](#)
62. See <https://docs.un.org/en/CEDAW/C/JAM/CO/8>
63. See PIOJ 2024
64. See <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20230808/jamaicas-suicide-count-jumps-26-2022>
65. It should be noted, however, that according to the VACS some mental health outcomes such as thoughts of suicide, were higher among females than males.
66. Only one in five males had seen a doctor in the past years. See National Family Planning Board and Statistical Institute of Jamaica. (2023), p. 230
67. See <https://data.who.int/countries/388>
68. See IDB 2016. [Crime and Violence in Jamaica](#).
69. See [J-Flag Survey 2023](#).
70. See <https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/Jamaica%20LOI%20Report%20LGBT%20FINAL.pdf>.
71. See, for example, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/feb/02/jamaicas-women-let-down-by-failure-of-cervical-cancer-vaccine-drive>
72. Reported during the consultation process by JCPD. See also <https://jis.gov.jm/approximately-17130-persons-registered-with-jamaica-council-for-persons-with-disabilities/>
73. As reported in the 2020 CCA, the JSLC 2014 indicated a disability prevalence rate of 3.3 per cent, which showed minimal changes since data on the population of PwDs was first captured in the JSLC in 2008. However, no data on disability had been collected for the 2017 JSLC. This lack of data was highlighted by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which recommended that Jamaica develop a system and procedures for collecting data on persons with disabilities disaggregated by age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, income, migration status, level of education, employment situation and place of residence (CRPD/C/JAM/CO/1).
74. A proper, systematic survey should be carried out in order to monitor the situation and improve social protection targeting.
75. See also the [2020 Stigma Index](#), which found that 1 in every 3 participants reported experiencing at least one form of stigma or discrimination due to their HIV status and more than half reported that their HIV status made them feel “guilty, ashamed, worthless, and/or dirty”.
76. See for example, Sives 2002, Altkin 2024 and the [BTI Reports](#) (Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index).
77. See [FAO et al., 2022](#).
78. See <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/commentary/20250315/juawayne-hylton-why-it-important-register-land>. Those without formal land titles are unable to leverage their property for financial growth, which exacerbates poverty and limits economic mobility. The inability to use land as collateral for loans restricts investment in property improvements and business ventures, hindering overall economic development.
79. See <https://statinja.gov.jm/labourforce/newlfs.aspx>
80. Observations on underemployment emerged during the consultations with youth, private sector and the government of Jamaica.
81. See PIOJ 2022
82. [World Bank. 2023. Jamaica Gender Assessment](#), p.35
83. Confirming, as some of the stakeholders consulted put it, Jamaica’s business ecosystem is an ‘old boys club’.
84. UN Women 2024. Gender Gap Analysis of the Policy and Legislative Frameworks for Social Protection in Jamaica. Unpublished paper.

85. See Clayton 2025.
86. Productivity is also affected by lack of modernization (e.g., irrigation system) and by the impact of hurricane (see, for example, <https://jis.gov.jm/over-1-billion-in-damage-to-agriculture-sector/>)
87. See <https://opm.gov.jm/news/government-outlines-bold-strategies-to-drive-jamaicas-further-economic-growth/>
88. See World Bank, 2023. [Recommendations for a Blue Economy Roadmap for Jamaica](#)
89. This includes investing in modern fishing technologies, establishing marine protected areas, and promoting responsible fishing practices.
90. See <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/jamaica-track-creative-economy-act-protect-and-support-its-cultural-and-creative-industries>
91. Aruba, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.
92. See “[How big is circular economy potential on Caribbean islands considering e-waste?](#)”
93. Reference is made to a still draft report commissioned by ILO and UNDP, titled “A green economic growth model for Jamaica: Scenarios for fostering green growth”
94. The Government formed a National AI Task Force that, in late 2024, proposed policies to harness AI for economic growth, innovation, and workforce development. The recommendations emphasized improving AI infrastructure, legal frameworks, public awareness, ethical standards, and fostering public-private partnerships.
95. See <https://www.worldometers.info/demographics/jamaica-demographics/>
96. This is the rate reported in Statinja website and referred to 2021.
97. See National Family Planning Board and Statistical Institute of Jamaica. (2023).
98. See PIOJ 2022, MICS Statistical Snapshot.
99. See <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/resources/?type=research>
100. See <https://opm.gov.jm/news/holness-administrations-targeted-approach-investments-in-security-lead-to-fewer-gangs-and-safer-communities/>. More recent data from JCF website shows a 42.5% decline in homicides for the period 1.05.25-24.05.25 compared to the same period the previous year. Rapes and shootings have also decreased, however break-ins have increased by 20 percent.
101. See [PIOJ et al. 2024. Jamaica Violence Against Children and Youth Survey 2023- Summary](#)
102. See [PIOJ et al. 2024. Jamaica Violence Against Children and Youth Survey 2023- Summary](#)
103. See <https://scoreforpeace.org/en/methodology>
104. UN JP 2024
105. More than 50% of the population are single-parent, female-headed households in Jamaica. Source: EnGenDer Policy Brief, Jamaica.
106. See <https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/2024/04/23/addressing-jamaicas-crime-epidemic>
107. See UN Women 2016, referring to the incidence of physical or sexual violence by intimate partners.
108. See <https://caribbean.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2023/03/ecovawg-jamaica-report>.
109. Patriarchy may be described as a standardized system of male dominance over women in spheres of leadership, such as politics, family, and economics.
110. See World Bank 2023, where it is reported that “close to 80 per cent [of women] believed that a man was the ‘natural’ head of the family”.
111. Gaps in the legislation framework are still there. While the Sexual Offences Act provides protection against various forms of sexual violence, the Act continues to limit the extent of protections available to married women. The Act requires that additional conditions be met in order for a married woman to receive recourse for rape. While the government has made commitments to delete all the preconditions for claim of marital rape in the Sexual Offences Act,

the legislation has not yet been amended.

112. See <https://www.unicef.org/jamaica/education>
113. PIOJ 2024.
114. Around 1,200 teachers left Jamaica for the USA or the UK in 2024 alone. See “[Jamaica launches “Go Public! Fund Education” campaign amid critical teacher shortage](#)”
115. Data for 2021 and 2022 were not available and calculated based on linear trend.
116. See <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators>
117. See <https://www.unicef.org/media/100321/file/Jamaica-2020-COAR.pdf>
118. [JPHSR, 2024. Jamaica Population Health Status Report 2000-2022.](#)
119. [JPHSR, 2024. Jamaica Population Health Status Report 2000-2022.](#)
120. Ibid., p.14
121. Ibid., p.14. Among the leading causes of death are diabetes mellitus, which was the second leading cause in 2021, and hypertensive disease, which ranked fourth. Heart disease and stroke also contributed significantly to mortality. In 2017, 33.8% of Jamaicans aged 15 and older had hypertension, while 10.2% had elevated blood glucose levels, indicating diabetes. Cancer mortality has also risen, with prostate cancer leading as the primary cause of cancer deaths and breast cancers being the leading cause of death due to cancer in Jamaican women.
122. Ibid., p.25
123. Ibid., p.25-26
124. Ibid. p.24
125. Ibid., p.20
126. See [JPHSR, 2024. Jamaica Population Health Status Report 2000-2022.](#) In 2021 the proportion of health expenditure covered by out-of-pocket expenditure was 13.1%, down from 26.9% in 2000. Likewise, the share of expenditure funded by the government rose from 56.5% in 2000 to 72.1% in 2021.
127. Between 2010 and 2023, new HIV infections declined by 10 percent, and AIDS-related deaths by 32 percent.
128. See UNAIDS data as of 2018 at <https://kpatlas.unaids.org/dashboard>.
129. See UNFPA: “[Jamaica-eliminates-mother-child-transmission-hiv-and-congenital-syphilis](#)”
130. The current legal framework requires parental consent and mandates reporting, deterring minors from seeking care. Provider discretion varies, leading to inconsistent service access.
131. See [JPHSR, 2024. Jamaica Population Health Status Report 2000-2022](#)
132. See [PIOJ 2022, MICS Report..](#) For the purpose of MICS 2022, ‘marriage/union’ includes legal/civil marriages, common-law unions and visiting partner relationship
133. See <https://www.moh.gov.jm/more-women-seeking-antenatal-care/>
134. See International Agency for Research on Cancer. (2024, February). Jamaica fact sheet. [GLOBOCAN 2022](#) on breast cancer’s incidence and [Duncan, J., Harris, M., Skyers, N., Bailey, A., & Figueroa, J. P. \(2021\). A call for low- and middle-income countries to commit to the elimination of cervical cancer. The Lancet Regional Health – Americas](#) on cervical cancer.
135. The Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) is a conditional cash transfer (CCT) programme aimed at delivering benefits by way of cash grants to the most needy and vulnerable in the society. PATH was introduced island-wide in 2002.
136. See <https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/country-profiles/>
137. See reThink Social Development Limited 2024, Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) Gender Aware Beneficiary Assessment. Unpublished report.
138. For example, the cereal yield in Jamaica is significantly lower than the Caribbean average, See [Ensuring food systems in Jamaica in the face of climate change](#)

139. Jamaica features one of the most expensive healthy diets in the world. Its cost was estimate at 6.42 PPP dollars per day per person in 2022, compared to a global average of 3.96 (see [FAO et al., 2022](#)).
140. Only 4 percent of landholders control 65 percent of agricultural land (mostly the fertile plains), while the remaining 96 percent (mainly small farmers) share just 35 percent. This skewed land ownership leaves most smallholders on marginal hillside plots and limits their productivity. See [FAO et al., 2022](#).
141. One of the Caribbean countries with the highest level of food insecurity (lower only than Haiti) and with one of the highest increases between 2021 and 2023 (4.8 percentage points). See [FAO et al. 2025](#)
142. See [EM-DAT](#).
143. See NEPA, [2017 State of Environment Report](#)
144. See World Development Indicators, World Bank
145. Ibid.
146. See [UNEP et al. ND, Nature based Solutions for Wastewater Management - Barriers and Opportunities in the Caribbean](#).
147. See <https://lowcarbonpower.org/region/Jamaica>
148. See https://bti-project.org/fileadmin/api/content/en/downloads/reports/country_report_2024_JAM.pdf
149. See https://bti-project.org/fileadmin/api/content/en/downloads/reports/country_report_2024_JAM.pdf
150. UN JP 2024
151. See <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2024/index/jam>
152. For elected MPs, 45 were men and 18 were women (28.6 percent) in 2020, up from 11 in 2016. See <https://data.ipu.org/parliament/JM/JM-LC01/election/JM-LC01-E20200903/>
153. See <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/commentary/20240526/rosalea-hamilton-jamaicas-constitutional-reform-deeper-look-process>.
154. See, for example, <https://jis.gov.jm/the-sdc-empowering-communities-through-the-work-of-community-development-committees/>
155. See [BTI Report 2024](#) and UNODC 2024.
156. See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/04/un-committee-migrant-workers-publishes-findings-jamaica-mexico-and-niger>
157. See <https://opm.gov.jm/news/holness-administrations-targeted-approach-investments-in-security-lead-to-fewer-gangs-and-safer-communities>
158. The Human Rights Committee has stated that the State of Emergency legislation in the past has not met the criteria of safeguards set out in article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which provides for derogations (CCPR/C/JAM/CO/4).
159. See Kerrigan, Dylan. 2024. Jamaica RCO Socio-Political Briefing. Delivered on 10th October, 2024.
160. UN JP 2024
161. Recidivism was estimated at 41% in 2021. See The [National Correctional Services Policy](#).
162. Tier 2 in the 2024 Trafficking in Person report of the US State Department means not “meeting the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking”. See <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-trafficking-in-persons-report/jamaica/>
163. Under the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. See [High-level panel on the development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index: FINAL REPORT](#)
164. The Fragile States Index is developed by the Fund for Peace. The Fund for Peace was founded in 1957 and is a Washington-based American non-profit, non-governmental research and

educational institution.

165. See IMF World Economic Outlook, Oct 2024
166. See https://www.tadat.org/content/dam/tadat/en/assessments/Jamaica_PAR_2021.pdf
167. See <https://unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/mission/principles>
168. Jamaica currently has two businesses who have signed up to the Global Compact in 2024. See <https://unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/participants/search>
169. See <https://www.unepfi.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/13-Key-Steps-to-be-Implemented-by-Signatories.pdf>
170. See <https://www.unepfi.org/insurance/insurance/the-principles/>
171. Currently no bank or insurance company has signed up to UNEP-FI Principles for Responsible Banking or Principles for Sustainable Insurance. See <https://www.unepfi.org/banking/more-about-the-principles/> and <https://www.unepfi.org/insurance/insurance/signatory-companies/>.
172. See https://www.orcjamaica.com/uploads/charity/Charity_Listing_2023.xlsx
173. See <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/business/20230915/4b-charity-sector-being-assessed-anti-money-laundering-compliance>
174. About 0.13% of GDP in 2023
175. See <https://www.oecd.org/en/data/indicators/net-oda.html>
176. See <https://archive.doingbusiness.org/en/data/exploreconomies/jamaica>
177. See <https://prosperitydata360.worldbank.org/en/dataset/WEF+GCI>
178. See <https://lpi.worldbank.org/international/scorecard>
179. See <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2024>
180. See <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/which-countries-will-be-hit-hardest-us-remittance-tax>
181. Stakeholder consultations including the UN CCA Task Team, private sector, international development partners, UN Youth Advisory Group, Civil Society Organizations, and the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ). See Annex 3
182. See <https://caribbean.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2023/03/ecovawg-jamaica-report>



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