



Jamaica

Voluntary National Review Report

on the Implementation Status of the GCM at the National Level

May 2022



Global Compact
FOR **Migration**

Prepared by

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Introduction

The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) Voluntary National Review (VNR) is a necessary process for both the country performing the review and for the United Nations (UN) as a follow up to the adoption of the development agendas. The GCM VNR for Jamaica is not only a core feature of the follow-up and review mechanisms of the migration aspect of Agenda 2030 but is also a mechanism to identify areas for improvement as Jamaica seeks to achieve developed country status by 2030. The Vision for Jamaica is grounded in the premise that national development will be sustainable and inclusive, engaging all Jamaicans in the planning, designing and implementation processes and providing equitable opportunities for all Jamaicans to benefit (GOJ, 2019).

The framework of Jamaica's GCM VNR is constructed around a voluntary process and tracks the progress on GCM goals; accommodates the participation of stakeholders; and discusses how the Ten GCM guiding principles (people-centred, international cooperation, national sovereignty, rule of law and due process, sustainable development, human rights, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, whole-of-government and whole-of-society) are reflected in its policies and practices. The aim of this review is to strengthen accountability to citizens of Jamaica as well as to facilitate the sharing of experience, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNR also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The GCM refers to migrants and presents a cooperative framework addressing migration in all its dimensions. The 2022 VNR, therefore, focused on migrants and not on refugees and asylum seekers who are covered by the Global Compact on Refugees.



METHODOLOGY FOR PREPARING THE VOLUNTARY GCM REVIEWS

The Working Group includes all stakeholders drawn from Government, Civil Society & Academia, Private Sector and International Development Partners. Four sub committees of the National Working Group on International Migration and Development (NWGIMD) were established to work to achieve various goals and targets under the nine (9) thematic areas of the policy. The responsibilities of the NWGIMD and its subcommittees include reviewing and making recommendations on strategic priorities on international migration and development to the International Migration and Development Monitoring Board, the government and other stakeholders as appropriate. Significant capacity building¹ has been undertaken to improve the technical carrying capacities of entities collectively and individually in areas such as counter smuggling and trafficking in persons, labour mobility, monitoring and evaluation.

The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), the national focal point on Migration and Development in Jamaica, led Jamaica's national consultations. In collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), PIOJ's efforts extended to raising awareness of the ongoing global discussions on the Global Compact for Migration (GCM).

The consultative process commenced with a mapping of the overall situation and recent progress as currently understood by the migration stakeholders. This was facilitated by a series of consultative exercises with the members of the NWGIMD, who brought distinct perspectives from their different roles and portfolios. Discussions were guided by the thematic areas of special concern communicated by the group, namely: (a) Data, Research and Information Systems; (b) Public Order, Safety and Security; (c) Return, Integration and Reintegration; (d) Labour Mobility and Development, Human Rights; (e) Social Protection and Family, Migration and Development; (f) Diaspora and Development; (g) Remittance and Development. Gender, Governance and Policy Coherence were integrated across the other priority areas. The consultative cluster meetings facilitated the sharing of insights and information on migration data sets, analysis of gaps, as well as the ways in which various aspects of migration impacted each of the thematic areas of concern, the existing strengths and weaknesses, as well as the challenges faced in achieving the desired objectives for the forthcoming medium term. Multi-modal and multi-directional approaches were utilized along with quantitative and qualitative data utilized and analysed to assess trends in the implementation of thematic goals.

The NWGIMD partners discussed matters relating to human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption. During the consultative process, pertinent areas reviewed and discussed included:

- How to improve and promote fact-based and data-driven migration discourse, policy, planning and auctioning
- Ways to promote the protection of human rights, safety and well-being of migrants

¹ Results-based Management/Monitoring and Evaluation Training and Trafficking Sensitization workshops have been held with members of the NWGIMD. There is evidence of an improved governance framework with the establishment of the International Migration and Development Board, which will be used to highlight and drive actions in migration and development across MDAs (*IOM, 2018 Migration in Jamaica – A Country Profile, pg. 134*).

- How to address irregular migration
- How to improve the facilitation of regular migration and decent work and
- Ways to improve social inclusion and integration of migrants

Attention was paid to the National International Migration Policy implementation plan to update and assess lessons learned.

Dialogue was necessary, to ensure the sharing of information between stakeholders and to better understand migration phenomena not only nationally but also regionally as a cross-cutting thematic area. Continued dialogue fosters the development of innovative and shared responses to better manage migration-related issues. Furthermore, the development of migration strategies and programmes were remained to national development plans and international conventions and treaties to facilitate sustainability.



POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

The 2030 Agenda enforces the importance of Jamaica's IMD Policy² and recognizes migration as a critical development driver which impacts the economic, social and environmental pillars of development. Specifically, migration reference is clearly articulated in target 10.7 under the goal "Reduce inequality in and among countries," (UN, 2015) to "facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies," (Ibid). In a bid to attain target 10.7, integrated and participatory approaches have been utilized with other sustainable development initiatives in which all levels of government and other sectors within and outside of national borders have been engaged, recognizing that the migration related aspects of the 2030 Agenda cannot occur in silos.

As such, the migration reviews have also been with the wider sustainable development partners to ensure coherence with local and international initiatives, recognizing that the international community, through mechanisms such as the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) can provide considerable technical and financial assistance and guidance to further implementation. Support of the achievement of Vision 2030 Jamaica and advancing the GCM include migration mainstreaming and capacity building, protecting migrant rights and promoting all migrants' well-being, improving migrant integration in host communities, promoting regulated labour mobility, countering migrant trafficking, facilitating resettlement by assisting involuntary returning and reintegrating migrants.

To leverage synergies across various reporting mechanisms of other international agreements, a cross-sectoral approach has been taken which solidifies and simplifies complex relationships among governance sectors to address and work towards sustainable and well-managed migration governance. The NWGIMD ensures that

² Policy and Programme Development and Implementation

- **A National Policy** on International Migration and Development and a Plan of Action were developed along with an Implementation Plan for same. The policy seeks to ensure that international migration is adequately measured, monitored and influenced to serve the development needs of Jamaica as outlined in Vision 2030 Jamaica-National Development Plan. The National Policy on International Migration and Development recognizes that Jamaica is a country of origin, transit and destination. It is also recognized that relationships exist between migration and the economic, social and cultural conditions. Therefore, the policy actions formulated are the catalyst to improve existing and create new economic opportunities for immigrants and emigrations as the country strives to be the "place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business".
- **Adjunct policies** have also emanated from the process such as the draft Visa and Diaspora policies. Technical assistance has been provided to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade to aid with the formulation of a policy framework that seeks to strengthen the foundational institutional mechanisms for engagement with the Jamaican Diaspora. The policy embodies the commitment of the Government of Jamaica to the nation's development and the Diaspora's well-being. In particular, it addresses issues and concerns of the Diaspora while assisting them to live in harmony and to prosper in the countries where they and their descendants reside. It also seeks to optimize the Diaspora's contribution to Jamaica's sustainable development.
- **A draft policy** was developed and implemented actions to facilitate the integration and reintegration of persons who have been forced to return. Working with entities under the Ministry of National Security, steps have been taken to improve the processing and reintegration of forced returnees. Partnerships have been strengthened with the NGO community to provide hygiene products, food, transportation, accommodations and skills upgrades to facilitate reintegration and integration.

the various perspectives are brought to initiation, planning and implementation of various actions to ensure that migration interventions are effective and sustainable. Inclusivity and multi-stakeholder collaborations have allowed implementation beyond the policymaker domain and have facilitated consistent interactions with policy efforts.

Enabling engagements with all levels of government through the NWGIMD and other governance mechanisms has also informed effective sustainable and inclusive strategies being implemented at the national and sub-national levels. This has allowed vertical engagement whereby the sector players have been able to devise actions that may be adapted to particular contexts while encouraging and communicating the importance of migration and development actions at the sub-national levels where migration is facilitated in various communities. The NWGIMD secretariat is also responsible for reporting migration-related matters on the SDG National Core Group, which is responsible for the country's national voluntary progress reports on the implementation of the SDG.

Engagements have also been held with other sustainable development partners as the NWGIMD works to ensure coherence with local and international initiatives. The group recognises that the international community, through partners such as the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), can provide considerable technical and financial assistance and guidance for further implementation. For thematic areas within the national migration policy, the NWGIMD contributes to national periodic reports based on international conventions and treaties that Jamaica is a signatory.

POLICY STRATEGIES

- Coordinate services to support the establishment of a “diaspora hub” to facilitate increased investment initiatives and facilitate diasporic engagement
- Strengthen institutional and human capacities within the relevant MDAS to incorporate international migration and development into corporate and annual plans, budgets and programmes
- Improve the timeliness, accuracy and reliability of international migration data
- Reliance on evidence-based research to support policy outcomes and outputs
- Heighten public awareness among migrant workers and their families on the use of their remittances for savings and investments
- Create and foster greater linkages among stakeholder groupings
- Improve the quality of life of migrants and citizens through:
 - direct assistance to targeted sectors and
 - overall knowledge, skills and cultural exchanges
- Foster collaborative efforts that seek to create a more defined foreign policy position on issues dealing with border protection and management
- Guide actions and establish protocols and mechanisms for the definitive steps to be taken by the NWGIMD and the International Migration and Development Monitoring Board
- Introduce, rationalize and repeal migration-related legislation
- Improve collaboration and dialogue among MDAs to ensure inter-institutional policy coherence
- Facilitate stronger partnerships with non-state actors through the utilization of participatory approaches to national development.



PROGRESS ON GCM OBJECTIVES

The table below describes the correlation between Jamaica’s Migration Programmes and the GCM objectives. A breakdown of the GCM objectives can be found in *Appendix 1*:

PROGRAMMES	GCM OBJECTIVES
Policy and Programme Development and Implementation³	Objective 1-23
Data Collection and Analysis - Significant efforts have been made to assess the migration data need to ensure that planning and programming are evidence base driven. The NWGIMD have developed Meta data sheets for indicators that are deemed essential for the tracking of policy actions, goals and targets. Working with the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), efforts have been made to commence work on the design and implementation of a national migration statistics database.	Objectives 1 & 3
Integration and Reintegration - Partnering with the Registrar General’s Department, identity documents, namely birth certificates are processed to support the integration and reintegration of forced returnees.	Objective 4
Pathways for Regular Migration - Jamaica is currently developing a national visa policy to streamline and promote regular migration. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security continues to facilitate circular migration projects and has been revamping its work permit approval system.	Objective 5
Traffic in Person (TIP) & Smuggling - Amendments to the National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons (NATFATIP) Plan of Action will include recommendations centred on initiatives to bolster efforts at the prevention of TIP and the prosecution of TIP offenders. Efforts are ongoing to share intelligence data on TIP across the wider Caribbean and to facilitate public awareness campaigns. TIP clubs have also been established at some high schools.	Objectives 9 & 10
International Peer Exchanges - Sharing of best practices, facilitation and participation in capacity building sessions with countries such as Moldova, Philippines, Cape Verde, Guyana, Belize and other countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region on how to facilitate the mainstreaming of migration at national and sub-national programme levels.	Objectives 7, 8, 10, 23
Labour Mobility – There have been comprehensive reviews of the legislation related to labour mobility and the standardization of training, training materials and sensitization	Objectives 6, 7, 16 & 18

³ As seen on page 6

PROGRAMMES	GCM OBJECTIVES
sessions for migrant workers. Project initiatives have been formulated to address issues faced by migrant workers and their families.	
<p>Consultations and Public Awareness – Continued efforts are being made to build public awareness of migration and its importance to migrants and country development. National and sub-national consultations and public awareness sessions have been facilitated around migration and national policies, treaties, conventions, SDGs and the Global Compact for Migration. In 2017, a 12-week radio programme was aired to encourage Jamaicans that the migration pathways being considered were safe. An abbreviated version of the National Migration Policy was also developed and disseminated. Community groups and individuals have also been encouraged to share their views on migration and development via international video competitions and local creative arts competitions that have been sponsored by IOM.</p>	Objectives 3, 8, 17, 21, 23
<p>Mapping of the Diaspora: This project aimed to determine members of the diaspora's skills, knowledge, willingness to contribute to development, and their needs and concerns</p>	Objective 1-3, 16-19 & 23
<p>Diaspora and Remittances – Work has commenced on the review of regulations pertaining to the treatment of remittances in a bid to reduce remittance charges as well to encourage the diversification of the use of remittance from consumption to investments. The Government has also been ensuring that open dialogue remains with the Diaspora and mapping of the diaspora population is being executed to determine profiling, aimed at ensuring product and service reach.</p>	Objective 19 -22
<p>Dignified Return and Readmission – Formulation of a R Return and reintegration Policy with an implementation plan; provision of care packages and accommodations for forced returnees; bilateral agreements negotiated to aid with reintegration.</p>	Objective 21

Innovative Policies and Promising Practices

Projects implemented produced a method that successfully mainstreamed migration into the sustainable development of Jamaica by providing the necessary legislation and framework that incorporates all stakeholders, whilst also holding each partner accountable, and evaluating and monitoring activities. This can be seen in the project activities such as:

- **The National Policy on International Migration and Development**, which recognizes Jamaica as a country of origin, transit and destination. It is also recognized that relationships exist between migration and the economic, social and cultural conditions. The project unit uses this information to its advantage as it strives to successfully implement activities and engage partners.

- **The NWGIMD**, the multi-sectoral body with responsibility for coordinating and providing overall guidance and oversight on matters relating to international migration and development, assists with the continuity of migration initiatives.
- **Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative**, an ongoing project that aims to contribute to strengthening the disaster risk management and preparedness capacity of the Government of Jamaica (GOJ). Jamaica is the third most exposed country in the world to multiple hazards with more than 96 per cent of the country's GDP and population at risk from two or more hazards⁴ (World Bank, 2022). Its primary risks are linked to hazards including hurricanes, floods, droughts, earthquakes, storm surges, and landslides. The project is poised to:
 - Deliver an assessment report of the vulnerabilities of migrants in the context of a disaster
 - Create and improve relevant communication systems to assist migrants during and after crises, using a gender-sensitive approach
 - Sensitize the migrant community in Jamaica through a gender-sensitive, communication campaign in relation to COVID-19
 - Increase the knowledge of the steering committee members on MICIC guidelines, fitting the Jamaican context
 - Strengthen the capacity of local government agencies to support and train migrants to assist themselves, their families, and communities during and in the aftermath of a crisis
 - Increase the knowledge of Jamaican diplomatic missions overseas, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Consular Department, to assist diaspora members in the instance of a disaster or crisis
 - Develop migrant inclusive standard operating procedures (SOPS) for preparedness and response to a crisis, targeted at public and private sector stakeholders
- **Remittance Initiative** - The objective of this initiative is to facilitate the GOJ's efforts to modernize its remittance sector in keeping with global sector advances. Modernization of the remittance sector will drive and contribute to sustainable development. The anticipated impact of the modernization of the sector will be an expansion of inflows, changes in utilization patterns, volume, formal channels and regulations.
- **Diaspora Mapping** - This project will produce a design for the Diaspora Registration Platform (DRP) as well as the Diaspora Portal (the Portal). It will:
 - Detail the functional requirements of the system, including a list of the data elements to be captured for individuals and businesses, and the reporting requirements of the system.
 - Produce a design for, and define the contents of, the Portal. This will include specifications of the graphic design, functional requirements, data sources, and updating and data maintenance procedures for keeping the Portal up to date and relevant to members of the Diaspora. The designs for the DRP and the Portal will include technical specifications regarding the programming languages

⁴World Bank, 2022. Global Program for Safer Schools (GPSS). <https://gpss.worldbank.org/en/country/jamaica>

and other software libraries to be used, as well as the graphic design parameters and protocols for data exchange with other MFAFT and GOJ systems where desired.

- Produce a functional prototype of the DRP and the Portal incorporating the graphic design parameters and the core functionalities defined in the requirements specified in the design. These prototypes will be deployed in a test environment for comments and approval by GOJ officials.
- Produce a plan for the implementation of the DRP and the Portal. This will include the identification of the approval procedures necessary, and the technical analysis and authorizations necessary for deployment on GOJ Internet infrastructure. The implementation plan will specify the steps and timeline for the full deployment of the DRP and the Portal.

- **Diaspora Conferences & Symposiums**

The Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conferences & Symposiums have been informed and shaped by the domestic policy environment and the changes that have emerged in these areas. Convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, this event is the global forum that connects Jamaicans from all over the world with Jamaicans at home every two years. The event seeks to strengthen existing linkages and networks and build alliances for Jamaica's development and standing in the world.

The main objectives of the Conference are to:

1. fulfil the Ministry's mandate to host Biennial Conferences for the engagement of the Diaspora
2. secure the positive trajectory in the relationship with the Diaspora, especially noting that this Conference remains the centrepiece for engagement and the refinement of partnership with all relevant stakeholders
3. ensure continuity and maintenance of the momentum which has been sustained following the 8th Biennial Conference hosted in 2019 and the Virtual Diaspora Symposium in June 2021
4. sensitize participants to the role of the GJDC and GJDYC and their relationship with the MFAFT, taking into account the need for these bodies to be responsive to global and national shifts which may impact the execution of their respective mandates
5. engage the Diaspora on the new platforms for national development which focus on critical domestic policy (DNDP, NPIMD, Vision 2030) as well as the SDGs, notably in the recovery efforts; and
6. support the development and prioritization of the welfare of the Diaspora where they reside.

The objectives have been determined with a view of the main pillars of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Conference has taken a hybrid format, allowing the Ministry to fulfil its mandate while providing an opportunity for the safe and inclusive engagement of the Jamaican Diaspora across the globe. This format enables the participation of academics, professionals and business icons from a wide spectrum who may not otherwise be available and is likely to attract a youthful audience which augurs well for the engagement of a younger cohort of Jamaican stakeholders. It is designed to afford dialogue and consultations across a wide range of topics simultaneously, which can be accessed with ease. The opportunity to take advantage of the economies associated with virtual conferences is a clear advantage.

Critical difficulties envisioned or encountered in reaching GCM objectives

Although there is an existing institutional and legal framework, there remains the need for reform; resourcing of the existing legislative framework to support the intermediate results and broad actions of policies; updating laws with regard to fines and custodial sentences as well as cultural and technological changes; and reviewing the mandates of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in line with the goals under the priority areas.

There is an urgent need not just for policy coherence, but for an effective institutional framework to facilitate these changes. There exist, policies and sector plans that are facilitative and promote growth in the country, at the same time as there are austerity measures and restrictive taxation policies. There must be an agreement in these areas from a policy perspective and a common vision if they are to be effective when initiatives and projects are being marketed to the Diaspora, other groups of migrants and partner countries.

Knowledge, data and information play critical roles in this process; however, there are challenges with respect to data. These include the absence of formal data sharing arrangements across the relevant MDAs; lack of disaggregation of the data required by specific entities to facilitate proper decision-making; and insufficient use of data to inform corporate planning and development processes. In addition, resource and capacity constraints pervade all areas of the public sector as evidenced by current budget constraints. These include inadequate provisions for institutional and human resources (due to unavailability of skills, on the one hand, and also the inability to remunerate those skills) and weak links between this policy and related policies, plans and programmes. The need for communication and public sensitization programmes are critical to ensure policy effectiveness.

The nature of the issues relating to migration and development that have been outlined has implications for the power relations between Jamaica and its partners. In some areas, the country does not have a strong bargaining position. Several developing countries, notably China and India, have been able to keep labour costs low and as a result, are able to provide skilled labour more cheaply than Jamaica. In addition to the change in power relations, partner countries may impose regulations, migration policies and other measures to counter demographic and cultural changes associated with migration (for example with regard to return migrants), which



BEST PRACTICE

The following Best Practice was uploaded on the Migration Network Hub:

- **Title of the initiative:**
Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies
- **Name of implementing organization/s:**
Organizations: International Organization for Migration, United Nations Development Programme, Planning Institute of Jamaica.
- **Partners involved, and/or donor/s, Partner/s:**
IOM, UNDP, Government of Jamaica
- **Type of practice:**
Project/programme
- **GCM objectives:**
1. Data, 3. Information provision, 5. Regular pathways, 6. Recruitment and decent work, 7. Reduce vulnerabilities, 9. Counter smuggling, 10. Eradicate trafficking, 15. Access to basic services, 16. Inclusion and social cohesion, 17. Eliminate discrimination, 18. Skills development and recognition, 19. Migrant and diaspora contributions, 20. Remittances, 22. Social protection, and 23. International cooperation
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**
5. Gender equality, 8. Decent work and economic growth, 10. Reduced inequalities, 16. Peace, justice, and strong institutions, and 17. Partnerships for the goals

may impact negatively on the successful implementation of the policy. Similarly, traditional allies are now undergoing an economic recession. Therefore, funds received directly (through bilateral agreements) and indirectly (through international organizations) will be reduced over time.

Under the Mapping Jamaica's Diaspora project, there were delays in the submission of the statistical report, and the document once received included limited data; in the signing of the data transfer agreement due to revisions being made to the document and the requirement for Cabinet to approve; hindrances in the data sharing between the IOM and MFAFT; and the survey submissions were less than anticipated. To mitigate these challenges, the MFAFT recruited statistical consultants to complete the report⁵; maintained communication with the IOM and the Jamaican missions overseas; and used multiple media types for advertising.

Lessons Learned

Plan and Policy Development

- Approaches and methods to mainstream migration need to be participatory and inclusive, thus leaving no grouping behind. Stakeholders should have intrinsic value for decision-making in the best interest of the project objective, whilst serving the purpose of holistic sustainability of the country. Having the National Working Group and other key stakeholders with the necessary experience and capacity at the table added value to each activity.
- In the development of policies, plans, strategies and programmes, gender and cultural matters and sensitivities must be carefully navigated and addressed.
- Alignment of migration actions should be aligned to national development planning. Long-term sustainability needs to be explored with the key implementing partners of each activity from the onset of the project. Setting specific and achievable goals can assist towards this aim.
- The need to effectively integrate and implement formulated migration goals and targets into annual operational and Corporate Plans across MDAs.
- The need to improve the facilitation of the integration of international migration issues into national and sectoral development policies, plans, and programmes in a timely manner, especially in local development plans and programmes

Implementation

- Throughout all stages of the project, especially development and implementation, there must be effective engagement between all key stakeholders to build a trusting relationship which will by effect increase the possibility of successful implementation and participation and impact the quality and validity of the project outputs.
- The tracking of achievements in implementing national migration policies where more detail regarding specific timing, activities, additional actors involved and potential resources available are in need of development by the NWGIMD. This will ensure that each strategic GCM action/objective is coherently implemented.

⁵ MFAFT wrote to STATIN, the responsible agency for the report, regarding the challenges. Further, IOM Kingston sought permission to hire an independent statistician with remaining funds, and identify funds from another project to print the report.

- Financial and Technical support to implement migration policy actions and initiatives - greater resources are needed to leverage support for implementation at the national and sub-national levels.
- Budgetary provisions for the implementation of the migration policy actions remain a challenge due to competing national priorities

Diaspora

- It is important to build relationships with leaders of diaspora groups and associations as well as other persons of influence. This provided an opportunity for these individuals to promote the online survey throughout their network.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Further work needs to be carried out to strengthen the tracking of concrete indicators for benchmarking and measuring the desired capacity outcomes associated with each thematic policy issue.

Access to Information

- The need to increase the promotion of shared inter-institutional understanding through sharing of information and joint needs assessments/analysis of migration and development matters.



MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Jamaica remains committed to covering all dimensions of migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. Through its national development planning and framework, the country seeks to improve the governance of migration, address the challenges associated with migration, and strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development. Ownership of the migration goals, under Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs, spans the country's political and civil leadership, private sector, and citizenry. National sector-specific consultations with all stakeholders and major groups were conducted, which highlighted the country's development priorities within the new migration framework. The collection of migration data and statistics is supported by the GOJ, and through PIOJ, there is an ongoing process to address the gaps with support from bilateral, multilateral and other partnerships regarding data quality assurance.

One example of the means of implementation is under the Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Involuntarily Returned Migrants Jamaica Project, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Issues related to Involuntary Returned Migrants (IRMs) have been identified as a development challenge by the Government of Jamaica on account of the vulnerable and at-risk states of IRMs as well as the associated implications for national security.

Consequently, through funding provided by Cities Alliance (USD 160,000), UNDP (USD 65,000) and the Ministry of National Security (USD 57, 535) the Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Involuntarily Returned Migrants Jamaica Project was successfully executed between November 2016 and December 2019. The project was implemented in partnership with key national stakeholders including the PIOJ, the Ministries of National Security and Local Government and Rural Development and Non-Government Organizations including the National Organization for Deported Migrants, Open Arms Development Centre, the Salvation Army and Open Heart Charitable Mission the following key results have been achieved.

Key Achievements of the projects include:

- Strengthened Policy, Legislative and Institutional Frameworks

Four policy and institutional reforms have been completed to govern issues relating to IRMs: (1) Draft Deportation Policy, (2) Strategy for the Reintegration and Rehabilitation of IRMs and (3) Standard Operating Procedures for the integration of migrants (4) Framework for monitoring and tracking reintegration of returned migrants. Additionally, support was provided for the integration of migration issues into the Trelawny Local Sustainable Development Plan.

- Strengthened capacity of relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies, and Non-Government Organizations to address the needs of IRMs

Capacity building has been provided in the areas of:

- ✓ *Apiculture with the provision of related equipment to facilitate income generation for 4 NGOs targeting IRMs*

- ✓ *Business Development to 16 service providers, 5 NGOs, and 32 deported migrants with the associated provision of seed funding to either establish or expand small and micro-businesses*
- ✓ *Training to 82 members of 6 Municipal Corporations' Poor Relief Departments to improve service provision, and to facilitate a better understanding of the needs of IRMs*

Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials have also been developed to support returned migrants' access to information about services available to them

- Evidence-informed decision making

A Baseline Study on IRMs was completed to support planning and the provision of services for returned migrants.

Other examples of implemented projects are outlined in **Appendix 2**.

Locally, implementation of the GCM would benefit from capacity building exercises and these capacity building processes may be realised through the establishment of partnerships. In one instance, IOM Jamaica is currently developing a relationship with the UN Network on Migration Secretariat to deliver training on the GCM to the United Nations Country Team in Jamaica. It is anticipated that greater support for this initiative will come from the UNDP at the international level. The establishment of the GCM would benefit from the input of human resources to help in the training of stakeholders and to assist with data collection. Technological input in the way of facilities for data storage and analysis would also prove beneficial.



NEXT STEPS

The preparation of the GCM VNR demonstrates that Jamaica's contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially as it pertains to the matters of migration, is intricately aligned with the core and underlying principles of the country. As a small island developing state (SID), faced with economic and social challenges that lead to regular and irregular migration, Jamaica has higher stakes and more easily identifiable gains in the achievement of the envisioned transformed world which serves as a pragmatic motivator for the country's championing of the Agenda. The medium to long term activities to be pursued are presented accordingly.

- ✓ Maintain a high level of commitment with local and international stakeholders.
- ✓ Ensure alignment with major international agreements related to development and migration (inclusive of economic partnership agreements and human rights) that the country is a signatory
- ✓ Improve basic foreign policy infrastructure exists e.g. Defined ministry, foreign relations principles and outreach mechanisms to partners and diaspora.
- ✓ Review and amend local policy and legislative framework to ensure that they are supportive of international migration and development e.g. Jamaican constitution and other local laws.
- ✓ Ensure that the existing governance framework for migration and development (as seen through the links between parliament, cabinet, *Vision 2030 Jamaica* sector plans, etc.) Remain harmonious
- ✓ Build and improve the institutional capacities of entities doing migration work
- ✓ Improve financial and national development systems to ensure that they recognize free market principles. This is important in many thematic areas e.g. Labour and remittances, free movement of capital and labour. This also sets a framework for improving Jamaica's international competitiveness.

In addition to facilitating migration on a managed basis, consideration will be given to deterring the migration of persons with certain scarce skills obtained locally. Some possibilities for achieving this are⁶:

- Imposing a departure levy on persons with specific scarce skills (administering this at an appropriate stage of the migration process);
- refusing the release of nursing certificates until a specified period of service has been completed
- enacting legislation to make payment of bonds illegal under certain conditions.

The results of VNR will strengthen GCM implementation by increasing the awareness of initiatives and strategies taken to improve the mainstreaming of migration into national development strategies and policies; encouraging UNCT to support governments to address migration related matters that hinder development and migrant well being; fostering bilateral and multilateral partnerships to address migration related ills and develop shared strategies especially at regional levels; providing access by signatories to best practices that can be used to develop agile and relevant actions and strategies; and fostering discussions and analysis of pertinent challenges and opportunities faced in implementing GCM actions.

⁶ Thomas-Hope E, Knight P, Noel C, 2010. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION PROFILE OF JAMAICA - The International Organization for Migration

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

OBJECTIVES FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

1. Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
2. Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
3. Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration
4. Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation
5. Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration
6. Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work
7. Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
8. Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants
9. Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
10. Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration
11. Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner
12. Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral
13. Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives
14. Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle
15. Provide access to basic services for migrants
16. Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion
17. Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
18. Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences
19. Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries
20. Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants
21. Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration
22. Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits
23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

Appendix 2

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION

Strategies, policies, programmes and actions Jamaica have implemented since December 10, 2018, to advance the GCM objectives include:

Promoting fact-based and data-driven migration discourse, policy and planning											
Objectives 1, 3, 17 and 23 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration											
<p>All four (4) objectives are critical to national development, as Jamaica strives towards mainstreaming migration into national development strategies and plans. A 2018 Migration country profile was completed with the assistance of IOM and efforts are ongoing with the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) to develop a migration database that would allow for the collection and utilization of key data sets. The National Working Group on International Migration and Development (NWGIMD) continues to work with the statistics office to look at the indicators, best sources and standardized calculations. The findings of the migration profile have been widely shared with stakeholder groupings, and lead entities for thematic areas, continue to work at national and sub-national levels to implement initiatives and strategies that are aligned with Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan.</p> <p>Jamaica National Policy on International Migration and Development presents an overarching framework for integrating international migration into development planning and outlines strategies and actions for achieving policy objectives within legislative and institutional modalities. It is underpinned by seven guiding principles, which are the foundation for the stated goals, intermediate outcomes and actions. These are: respect for human rights; fairness and equity; mutual benefits for migrants, countries of origin and destination; partnership and inclusion; public awareness and sensitization; knowledge, data and research; and gender equality and equity. These principles encompass the importance of the migrant, the countries of origin, transit and destination and emphasize the roles of the private sector, free-market, information sharing and decision-making, governance and stakeholder participation. The policy articulates zero tolerance for exploitation, stigma or discrimination in any form.</p> <p>In the complimentary 5-year implementation plan, bench lines have been established and continue to be tracked for all thematic areas, namely</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Governance and policy coherence</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Human rights and social protection</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Diaspora</td> <td>Labour mobility</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Remittance</td> <td>Return, integration and reintegration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public order safety and security</td> <td>Family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Data, research and information systems</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Ongoing partnerships with organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) serve to strengthen institutional processes, procedures and the adoption of best practices for effective migration management.</p>		Governance and policy coherence	Human rights and social protection	Diaspora	Labour mobility	Remittance	Return, integration and reintegration	Public order safety and security	Family	Data, research and information systems	
Governance and policy coherence	Human rights and social protection										
Diaspora	Labour mobility										
Remittance	Return, integration and reintegration										
Public order safety and security	Family										
Data, research and information systems											
Strategies, policies, programmes and actions that Jamaica has implemented since the adoption of the Global Compact include:											
Objective	Strategies, policies, programmes and actions										
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration Country Profile • Update of policy implementation plan • Drafting the following policies (a.) Diaspora, (b.) visa and (c) reintegration • Mapping of labour supply chains for government and private sector • Assessment of existing recruitment regulatory and monitoring mechanisms 										

3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of government of Jamaica pre-departure orientation curriculum for short term circular migration programmes
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National radio series – spotlight on migration know before you go Community interventions re migration and livelihoods
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active participation and contributor to Caribbean Migration Consultation Group Implementation of initiatives under the global mainstreaming programme Migration mainstreaming initiatives with IOM
Outcomes of actions taken, successful measures, best practices and lessons learned in implementing these objectives.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migration indicators are being monitored and reported in the annual publication – Economic Social Survey Reports Regional partnerships are being established and lessons learned regarding migration profiling and policy planning processes are being shared Increased request and use of migration data to inform actions and to ensure coherence in government planning Tightening of processes to protect labour migrants Increased awareness of migration frontline workers Mainstreaming needs to take place at national and subnational levels simultaneously Processes should be inclusive and must include the migrants themselves Critical to the successful implementation of migration initiatives are the alignment of national agendas 	
Protecting the human rights, safety and well-being of migrants, including through addressing drivers and mitigating situations of vulnerability in migration	
Objectives 2, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 23 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	
<p>These objectives are embedded in the Constitution of Jamaica and recognise human rights for all – rights to which all individuals are entitled based on the principles of respect and dignity for all human beings. Human rights are treated in the country’s international migration and development policy as a fundamental factor that undergirds any action or outcomes arising from the migration and development nexus. International migration is being mainstreamed as a choice and not a necessity, as efforts are ongoing to ensure that the goal of the national development plan - Vision 2030 is accomplished, making “<i>Jamaica the place of choice, live, work, raise families and do business.</i>” Over the last four years, the Jamaican government has been working to build out its growth inducement strategy and has partnered with the private and productive sectors to increase services and the production of goods which addresses the economic drivers of migration. Social programmes to stimulate rural development are ongoing and are systemically addressing and reducing vulnerabilities that drive migration. In 2020 the second phase of the REDI programmes was launched, geared towards improving human capital development via the promotion of livelihood initiatives and addresses many of the structural factors and adverse drivers of migration.</p>	
Strategies, policies, programmes and actions that Jamaica has implemented since the adoption of the Global Compact include:	

The Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) has just completed its assessment and reporting on the progress made in adhering to the statutes of the convention on human rights. In 2019 an assessment of the regulatory framework was undertaken to look at ways in which to monitor the international labour recruitment process. The assessment was critical, especially from a humanitarian standpoint, as additional measures are needed to promote circular migration, combat TIP, reduce the exploitation of migrants, and promote public order, safety and security in the countries of origin, transit and destination.

Ministry of Finance and Planning – financial inclusion strategy

Ministry of Education - working on improving and diversifying modalities to improve educational services, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic

Ministry of Local Government – working with communities to increase disaster preparedness and physical planning of communities

Outcomes of actions taken, successful measures, best practices and lessons learned in implementing these objectives.

Migration, as a theme, is being added to the discourse at the sub-national level as local sustainable development goals are being achieved. The scope of pre-departure orientation sessions for seasonal workers is being facilitated under bilateral agreements and is being expanded to include migrants' rights and protection as well as highlights for migrant responsibilities

Some of the adverse drivers are psychosocial and special effort should be made to aid mindset change. A shared governmental vision allows for the willingness to take steps in ensuring that where migration is a choice, adequate preparations are made to ensure that the transition is safe and orderly and that sufficient measures are in place to care for those who have been left behind.

Addressing irregular migration, including through managing borders and combating transnational crime

Objectives 9, 10, 11, 14 and 23 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

The government is committed to strengthening efforts to provide timely, accurate and complete information at all stages of the migration process keeping the confidentiality and welfare of the migrant at the forefront. The Government is working hard to identify more victims, refer more victims to shelters and achieve a conviction that resulted in a significant prison term.

Jamaica has been working tirelessly to address irregular migration using different avenues in particular efforts to address trafficking in persons and smuggling. The government has also been working with its diaspora groups and circular migrant workers to promote regular migration.

Strategies, policies, programmes and actions that Jamaica has implemented since the adoption of the Global Compact include:

Between 2019 and 2020 the government with the assistance of IOM Kingston has sensitized over 150 frontline workers (customs officers, Labour officers, police). In addition, equipment was procured for the police to assist with community sensitizations and investigations of TIP and smuggling. The TIP Secretariat has also been working to establish TIP clubs within high schools with 5 being established in 2019.

The Ministry of National Security (MNS) is also in the process of completing a draft national policy to facilitate the reintegration of forced returnees. MNS has also improved its coordination mechanisms with the NGO stakeholders and the ministry of health to ensure that proper health screening and housing are provided for forced returnees. The MOH issued personal care kits, in 2019, to forced returnees at initial processing points

Outcomes of actions taken, successful measures, best practices and lessons learned in implementing these objectives.

Coordination continues to be of paramount importance in the reintegration of forced returnees and the involvement of civil society organizations in the process has significantly helped to settle forced returnees in their respective communities. The identification of TIP at the community level serves to significantly aid the fight against TIP and smuggling and the work with school-age population and vulnerable groups are important to reduce

Facilitating regular migration and decent work, and enhancing the positive development effects of human mobility

Objectives 5, 6, 18, 19, 20 and 23 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Strategies, policies, programmes and actions that Jamaica has implemented since the adoption of the Global Compact include:

In 2019 an assessment by the Ministry of Labour embarked on an ongoing project aimed at digitizing and modernising the application through to approval processes for work permit approval. As a part of this project, there are efforts to integrate linkages with the Labour Market Information Systems. The MLSS is working with private recruiters to improve standards and practices pertaining to ethical recruitment. Efforts have also been made to increase employers' site visits and inspections.

A diaspora policy and a plan of action are being developed by the government as well as the diaspora has been included as one of the growth catalysts for development.

Outcomes of actions taken, successful measures, best practices and lessons learned in implementing these objectives.

Diaspora Outcomes include increased participation of the diaspora in main destinations countries in the development process of a national diaspora policy. Additionally, the government is exploring more ways to increase reciprocal benefits.