



Jamaica – Contribution Summary Report

What are your country's objectives for the pilot project on mainstreaming migration into national development strategies?

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) has given its approval to the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) to embark on the development of a National Policy and Plan of Action on International Migration and Development for implementation by the relevant government agencies, private sectors and non-governmental organizations. Jamaica has been selected as one of the pilot countries for the project on **Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies**. This project is being executed by the PIOJ, the government's focal point on migration and development issues as well as the lead agency for Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan.

The main objectives for the Government of Jamaica in undertaking this project are:

- (i) To increase the understanding, awareness and importance of migration and development issues in national development. There has been a general lack of a coherent and coordinated approach to addressing the issue as a result of the multidimensional and multidisciplinary nature of migration. Several agencies of the government are responsible for different aspects of monitoring migration and therefore a systematic approach for addressing all the issues and the potential development impacts was deemed necessary.

A **National Working Group on International Migration and Development (NWGIMD)** has been established to: (A) oversee the process for development of a National Policy and Plan of Action on International Migration and Development; and (B) operate as a standing committee for the national policy and facilitation of institutional coherence on migration and development issues in Jamaica. The NWGIMD seeks to improve the capacity of all stakeholders to identify, formulate and implement policy and programme objectives for migration and development and ensure inter-institutional coherence among policy areas and interventions with an aim to maximizing the benefits of migration. In addition, the NWGIMD also seeks to improve the government's capacity to monitor and manage international migration in line with Jamaica's socio-economic development objectives.



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- (ii) **Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan** is the country’s first long-term National Development Plan which aims towards Jamaica achieving developed country status by 2030. It is embodied by the vision statement: ***“Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families, and do business”***. This Plan introduces a new paradigm shift and refocuses the strategic direction to a path which leads to sustainable prosperity. Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan has recognized the need for a coordinated and integrated approach in governing policies. International Migration and Development has been specifically/ broadly addressed in the Population Sector Plan of Vision 2030. However, efforts have been made to integrate migration into other specific sectors. Through Vision 2030 Jamaica and the successive Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework, international migration and development has been highlighted as a priority area. These documents are used by UNCTs and other international development partners to select from these priorities their areas of focus for support to the country. This process fits neatly into the Government’s Accountability Framework.
- (iii) A critical aspect of the integration of migration into Jamaica’s National Development process is the development of Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. This framework will ultimately our ability to improve the data collection, monitoring and evaluation systems for international migration and development. The process for successful integration includes our ability to adequately measure and capture the indicators to assess progress towards achieving agreed international development goals. The JAMSTATS database will be uploaded with information on migration to track our progress towards achieving the goals set out in Vision 2030 Jamaica, as well as other development goals. These mechanisms in addition to the Migration Profile will also be used by ministries, departments and agencies for policy, planning and programme development.

It is widely recognized by all key stakeholders in Jamaica, that participation in the project for Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies will redound into significant strides for the country in how we utilize migration to achieve our development goals and objectives. This is particularly a new area of focus for the country and will require the support from GFMD to continue to build capacity through sharing of best practices and increasing our understanding of migration and



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development issues. This we believe will contribute to our success in the formulation of the National Policy and Plan of Action on International Migration and Development.