



Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan

UPDATE

Jamaica's Development Progress towards its 2030 Goals

September 2024

Prepared by the Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat, Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)

What Will a Developed Jamaica Offer its Citizens and the Global Community?



Vision Statement: **“Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business”**



This report provides an Update on development progress towards the achievement of the National Outcomes and consequently Goals of Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan (NDP). It is part of a series of Updates, consisting of summary statistics and information, that are produced when data/statistics on the National Outcome Indicators become available. Specifically, it reports on the monitoring of the National Outcome Indicators and measurement of development performance against a baseline year, 2007, and interim (annual/medium-term) targets that serve as milestones toward the achievement of the 2030 targets. The measurement of development effectiveness includes both results-based monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Therefore, detailed reports on the findings from the evaluation of development process and performance are complementary to the Summary Reports/Updates.

Progress is measured based on the extent to which the planned results from the implementation of strategic development actions under Vision 2030 Jamaica have been achieved. These strategic development actions have been aligned to the medium-term sector strategies, which advance national strategies, in five successive Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Frameworks (MTFs) to date: MTFs 2009-2012, 2012-2015, 2015-2018, 2018-2021 and 2021-2024.

The planned national-level development impact associated with programmes are typically experienced in the medium- to long- term and not in the short-term where we typically expect to realize planned programme outputs and immediate outcomes. Also, the potential impact of programmes is affected /reduced or augmented by other programmes, the broader development environment, and cross-sectoral factors. These include the country's social, economic, and environmental systems, and institutional and organizational capacity and resources to drive development as well as external innovations, shocks and crises. Hence, progress is also representative of the country's ability to capitalize on opportunities and effectively navigate shocks and crises that form part of the regional and global context.

Owing to an approximately 98 per cent alignment between Vision 2030 Jamaica and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as integration of the SDGs in the MTF, progress reporting on the National Outcomes of Vision 2030 Jamaica, can be mapped to country advancement of the SDGs. The integration of the SDGs in the MTF is demonstrated by the alignment of the SDGs to the National Goals and Outcomes and the alignment of the SDGs Targets to the National and Sector Strategies (see MTF 2021-2024 for the most recent alignment).

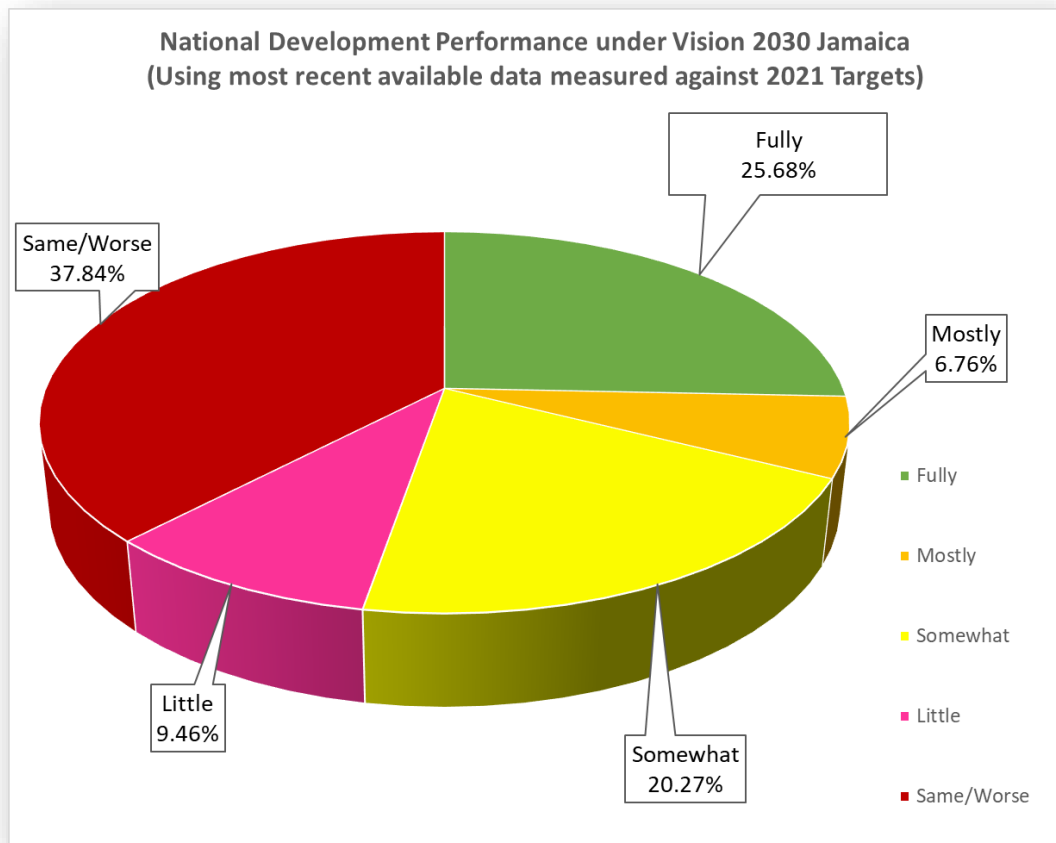
Jamaica’s Development Results – 2009-2023

Overview

<p>Performance across all 4 Goals and 15 National Outcomes</p>	<p>Based on the national Performance Measurement Framework (national outcome indicator and target framework), the country’s development performance has been mixed. Development gains were made under all four goals evidenced by the achievement of some 2018 and 2021 targets as well as improvement in the performance of several of the indicators that fell short of targets. There were also development losses with some indicators showing slippages or performance at or below the 2007 baseline value. Based on the measurement of the most recently available data against 2021 targets for the National Outcome Indicators, 25.68 per cent “Fully Achieved or Exceeded Target (100 – 100%)”, 6.76 per cent “Mostly Achieved Target (80 – 99%)”, 20.27 per cent “Somewhat Achieved Target (40 – 79%)”, 9.46 per cent “Little Achieved Target (1 – 39%)”, and 37.84 per cent are “Same as or Worse than the Baseline Year, 2007, value (0% – negative/less than 0%)”.</p> <p>The report treats development performance up to 2019 as the pre-COVID-19 baseline and subsequent years as recovery/post-COVID-19. It should be noted that there are some gaps in the preciseness of the reporting on development performance against targets owing to lags in the availability of data for current and most recent years.</p> <p>Development trends and main highlights: There has been notable progress towards achieving the National Goals and Outcomes of Vision 2030 Jamaica since Plan implementation commenced in 2009. Using the most recent available data as at March 2024, approximately 62.0 per cent of all national outcome indicators showed some progress towards achieving the 2021 Targets (targets little, somewhat, mostly, or fully achieved).</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Development Gains (Select)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing life expectancy ▪ Increases in tertiary level enrollment ▪ Strengthened social protection ▪ A general downward trend for poverty associated with improvements in the macro fiscal and labour markets, which was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic ▪ Macroeconomic stability ▪ Record low unemployment rates ▪ Increases in the use of non-fossil fuel-based energy such as alternatives and renewables ▪ Improvement in performance of key international governance indicators 	<p style="text-align: center;">Development Challenges (Select)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insufficient international competitiveness and earnings in some key sectors ▪ Undesirable rate of chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) ▪ A fall in environmental sustainability ▪ Lower than targeted number of Local Sustainable Development Plans (LSDPs) ▪ Sensitivity of national and food poverty rates, with downward trends interrupted by increases associated with shocks and crises, such as the 2008 global financial crisis and COVID-19

- The case clearance rate showed a trend of improvement (with fluctuations) towards meeting/exceeding the medium-term target of 95 since 2019
- Economic growth in some industry structures, particularly tourism and agriculture
- Downward trend for both Category 1 Crimes and the murder rate (with fluctuations) – including a reduction to below the values for the baseline year, 2007
- Target for hazard damage as a percentage of GDP achieved

- pandemic, which was declared in March 2020.
- Lower than targeted attendance rates from early childhood to secondary levels of education as well as mixed performance in indicators (direct and proxy) of labour force certification (secondary education and post-secondary education).



Development Progress against 2021 Targets. Seventy-four indicators were monitored to measure progress towards medium-term and 2030 development outcomes (including disaggregation).

Assessment of National Development Performance by National Goal

Goal 1: Jamaicans are Empowered to Achieve their Fullest Potential

Report on Jamaica’s Development Results by Goal – 2009-2023



Synopsis of development results:

National Outcome 1 “Jamaicans are empowered to achieve their fullest potential” covers population and health, education and training, social protection, and capitalizing on the Jamaican culture and strengthening the capacity of the agents of socialization to serve as tools of transformation. Jamaica recorded both gains and slippages across all areas, including the development of governance and institutional systems to drive sustainable and inclusive social transformation, improvements as well as losses in sectoral and sub-sectoral areas, and consistency in the development trends as measured by the National Outcome Indicators that are given focus in this report.

Since 2009, Jamaica has progressed from the intermediate to the advanced stage of the demographic transition. The size of the working age population (14-64 years) has grown and represents the largest portion of the total population, providing the country with an opportunity to reap a demographic dividend/bonus. The demographic dividend is realized when a country engages a proportionally large working age population in increasing its productivity, earnings, and growth, while concurrently directing economic growth to support sustainable and inclusive development, including increasing individual incomes and social protection provisions.

The population structure is also characterized by an increasing elderly population and decreasing child population. The maternal mortality and under 5 mortality rates have both shown improvements. The total life expectancy at birth (total – males and females) continued to improve, remaining comparable with countries in the Very High Human Development category in the United Nations (UN) Human Development Index (HDI). Since 2009, life expectancy (total) was at its highest value in 2018 at 74.3

years, with women having on average, higher life expectancy than men. This was above the baseline value of 72.7 years but did not meet the 2021 target of 75.8. Within the context of an ageing population, there continues to be concerns regarding healthy ageing, particularly an increasing burden of chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including co-morbidities. There are also growing concerns regarding emerging and reemerging communicable diseases. For example, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mortality and morbidity has been predicted as an ongoing challenge in the foreseeable future. This challenge exists within a context of the indicative data suggesting that the burden should lessen after 2021, owing to the availability of vaccines and increased epidemiological profiling of the disease.

The population growth rate has shown a trend decline, surpassing earlier projections and achieving the 2030 target of zero (0) population growth in 2017. The zero-growth rate was maintained up to 2022 based on preliminary data. This was largely owing to higher than projected external migration and declines in the total fertility and age-specific fertility rates. The 2021 Reproductive Health Survey (RHS) shows a Total Fertility Rate of 1.9 births per female and an Adolescent Fertility Rate of 32 per 1000 live births.

The stability of the population growth rate is being monitored along with the rates for the population dynamics of fertility, mortality and migration, and the consequent population structure and size, to inform policy and planning. The structure, composition and distribution of the population has far-reaching implications for planning. These implications include resilience-building and policy responses within crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and threats to living standards associated with fallout from geo-political tensions and climate change.

The National Outcome Indicators for Social Protection are currently aligned with poverty reduction and the provision of social transfers as part of the social safety net against poverty. This focus on poverty is rooted in the formulation of Vision 2030 Jamaica, with the plan document when launched in 2009, reflecting a primary focus on poverty reduction as a representation of social protection. A paradigm shift to a more integrated and inclusive approach to social protection was introduced in 2014 with Cabinet approval of the Jamaica Social Protection Strategy. While there is a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework for the Strategy, work is ongoing to develop and introduce indicators in the National Outcome Indicator Framework that serve as composite and/or comprehensive measures of social protection.

The Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions (JSLC) is the main data source for poverty. The latest available poverty data is for the year, 2021. It is to be noted that no JSLC was fielded in 2020 and 2022.

The poverty rates since 2009 have shown the effects of stability and crisis, with increases in the poverty rates associated with the effects of the 2008 global financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, and decreases associated with improvements in the macro fiscal environment and labour market.

A national poverty rate of 16.7 per cent was recorded in 2021, increasing 5.7 percentage points over the 2019 value of 11.0 per cent. Hence the 2021 target of 15 per cent was not met, which also represents another decline as the 2018 target of 16.5-19.5 per cent had been met. The 2018 target for the national food poverty rate of 5.0-6.0 per cent was met with an actual rate of 3.5. There was an increase from 4.0 per cent in 2019 to 5.8 per cent in 2021, with the 2021 target of 2.5 – 5.0 per cent not being met.

The country's score on the Human Development Index (HDI) in 2022 of 0.706, showed some recovery over the 0.704 recorded in 2021 and was higher than the 0.703 recorded in the baseline year, 2007. However, it represented the continuation of a downward trend that commenced after gains in the early years of Plan implementation, which commenced in 2009. The highest value of 0.716 was recorded in 2012. Despite the downward trend in the HDI score, Jamaica remained in the High Human Development category with a ranking of 115 out of 193 countries.

There was mixed performance in advancing World-Class Education and Training. There was moderate improvement in student performance in key national examinations at various levels as over the five-year period between 2018-2022 there was a 13.5 per cent decrease in the number of students sitting CSEC exams passing 5 or more subjects, including English and Mathematics. The performance of students in secondary school was thought to be negatively impacted by the disruptions in school attendance/participation associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, with the rate falling from 42.2 per cent in 2018 to 28.7 per cent in 2022, which was below the 2021 target of 45 per cent. There has since been a recovery of the rate in 2023, to 34 per cent, which could be attributed to the investments made by Government of Jamaica into recovering from learning loss.

The child numeracy rate, and attendance rates at early childhood, primary and secondary levels of education all performed below the 2021 target. However, the secondary level enrolment rate rose to 116.5 per cent in 2022 from 94.4 per cent in 2021, which surpasses both the 2021 target of 100 per cent and the baseline value of 94.4 per cent. The gross enrolment rate at the tertiary level showed a marginal improvement, recording an increase from 33.6 per cent of university aged persons enrolled in 2022 to 34 per cent of persons enrolled in 2023.

Strategic programmes to advance progress towards targets will be monitored, including, those intended to – strengthen social protection and reduce poverty; strengthen health promotion and primary and other levels of health care; evidence- and results- based management processes for education and training; access to technology devices and services, the quality of curricula and equity in access to quality education and training; and school-to-work transition; among other areas.

Development Trends	Main Highlights
<p>Jamaica has advanced from the intermediate to advanced stage of the demographic transition. The working age population is proportionally the largest age group (<i>thereby reducing the dependency ratio and offering an opportunity to reap a demographic dividend</i>) and the population growth rate is zero (0).</p>	<p>Globally comparable high life expectancy at birth</p> <p>Jamaica achieved the 2030 target of 0 per cent for the population growth rate in 2017, which has been steadily maintained</p>
<p>The country has remained in the second tier High Human Development category of the Human Development Index (HDI), since the baseline year, 2007. However, there has been a downward trend in performance</p>	<p>The trends in the national poverty rate suggests improved crisis resilience.</p>
<p>With the exception of literacy rates, educational participation and outcomes, while not performing within the range to cause alarm, have been performing below target and are areas in need of intervention. Child numeracy rates and fluctuations in the number of students sitting CSEC exams passing 5 or more</p>	<p>Jamaica has consistently ranked in the 2nd tier High Human Development category on the Human Development Index (HDI).</p>

subjects including English and Mathematics are among the areas of concern.

Secondary level enrolment rates rose by to 116.5 in 2022 from 94.4 in 2021, which surpasses both the 2021 targets of 100 per cent and the baseline value of 93.4 per cent.

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



Synopsis of development results:

Developmental gains have been made in the areas of safety and security and effective governance, although performance in most areas is below what is desired and/or targeted. With respect to safety and security, there has been a downward trend in the rate of serious crimes (with fluctuations), with the 2018 and 2021 targets of 216 crimes per 100,000 population achieved. However, there have been year-over-year fluctuations in the murder rate, indicative of the intractable nature of crime and violence within the current landscape.

The Category 1 crime rate declined to 192 per 100,000 population in 2021, as part of the reported trend decline. This performance represents the first time that the rate fell below 200 since the start of Plan implementation. In 2022, the rate increased to 195 per 100,000 population and then declined to 191 per 100,000 population in 2023. Though improving steadily, there is still a gap between the 2023 Category 1 crime rate and the 2024 target of 181 crimes per 100,000 population.

The murder rate continued to show improvement over the baseline year, 2007, rate of 59.5 per 100,000 population. After increasing in 2022 to 55 per 100,000 population from 53.5 in 2021, the murder rate declined to 49.36 per 100,000 population in 2023. Since 2007, the lowest murder rate was 36.9 per 100,000 population, recorded in 2014.

The rate of recidivism (reoffence) has been unsatisfactory with the 2021 medium term target of 40 per cent not met. However, global trends in recidivism suggest that focus should be placed on preventing entry into crimes as the lowest reported rates were approximately (1) in five (5) offenders (or 20 per cent).

There was positive performance on key international governance indicators. Based on revised data from the World Bank on the Government Effectiveness Index, since 2016, the country has exceeded the 2018 and 2021 target of 0.45, except for the country recording a score of 0.38 in 2021. There was recovery in 2022, from the decline in 2021, with the score increasing to its highest annual value to date of 0.60. The 2023 score has not yet been published.

Among the remaining governance indicators, voice and accountability, control of corruption and rule of law performed above baseline, although outside the range of their respective targets.

The control of corruption index consistently improved above the baseline of -0.34 and recorded its highest value in 2022 with a score of -0.02 though not meeting the 2021 Target of 0.13.

The rule of law index has performed above the 2007 baseline value of -0.35, since 2013. However, the country has not met the medium-term targets set for 2021 of 0.04. The index showed its best performance in 2022, with a value of -0.07.

While performance was below the 2021 target of 0.33, there was improvement in the regulatory quality index in 2021 and 2022 when compared with 2020. The index reported scores of 0.18 in 2021 and 0.19 in 2022.

Progress was recorded around access to justice, evidenced by a trend increase (with fluctuations) in the case clearance rate. The case clearance rate was 124.6 per cent in 2022, and declined to 106.6 per cent in 2023. The 2022 rate of 124.6 per cent surpassed the 2024 target of 95 per cent.

Development Trends

Reduction in serious crimes (Category 1 Crimes), including the murder rate to below the values for the baseline year, 2007 – although there were fluctuations during the period.

There have been improvements in performance under international governance indicators, particularly government effectiveness. However, there is cause for concern owing to performance below target, fluctuations and slippages for some indicators and performance below baseline for the regulatory quality index.

The case clearance rate showed a trend of improvement (with fluctuations), and meeting medium-term targets.

The rate of recidivism continued to perform below target.

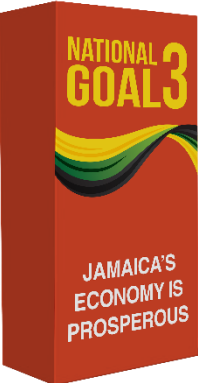
Main Highlights

The Category 1 crime rate declined to 192 per 100,000 population in 2021, as part of a trend decline. This performance represents the first time that the rate fell below 200 since the start of Plan implementation. In 2022, the rate increased to 195 per 100,000 population and then fell to 191 per 100,000 population in 2023.


In 2023, the murder rate decreased to 49.36 per 100,000 population from 53.5 in 2021 – this was lower than the murder rate of 59.5 per 100,000 pop. recorded in the baseline year 2007. The lowest rate is 36.9 per 100,000 pop. recorded in 2014.

	<p>The control of corruption index consistently improved above the baseline and recorded its highest value in 2022 of -0.02.</p> <p>The rule of law index has remained above the 2007 baseline value of -0.35, since 2013. The index showed its best performance in 2022, with a value of -0.07.</p> <p>The case clearance rate was at its highest value of 124.6 per cent in 2022, surpassing the 2024 and 2030 targets.</p>
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Goal 3: Jamaica's Economy is Prosperous



VISION 2030 JAMAICA GOAL 3
Jamaica's economy is prosperous



National Outcome #7
A Stable Macroeconomy

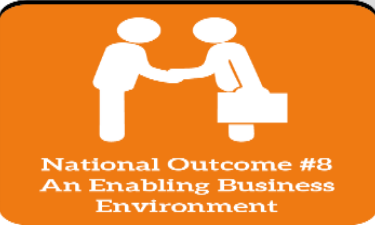


National Outcome #9
Strong Economic Infrastructure

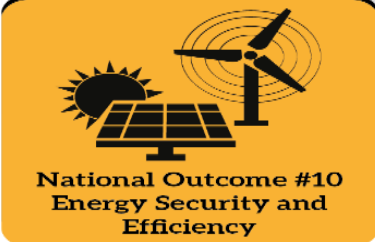


National Outcome #11
A Technology-Enabled Society

VISION 2030 JAMAICA GOAL 3
Jamaica's economy is prosperous



National Outcome #8
An Enabling Business Environment



National Outcome #10
Energy Security and Efficiency



National Outcome #12
Internationally Competitive Industry Structures

Synopsis of development results:

Jamaica has achieved and entrenched macroeconomic stability, and this is evidenced by, among other structural developments, low and stable inflation; debt on a firm downward trajectory; seven consecutive years of economic growth up to 2019 and post-COVID-19 recovery starting from FY 2021/22 reaching pre-pandemic levels in FY 2022/23; and sufficient international reserves. There were also improvements in the labour market with record low unemployment rates in 2019, 2022 and 2023, and a trend towards the target for labour market efficiency, albeit with fluctuations.

By the end of 2023, there were improvements in some key indicators, including inflation that was lower (showed gains) when compared to 2022. The 12-month point-to-point inflation at the end of 2023 was 6.9 per cent representing a decline when compared to the 9.4 per cent inflation for 2022 and 7.3 per cent for 2021. The Inflation Target for 2024 is 4.0-6.0 .

The debt-to-GDP ratio, which rose to 109.7 per cent in FY 2020/21 due to the measures implemented to slow the spread of COVID-19, decreased to 94.2 per cent by FY2021/22. The ratio recovered further, moving to 77.1 per cent in FY 2022/23 surpassing the 2021 target of 83.9 per cent, but falling short of the 2024 target of 73.9 per cent. This was also the lowest value recorded within the context of Vision 2030 Jamaica, including the baseline value of 109 per cent in 2007. The Debt-to-GDP ratio for FY 2023/24 is projected to be 72.2 per cent.

For 2021, real GDP contracted by 9.9 per cent, the highest rate of economic contraction since 2007. This contraction has been attributed to the impact of the COVID- 19 pandemic, including the measures implemented to slow its spread. By the end of 2022, the economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19 was evident with the country registering real GDP growth of 5.2 per cent. While the recorded growth rate surpassed the 2021 target of 3 per cent growth, its significance is mediated by its classification and recovery-based growth. Real GDP continued to grow by a further 2.6 per cent in 2023.

The Jamaican labour market also maintained its trend of improvement, observing record low unemployment rates over 3 consecutive years. In October 2021, the rate of unemployment was 7.1 per cent. Subsequently, July 2022 recorded an unemployment rate of 6.6 per cent and a rate of 4.2 per cent in October 2023. This marks the lowest unemployment rate since the baseline value of 9.3 per cent in 2007. It surpassed the 2021 target of 8.4 per cent and achieved the 2024 target of 4.0 – 6.0 per cent. The trend decline in the unemployment rate and the 2023 rate of 4.2, also puts the country on a path towards attaining the 4 per cent 2030 target.

Note: The World Banks’ Doing Business Index was utilized as a globally comparable metric to assess the attractiveness of the Jamaican business environment relative to other countries. However, on September 16, 2021 the World Bank announced the discontinuation of the Doing Business Report owing to challenges regarding data integrity. Hence, the Doing Business Index and data have been removed from the list of National Outcome Indicators and will not be reflected in subsequent updates on Jamaica’s development performance.

The strengthening and modernization of key economic infrastructure such as road networks and highways as well as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) have provided support to

economic sectors including transportation. Jamaica registered improved scores on the Infrastructure Index and in 2019 recorded a score of 62.5, exceeding the 2024 target of 60

In the 2023 Global Innovation Index produced annually by the World Intellectual Property Office, Jamaica was ranked 78th out of 132 countries in the GII ranking with a score of 27.1. This represents three consecutive years of decline with Jamaica moving from 74th in 2021 with a score of 29.6 to 76th in 2022 with a score of 27.7. Over 2020–2023, Jamaica was ranked among countries performing higher than expectation for level of development.

As it relates to ICT, particularly its application and impact on the Jamaican economy, Jamaica, in the 2021 NRI ranking, Jamaica was ranked 74 out of the 131 economies with a score of 47.95. This improved, as in the 2023 NRI Jamaica ranked 72 out of the 134 economies with a score of 46.11. Among upper middle-income countries, Jamaica recorded outstanding pillar performance for “Governance” and “Impact”.

The country has also experienced improvements in energy efficiency and greater use of renewable sources of energy. In 2022 Jamaica recorded 12 per cent of renewables in electricity generation which is above the baseline value of 5.9 per cent of renewables. There is greater use of renewable sources of energy albeit the 2021 medium-term target of 15 percent renewables in electricity generation was not met.

Though the performance for Technology Enablement was mixed, the number of scientific publications met the 2021 target of ≥ 66 per million population, with 74.3 publications per million population recorded in 2022. Ninety-one (91) publications per million population was recorded in 2023, which met the 2024 target of ≥ 90 . The number of resident patent filings performed above baseline but below target throughout Plan implementation. The latest data reveals that there were 0.73 patents per million population filed in 2023, falling below the 2021 Target of 18 and the 2024 target of 35.

There has been progress in some of the country’s main industry structures, such as tourism and agriculture where targets were either met or narrowly missed in the pre-COVID period (up to 2019). The area showing the most resilience in the post-COVID period was agricultural production, with performance surpassing the 2021 and 2024 Agricultural Production Index (API) target of 138.3 with a record 154.2 in 2022, the highest recorded value since the 2009 baseline value of 100. Growth under the API continued though with contractions in 2023, with a value of 147.9.

Earnings and other performance related indicators for tourism, all showed record increases in 2022 with the highest recorded growth in foreign exchange earnings in tourism of 72.8 per cent surpassing the 2021 and 2024 target of 5 per cent; a 1104 per cent increase in the number of visitor arrivals by cruise; surpassing the 2021 and 2024 target of 5.5 and 5 per cent respectively; and a 69.2 per cent increase in visitor arrivals(stopover) in 2021, exceeding the 2024 target of 4.5. All three of these indicators surpassed also their 2030 targets. However, this performance reflected recovery from declines in 2020 – 2021. The performance normalized in 2023 and began to see contractions with growth in foreign exchange earnings in tourism at 19.18 per cent, the number of visitor arrival increasing by 16 per cent (stop over) and 44.4 per cent(cruise).

The effects of COVID-19 on key economic indicators demonstrated need for further strides in building economic resilience; the business environment; logistics and value chain development and

governance; science, technology, and innovation (STI); digitalization; and the competitiveness of main and emerging industry structures.

Development Trends

Debt to GDP ratio on a firm downward trajectory.

Relatively low and stable inflation with a declining trend in point-to-point inflation. The 12-month point-to-point inflation at the end of 2023 was 6.9 per cent representing a decline when compared to the 9.4 per cent inflation for 2022 and 7.3 per cent for 2021. The Inflation Target for 2024 was 4.0-6.0.

Labour market improvements evidenced by a trend decline in unemployment since 2014 and record employment levels in 2019, 2022 and 2023. However, there were slippages in 2020 owing to the effects of COVID-19. In October 2023, the unemployment rate reached a record low of 4.2 per cent.

Earnings and other performance related indicators for tourism, all showed recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic with record increases in 2022, with the highest recorded growth in foreign exchange earnings in tourism, increases in the number of visitor arrivals by cruise and visitor arrivals (stopover).

Jamaica’s ranking on the Global Innovation Index improved to 74th in 2021, before declining to 76th in 2022 and 78th in 2023, out of 132 countries.

Main Highlights

Jamaica has entrenched macroeconomic stability.

Debt-to-GDP ratio was 77.1 per cent at the end of FY2022/23 surpassing the 2021 target of 83.9 per cent, while falling short of the 2024 target of 73.9 per cent. This was also the lowest value recorded within the context of Vision 2030 Jamaica, including the baseline value of 109 per cent in 2007.

By the end of 2022, the economic recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 was evident with the country registering growth in real GDP, of 5.2 per cent and in 2022 a further 2.6 per cent growth in 2023.

For Unemployment, medium term targets for 2018 of 10.6 per cent and 2021 of 8.4 per cent were both surpassed.

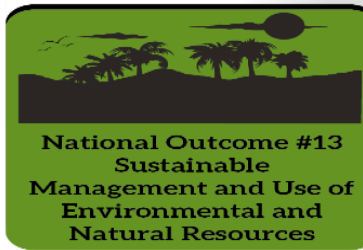
The 2021 target for the number of scientific publications was met.

Agriculture proved to be the most resilient industry structure in the immediate post-COVID period, meeting and surpassing the 2021 medium-term target.

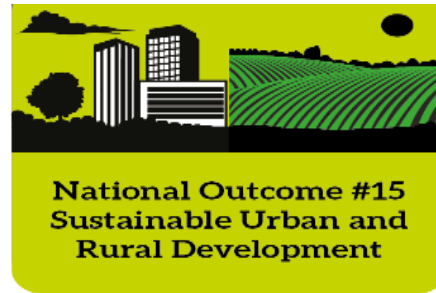
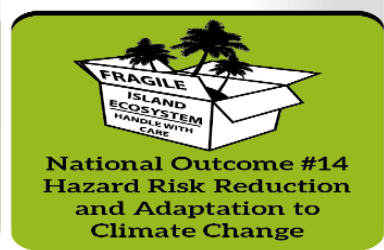
Goal 4: Jamaica has a Healthy Natural Environment



VISION 2030 JAMAICA GOAL 4
Jamaica has a healthy natural environment



VISION 2030 JAMAICA GOAL 4
Jamaica has a healthy natural environment



Synopsis of development results:

The National Outcomes for Goal 4 “Jamaica has a Healthy Natural Environment” have shown mixed performance. There have been development gains in housing quality – Sustainable Urban and Rural Development – as the Housing Quality Index increased to 78.8 in 2021, from 75.7 in 2019 and 68.1 in the baseline year, 2007, showing improvements and surpassing the 2024 target of 77.

The country has consistently achieved targets for Hazard Damage as a percentage of GDP, signaling that the costs of natural disasters during the period were not of a scale to cause calamitous/detrimental economic damage to the country.

Jamaica recorded a trend decline in its performance under the Environmental Performance Index (EPI), a key international index measuring the state of the natural environment in the areas of Ecosystem Vitality, Environmental Health and Climate Change. The country has consistently performed below the baseline value of 74.7. The score was 48.2 in 2020, and 45.6 in 2022. The score showed some recovery in 2024 with an increase to 48.5. This trend has signalled that the country has to accelerate environmental development towards meeting the 2030 target of an EPI higher than 80.

The 2024 EPI incorporated a new pillar of performance, “Climate Change”, which comprises 30% of the total EPI score and is made up of a single-issue category, “Climate Change Mitigation”. Jamaica received a score of 54.3 in this category. The country also showed an improvement in the score for Ecosystem Vitality (49.7) compared to the 2022 score of 39.8. There was however a decline in Environmental Health (39.5), compared to 2022 score 41.8.

The country has not met its target for the number of Local Sustainable Development Plans (LSDPs) developed and/or not older than 5 years. Local Sustainable Development Plans provide the framework for sustainable development at the Parish level.

Over the last 10 years, the proportion of households with access to secure tenure has shown consistent underperformance with values between 70 -79 per cent. The value for 2021 was 73.2 per cent. This was below the target of 88 for 2021, and the 2007 baseline value of 80.5.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a negative effect on progress made towards reducing rural poverty. In 2021, the reported rate of rural poverty was recorded at 22.1 per cent, falling short of the 2021 target of 16.8 per cent.

Development Trends

A trend decline in the EPI score with performance below baseline. In 2018, the value was 58.58, followed by values of 48.2 for 2020, 45.6 for 2022 and 48.5 for 2024.

Undersirable rate of rural poverty, with a reported rate of 22.1 per cent in 2021.

The proportion of households with access to secure tenure has been consistently below the value for the baseline year, 2007, and targets.

The number of parishes with a completed Local Sustainable Development Plan (LSDP) that is no older than 5 years has consistently performed below target. While performance has been above the baseline of zero (0) in 2007, the number of up-to-date LSDPs has not exceeded 5 (2015).

Main Highlights

Targets for Hazard Damage as a Percentage of GDP achieved.

Progress towards the target for the Housing Quality Index has been fairly consistent with values above the baseline 68.1 and falling within the range of the targeted 71-76. The value was 78.8 in 2021.