Voluntary National Review on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

Special Report: Enabling Private Sector Engagement in National Development in Jamaica

June 2026

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16 Oxford Road
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Telephone: (876) 960-9339
Fax: (876) 906-5011
Email: info@pioj.gov.jm
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The information contained in this report and the views expressed herein are those of the authors, informed by research analysis of annual reports of companies listed on the Jamaica Stock Exchange, as well as focus group discussions with representative companies and private sector associations that participated in the research. Whilst all efforts have been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information presented, the ideas and opinions expressed in this report belong to the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of PIOJ. The companies consulted accept no responsibility for the consequences arising from the use of, or reliance on, the advice or recommendations contained in this publication.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

BoP	Bottom of the Pyramid
BPO	Business Process Outsourcing
CEFF	Clean Energy Finance Facility
COJ	Companies Office of Jamaica
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DGC	The Department of Global Communications
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
EREC	Eight Rivers Energy Company Limited
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
ESSJ	Economic and Social Survey Jamaica
EV	Electric Vehicles
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
GCT	General Consumption Tax
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan
ISSB	International Sustainability Standards Board
IWED	Institute for Workforce Education and Development
JAMPRO	Jamaica Promotions Corporation
JBDC	Jamaica Business Development Corporation
JCF	Jamaica Constabulary Force
JEF	Jamaica Employers' Federation
JIS	Jamaica Information Service
JMEA	Jamaica Manufacturers and Exporters Association
JMMB	Jamaica Money Market Brokers
JSE	Jamaica Stock Exchange
JSEGB+	Jamaica Stock Exchange Green Bond Plus
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators

MSBM	Mona School of Business and Management
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
NAOC	National 2030 Agenda Oversight Committee
NEPA	National Environment and Planning Agency
PEP	Primary Exit Profile
PIOJ	The Planning Institute of Jamaica
PPA	Power Purchase Agreements
PPP	Public-Private Partnerships
PSOJ	Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica
PwC	PricewaterhouseCoopers
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise
SON	Self-Optimising Network
UCC	University of the Commonwealth Caribbean
UN	United Nations
UNGC	UN Global Compact
UWI	The University of the West Indies
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WCJF	Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation

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This *Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals Special Report on Enabling Private Sector Engagement in National Development in Jamaica* was prepared through a collaborative process that brought together insights from across the private sector and key business associations in Jamaica engaged in national development and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It would not have been possible without the generosity, openness, and commitment of many individuals and organisations who contributed their time, knowledge, and experience to its development.

The authors wish to express their sincere appreciation to the private sector organisations whose participation made this report possible. We acknowledge the companies listed on the Jamaica Stock Exchange whose publicly available annual and sustainability reports provided the foundation for the quantitative analysis. We also extend our gratitude to the representatives from private sector entities who participated in the focus group discussions and generously shared their experiences and perspectives. Their candid reflections on the realities of private sector engagement with the SDGs have been invaluable, and their insights and recommendations are central to this report. We thank Dr. Mohsen Gul for his creative designs that greatly contributed to the report's visual appeal.

We extend our gratitude to Mona School of Business and Management (MSBM) for its invaluable administrative support in the successful execution of this project. We are especially grateful to the Planning Institute of Jamaica for its leadership in coordinating Jamaica's VNR process and for fostering an environment of dialogue and inclusion. This VNR Special Report is offered in the spirit of complementarity and is intended to support and enrich the Government of Jamaica's Voluntary National Review on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

We are honoured to have been given the opportunity to author the first private sector VNR Special Report on enabling private sector engagement in national development in Jamaica. It is our hope that this report serves not only as a reflection of current efforts but also as a foundation for deeper collaboration and more impactful engagement by the private sector in advancing Jamaica's progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

Foreword: Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica

Hon Patrick Hylton OJ, CD

President, The Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ)

This Voluntary National Review Special Report underscores the critical and growing role of the private sector in advancing Jamaica's Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. The report highlights significant contributions by the private sector, including 1,058 SDG-related initiatives undertaken by 51 Jamaica Stock Exchange-listed companies in FYs 2023 and 2024, demonstrating strong engagement across all 17 goals. However, it also reveals that these efforts remain uneven and fragmented, with greater alignment where SDGs intersect with core business activities and less coordinated action in areas vital to long-term national resilience. Importantly, the report outlines key pathways for private sector impact, ranging from core operations and innovation to philanthropy, institutional strengthening and policy advocacy, while emphasising that deeper collaboration is essential to effectively tackle Jamaica's most pressing challenges, including crime, productivity, workforce readiness, climate resilience and waste management.

From the PSOJ's perspective, the Special Report's key contribution is its call to shift from fragmented initiatives to systemic, coordinated action, exemplified by Project STAR as a scalable model of partnership-driven, place-based and outcomes-focused development. It highlights the need for practical enablers, such as clearer national priorities, targeted incentives, simplified reporting and stronger public-private coordination, to support broader private sector participation, particularly among MSMEs. The PSOJ endorses this approach, emphasising that accelerated progress will depend on policies that incentivise responsible business practices, enable feasible measurement of SDG contributions and integrate private sector data into national development tracking systems.

We commend the authors affiliated with Mona School of Business and Management, and the Planning Institute of Jamaica for advancing this evidence-based contribution to national dialogue. We encourage policymakers, business leaders, civil society and development partners to engage the report not as a critique, but as a platform for action, one that can help Jamaica convert goodwill and effort into coordinated, measurable outcomes aligned with Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs.

As the PSOJ, we reaffirm our commitment to convening, partnering and advocating for the reforms and collaborations required to unlock the full development potential of Jamaica's private sector. The foundation has been laid; the next phase must be about scale, alignment and accountability, so that Jamaica's progress is not only visible in initiatives but felt in lasting national outcomes.

Foreword: The University of the West Indies

Professor Anthony Clayton, CD

Pro-Chancellor of The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC)

Professor Emeritus of Caribbean Sustainable Development, The University of the West Indies (UWI)

There is an important question as to the respective roles of government and the private sector in moving the world to a more sustainable development trajectory. Most of the focus to date has been on intergovernmental accords, such as the Paris Agreement on climate change, but it is the private sector that has the ability to drive the technological innovation and generate the investment needed to actually effect societal change.

It is also the private sector that has been setting the pace, rather than governments. One important current example is the world's energy markets. The global energy market has been dominated by hydrocarbons for decades, but renewable energy, mainly solar, is now cheaper than coal as a source of electricity, while also reducing environmental harm, increasing energy security, reducing imports and improving the balance of payments for host countries. As a result, renewables are now the world's fastest-growing source of electricity. One of the drivers has been the switch to electric vehicles, but many consumers are charging their cars from their solar panels and using the grid to balance their supply and demand, which means that the grid is changing from a supplier of power to a means of storing power and capital.

This has been a largely market-driven change; most governments have not yet adjusted to the way in which the energy market is evolving which means that much domestic legislation and regulation is now impeding rather than facilitating progress. Similarly, while successive UN Climate Change Conferences have struggled to reconcile environmental goals with the interests of hydrocarbon-exporting states, the market is clearly signalling that the world is already past the point of peak hydrocarbons.

This means that the focus in moving Jamaica to a more sustainable development trajectory should shift to the private sector. This indicates a new paradigm for government action. As this extremely timely and important report notes, very few companies work within national sustainable goals, as they are market-driven rather than policy-driven and respond primarily to clear market signals such as consumer demand and resource prices. The new challenge for governments is to give clear, long-term strategic direction, develop regulatory models that support innovation, information dissemination and market adaptation, remove obstacles and encourage competition.

Most of the private sector consists of small companies, and here the critical gap is often the lack of information about new ideas, solutions and technologies, so there is another important role for government in encouraging the dissemination of practical, market-oriented information about the ways in which innovators and risk-takers can build profitable enterprises by solving the great problems of our time.

Executive Summary

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provides a global framework for actors in the public, private and non-profit sectors to contribute both individually and collectively to address various economic, social, environmental and governance challenges the world faces today. Achieving the SDGs in Jamaica requires more than public sector leadership. It depends fundamentally on the scale, depth, and effectiveness of private sector engagement.

The Government of Jamaica acknowledges the role all enterprises across industries play in the acceleration of the SDGs in Jamaica through investments, job creation, innovation, product and service delivery, financing, social investment, public advocacy, and environmental sustainability. Yet, a central question remains: *To what extent is the private sector in Jamaica aligned with and actively contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda?*

This executive summary presents a synthesis of findings offering key insights into the current private sector's SDG contributions, gaps, and strategic priorities for accelerating progress toward the 2030 Agenda.

About the Special Report

This *Voluntary National Review on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals Special Report on Enabling Private Sector Engagement in National Development in Jamaica* provides an independent, evidence-based assessment of the contribution of the private sector to SDG implementation and to national development.

The following are the overarching objectives of the Special Report:

- Assess the current state of private sector engagement in national development and implementation of the SDGs.
- Examine government policies and mechanisms that enable or constrain private sector contribution to national development.
- Identify gaps and bottlenecks limiting deeper and more effective private sector engagement.
- Articulate the key priority policy areas and mechanisms through which the private sector can accelerate SDG achievement.

Methodology

The study uses a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative document (content) analysis with qualitative insights to provide a comprehensive assessment of private sector engagement. The quantitative data analysis involved a systematic review of the publicly available 2023 and 2024 annual reports for companies listed in the main market of the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE) (Appendix 1). The qualitative insights are drawn from conversations with representatives from JSE-listed firms, SMEs and business associations who participated in five (5) focus group discussions (Appendix 2).

Key findings

What is the current situation of private sector engagement with the implementation of the SDGs and national development?

SDG awareness and knowledge:

The awareness of SDGs varies significantly across the private sector, with larger and more internationally engaged companies being more familiar and actively involved compared to the smaller and more domestically focused enterprises who lack awareness (exposure) and understanding of the goals. Notably, many companies are also undertaking SDG-related activities without explicitly framing them as such. These companies do not formally and explicitly map their social or environmental action to SDG targets or Vision 2030.

SDG contribution and priorities for the private sector:

Private sector engagement with the SDGs is both significant and widespread, yet uneven in its distribution and impact. Companies seem to prioritise SDGs that directly align with their core business and community impact goals, such as SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). SDG 8 alone accounts for nearly one in three recorded initiatives for FY 2024.

The priority SDGs mentioned by companies seem to be informed by industry experience, what companies perceive as their critical stakeholders, and the social, environmental, economic or governance issues within their sphere of influence. Notably, the SDGs that received comparatively limited attention in the annual reports (SDGs 14, 15, 2, 6 and 10) speak to critical areas such as climate change, biodiversity, inequality reduction, food security and environmental sustainability. This imbalance represents a significant strategic concern, particularly for Jamaica as a small island developing state that is highly vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation.

SDG implementation is market-driven rather than policy-driven:

The implementation of SDG-related activities is predominantly *market-driven* (motivated by cost efficiencies, compliance obligations, internal business priorities, risk management strategies, market access requirements, adherence to international standards, and reputational considerations), rather than *policy-driven* (guided by targeted government SDG incentives and enforcement of regulation and national policy frameworks). Those operating in the global supply chain respond to certification requirements, environmental standards, and human rights expectations.

The extent to which the private sector integrates corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainability principles into business practices varies with the larger corporations leading in these efforts compared to smaller companies. The SDG leaders are not necessarily those that have the best reporting frameworks but those who shape systems, build institutions and mobilise other actors to collaborate for greater national impact.

Measuring and reporting the SDGs:

The extent to which companies integrate sustainability information into their reporting varies significantly, with a few large corporations adopting international standards like Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) while the SMEs are still lagging in reporting. Although Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting is an emerging requirement at the Jamaica Stock Exchange, tracking SDG implementation and acceleration by the private sector remains a challenge. Many firms rely on internal or ad-hoc measuring and reporting systems. The MSMEs face measuring and reporting burdens and experience infrastructure gaps.

Data collection demands under international standards are often too complex and costly for small and medium-sized enterprises.

What are the existing mechanisms for private sector engagement with the SDGs and in national development?

Jamaica's private sector is engaging with the SDGs and the broader national development agenda through the following six (6) distinct but interrelated mechanisms:

i. core business and value chain operations;
ii. innovation and sustainable financing;
iii. philanthropic donations and social investment;
iv. institutional building through private sector leadership;
v. business associations as collaborative platforms; and
vi. public advocacy and policy dialogue.

Among these six key mechanisms, embedding sustainability within core business operations and value chain operations offers the greatest potential for scale and long-term impact, as it aligns profitability with development outcomes. However, much of the current engagement remains concentrated in philanthropic activities, which, while valuable, tend to be short-term and less transformative.

How is business social responsibility and sustainability aligned with the SDGs and Vision 2030 Jamaica?

The Government of Jamaica underscores the strategic importance of the private sector as a contributor to sustainable development by championing CSR and the principles of sustainability and ethical business practices as mechanisms and enablers for SDG implementation and Vision 2030 progress.

The alignment of Vision 2030 and CSR signals the government's commitment to providing an enabling environment that encourages the private sector's contribution to sustainable development, and more so in the following priority areas such as decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12) and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).

A myriad of social, economic, environmental and governance initiatives by the private sector all contribute to sustainable and national development of Jamaica. These activities are directly aligned with the national development priorities in Vision 2030 Jamaica – although the alignment is not strategically designed to shape business strategy and practice.

How has the government of Jamaica created an enabling environment for private sector contribution to national development? What are the gaps and bottlenecks?

The government has taken deliberate steps to create an enabling environment for private sector contribution to national development through policy alignment, institutional support, and business climate reforms. Anchored in Vision 2030 Jamaica, the government—led by the Planning Institute of Jamaica—has integrated the SDGs into national planning frameworks, ensuring that private sector activities align with national priorities. The government has also made efforts to improve the ease of doing business, including regulatory reforms and the digitisation of company registration through the Companies Office of Jamaica. These measures have facilitated entrepreneurship and investment.

Additionally, the government has promoted public–private partnerships, supported MSME development through agencies such as the Jamaica Business Development Corporation, and strengthened engagement platforms with organisations like the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ). The government created financing platforms such as the Jamaica Green Financing Facility to support sustainable investments, as well as climate-related incentives.

While these initiatives have improved participation, further coordination, incentives, and standardised frameworks are needed to fully mobilise private sector contributions toward sustainable development. The sector's engagement in national development is constrained by limited visibility and accessibility of government policies and incentives, compounded by weak communication and minimal direct outreach from the government. There is also a lack of clarity around national SDG priorities, progress, and the specific role businesses are expected to play, alongside the absence of standardised reporting frameworks for tracking contributions. More so, insufficient incentives and weak institutional coordination, particularly between public agencies and the private sector, undermine effective collaboration and the scaling of SDG-aligned initiatives.

What are the key policy priorities to which the private sector can contribute to accelerate SDG implementation?

To accelerate SDG implementation, the private sector can contribute most effectively to:

- Economic transformation and productivity growth.
- Workforce development and skills training.
- Climate resilience and energy transition.
- Waste management and circular economy.
- Social protection and employee welfare.

What are the challenges and opportunities for SDG Integration?

Private sector actors in Jamaica demonstrate strong interest in supporting the nation's development, but their engagement with the SDGs is constrained by low levels of awareness and understanding, particularly among MSMEs. Limited government communication and a perceived top-down approach to SDG implementation have contributed to a disconnect, with many businesses viewing the SDGs as a government-driven agenda rather than a shared responsibility.

This is compounded by challenges in aligning the SDGs with business value, especially for smaller firms whose immediate survival priorities outweigh long-term strategic integration. As a result, there is a clear need to simplify the SDG framework, strengthen outreach and education, and better demonstrate how sustainable practices can enhance profitability, competitiveness, and resilience.

At the systemic level, weak participatory governance, fragmented collaboration and limited incentives for collaborative action further hinder effective private sector engagement. Businesses report low trust in government follow-through and call for greater transparency, inclusion in policy design, and tangible support such as tax incentives and streamlined regulations. Collaboration across the public and private sectors remains underdeveloped, limiting opportunities for partnerships and collective impact.

Overall, these challenges are exacerbated by a significant data deficit, including the absence of standardised measurement and reporting frameworks, which makes private sector contributions largely invisible. Addressing these gaps will require coordinated efforts to strengthen institutional collaboration, simplify reporting systems, and build the data infrastructure necessary for tracking and scaling SDG impact.

Recommendations

The private sector in Jamaica is making progress towards the SDGs, but greater government leadership, targeted incentives, and standardised reporting are needed to accelerate and broaden engagement, particularly among smaller and medium-sized enterprises.

To this end, the report outlines several priority actions:

- **For policymakers:** there is an urgent need to establish a national framework for private sector SDG engagement, including standardised tools for measurement and reporting, as well as incentives to encourage investment in priority areas such as climate resilience and social inclusion. Strengthening public–private partnerships, particularly in sectors such as education, infrastructure, and energy, will be critical to scaling impact. Targeted support for MSMEs is essential to ensure that they can participate meaningfully in the national development agenda.

- **For private sector practitioners:** the report emphasises the importance of moving beyond philanthropy towards integrating sustainability into core business strategies. Companies are encouraged to prioritise high-impact areas where current engagement is limited, strengthen their measurement and reporting systems, and collaborate more actively with other actors in the private, public and non-profit sectors. Leveraging innovation and sustainable finance will also be key to unlocking new opportunities for growth while advancing national development objectives.

- **Ecosystem actors:** There is a need to strengthen coordination by establishing a unified platform for SDG engagement that promotes collaboration, knowledge creation, knowledge sharing and transfer, and alignment with national priorities. Investing in simplified tools, incentives, and capacity-building initiatives (particularly for MSMEs) will significantly improve awareness, measurement, and scalable participation in sustainable development.

The private sector in Jamaica has demonstrated a strong foundation for contributing to the SDGs and national development, but significant opportunities remain to enhance and scale its impact. Achieving the SDGs will require a transition from isolated initiatives to coordinated national action, from symbolic alignment to strategic integration, and from short-term interventions to long-term systemic change. By strengthening collaboration between government, business, and other stakeholders, Jamaica can unlock the full potential of its private sector as a driver of inclusive and sustainable development.

1.0

Introduction

Photo Credit: Sandals Foundation

1.0 Introduction

Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Jamaica will depend not only on public policy and international support but critically on the scale, direction and effectiveness of private sector engagement. As the primary engine of economic activity, investment and innovation, the private sector has a pivotal role to play in shaping development outcomes. Yet, a central question remains: *To what extent is the private sector in Jamaica aligned with and actively contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda?*

Jamaica's third Voluntary National Review (VNR), to be presented at the 2026 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), takes place at a critical juncture, less than five years before the 2030 Agenda and against the backdrop of intersecting global and national challenges. These include a devastating hurricane, climate vulnerability, fiscal constraints, supply chain disruptions, productivity challenges and the lingering impacts of global shocks, alongside opportunities for innovation, investment and partnership (PIOJ, 2023a; PIOJ, 2024).

Jamaica's participation in the VNR process reflects its ongoing commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the SDGs. As the country prepares its 2026 VNR, there is increasing recognition of the critical role of the private sector as a driver of economic growth, innovation, and sustainable development. The sector advances sustainable development in Jamaica through investment, employment creation, innovation, product and service delivery and partnerships that directly and indirectly support the achievement of the SDGs.

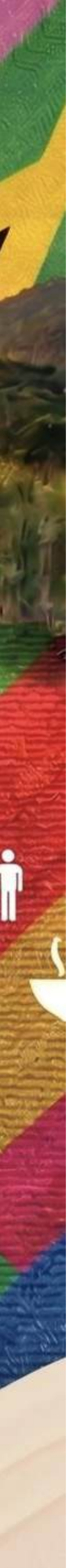
This *Voluntary National Review on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals Special Report* on *Enabling Private Sector Engagement in National Development in Jamaica* provides an independent, evidence-based assessment of the contribution of the private sector to national development and SDG implementation. In keeping with the multi-stakeholder ethos of the VNR process, the report complements the government SDG progress reporting by offering insights grounded in corporate disclosures from annual reports and direct engagement with private sector actors.

The overarching objective of this VNR Special Report is to assess the current state of private sector engagement with the SDGs in Jamaica. The report also examines the policy and institutional environment shaping private sector participation, identifies gaps and bottlenecks limiting deeper engagement and articulates priority areas and mechanisms through which the private sector can accelerate SDG achievement.

Guided by these objectives, the report addresses the following key questions:

- What mechanisms currently exist for private sector engagement in national development and SDG implementation?
- What is the current state of private sector engagement with the SDGs in Jamaica, and how is this distributed across goals, targets, and company types?
- What are the key national policy priorities to which the private sector can contribute in order to accelerate SDG implementation?
- How has the Government of Jamaica fostered an enabling environment for private sector participation?
- What are the key barriers and constraints at the organisational, sectoral and national levels that affect effective engagement?

Jamaica's national development framework is anchored in Vision 2030 Jamaica, which articulates the country's long-term goal of achieving developed country status through inclusive and sustainable growth. The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) leads the



implementation, coordination and monitoring of Jamaica's engagement with the SDG Framework. In recent years, the government has advanced a range of policy initiatives aimed at strengthening private sector participation, including efforts to improve the business environment, expand public–private partnerships, and align national development priorities with the SDG framework. However, the extent to which these mechanisms effectively mobilise private sector contributions remains uneven, underscoring the need for a more coordinated and strategic approach.

By addressing these questions, the report contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of how private sector actors can be more effectively mobilised as partners in achieving sustainable national development outcomes in Jamaica, as well as contributing their SDG data to help measure the country's progress toward the 2030 Agenda. It also seeks to inform policy dialogue and strengthen collaboration between government, business and other stakeholders in advancing the national development agenda. We hope that this report fulfils its mandate in providing insights that answer these critical questions.

National context: The role of the private sector in development

The private sector in Jamaica plays a significant role in driving economic growth, innovation, enterprise creation, job creation, skills development, providing goods and services, investment and infrastructure development. The sector is composed largely of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), alongside larger firms mostly in tourism, finance, manufacturing, agriculture, mining, and business process outsourcing (BPO) sectors.

Jamaica is emerging as a service-led country with businesses operating within a mixed economy where private enterprise drives production and services. The service sector, which is dominated by the tourism industry accounts for a significant share of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The service sector also employs approximately over 60% of Jamaica's labour force. The second largest contributor to GDP is the industrial sector employing over 15% of the labour force (Table 1).

Table 1: Private sector contribution to GDP in 2024

Sector	Contribution to GDP
Agriculture	8.0%
Industry	16.5%
Manufacturing	7.7%
Services	60%
GDP	22 billion (USD)

Source: Ebhohimen (2026, p.10)

The Jamaica Stock Exchange is one of the largest exchanges in the Caribbean in terms of capitalisation. It lists companies spanning banking and finance, insurance, manufacturing, conglomerates, real estate, retail, energy and communications. The JSE-listed companies represent the most capitalised and publicly accountable Jamaican businesses. As of 2025, there were 51 companies listed in the JSE's main market and 48 companies listed in the junior market.

According to the Companies Office of Jamaica (COJ), more than 23,000 new business entities were registered in 2024, representing about a 9% increase over 2023. This surge reflects the continuous expansion of the private sector, the growing entrepreneurial activity and the confidence in Jamaica's business environment, supported by digitised registration systems and reforms by the Companies Office of Jamaica (COJ) (www.miic.gov.jm).

As of May 2024, over 433,000 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) were operating in Jamaica, according to the Jamaica Information Service (JIS). MSMEs are companies with between one and 50 employees and earn between J$15 million and J$425 million annually and form the backbone of Jamaica's private economy (www.jis.gov.jm). Jamaica also has a large informal sector with almost 40% of working Jamaican self-employed and the majority of MSMEs operating in survival mode rather than on a growth trajectory (PIOJ, 2023).

The principal voice of the formal private sector is the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ), established in 1976 as a national organisation of private sector associations, companies and individuals working to promote a competitive and productive private sector, with advocacy as one of its primary mandates (https://www.psoj.org). Sector-specific chambers, such as the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce and the Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, complement the PSOJ's national role, as do industry associations across finance, manufacturing, tourism, and agriculture sectors.

The MSME sector is supported by agencies such as the Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC), which promotes the formalisation and growth of small enterprises. The Jamaica Business Development Corporation, a government agency, provides technical and business development support to MSMEs across the island.

Many large companies, especially those listed on the Jamaica Stock Exchange, have foundations that implement the firm's corporate social responsibility and community investment efforts. These foundations (see Appendix 3) are typically non-profit entities, often registered as companies limited by guarantee, and are the official charitable arm through which businesses channel funding, engage in partnership and development programmes. The foundations contribute to national development goals by addressing social, economic, environmental and governance gaps. These efforts supplement and complement the government's efforts towards the provision of public goods and the delivery of the national development goals.

The private sector operates within a policy environment shaped by the national development plan, Vision 2030 Jamaica, which provides the country's long-term strategic framework for achieving sustainable and inclusive growth (PIOJ, 2024). The government, through institutions such as the Planning Institute of Jamaica, has sought to foster private sector participation through initiatives aimed at improving the business climate, strengthening public–private partnerships, and aligning development priorities with the SDGs.

Despite these advances, the structure of the private sector presents both opportunities and constraints. While larger firms demonstrate increasing engagement with sustainability frameworks and reporting practices, with many integrating ESG considerations and aligning their operations with the SDGs, many of the initiatives remain concentrated among a relatively small group of larger companies. Small and medium-sized enterprises, which form the backbone of the Jamaican economy, often face capacity and resource constraints that limit their ability to systematically engage with the SDGs. It is in this context that Jamaica's private sector engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals must be understood.

Methodology

The study uses a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative content (document) analysis with qualitative insights to provide a comprehensive assessment of private sector engagement.

Quantitative data collection: Corporate disclosure analysis

The quantitative data analysis involved a systematic review of the publicly available 2023 and 2024 annual reports for companies listed on the Jamaica Stock Exchange at the time of data collection in June 2025. Listed companies are subject to mandatory disclosure requirements, and reports typically include companies' ESG, SDG and CSR initiatives. As such, these annual reports constitute the most comprehensive and publicly available account of a company's activities and strategic priorities within a given financial year. The sample used encompasses the 51 companies listed as of June 2025 on the Main Market and span all sectors including financial services, food and beverage, manufacturing, conglomerate, and real estate. These companies provide a broad cross-sectoral view of private sector engagement in Jamaica.

A structured content analysis protocol was developed prior to data collection to ensure consistency across all 51 documents. The annual reports were reviewed to extract information on: CSR initiatives, sustainability and ESG disclosures, explicit references to the SDGs by name or using SDG language, and broader development-oriented activities, including all social and environmental corporate action not explicitly labelled as SDG-related.

It is important to note that reporting practices varied significantly across firms. While some companies produced dedicated sustainability or CSR reports and explicitly referenced SDGs, others reported development-related activities without using SDG terminology. The output of this phase was a dataset of private sector activities disaggregated by company, sector, and SDG, enabling both descriptive analysis (frequency of engagement per goal) and comparative analysis (sectoral patterns of contribution).

Qualitative data collection: Focus group discussions

To complement the document analysis, primary qualitative data was gathered through five (5) focus group discussions (FGDs). Participants were drawn from a broad cross-section of the Jamaican business community, including JSE-listed companies, SMEs, business associations such as the Jamaica Manufacturers and Exporters Association (JMEA), and companies with active sustainability or CSR programs (Appendix 2).

The FGDs were designed to better understand the motivations, challenges and decision-making processes underlying private sector engagement and elicit recommendations for strengthening private sector participation in SDG implementation. The focus group discussions focused on:

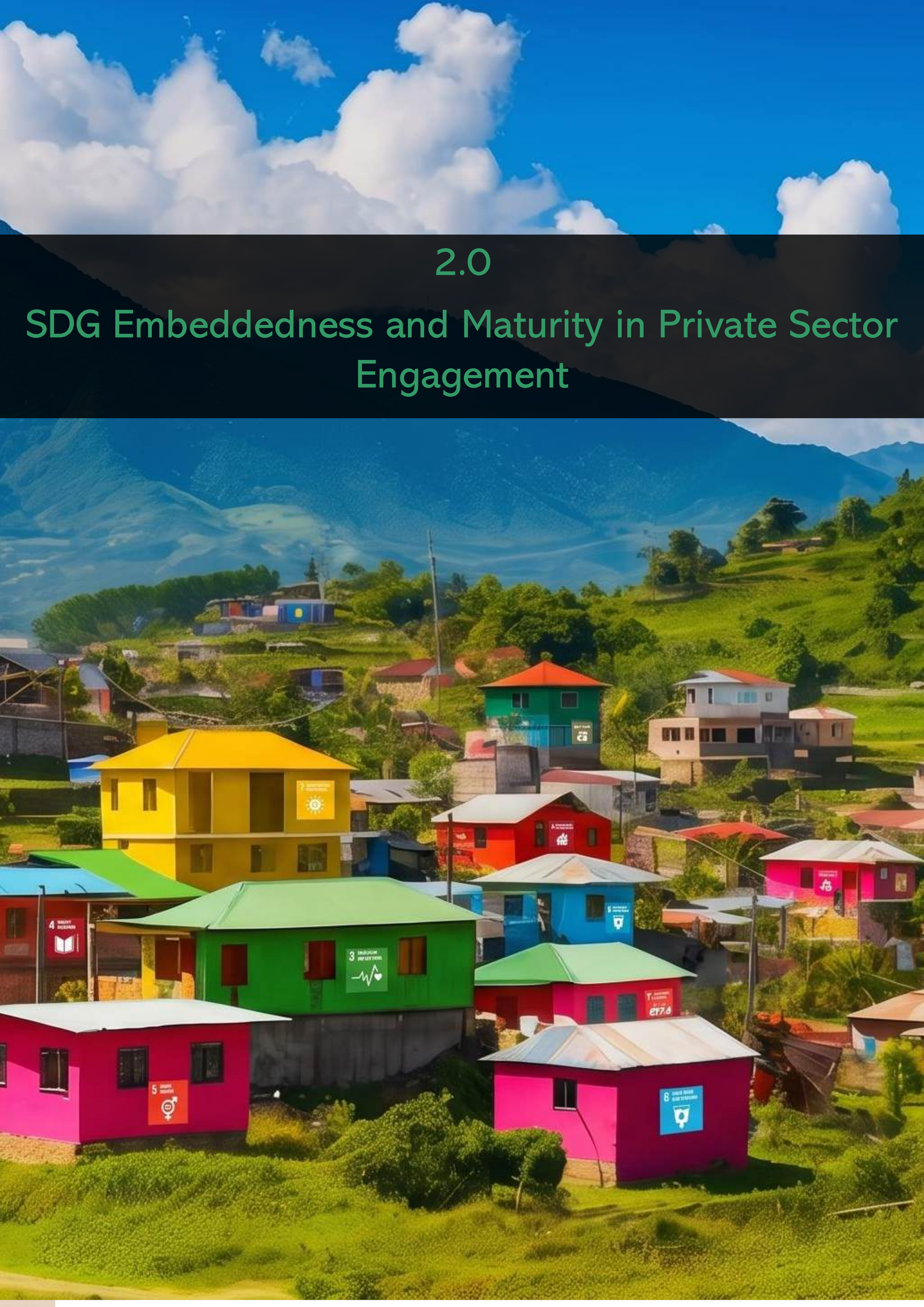
- Experiences with engaging in national development initiatives.
- Awareness and engagement with the SDGs.
- Partnerships with government and other stakeholders.
- Existing government incentives, policies or programs that have supported their contributions to the SDGs and national development.
- Barriers to greater private sector SDG contribution.
- Opportunities for improving alignment with national priorities.
- Recommendations for enabling a more impactful and coordinated private sector contribution to Jamaica's SDG agenda.

By integrating quantitative evidence from corporate disclosures with qualitative insights from private sector stakeholders, this methodology provides a comprehensive and nuanced assessment of private sector contributions to national development and SDG implementation in Jamaica. It enables both the measurement of current engagement and the identification of strategic opportunities to strengthen the role of the private sector in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Photo Credit: Sandals Foundation

2.0

SDG Embeddedness and Maturity in Private Sector Engagement



2.0 SDG Embeddedness and Maturity in Private Sector Engagement

Since 2015 when the SDGs were adopted, the private sector in Jamaica has been on a journey towards a more sustainable, inclusive and responsible way of doing business, which necessitates their balancing of economic success with social well-being, environmental protection and good governance. As discussed in this chapter, different companies are in different stages of implementing the SDGs and contributing to national development. They are constrained or influenced by their knowledge of the SDGs, availability of resources and data infrastructure, leadership commitment, and regulatory incentives, to name but a few. This chapter details the drivers of SDG engagement, how the private sector is framing the SDGs, the level of SDG awareness, and how they are measuring and reporting SDGs. It concludes with an assessment of SDG maturity for the private sector in Jamaica.

Drivers of SDG engagement

Firms in Jamaica are engaging with the SDGs, driven by both external and internal pressures, as discussed in Table 2. They are responding to their internal and external stakeholders who expect them to embed responsible and sustainable practices throughout their operations and across the value chain. The private sector's implementation of SDG-related activities is largely market-driven by the need to increase cost efficiencies, comply with requirements, access global markets, meet international ESG standards, and enhance their brand and reputation. They are motivated by the economic opportunities inherent in integrating the SDGs into business strategy, including climate-smart agriculture, cost reduction through greening the organisation, and enhanced social performance through workforce and community engagement initiatives.

Jamaica's vulnerability to climate change remains a significant influence for companies to integrate sustainability and SDGs into their risk management and business continuity plans. Strategic value creation has not yet fully landed with Jamaica's private sector. Those operating in the global supply chain respond to certification requirements, environmental standards, and human rights expectations.

Unlike the larger companies with international exposures, Jamaica's domestic-facing firms do not have the international supply chains and regulatory pressures that compel them to engage with sustainability and SDGs. All in all, it appears that SDG implementation is not driven by coercive pressure through SDG incentives or the enforcement of national governmental policy frameworks.

Table 2: External and Internal drivers of SDG engagement

Drivers	Factors	Key Takeaway
External	International market exposure and experience	Large companies with operations overseas, those with foreign ownership or those that need capital access face pressure from investors, consumers and regulators to adopt sustainability, ESG and SDG frameworks.
	Supply chain pressures	Stakeholders are shaping corporate sustainability and reporting behaviours. Companies that export or do business overseas are expected by international buyers and consumers to demonstrate sustainability and SDG alignment.
	Climate vulnerability	Jamaica's exposure to hurricanes and climate risks is helping to increase environmental sustainability awareness and make climate resilience an urgent issue for SMEs and large firms alike. The lived experience of business disruption has made sustainability more of a survival and resilience issue as opposed to a moral imperative.
	Regulatory pressure and policy incentives	Companies that do business in jurisdictions with sustainability or ESG regulatory requirements are more likely to adopt global reporting standards such as the Global Reporting Initiative and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) sustainability disclosures. Policy incentives such as cheaper financing or tax credits are more likely to encourage companies to embed sustainability and the SDGs. Existing or anticipated ESG requirements from the Jamaica Stock Exchange, Bank of Jamaica and Financial Services Commission create both voluntary and compliance-driven sustainability and ESG engagement.
	Corporate citizenship and a sense of civic duty	Companies are engaging in sustainable development as a sense of community obligations and nation-building. Many companies, from small to large, expressed a sense of responsibility to uplift the communities they operate in. These efforts fill governance gaps, both complementing and supplementing the Government of Jamaica's efforts to provide welfare services and public goods to its citizens.
	Peer influence and industry trends	Public recognition through awards such as JSE's Corporate Social Responsibility Award and JMEA's Buy Jamaica Award is incentivising companies towards ESG and SDG alignment without regulatory mandate. The increasing shift from social responsibility to ESG reporting is partly explained by companies learning and being influenced by their industry peers both locally and internationally.

Drivers	Factors	Key Takeaway
Internal	Financial performance	Economic drivers are the dominant force in shaping business decisions such as digitalisation, employee well-being, waste management and energy efficiency. Companies are embracing sustainability and the SDGs to reduce costs, increase operational efficiency, improve productivity, enhance brand image and reputation, build stakeholder relations, and strengthen competitiveness.
	Risk management	Companies are embedding sustainability and the SDGs as a risk mitigation strategy to help manage and reduce environmental, social, regulatory, operational and governance risks. These risks disrupt supply chains, damage brands and firm reputation, increase regulatory pressure, affect stakeholder trust, increase costs and cash flow problems, to name but a few.
	Company values and culture	Many companies in Jamaica are engaging in social and environmental action without framing them in ESG or SDG language. These companies are demonstrating implicit social and environmental responsibility driven by leadership values, practical needs and Jamaica's cultural values. However, relatively few companies explicitly and proactively integrate social and environmental responsibility, including aligning their SDGs into the business strategy, processes and governance structures.
	Founders' ethos and leadership commitment	The personal values of founders and senior executives - often shaped by moral conviction and international experience – influence the extent to which sustainability is embedded into the organisational culture, strategy and processes. Companies with strong executive and board-level oversight are more likely to have ESG, sustainability or CSR policies, allocate dedicated budgets, establish sustainability units, and hire CSR or sustainability-trained professionals.

How are companies framing SDGs in Jamaica?

Companies are using different terminologies such as ESG, CSR and SDGs to report on their environmental, social, governance, economic and ethical obligations. The majority of the companies use multiple terms (CSR, ESG and SDGs) in their reports, sometimes interchangeably. The SDG framework appears to be universal among the listed companies. It provides a common language that helps the private sector to communicate its contributions to its stakeholders. Jamaica's listed companies appear to have converged on the UN framework suggesting that the SDGs are a shared point of reference across the different sectors. While ESG is the dominant framework used by institutional investors and capital markets globally and is quickly overtaking the SDGs as the preferred corporate sustainability language, in Jamaica only 9% used that vocabulary in their annual reports (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Terms companies use to report on sustainability initiatives

Although the majority of the companies explicitly reference the SDGs, this widespread adoption of SDG language does not always translate into integration into business strategy or measurable development impact. Many companies seem to map their social, economic and environmental action to the SDGs to communicate to their stakeholders rather than using the SDGs as a transformational tool that drives their business strategies towards becoming more inclusive, sustainable and responsible organisations. Many companies are using the SDGs symbolically but not to identify risks, innovate, measure performance and impact, or in their decision-making. This highlights a persistent challenge, one of the gaps between alignment in reporting and implementation in practice.

Level of SDG awareness and knowledge

The awareness and knowledge of the SDGs vary significantly across the private sector, with larger and more internationally engaged companies being more familiar and actively involved compared to the smaller and more domestically focused enterprises. The larger firms have a relatively high level of SDG awareness, compared to the moderate awareness by the medium-sized firms and the low awareness by the micro-and small enterprises. The business leaders who participated in the focus group discussion suggested that MSMEs are unfamiliar with the SDG framework and the UN Global Compact compared to large firms in Jamaica.

The lack of awareness, exposure and understanding of the goals and their relevance to business is a significant challenge among private sector actors, especially MSMEs. Moreover, the nature of the SDGs and the perceived complexity of the framework are key bottlenecks. The sheer number of targets is overwhelming, making engagement with the SDGs both burdensome and costly. Critically, the relevance of the SDGs to business performance is sometimes unclear. Often, the SDG targets are perceived as difficult to operationalise. All in all, the awareness gaps limit the effectiveness of SDG integration.

SDG measurement and reporting practices

Companies are reporting more on their social performance (such as community engagement and employee well-being) compared to environmental impact. The reporting of the SDGs is increasingly embedded within broader CSR, sustainability or ESG reporting. Companies report on SDG-related activities in several ways, i.e., in annual reports, in ESG or sustainability reports, and lastly, through corporate foundation reports. However, private sector reporting on sustainability, ESG, and SDG activities remains fragmented and inconsistent across firms.

While a few large companies produce sophisticated ESG reports that include detailed SDG initiatives with targets, performance metrics, and monitoring (see Box 1), most other companies in Jamaica do not have independent sustainability or ESG reports, and even fewer have integrated reports. SDG and ESG reporting seem more descriptive than quantitatively-driven, which limits comparability and impact assessment. It appears more symbolic and selective, reflecting capacity constraints and limited regulatory pressure.

The extent to which companies integrate sustainability information into their reporting varies significantly. On one hand, a few large corporations are adopting international standards such as the GRI and the IFRS S1 and S2 to produce detailed ESG reports. These global standards help provide standardised metrics for measuring sustainability performance. On the other hand, many other firms rely on internal or ad-hoc measuring and reporting systems, which makes comparability of sustainability performance challenging. Many SMEs are still lagging in ESG and SDG reporting, as a majority do not publicly publish annual financial reports. MSMEs face significant measuring and reporting burdens and infrastructure gaps. Data collection demands under international standards are often too complex and costly for SMEs.

The activities in Jamaica's private sector SDG contribution likely go uncounted due to their invisibility in formal reporting. Notably, many companies are undertaking activities that align with the SDGs without explicitly framing them as such, indicating a disconnect between on-the-ground practices and the formal SDG agenda. Companies seem to rhetorically mention SDGs in their reports to showcase their societal impact. A lack of a standardised national framework and/or tools for measuring and reporting, as well as government's guidance on measurement and tracking poses significant challenges for the private sector's SDG engagement.

Although there is no standardised national framework guiding SDG reporting in Jamaica, ESG reporting is an emerging voluntary requirement at the Jamaica Stock Exchange spurred by the Jamaica Corporate Governance Code 2021 for companies listed on the Stock Exchange. Principle 7 of The Code promotes enhanced corporate governance, transparent reporting practices and corporate sustainability and ethics (PSOJ, 2021).

Box 1: Sustainability performance measurement as a business imperative at PwC Jamaica

Working collaboratively as part of the global PwC network, PwC Jamaica provides assurance, advisory, and tax services to organisations across the island. Sustainability sits at the core of how the firm manages people development, business operations, and client services. This approach aligns directly with the firm's purpose: to build trust in society and solve important problems.

PwC Jamaica grounds its approach in a strong, performance-driven culture, embedding ethical conduct, accountability, skills development, and productivity. These principles are firmly embedded within the firm's performance management system. In parallel, the firm is boldly strengthening its ESG measurement and reporting practices. As outlined in the Sustainability Highlights Report FY24, PwC Jamaica continuously works to better understand, manage, and improve its social and environmental impacts through proactive target setting, measurement and monitoring across environmental, social and governance performance metrics. This approach, rooted in PwC's global sustainability reporting, transitions from alignment with the World Economic Forum Stakeholder Capitalism Metrics to the ISSB standards starting in FY25. Locally, PwC has implemented the data gathering and management procedures to produce the required ESG metrics for Jamaica.

Internally, PwC Jamaica advances climate action by measuring Scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions against a defined baseline. The firm actively tracks progress against targets and offsets electricity consumption. Externally, the firm provides ESG and climate-related advisory services to support Jamaican organisations - identifying material sustainability risks, strengthening governance, and ultimately integrating climate considerations into strategy. Working collaboratively with public and private sector leaders, PwC actively shapes Jamaica's sustainability landscape. Through long-standing community initiatives like the Adopt-A-School Programme and Project STAR, PwC Jamaica drives real, lasting impact.

Related SDGs:

SDG Maturity Framework

The extent to which the private sector integrates SDGs as a frame of reference for corporate social responsibility and sustainability into business practices varies, with the larger corporations leading in these efforts compared to smaller companies.

As illustrated in the SDG Maturity Framework (see Figure 2), at the start of their SDG journey, many companies, particularly the SMEs undertake SDG-related activities without explicitly framing or labelling them as such. This underscores the need for greater awareness to help firms recognise and frame these efforts. This implicit corporate social and environmental action is often philanthropy-driven, with no strategic and intentional SDG alignment with business strategy and operations. The companies do not formally map their ESG actions (e.g., employee welfare, environmental sustainability, community

development) to SDG targets or Jamaica's Vision 2030. These private sector actors seem not to comprehend the connection between the SDGs and business value. In other words, how SDG alignment can drive cost savings, enhance competitiveness, and build resilience to external shocks, including promoting energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable supply chain management. Essentially, there is a disconnect between practice and framing. There is also little evidence of data collection, measurement, and SDG impact reporting.

At the more advanced stage of the SDG journey, relatively few companies are demonstrating transformational leadership and innovation that includes building successful business models and actively driving systemic change. All participants in the FGDs were asked to name one company they considered a sustainability leader in Jamaica. The consensus indicated that SDG leaders are not necessarily those who have the best CSR, ESG or sustainability reports but rather those who shape systems, contribute to large-scale impact, help build institutions, and mobilise other actors for greater societal impact.

The private sector leaders who are integrating sustainability and the SDGs into their business operations tend to exhibit several defining characteristics:

- Create long-term value for diverse stakeholders.
- Strong leadership commitment.
- International exposure drives ESG standards and SDG alignment.
- Active participation in partnerships.
- Integration of the SDGs into core strategy.
- Dedicated ESG, CSR or sustainability structures.
- Financial and capital.
- Commitment to training and capacity building of stakeholders.
- Formal measurement and reporting system.
- A collaborative approach and partnering culture.

Overall, the SDG Maturity Framework highlights a clear progression in how private sector entities are engaging with the SDGs in Jamaica, moving from informal, unstructured activities to more strategic, integrated, and impact-driven approaches. Many companies, particularly MSMEs, are contributing to SDG outcomes through philanthropy and social responsibility focused on community development, educational support, employee welfare, poverty alleviation, humanitarian aid, social protection, and disaster relief. This social action manifests a deeply embedded culture of giving in the Jamaican context. These companies implement the SDGs implicitly rather than strategically. Many companies fail to recognise this contribution or align it with their core business strategies.

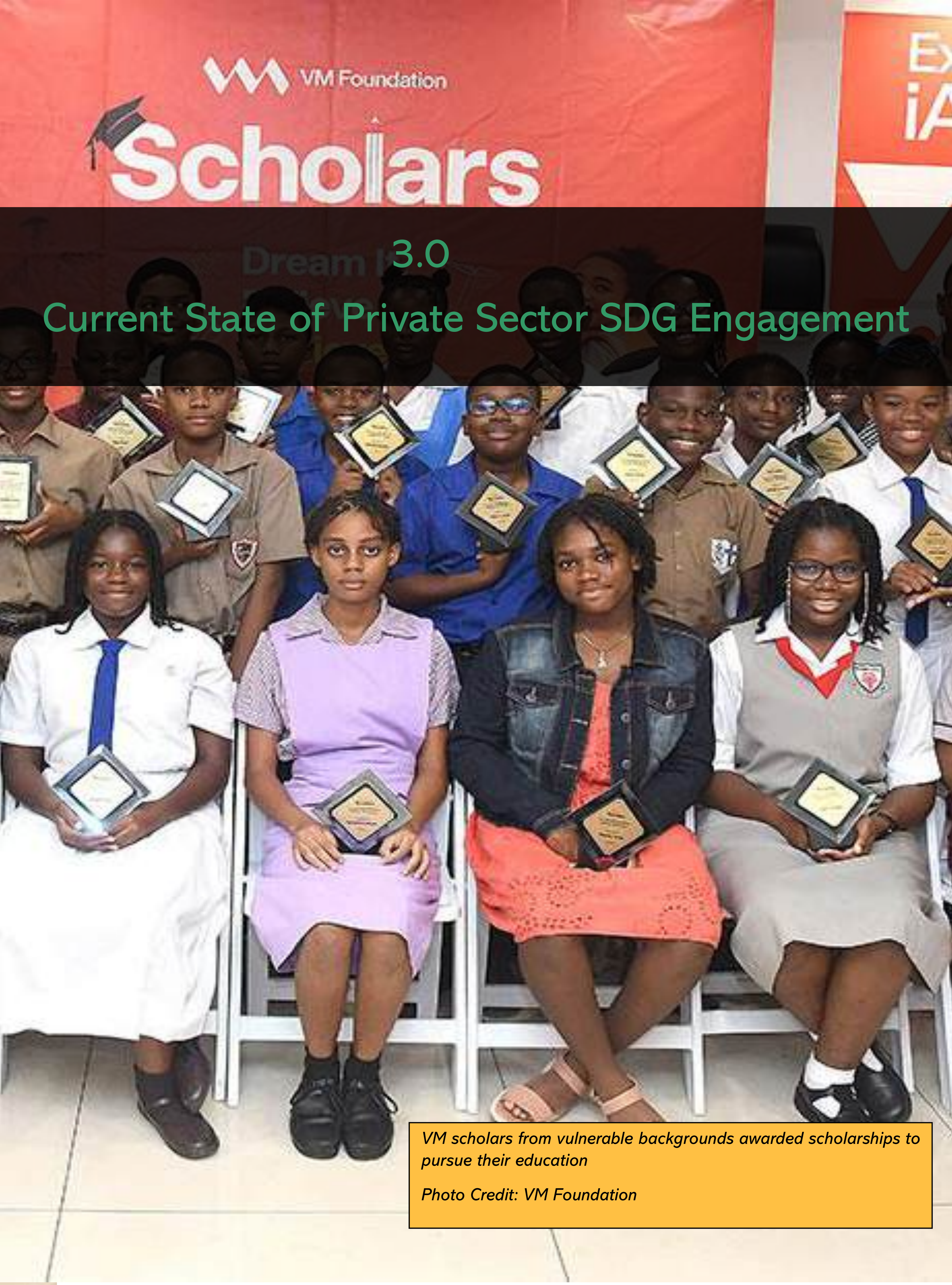
In conclusion, strengthening awareness, building capacity for measurement and reporting, and demonstrating the business value of SDG integration are critical to advancing along the maturity spectrum. By doing so, more firms can transition from passive contributors to active leaders, driving innovation, resilience, and systemic change in support of Jamaica's national development priorities.

Figure 2: SDG maturity assessment for Jamaica

Level 1: Awareness & Informal	Level 2: Superficial Alignment	Level 3: Structured Alignment	Level 4: Strategic Integration	Level 5: Transformational & Impact Leadership
Implicit SDG engagement Limited or no SDG/ESG awareness Philanthropy-driven initiatives No SDG/ESG reporting	SDG awareness and engagement Superficial alignment with ESG and CSR activities Adopt a compliance-driven sustainability and CSR agenda Some CSR, ESG and SDG reporting in the annual reports but as a mapping exercise Reporting of social initiatives for those with corporate foundations	Explicit SDG engagement but not fully integrated into business operations and strategy Adopt both a compliance and a risk management approach to sustainability, ESG and SDG Mention of international frameworks but do not use metrics to measure impact Sustainability, ESG and SDG information included in annual financial reports. However, SDG reporting still a mapping exercise	Explicit SDG engagement Adopt both a risk management and performance-oriented approach to sustainability, ESG and the SDGs Structured sustainability, ESG and SDG alignment in strategy, operations or risk management systems Advanced reporting using key performance indicators aligned with global reporting frameworks Strategic leadership, board-level oversight and dedicated sustainability structures Resource capacity, investment in data, systems and expertise Integrated or standalone sustainability, ESG and corporate foundation reports Embraces a partnership approach to sustainability, ESG and SDG implementation	Explicit SDG engagement Adopt a systems approach in the implementation of sustainability, ESG and the SDGs Sustainability, ESG and SDG drive business decision-making, innovation, product designs, market repositioning and business models Advanced double materiality reporting using key performance indicators; aligned with global reporting frameworks High data transparency; includes forward-looking targets or goals Thought leadership, board-level oversight and dedicated sustainability structures Resource capacity, investment in data, systems and expertise Integrated or standalone sustainability and ESG reports. Standalone corporate foundations reports Embraces a partnership approach to sustainability, ESG and SDG implementation

3.0

Current State of Private Sector SDG Engagement



VM scholars from vulnerable backgrounds awarded scholarships to pursue their education

Photo Credit: VM Foundation

3.0 Current State of Private Sector SDG Engagement

This chapter addresses the key question: What is the current state of private sector engagement with the SDGs in Jamaica, and how is this distributed across goals, sectors, and company types? Initiatives from the annual reports were mapped to relevant SDGs, and thematic analysis conducted to identify dominant patterns of private sector engagement, areas of concentration and gaps in the engagement. This chapter gives an overview of the current state of private sector engagement and then takes a deep dive into the SDG concentration landscape. It concludes with a discussion of the six (6) mechanisms through which Jamaica's private sector is engaging with the SDGs and the broader national development agenda.

Overview of the current state of private sector SDG engagement

The companies collectively reported 932 initiatives (Yr 2022-2023) and 1,058 initiatives (Yr 2023-2024) across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, although the scale, types and depth of engagement vary significantly across the goals (Table 3). The companies span 14 sectors, including financial services, manufacturing, hospitality, real estate, energy, and distribution. Overall, private sector engagement is broad and significant but uneven. The analysis shows that no SDG received zero attention from the companies

Although all 17 SDGs are covered, the aggregate data show an imbalance in the extent of their coverage. Private sector engagement is heavily concentrated in SDGs that align with core business operations. For instance, SDG 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth) was the primary focus for 94% of the companies. This overwhelming concentration suggests that corporate Jamaica equates sustainability with employment and economic activity above all other SDGs. The other top goals were SDG 4 (Quality Education), a top priority for 75% of the companies, SDG3 (Good health and well-being) and SDG16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institution), 67% and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption), a primary focus for 65% of the companies. There was limited focus on environmental and social protection goals. SDG 14 (Life below water), SDG 15 (Life on land), SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation) and SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities) were the least prioritised goals. For a small island developing state, exposed to rising sea levels and loss of biodiversity, this limited focus in these areas is a structural blind spot as these goals are critical to Jamaica's resilience. It is worth noting that the 2022-2023 SDG analysis closely mirrors the 2023-2024 results.

Table 3: SDG engagement for FYs 2023 and 2024

	2023		2024	
	No. of initiatives	No. of companies	No. of initiatives	No. of companies
SDG1: No poverty	23	18	29	18
SDG2: Zero hunger	32	20	14	9
SDG3: Good health and well-being	72	29	98	34
SDG4: Quality education	114	40	141	38
SDG5: Gender equality	19	13	20	12
SDG6: Clean water and sanitation	7	5	8	8
SDG7: Affordable and clean energy	20	13	34	19
SDG8: Decent work and economic growth	381	49	342	48
SDG9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure	46	25	47	17
SDG10: Reduced inequalities	5	5	2	2
SDG11: Sustainable cities	30	16	36	25
SDG12: Responsible consumption	33	24	76	32
SDG13: Climate action	10	9	22	15
SDG14: Life below water	6	6	15	12
SDG15: Life on land	12	10	13	10
SDG16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	87	33	112	34
SDG17: Partnerships	35	23	49	25

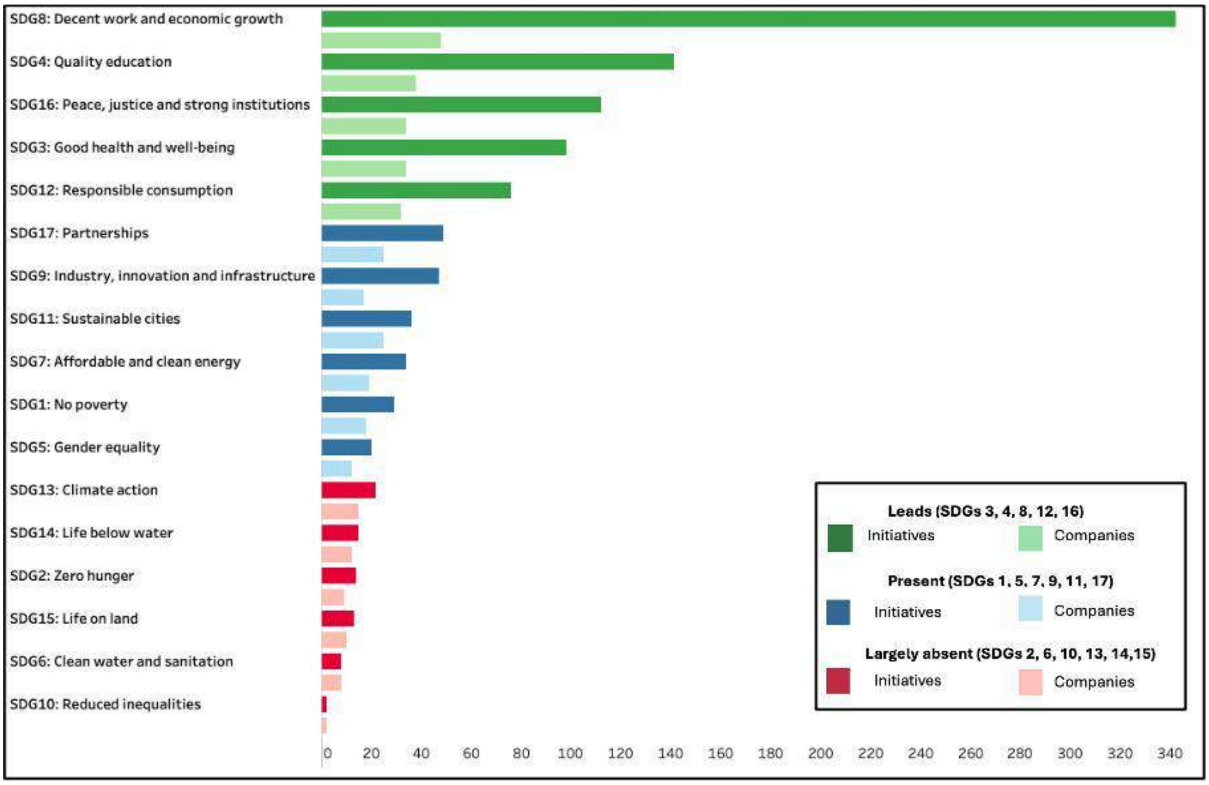
SDG concentration landscape

To enhance clarity, private sector contributions for FY2024 are grouped into 3 categories (Figure 3) based on the SDG concentration or activities companies are engaged in:

1) where the private sector leads;
2) where the private sector is present but underperforming; and
3) where the private sector is largely absent.

The detailed individual SDG analysis that maps initiatives to specific targets and highlights company initiatives for the FYs 2023 and 2024 is in Appendix 4.

Figure 3: SDG engagement landscape



1. Where the private sector leads: economic growth, human capital and governance

Private sector engagement in Jamaica is strongest in those goals related to economic growth and productivity, human capital and governance.

SDG 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth) is the dominant focus by a considerable margin (Figure 4), with 342 initiatives reported by 48 of the 51 companies, accounting for nearly one-third of total private sector SDG activities in FY 2024. The companies report workforce development and skills upgrading, employee welfare and pension provision, occupational health and safety, employee share ownership schemes and entrepreneurship and livelihood programmes.

This concentration is not surprising as SDG 8 maps most directly onto the internal operations of any employer and the evidence suggests that Jamaican companies have embraced decent work as both a business and a social imperative. What the data also reveals, however, is that the interventions are predominantly inward-facing and are geared toward employees within the company rather than towards broader economic activities in the country such as job creation for vulnerable citizens or national entrepreneurship development. As such, while the private sector is advancing decent work within companies its contribution to inclusive growth across the economy remains more limited.

SDG 4 (Quality Education) is the second most engaged goal, with 38 companies reporting 141 initiatives. There is a significant breadth of activities under this goal, encompassing scholarships and bursaries, digital literacy and STEM programs, school construction and rehabilitation, reading initiatives, inclusive education support, and workforce readiness training. Several companies made substantial investments, for example, J. Wray and Nephew's JMD $92 million renovation of Appleton Basic School, GraceKennedy's disbursement of over JMD $33 million in scholarships and bursaries, and Scotiabank's CAD $475,000 Youth RISE project reaching nearly 800 disadvantaged young people. The VM Scholarship Programme helps reduce financial barriers by providing scholarships that are sufficient to cover major education-related expenses, enabling students to remain focused on their academic goals.

Collectively, these initiatives represent significant and tangible contributions to Jamaica's human capital development. Deeper analysis of the initiatives reveals that although engagement in education is significant, it is largely focused on expanding access and building skills, with far less attention paid to quality and addressing systemic structural issues in the education system in Jamaica. One major gap that needs to be addressed is how the private sector can engage in public-private partnerships with the government to improve systemic education quality and tackle the structural drivers of underperformance, given that education is a cross-cutting accelerator for national development.

SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) is the primary focus for 34 companies and 98 initiatives, with particular emphasis on mental health, preventive health campaigns, health system support including blood drives and medical equipment donations as well as workplace health and safety programmes. For example, General Accident Insurance, Caribbean Cement Company Limited and Lasco Manufacturing all participated in blood drives, providing a significant boost to the nation's blood reserves. General Accident Insurance also partnered with the Chain of Hope and provided life-saving blood to patients awaiting heart surgery at the Bustamante Hospital for Children.

Some companies demonstrate structured engagement through workplace health and safety systems and mental health programmes, but these were relatively limited. Further analysis shows that while private sector companies are engaged in supporting good health and well-being the interventions were geared towards supporting existing health systems and plugging gaps like blood shortage at various hospitals. However, Jamaica needs a transformation in health care delivery for citizens and private sector can certainly help drive this transformation.

SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) was also a top primary focus for the private sector with 34 companies engaging in 112 initiatives. The interventions were heavily concentrated around anti-corruption and anti-bribery policies, whistleblowing policies and community development partnerships. These initiatives reflect the sector's commitment to integrity by strengthening corporate governance, ethical conduct and financial crime prevention systems. For example, Guardian Holdings Limited implemented anti-corruption and ethical conduct policies that reinforced their commitment to upholding the highest standards of ethical conduct and defined their expectations for how their stakeholders should operate.

The organisations maintain a comprehensive suite of governance and compliance policies, including a Code of Conduct and Business Ethics, Conflict of Interest, Anti-bribery and

Anti-Corruption, Whistleblowing, Fraud Investigation and Reporting, Compliance, Regulatory Reporting, and Financial Crime. While these contributions are significant, they are largely inward-facing. Interventions that focus on strengthening the broader justice system, such as through partnerships like Project STAR, remain limited but represent an emerging area of private sector involvement in advancing peace, justice and strong institutions.

SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) was the focus for 32 companies and 76 initiatives. The initiatives are primarily centred on waste reduction, recycling and operational efficiency improvements. Companies have implemented a range of initiatives aimed at reducing environmental impacts, including recycling programmes, the transition to reusable and compostable packaging and the optimisation of supply chains to minimise waste and resource use. For example, Kingston Properties Limited reduced overall waste generation by 5% through its Waste Reduction and Recycling Program. Jamaica Broilers Group introduced reusable totes to distribute its poultry products to customers, replacing single-use wax carton boxes, a change that saw a reduction of over 100,000 single-use wax carton boxes annually. In addition, several companies have begun integrating ESG frameworks into their operations, supported by sustainability reporting and materiality assessments.

While these developments signal progress toward more structured sustainability practices, engagement remains largely incremental and internally focused. There is limited evidence of a broader transformation, particularly in advancing circular economy models, green supply chain models or influencing sustainable consumption patterns across value chains. This suggests significant untapped potential for the private sector to deepen its contribution to responsible production and consumption in Jamaica.

Across these five leading goals, a consistent pattern emerges. Private sector SDG engagement is strongest where it intersects with core business operations, regulatory expectations, and compliance or reputational interest. This is internally oriented ('inside-out') SDG engagement, whereby companies contribute to the SDGs as a natural extension of how they run their businesses. While all SDG engagement is valuable, these initiatives are insufficient on their own to drive the transformational changes required to progress towards the SDGs and meet the 2030 Agenda

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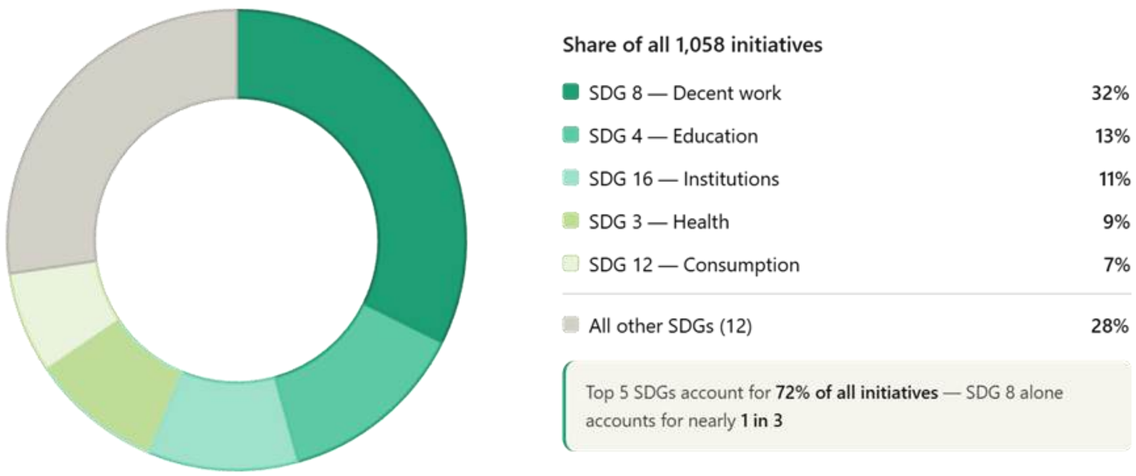
Figure 4: SDG concentration



2. Where the private sector is present but limited: infrastructure, energy, resilience, and social inclusion

The second category of goals sees meaningful but more limited engagement. These goals are characterised by smaller initiative counts, fewer companies engaging and a greater tendency toward project-level or philanthropic activity rather than strategic commitment.

SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) represent the strongest performers in this middle tier. SDG 9 sees engagement from 17 companies with 47 initiatives. These interventions reflect significant investments in infrastructure development, industrial expansion, and technological innovation. Companies are actively upgrading transport, port, logistics and digital infrastructure as well as making notable investments in digital transformation and AI adoption. Notably, Kingston Wharves Limited injected significant capital into the Integrated Logistics Complex at Ashenheim Road to boost capacity to deliver customised logistics services to its B2B clients within the Special Economic Zone. They also invested in a Terminal Operating System (TOS) upgrade to streamline vessel operations, yard and gate management and improve cargo clearance to enhance overall customer experience. These initiatives reflect a private sector that is focused on modernising and investing in productive capacity and a broader shift toward a more technology-driven and competitive economy.

SDG 7 sees engagement from 19 companies with 34 initiatives. Private sector contributions to SDG 7 in Jamaica demonstrate strong alignment with national and global energy transition priorities through widespread adoption of renewable energy technologies and improvements in energy efficiency. Companies across multiple sectors are investing in widespread adoption of solar photovoltaic systems, energy efficiency measures including LED lighting and smart building management, and clean energy financing. For example, MPC Caribbean Clean Energy Limited Renewable Energy Investment Program saw total avoided emissions of 87,339.09 tCO2 equivalent. Digicel Group invested US$1.5 million across 14 markets to replace traditional lead-acid batteries with Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO4) energy storage modules at network sites under their LiFePO4 Battery Replacement Program. As a joint venture with Innovative Energy Company (IEC), Wigton entered into a contract with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the design, supply and installation of distributive solar photovoltaic systems at certain Essex Valley Agriculture Development Project locations. Such contributions are strategically important for Jamaica's energy transition. Financial institutions also play a critical enabling role by financing renewable energy projects and providing green loans, thereby supporting broader national energy transformation.

Private sector contributions to **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)** in Jamaica are primarily concentrated in disaster response and recovery efforts, reflecting the country's high vulnerability to climate-related hazards such as hurricanes. This SDG had engagement from 25 companies with 36 initiatives, which were predominantly reactive and largely covered humanitarian relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl that negatively impacted the country in 2024. The private sector stepped up and provided a critical role in providing emergency relief funding and supplies and even temporary infrastructure support. However, there is some limited evidence of proactive engagement through resilience-building initiatives such as community hubs. Broader engagement in sustainable urban development, including housing, urban planning, and designing sustainable cities, is relatively underdeveloped. This suggests that private sector contributions are still largely reactive, with opportunities to expand toward more strategic, long-term urban resilience and sustainability interventions.

SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) saw engagement from 25 companies and 49 initiatives, but many of the activities recorded under this goal reflect bilateral philanthropy or community engagement rather than the long-term multi-stakeholder partnerships involving the government, civil society and international development partners as this SDG envisions.

SDG 1 (No Poverty) and **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)** reflect an important tension in this tier. Both attract meaningful engagement, 18 companies and 29 initiatives for SDG 1; and 12 companies and 20 initiatives for SDG 5. However, the nature of that engagement remains heavily weighted toward welfare and philanthropy rather than meaningful, structural change. For SDG 1, the dominant activities are community outreach, support for vulnerable families such as children in state care and low-income households, and charitable giving. These interventions are short-term and welfare-oriented, with limited evidence of sustained poverty reduction initiatives. Barita Investments Limited provided financial literacy programs to those traditionally underserved.

For SDG 5, women's economic empowerment and leadership programmes are evident, for example, Scotiabank's JMD $3 billion Women Initiative. In addition, several companies have begun to implement gender-responsive workplace policies, including enhanced maternity and paternity leave and commitments to global frameworks such as the Women's Empowerment Principles. However, these practices are not yet widespread across the private sector. VM Foundation supports the Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation (WCJF), an organisation dedicated to assisting adolescent mothers as they continue their education during and after pregnancy. This support helps ensure a smooth transition back to the formal education system or progression into tertiary-level studies upon completion of the WCJF programme. They also facilitate financial education sessions for participating young mothers, equipping them with essential knowledge in budgeting, saving, and responsible financial decision-making. These life skills enable them to better manage their personal finances, plan for their children's needs, and reduce their long-term risk of economic instability. Each of these goals represents an area where the private sector has demonstrated it can act and where Jamaica's development needs are acute. However, private sector engagement has not yet reached the scale or strategic depth commensurate with that need.

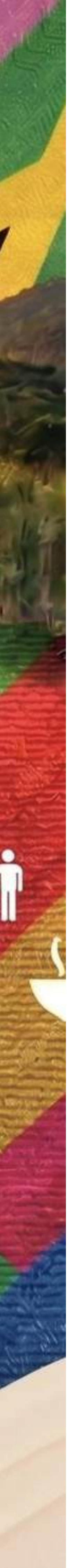
3. Where the private sector is largely absent: environmental stewardship and social protection

This third category presents one of the most significant findings of this analysis and covers the goals where private sector engagement is lowest. For a small island developing state acutely exposed to climate change, sea-level rise, biodiversity loss and water insecurity, the near absence of private sector commitment to the environmental and social protection SDGs represents a strategic blind spot with long-term consequences for Jamaica's resilience and development trajectory.

SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land) see engagement from only 10 to 12 companies, with 13 to 15 initiatives, respectively. Even though the number of interventions is small, they are meaningful and private sector contributions to SDG 14 are impactful at the community level, particularly in marine clean-up and conservation efforts. For example, GraceKennedy's Kingston Harbour Cleanup Project (see Box 2) has removed over 3 million kilograms of waste from the harbour. Sandals Resorts manages marine sanctuaries and has established coral nurseries on both the north and south coasts. Caribbean Cement, VM Investments, and TransJamaican Highway have active reforestation programmes. Although meaningful, these initiatives are largely project-based and do not represent any systemic marine governance and blue economy development strategies. For the island that has the seventh-largest natural harbour in the world and whose tourism economy depends on healthy marine and terrestrial ecosystems, the absence of meaningful engagement from the majority of listed companies is a structural vulnerability.

Private sector contributions to SDG 15 are predominantly focused on reforestation and land restoration initiatives. Companies have undertaken a range of activities, including tree planting, rehabilitation of degraded lands such as former quarry sites and participation in national reforestation programmes. A notable feature of these initiatives is the strong collaboration between the private sector and public institutions, particularly the Forestry Department, which has enabled structured and coordinated reforestation efforts across multiple locations. In addition, some companies have engaged employees and communities through volunteer-based environmental activities, contributing to awareness and participation in climate action. While these efforts demonstrate a clear commitment to environmental stewardship, they are largely concentrated in tree planting and land restoration. There is limited evidence of broader private sector engagement in biodiversity conservation, habitat protection or integrated land-use management, highlighting an opportunity to deepen and diversify contributions to sustainable ecosystem management in Jamaica.

SDG 13 (Climate Action) sees engagement from 15 companies with just 22 initiatives. Several companies have made notable commitments to combat climate change, e.g. Caribbean Cement's net-zero by 2050 pathway, MPC Caribbean Clean Energy's avoided emissions programme, and JMMB's work-from-home policy quantified against carbon reduction. Despite these initiatives, overall, the impact and risks associated with climate change are not currently being treated as a core strategic concern for Jamaica’s private sector. The gap between the country’s potential exposure to climate change and the lack of focus by the private sector related to climate action is an important finding from this review.



SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) is the most underrepresented goal with only 2 companies reporting 2 initiatives. In a country where inequality remains a persistent challenge and where social mobility is constrained by several factors including geographic, economic and historical factors, this finding is striking. The lack of interventions suggests that the private sector may not see reducing inequality as their responsibility.

SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) each engage fewer than 10 companies with 14 and 8 initiatives per goal. Private sector contributions to SDG 2 are primarily concentrated in initiatives that address immediate food access and nutrition, particularly through school feeding programmes and community-based interventions, for example, Kingston Properties Limited school feeding initiative at Callaloo Mew Basic School and Portland JSX Limited Chukka's Breakfast Feeding program in the community of Salt Spring. These interventions provide direct benefits to vulnerable populations, but the relatively limited prevalence of such initiatives suggests that private sector engagement remains more heavily oriented toward short-term food provision rather than long-term food systems that will eradicate hunger. In this respect, the financial sector's potential to mobilise capital is largely untapped. Private sector contributions to SDG 6 in Jamaica are primarily concentrated in water-use efficiency and infrastructure investment. Companies are actively adopting measures such as rainwater harvesting and water recycling systems to improve operational sustainability. Sagicor's financing of the Rio Cobre Water Treatment Plant by providing US$13 million in long-term secured financing for infrastructure serving the Kingston Metropolitan Area stands as an exemplary private sector contribution to SDG 6. However, it remains an outlier.

Across these six goals, the evidence shows that private sector engagement requires companies to look beyond their own operations and value chains toward the broader systems on which Jamaica's future depends.

Box 2: A collaborative approach by GraceKennedy Foundation to restore and reclaim the Kingston Harbour

The GraceKennedy Foundation, through the Kingston Harbour Cleanup Project (KHCP), is advancing multiple Sustainable Development Goals by tackling marine pollution through a collaborative, cross-sector approach. Implemented in partnership with The Ocean Cleanup and Clean Harbours Jamaica, the KHCP exemplifies SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by uniting private sector leadership, technical expertise, and local operational capacity. Beyond its core partners, the project actively collaborates with community-based organisations, academic institutions, private companies, and public sector agencies to expand its impact. The KHCP directly supports SDG 14 (Life Below Water) by intercepting waste at nine of the eleven most polluting gullies before it enters Kingston Harbour, thereby helping to safeguard marine ecosystems. The project further contributes to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) by improving environmental conditions in communities through upstream education and behaviour change initiatives, including the Environmental Warden Programme.

Through this Environmental Warden Programme, the KHCP also advances SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by linking waste reduction with livelihood creation. In 2025, 32 individuals across five communities in Kingston began recycling for profit, transforming waste into opportunity. More broadly, the project supports green job creation across its operations, including waste collection, sorting, and marine-based roles. This directly supports Target 12.5, which calls for a substantial reduction in waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse by 2030.

Together, these efforts contribute to SDG 13 (Climate Action), by preventing harmful emissions from waste and supporting the protection of coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, which play a critical role in climate resilience. To date, the KHCP has removed more than five million kilograms of waste, demonstrating how innovative, cross-sector partnerships can deliver scalable and sustainable solutions for Jamaica, while offering a model for the wider Caribbean region.

Related SDGs:

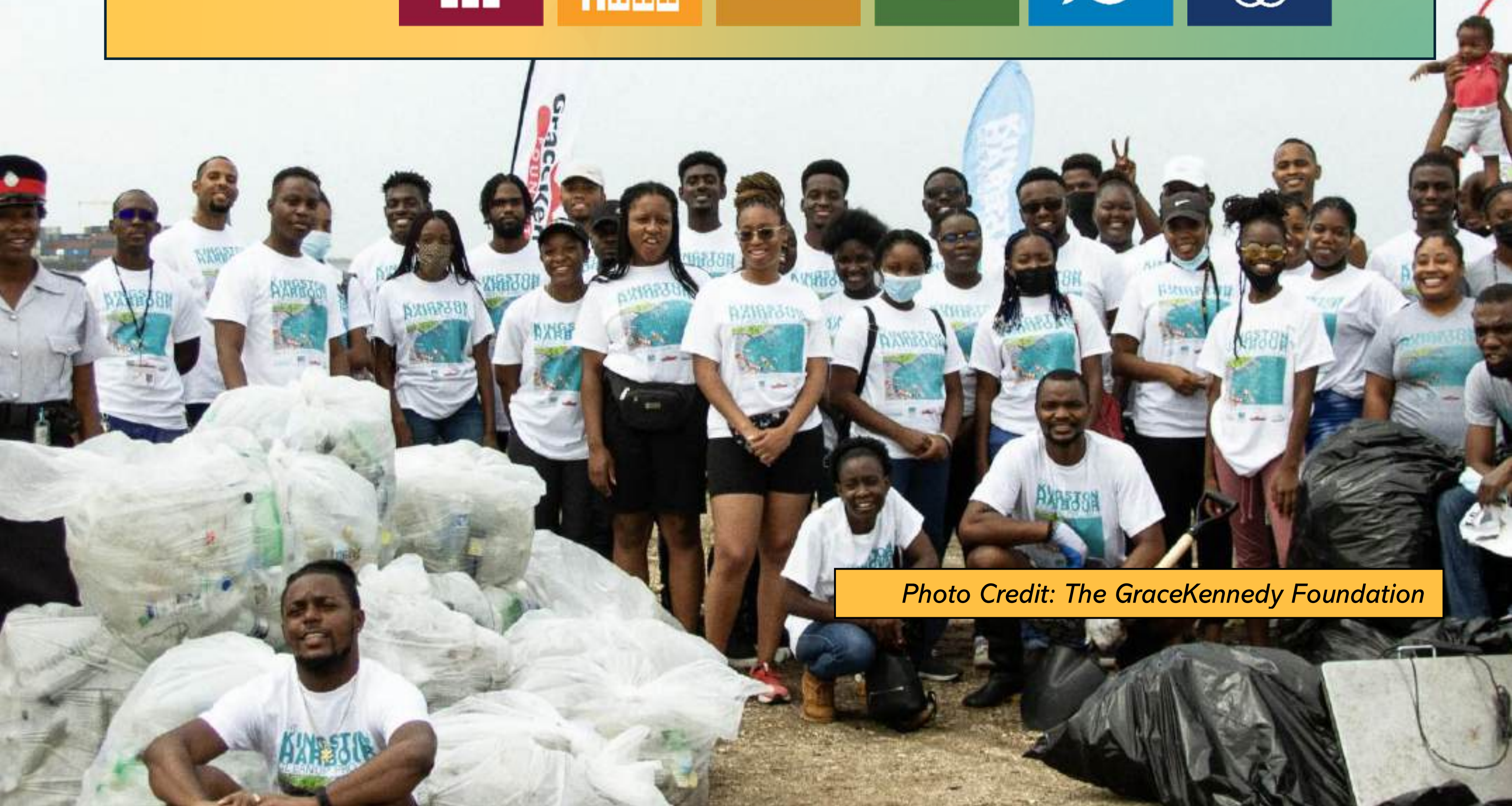


Photo Credit: The GraceKennedy Foundation

Trends: What has changed?

A comparison of the FYs 2023 and 2024 data was done to see whether private sector SDG engagement remains focused and consistent or changes. Figures 5 and 6 show the year-on-year changes. Comparing 2023 and 2024 annual reports data reveals that the overall ranking of SDG priorities remained the same, and there was no change in the priority focus between FY 2023 and FY 2024. Companies continued to prioritise Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), which is the main goal for the private sector. The top 5 priority areas remain SDG (8) followed by SDG (4), SDG (3), SDG (16) and SDG (12). This consistency suggests that the structure of private sector SDG engagement in Jamaica may be relatively entrenched, reflecting embedded corporate practice rather than companies being responsive to the country's national development agenda. Although there were some changes in the number of interventions, this did not change the ranking of the SDGs.

Three upward shifts are notable. Climate action (SDG 13), partnerships for the goals (SDG 17), and zero hunger (SDG 2) all recorded the largest increases (Figure 6). Conversely, the three goals recording the largest fall in initiatives were quality education (SDG 4), industry and innovation (SDG 9), and responsible consumption (SDG 12). This likely reflects constrained purse strings and an increasingly clear understanding that companies cannot make substantial progress if they work alone.

Figure 5: SDG initiatives in FY 2023 and FY 2024 in decreasing order of priority

2023

SDG8: Decent work and economic growth	381
SDG4: Quality education	114
SDG16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	87
SDG3: Good health and well-being	72
SDG9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure	46
SDG17: Partnerships	35
SDG12: Responsible consumption	33
SDG2: Zero hunger	32
SDG11: Sustainable cities	30
SDG1: No poverty	23
SDG7: Affordable and clean energy	20
SDG5: Gender equality	19
SDG15: Life on land	12
SDG13: Climate action	10
SDG6: Clean water and sanitation	7
SDG14: Life below water	6
SDG10: Reduced inequalities	5

2024

SDG8: Decent work and economic growth	342
SDG4: Quality education	141
SDG16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	112
SDG3: Good health and well-being	98
SDG12: Responsible consumption	76
SDG17: Partnerships	49
SDG9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure	47
SDG11: Sustainable cities	36
SDG7: Affordable and clean energy	34
SDG1: No poverty	29
SDG13: Climate action	22
SDG5: Gender equality	20
SDG14: Life below water	15
SDG2: Zero hunger	14
SDG15: Life on land	13
SDG6: Clean water and sanitation	8
SDG10: Reduced inequalities	2

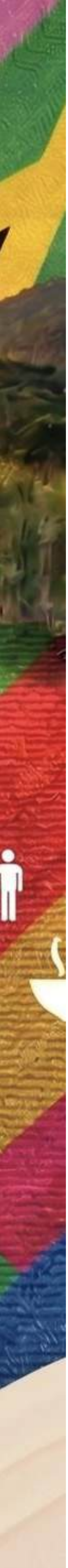
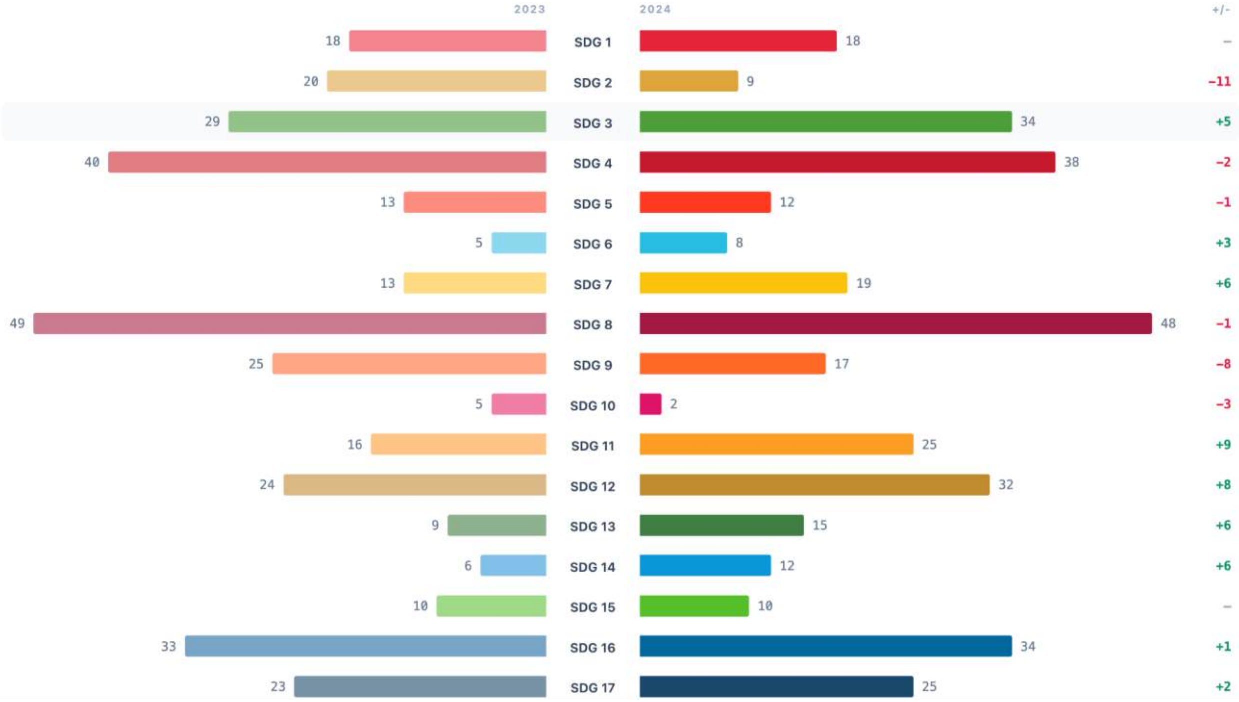


Figure 6: Chart showing the increase and decrease for 2023 and 2024

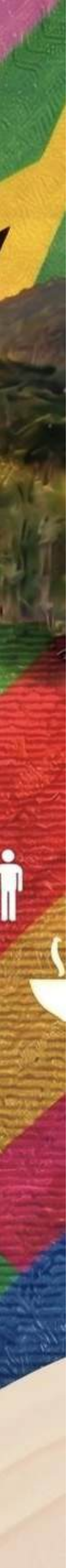


Mechanisms for private sector engagement in the SDGs and National Development

Jamaica's private sector is engaging with the SDGs and the broader national development agenda through the following six (6) distinct but interrelated mechanisms: i) core business and value chain operations; ii) innovation and sustainable financing; iii) philanthropic donations and social investment; iv) institutional building through private sector leadership; v) business associations as collaborative platforms, and vi) public advocacy and policy dialogue. These mechanisms operate at different scales and with varying degrees of connection to the formal national SDG agenda. The mechanisms are discussed and examples of best-in-class companies highlighted.

1. Core business and value chain operations

A primary mechanism through which the private sector contributes to the SDGs is the integration of sustainability principles into core business operations and value chains. This includes embedding environmental, social, and governance considerations into its core business model, from the goods it produces, the services it delivers, the people it employs, the suppliers it engages to the environmental footprint it generates or reduces. This represents the most scalable and sustainable mechanism, as it aligns a company's profitability with SDG impact. When this mechanism works well, SDG engagement is not seen as an add-on to a company's business strategy, but rather is embedded in decisions.



Illustrative case:
GraceKennedy (GK), the Caribbean's largest food and financial services conglomerate, has strategically embedded sustainability and ESG principles throughout its operations through its "We Care" ethos. These principles guide the organisation's strategy, decision-making, sourcing and production practices, core business operations, distribution networks, and global supply chains, ensuring that sustainability and ethical considerations are fully integrated throughout the entire business value chain. GK is widely recognised as a leader in responsible business practices. GK was recognised by the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce, winning the inaugural ESG Award in both 2023 and 2024, positioning the company as a leading voice in the business community on environmental, social, and governance matters. The Group's commitment extends to stakeholder empowerment, community development, environmental stewardship, employee wellbeing, and ethical governance. GK operates an institutionalised, multi-pillar social investment model focused on education, youth development and environmental sustainability. Through partnerships with public-sector agencies, civil society organisations, and national bodies, GraceKennedy supports a broad range of initiatives which collectively contribute to human capital development, youth empowerment, environmental stewardship, and inclusive socio-economic growth at the national level.

2. Innovation and sustainable financing

Private sector-led innovation serves as a key enabler of private sector engagement, particularly in the development of new financial instruments, business models, technologies and institutional structures that create new pathways for investment and activity aligned with the SDGs. Innovation as an SDG mechanism extends beyond financial instruments. Several firms in the quantitative sample have invested in digital transformation, AI adoption, renewable energy technologies and circular economy solutions that contribute directly to SDG targets while advancing their competitiveness. This demonstrates the potential of capital markets to mobilise large-scale resources for SDG implementation.

Illustrative case:
In 2024, The Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE) developed the JSE Green Bond Plus (JSEGB+), a dedicated trading and issuance platform for green, social, sustainability, and sustainability-linked bonds. They developed a comprehensive resource guide to support insurers, investors, and other stakeholders in navigating the evolving green financing landscape. The proceeds of bonds issued under this framework are exclusively applied to eligible environmental and social projects, creating a direct capital market channel for SDG financing. With the Development Bank of Jamaica estimating that Jamaica needs $5 billion in climate mitigation and $1 billion in climate adaptation investment by 2050, and with experts projecting up to $6 billion in potential green investment over the next 25 years, the JSEGB+ platform represents an important mechanism for mobilising private capital to fill the country's sustainability financing gaps, and help drive positive environmental and social impact.

3. Philanthropic donations and social investment

Philanthropic contributions and structured social investment programmes remain a prominent mechanism for private sector engagement, particularly in addressing the social dimensions of the SDGs such as education, poverty reduction and community development. This mechanism accounts for a significant share of the 1,058 initiatives documented in this VNR Special Report, and encompasses charitable donations, community outreach programmes, scholarship and bursary schemes, infrastructure support for schools and health facilities, disaster relief, and environmental stewardship initiatives. The companies contribute either directly or through their foundations.

This mechanism's strength is in its breadth and immediacy as it reaches communities and individuals that formal government services often do not. It can be deployed quickly in response to acute needs such as the impact of Hurricane Beryl in 2024. Its structural weakness, however, is well documented in the SDG literature and confirmed by the findings of this VNR Special Report: philanthropic and welfare initiatives are typically episodic, making it difficult to sustain beyond a single budget cycle. It is orientated toward immediate relief rather than structural change. While impactful, these interventions are often project-based and may lack long-term sustainability or alignment with national SDG monitoring frameworks.

The year-on-year data presented in Figure 3 illustrates this clearly as the data shows that SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) philanthropy fell by 18 initiatives between 2023 and 2024, suggesting that food security activities, many of which were event-driven, may not have been embedded in sustained programs. As such, the transition from philanthropy to strategic social investment is required if this mechanism is to be effective and sustainable.

Illustrative case:

Barita Investments Limited illustrates the range and ambition possible within this mechanism. The company is empowering communities through education and entrepreneurship. In 2024, they awarded $9.5 million in scholarships to students at various academic levels, expanded early childhood literature with 1,000+ solar-powered readers, supported the 'Follow The Trail, Invest in Braille' campaign that helps students with special needs, and helped $45,000 towards the reconstruction of Royal Bay Basic School. They operated a Community Well-being and Sustainability Program that has created learning opportunities for over 3,000 children, helping to build social capital in the community, supporting environmentally sustainable initiatives and raising awareness around mental, physical and financial wellbeing.

4. Institutional building through private sector leadership

The private sector's role in building the SDG institutional infrastructure of sustainable national development is achieved through the creation and strengthening of institutions that address systemic development challenges. This mechanism reflects a sustainable approach whereby the private sector contributes to building national capacity and long-term solutions. This mechanism is particularly important for the environmental SDGs, where the scale of the challenge exceeds what any individual company or even any individual sector can address. It has even more importance when viewed in the context of the quantitative data analysis for this report showing that Jamaica's private sector was least engaged in the environmental SDGs 14 and 15.

Illustrative case:

Recycling Partners of Jamaica (RPJ) is the defining Jamaican example of this mechanism. It is a joint venture founded in 2014 between the Government of Jamaica and leading private-sector beverage manufacturers, operating nine recycling centres across seven parishes of Jamaica. The initiative helps address the challenges of plastic waste pollution, improves waste disposal, landfill overflow and environmental degradation. RPJ contributes to the development and maintenance of a sustainable recycling system and has established state-of-the-art infrastructure, pioneered innovative services, public awareness and participation to revolutionise the plastic recovery landscape in Jamaica. It is a model of what private sector institutional leadership can achieve when companies pool resources, share risk, and build shared infrastructure for a collective environmental challenge.

5. Business associations as collaborative platforms

Business associations, such as the Jamaica Employers‘ Federation, sector chambers and associations, and industry groups, provide the fifth mechanism. They serve as a structured platform for coordinating private sector action, pooling resources and engaging government on a collective rather than individual basis. The introduction of an ESG Award by the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce in 2024 signals that associations are beginning to use recognition and incentives, not just advocacy, to shape their members' behaviour toward sustainability. This is a promising development that warrants strengthening and replication across the association ecosystem.

Illustrative case:

The Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) uses its convening power to bring together businesses, government agencies, universities, and development partners to work on societal problems such as lowering crime rates, digital transformation, governance and economic reform. The organisation plays a bridging role in national-level dialogue, facilitating structured engagement between the private sector and government on various societal issues. PSOJ has provided leadership for multi-partner initiatives, such as the SME Support Programme, which leverages its partners for funding, technical support, and capacity building. This programme has helped small enterprises formalise their operations, improve productivity, and adopt more sustainable business practices, contributing directly to SDG targets related to economic growth, innovation, and inclusion. PSOJ proactively collaborates with the government and private stakeholders to develop internationally competitive industries in Jamaica, focusing on value-added services and transforming Jamaica into a hub of innovation and productivity (PSOJ, 2023).

6. Public advocacy and policy dialogue

The sixth mechanism is the private sector's participation in formal dialogue with government to shape the policy environment for sustainable development, representation on national planning bodies, public positioning on development priorities and the use of corporate convening power to bring stakeholders together around shared agendas. The private sector has formal representation on the National 2030 Agenda Oversight Committee (NAOC), which is the body responsible for providing policy and strategic advice on SDG implementation. This representation gives the private sector a seat in the most senior national SDG governance body, alongside government, civil society, academia, trade unions and youth. However, the impact of this mechanism depends on the extent to which dialogue translates into implementation. In order to have more effective policy dialogue, the private sector should have clear evidence of how their activities support the 2030 Agenda. This critical gap has to be addressed and this VNR Special Report is a first step.

Illustrative case:

The JMMB Group demonstrates how this mechanism can function at its best. JMMB Group uses its convening power to shape narratives, priorities and alignment on economic empowerment. The company has created structured platforms that bring together business leaders, policymakers and sector stakeholders for national dialogues. The JMMB Group partners closely with the PSOJ and uses the association's convening power for national transformation, agenda setting and advocacy platforms. PSOJ has successfully engaged in public advocacy that has shaped national development discourse on issues such as economic reform, crime reduction, governance and growth.

4.0

Private Sector SDG Alignment with Vision 2030

A snapshot of one of the panel discussion segments at The PSOJ and IDB EmpowerJA Forum held under the theme 'Unleashing SME Digital success!'

Photo credit: Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica

4.0 Private Sector SDG Alignment with Vision 2030

The SDGs provide a global framework for actors in the public, private and non-profit sectors to contribute, individually or collectively, to address various economic, social, and environmental challenges the world faces today. In Jamaica, the SDGs are closely aligned with the country's long-term development plan – Vision 2030 Jamaica - in which the government plays an important coordinating role.

The Government of Jamaica underscores the strategic importance of the private sector as a contributor to sustainable development by championing CSR initiatives and the principles of sustainability and ethical business practices as mechanisms and enablers for SDG implementation and Vision 2030 progress. The government acknowledges the role all types of enterprises across industries play in the scaling and acceleration of the SDGs particularly through job creation, institutional building, environmental sustainability, financing, innovation and social investment.

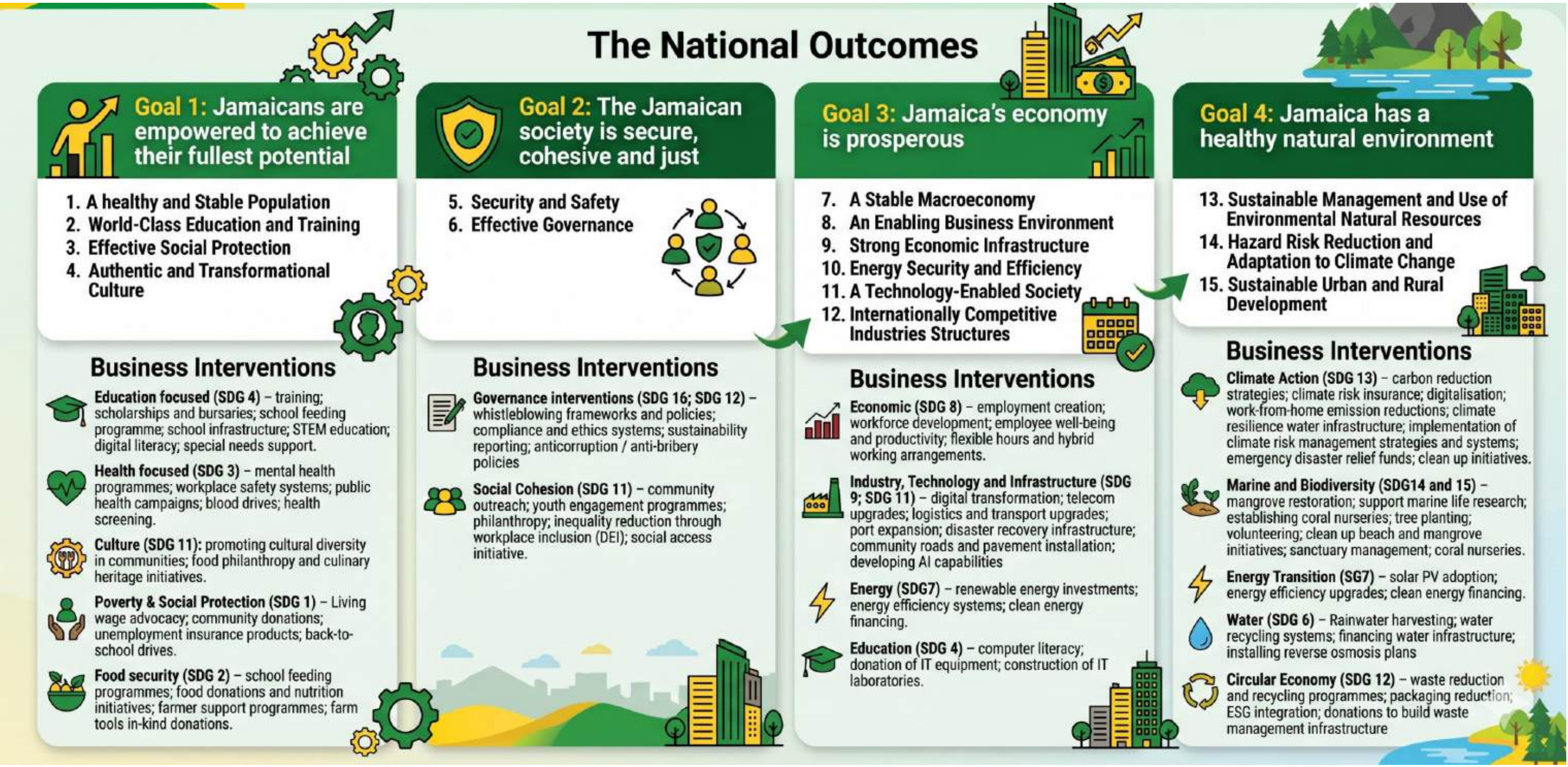
The alignment of Vision 2030 and CSR signals the government's commitment to providing an enabling environment that encourages the private sector's contribution to sustainable development, and more so in the following priority areas such as decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), industry innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12) and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).

Mapping the SDG interventions to Vision 2030 Jamaica

The private sector's social, economic, environmental and governance activities all contribute to the sustainable and national development of Jamaica. These activities can be directly aligned with the national development priorities in Vision 2030 Jamaica. Figure 7 maps private sector SDG interventions/activities from the annual reports to the national goals and outcomes of Vision 2030. This direct mapping shows that although alignment with the national development plan may not be a deliberate focus or top of mind for companies, their activities are already aligned with Jamaica's development agenda. The mapping highlights areas of strong engagement as well as the gaps that currently exist where private sector activities need to be strengthened to support specific national outcomes

The mapping of private sector SDG activities to Vision 2030 Jamaica reveals a strong alignment between corporate initiatives and the country's national development priorities, demonstrating that businesses are actively contributing to a balanced framework of social, economic, environmental, and governance outcomes (Table 4). In many instances, the private sector employs a multifaceted approach that delivers positive outcomes for its various stakeholders, such as employees, suppliers, customers, and the community (see Box 3).

Figure 7: Mapping private sector SDG activities with Vision 2030 Jamaica



Private sector and economic impact: The contributions strongly align with Vision 2030 Goal 3 by fostering job creation, workforce skills development, and boosting productivity (SDG 8) (see Box 4). Investments in innovation, infrastructure and digital transformation (SDGs 9 and 11) make Jamaica more competitive and resilient. Energy projects (SDG 7) help improve cost efficiency and contribute to the long-term sustainability of Jamaica. Collectively, these interventions by the private sector help to create a more stable macroeconomic environment and a better business climate, positioning Jamaica for continued and sustained growth.

Private sector and social impact: The private sector plays an important role in the provision of public goods and services such as water, healthcare, sanitation, and education. Corporate social investments aimed at developing social and human capital support Vision 2030 Goals 1 and 2. Education-focused efforts (SDG 4) including scholarships, STEM development, and digital literacy, strengthen Jamaica's workforce readiness and long-term national competitiveness. Health initiatives (SDG 3) like health wellness programmes, health screenings, and mental health support contribute to a healthier and more productive population (see Box 5). Social protection and poverty reduction initiatives (SDGs 1 and 2), including food security programmes and community support, help lower vulnerability and inequality in communities across Jamaica (see Box 6). The motto *'Out of Many, One People'* defines Jamaican culture. As corporate citizens, the private sector's cultural and community-based interventions, including event sponsorship, sports and creative industries development, help strengthen community values and identity, promote Jamaica's heritage, and support inclusion and national cohesion.

Private sector and environmental impact: Climate action, natural resource management, and biodiversity protection are aligned to Vision 2030 Goal 4. Corporate environmental activities like strategies to reduce carbon emissions, adopting renewable energy, and climate resilience investments (SDGs 7 and 13) address climate risks and promote sustainability. Waste reduction, marine conservation, and reforestation initiatives (SDGs 12, 14, and 15) are evidence of the growing commitment to protect and preserve Jamaica's natural assets and transition towards a circular economy. Water management initiatives (SDG 6) help use water resources more efficiently and contribute towards environmental sustainability.

Private sector and governance impact: Private sector interventions such as designing and implementing ethical frameworks, anti-corruption policies, whistleblowing systems, and sustainability reporting enhance institutional integrity and accountability, contributing to SDGs 12 and 16. These governance practices not only promote a more fair, just and secure society (Vision 2030 Goal 2), but also contribute to fostering economic stability, thereby strengthening investor confidence and promoting the development of sustainable enterprises (SDG 8).

Company foundations (see Box 3) serve as strategic vehicles for advancing multiple objectives simultaneously, enabling firms to align their philanthropic efforts with broader impact goals. Through targeted programmes and partnerships, they contribute to social and human development, stimulate community economic development, support environmental sustainability, and strengthen community governance practices. These foundations operate at the intersection of purpose and performance, helping private sector organisations deliver measurable value beyond profit while reinforcing long-term resilience and stakeholder trust.

Table 4: Private sector impact across Vision 2030 Jamaica Goals

Type of Goal	Type of Intervention	Dominance	Key SDGs
Goal 1: Human Development	Social	★★★★	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16
Goal 2: Justice and Society	Governance and social	★★★	3, 5, 10, 16, 17
Goal 3: Economy	Economic	★★★★★	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17
Goal 4: Environment	Environmental	★★★	1, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

**The number of stars used is illustrative of the dominance of the interventions which corresponds with the private sector priority SDGs as discussed in chapter 3 and captured in Figures 3 and 4.*

Box 3: A multifaceted approach to societal impact at Manpower and Maintenance Services Ltd

Manpower and Maintenance Services Ltd provides services to prominent public and private sector companies across several essential sectors. The leadership at Manpower is intentional about incorporating the principles which contribute to sustainable development in its businesses and the communities it serves. The following examples demonstrate how they are contributing to the SDGs.

No poverty, Decent Work and Economic Growth (Goals 1 & 8): Manpower's ability to recruit and make fit for purpose individuals marginalised by limited education and access to resources is noteworthy and transformative. Its strong focus on training and development not only equips its team members to effectively deliver at high professional standards for the duration of the projects to which they are deployed but also empowers them with skills which can be utilized well beyond their tenure at Manpower.

Good Health and Well-being (Goal 3): Manpower provides several avenues for the development of the whole person. In addition to providing gainful employment, the human resources department ensures staff has access to benefits such as health insurance, subsidies, suitable work conditions, adequate tools, a physical wellness programme, financial planning services, counselling services et cetera. Over the years, a bevy of gender specific empowerment activities have been undertaken during the organization's International Men's and Women's Days exercises. The intentionality to uplift staff's wellbeing extends to the celebration of their children who excel in the Primary Exit Profile (PEP) examinations.

Quality Education (Goal 4): Through the Institute for Workforce Education and Development (IWED), Manpower provides access to a cadre of traditional and vocational educational training programmes which facilitate the empowerment of a wide cross-section of individuals. From young adults exiting the secondary school system to seasoned employees seeking to upskill themselves in a chosen area, IWED offers the means to close educational gaps which prevent corporate productivity and employee upward mobility.

Gender Equality (Goal 5): Manpower promotes the empowerment of women and girls through its M'Power Women's Group. M'Power Women's Group celebrates MMS' women who achieve academic and professional excellence. It also identifies and supports at least one female employee pursuing higher education each year through the Dr. M.A. Stewart- Hinchcliffe Scholarship Fund. M'Power Woman promotes gender equality and social awareness, aiming to break down workplace barriers while driving measurable, sustainable change that empowers both men and women. The group collaborates with external organizations to share knowledge and strengthen initiatives that advance female employee development.

Climate Action, Life below water, Life on Land (Goals 13, 14, 15): The impact of our Manpower's operations on the environment is an important consideration for the leadership team and our clients. As such, Manpower has forged strategic partnerships with award winning manufacturers of eco-friendly cleaning and sanitization products like the Kersia Group and the Fuller Pinto company. These partnerships enable Manpower to provide green products to its commercial and individual clients. This approach of partnering with eco-friendly chemical producers enables Manpower to play a direct role in educating the public in practical cleaning and sanitation methods that preserve the environment.

Related SDGs:

Company foundations also act as grant-makers, funding organisations that are driving sustained societal impact. VM Foundation, which is part of the VM Group, provides grants under its VM ImPact Community Grants programme to fund projects aligned with the goals of achieving food security (SDG 2) and reducing poverty (SDG 1). The picture below captures the impact of a grant awarded to the Jamaica Society for the Blind in support of its The Hydroponics AgriFutures Initiative, which is designed to improve the livelihoods of persons who are blind and have low vision by equipping them with practical, income-generating agricultural skills.

The project's goal is to expand economic opportunities, foster greater self-reliance, and empower participants to establish and operate sustainable micro-agribusinesses from their homes or within their communities. Such projects are examples of the potential of innovation and mechanisation to achieve food self-sufficiency, with FGD participants observing that Jamaica can learn from countries like Guyana, which is investing in large-scale hydroponic farming infrastructure.

Overall, the findings confirm that private sector interventions align well with Vision 2030 Jamaica and significantly contribute to national development. The private sector is not only contributing to economic growth, but it is also promoting social equity, environmental stewardship, and good governance.

Hydroponics AgriFutures Initiative at Jamaica Society for the Blind. Photo Credit: VM Foundation

Box 4: Climate-resilient agro-processing, innovation and circular value chains at Sankhard Company Limited

Sankhard Company Limited represents a women-led enterprise driving inclusive growth, with approximately 80% of its workforce comprising women and a deliberate strategy to engage women suppliers and farmers. Sankhard demonstrates how sustainability can be embedded directly into core business operations and innovation. The company's agro-processing model transforms locally grown crops—such as pumpkin, mango, and peppers—into value-added food products under its Springvale and Fruitfulvale brands, strengthening domestic manufacturing while reducing reliance on imports.

A defining feature of Sankhard's approach is its climate-resilient and circular value chain. By sourcing from local farmers, including those in climate-vulnerable regions such as St. Elizabeth and Manchester, the company reduces post-harvest losses by converting surplus and imperfect produce into shelf-stable, export-ready goods. This contributes to food security (SDG 2) while advancing circular economy principles through waste reduction and resource efficiency (SDG 12).

Innovation is central to this model. Sankhard has developed a range of plant-based, clean-label products and functional food formulations that extend shelf life without artificial preservatives, improving both product sustainability and consumer health outcomes (SDG 3). These innovations also enable wider applications across retail, food service, and manufacturing, increasing the economic value of local agricultural inputs. This is demonstrated in the work the company does in pumpkin. This 4th most grown produce in Jamaica, in the hands of the Sankhard team, has moved from being a favourite boiled in soup to becoming over 10 different value-added products including pumpkin flour, ketchup (mild and spicy), BBQ sauces (in a variety of fruit flavours with pumpkin as the base), four different types of ready to eat soups, etc.

Through this integrated approach, Sankhard contributes to job creation, farmer income stability, and industrial development (SDGs 8 and 9), while positioning Jamaica's agro-processing sector for greater competitiveness in international markets. The model illustrates how MSMEs can drive SDG implementation not through standalone initiatives, but through scalable, commercially viable business systems that align resilience, innovation, and economic growth.

Related SDGs:

From pumpkin on the vine to fresh-sourced pumpkin in a bottle of Springvale Pumpkin Ketchup along with different flavours of creamy pumpkin coconut soup and the recently launched pumpkin BBQ sauce. Photo Credit: Sankhard Company Limited

Box 5: Advancing preventative breast health education for women and girls through school and workplace engagement by Valentine's Intimates

Valentine's Intimates, a Jamaican retail and service-based company specializing in professional bra fitting and breast health education, has developed and delivered a series of educational outreach sessions focused on improving awareness of breast health, body changes, and the importance of proper bra fit among young women and working professionals.

This initiative forms part of the company's broader mission to improve confidence, comfort, and long-term health outcomes through education and practical guidance. It supports SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being) through preventative health education, SDG 4 (Quality Education) by delivering practical life skills not typically covered in formal curricula, and SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by empowering women and young girls with knowledge and confidence to better understand and care for their bodies.

Through its structured presentation, "How to Find Your Right Bra Size and Why It Matters," the company addresses a critical but often overlooked issue: that a significant percentage of women wear the wrong bra size, which can contribute to discomfort, poor posture, and long-term physical strain.

Between 2023 and January 2025, Valentine's Intimates delivered this educational programme across school, corporate, and public engagement platforms, including:

- ICT Authority (formerly eGov Jamaica) – Annual Health & Wellness Fair (October 2023, September 2024)
- National Works Agency (NWA) – Workplace wellness session (March 22, 2024), with continued engagement beyond this period
- St. Richard's Primary School – Breast health and confidence session for young girls (August 2024)
- Health & Beauty Expo – Public education session (May 26, 2024)
- Paris Rubis Gourmet Swap Shop (Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce network) – Business community session (October 5, 2024)

These sessions combine education with practical demonstrations, including how to measure correctly, identify signs of an ill-fitting bra, and understand the relationship between proper support and overall physical well-being.

The initiative also incorporates interactive elements, encouraging participants to engage in open discussion around discomfort, body image, and confidence—topics that are often under-addressed, particularly among younger audiences. By delivering this education across both school and workplace environments, Valentine's Intimates is addressing a critical gap in preventative health knowledge. Early exposure among young girls supports healthier long-term habits, while workplace sessions provide immediate, practical solutions for adult women experiencing discomfort and related health concerns. This case highlights the role that small and medium-sized enterprises can play in delivering accessible, community-based health education. It demonstrates how a private sector business can extend beyond its core retail function to provide meaningful, preventative health support aligned with national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Related SDGs:

Box 6: GraceKennedy Foundation Food Bank tackles food insecurity in Universities in Jamaica

The GraceKennedy Foundation Food Bank supports multiple Sustainable Development Goals by addressing food insecurity among tertiary-level students through a partnership-based, dignity-focused approach. Implemented across three campuses: the University of Technology, Jamaica; The University of the West Indies; and the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, the initiative reflects SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by uniting the Foundation, educational institutions, and donors to support student wellbeing within higher education spaces.

The programme directly advances SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by improving access to nutritious food for students facing economic vulnerability, while also supporting SDG 4 (Quality Education) by reducing hunger as a barrier to learning, retention, and academic success. By embedding support within campus environments, the initiative further aligns with SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), helping to ensure that assistance reaches students most affected by rising living costs in a manner that preserves dignity.

The Food Bank currently supports over 200 students each month across the three participating campuses, and in 2025, more than 5,000 students benefited from food bank donations, underscoring the programme's role in strengthening student resilience and educational outcomes in Jamaica.

Related SDGs: 2 ZERO HUNGER; 4 QUALITY EDUCATION; 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES; 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Photo Credit: GraceKennedy Foundation

Box 7: Corporate foundations as vehicles for national development – the case of Sandals Foundation

Sandals Foundations: As an organisation approved for association with The Department of Global Communications (DGC) of the United Nations in March 2019, the Sandals Foundation is recognised in its efforts to support the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals. By using the strength of the tourism network, the philanthropic arm of Sandals Resorts effects positive and sustainable change by funding projects in education, community and the environment that improve the quality of life of Caribbean families.

Aligned with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), the Sandals Foundation supports children, youth, and adults by improving access to quality education through classroom, computer labs and building repairs; strengthening school environments through the installation of water systems, and building the capacity of teachers and learners through targeted training.

Under SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and 5 (Gender Equality), the philanthropic organisation expands access to essential services such as dental, eyecare, and general healthcare, and supports programmes like youth mentorship, skills training, certification and economic empowerment that improve quality of life. Through investments in women's empowerment and rehabilitation programmes, their work focuses on building resilience, supporting vulnerable groups, and empowering people to thrive.

The restoration of fragile ecosystems through tree planting and biodiversity protection; strengthening community stewardship through environmental education; and building climate resilience through investments in solar energy, hydroponics, aquaponics, and other climate smart agriculture, supports the advancement of SDG 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life Below Water), and 15 (Life on Land).

Related SDGs:

Photo Credit: Sandals Foundation

Government enabling environment for private sector contribution to national development

The analysis presented in this section draws on two complementary sources. Focus group participants were asked directly: *"How has the Government of Jamaica created an enabling environment for private sector contribution to national development?"* Their responses provided firsthand perspectives on how government policies, institutions and partnerships are experienced by private sector actors. These insights were supplemented with secondary data from policy documents, legislative frameworks, and published programme evaluations to provide a more complete picture.

We recognise that the mechanisms through which the Government of Jamaica engages the private sector are wide-ranging and span ministries, departments and agencies. While the examples provided in this section illustrate how the government has created an enabling environment for the private sector to engage with the SDGs and national development, they are not exhaustive. The examples presented are selected to demonstrate the breadth of the enabling environment across national development focal areas including education transformation, crime reduction, community development, healthcare delivery, renewable energy transition, sustainable agriculture, and modernisation of social protection.

How has the Government of Jamaica created an enabling environment for private sector contribution to national development?

The government has deliberately aligned its policies and development strategies with the SDGs, creating conditions that allow the private sector to contribute to national and global development targets. The SDGs are not treated separately from economic policy but are embedded into planning, incentives, and partnerships in ways that make private sector SDG contribution a natural extension of doing business in Jamaica. This integration reflects the various roles that governments play, namely, mandating, facilitating, partnering and endorsing roles (Bekele, Muthuri and Ayele, 2025) to help create an enabling environment for the private sector to contribute to development through sustainability and CSR practices.

The following sections examine how this enabling environment is expressed across four (4) dimensions that enable the private sector in Jamaica to contribute to job creation, global competitiveness, and sustainable growth: 1) the policy framework and business climate reforms that set the conditions for private sector engagement; 2) the institutional architecture and support structures; 3) the financial incentives and funding mechanisms; and 4) the public-private partnerships through which government and business co-deliver development outcomes.

1) Strong policy framework and business climate reforms

The SDGs are integrated into Vision 2030 Jamaica, ensuring a national alignment of the global goals with development planning. The government emphasises the strategic value of the private sector in contributing to sustainable development through its CSR programmes, sustainable business practices, innovation, and financing. Likewise, the government collaborates with international and regional partners such as the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to strengthen the business environment and enhance Jamaica's capacity to attract and sustain private-sector investment.

The government has implemented wide-ranging reforms to create a more enabling environment for both local and foreign investors to do business more easily and to invest or expand their businesses (PIOJ, 2022; 2025), thereby contributing to SDGs 8 and 9. For instance, the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2023 was enacted to strengthen Jamaica's corporate transparency framework and enhance regulatory oversight of beneficial ownership. These reforms continue to improve the business environment as well as contribute to the private sector's performance and sustainability (SDGs 8 and 9). Notably, the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) has driven the private sector pension reforms which are expanding pension coverage to help reduce inequality (SDG 10), prevent old-age poverty (SDG 1), and reform pension funds that contribute to economic development in Jamaica (SDG 8).

Overall, the government's commitment to fiscal prudence and structural reforms has delivered much-needed macroeconomic stability and strengthened the business investment climate, earning global recognition. Notably, Jamaica's credit rating was upgraded from 'B+' to 'BB-' in September 2023, and improved further to 'BB' in September 2025, marking the highest rating in the country's history (PSOJ, 2023). This strengthened financial position creates a more enabling environment for private sector growth and innovation. As mentioned in the focus group discussions, businesses can access international markets and financing, in turn increasing their contributions to sustainable economic growth and industrial development in line with SDGs 8 and 9 (PSOJ, 2023).

The government has also implemented targeted, industry-level policies designed to enable companies to contribute directly to specific SDGs. For example, investments in agribusiness and the establishment of agro-parks and agro-economic zones are aligned with advancing SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). However, insights from focus group discussions highlight challenges related to the underperformance of agro-parks due to insufficient local technical expertise, among other issues, raising concerns about the long-term viability of these initiatives and the risks that underutilised parks could fail to achieve their intended outcomes. Some participants expressed fears that the agro-parks could ultimately become like "graveyards" if unused.

In the manufacturing sector, the government continues to promote the uptake of ISO 14000 and ISO 22000 international standards designed to improve environmental sustainability (SDG 12) and food safety management (SDGs 2 and 12), respectively. The National Policy for the Trading of Carbon Credits 2010-2030 aims at creating a competitive and investment-conducive carbon trading market (SDG 13). In the mining sector, the National Minerals Policy 2017-2030 has been developed and is helping improve the industry's competitiveness, attract investment in the industrial and metallic mineral subsector, and overall enhance transparency in the mineral sector (PIOJ, 2025).

2) Institutional building and support structures

The government supports the private sector's contribution to development through established key governmental agencies that foster private sector growth, focusing on investment, economic planning, and infrastructure development. Agencies such as the Planning Institute of Jamaica, Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO), and National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) play diverse roles in mandating, endorsing, facilitating, and enabling the private sector to contribute to the SDGs.

JAMPRO is Jamaica's primary investment facilitation agency, supporting investors in identifying and navigating investment opportunities through initiatives such as the Global Logistics Hub. These efforts, including targeted sector-specific strategies such as promoting the manufacturing sector to deepen integration into global value chains, enable the private sector to contribute to economic growth (SDG 8). NEPA enforces laws and creates a regulatory and environmental framework to support the private sector in adopting cleaner technologies and sustainable practices (SDG 12), environmental stewardship (SDGs 14 and 15), and waste management (SDG 12). PIOJ enables private sector engagement with the SDGs through broader planning, coordination, and mapping national priorities for businesses to better identify where they can contribute more impactfully. These institutions provide guidelines, training and public information to increase the capacity of the private sector to contribute more meaningfully to sustainable development.

The government has initiated numerous programmes facilitating private sector contribution to the SDGs. A good example is the Learning and Investment for Transformation (LIFT) programme, which the government has invested $2 billion in, an initiative designed to boost social mobility, education and employment for young people. The private sector, through business associations like PSOJ, supports LIFT by facilitating job placements and internships for youths through their member organisations. PSOJ has made a five-year commitment to transform the lives of 2,500 youths (PSOJ, 2024), demonstrating the power of partnerships to promote youth development, workforce enhancement, and improve productivity (SDG 8).

3) Business incentives and access to funding

The government has created incentives to encourage the greening of industries, renewable energy and climate-related investments, all of which contribute to clean energy (SDG 7) and climate action (SDG 13). The government created financing platforms such as the Jamaica Green Financing Facility to support sustainable investments. The Vision 2030 National Energy Plan and various tax incentives and electricity tariffs also boost private sector investment in renewable energy. The renewable energy incentives allow for businesses and households to sell excess electricity back to the grid. By endorsing initiatives like the Clean Energy Finance Facility (CEFF) and facilitating long-term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), the Government of Jamaica has supported the establishment of large-scale projects such as the Paradise Park Solar Farm originally developed by Eight Rivers Energy Company Limited (EREC). This is the largest solar farm in Jamaica providing low-cost electricity to the national grid. InterEnergy Group has since acquired EREC (see https://interenergy.com). The government has supported Wigton Energy's transition from a wind-generating company to an energy provider with its solar expansion. Wigton Energy changed its name from Wigton Windfarm Limited in 2019, following the privatisation of the company which was formerly a wholly owned subsidiary of the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (https://wigtonenergy.com).

4) Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

Jamaica has heavily leveraged PPPs aligned to national development priorities and the SDGs to mobilise private capital and expertise. PPPs have enabled Jamaica to undertake national infrastructure development, such as transport (roads and highways), ports, energy, and airports, directly supporting SDG 9. These arrangements allow the government to share risk, improve efficiency, and accelerate project delivery.

Private sector participation has played a critical role in helping to close infrastructure gaps in Jamaica. For example, the modernisation of Norman Manley International Airport and Sangster International Airport by private operators has led to improved efficiency, upgraded facilities and expanded capacity. These developments have strengthened Jamaica's connectivity, enhanced the tourism sector, and contributed to broader economic growth. Additionally, the government is partnering with the private sector to expand broadband networks and establish internet connectivity in publicly accessible spaces by 2027, therefore contributing to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure).

Critical gaps

Despite efforts by the government to create an enabling environment and develop policies and incentives, several concerns that limit engagement with the SDGs were raised by private sector actors.

Visibility and accessibility: Existing policies and incentives are not widely known or easily accessible to all private sector actors, limiting awareness and participation.

Weak institutional coordination and collaboration: There is limited coordination and collaboration between key stakeholders, such as between the Planning Institute of Jamaica and the private sector, as well as between public and private reporting systems.

Lack of clarity on SDG priorities and roles: There is insufficient clarity regarding national SDG priorities, progress updates, and the specific role that businesses are expected to play in accelerating SDG achievement. Those who participated in the FGDs were not entirely aware of the progress Jamaica has made toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Weak communication and outreach: The private sector actors observed minimal direct engagement from the government, with the exception of a few companies invited to specific policy committees. Communication and outreach efforts with private sector actors are limited, with minimal direct engagement from the government and low levels of private sector participation in SDG processes such as the Voluntary National Review.

Absence of reporting frameworks: There is a lack of standardised tools for data collection and SDG reporting, with the exception of the ESG reporting framework used by the Jamaica Stock Exchange.

Limited incentives for SDG alignment: There are no clear tax incentives, regulatory benefits, or market rewards to encourage responsible and sustainable business practices and broader SDG alignment.

Key policy priorities to accelerate SDG implementation

What are the key policy priorities to which the private sector can contribute to accelerate SDG implementation in Jamaica?

The focus group discussions and the quantitative analysis point to five strategic priority areas where Jamaica's private sector is best positioned to deepen, broaden and accelerate its contribution to SDG implementation. Figure 8 shows the five priority areas and enablers for success that cut across the five areas.

1. Economic transformation and productivity growth

Primary SDGs: 8, 9, 10 and 17

Model initiative: Project STAR

The country's low growth over the past few years is a fundamental developmental challenge that will impact progress across all 17 SDGs. The private sector is not only the primary driver of economic activity; it is also the actor with the scale, market intelligence, and investment capacity to shift Jamaica's productive economy to be more resilient and toward inclusive growth.

The private sector can do this by investing in productive capacity and industrial modernisation such as upgrading manufacturing, logistics, and digital infrastructure in ways that raise productivity, reduce import dependence, and create quality employment. Larger companies can deepen linkages with MSMEs, helping them to access markets, finance and technical support. This will directly address SDG 10 by making growth more inclusive. The private sector will certainly be the driving force behind the digital and technology transformation, including the adoption of artificial intelligence and automation, which will determine Jamaica's competitiveness in the future.

Economic transformation requires private sector companies to look beyond their own firms toward growth for the entire country. This includes a focus on crime reduction, infrastructure investment and formalisation of the country's large informal sector. Project STAR is the model where the private sector has moved beyond its own boundaries to focus on those factors that impede economic growth such as crime (see Box 8). Scaling this model to the entire country may yield significant returns for Jamaica's private sector.

2. Workforce development and skills training

Primary SDGs: 4, 8 and 5

Model initiative: Scotiabank's Women Initiative

Jamaica has long struggled with structural issues that have excluded many working-age Jamaicans outside the formal labour market. These issues also impact the private sector. However, the private sector has the resources and industry knowledge to address this issue. In fact, workforce development aligns perfectly with business interest, and national development priority. The quantitative analysis documents the substantial scholarships, training and literacy programmes currently being undertaken by the private sector, but there is the need to move beyond these short-term measures to actively shaping the education system in Jamaica. This could mean more meaningful and long-term engagements with the Ministry of Education, HEART/NSTA Trust and tertiary institutions like The University of the West Indies (UWI) to ensure that curriculum design, vocational training and digital skills programmes reflect the actual labour market needes. It also means that special attention must be paid to people from underserved communities. Initiatives such as Scotiabank's JMD $3 billion Women Initiative point to what is possible. Such initiatives should be normalised and scaled across the entire private sector and would represent a substantial contribution to SDGs 5 and 10.

3. Climate resilience and energy transition

Primary SDGs: 7, 11, 13, 14 and 15

Model initiative: JSE's Green Bond Plus

Climate resilience is not a long-term aspiration but an imperative for survival for a small island developing state that is acutely exposed to hurricanes, sea-level rise, coral bleaching, and biodiversity loss. Hurricane Beryl's impact in 2024 and Hurricane Melissa in 2025 provided a stark reminder of the physical and economic costs of climate vulnerability. Yet the quantitative data in this report shows that climate action (SDG 13), life below water (SDG 14), and life on land (SDG 15) were among the least engaged goals for the private sector. However, it is worth noting that renewable energy was mentioned as a priority area among private sector representatives in the focus group discussions.

While it is clear from the evidence presented that the private sector is engaging in some renewable energy adoption such as solar photovoltaic systems, battery storage and energy efficiency measures, climate resilience requires more than energy transition. It requires the private sector to integrate climate risk into investment decisions and asset valuation. The JSE's Green Bond is an example of what is possible. The financial sector needs to develop and scale similar climate-linked insurance and bonds and provide 'green' funding that will help households adapt. Accelerating this transition requires the private sector to move from individual company investments to broader, more sustained sector-wide decarbonisation commitments, such as publicly reporting their carbon and water footprints.

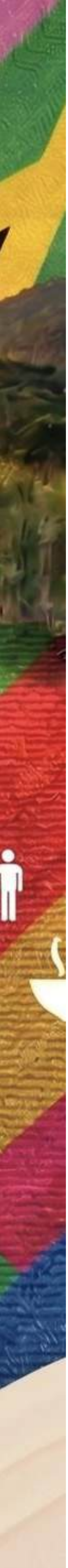
4. Waste management and circular economy

Primary SDGs: 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15

Model initiative: Recycling Partners of Jamaica

Jamaica faces a solid waste management crisis that affects public health, marine ecosystems, quality of life of citizens and tourism. The private sector is both a major generator of waste and a leader in developing the infrastructure and behavioural change programmes needed to address this crisis. Recycling Partners of Jamaica demonstrates what private sector leadership can achieve, that is, a joint public-private venture that has built national recycling infrastructure and diverted significant volumes of plastic from Jamaica's waterways and coastlines. The task now is to expand this model. This includes broadening the range of materials recovered and extending geographic reach.

The private sector, as a major waste generator, needs to deepen its commitment to waste management and circular economy by engaging in mechanisms such as mandatory extended producer responsibility (EPR) or producer pays principle (PPP). Moreover, the sector must mobilise the investment needed to move Jamaica's waste management infrastructure from fragmented recycling facilities into a circular economy. Circular economy opportunities extend beyond waste recovery to include sustainable packaging and product design, industrial symbiosis between companies that can use each other's waste streams as inputs, and sustainable supply chain management that reduces waste at source. To accelerate SDG implementation, the private sector must move from isolated initiatives to a coordinated circular economy strategy.



5. Social protection and employee welfare

Primary SDGs: 1, 3, 5, 8 and 10

Model initiative: Manpower & Maintenance Services Limited Group

The private sector's contribution to social protection is currently its most visible SDG engagement, but it is also the least transformative. As the quantitative data in this report shows, the majority of private sector social activity is welfare-oriented and philanthropic in nature, providing immediate relief to vulnerable individuals and communities without addressing the structural conditions that generate vulnerability in the first place.

The private sector can deepen its contribution in several ways, moving from a provider of charity to establishing more sustained social protection systems. First, it must pay wages that meet the real cost of living, which means implementing living wages rather than mere compliance with the government's minimum wage. It also means providing and extending employment benefits to contract and gig workers, such as pensions, health insurance, and paid maternity leave. It means supporting an unemployment insurance scheme and income support or social protection mechanisms for the unemployed. Additionally, it means treating mental health and work-life balance as core commitments rather than optional benefits. The private sector needs to move from piecemeal philanthropic initiatives to long-term, multi-year commitments with far more reach for greater impact.

Box 8: Project STAR's system approach for community transformation in Jamaica

In 2022, the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) and the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) made a decision that departed from the standard private sector role in social development. Rather than fund discrete charitable initiatives, they would convene the resources, evidence and partnerships required to address violence and weakened social outcomes at the level of whole communities, over a five-year period, with measurement built in from the start. Project STAR (Social Transformation and Renewal) is the vehicle for that commitment. A tripartite model (SDG 17) of government, private sector and communities themselves, supported by civil society, took shape around a common framework aligned with the national Plan Secure Jamaica strategy.

What makes STAR distinctive is the relocation of decision-making to the community level. Each participating community establishes a Community Transformation Board and develops a Community Transformation Action Plan, built from a baseline study, an asset map, and crime and hospital-based violence-related injury data. Programming is then sourced through community-led activity, evidence-based interventions delivered by local non-governmental organisations, and coordinated state-agency engagement. Social transformation and security are deliberately integrated: STAR works alongside the JCF's community-policing model, so that enforcement and development reinforce rather than compete with one another. Financing is diversified across corporate sponsorship, individual investments through the Jamaica Social Stock Exchange, multilateral grants and public sector funding, so that delivery does not hinge on any single source.

Economic transformation is a central pillar of STAR's model and the area in which private sector leadership is most directly translated into community-level impact. Through corporate partners, participating communities access employment pathways, skills training, enterprise development support and financial inclusion - moving decent work (SDG 8), poverty reduction (SDG 1) and reduced inequalities (SDG 10) from policy ambition into practical opportunity.

By the close of 2025, one significant review had tested the model. A Situational Analysis commissioned by the Inter-American Development Bank, applying the CFIR (Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research) and RE-AIM (Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation, Maintenance) implementation frameworks, found strong fidelity to STAR's Theory of Change, demonstrable adaptability under changing field conditions, meaningful reach into marginalised communities, observable behavioural change among youth participants and engagement with so-called 'violence generators' that previous interventions had struggled to reach, and early signals that youth-led initiatives and Community Transformation Boards are beginning to anchor themselves as durable local governance structures. The analysis recommended the model for Caribbean replication.

These findings position STAR as best practice for private sector engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals. Private sector-led social investment in the Caribbean has historically been characterised by fragmented giving and reputational programming. STAR demonstrates a different proposition: the private sector convening, financing and holding open the space for communities themselves to define and deliver the change they want, anchored by an accountability matrix that ties stakeholder roles to measurable outcomes. The contribution is not a single intervention against a single goal but an integrated model – partnership, place-based delivery, decent work, education and the reduction of violence – built and sustained on terms communities themselves set.

Related SDGs:

Photo Credit: Project Star Jamaica

Enablers for success

Across all five priority areas, three enablers will determine whether private sector contributions translate into accelerated SDG progress: standardised reporting, targeted incentives and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Standardised reporting

Without a common framework for measuring and disclosing SDG contributions, aligned with international standards, and applied consistently across the private sector, it is impossible to aggregate impact, identify gaps or hold companies accountable for commitments made. Establishing a national SDG reporting standard for JSE-listed companies, with a simplified version accessible to SMEs, is a prerequisite for the credibility and accountability that meaningful progress requires.

Targeted incentives

The business case for SDG investment in areas like climate resilience, circular economy and social protection is unfortunately not sufficiently compelling for most companies to prioritise these areas. Tax incentives for renewable energy investment, reduced taxes on agricultural machinery imports, procurement preferences for companies meeting SDG reporting standards, and access to concessional finance through green and sustainability bonds are tools governments could use to shift private sector behaviour at scale. Jamaica has begun to develop some of these instruments but there is a pressing need to deploy them more widely.

Collaboration

The most intractable development challenges Jamaica faces include climate vulnerability, inequality, skills deficits, and food insecurity. No single company, sector, or institution can solve these challenges. They require structured, sustained, multi-stakeholder partnerships, with shared governance, shared data, and shared accountability. Building and sustaining a true partnership arrangement for collective action, and connected to the national development and SDG agenda would make all other contributions more effective.

Figure 8: Priority areas for private sector SDG acceleration

FIVE PRIORITY AREAS FOR PRIVATE SECTOR SDG ACCELERATION

01 Economic transformation & productivity growth

SDG 8 · SDG 9 · SDG 10 · SDG 17

Industrial modernisation · MSME supply chain integration
Digital and AI adoption · Collective action on growth constraints

02 Workforce development & skills training

SDG 4 · SDG 5 · SDG 8 · SDG 10

Industry-shaped curriculum · Formalised apprenticeship pipelines
Women's economic empowerment · Sector-wide skills frameworks

03 Climate resilience & energy transition

SDG 7 · SDG 11 · SDG 13 · SDG 14 · SDG 15

Science-based decarbonisation targets · Green and blue bond issuance
Climate risk in investment decisions · Marine and land ecosystem commitments

04 Waste management & circular economy

SDG 11 · SDG 12 · SDG 13 · SDG 14 · SDG 15

Scaling national recycling infrastructure · Extended producer responsibility
Sustainable packaging and product design · Circular business models

05 Social protection & employee welfare

SDG 1 · SDG 3 · SDG 5 · SDG 8 · SDG 10

Living wage adoption · Extended pension, health and parental benefits
Mental health as core commitment · Long-term community development

THREE CROSS-CUTTING ENABLERS

Standardised reporting
National SDG framework for listed companies and simplified for MSMEs

Targeted incentives
Tax measures, green finance, procurement preferences and regulatory reform

Structured collaboration
Multi-stakeholder partnerships with shared governance, data and accountability

5.0
Challenges and Opportunities for SDG Integration

Photo Credit: Sandals Foundation

5.0 Challenges and Opportunities for SDG Integration

The analysis demonstrates that the private sector in Jamaica is engaged with the SDGs through a range of activities, including core business operations, social investment, environmental stewardship, and governance practices. However, despite the significance of these efforts, companies have yet to engage in the more systemic and scalable interventions necessary to support national development priorities.

The private sector faces several barriers that have limited its engagement with the SDGs including the extent to which the SDGs are aligned with core business operations, strategies, and processes. This chapter examines the key challenges and opportunities associated with strengthening private sector integration into the SDG framework. Drawing on both the analysis of corporate disclosures from companies listed on the Jamaica Stock Exchange and insights from stakeholder consultations, it highlights a range of barriers and emerging opportunities to deepen private sector SDG engagement.

Challenges at the organisational level

Snapshot:

- Lack of SDG awareness and understanding.
- Lack of skills or knowledge about sustainability and the SDGs.
- Resource constraints.
- Misalignment of incentives and business value proposition.
- Lack of organisational leadership and sustainability culture.
- High compliance burden.
- Data deficit and complexity of SDG and ESG reporting frameworks.

There is interest and goodwill among the private sector actors to support the government's national development plan. However, a significant challenge is the lack of awareness and understanding of the SDGs among private sector actors, especially among MSMEs. Companies often practice SDG-aligned activities without recognising them, reinforcing the need for awareness-building initiatives.

Companies are reporting more on their community engagement initiatives compared to their environmental impact. There is limited technical capacity about sustainability, ESG and CSR with companies relying on a few ESG specialists in Jamaica to support them deliver on SDG Target 12.6. Moreover, not many companies have governance structures dedicated to sustainability and ESG integration in their businesses.

The findings reveal that large corporations embed sustainability into their strategy and operations and seek to align themselves with international frameworks such as the SDGs. SMEs struggle to align SDGs with core business, shared value, and long-term resilience. They often lack the resources and leadership to fully integrate the SDGs into their operations and decision-making.

Companies of all sizes, from large to small enterprises, continue to navigate critical tensions in their sustainability and SDG implementation journeys: for example, they struggle with reconciling short-term profitability versus long-term systemic impact objectives. This tension is amplified by economic volatility and investors' desire for quick returns. For many, especially the MSMEs, survival frequently overrides strategic sustainability and SDG alignment. Companies of all sizes face SDG data measurements and reporting challenges with many feeling burdened by complex reporting demands with most international tools such as IFRS and GRI. The complexity of targets and metrics for measuring impact is a battle with few having the human, financial, and technical capacity to contribute effectively to SDG Target 12.6 dedicated to sustainability reporting. A key gap is a lack of standardized frameworks and tools for measuring and reporting SDG contributions.

There is an opportunity to provide more education, awareness and increase communication efforts to promote the SDG agenda and its relevance to business. This includes simplifying the information and showcasing the benefits of SDG alignment. For the private sector to fully embrace the SDG agenda, it is essential to demonstrate the connection between sustainable practices and business value including promoting energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable supply chain management. Opportunities lie in showcasing how SDG alignment can drive cost savings, improve profitability, build stakeholder relations, enhance competitiveness, and build resilience to external shocks. There is an opportunity for simplified reporting mechanisms and baseline support to help businesses, particularly MSMEs, track their progress.

Challenges at the structural level

Snapshot:

- Weak regulatory requirements and policy gaps to mandate sustainable and responsible business practices.
- A fragmented policy enabling environment.
- Lack of national standardised measuring and reporting frameworks.
- Limited incentives and financing mechanisms to encourage sustainable business.
- Weak inter-government coordination on sustainability and the SDGs.

The crucial role of the government in supporting private sector engagement with the SDGs should be underscored. However, there appears to be some disconnect between on-the-ground business practices and the formal SDG commitments and national development goals. Whilst different governmental policies and regulatory frameworks promote, encourage and mandate responsible and sustainable business conduct, their enforcement is often inconsistent or weak. As highlighted in the focus group discussions, this is evident in the adherence to the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) and environmental regulations. As such, strengthening enforcement mechanisms and accountability systems will be essential to align private sector behaviour with Jamaica’s sustainable development objectives.

There is a lack of broad government communication about Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs with private companies. Company representatives spoke of a perceived top-down approach adopted by the government in policy design and execution, with many viewing the government as the owner and implementer of the SDGs, except for SDGs 8 and 9. Government or governmental agencies do not sufficiently consult private sector actors during policy formulation and implementation. There is a sense of mistrust in the government's ability to meaningfully engage the private sector as well as follow through on policy commitments. For example, private sector representatives call on the government to move beyond what they perceive as performative VNR consultations that appear to be a “tick-box” exercise to comply with VNR country requirements. As noted, the credibility of the VNR ultimately depends on whether stakeholders' input can be clearly seen to be shaping both the final report and Jamaica's broader SDG commitments. In this regard, the private sector is advocating for greater transparency, more meaningful participation, and long-term planning horizons.

Jamaica suffers from a data deficit, including the invisibility of private sector SDG contributions. This is compounded by a lack of standardised formal reporting mechanisms, poor impact measurements and reporting infrastructure, and limited government guidance on measurement and tracking, posing significant challenges for credible reporting on private sector SDG engagement. Jamaica's private sector struggles with data reporting and access to suitable data infrastructure especially the small and medium-sized enterprises. The absence of regulatory requirements reduces motivation to learn about or report on the SDGs.

There is an opportunity for the government to streamline regulations requirements to reduce the burden on MSMEs. There is also an opportunity for the government to provide incentives to encourage all types of companies to engage with the national development agenda. This includes providing financial incentives, tax breaks, and other forms of support to encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices.

Challenges at the ecosystem level

Snapshot:

- Fragmented collaboration and partnerships for SDG acceleration.
- Limited coordination between public and private sector SDG implementation.
- Insufficient cross-sector engagement and knowledge exchange.
- Underutilised institutional platforms for collaboration.

Strategic partnerships among private sector organisations, government agencies, academia, civil society, and international development partners are critical to accelerating progress towards the SDGs and Jamaica's national development agenda. However, current collaboration across these stakeholders remains fragmented and inconsistent, limiting the overall effectiveness and scalability of SDG-related initiatives. Jamaica faces complex and interconnected challenges including vulnerability to natural disasters, biodiversity loss, and persistent poverty that require integrated, systems-level responses. Addressing these issues effectively demand a shift from siloed approaches to more coordinated, multi-sector strategies that leverage the comparative strengths of each stakeholder group.

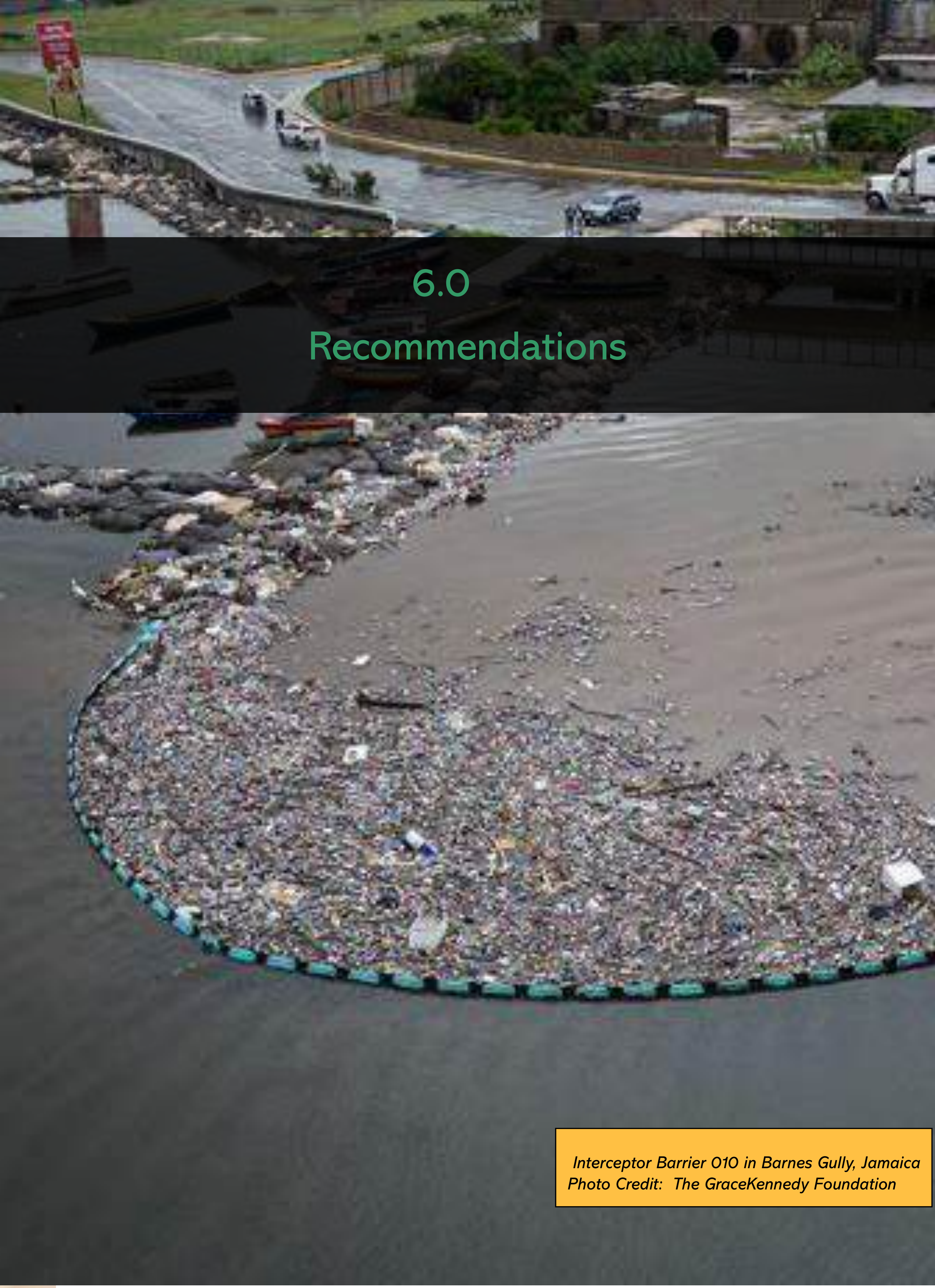
The private sector representatives highlighted a persistent gap in coordination, particularly between government entities responsible for SDG oversight and implementation and private sector actors and their representative associations. This disconnect has contributed to duplication of efforts, inefficient resource allocation, and missed opportunities for alignment on national priorities. Private sector stakeholders, in particular, expressed frustration with unclear entry points for engagement, limited communication channels, and the absence of structured mechanisms for sustained dialogue and partnership with the government.

Additionally, cross-sector collaboration remains limited, with insufficient platforms for knowledge sharing, joint problem-solving, and co-creation of solutions. While there are existing institutional frameworks and partnership mechanisms, these are often underutilised or lack the operational capacity and incentives needed to drive meaningful engagement. Consequently, opportunities for mentorship programmes, joint ventures, public-private partnerships (PPPs), and multi-stakeholder initiatives are not being fully realised.

There is a clear opportunity to strengthen collaborative governance by establishing more formal, transparent, and inclusive mechanisms for partnerships. This includes improving institutional coordination, enhancing data and knowledge sharing systems, and creating enabling policies and incentives that encourage private sector participation in sustainable development initiatives. Proactively fostering a culture of collaboration—supported by clear mandates, accountability frameworks, and shared goals—will be essential to unlock collective impact and accelerate SDG progress in Jamaica.

6.0

Recommendations



Interceptor Barrier 010 in Barnes Gully, Jamaica
Photo Credit: The GraceKennedy Foundation

6.0 Recommendations

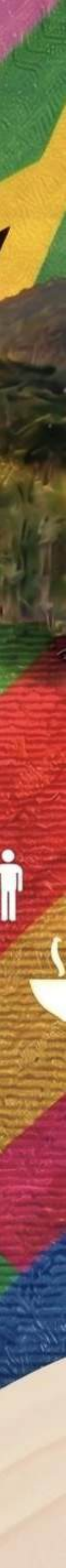
The private sector in Jamaica plays an important role as implementers of sustainable development and national priorities. To promote the private sector's contribution towards a more sustainable and inclusive national development in Jamaica, the following recommendations that blend regulatory, business innovation, data and technology, governance standards, capacity building and support systems, economic incentives, partnerships, and enforcement of regulations will help accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

The recommendations are sector-focused, with Table 5 addressing the public sector, Table 6 addressing the private sector, and Table 7 addressing ecosystem actors. The SDG ecosystem refers to the broader institutional landscape within which public and private sector actors operate, including business associations like PSOJ, civil society organisations, academic institutions, international development partners, and the media.

Table 5: Public sector focused recommendations

Objective	Recommendations	Priority
Improve SDG awareness and build capacity especially among MSMEs	**Lead national awareness and behaviour change** • Scale national SDG awareness campaigns via PIOJ and business associations. • Simplify SDG messaging for business relevance. • Launch national communication campaigns. • Offer training and education to increase SDG knowledge. • Fund and convene tri-sector partnerships for knowledge transfer and knowledge sharing. • Use business associations as SDG enablers, connectors, conveners, facilitators, mobilisers and champions. • Enhance knowledge transfer by sharing best practices. • Enact incentives for responsible business practices, and harsh penalties for irresponsible, unethical and unsustainable business action.	High

Strengthen coordinated policy efforts to scale impact	**Establish a coherent national SDG governance system** ● Reward companies of different sizes that demonstrate commitment to sustainable practices and SDG alignment. ● Institutionalise SDG coordination through formal inter-agency and public-private sector platforms. ● Develop and operationalise a simple, standardised national SDG reporting framework. ● Create a central data repository integrating private sector contributions into national SDG tracking and monitoring systems. ● Establish a bipartisan development compact aligned with Vision 2030 Jamaica. ● Support the establishment of a Jamaica Local Network of the UN Global Compact (UNGC) to promote responsible and sustainable business practices. ● Communicate transparently and openly about opportunities and resources available to the private sector. ● Cultivate accountability mechanisms embedded in national planning structures.	High
Influence the private sector's responsible and sustainable business practices	**Design incentive-driven policy frameworks** ● Introduce targeted tax incentives and concessional financing for SDG-aligned investments such as green technology, renewable energy, electric vehicles and agriculture mechanisation. ● Embed SDG incentives into existing tax systems like the General Consumption Tax (GCT) or corporate tax filings. ● Use public procurement to reward sustainability / SDG / ESG-compliant firms. ● Provide MSMEs with technical assistance, grants, and simplified compliance tools. ● Enable access to financial and capacity-building programmes.	Medium - High



Improve SDG reporting and private sector accountability	**Mandate and enforce sustainability / ESG reporting** ● Introduce phased mandatory or semi-mandatory sustainability or ESG reporting starting with large firms and listed companies. ● Co-create strategies that help track the private sector's contribution and the progress made over time: e.g. a standardised ESG reporting framework tailored to the Jamaican context, while aligning with international standards (e.g., IFRS S1/S2) to ensure comparability and attract investment. ● Strengthen enforcement through agencies like NEPA for environmental sustainability. ● Introduce penalties for non-compliance with reporting requirements and be consistent with the monitoring and enforcement of regulations.	Medium
Drive regulatory reform and improve policy enforcement	**Drive structural economic and regulatory reform** ● Enforce labour laws and NIS compliance. ● Promote local workforce development over expatriate dependence. ● Enforce local content requirements for foreign investments. ● Reduce regulatory burden for MSMEs while maintaining standards. ● Develop a national circular economy framework.	Medium - High
Foster authentic engagement and trust-based collaboration	**Develop meaningful collaboration and co-create implementation strategies** ● Reduce performative consultations that appear like a “tick-box” exercise to comply with VNR country requirements - seek to build meaningful value-driven private sector participation. ● Institutionalise continuous private sector engagement beyond VNR cycles. ● Replace “tick-box” consultations with formal co-creation mechanisms for SDG policy and VNRs. ● Publish evidence of how the private sector’s input shapes government decisions and policymaking.	Medium - High

Improve sustainability and SDG-related knowledge creation and knowledge sharing	**Strengthen national research coordination and encourage experimentation** ● Provide incentives for the private sector to invest in research and development that align with SDG priorities like sustainable business models and green technologies. ● Establish a centralised mechanism to align SDG-related research priorities to avoid duplication and ensure policy relevance. ● Expand funding for SDG-related data collection, research and knowledge platforms that track SDG progress and generate actionable insights for decision-making. ● Establish SDG knowledge hubs in partnership with the private sector to translate research findings into practical tools and policy actions. ● Collaborate more systematically with universities and research institutions to co-produce knowledge that supports the role of business in national development. ● Strengthen public-private research and informed dialogues on sustainability and the SDGs.	Medium - High

Table 6: Private sector focused recommendations

Objective	Recommendations	Priority
Shift from philanthropy to integration of sustainability and ethics principles in the core business	**Adoption of sustainability and inclusive business practice** • Deliver training programmes on ESG and SDG integration. • Support MSMEs by integrating them into supply chains. • Establish mentorship programmes linking large firms and MSMEs. • Create knowledge-sharing portals within the organisation. • Align sustainability and the SDGs with business value including profitability, resilience, and competitiveness. • Invest in green technologies, energy efficiency, and circular models. • Promote local workforce development and inclusive employment practices. • Embed sustainability and the SDGs into core strategy, operations, and revenue models. • Award employees who demonstrate commitment to sustainable practices and SDG alignment. • Establish sustainability and SDG champions in organisations.	High
Reduce data deficit and reporting gaps	**Invest in data, measurement, and reporting systems** • Develop internal ESG data systems and impact measurement tools. • Deliver training programmes on sustainability/SDG/ESG reporting. • Align reporting with national frameworks and global standards (IFRS, GRI).	High

Improve sustainability and SDG-related knowledge creation and knowledge sharing	**Promote and encourage sustainability/SDG/ESG research and knowledge transfer** • Introduce an annual private sector survey to systematically capture SDG data on awareness, engagement, challenges, and contributions related to sustainability and the SDGs. • Invest in research and innovation that align with SDG priorities, including sustainable business models and sustainable technologies. • Develop and or promote private sector knowledge-sharing platforms. • Use knowledge-sharing platforms to disseminate research findings, best practices and case studies. • Actively participate in knowledge creation and knowledge transfer initiatives related to sustainability and SDG alignment.	Medium
Reduce the disconnect between policy and business realities	**Shape policy through structured engagement** • Engage collectively through associations to influence practical policy design. • Participate in consultations with evidence-based inputs. • Prioritise greater transparency and policy clarity in areas such as energy transition by proactively addressing communication gaps, particularly around the government's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) to improve private sector understanding and investor confidence.	Medium
Strengthen partnership and coordination across firms	**Leverage collective action through business associations** • Start initiatives that support knowledge change and peer-to-peer learning. • Create accessible knowledge-sharing portals. • Use business associations as enablers, connectors, conveners, facilitators, mobilisers and champions of responsible business. • Use platforms like Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica, Jamaica Stock Exchange, and Jamaica Manufacturers and Exporters Association for knowledge sharing and policy influence.	Medium

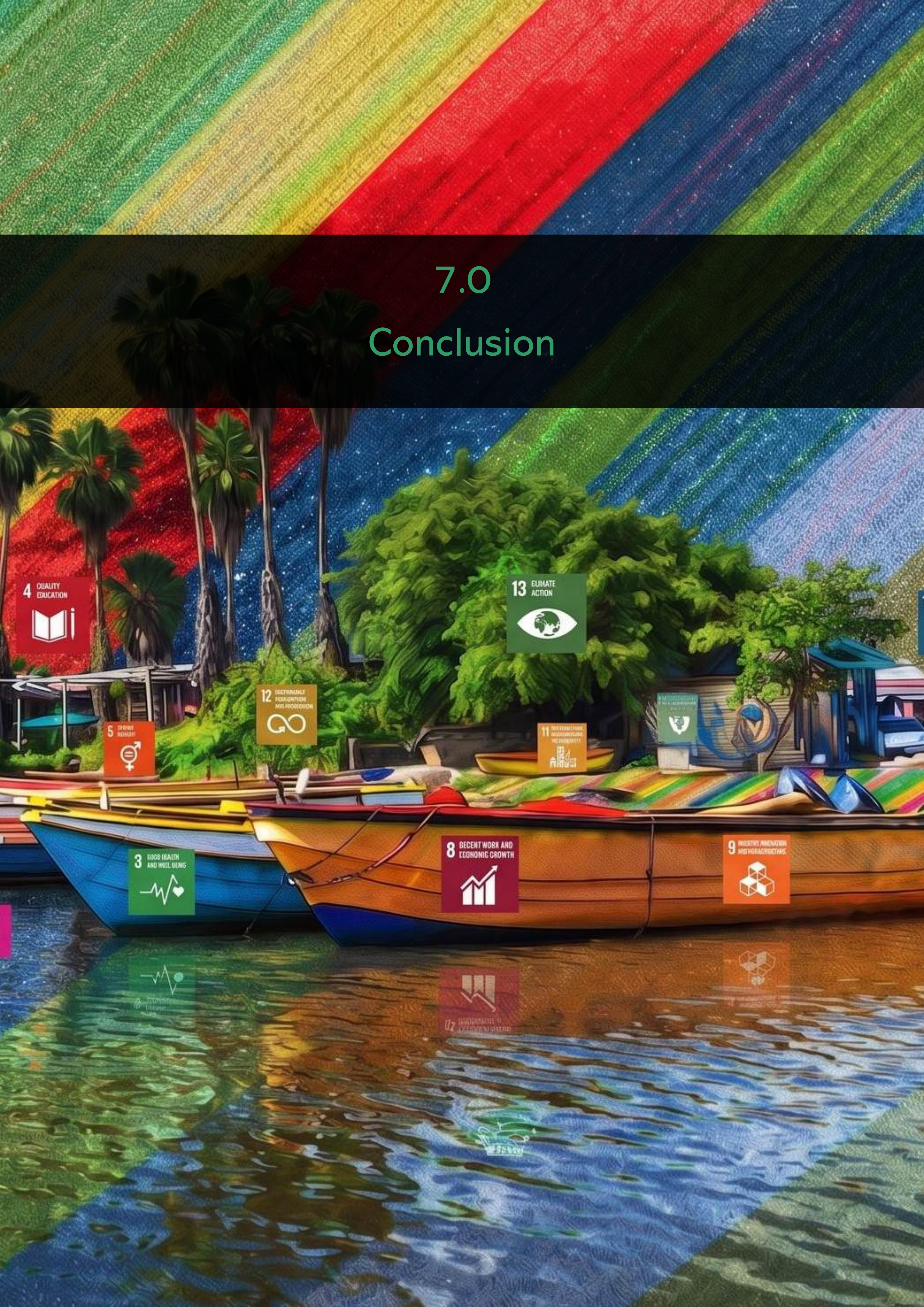
Table 7: Ecosystem focused recommendations

Objective	Recommendations	Priority
Facilitate multi-stakeholder engagement and improve coordination	**Strengthen SDG Intermediaries and Coordinators** • Use institutions like the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica and Jamaica Stock Exchange as coordination hubs. • Provide financial resources and mechanisms to facilitate tri-sector collaborations that help accelerate the SDGs. • Develop capacity building and knowledge transfer initiatives. • Align Jamaica with global ESG and SDG best practice. • Translate national SDG priorities into sector-specific guidance. • Promote participation in initiatives like the UN Global Compact. • Adhere to quality participation and inclusion principles in the governance of partnerships. • Increase transparency and accountability by publishing private sector special reports and progress assessments.	Medium - High
Reduce accessibility barriers and reporting complexity	**Develop shared tools and platforms** • Co-create a national SDG/ESG reporting platform and dashboards. • Provide standardised templates and toolkits for MSMEs.	High
Strengthen sustainability and SDG-related knowledge creation and knowledge sharing	**Promote and encourage sustainability/SDG/ESG research, capacity building and knowledge transfer** • Promote collaborative research initiatives for multiple stakeholders to co-design and co-produce sustainability knowledge. • Act as a knowledge broker and translate complex research into practical guidance tailored for business and policymakers. • Develop shared knowledge platforms that act as repositories of SDG research, tools and case studies that are accessible to all stakeholders.	Medium - High

	• Support capacity-building initiatives that provide training and technical assistance to help companies of all sizes generate and use knowledge effectively. • Advocate for the strengthening and implementation of Education for Sustainable Development in the national curriculum. • Sensitise young people about their rights, responsibilities and roles as sustainability change agents.	
Mobilise global partnership and encourage local collaborative action	**Co-create and scale impact** • Co-create policies through meaningful and inclusive dialogue that goes beyond ad hoc committees. • Promote transparency in both public and private sector performance. • Facilitate access to international financing and technical assistance. • Structure collaboration action to produce actionable and policy-ready inputs. • Adhere to quality participation and inclusion principles in the governance of partnerships.	Medium

7.0

Conclusion



7.0 Conclusion

Jamaica's private sector is engaging with the Sustainable Development Goals. That much is clear from the evidence presented in this VNR Special Report. Across 51 JSE-listed companies, 1,058 initiatives were recorded in 2024 alone, spanning all 17 goals and 14 sectors. Eighty-eight per cent of those companies have adopted the SDG framework as their primary sustainability vocabulary which signals a private sector which is aware of the global sustainable development agenda.

As this report has shown, companies are increasingly integrating sustainability into their operations, investing in communities and supporting national priorities, highlighting the fact that conditions for meaningful engagement currently exist. However, while this engagement is significant, it remains fragmented, uneven across firms and sectors, and not sufficient to deliver transformative, system-wide impact. Based on candid discussions with various private sector stakeholders, a more purposeful private sector partnership is possible.

The quantitative analysis reveals a private sector whose SDG engagement is concentrated among specific SDGs, internally focused and heavily weighted toward the goals that align most naturally with their core business interests. SDG 8 alone accounts for nearly one in three recorded initiatives for FY 2024. The top five goals account for 72% of all activities. The environmental goals (SDGs 13, 14, and 15) did not see much engagement which is somewhat surprising for a small island developing state whose economy depends heavily on healthy ecosystems. SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) recorded only 2 initiatives across the entire listed private sector in 2024. This shows a critical gap that must be addressed with urgency for the country's long-term resilience and inclusive growth, if it is to fulfil its promise of '*leaving no one behind*'.

While many initiatives align with the goals of Vision 2030 Jamaica, this alignment is often not formalised or even measured. As a result, opportunities to scale impact, leverage synergies and track progress at the national level are not fully realised. The focus group discussions deepened this picture. Participants described a private sector that is willing, increasingly aware, and in many cases, motivated to contribute more towards SDG acceleration. However, they are also constrained by several barriers which include the lack of incentives to encourage SDG investments particularly in social protection and environmental action; inadequate and/or non-existing data systems that make it difficult to track and report SDG contributions; and the absence of a robust public-private partnership that gives the private sector a genuine role in shaping the sustainability agenda.

One of the significant findings that cuts across both the quantitative analysis and the focus group discussions is the lack of awareness and understanding of the SDGs among private sector actors, especially among SMEs. Many companies, particularly smaller enterprises, are engaged in activities that are directly aligned with the SDGs, such as skills training, waste reduction, community health programmes, without recognising or framing them as such. Companies are contributing to the SDGs without the language, the framework, or even the reporting infrastructure to name it. This awareness and recognition deficit has consequences that extend well beyond reporting. Companies that do not recognise their own SDG contributions cannot build on them strategically. They cannot communicate their value to investors and partners or connect them to the national development agenda of Jamaica in ways that generate policy recognition or public accountability.

Unlocking the full potential of the private sector will require a more intentional and structured approach to engagement. This process includes stronger government leadership in setting clear priorities, expanding the use of targeted incentives to encourage SDG-aligned investments and establishing standardised reporting and data systems that enable consistent measurement of private sector contributions. In particular, supporting MSMEs through capacity building, access to finance and simplified sustainability frameworks will be essential to broadening participation and ensuring that SDG engagement is not limited to large firms.

At the same time, systemic challenges persist. These include gaps in technical capacity, limited awareness and understanding of SDG integration, weak data and monitoring systems and insufficient coordination across public and private stakeholders. Addressing these constraints will require sustained investment in institutional strengthening, skills development and the creation of a unified reporting platform for collaboration and knowledge sharing.

The evidence presented in this Special Report is not perfect and the underlying samples are not truly representative of the entire private sector but it shows a private sector that is engaged in sustainability and national development initiatives. Importantly, with the right enabling conditions, incentives and partnerships, the sector can have an even more significant impact in development.

Ultimately, achieving Jamaica's sustainable development ambitions will depend on the extent to which the private sector is effectively mobilised as a full partner in national development. With a more enabling policy environment, stronger coordination mechanisms and enhanced accountability frameworks, Jamaica is well-positioned to harness the innovation, investment capacity and reach of its private sector to drive inclusive and resilient growth. This report underscores that the foundation has been laid. The next phase must focus on scaling impact, deepening alignment and transforming engagement from just mere activities to measurable outcomes.

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Ministry of Industry & Commerce	www.miic.gov.jm
Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica	https://www.psoj.org

Appendices

Appendix 1: Company Reports Analysed

138 Student Living Jamaica Limited	Kingston Properties Limited	Sandals Resorts International
A.S. Bryden & Sons Holdings Limited	Kingston Wharves Limited	Scotia Group Jamaica Limited
Barita Investments Limited	Lasco Distributors Limited	Seprod Limited
Berger Paints Jamaica Limited	Lasco Manufacturing Limited	Stanley Motta Limited
Caribbean Cement Company Limited	MPC Caribbean Clean Energy Limited	Sterling Investments Limited
Carreras Limited	Margaritaville (Turks) Limited	Supreme Ventures Limited
Digicel Group	Massy Holdings Limited	Sygnus Credit Investments Limited JMD (SCIJMD)
Eppley Caribbean Property Fund Limited SCC	Mayberry Group Limited	TransJamaican Highway Limited
Eppley Limited	NCB Financial Group Limited	VM Investments Limited
First Rock Real Estate Investments Limited	Palace Amusement Co. Limited	Wigton Energy Limited
General Accident Insurance Company (JA) Limited	Pan Jamaica Group Limited	Wisynco Group Limited
GraceKennedy Limited	Portland JSX Limited	
Guardian Holdings Limited	Proven Group Limited	
Innovative Energy Group Limited	Pulse Investments Limited	
J. Wray and Nephew Limited	QWI Investments Limited	
JMMB Group Limited	Radio Jamaica Limited	
Jamaica Broilers Group	Sagicor Group Jamaica Limited	
Jamaica National Group	Sagicor Real Estate X Fund Limited	
Jamaica Producers Group Limited	Sagicor Select Funds Limited	
Key Insurance Company Limited	Salada Foods Jamaica Limited	

Appendix 2: Focus Group Discussion Participants

Name of Organisation	Classification
Barita Foundation	Foundation
CorpCare - Social Impact Consultants Limited	SME
Fleetwood Jamaica Limited	Large
GraceKennedy Foundation	Foundation
GraceKennedy Group	Large
Jamaica Employers' Federation	Business Association
Jamaica Manufacturers and Exporters Association	Business Association
Jamaica Stock Exchange	Large
Jamaica Teas	SME
JMMB Limited	Large
Lifespan Company Limited	SME
Manpower & Maintenance Services Limited	SME
Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica	Business Association
Sankhard Company Limited	SME
Valentine's Intimates	SME
VM Foundation	Foundation

Appendix 3: List of Company Foundations in Jamaica

Name of Foundation	Company
Barita Foundation	Barita Investments Limited
C.B.Facey Foundation (CBFF)	Pan Jamaica Group Limited
Desnoes & Geddes (D&G) Foundation	Red Stripe
Digicel Foundation	Digicel Group
Eppley Limited Foundation	Eppley Limited
FirstRock Foundation	First Rock Real Estate Investments Limited
Flow Foundation	Flow Jamaica
GraceKennedy (GK) Foundation	GraceKennedy Limited
Guardian Group Foundation	Guardian Holdings Limited
Issa Trust Foundation	Couples Resorts
Jamaica Broilers Group Foundation	Jamaica Broilers Group
St. Mary Education Trust	Jamaica Producers Group Limited
JMMB Joan Duncan Foundation	JMMB Group Limited
JN Foundation	Jamaica National Group
JWN Foundation	J.Wray & Nephew Limited
LASCO Chin Foundation	LASCO Distributors Limited Lasco Manufacturing Limited
Massy Foundation	Massy Holdings Limited
Mayberry Foundation	Mayberry Group Limited Mayberry Jamaican Equities Limited
N.C.B. Foundation	N.C.B. Financial Group Limited
Rainforest SeaFoods Foundation	Rainforest SeaFoods

Name of Foundation	Company
RJRGLEANER Sports Foundation	Radio Jamaica Limited
Sagicor Foundation	The Sagicor Group Jamaica Limited; Sagicor Real Estate X Fund Limited Sagicor Select Funds Limited
Sandals Foundation	Sandals Resorts International
Scotia Jamaica Foundation	Scotia Group Jamaica Limited
Seprod Foundation	Sepron Ventures Limited
VM Foundation	VM Investments Limited

Appendix 4: Individual SDG Implementation

About the Individual SDG Tables

The SDG tables provide an aggregated overview of the private sector contributions for FYs 2023 and 2024. The analysis is designed to provide a perspective on various economic, social, environmental and governance practices over the two years. It is not intended to be a year-on-year comparative assessment of SDG engagement.

We recognise and acknowledge that many companies in Jamaica are making incredible and impactful contributions across the SDGs, as demonstrated by the number of initiatives reported in the corporate reports. As such, the few examples provided are not intended to be a representative sample of the range of initiatives and interventions by companies.

The *number of companies* refers to the total count of companies implementing SDG-related initiatives as reported in the FYs 2023 and 2024. Each company is counted once, regardless of the number of initiatives undertaken or the different year(s) of implementation.

The *number of initiatives* captures the cumulative total of all initiatives undertaken and reported in FYs 2023 and 2024, and which we subsequently map to the different SDGs. The initiatives are counted individually, including the multiple initiatives undertaken by the same company.

The *types of interventions* capture the diversity of approaches employed by companies to deliver social, economic, environmental and governance outcomes and impacts. The interventions are a thematic classification of all the initiatives undertaken across the reporting period.

1 NO POVERTY

No. of companies: 24

Number of initiatives reported: 52

Companies are supporting vulnerable and marginalised communities, and those who have been severely affected by natural disasters. Financial donations and in-kind support are the dominant mode of corporate community engagement focused on welfare and social protection. Companies are also developing new products targeted at the Bottom of the Pyramid communities.

Type of interventions:

- Financial donations
- Bottom of the Pyramid (BoP) service/product development (e.g. micro-insurance, pension schemes, loan restructuring)
- Financial inclusion
- Community centre development
- In-kind donations (food, school supplies, toys, office supplies, farm tools, home appliances)
- Employee volunteering
- Employment opportunities
- Event sponsorships
- Scholarships

A few company examples of interventions and how they address the SDG targets

Intervention	SDG Target	Example
Employment opportunities	**Target 1.1**: By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day.	**TransJamaican Highway Limited:** They foster good relations in the surrounding communities through their community employment programme. Workers are offered the chance to be self-sufficient by earning fair wages for different jobs such as fence repairers, road-sweepers and goat-herders.
In-kind donations	**Target 1.2:** By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.	**JN Group:** Comfort for Christmas Initiative to Mustard Seed communities which involved donating cases of children and adult diapers to six Mustard Seed Communities across the island.
BoP product development	**Target 1.3:** Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.	**JMMB Group Limited:** Provides an unemployment insurance scheme that aims to assist unemployed workers. This will help mitigate the financial uncertainty associated with unemployment and have a net positive effect on households and society.
Financial inclusion	**Target 1.4:** By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.	**Jamaica National Group:** Launched the JN Financial Academy which provides financial literacy training and offers Life Classes to promote financial inclusion, community engagement and mental wellness.
Community centre development	**Target 1.5:** By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.	**Seprod Limited**: In partnership with Mercy Corps, Seprod Foundation developed the Bull Bay Resilience Hub, a multi-use space to enhance disaster preparedness, youth engagement, and climate resilience in Bull Bay.

2 ZERO HUNGER

No. of companies: 23

Number of initiatives reported: 46

Companies are contributing to achieving food security, improving nutrition particularly among young children, through school feeding and food growing initiatives. They are promoting sustainable agriculture, strengthening the agricultural supply chain, and investing in sustainable farming practices. Those in agricultural and manufacturing sectors are continuously innovating their own practices and working closely with local smallholder farmers to increase productivity.

Type of interventions:

- School feeding programmes
- In-kind donation (food, beverages, farm equipment)
- Micro-financing and grants
- Training and capacity building
- Agriculture infrastructure
- Enterprise / Business development
- Facilities and farm subsidies
- Partnerships
- Financial donations and event sponsorship
- Employee volunteering
- Establishing food banks
- Product development and innovation
- Healthy food/living awareness campaigns
- Bottom of the Pyramid loans
- School feeding initiatives

A few examples of interventions and how companies address the SDG targets

Intervention	SDG Target	Example
Enterprise/ Business development	**Target 2.1:** By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	**J. Wray & Nephew Limited:** The foundation expanded the Chicken Starter Pack project to the Clarendon community reaching over 40 individuals and empowering them with the necessary resources and guidance required to establish sustainable and profitable poultry ventures.
Financial donations and event sponsorship	**Target 2.1**	**GraceKennedy Limited:** Grace Food Festival brought Jamaicans together for a day of food, fun, and philanthropy at the inaugural Grace Food Festival. The event celebrated Jamaica's rich culinary heritage while giving back to the community, with proceeds directed to three deserving charities -House of SDM, Girls Do Good Foundation and Feeding of the 5000 - which shared a J$1 million donation.
School feeding initiatives	**Target 2.2**: By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.	**Kingston Properties Limited:** School Feeding Initiative at Callaloo Mews Basic School funded a lunch programme to give students the right start with proper nutrition, improving their health and school attendance.
In-kind donation Capacity building	**Target 2.3**: By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.	**Digicel Group:** Rural Farmer Support Program provided essential farming equipment and trained 50 farmers in rural Saint Andrew on the proper use and maintenance of these tools.
Product development and innovation	**Target 2.3**	**Seprod Limited:** Invests in local milling capacity by growing more of local feed in Golden Grove to replace expensive imports.
BoP Loans	**Target 2.3**	**Massy Holdings Limited:** Small farmer loan program for food security provides loans to small farmers to improve their agricultural productivity and incomes.
Sponsorship	**Target 2.3**	**Sagicor Group Jamaica Limited:** Contributed $3.5 million in sponsorship to the Denbigh Agricultural, Industrial, and Food Show and supported businesses in agro-processing through Sagicor Bank's Manufacturing and Agro-Processing Loan and Sagicor Life's Agri Care Plan.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

No. of companies: 39

Number of initiatives reported: 170

Companies are contributing through investments in mental health, preventative health, strengthening national health systems and infrastructure, workplace wellness programmes, health insurance coverage, public health education and partnerships. Companies especially those in the health sector are leveraging innovation and technology to improve service delivery and expand equitable access to quality care.

Type of interventions:

- Mental health programmes
- Preventive health campaigns
- Blood donation drives
- In-kind donations (e.g. medical equipment)
- Walks and runs
- Holistic health and well-being
- Workplace health and safety initiatives
- General health awareness campaigns
- Public health education
- Volunteering
- Partnerships
- Research and development
- Health systems support

A few company examples of interventions and how they address the SDG targets

Intervention	Target	Exemplary story
Mental health programme	**Target 3.4**: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.	**JN Group:** Power of Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign, which raises awareness of breast cancer and provides free screenings to women. **Proven Group Limited:** Sponsored Kaleidoscope mental health awareness sponsorship.
Preventive health campaigns	**Target 3.4**	**GraceKennedy Limited:** Campus Connect: Making the A Grade – a Health Edition seminar which equipped over 170 students with essential tools for health, nutrition, and stress management.
Walks and runs	**Target 3.4**	**NCB Financial Group Limited:** SHINE charity 5K & 10K walk and run. **JMMB Group Limited:** Community Health run/walk.
Holistic health and well-being	**Target 3.4**	**Barita Investments Limited:** Community Well-being and Sustainability Program which raises awareness around mental, physical and financial wellbeing.
Public health education	**Target 3.6**: By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.	**TransJamaican Highway Limited:** Implementing crash mitigation measures to reduce accidents and fatalities on the highway.
Health systems support	**Target 3.8:** Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	**General Accident Insurance:** Annual Blood Drive in collaboration with Chain of Hope Jamaica & National Blood Transfusion Service supported by the Musson Foundation for patients awaiting heart surgery at the Bustamante Hospital for Children. Jamaica Cancer Society benefited from a $100,000 donation. **Lasco Manufacturing Limited:** Blood drive initiative, in collaboration with the National Blood Transfusion Service.
Workplace health and safety initiatives	**Target 3.9** By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.	**Caribbean Cement Company Limited:** Workplace Health and Safety Program through the Cemex Health and Safety Management System. Resulted in 879 days without a Lost Time Incident (LTI) at the Rockfort facility, and 3,561 days LTI-free at quarries.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

No. of companies: 45

Number of initiatives reported: 255

Companies are investing in inclusive education and access to quality education through investments in scholarships to needy students, continuous skills development, workforce readiness initiatives, development of learning resources and learning platforms, supporting vocational training, building educational institutions, and teacher education and development.

Type of interventions:

- Scholarships / Bursaries
- Digital literacy
- STEM programs
- School construction and rehabilitation
- Literacy and numeracy initiatives
- Training & Development (AI, work readiness, IT)
- Employee volunteering
- Financial donations / grants
- Internships
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs
- Student housing
- School clubs (STEM, Environment, IT) sponsorship
- In-kind support (construction materials, books, IT technology and equipment, kitchen equipment)
- Designing and supporting e-learning platforms
- Special needs awareness campaigns
- Partnerships
- Continuous personal and professional development

A few company examples of interventions and how they address the SDG targets

Intervention	Target	Exemplary story
Scholarships	**Target 4.1:** By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	**JN Group:** JN Primary Exit Profile Scholarship Program – this is a five-year scholarship scheme for primary-level students.
School construction and rehabilitation	**Target 4.2: By 2030,** ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.	**Caribbean Cement Company Limited:** Donated materials to support school improvement efforts at St. Boniface Early Childhood Centre. **Digicel Group:** Partnered with the Early Childhood Commission to renovate 7 early childhood institutions, 13 science labs, donated 42 mobile science labs for high schools, completed 4 out of 10 Smart Rooms established in primary schools across rural Jamaica.
Internships	**Target 4.3**: By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.	**J. Wray & Nephew Limited:** Annual Scholarship Awards Programme & Internship Initiative.
Student housing	**Target 4.3**	**138 Student Living Jamaica Limited:** Offered world-class accommodation and social programmes by providing free housing valued at $15.68m to 20 Resident Advisors at The UWI.
AI training	**Target 4.4**: By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship	**Guardian Holdings Limited:** Collaborated with The Walt Disney Company as a strategic sponsor of the Planting Seeds AI Training Workshop.
Continuous personal and professional development	**Target 4.4**	**Supreme Ventures Limited:** Supreme Ventures University provides employees with free access to courses designed to enhance professional skills and personal development.
Grants	**Target 4.5**: By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.	**Barita Investments Limited:** Supports the 'Follow The Trail, Invest in Braille' campaign which helps students with special needs. **GraceKennedy Limited:** Awarded Early Childhood and Special Needs Education Grants to equip institutions dedicated to advancing early childhood and special needs education.
Literacy and numeracy initiatives	**Target 4.6:** Ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy	**General Accident Insurance Company (JA) Limited:** Read Across Jamaica Day Initiative aimed at introducing students to the joy of reading.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

No. of companies: 18

Number of initiatives reported: 39

Type of interventions:

- Financing women-led enterprises
- Gender policies
- Maternity and paternity leave policy
- Corporate governance
- Sexual harassment / Gender based violence policies
- Event sponsorship
- Membership in global institutions
- Health education and campaigns
- In-kind donations (care packages)
- Training and development (e.g. financial literacy, entrepreneurial skills)
- Women's economic empowerment
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policies and programs

The private sector is promoting gender equality through programmes that encourage women's economic empowerment, leadership development, health education and campaigns, workplace diversity, equal pay, and women on boards. Companies support women entrepreneurs and implement inclusive supply chain processes that enhance women's participation in economic activities.

A few company examples of interventions and how they address the SDG targets

Intervention	Target	Examples
Health education and campaigns	**Target 5.1**: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.	**Lasco Distributors Limited:** Partnered with Her Flow Foundation to educate preteens and teens in schools on personal care and menstrual health hygiene. Donated sanitary napkins to alleviate period poverty.
In-kind donations	**Target 5.1**	**J. Wray & Nephew Limited:** End Period Poverty Campaign-distributed 1,850 menstrual kits across 21 institutions in Kingston, Clarendon, and St. Elizabeth ensuring menstrual health accessibility.
Sexual harassment / gender-based violence policy	**Target 5.2:** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.	**Kingston Properties Limited:** Zero-tolerance stance on sexual harassment. The Sexual Harassment Policy outlines comprehensive measures for preventing harassment, facilitating reporting, and ensuring the swift and fair resolution of any reported incidents.
Maternity and paternity leave policy	**Target 5.4**: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.	**Barita Investments Limited:** Employee Support and Gender Equity Program - introduced a Paternity Leave Policy and revamped the Maternity leave policy, affording mothers 12 weeks' paid leave, up from the 8 weeks stipulated in the Holidays with Pay Act.
Financing women-led enterprises	**Target 5.5**: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.	**Scotia Group Jamaica Limited:** Scotiabank Women Initiative (SWI) earmarked $3 billion to support women-led businesses with access to capital, advisory services and tailored education.
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies and programs	**Target 5.5**	**VM Investments Limited:** The Board Gender Diversity Initiative has a 30% goal for female representation on its Board. This is in line with industry- leading practices.
Event sponsorship	**Target 5.5**	**Seprod Limited:** Sponsored the We Inspire Women Brunch themed 'Purpose Reign', whose aim is to inspire and empower women across Jamaica to achieve their fullest potential. The initiative facilitates shared experiences, empowering women to not only thrive but also unlock their limitless potential.
Membership in global Institutions	**Target 5.c:** Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.	**Portland JSX Limited:** Women's Empowerment Commitment – The company is signatory of the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment and the Women's Empowerment Principles. It is also a founding member of 2X Global, a global membership network for investors, capital providers and intermediaries.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

No. of companies: 10

Number of initiatives reported: 15

Type of interventions:

- Water infrastructure development
- Rainwater harvesting systems
- Waste treatment systems
- Partnership
- Technology and innovation
- Water conservation efforts

Companies are adopting water stewardship and operational efficiency strategies that are helping to conserve water and improve water usage and access. Companies are investing in water management technologies, improved production capabilities, risk management and water infrastructure development.

A few examples of interventions and how companies address the SDG targets

Intervention	Target	Example
Water infrastructure development	**Target 6.1:** By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	**NCB Financial Group Limited:** Invested in Climate-Resilient Water Infrastructure. **Sagicor Group Jamaica Limited:** Rio Cobre Water Treatment Plant Financing - Sagicor Bank is the lead financier of the plant, reaffirming the organisation's commitment to improving Jamaica's essential services. As the only local commercial bank involved in the project, the bank provided US$13 million in long-term secured financing for the initiative. This significantly enhances Jamaica's water infrastructure, supplying reliable potable water for communities in the Kingston Metropolitan Area and parts of St. Catherine. Additionally, the company invested US$28 million to enhance the water network of the Kingston and St. Andrew Metropolitan area, Portmore, and Spanish Town. The goal is to reduce water supply shortfalls for over 150,000 residents by 2025.
Technology and innovation	**Target 6.4**: By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.	**Wisynco Group Limited:** Made a substantial investment in a new Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant, significantly reducing water waste used in the manufacturing process by approximately 15%. To address the demand for bottled water products and to increase exports, Wisynco embarked on an ambitious expansion project by investing over US$7.5 million, and almost doubled its capacity in January 2024 amplifying production capabilities.
Rainwater harvesting and water conservation	**Target 6.1 and 6.4**	**JMMB Group Limited:** Rainwater Harvesting, which involved collecting rainwater and using it for irrigation and maintaining green spaces. **TransJamaican Highway Limited:** The rainwater harvesting initiative utilized approximately 1.8 million litres of rainwater since 2019.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

No. of companies: **25**

Number of initiatives reported: **54**

Companies are investing in national and global energy transition priorities, embracing and scaling renewable energy technologies, and adopting energy efficiency solutions across operations. They are also accelerating innovation through smart grids, green financing, electric mobility, green building and low-carbon workspaces.

Type of interventions:

- Renewable energy adoption
- Clean energy financing
- Energy efficiency systems
- Technology and innovation
- Financial support and donations
- Low-carbon workspaces
- Green products
- Smart building management
- Environmental education and awareness campaigns
- Partnerships
- Hybridised work environment and policies

A few company examples of interventions and how they address the SDG targets

Intervention	SDG Target	Examples
Financial support and donations	**Target 7.1**: By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.	**Sandals Resorts International:** Solar Panel Installation in Schools throughout the Caribbean. This will reduce the carbon footprint and ensure uninterrupted digital learning through solar-powered Wi-Fi connections.
Renewable energy adoption	**Target 7.2:** By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.	**Berger Paints Jamaica Limited:** The on-site artesian well solar expansion project is helping to expand the solar energy capacity. **Kingston Properties Limited:** The Solar Electricity Project prioritises renewable energy adoption and has achieved NEPA Green Business Award (Gold level). **MPC Caribbean Clean Energy Limited: The** Renewable Energy Investment Program contributed to the reduction of an equivalent of 87,339.09 tCO2 emissions. **Caribbean Producers Jamaica Limited:** Invested approximately US$1 million in solar energy, which is expected to reduce energy costs by more than 35%.
Technology and innovation	**Target 7.2**	**Digicel Group:** LiFePO4 Battery Replacement Initiative – Digicel invested US$1.5 million across 14 markets to replace traditional lead-acid batteries with Lithium Iron Phosphate energy storage modules at network sites. Also implemented Self-Optimising Network (SON) application that intelligently manages energy consumption across the company's 3G and LTE cell sites.
Energy efficiency systems	**Target 7.3**: By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.	**JMMB Group Limited:** Integrated energy-efficient air conditioning units in operations. **Massy Holdings Limited:** Resource Efficiency and Pollution Reduction Initiatives – The company insulated roofing designs and LED lighting; installed digital compressors on refrigeration and air conditioning condensers; transitioned towards low-pollution refrigerants, ventilation and air-conditioning systems; and installed solar photovoltaic systems at select locations.
Environmental education and awareness	**Target 7.3**	**138 Student Living Jamaica Limited:** Implementing projects aimed at reducing carbon footprint and integrating an environmentally-conscious culture across the organisation through environmental education and awareness campaigns to reduce water and electricity consumption across the four halls of residence.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

No. of companies: 54

Number of initiatives reported: 723

Companies are creating jobs, investing in skills development, strengthening the value chains, promoting entrepreneurship and business development, and employee well-being through decent work practices, fair wages, equality and diversity initiatives. Investment in research and digital innovations enhances productivity and sustainable economic growth.

Type of interventions:

- Workforce training and skills development
- Occupational health and safety
- Employee share ownership schemes
- Entrepreneurship and livelihood development
- Supplier code of conduct
- FinTech
- Capital mobilisation
- Flexible work schemes
- Workplace culture initiatives
- Pension contribution
- International standards and governance instruments
- Risk management systems
- Financial capital and loans

A few company examples of interventions and how they address the SDG targets

Intervention	Target	Examples
Capital mobilisation	**Target 8.2:** Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors.	**Barita Investments Limited:** Raised more than $100 billion in capital for clients, contributing to the expansion of the productive capacity of Jamaica and beyond.
Entrepreneurship and livelihood development	**Target 8.3:** Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.	**Lasco Manufacturing Limited:** Partnered with USAID's Positive Pathways Activity in the LASCO Chin Foundation Economic Empowerment Programme which is aimed at improving access to economic resources and livelihood opportunities in target communities e.g. family-assets training, entrepreneurship training, and workforce development training.
Flexible work scheme	**Target 8.5:** By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.	**138 Student Living Jamaica Limited:** The Employee Well-being and Engagement Program enables flexible work hours and hybrid work arrangements.
Pension contribution	**Target 8.5**	**Sagicor Group Jamaica Limited:** The Group operates various post-employment schemes, including both defined benefit and defined contribution pension plans and post- employment medical plans.
Employee share ownership schemes	**Target 8.5**	**Jamaica Producers Group Limited:** Employee Share Ownership Plan provides certain employees with the option to purchase shares at a discount using their annual bonus entitlement.
Workforce training and skills development	**Target 8.5**	**Guardian Holdings Limited: I**nvestment in employee human capacity through the ExecOnline Leadership Development Programme.
International standards and governance instruments	**Target 8.8**: Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.	**MPC Caribbean Clean Energy Limited:** Its Labour Rights and Worker Protection Program adheres to the International Labour Organisation Conventions no. 138, 182 and 29.
Financial capital and loans	**Target 8.9:** By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.	**Sagicor Group Jamaica Limited:** Providing loans and leases to businesses in the tourism and entertainment sectors to facilitate investment, growth, and job creation.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

No. of companies: 29

Number of initiatives reported: 93

Companies are investing in infrastructure development, industrial expansion, technological innovation, digital transformation, modernising manufacturing and supply chains to improve efficiency and resilience, strengthen logistics systems, and advance renewable energy.

Type of interventions:

- Infrastructure development
- Technological innovation
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) adoption
- Innovation and digital transformation
- Quality policies and continuous improvements
- Capital investment
- Funding research and development
- Public-Private Partnerships

A few company examples of interventions and how they address the SDG targets

Intervention	Target	Examples
Infrastructure development	**Target 9.1**: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.	**Radio Jamaica Limited:** Digital Broadcasting Infrastructure Upgrade which saw the completion of a microwave link upgrade across the island to make way for the deployment of additional ATSC3.0 transmitters island wide. **Kingston Wharves Limited:** Made a US$30 million investment in redeveloping Berth 7. This redevelopment involved extending the quay seaward to align it with the previously redeveloped Berths 8 and 9. Additionally, capital dredging was undertaken to reach depths of 12.5 metres, along with the creation of 14,000 square metres of newly paved yard for container storage and operations.
Public-Private Partnerships	**Target 9.2:** Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries.	**Caribbean Cement Company Limited:** Community Road Pavement Support saw partnership with the government in the construction of concrete pavements as an alternative for constructing community roads e.g. constructed 14 KM of cement-stabilised marl base for construction of the Montego Bay Perimeter Road.
Capital investment	**Target 9.4:** By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.	**Wisynco Group Limited:** Invested $9 billion in capital projects aimed at boosting production capacity, improving operational efficiencies.
Quality policies and continuous improvements	**Target 9.4**	**Berger Paints Jamaica Limited:** Accept zero defects as a quality absolute; operates a quality system which is periodically reviewed to revise the performance standards of its products and services.
Innovation and digital transformation	**Target 9.4**	**A.S. Bryden & Sons Holdings Limited:** Digital Transformation Initiative - a digital agenda for a more integrated enterprise from end to end, empowered by increased automation, advanced analytics, digitization and artificial intelligence. **Proven Group Limited:** Technology implementation for cost containment including the implementation of new technologies, such as the Olympic Banking System, which ensures PROVEN remains at the forefront of an increasingly tech-centric world.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

No. of companies: 7

Number of initiatives reported: 7

Companies are reducing inequality through workplace diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, improving access to social and cultural services, financial inclusion via microfinance, fintech, and affordable services. Digital inclusion initiatives also expand access to technology, while corporate social responsibility programs support marginalised communities.

Type of interventions:

- Diversity, Equality and Inclusion initiatives
- Bottom of the Pyramid products and services
- Social access and inclusion

A few examples of interventions and how companies address the SDG targets

Intervention	SDG Target	Examples
Social access and inclusion	**Target 10.2**: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.	**Palace Amusement Co. Limited:** Affordable Movie Access Program - National Cinema Day offers patrons a day at the movies with all tickets at a low price.
Diversity, equality and inclusion initiatives	**Target 10.3:** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.	**Caribbean Cement Company Limited:** EquiCemex DEI Program – received the Gold-Level Recognition in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

No. of companies: 29

Number of initiatives reported: 66

Type of interventions:

- Humanitarian aid
- In-kind donations (food, care packages)
- Establishing community hubs
- Air quality management
- Disaster risk reduction policies
- Sustainable and green buildings
- Citizens co-creation dialogue forum
- Humanitarian support
- Climate-resilient product development

Companies are investing in sustainable infrastructure, disaster response and recovery efforts, affordable housing, resilient urban development, green buildings, smart city technologies, waste management, and initiatives that build inclusive and safe communities.

A few company examples of interventions and how they address the SDG targets

Intervention	SDG Target	Examples
Sustainable and green building	**Target 11.3:** By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.	**Kingston Wharves Limited:** Policy and practice of building safe, healthy, orderly, secure and environmentally friendly communities that facilitate positive well-being and productivity.
Citizens co-creation dialogue forum	**Target 11.3**	**Pan Jamaica Group Limited:** The C.B.Facey Foundation hosted the third staging of the Maurice Facey Lecture Series in 2023 under the theme 'Value of a Vision – The Transformative Power of an Actionable Plan'. The Lecture focused on Downtown Kingston and the need for a shared vision and meticulously crafted plan to revitalise the historic city centre. It provided an opportunity to bring people together to discuss the importance of urban development and find solutions for creating a safer and more functional city.
Humanitarian aid	**Target 11.5**: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.	**Caribbean Cement Company Limited:** Emergency Disaster Relief Fund - invested over J$7.7 million through an Emergency Disaster Relief Fund to assist communities affected by hurricane Beryl. More than 100 families in Harbour View, Trench Town, Woodside and 11 Miles benefited. **J. Wray & Nephew Limited:** In the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, The JWN Foundation mounted a comprehensive emergency response initiative in the severely impacted parishes of Clarendon and St. Elizabeth. The JWN Foundation coordinated the procurement and distribution of care packages and provided rental generators to the most severely affected communities.
Climate-resilient product development	**Target 11.5**	**Key Insurance Company Limited:** Maintenance of comprehensive business continuity and disaster recovery plans, as well as robust reinsurance programs, to mitigate the impact of natural disasters, pandemics, and environmental factors.
Air quality management	**Target 11.6:** By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.	**JMMB Group Limited:** Its architectural design intentionally incorporates greenery through landscaping and the inclusion of indoor plants. These elements enhance the aesthetic appeal of its offices and contribute significantly to promoting cleaner air and better air quality. **Caribbean Cement Company Limited:** Invested $465 million in dust abatement for Jamaica for the year 2024.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

No. of companies: 39

Number of initiatives reported: 109

Companies are investing in designing and implementing circular economy models, sustainable supply chains, waste reduction and recycling, embedding sustainability in business, sustainability reporting, designing of safe and eco-friendly products, and adopting technology and green innovation to promote responsible production and consumption, and reduce negative environmental impact.

Type of interventions:

- Waste reduction and recycling initiatives
- Compostable packaging
- Sustainable supply chain management
- Eco-friendly products
- Green technologies
- Training and skills development
- Circular economy models
- ESG / Sustainability practices and policies
- ESG / Sustainability reporting
- Education and awareness creation
- Green product development

A few examples of interventions and how companies address the SDG targets

Intervention	Target	Examples
Sustainable supply chain management	**Target 12.2:** By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.	**A.S. Bryden & Sons Holdings Limited:** Supply Chain Optimization Program - in a period of supply chain volatility and challenges the company seeks to radically transform its supply chain to become more agile, more digitally enabled and more effective to support the business.
Waste reduction and recycling initiatives	**Target 12.5**: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.	**Kingston Properties Limited:** Waste Reduction and Recycling Program - through active waste management strategies, overall waste generation was reduced by 5%, supported by employee and stakeholder training on recycling best practices. Recycling efforts expanded to the Riverton Early Childhood Centre, where they were provided bins and included in the coordinated collection through Recycling Partners of Jamaica. **Lasco Manufacturing Limited:** Maintained partnership with Recycling Partners of Jamaica (RPJ), for the recovery of plastic bottles (PET & HDPE) from the environment for recycling.
Green Product development	**Target 12.6:** Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.	**Caribbean Cement Company Limited:** In 2023, continued the development and promotion of a 'low carbon footprint' brand through the sale of HE Low Carbon Industrial Cement which aligns with their Future in Action strategy.
ESG/ Sustainability practices and policies	**Target 12.6**	**GraceKennedy Limited:** Received the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce ESG Award, highlighting dedication to environmental sustainability, social well-being, and ethical governance. Launched an ESG Hub which tracks the corporate social responsibility activities. Launched a sustainability strategy for all GK businesses, including policies and programmes focused on reducing the environmental impact of their operations and products.
Training and skills development	**Target 12.6**	**Jamaica Broilers Group:** Designed and implemented an Environmental Quality and Safety Policy. Trained Directors of the board on ESG standards.
ESG/ Sustainability reporting	**Target 12.6**	**General Accident Insurance Company (JA) Limited:** Adapts the IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards in its reporting.
Education and awareness creation	**Target 12.8:** Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.	**Berger Paints Jamaica Limited:** Committed to educating customers and the public on the safe use of products.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

No. of companies: 19

Number of initiatives reported: 32

Companies are building sustainable businesses by investing in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean technologies. They are contributing to climate mitigation and adaptation efforts through research and development (R&D), green product development and decarbonising their supply chains.

Type of interventions:

- Energy efficiency
- Product development
- Climate change risk management
- Electric Vehicle (EV) program
- Clean technology
- Climate change education
- Research and Development
- Education and training
- Climate-related finance
- Renewable energy
- Carbon emissions reduction tracking and measurement

A few company examples of interventions and how they address the SDG targets

Intervention	Target	Examples
Climate change risk management Product development	**Target 13.1**: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.	**General Accident Insurance Company (JA) Limited:** Climate Change Risk Management - identified climate change as a significant risk and implemented risk management strategies. Catastrophe Reinsurance Program – introduced a catastrophe excess of loss treaty which covers losses in excess of J$150,000,000 for any catastrophic event.
Carbon emissions reduction tracking and measurement	**Target 13.1**	**Kingston Wharves Limited:** Carbon Footprint Tracking and Effluent Monitoring Program focused on reducing CO2 emissions by tracking carbon footprint as well as monitoring effluent generated by operations at the Port of Kingston.
Education and Training	**Target 13.3**: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	**Barita Investments Limited:** The Barita foundation sponsored an Expo which created a platform for a number of youth in Highgate, St Mary to showcase their knowledge and solutions on environmental matters and inspiring action on climate change.
Electric Vehicle (EV) programme	**Target 13.3**	**Digicel Group:** Trialled the use of electric vehicles (EVs) as part of the vehicle fleet with the goal of reducing carbon footprint and transitioning to more sustainable modes of transportation.
Climate-related finance	**Target 13.a:** Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly $100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible.	**Scotia Group Jamaica Limited:** The goal is to provide $350 billion in climate-related finance by 2030.
Research and Development	**Target 13.a**	**Scotia Group Jamaica Limited:** Scotiabank globally launched a Net-Zero research fund which offered not-for-profit and charitable organisations opportunities to submit proposals for research targeting decarbonization.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

No. of companies: 14

Number of initiatives reported: 21

Companies advance ocean sustainability through plastic reduction and ocean clean-ups, the adoption of marine conservation technologies, sustainable fisheries, coastal restoration, marine sanctuary management, as well as education and training on marine conservation.

Type of interventions:

- Clean-up initiatives
- Waste management
- Awareness creation and promotion campaigns
- Coastal restoration
- Marine conservation initiatives
- Volunteering
- Partnerships
- Education and training
- Marine sanctuary management

A few company examples of interventions and how they address the SDG targets

Intervention	Target	Examples
Clean up initiatives	**Target 14.1:** By 2030, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.	**GraceKennedy Limited:** Kingston Harbour Cleanup Project (KHCP) - by December 2024, over 3 million kilogrammes of waste had been removed by the KHCP interceptors installed at the mouths of seven of Kingston's gullies, a major victory for the marine health of the seventh largest natural harbour in the world.
Volunteering Partnerships	**Target 14.1**	**Scotia Group Jamaica Limited:** 200 volunteers joined the Great Mangrove Clean-Up at the Sirgany Beach in Kingston. The foundation partnered with the Jamaica Environmental Trust for International Coastal Cleanup Day, where over 100 volunteers joined the clean-up efforts at the Donald Quarrie Coastline. **Wisynco Group Limited:** Over 150 employees, along with their families, participated in International Coastal Cleanup Day, in partnership with Coca-Cola and Circular Seas, to clean two beaches in Jamaica. **J. Wray & Nephew Limited:** Together with the GK Foundation and a dedicated group of over 500 volunteers, actively participated in International Coastal Clean Up Day on September 16, 2023. The team succeeded in removing a total of 13,000 pounds of waste material at Gunboat Beach in Kingston.
Coastal restoration	**Target 14.2**: By 2030, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.	**Caribbean Cement Company Limited:** Adopt-a-Mangrove project in collaboration with the National Environment and Planning Agency to progress plans for restoring mangroves at Gallows Point. **Sandals Resorts International:** Established two coral nurseries on the north and south coasts of Jamaica to address coral in partnership with CLEAR Caribbean.
Marine sanctuary management	**Target 14.5**: By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.	**Sandals Resorts International:** Boscobel Marine Sanctuary Management (Jamaica): protecting marine ecosystems and promoting biodiversity through managed sanctuaries. This clearly indicates a planned and purposeful action to protect marine ecosystems.

15 LIFE ON LAND

No. of companies: **15**

Number of initiatives reported: **25**

Type of interventions:

- Tree planting and reforestation
- Land rehabilitation and restoration programmes
- Volunteering
- Awareness campaigns
- Integrated land use systems
- Climate change education
- Financial donations
- Environmental and Management systems
- Partnerships

Companies contribute through reforestation, biodiversity conservation, and green finance mechanisms that incentivise ecosystem restoration. Integrated land-use systems support more sustainable management of natural resources, while advanced technologies enable improved land-use monitoring, transparency, and compliance with environmental standards.

A few company examples of interventions and how they address the SDG targets

Intervention	**Target**	**Examples**
Tree planting and Reforestation	**Target 15.2:** By 2030, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally. **Target 15.3:** By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.	**Caribbean Cement Company Limited:** The Future in Action Reforestation Programme included the planting of more than 400 trees bringing the total to over 900 in its now- defunct gypsum quarry. **Massy Holdings Limited:** Tree Planting for Ecosystem Restoration Initiative. 100 indigenous fruit trees were planted across 10 primary and secondary schools in Saint Lucia in March 2023. **Jamaica Broilers Group:** Collaborated with the Forestry Department to donate 150 ornamental plants and locally grown fruit trees to 5 nearby schools in Saint Catherine. **TransJamaican Highway Limited:** As part of Labour Day 2024 initiative, over 600 trees were planted along the PJ Patterson Highway.
Partnerships		**VM Investments Limited:** Ongoing 3-year partnership with the Jamaica Forestry Department on the Adopt-A-Hillside initiative. Marked the two-year anniversary with VMWM, VMBS and VM Foundation volunteers visiting and reforesting 1.44 hectares of land in the Danks Forest Reserve, Clarendon.
Financial donations	**Target 15.a:** Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.	**General Accident Insurance Company (JA):** The partnership between General Accident and Jamaica Environment Trust Fund was reaffirmed with a $330,000 donation to the Trust. This demonstrates commitment to protecting Jamaica's natural resources. **Barita Investments Limited:** Supports initiatives like the Forestry Department's National School Tree Planting Competition accessible to Jamaican students ranging from early childhood to tertiary level.
Awareness campaigns	**Target 15.a**	**Caribbean Cement Company Limited:** The Bull Bay community garden was launched in collaboration with several stakeholders: the Forestry Department, NEPA, the Bull Bay community, and the Bull Bay Primary and Infant School to raise awareness on endemic and endangered species in the country.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

No. of companies: 16

Number of initiatives reported: 199

Companies contribute through community development initiatives, the establishment of strong governance instruments, including anti-corruption and anti-bribery policies, whistleblowing mechanisms. They also do adhere to the rule of law, and adopt ESG frameworks that strengthen accountability and institutional integrity.

Type of interventions:

- Community development partnerships
- Corporate governance
- Anti-corruption and anti-bribery policies
- Whistleblowing policies
- Education and training
- Data privacy management
- Audit committees
- Compliance policy
- Ethics code and policy
- Financial crime prevention systems
- Conflict of interest policy
- Organisational behaviour and culture
- Risk management framework

A few company examples of interventions and how they address the SDG targets

Intervention	Target	Examples
Community development partnerships	**Target 16.1**: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death ates everywhere.	**Guardian Holdings Limited; JMMB Group Limited; Sygnus Credit Investments; Jamaica Broilers Group**. Project Star– a community-driven, five-year initiative led by the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica in partnership with the Jamaica Constabulary Force to foster social and economic development. This initiative targets under-resourced communities with tailored interventions to reduce violence, create jobs, and improve social outcomes.
Anti-corruption and anti-bribery policies	**Target 16.5**: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.	**Guardian Holdings Limited:** Ethical Conduct and Anti-Corruption Strategy - implemented a set of policies that defined expectations for how stakeholders should operate, including a Code of Conduct & Business Ethics Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, Anti- Bribery & Corruption Policy, Whistleblowing Policy, Fraud Investigation & Reporting Policy, Compliance Policy & Financial Crimes Policy.
Whistleblowing policies	**Target 16.5**	**Wigton Energy Limited:** Developed a Whistleblowing Policy that is aligned with the Protected Disclosures Act, 2011. There are several other policies - Fraud Investigation and Reporting Policy, Compliance Policy, Regulatory Reporting Policies and Financial Crimes Policy.
Organisational behaviour and culture	**Target 16.6**: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	**Jamaica Broilers Group:** Core values are based on Judeo-Christian Principles, the foundation on which the business is built and on which employees are encouraged to conduct their lives. Values determine what is expected in fulfilling obligations to customers, shareholders, employees, contractors and communities. Policies and procedures reflect these principles and are the bedrock of the culture.
Corporate governance Risk management framework	**Target 16.6**	**JMMB Group Limited:** Team Engagement and Communication Support (TEC) Hub – a Culture and Human Development team formed the TEC hub to support leadership.
Data privacy management	**Target 16.10** Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements	**GraceKennedy Limited:** Enterprise Privacy Management Framework **-** advanced this framework through the publication of additional policies and procedures, in alignment with international standards and best practices. Ensured all entities subject to the Jamaica Data Protection Act were registered with the Office of the Information Commissioner.
Education and training	**Target 16.a:** Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.	**Mayberry Group Limited:** Established an internal AML/CFT (Combating the Financing of Terrorism) training program, which resulted in all new hires receiving training within their first 2 weeks – had a 95% participation rate from staff and a 100% participation rate from the Board of Directors in the annual AML/CFT training.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

No. of companies: 17

Number of initiatives reported: 84

Type of interventions:

- Financial donations
- In-kind support
- Dialogue platforms
- Capacity building initiatives
- Outreach and awareness creation
- Membership in international organisations
- Adopting global instruments
- Membership in international organisations

Companies foster partnerships with actors in the public and non-profit sectors to finance community development, drive innovation, and develop inclusive business models. They are investing in technology transfer, capacity building, data sharing, and ESG-aligned investments and reporting.

A few company examples of interventions and how they address the SDG targets

Intervention	Target	Examples
Financial donations In-kind support	**Target 17.3:** Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources. **Target 17.17:** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.	**Jamaica Broilers Group**: Supported the Fun in the Son Festival which serves to build goodwill and strengthen relationships with the community. **Radio Jamaica Limited:** Donated airtime (valued at $3.85 million), to a number of charities and activities which enabled them to raise awareness about their missions and reach a wider audience. **Barita Investments Limited**: Five organisations benefitted from funding allowing them to host Christmas treats and facilitate support via its annual Staff Wishing Tree Competition. Three organisations - the Rotary Club of LIFE (Cornwall), the Live to Give Foundation (Middlesex), and the National Parent-Teacher Association (Surrey) - each received J$100,000 for activities scheduled to start in 2023.
Dialogue platform Capacity building initiatives	**Target 17.9**: Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.	**GraceKennedy Limited**: Participated in the 10th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference in Montego Bay, which was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. Welcomed four university students from the Jamaican diaspora to the GK Birthright programme.
Outreach and awareness creation	**Target 17.16:** Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the SDGs in all countries, in particular developing countries.	**NCB Financial Group Limited:** Engaged with communities through town halls, customer outreach, and partner with schools and businesses. This reflects a dedication to fostering financial literacy, inclusion, and sustainable growth.
Membership in international organisations	**Target 17.16**	**Sygnus Credit Investments Limited:** Sygnus Group became the first Jamaican firm to join the Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) which directly indicates a commitment to impact investing and a partnership with a global network. **Portland JSX Limited:** Supports various global initiatives such as the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment, the Women's Empowerment Principles, and the 2X Collaborative.

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