



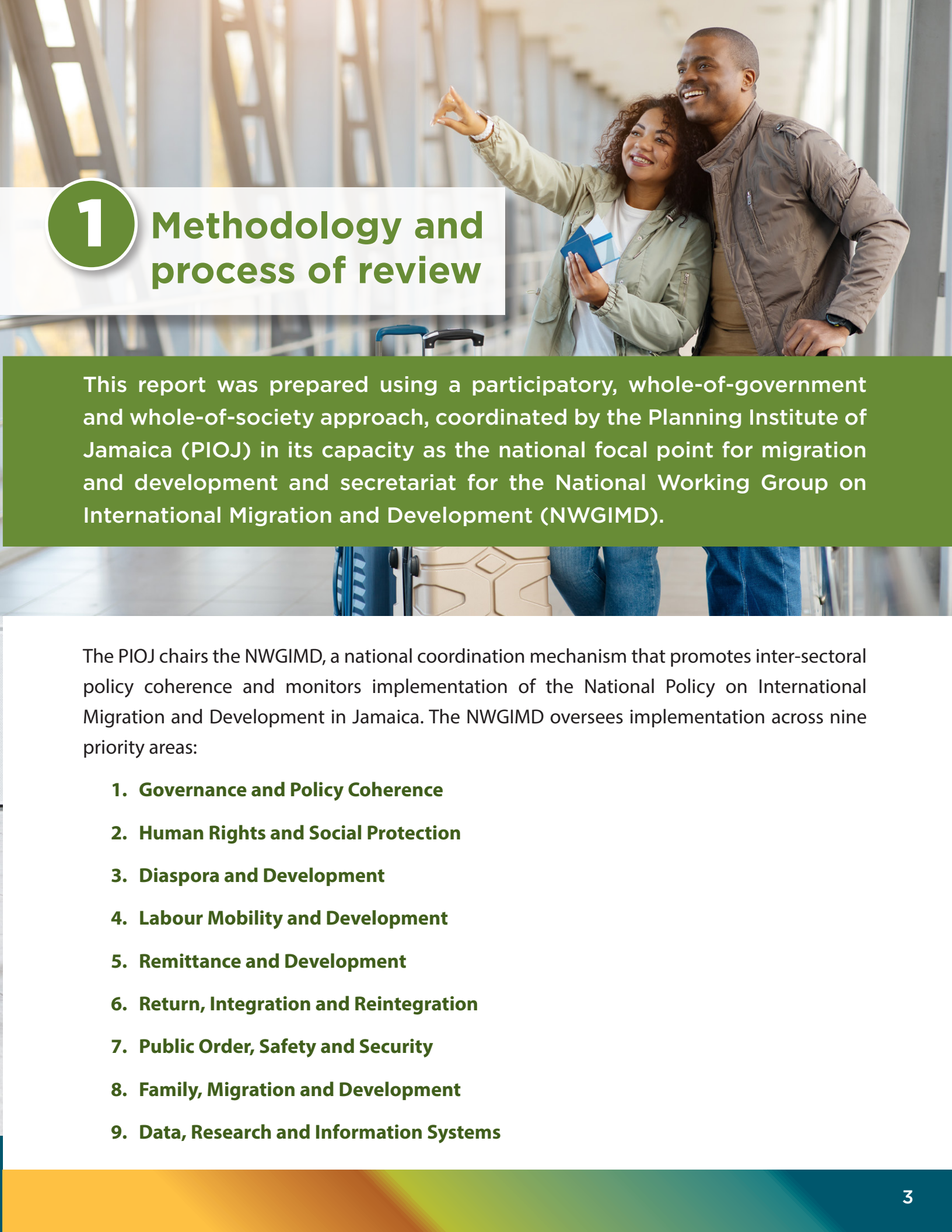
Voluntary National Review Report on the status of implementation of the

GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION IN JAMAICA

**International Migration
Review Forum 2026**







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Methodology and process of review

This report was prepared using a participatory, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, coordinated by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) in its capacity as the national focal point for migration and development and secretariat for the National Working Group on International Migration and Development (NWGIMD).

The PIOJ chairs the NWGIMD, a national coordination mechanism that promotes inter-sectoral policy coherence and monitors implementation of the National Policy on International Migration and Development in Jamaica. The NWGIMD oversees implementation across nine priority areas:

- 1. Governance and Policy Coherence**
- 2. Human Rights and Social Protection**
- 3. Diaspora and Development**
- 4. Labour Mobility and Development**
- 5. Remittance and Development**
- 6. Return, Integration and Reintegration**
- 7. Public Order, Safety and Security**
- 8. Family, Migration and Development**
- 9. Data, Research and Information Systems**

A National Consultation on the status of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was convened in February 2025. The consultation brought together ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), civil society organisations, international development partners, academia, and other key stakeholders. Participants were organised into thematic groups based on their areas of expertise:

- **Thematic Area I – Inclusion** (Objectives 14, 15, 19, 20, 22)
- **Thematic Area II – Drivers of Migration and Regular Pathways** (Objectives 2, 5, 6, 12, 18)
- **Thematic Area III – Migration Governance, Saving Lives, Safe and Dignified Return, Readmission and Sustainable Reintegration** (Objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 21)
- **Thematic Area IV – Data, Evidence-Based Policies and International Cooperation** (Objectives 1, 3, 7, 17, 23)

The consultation process ensured that the perspectives of migrants, diaspora representatives, service providers, and community-based actors were incorporated, consistent with the Global Compact's comprehensive 360-degree approach.

The preparation of the report was further supported by:

- Administrative and programme data provided by relevant MDAs
- Technical inputs from regional and international partners, including the International Organization for Migration
- Review of national policies, legislation, strategies, and monitoring frameworks related to migration governance.



2

Policy and enabling environment

Jamaica has established a comprehensive policy and institutional framework to guide migration governance and monitor the implementation of the objectives of the GCM. The **National Policy on International Migration and Development** remains the country's primary policy instrument, providing strategic direction for managing migration and strengthening its contribution to national development. Jamaica's policy framework aligns with multiple regional and international instruments, such as the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection.

Since Jamaica's 2022 Voluntary National Review, the Government has strengthened its migration governance architecture through the finalisation of the **National Diaspora Policy**, which supports structured engagement with the Jamaican diaspora and enhances the development impact of migration.

The Government has also advanced targeted measures to address specific migration challenges:

- **Deportation Response Action Plan (2025):** This framework aims to strengthen national systems for responding to deportation, particularly by improving reintegration support mechanisms and institutional coordination for returning migrants.
- **Refugee Policy (2009) – Under Review:** The Government is currently reviewing the Refugee Policy to ensure alignment with evolving international standards and emerging migration realities.

- **Draft Deportation Policy:** A comprehensive Deportation Policy has been developed and is expected to be finalised following public consultation. The policy is intended to strengthen governance arrangements and improve procedures related to deportation management and reintegration.

Collectively, these policy instruments reflect Jamaica's ongoing commitment to strengthening migration governance, improving institutional coordination, and enhancing the effectiveness of national mechanisms for managing migration in a structured and rights-based manner.

Policy Strategies

- Improve the timeliness, accuracy and reliability of international migration data through the modernisation of the National Migration Database.
- Facilitate stronger partnerships with non-state actors through the utilisation of participatory approaches to national development.
- Expand reintegration support for involuntary returned migrants (IRMs), including health screening, counselling, skills training, and temporary accommodation.
- Expand bilateral labour agreements to new destinations to promote regular pathways and ethical recruitment.
- Integrate migration into climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction plans.

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Summary of progress and evaluation of measures taken so far



PROGRAMMES	GCM OBJECTIVES
Policy and Programme Development and Implementation	Objectives 1-23
Integration and Reintegration - Expansion of reintegration support for IRMs, including health screening, counselling, skills training, entrepreneurship support, temporary accommodation and provision of care kits. Provision of identity documentation to returning migrants. Development of a <i>Living in Jamaica Handbook</i> outlining services available to IRMs. Explored partnerships with faith-based institutions for support in IRM return and reintegration.	Objective 4, 21
Pathways for Regular Migration - Jamaica continues to promote regular migration pathways through structured labour mobility programmes, notably bilateral arrangements with the United States and Canada. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security continued to provide oversight and licensing of private recruitment agencies while expanding worker orientation and overseas support services, including an increase in the cadre of Liaison Officers for the Overseas Employment Programme and an increase in the frequency of visits to worksites. The Ministry of Health and Wellness embarked on an initiative to recruit specialist nurses from the Diaspora; over 140 applications were received, and approximately 70 candidates were shortlisted.	Objectives 5, 6, 18

PROGRAMMES	GCM OBJECTIVES
Trafficking in Persons (TIP) & Smuggling - The Government of Jamaica, under the National Anti-Trafficking in Persons Task Force (NATFATIP), continues to implement its Plan of Action in the areas of protection, prevention and prosecution. This was effected through public awareness campaigns, management of TIP hotlines and training of key personnel. A free online course on Human trafficking was developed and launched by the Office of the National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking to strengthen awareness. Between 2023 and 2025, 6 foreign nationals who were victims of sexual and labour exploitation were rescued and repatriated, while 9 Jamaicans who were victims of human trafficking returned to the island.	Objectives 9, 10
International Peer Exchanges & Cooperation - Deepening regional cooperation through the process to develop the CARICOM Regional Migration Policy Framework¹. Jamaica commenced the process to become a GCM Champion country. The country participated in the Second Regional Review Forum for the GCM, held in Santiago, Chile, in March 2025, and in several other Inter-Ministerial Review Forum preparatory meetings at the international, regional, and national levels.	Objectives 7, 8, 10, 23
Labour Mobility - Launch of Jamaica's first Health Labour Market Analysis in 2025 to comprehensively understand the health labour market dynamics and address critical workforce shortages. Implementation of the Public Sector Compensation Review to attract and retain skilled professionals. A total of 4,915 new work permit applications and 5,724 renewals were received between 2023 and 2024. During the same period, 28,356 Jamaicans participated in the Overseas Employment Programme.	Objectives 6, 7, 16 & 18

¹ The CARICOM Regional Migration Policy Framework is not yet adopted and is currently in the final stages. It is anticipated that the final draft will be submitted for consideration by CARICOM Heads of Government at its meeting in July 2026

PROGRAMMES	GCM OBJECTIVES
Data and Evidence-Based Policy - Modernisation of the National Migration Database housed in the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN). The DATAS Project is being implemented with support from the United Nations Statistics Division and includes a data audit to identify existing sources for migration data. Development of digital platforms for diaspora engagement and data capture: ConnectMeJa mobile application and the Jam-Dem platform.	Objectives 1, 3, 17
Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative - Translation of disaster preparedness materials into Spanish, French and Chinese to facilitate easy communication for non-English speaking migrants.	Objective 7
Diaspora Engagement - Launched ConnectMeJA and JAMDEM portals for diaspora engagement. Developed the National Diaspora Policy (2022) and prepared a 5-year Policy Implementation Plan for the period 2026-2030. Convened the Biennial Diaspora Conference in 2024 and commenced planning for the staging of the 11th conference in 2026.	Objectives 19, 20

A person with a suitcase looking out at an airplane on a runway.

4

Conclusion and next steps

Jamaica's journey towards implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration reflects our nation's deep understanding of migration as both a fundamental human reality and a powerful development opportunity. This report demonstrates substantial progress across all 23 GCM objectives while honestly acknowledging the complex challenges that remain.

The comprehensive policy framework, innovative programmes, and inclusive governance structures documented in this report position Jamaica as a regional leader in migration governance. Our commitment to evidence-based policymaking, whole-of-society engagement, and international cooperation provides a solid foundation for continued advancement.

As we look to the future, Jamaica remains steadfast in our commitment to making migration safe, orderly, and regular. The pledges contained in this report represent concrete steps toward this goal, backed by political commitment, institutional capacity, and partnership frameworks.

We recognise that migration governance is a shared responsibility requiring global solidarity and regional cooperation. Jamaica stands ready to contribute our experience, learn from others, and work collaboratively toward a world where migration realises its full potential as a force for sustainable development, human dignity, and shared prosperity.

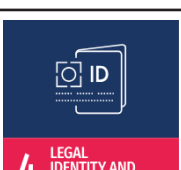
Jamaica's priorities for the next GCM implementation cycle include:

1. Full operationalisation of the National Migration Database
2. Finalisation and implementation of the National Policy and Plan of Action on Voluntary and Involuntary Migrants
3. Strengthening of community-level reintegration and inclusion mechanisms
4. Deepening of regional cooperation through the adoption and implementation of the CARICOM Regional Migration Policy Framework
5. Complete revision of the National Refugee Policy
6. Implementation of the National Diaspora Policy and its Five-Year Implementation Plan
7. Expansion of bilateral labour agreements to new destinations
8. Integration of migration into climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction plans
9. Scale up the inclusion of migration issues into local sustainable development planning, utilising lessons learnt from the pilot conducted in the parish of Clarendon

ANNEX 1

(Supplementary form, GCM objectives)

Legend: ■ Strong ■ Moderate ■ Gap

GCM Objective	Progress	Practices to highlight
 1 DATA	Work commenced to update the migration database to facilitate the calculation of population estimates, evidence-based policy development, and inter-agency data sharing	
 2 MINIMIZE ADVERSE DRIVERS	Migration is integrated into local and national planning through the Clarendon Sustainable Development Plan and the National Resettlement Strategy	Integrating migration into local/sub-regional development frameworks
 3 INFORMATION PROVISION	Official migration information disseminated via government websites, overseas missions, and public education resources (e.g., JA-DEM Web portal, ConnectmeJa App, Living in Jamaica Handbook)	Multi-platform digital communication systems linking government and diaspora
 4 LEGAL IDENTITY AND DOCUMENTATION	Implementation of online passport services and e-passports with secure verification systems. Citizens can apply for birth certificates online using the portal of the Office of the Registrar General	Secure digital identity and travel document systems, reducing fraud
 5 REGULAR PATHWAYS	Initiatives to fill labour shortages by recruiting persons from the Diaspora	Circular migration programme that enables people in the diaspora to contribute to national development
 6 RECRUITMENT AND DECENT WORK	Pre-departure orientation programmes for migrant workers improved to ensure informed participation in overseas employment	Structured pre-departure orientation frameworks for safe labour migration
 7 REDUCE VULNERABILITIES	Provision of legal aid, healthcare access, and reintegration support for migrants in vulnerable situations	

GCM Objective	Progress	Practices to highlight
 8 SAVE LIVES	MFAFT provides consular support to Jamaicans and foreigners in vulnerable situations; however, there is no dedicated national mechanism identified for tracking or responding to missing migrants	
 9 COUNTER SMUGGLING	Strengthened border controls through targeted screening, inspections, and officer training	
 10 ERADICATE TRAFFICKING	Operational anti-trafficking framework, including a national task force, a special human trafficking investigative unit in the police force, victim shelters, legal protection, and prosecutions under the TIP Act	Establishment of the Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons to provide oversight of the government's anti-human trafficking programme
 11 MANAGE BORDERS	Deployment of biometric passports and enhanced passenger screening systems	
 12 SCREENING AND REFERRAL		
 13 ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION	Application of alternatives to detention, including supervised release to family or legal representatives	
 14 CONSULAR PROTECTION	Provision of legal assistance and support to nationals abroad through diplomatic missions	
 15 ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES	Access to healthcare, legal aid, and humanitarian assistance for migrants, including those in vulnerable situations	Whole-of-society service provision models
 16 INCLUSION AND SOCIAL COHESION	Implementation of national cultural and integration programmes promoting inclusion of migrant communities	

GCM Objective	Progress	Practices to highlight
 17 ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION		
 18 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND RECOGNITION	Continued strengthening of national certification systems (HEART/NSTA) to support labour mobility	Skills certification and labour mobility alignment systems
 19 MIGRANT AND DIASPORA CONTRIBUTIONS	Establishment of diaspora governance structures and digital engagement platforms (ConnectmeJA App and JA-DEM Web portal)	Digitally connected diaspora governance systems
 20 REMITTANCES	Ongoing remittance research initiatives to inform policy	
 21 DIGNIFIED RETURN AND REINTEGRATION	Implementation of reintegration programmes and coordination mechanisms for returning migrants Development of Technical Working Group for Voluntary and Involuntary Returned Migrants	
 22 SOCIAL PROTECTION		
 23 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	Active engagement in regional and international migration cooperation and technical support initiatives	

ANNEX 2

List of Entities Consulted

Ministries, Departments and Agencies	Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) Office of the Disaster Preparedness Management (ODPEM) Ministry of National Security and Peace (MNSP) Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons (ONRTIP) Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA) Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) Ministry of Industry, Investment & Commerce (MIIC) Attorney General Chambers (AGC) Statistical Institution of Jamaica (STATIN) Passport, Immigration & Citizenship Agency (PICA) Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC) Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA)
Academia	University Council of Jamaica Heart/NSTA Trust University of the West Indies, Mona
Non-Governmental Organizations	Family Unification & Resettlement Initiative Open Arms Development Centre
Financial Institutions	Lasco Financial Service Limited Jamaica Money Market Brokers (JMMB)
International Development Partners	International Organization for Migration Jamaica

