

## TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Jamaica is a unitary country with a single tier of subnational government, which comprises 14 municipalities: 12 parishes, 1 municipal council (the Portmore Municipal Council) and 1 municipal corporation (the Municipal Corporation of Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation - KASC).<sup>1</sup>



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).<sup>2</sup>

## 1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

**Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan (NDP)**, the country's first long-term national development plan, commenced implementation in 2009. It is aligned with 91.3% of the SDGs. The fourth **Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF)**, for the period 2018-2021, has been implemented. The **MTF 2021-2024** reflects priorities from an over 98.6% alignment with the SDGs. In addition, Jamaica formulated a **Roadmap for SDG Implementation** in 2017, which identified the **MTF** as the primary mechanism for monitoring the implementation of Vision 2030 Jamaica and accordingly the SDGs.

### 1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The national coordination mechanism for the 2030 Agenda is multi-tiered and integrated into the Vision 2030 Jamaica framework. It comprises the **National 2030 Agenda Oversight Committee (NAOC)**;<sup>3</sup> the **thematic Working Groups** of Vision 2030 Jamaica<sup>4</sup> and other sector-specific committees; and the **National SDGs Core Group**.<sup>5</sup> Apart from the **Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat**, an **SDGs Secretariat** has also been established in the **Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)**, with responsibility for supporting all aspects of the work of the NAOC and its sub-committees (communications; data, monitoring and reporting; resource mobilization and financing).

### 1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The approach for the 2018 VNR was two-fold: stakeholder consultations and sessions for local authorities, the private sector, academia, civil society and the general public were organized, as well as consultations with ministries, departments and agencies on each of the SDGs. A communication and public education campaign was also implemented to increase the level of awareness of all stakeholders and to develop partnerships around the SDGs.<sup>6</sup> Other stakeholders were convened through the Thematic Working Groups of Vision 2030 Jamaica. For the 2022 VNR, a stakeholder engagement plan guided the consultation process with over 600 participants from government partners, the private sector, academia, and civil society. An online questionnaire and key informant interviews were also conducted.

1. See: [https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country\\_profiles/Jamaica.pdf](https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Jamaica.pdf). As a member of the Commonwealth realm, Jamaica is a parliamentary democracy and a unitary constitutional monarchy, whose official head of state, Queen Elizabeth II, is represented at the national level by the Governor General. The Governor General is appointed by the Queen, for no fixed term, on the advice of the Jamaican Prime Minister.

2. See: [https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/19499JamaicaMain\\_VNR\\_Report.pdf](https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/19499JamaicaMain_VNR_Report.pdf) (2018); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Jamaica%20Report.pdf> (2022).

3. The NAOC, which reports to Cabinet, was established in 2017 and is a technical body comprising high-level representatives from government (Ministries, Departments and Agencies), civil society groups, private sector, academia, trade unions, political directorate and youth. The mandate of the NAOC is to provide policy and strategic level advice for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs.

4. These working groups are multisectoral and multi-stakeholder bodies that, together with other committees, "form the critical arm of the institutional structure". More details in the VNR, 2018, p. 110.

5. The Core Group is composed according to a tripartite mechanism comprising three key national focal points: the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT), and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN).

6. The main platform for engaging the public on the SDGs was through the staging of the Dialogue for Development Series, which focused on the theme "The Jamaica We Want: Vision 2030 Jamaica advancing the SDGs... Leaving no one behind". Overall, the campaign deepened interaction between government and the people to set a platform to achieve the principles and objectives of the SDGs and Vision 2030 Jamaica.

## 1.3 MONITORING

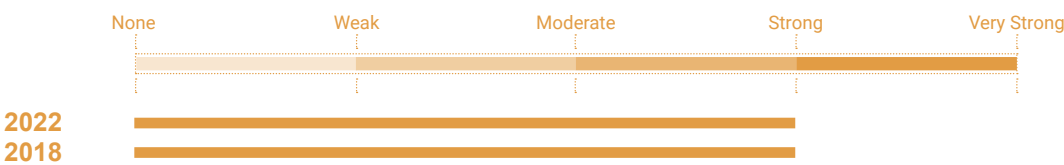
The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** and the **Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN)** are in charge of SDG indicator development, and statistical monitoring. Through the STATIN, there is an ongoing process to address the gaps with support from bilateral, multilateral and other partnerships to develop a Data Quality Assurance Framework, and establish the National Statistics Commission. The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the SDGs includes the MTF, the Whole-of-Government Business Plan, the Operational and Corporate Plans of government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and the SDGs Indicators Framework System. The **STATIN** has been engaging in efforts to establish a coordinated National Statistics System (NSS) as well as strengthen its capacity for producing statistics for monitoring the SDGs. However, it is noted that resource constraints had created lags in implementation and the achievement of results.

## 2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Efforts have been made towards strengthening national and regional development planning. This is captured in Vision 2030 Jamaica Outcome 15 – Sustainable Urban and Rural Development. Jamaica stands out for having adopted an SDG implementation framework and strategy in 2017, the **Roadmap for SDG implementation**, which explicitly acknowledges the crucial role of local governments.<sup>7</sup> Since 2021, the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) has held consultations with the **Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica (ALGAJ)** and started involving them in SDG implementation work.<sup>8</sup> The ALGAJ also contributed to the 2022 VNR.

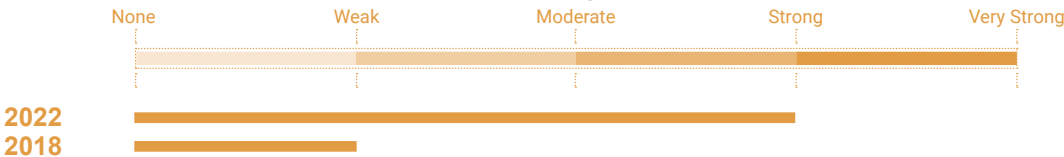
### 2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

#### ► In the VNR process



Comments: Local governments have contributed to the 2022 VNR through consultations with national agencies on SDG implementation.

#### ► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) has been involved with local governments since 2021.

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNRs and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

### 2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2018 VNR stated that "local level implementation of the SDGs is paramount to ensure that the principle of leaving no one behind is achieved" and dedicated a subsection to local sustainable development plans, which were presented as "providing an important mechanism for localizing the SDGs" (see VNR, 2018, p. 18-19). There were references to the local level, without many examples of locally-led SDG-related initiatives. The 2022 VNR includes a section on localization, where localization is considered a "central tenet of the implementation framework for the NDP" and the "translation of policy imperatives through the strategic framework of the NDP into sectoral, local, and other plans." (see VNR, 2022, p. 31-32)

### 2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► A Disaster Risk Information Platform (DRIP) was developed for the parish of **St. Catherine** as a disaster risk reduction tool.

7. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

8. UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, [https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf\\_2022.pdf](https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2022.pdf)

► The **Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica (ALGAJ)** supported local authorities to hold meetings on the SDGs at the parish level with civil society. It also participated in a project funded by the CLGF and the EU to support parish development committees to develop local plans and indicators to follow up on the SDGs.<sup>9</sup>

## 2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

## 2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Financing is one of the main challenges for the full implementation of the SDGs and arising from the Roadmap for SDG Implementation proposals were made to address the financing of the SDGs in Jamaica from resources derived from both the public and private sector. In this regard, the 2018 VNR stated that a critical arm of the national planning process to address performance-based budgeting is the **Public Investment Management System (PIMS)**. The report also mentioned that the **Public Investment Management Secretariat (PIMSEC)** plays a critical role in budgeting and prioritizing the funding for the SDGs.

# 3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

**General comments:** Despite the country's limited financial and political resources (and visibility), linked to its geography and location, Jamaica passed a series of **three local government reform acts**<sup>10</sup> in 2016 that established a new governance framework, based on the principles of participatory local governance and local self-management. These regulations also expanded local mandates to foster sustainable development.<sup>11</sup> The 2018 VNR refers to this reform which "provides for the establishment of a framework to accommodate the various types of local authorities; expand their mandate to include sustainable development and the maintenance of civic order; create accountability and transparency mechanisms for local authorities; define the role and relationship between the administrative and political organs of local authorities; and empower civil society and communities in the governance process". Further to this action and in alignment with the national development strategies, work has commenced on the development of a **National Spatial Plan** which will outline spatial planning guidelines for national and regional development as well as set the national context for spatial planning at the regional and local level. The National Spatial Plan is complemented by the promulgation of Development Orders and Local Sustainable Development Plans (see VNR, 2018, p. 76).

## 3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

## 3.2 COVID 19

No reference.

9. UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, [https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf\\_2022.pdf](https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2022.pdf)

10. Local Governance Act; Local Government (Unified Service and Employment) Act; and the Local Government (Financing and Financial Management) Act.

11. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

## 4. SDG INDICATORS<sup>12</sup>

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		18.3 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		57.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		-
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		14.9 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

12. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database>