



Jamaica is a single island located in the Greater Antilles in the north west of the Caribbean region. With one of the higher GDPs in the region, Jamaica plays an important role in the Caribbean. It is a senior member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) – the region's key political institution - and was among the first countries to join the Caribbean Single Market Economy (CSME). Historically, Jamaica's economy has been based on key primary industry exports including bananas and sugar. In the 1940's, large commercial deposits of bauxite, limestone, bauxite, gypsum, marble, silica sand and clays were discovered, and by the 1970s, Jamaica became a world leader in the export of many of these minerals.

Jamaica's HDI value for 2013 is 0.715 — which is in the high human development category— [positioning the country at 96 out of 187 countries and territories](#). Between 1980 and 2013, Jamaica's HDI value increased from 0.614 to 0.715, an increase of 16.5 percent or an average annual increase of about 0.46 percent. However, the figures do not take into account, the peculiar vulnerabilities confronted by the country as a small island developing state. The country is also heavily indebted, and at 130%, has one of the largest debt-to-GDP ratios in the world.

The following are some main social challenges that the country confront: Women and girls who constitute 50.7% of the Jamaican population are often disproportionately affected by reproductive

ill-health and issues of inequality in access to power and resources. The poverty rate in Jamaica stands at 16.5%, having increased in the past two years. Closely linked to poverty is the unemployment rate, where 14.8% of women are unemployed in comparison to 8.6% of men. Migration continues to impact Jamaica's population growth and structure as well as other socio-economic factors.

2.715.000

POPULATION (2013)



1.385.000 Male
1.428.000 Female

667.840

Population 5-17 years (2011)



339.934 Male
327.906 Female

GNI

US\$ 8.170.21

(UNDP, 2014)

POVERTY **16.5%** (UNFPA, 2013)
RATE

Employment



Unemployment rate:

(UNDP, 2014)

13.9%

3%
female

Youth unemployment rate:

(UNDP, 2014)

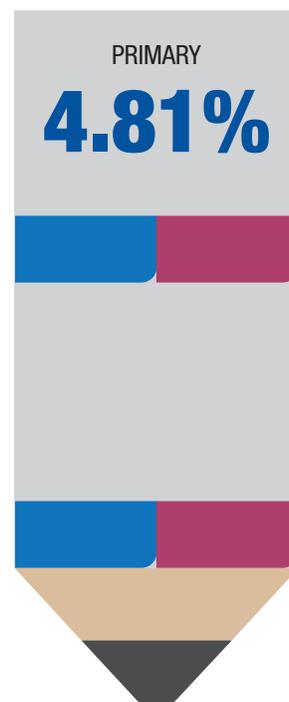
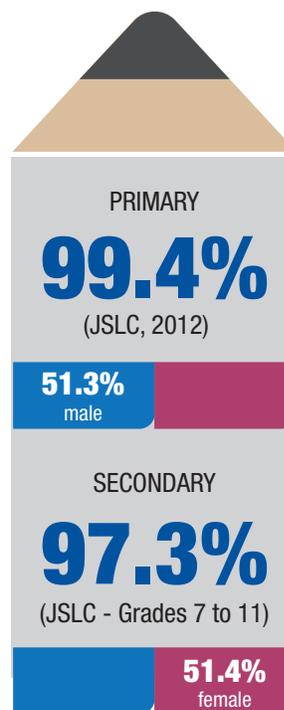
34%

Education



ATTENDANCE rate

INTRA-ANNUAL DESERTION rate



The situation of child labour

Legal framework regarding child labour



Ratified International Standards

- Convention on the Rights of the Child, 14/05/1991.
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, 09/05/2002.
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 26/08/2011.
- ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), 13/10/2003.
- ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), 13/10/2003.
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, 29/09/2003.



National Legislation

- Charter of Rights (2010).
- The Child Care and Protection, 2004 (Act No. 11 of 2004).
- Education Act (1965).
- The Sexual Offences Act (2009).
- The Child Pornography (Prevention) Act, 2009 (Act No. 13 of 2009).
- Trafficking in Persons Act (2007).
- Cyber Crime Act (2010).

Child labour characteristics

Child labour (5-17 years):

16.420 (Youth Activity Survey, 2002)

Hazardous work:

7500 (Youth Activity Survey, 2002)

Only work

Below minimum age for admission to employment

43.3367 (8.4%)

Combine work and school

Below minimum age for admission to employment

(9.5%)



The country's response to child labour

Social protection policies and programs

- National Development Plan: Vision 2030, it is the framework for action in advancing national development.
- Establishment of Child Protection Committees across the island in collaboration with other major stakeholders such as UNICEF and Child Development Agency (CDA).

Education Policies and Programs

- Compulsory Education Policy.
- Jamaican Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms provision for Free Education.

National Decent Work Program

- Labour market Reform Commission established.

Children and adolescent policy

- Children Affairs Division now established in Ministry of Youth and Culture.
- Child Justice Programme with a 4 year National Plan of Action for Child Justice (2010-2014).

Strategy for prevention and eradication of child labour

- MLSS Program for the Elimination of Child Labour.
- National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.

Themes/sectors prioritized in the strategy for prevention and eradication of child labour

1. Withdraw and rehabilitate children from hazardous work.
2. Prevent other children from joining the workforce.



Accomplishments

1. Creation of a hotline that receives reports of child abuse, including cases that involve the worst forms of child labour and trafficking ran by the Government.
2. The country has a Child Protection Database ran by the government.
3. Enhanced knowledge base on Child Labour- Professional Handbook, Baseline Studies, Legislative Gap Analysis.

Development Cooperation

United States Department of Labor (USDOL)

- Child Labor Measurement and Policy Development (MAP).
- Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce (CLEAR) .
- Child Labor project, USDOL - ILO.

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

- The regional project for combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean, 2001-2008.
- Strengthening national capacities of CARICOM country members, 2006.

European Commission

- Tackling Child Labour Through Education (TACKLE), 2009-2013.

Challenges to face child labour



1. Lack of an Integrated Legislative Framework.
2. Limited Coordination among Enforcement Mechanisms.
3. Limited Social Support Systems.
4. Eradicating Child Labour in the Informal Sector.
5. Current legislation does not prohibit the use, procurement, or offering of a child for illicit activities, such as for the production and trafficking of drugs.
6. Lack of Safe Spaces to provide comprehensive support services needed for example psychosocial assessment/screening.

Sources

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