Migration in the Caribbean: contributions, good practices and challenges

“Jamaica”

Jenese Edmondson
Demographer
Planning Institute of Jamaica
June 13, 2023
International Migration

A transformative Force

Poverty Alleviation

Contribution to sustainable Development
History of Migration in Jamaica

Jamaica Migrant Population in Main Destination Countries

- USA
- CAN
- UK

Emigration and Immigration, Jamaica

- 2000: Emigrants 20000, Immigrants 5000
- 2010: Emigrants 25000, Immigrants 2000
- 2020: Emigrants 20000, Immigrants 5000
- 2021: Emigrants 15000, Immigrants 5000

Pie chart:
- Emigrants: 64%
- Immigrants: 36%

Bar chart:
- 2000: Emigrants 25000, Immigrants 5000
- 2010: Emigrants 30000, Immigrants 2000
- 2020: Emigrants 25000, Immigrants 5000
- 2021: Emigrants 20000, Immigrants 5000
National Diaspora and Development Policy.

National Policy on International Migration and Development (IMD)

National Population and Sustainable Development Policy
The International Migration and Development Policy

- Family, migration and development
- Diaspora and development
- Remittance and development
- Return, integration and reintegration
- Human rights and social protection
- Labour mobility and development
Governance and Policy Coherence
Public order, safety and security
Data, research and information systems

The International Migration and Development Policy cont.
Phase 1 (2010-2014) Project and Initiatives Implemented

- The 2010 Jamaica developed its first Migration in Jamaica: A Country Profile.
- The development of the National IMD Policy Capacity Assessment and Capacity Development Strategy (2013)
Phase Two: 2014-2018 Projects and Initiatives Implemented

- Trainer of Trainees (TOT) Consultancy:
- ACP-EU Migration Action Project (2016)
- Plan of Action in Support of Involuntary Returned Migrants – Jamaica
- Development of National Migration Database System (NMDS):
- National Consultation on Global Compact for Migration
Phase Three: 2018- Present
Projects and Initiatives Implemented

- Social Enterprise and Economic Livelihoods Project (SEELP)
- Promoting Integrity in International Recruitment Consultancies
- Migration Radio Series
National Diaspora and Development Policy
**Key Thematic Areas**

A. Socioeconomic engagement and participation, Human exchanges, transfers and philanthropic initiatives, Integration and reintegration

B. Economic inflows, investments and trade, Physical environment, safety and security, Engagement of Diaspora Youth and Young Adults

C. Tourism and Cultural exchanges, legislative and policy reform

D. Data and Information, governance
National Diaspora and Development Policy

- Education
- Healthcare
- Charitable foundations
- Social services
- Business, investment and trade
Challenges

- Lack of Data
- Capacity Challenges to collect, analyse and disseminate data (MDAs and NGOs)
- Limited Data sharing
- Bureaucratic challenges
New Project Initiatives

- Jamaica Diaspora Engagement Model for Development (JAM-DEM Project)
- Diaspora Registration Platform and Diaspora Portal
- Modernization of Jamaica Remittance Industry
- Implementation of the National Population and Sustainable Development Policy