



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# JAMAICA

## COUNTRY PROFILE

**GOAL:** Resiliency and social cohesion of targeted Jamaican communities improved.

**COUNTRY SITUATION:** With a population of 2.95 million Jamaica is an upper middle-income economy still struggling with low growth, high public debt, and exposure to external shocks (World Bank). The country has made steady economic and social growth but remains vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters, poverty, crime, and corruption, and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in key populations.

- Natural disasters are extremely frequent in the Caribbean and their economic impact is particularly large relative to the size of the economy.
- Jamaica has the 3rd highest homicide rate in Latin America and the Caribbean, 47 homicides per 100,000 people in 2018. Citizen security is therefore a top priority for the government and people of Jamaica due to the high levels of crime and violence from transnational crime and gangs, with.
- Jamaica has an HIV epidemic that is concentrated in key populations, with men who have sex with men (MSM) having a prevalence of 29.3% (MSM IBSS Survey, UCSF, 2018)

### OUR WORK

USAID works with the Jamaican government, civil society, NGOs, the private sector, donors, community leaders, and beneficiaries to identify and address these challenges to improve citizen security, and promote healthy and resilient environments.

#### CRIME PREVENTION

Growing evidence demonstrates that the violence problem in the Caribbean requires a comprehensive approach that targets youth crime and violence both geographically and demographically, alongside systematic and institutional issues hindering effective crime and violence prevention.

USAID's Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) program focuses on youth, as they are the primary victims and perpetrators of crime in the Caribbean. The top-line goal for CBSI is preventing youth crime and violence through a two-fold approach, supporting activities to:

1. Strengthen the enabling environment necessary for effective crime and violence prevention; and
2. Advance community-level youth crime and violence prevention interventions, including a positive youth development approach focused on youth engagement for civic and economic opportunity.

## **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

Working closely with the host government, communities, and NGOs, USAID supports the Government and people of Jamaica to become more resilient to the impacts of disasters through the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities. DRR activities seek to institutionalize Jamaica’s disaster preparedness capabilities and increase the country’s capacity to provide support across the region, while also aiming to make Jamaica more energy resilient.

## **HIV EPIDEMIC CONTROL**

USAID, in coordination with the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), supports Jamaica’s vision to achieve HIV epidemic control. USAID will focus its efforts on strengthening the technical and financial capacity of NGOs to find the undiagnosed people living with HIV, initiate them on treatment and see them through to viral suppression. USAID will also partner with the private health sector, to build a private sector network of clinicians that provides care and promotes quality of service to HIV patients. Additionally, the HIV private sector coordinating unit facilitates continuing educational opportunities for clinicians.



Photo by: USAID/Jamaica



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