Factsheet: Jamaica

Last update: 22 April 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The national youth policy (2003) of Jamaica defines youth as those between the ages of 15-24, "who [have] passed through the dependent stage of childhood, in the semi-independence of adolescence or who will soon acquire the maturity of adulthood."

CANDIDACY AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lower House</th>
<th>Upper House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
<td>Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Opposite Sex</th>
<th>Same Sex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The national youth policy of Jamaica was adopted in 2003 and is undergoing revision.

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SITUATION OF YOUTH

Share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Increase in the national youth policy of Jamaica was adopted in 2003 and is undergoing revision.

POLICY & LEGISLATION

The vision of the national youth policy (2003) is of:

- Jamaican youth realising their full potential, through access to opportunities, to develop, participate and contribute as responsible citizens, to a peaceful, prosperous and caring society.
- The policy focuses on six areas: Living Environments; Education and Training; Employment and Entrepreneurship; Health; Participation and Empowerment; Care and Protection.

According to a press release on 12 January 2012, the youth policy is currently being revised and will focus on greater youth participation and employment opportunities. However, there is no detail of developments since 2012. As a member of the Commonwealth

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 5289.97

HDI

0.73

GINI

45.51

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The National Centre for Youth Development, the youth division within the Ministry of Youth & Culture, is "responsible for facilitating the co-ordination and integration of programmes, service and activities geared towards youth development, and recommending and designing programmes to enhance and propel youth development." Established in 2000 during the development of the national youth policy (2003), its main programmes include Youth Information Centres, youth services, career development and supporting youth participation structures.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The National Youth Council of Jamaica (NYCJ) is an umbrella organisation representing local youth clubs that provides "assistance in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of government policy regarding youth." The Youth Ambassadors Programme is made up of 22 young people acting as national and international ambassadors. They focus on thematic issues, such as disability, gender and education, and international forums. The NYCJ is a member of the Commonwealth Youth Council and the Youth Ambassadors are part of the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors programme.

BUDGET & SPENDING

According to the 2013-2014 Jamaica budget, the National Centre for Youth Development was allocated JMD 87 million (USD 795,729). "Youth Development Services" in total received JMD 519 million (USD 4.75 million). According to the World Bank, Jamaica spent 11.48% of its government expenditure and 6.35% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

Does the country have a national youth organisation / association (council, platform, body)?

YES

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

YES

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

JMD 87 MILLION
USD 795,729

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TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

Source: World Bank
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

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Documents about Jamaica

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