

# Jamaica

## STRIVE Country Profile



**CESO | SACO**  
Stronger economies. **Better lives.**





## CONTENTS

<b>STRIVE OVERVIEW .....</b>	<b>3</b>
OBJECTIVES.....	3
SCOPE.....	3
STRUCTURE.....	4
CANADIAN ENGAGEMENT .....	4
<b>JAMAICA – CURRENT STATE.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>STRIVE IN JAMAICA.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>PREVIOUS CESO INITIATIVES.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>JAMAICA – COUNTRY FACTS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>JAMAICA – KEY INFORMATION &amp; RESOURCES .....</b>	<b>6</b>
VISA REQUIREMENTS .....	6
IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT OF CANADA RESOURCES .....	6
CLIMATE.....	6
LANGUAGE, CULTURE, CUSTOMS & ETIQUETTE.....	6
CURRENCY & CONVERTING FUNDS .....	7
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....	7
ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES .....	8
<b>CANADIAN EMBASSY IN JAMAICA .....</b>	<b>8</b>

## STRIVE OVERVIEW

The multi-country volunteer-driven project, “Strengthening capacity through Innovation and Volunteer Expertise (STRIVE),” will be delivered over a period of five years (2015-2020). STRIVE is funded under the Volunteer Cooperation Program through a Contribution Agreement with Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD). CESO will build upon previous experience and contracts, including the successful “CPB7” contract delivered between 2009 and 2015.

### Objectives

Ultimately, DFATD’s Volunteer Cooperation Program aims to improve the economic and social well-being of poor and marginalized communities in developing countries. CESO contributes to this objective through this project, which involves the delivery of more than **1,749 short-term assignments**. **The STRIVE project strengthens the capacity of 60 local partners** and more than a thousand clients among their networks in 16 countries to deliver sustainable development results, in response to local needs, including local institutions, public sector agencies, and regional economic associations. These results are achieved through the use of the skills and expertise of qualified Canadian volunteers.

Through local partners and their networks, the project will have a **reach of more than 400,000 individual direct beneficiaries**, in addition to **more than 5,000 member or client institutions**. The indirect reach of project activities includes tens of millions of individual SME employees, users accessing association services, and constituents.

CESO will integrate both a gender equality strategy as well as an environmental integration strategy throughout the project.

### Scope

Project activities will be **delivered in sixteen countries**: Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, the Caribbean region (including Guyana, Jamaica, and Suriname), Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, Tanzania, and Vietnam.





Activities support both inclusive **private sector development**, primarily in the manufacturing, tourism and hospitality, agribusiness, and microfinance sectors; and **democratic governance**, strengthening public management systems and capacities at both national and municipal levels. The establishment or improvement of business, trade and knowledge-sharing linkages among local partners are supported by activities centred around **lead countries in each geographic region**: Bolivia, Senegal, Tanzania, Guyana, and the Philippines.

### *Structure*

CESO ensures that activities are aligned with local partner priorities through the **delivery of its partnership model**. A Partnership Action Plan (PAP) is developed together with each local partner following a needs assessment carried out by a CESO Lead Volunteer Advisor (LVA). The PAP establishes the key objectives of the partnership and outlines the sequence of individual assignments to be delivered by VAs over a period of three to five years.

The project's focus on regional linkages among local partners in the targeted sectors is strengthened through the delivery of **knowledge sharing activities**. CESO's field offices in the regional lead countries (Senegal, Tanzania, Guyana, Bolivia, and the Philippines) will coordinate among partners and organize a regional conference to promote the sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

### *Canadian Engagement*

In addition, the project supports an **outreach component** to engage 1,500 highly-skilled Canadian women and men as Volunteer Advisors (VAs), and to increase awareness of Canada's efforts to address development priorities among at least 650,000 Canadians per year, with the result of enhancing Canadians' participation in Canada's sustainable development efforts.



## JAMAICA – CURRENT STATE

Jamaica has the largest English-speaking population in the Caribbean, at 2.7 million and a labour force of 1.3 million. Jamaica is an upper middle income country and is ranked at the “high human development” category of the UN's 2014 Human Development Index. The economy no longer depends on any one sector, as numerous sectors make significant contribution to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Services comprise the largest sector in the Jamaican economy, accounting for approximately 60 per cent of GDP. The sector includes tourism, finance, insurance services, real estate, information and communication technology (ICT) and entertainment and sports, among others. Despite the advance in development the country's debt continues to be a major challenge. According to the World Bank, Jamaica's debt to GDP ratio is one of the highest in the developing world, which severely hinders the country's economic growth. The Caribbean region in general is vulnerable to global economic conditions, susceptible to natural disasters, has lacklustre economic growth rates, high rates of unemployment, poverty and public debt.

Through the 15-member Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which is headquartered in Guyana, Caribbean countries have communicated common development objectives to improve standards of living and work. These objectives include increasing full employment of labour and other factors of production; promoting coordinated economic development, expanding trade relations with non-Caribbean nations, and enhancing levels of international competitiveness

## STRIVE IN JAMAICA

Under the STRIVE project, CESO will deliver a total of 179 assignments in Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname. In Jamaica, CESO will strengthen the capacity of the Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA) along with its members.

### Lead Project Country

Guyana is the lead project country for the region including Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname. The lead project country is identified to support knowledge-sharing activities and business and trade linkages among partners and clients. In-country staff in Guyana will be responsible for organizing and delivering knowledge-sharing events to support these linkages as well as to highlight best practices and lessons learned.

### STRIVE Objective in Jamaica

To strengthen private sector development by improving the productivity of targeted small enterprises and creating new employment opportunities. While CESO's activities in the region will be focused in Jamaica, best practices will be replicated in other countries and with regional-level partners wherever possible during the project.

### STRIVE Sectors in Jamaica

*SME Development:* Despite the important role that small businesses offer in generating employment and income, support services generally remain fragmented and under-resourced with regard to financial and technical capacity. CESO will support private sector development by strengthening the capacity of our partner in Jamaica.

### Gender Specific Challenges and Opportunities

Throughout the region steps have been taken to address discrimination against women through legal reforms with regard to domestic violence and other aspects of family law based on the CARICOM model.



In Jamaica, social and economic factors have combined to create additional challenges. Despite some advantages, such as higher female university enrolment levels, women remain under-represented in the labour market. A 2008 study found that women only constituted 16 per cent of Directors among the boards of publicly listed companies, and of these a significant number sit on multiple boards. In 2011, a new National Policy for Gender Equality was introduced, with support from the Canadian Government. Through CESO's partnerships in Jamaica, women-led businesses will be a focus for assistance, thereby contributing to greater equality within the private sector.

## PREVIOUS CESO INITIATIVES

CESO began working in the Caribbean in 1968, and has increased the level of activity in the region over the past three decades. CESO has worked in every CARICOM/OECS country, successfully completing over 3,500 assignments including several through contracts with DFATD. CESO has also worked on joint projects with the Organization of American States (OAS) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to deliver projects in the region.

## JAMAICA – COUNTRY FACTS

<b>Full Name</b>	Jamaica	<b>Major Languages</b>	English
<b>Population</b>	2.71 million (World Bank, 2013)	<b>Gross National Income per capita</b>	US\$5,220 (World Bank, 2013)
<b>Capital</b>	Kingston	<b>Life Expectancy</b>	72 years (men), 78 years (women) (UN)
<b>Largest City</b>	Kingston	<b>Major Religions</b>	Christianity

## JAMAICA – KEY INFORMATION & RESOURCES

### Visa Requirements

A visa is not required for Canadian VAs – the purpose of a VA trip is “tourism.”

**For more information on entry/exit requirements, refer to [Country Travel Advice and Advisories](#).**

### Important Government of Canada Resources

- [Public Health Agency of Canada – Travel Health](#): Country-specific travel health notices
- [Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada – Country Insights](#): Answers intercultural questions from a Canadian and a local point of view
- [Country Travel Advice and Advisories](#): Country-specific information on safety, security and entry requirements
- [Registration of Canadians Abroad](#): Free service offered by the Government of Canada

### Climate

The annual average temperature is 27 °C, however the summer months are very warm and humid while December to March are appreciably cooler. VAs are advised to travel with cotton or warm clothing and purchase plenty of bottled water and sunscreen for protection against the often intense heat during the summer months.

**For specific city information, refer to World Weather and Climate Information found [here](#).**

### Language, Culture, Customs & Etiquette

- Although it is not imperative that you be introduced by a third-party, such introductions can speed up the time it takes to develop the personal relationship so necessary to conducting business successfully.



- Appointments are necessary and easy to schedule.
- They should be about 2 weeks in advance if travelling from abroad.
- Confirm the meeting, by telephone, a few days in advance.
- Jamaicans expect punctuality although they are not always successful at arriving on time themselves.
- Meetings will have a friendly tone even though they can be somewhat formal.
- Expect some small talk before business is discussed. Let your Jamaican colleagues decide when it is time to speak about business.

For more information on language, culture and business etiquette, refer to the Kwintessential website found [here](#).

#### *Currency & Converting Funds*

- Jamaican Dollar (JMD; symbol J\$) = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of J\$1,000, 500, 100 and 50. Coins are in denominations of J\$20, 10, 5 and 1, and 25, 10 and 1 cents.
- Jamaican law requires that local currency be used when paying for all goods and services, though that law is followed very loosely and the US Dollar is accepted almost universally.
- **Credit Cards:** Plastic is invaluable when travelling in Jamaica. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are all widely accepted as are other cards bearing the Cirrus or Plus logo. Most Jamaican ATMs accept international bank cards and many banks give credit card cash advances.
- **ATMs:** Most Jamaican ATMs accept international bank cards and can be found at the airports, in larger towns and in major hotels and resorts. However the island's ATMs still have a reputation for unreliability and shouldn't be relied on exclusively. Bank cards supported by Visa and Mastercard will work in most situations and the island's Scotia Bank cashpoints are generally considered the most reliable. As a precaution it's recommended that you use ATMs during business hours, and avoid visiting them after dark. If a bank is open but the ATM is not functioning, many banks will give cash advances on a credit card.
- **Cash:** VAs are advised to travel with Canadian funds and upon arrival to Jamaica convert funds to Jamaican dollars. This transaction can be conveniently processed at both Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston and Sangster's International Airport in Montego Bay or at the numerous cambios available islandwide.

For more information on currency and money, refer to World Travel Guide found [here](#).

#### *Additional Information*

- **Vaccinations:** The recommended vaccinations for Jamaica are based on routine vaccinations required while traveling to any destination which are namely Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Typhoid. While there is no vaccine available for "Chikungunya", it is worthwhile to note as the Jamaica and Caribbean region in general experienced a recent outbreak of the disease in 2014. Chikungunya is a viral disease transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes. It causes fever and severe joint pain. Other symptoms include muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue and rash.
- As a precaution VAs are advised to travel with mosquito/insect repellent as means of protection against such disease. Also a strong immune system is very essential to withstanding the virus and as such it's recommended that person increase their vitamin intake during outbreaks.
- **Altitude:** Jamaica is a very mountainous country, with the highest point being Blue Mountain Peak at 2,256 metres. However major cities and towns are situated on the plains. Because of the effects of the mountains, rainfall is fairly evenly distributed.





- **Voltage & Plug Type:** Jamaica uses type A and B receptacles (the same as used in the United States and Canada). Electric power in Jamaica is almost the same as in the United States and Canada. In Jamaica it is 110-120v at 50 hz (also called 'cycles'). In the US and Canada the power operates 60 hz.
- **Climate:** The coolest months are December to February, with February usually having the coolest temperatures. Expect highs around 27 °C, and lows around 15 °C, depending on your location. In the mountains, night-time temperatures may fall as low as 8 °C. The hottest months are July and August. Expect temperatures as high as 30 °C and as low as 20 °C. It may feel even hotter due to humidity.
- The annual Hurricane season runs from June to November and can lead to serious flooding and loss of life. Travellers visiting the country during this period should carefully check the predicted weather conditions and plan for their safety accordingly.

**Other:**

- A yellow fever certificate is required by all travellers over one years old planning on visiting the country from infected zones. Travellers coming from countries not affected by the disease are recommended to obtain the vaccination prior to beginning their journey.
- Local water is generally safe to drink in Kingston and other major cities throughout Jamaica but becomes increasingly unreliable in more remote regions of the country. All foreign visitors to the country are advised to stick to bottled water where possible and should thoroughly boil local water before drinking. Milk and dairy products should be checked before being consumed.
- Outbreaks of Dengue Fever and Chikungunya (Chik-V) were present in and around Kingston and other sections of the country towards the latter part of 2014. Travellers are strongly urged to obtain large amounts of insect repellent and closed clothing for protection against mosquitoes.
- There is a very limited risk from Malaria but travellers are still advised to take all necessary precautions to avoid any risk of infection and should immediately seek out medical assistance if symptoms develop.

*Additional Online Resources*

- [International Dialling Codes](#)
- [Country Calendar and Holidays](#)
- [Time Zone Information](#)

**CANADIAN EMBASSY IN JAMAICA**

Kingston - High Commission of Canada

**Street Address:** 3 West Kings House Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica

**Postal Address:** P.O. Box 1500, Kingston, Jamaica

**Telephone:** (876) 926-1500

**Fax:** 1-876-733-3493

**Email:** [kngtn-cs@international.gc.ca](mailto:kngtn-cs@international.gc.ca)

**Internet:** [www.jamaica.gc.ca](http://www.jamaica.gc.ca)

Montego Bay - Consulate of Canada

**Street Address:** 29 Gloucester Street, Montego Bay

**Telephone:** (876) 632-0371



**CESO | SACO**

Stronger economies. **Better** lives.  
Une économie plus solide **pour une** vie meilleure.

*STRIVE Country Profile*

**Fax:** (876) 632-3690

**Email:** [cancon@flowja.com](mailto:cancon@flowja.com)

For more information, refer to the [Canadian Embassies and Consulates Directory](#).