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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

*Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:
Institutional Strengthening; Research,
Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation;
and International Cooperation*

Jamaica

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)

2023



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EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND

2023

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PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), established by a mandate from the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, Chile - 1998), is a unique multilateral evaluation tool designed to measure the progress made and challenges faced by the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) in implementing the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs of the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy, currently in force.

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) is the OAS specialized agency in charge of implementing this Mechanism.

The current MEM round is based on the objectives of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2020 and their respective priority actions. These documents take into account the recommendations of the outcome document of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) and the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as well as cross-cutting issues, such as the gender perspective and human rights, cultural context, and social inclusion approaches, among others.

Seven evaluation rounds have been completed from 1998 to 2019 and, during 2020, the MEM Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG), composed of member state delegates, agreed on a new methodology for the eighth round, consisting of annual thematic evaluations with the support of independent technical consultants, as follows: 2021 – Measures for Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support; 2022 – Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences; 2023 – Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; International Cooperation; and 2024 – Comprehensive Evaluation based on updated information from all thematic areas.

MEM evaluations are carried out based on information provided by the member states' National Coordinating Entities (NCEs), which is analyzed by the MEM Governmental Expert Group (GEG), composed of experts designated by the countries, who do not participate in their own country's evaluation, thus ensuring the transparency and impartiality of the process. The GEG is always supported by the group of independent technical consultants and the MEM Unit. The eighth round represents a more rigorous evaluation process, in which countries are requested to provide valid means of verification to support the information submitted and ensure compliance of each priority action.

Specifically, the GEG's work for the thematic assessment for the areas of "Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; and International Cooperation" was conducted during 2023, and covers the 2019 to 2023 period (unless otherwise specified). This work was adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic with the use of technology and virtual tools, as well as taking it into consideration in the evaluation assessments.

Finally, it should be noted that one of the main purposes of MEM evaluation reports is to serve as a useful diagnostic tool to identify opportunities for improvement in drug policies and strategies, both at the national and regional levels.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

OBJECTIVE
1

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL DRUG AUTHORITIES, PLACING THEM AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL AND PROVIDING THEM WITH THE NECESSARY CAPABILITIES, RESOURCES, AND COMPETENCIES TO COORDINATE FORMULATION, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION OF NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES.

Priority Action 1.1: Place national drug authorities at a high political level.

Jamaica has the Ministry of National Security; the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) - Narcotics Division; the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA); Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW); and the Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA) as the national drug authorities, which were established and positioned within the government administrative structure, as follows:

- The Ministry of National Security is a central ministry of government responsible for the reduction of crime and maintenance of peace and order in society. It was established under the Jamaica Constitution, 1962, that provides for the appointment of Ministers to the respective Ministries with respective portfolio responsibilities.
- The JCF was established in 1716 and derives its authority from the Constabulary Force Act, 1935. The JCF falls under the Ministry of National Security
- The NCDA was established in 1983 and derives its authority from the National Council on Drug Abuse Act, 1991. The NCDA is an executive agency and aims at the elimination of licit and illicit substance misuse by delivering research driven public education, prevention, and treatment programs. It falls under the MOHW, which is a central ministry of government with the mandate “to ensure the provision of quality health services and to promote healthy lifestyles and environmental practices”
- The CLA, an agency of the Ministry of Industry, Investment, and Commerce was established in 2015 under the Dangerous Drug Amendment Act, 2015, and is a central ministry of government with a mandate to lead the development of policies that aim to create growth and jobs, while achieving social inclusion and consumer protection. The CLA is an executive agency falling under the Ministry of Industry, Investment, and Commerce (MIIC)

Priority Action 1.2: Grant national drug policy entities the authority to guide and coordinate the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national drug policies.

Jamaica’s national drug policy authorities have a legal basis, through the following:

- The Jamaica Constitution, 1962
- The Jamaica Constabulary Force Act, 1935
- The Dangerous Drugs Act, 1948
- The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2015
- The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2021
- The Dangerous Drugs (Authorization Conditions) Regulations 1948
- The Dangerous Drugs (Cannabis Licensing) (Interim) Regulations, 2016

- The Food and Drugs Act, 1964
- The Food and Drugs Regulations, 1975
- The Precursor Chemicals Act, 1999
- The Precursor Chemicals Regulations, 2013
- The Public Health (Tobacco Control) Regulations, 2013
- The National Council on Drug Abuse Act, 1991

Priority Action 1.3: Allocate the necessary resources (material, financial, and human) for the effective functioning of the national drug authorities.

In Jamaica there is an annual budget for the national drug authorities, which is independent and integrated into budgets as listed below:

Independent	X	Ministry of National Security Ministry of Health and Wellness
Integrated	X	Jamaica Constabulary Force Cannabis Licensing Authority

The amount of the annual budgets of the national drug authorities for the years 2019-2023 is listed below:

Cannabis Licensing Authority

Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Annual budget amount (US dollars)	\$1,480,379	\$1,664,522	\$2,526,533	\$2,193,247	Not available

Ministry of Health and Wellness (Standards and Regulations Division)

Year	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
Annual budget amount (US dollars)	Not available	\$940,285	\$976,279	\$988,448	Not available

Jamaica Constabulary Force (Narcotics Division)

Year	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
Annual budget amount (US dollars)	Not available	\$10,004,305	\$8,422,474	\$8,037,038	Not available

National Council on Drug Abuse

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Annual budget amount (US dollars)	\$916,675	\$1,158,494	\$1,281,870	\$1,313,916	\$1,350,545

Ministry of National Security (Law Enforcement, Forensics, Border Security, Defence and Protective Security and Small Arms Division)

Year	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
Annual budget amount (US dollars)	Not available	Not available	\$646,233	\$288,441	Not available

Priority Action 1.4: Design or optimize mechanisms to facilitate effective coordination and collaboration among government institutions for the formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and updating of evidence-based national drug policies and/or strategies.

Jamaica has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government (national and sub-national) to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update national drug policies and/or strategies. In this sense, the Ministry of National Security functions as the primary coordinating and organizing mechanism for the national drug policy. A Technical Working Group has been established, comprising: the Jamaica Constabulary Force Narcotics Division; the NCDA; the CLA; Ministry of Industry, Investment, and Commerce; MOHW; RISE Life Management Services; and the Ministry of Education and Youth.

In relation to demand reduction, the NCDA works with multiple focal points across the Ministries of Education and Youth, Health and Wellness, National Security and their agencies and departments to develop, update and monitor drug related policies and strategies based on studies conducted, changing trends and international best practice standards that are adapted to for local context. There are annual plans and strategies that rely on input from the authority to update Jamaica’s efforts to tackle substance use using a public health approach.

The national drug authorities of Jamaica coordinate the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory, international cooperation, and program evaluation. However, they do not coordinate comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs.

OBJECTIVE
2

FORMULATE, IMPLEMENT, EVALUATE, AND UPDATE COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES THAT PROMOTE BALANCED, MULTIDISCIPLINARY, AND EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES, WHILE FULLY RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, UNDER THE PRINCIPLE OF COMMON AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, CONSISTENT WITH OBLIGATIONS OF PARTIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT GENDER, AGE, COMMUNITY, CULTURAL CONTEXT, AND SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT.

Priority Action 2.1: Collect and use evidence as a basis for the formulation and updating of national drug policies and/or strategies.

In Jamaica, the Ministry of National Security, the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) - Narcotics Division, the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW), National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) and the Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA) collect and use evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and/or strategies. The evidence used as a basis for formulating and updating the national drug policies and strategies is gathered from various sources. The Ministry of National Security in collaboration with the JCF coordinates the collection and analysis of evidence related to institutional strengthening, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation.

The MOHW through the Standards and Regulation Division uses evidence to assess and evaluate narcotics, psychotropic, herbal products and other drugs, cosmetics, foods, and medical devices for safe use by the public. Through this assessment and evaluation, standards, regulations, and guidelines are developed and implemented.

The NCDA, as an agency under the MOHW, coordinates the collection and analysis process with regards to demand reduction, control measures and institutional strengthening from a public health, treatment, and rehabilitation perspective. Periodic national surveys, surveillance in drug treatment, collection of drug supply data, policy dialogue with key stakeholders/focal points are also conducted.

In relation to the CLA, evidence-based statistics and information are collected through real-time observation, statistics, and feedback from the industry. This data is utilized to improve efficiency, improve processes, and to prevent inversion and diversion within medical cannabis industry.

Priority Action 2.2: Promote and establish collaborative relationships with the scientific community, public policy experts, community and/or civil society actors, and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to the evidence-based development, implementation, evaluation, and updating of national drug policies.

In Jamaica, the following relevant actors from the priority areas are involved in the development, implementation, evaluation, and update of national drug policies and/or strategies:

Relevant actors	Development	Implementation	Evaluation	Update
Health Ministry	X	X	X	X
Ministry of Interior - National Security	X	X	X	X
Justice Ministry	X	X		X
Education Ministry	X	X	X	
Regional and/or local governments				
Scientific community/academia	X		X	
Civil society	X	X	X	X
Private sector				
Others: - Cannabis Licensing Authority	X	X		X

The country's Regional and/or local government and private sector are not involved in the development, implementation, evaluation, or updating of national drug policies and/or strategies.

Priority Action 2.3: Promote sub-national/local management of drug policies and/or strategies through greater coordination and/or delegation of responsibilities, as appropriate, between sub-national/local and national agencies, taking into account the socio-cultural, demographic and other differences of each region.

Jamaica has not delegated responsibilities on drug issues to local or sub-national governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies and strategies.

The NCDA has, in its central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, train, and provide technical support to local/sub-national governments or agencies on drug-related issues. In this sense, there is one head office located in Kingston that is the central structure that coordinates national functions carried out in three regional offices throughout the island. In addition, there are Substance Abuse Officers and Substance Abuse Counsellors in every parish undertaking the function of drug prevention and treatment services, as well as public education initiatives.

For the NCDA, there is ongoing partnership with municipal offices throughout the island to participate in demand reduction initiatives including health fairs, drug observed days (such as World No Tobacco Day, Drug Awareness Month), as well as other health related initiatives that

are held by the municipalities. There was also a recent partnership (2021-2022) with the Narcotics Division of the JCF to train Narcotics Officers in demand reduction principles to strengthen their school and community engagement. Over 50 officers across the island were trained in this initiative. Additionally, through partnership with the regional health authorities, the NCDA provided training to over 200 health care workers (doctors, nurses, community health aides, midwives, social workers, among others) on screening, brief intervention, and referral in the treatment for drug use within the past two years.

The national drug authority of Jamaica does not have coordinators, offices, or representatives in the sub-national or local territories, as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level to respond to the drug problem.

Jamaica does not have a specific and ongoing mechanism or program to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects carried out by municipalities or local governments.

Priority Action 2.4: Engage private sector entities to develop innovative approaches to implementation of drug policy, including the exchange of information on emerging substances and new drug trafficking modalities that may affect the private sector, and best practices for denying criminals access to the private sector platforms and technologies that facilitate international trade.

Jamaica does not engage private sector entities to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices.

Priority Action 2.5: Formulate or update national drug policies and/or strategies in line with the 2020 OAS Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs and this accompanying Plan of Action, taking into account the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Jamaica takes into account the OAS 2020 Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies. In this regard, the development of a National Drug Control and Prevention Master Plan, strategic plans and programs incorporate components of the Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs and Plan of Action to ensure that Jamaica's initiatives are in alignment with regional and international best practice.

The country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this sense, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is taken into account by the Government of Jamaica (GOJ), particularly Goal 3. The GOJ, through the MOHW, has implemented strategies geared towards strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol. This includes the current review of the Tobacco Control Act, 2020, which aims at protecting the population from the harmful effects of tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke. Under this, restrictions will continue to apply to 'traditional' tobacco products and related products,

including e-cigarettes in the form of nicotine products and nicotine devices, as well as electronic non-nicotine delivery systems. It will also make provision for an increase in the size of graphic health warnings on tobacco products from the existing 60% to 80% of the principal display areas of tobacco products.

Further in keeping with Goal 3 Jamaica has continued the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. It should be noted that in Jamaica's Vision 2030, the MOHW was identified to be the lead Ministry for implementation of tobacco control legislation and supporting regulation.

In keeping with this, the Public Health (Tobacco Control) Regulations, 2013 was promulgated and implemented three of the seven core non-price demand reduction provisions of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. These include:

- Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke – Article 8
- Regulation of tobacco product disclosures – Article 10
- Packaging and labelling of tobacco products – Article 11

The NCDAF has also undertaken various public outreach programs geared towards bringing awareness to the negative effects of drugs and substances such as alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco, particularly to those persons falling within the at-risk population. These outreach programs include the launching of the “Good Ganja Sense” website in 2021, the “Talk di Truth” Mentorship Programme and the ramping up of community interventions aimed at steering young people away from harmful substances.

Priority Action 2.6: Integrate a human rights, gender, and social inclusion approach, particularly with respect to at-risk populations, in the process of formulating, implementing, and updating national drug policies and/or strategies.

Jamaica's national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights approach. In this sense, the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2015 provides the framework for the use of cannabis for sacramental purposes in keeping with the Rastafarian faith. In keeping with this, the act provides for the designation of Rastafari places of worship where cannabis may be used for sacramental purposes, and the designation of lands where cannabis may be cultivated for the sacramental use by Rastafarians. Provision is also made within the Act for the exemption of events promoted primarily for the celebration or observance of the Rastafarian faith, at which users of cannabis will not be in breach of the law. In this regard, the Act provides the framework for the protection of the rights of Rastafarians to the right to freedom of religion and worship as provided for by the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms.

Additionally, a human rights approach is articulated as a priority in the national drug treatment and harm reduction strategies and programs.

Jamaica's national drug policies and strategies do not take into account the gender perspective.

The country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the social inclusion approach. In this sense, the NCDA has implemented national programs such as the harm reduction "Tek it to Dem" Programme targeting homeless drug users, the National Child Diversion Programme, and the Drug Treatment Court which incorporate social inclusion as an objective to improve outcomes of program beneficiaries.

Priority Action 2.7: Provide adequate financial and other necessary resources for the implementation of drug policies and programs.

Jamaica has the necessary resources to implement drug policies and programs.

OBJECTIVE
3**DESIGN AND COORDINATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES, THAT CAN BE HARMONIZED ACROSS RELATED GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES, THAT ADDRESS THE FUNDAMENTAL CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE DRUG PROBLEM.**

Priority Action 3.1: Establish and/or strengthen interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms, to achieve a comprehensive, balanced, and multi-disciplinary approach to the drug problem, including its causes and consequences.

Jamaica has interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms to address the drug problem in a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, including its causes and consequences. In this sense, there are existing multi-sectoral initiatives which include health, security, justice, education, civil society, and other key actors to address the drug problem. Some have been locally initiated while others have been undertaken in collaboration with technical support from partners such as World Health Organization (WHO)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to address issues such as drug treatment in Universal Health Care and in the Mental Health System.

Priority Action 3.2: Design, implement, and evaluate multisectoral plans and programs based on the principles of human rights, public health, and development, to address and counter the socioeconomic causes and the consequences of the drug problem.

Jamaica has concrete multisectoral plans and programs to address the causes and socioeconomic consequences of the drug problem, which are based on the principles of human rights, public health, and development. This is a work in progress through a partnership with PAHO. Additionally, a human rights approach is articulated as a priority in the national drug treatment and harm reduction strategies and programs.

Priority Action 3.3: Participate in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, institutions, and their internal processes.

Jamaica participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, and institutions and their internal processes. In this sense, below are examples of said bilateral and multilateral activities:

- Jamaica, through the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), participates in the Drug Commanders Meeting which is a pre meeting for the International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC) for which Jamaica also participates. Participation is also seen through Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) aimed at furthering cooperation in drug law enforcement activities
- Seaport Cooperation Program (SEACOP) V, in which a MOU was signed on April 26, 2022, between the EU and the Ministry of National Security. It marks the fifth phase of the SEACOP

Project which commenced in 2017. This phase of SEACOP is an amalgamation of efforts of the JCF, the Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA), the Ministry of National Security, Expertise France, and the SEACOP Project Team. Under SEACOP, trainers from the Jamaica Defense Force (JDF) Coast Guard have delivered a number of mentoring courses to other countries of the region in areas of maritime and border security. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) is a key aspect in building consensus among stakeholders and agencies critical to enhancing border security and is a continuation of a long-standing collaboration in the fight against drug trafficking in the region. Since the signing of the MOU, participants from Jamaica and the region have participated in Maritime Intelligence Unit (MIU) Training in Barbados in May 2022 and SEACOP - Multi-Country Border Security Programme (MCBS) Maritime Intelligence Units (MIU) Regional Seminar in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in August 2022

- Jamaica also participates in Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) which is a multi-agency project based on the cooperation between United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) that is aimed at strengthening the capacities of participating international airports in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. The objective is to detect and intercept drugs, other illicit goods and high-risk passengers in both origin, transit, and destination countries with the overall objective of disrupting the illegal criminal networks. AIRCOP was initially designed in 2010 as part of the European Union's Cocaine Route Program to curb cocaine trafficking on passengers, in cargo and mail, from source countries in Latin America - via the Caribbean and Africa - to Europe. The increased capacity and knowledge of trained personnel has led to the expansion of the project scope to cover the multiple threats targeting airports, including all illicit drugs, illicit goods (such as wildlife, counterfeit medicines, or weapons) and, as of late, terrorism and trafficking in persons. The project has also expanded its geographical coverage and currently includes airports in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. As such, AIRCOP is a key component of an integrated approach to border control management
- Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS) partnerships to develop a national drug strategy, develop monitoring and evaluation framework for a drug treatment court system, and strengthen early warning systems
- Participation in the Cooperation Programme between Latin America, Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD) initiatives to strengthen demand and supply reduction policies and programs, specifically membership on and co-leading working groups to build capacity for scientific data gathering and dissemination, developing research agendas and advisory mechanisms to inform drug policy development and early warning system development, enhance gender, human rights, and sustainable development
- Partnership with PAHO to implement youth surveys, incorporate drug treatment into the national mental health policy and plan and improve universal access to health care

Priority Action 3.4: Promote comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption.

Jamaica promotes comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption. In this sense, through the Citizen Security Plan (CSP), which is coordinated by the Citizen Security Secretariat (CSS), a robust security plan was developed, with the necessary institutional arrangements to ensure a sustainable, whole-of-government approach to the social investment and social transformation component of crime fighting is undertaken. It should be noted that the Secretariat was established in 2020 and falls under the Ministry of National Security.

Priority Action 3.5: Implement measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context.

Jamaica implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches. In this sense, every citizen in Jamaica, no matter gender, age, community, and cultural context has access to the Jamaican justice, in keeping with the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, which provides for the right to due process, the right to equality before the law, among others.

In addition, the GOJ provides funding for the Legal Aid Clinic. The GOJ is committed to ensuring that all Jamaicans can access quality legal representation, irrespective of their financial resources. To this end, the Legal Aid Council was established to provide legal services to members of the public who have been charged with criminal offences and especially to those who are unable to afford private legal representation. The Council offers services free of cost, some of these are:

- Legal advice for persons who have been detained, but not charged
- Legal representation during trial
- Legal representation during police questioning
- An attorney to apply for court or station bail on behalf of the person detained

Priority Action 3.6: Implement measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion.

Jamaica implements measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion. In this sense, the CSP, which is coordinated by the CSS, developed a robust security plan, with the necessary institutional arrangements to ensure a sustainable, whole-of-government approach to the social investment and social transformation component of crime fighting is undertaken. The CSS was established in 2020 and falls under the Ministry of National Security.

OBJECTIVE

4

DESIGN, ADOPT, AND IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR MINOR OR NON-VIOLENT DRUG OR DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES, WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL, CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS.

Priority Action 4.1: Adopt alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, where appropriate, while safeguarding the sovereignty of states, and ensuring individual accountability, respecting human rights and the gender perspective.

Jamaica's law provides for alternative measures to incarceration for minor drug-related offenses through the Drug Treatment Court (Treatment and Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act.

These measures take into account the human rights approach and the gender perspective in accordance with relevant international instruments. In this sense, alternative measures to incarceration of minor or non-violent drug related offences are governed by the Drug Treatment Court (Treatment and Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act. In this regard, the interpretation and use of the Act is guided by the rights provided for within the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms.

Additionally, there have been recent efforts to strengthen the understanding of the gender perspective in relation to alternatives to incarceration through research, training, and the development of strategies to address this.

Priority Action 4.2: Develop mechanisms to monitor and evaluate alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, in collaboration with academic and research institutions, as well as civil society.

Jamaica develops mechanisms to monitor and evaluate alternative measures to incarceration for minor drug-related offenses. The agency responsible for implementing the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms is the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA).

These mechanisms do not involve academic, research, and civil society institutions.

In Jamaica, there are no legislative reform initiatives that take into account the implementation of alternative measures to incarceration for minor drug-related offenses.

Priority Action 4.3: Promote common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration.

Jamaica promotes a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration. In this sense, there is training

and sensitization of the Judiciary, law enforcement, health personnel and civil society actors.

OBJECTIVE
5**PROMOTE AND IMPLEMENT, AS APPROPRIATE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LAWS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE AT-RISK POPULATIONS.**

Priority Action 5.1: Design and implement, in accordance with the characteristics, interests, and needs of each country, inter-agency and multisectoral programs that promote the social inclusion of individuals, families, and communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of at-risk populations.

Jamaica has inter-agency and multisectoral programs that promote the social inclusion of individuals, families, and communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of at-risk populations. In this sense, the harm reduction program “Tek it to Dem,” serving homeless drug users, undertakes prevention, harm reduction, and treatment interventions with the homeless HIV+ population in several key areas across Jamaica. It also includes addressing exacerbating risk factors such as drug misuse/addiction, unsafe sexual practices, homelessness, and meeting the medical and basic needs of the target groups. Additionally, the program provides opportunities for social reintegration through access to skills training and social protection programs.

Priority Action 5.2: Disseminate best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of at-risk populations.

Jamaica disseminates best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of people in at-risk situations, such as mechanisms, programs, and interventions, through publications, meetings, and workshops, among others. In that sense, through annual reporting, presentations at national health review meetings, workshops, and conferences.

OBJECTIVE
6

PROMOTE PROPORTIONATE SENTENCING FOR DRUG-RELATED CRIMES THAT PROVIDES FOR PENALTIES COMMENSURATE WITH THE RELATIVE SERIOUSNESS OF OFFENSES, IN LINE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONVENTIONS AND RESPECTING THE PRINCIPLES OF DUE PROCESS, WITH GENDER PERSPECTIVE, AGE, COMMUNITY, AND A HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH.

Priority Action 6.1: Promote proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offenses in accordance with domestic law.

Jamaica promotes the Drug Treatment Court (Treatment and Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act, which provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offences, in accordance with domestic law.

The country has the Drug Treatment Court (DTC) for minor drug-related offenses. In 2001, the Jamaican Parliament passed the Drug Court Act, establishing the first drug treatment courts in the region. The first two such courts opened in 2001 in Kingston and Montego Bay. Today, five adult DTCs operate across the country, in the Parishes of Manchester (Mandeville), St. Andrew (Kingston), St. Catherine (Portmore), St. James (Montego Bay), and St. Thomas (Morant Bay). Since inception, the five Courts have enrolled more than 1,500 participants. The DTC programme takes between nine and fifteen months to complete on average. The DTC calendar is held weekly in four of the courts while the newest DTC is held monthly.

Priority Action 6.2: Promote legal reforms as needed, to promote proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses.

Jamaica does not promote legal reforms regarding proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses.

RESEARCH, INFORMATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION

**OBJECTIVE
1**

ESTABLISH OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL OBSERVATORIES ON DRUGS, OR SIMILAR TECHNICAL OFFICES, STRENGTHENING NATIONAL DRUG INFORMATION SYSTEMS, AND FOSTER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO GENERATE, COLLECT, ORGANIZE, ANALYZE, AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO INFORM THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EVIDENCE-BASED DRUG POLICIES AND STRATEGIES.

Priority Action 1.1: Develop and strengthen national drug observatories (NDO) or similar technical offices ensuring they have adequate human and financial resources. (Questions 1, 2)

Jamaica has a National Drug Observatory (NDO), which was created by the National Council on Drug Abuse Act.

The NDO has been assigned financial and human resources to carry out its functions, which are funded by the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) through monthly subvention. The budgetary allocation covers the following: salary of NDO officer, research analyst, salary of monitoring and evaluation officer, and salary of data entry clerk.

Priority Action 1.2: Strengthen ties to academic and research institutions, as well as specialized non-governmental organizations, to foster scientific research and studies on the various aspects of the drug phenomenon.

Jamaica has established and maintained working relationships with academic and research institutions. In this sense, national drug surveys are conducted in collaboration with academics from the University of the West Indies who analyze data and support the preparation of reports. Additionally, there is a formal data sharing agreement with the Derek Gordon Data Bank (Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES, UWI) to share national drug survey data sets for students and staff to use. Data sharing has also been ongoing to the Community Health and Psychiatry Section (UWI) and Geo-Informatics Department. Numerous publications have been based on these national surveys in collaboration with the NDO and local and international academics.

The country has carried out the following study on the drug problem through academic and research institutions:

- The 2020 study Gender in the Criminal Justice System was undertaken in collaboration with Dr. Natasha Mortley, Lecturer/Research Specialist, Regional Coordinating Office of the Institute for Gender, and Development Studies Regional Headquarters, UWI

Priority Action 1.3: Develop and adopt quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries.

Jamaica has developed and adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries. In this sense, the country has used two methodologies: the World Health Organization (WHO)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Global School Based Health Survey methodology and Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) standardized indicators for drug information networks to collect, analyze, and report national drug-related information.

The country has carried out a study using methods that are non-representative of the population and/or qualitative methodologies to obtain information on drugs that can be shared with other countries that have carried out studies with similar methodologies. In this sense, the “Rapid Assessment conducted 2021 among secondary school students” study was undertaken.

Priority Action 1.4: Establish and strengthen national drug information networks (DINs) to carry out long-term monitoring and early warning systems (EWS), including the use of a broad range of research methods and information sources, to develop rapid responses to emerging threats.

Priority Action 1.5: Contribute to the Early Warning System of the Americas (Spanish acronym SATA) to gather the available national alerts and disseminate them to member states, so that member states can respond in the shortest possible time to new threats.

Priority Action 1.6: Publish updates annually, when possible, on drug supply and drug demand utilizing the information provided on the national drug situation by using information from the national DINs.

The NDO does not have a national drug information network (DIN).

Jamaica does not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify new psychoactive substances (NPS) or other emerging drug-related threats.

Priority Action 1.7: Build capacity among relevant stakeholders to enhance the collection, management, and dissemination of drug related information.

The NDO does not carry out training sessions with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management.

The NDO convenes meetings and other workshops where the results of studies and other information gathering activities are shared with local stakeholders.

Priority Action 1.8: Establish or strengthen forums at which drug researchers can present their findings to policymakers, and encourage their participation in CICAD experts groups.

(Question 13) Jamaica has established the following forums that allow drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers:

Forum title	Frequency	Reports or publications from these forums
National Press Conference	As appropriate	Yes
Dissemination Meetings	At least 3 per month	No
National Forum on Youth Drug Use	Annually	Yes

Priority Action 1.9: Foster and disseminate best practices and the exchange of successful experiences in research among member states.

The NDO does not promote or disseminate good practices or the exchange of successful research experiences among member states.

OBJECTIVE
2

EXPAND ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON DRUG USE AND RELATED ISSUES THROUGH THE USE OF SOUND, SYSTEMATIC DATA COLLECTION PRACTICES, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND STANDARDIZED METHODOLOGIES, ENSURING THAT COUNTRIES HAVE THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO DEVELOP SOUND DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAMS AND POLICIES.

Priority Action 2.1: Generate information on the incidence, prevalence, and modes of drug use and health impacts of drug use (e.g. non-fatal overdose, fatal overdose, infectious disease transmission), as well as drug use and health impact trends over time using sound, systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and standardized methodologies to monitor use across the general public and in key populations, whenever possible utilizing the Inter-American Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) as the standard methodology for epidemiological surveillance.

Jamaica has carried out and published the following demand reduction studies:

Demand reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
Survey of secondary school students		X	
National household surveys (12-64 years)		X	
Cross-section survey of patients in treatment centers		X	
Survey of patients in emergency rooms		X	
Survey of university students		X	
Survey of incarcerated individuals		X	
Studies on drug-related mortality		X	
Studies on drug-related morbidity		X	
Survey of other target populations: Homeless Population	X		2020
Others: - Rapid Situation Assessment of Secondary School Students	X		2022

Priority Action 2.2: Develop drug treatment information systems that record the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, and available information on treatment outcomes.

Jamaica has a national system for the collection of data on the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, and available information on treatment outcomes.

The national system on treatment data includes the following modalities and interventions:

Modalities and interventions	Yes	No
Community-based service	X	
Screening, Brief Interventions, and Referral to Treatment	X	
Medication-Assisted Treatment		X
Short-Term In-Patient or Residential Treatment		X
Outpatient Treatment	X	
Long-term Residential Treatment		X
Recovery Management		X

Data on treated patients is collected from the following institutions:

Institution	Yes	No
Public health system	X	
Private institutions		X
Non-governmental organizations		X
Religious institutions		X

Priority Action 2.3: Evaluate and monitor the impact and the results of treatment and prevention programs using scientific methodologies and make recommendations to update programs based on findings.

Jamaica has not carried out studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs or interventions.

The country has carried out the following process and intermediate outcome evaluation of a treatment program:

Program evaluated	Title of evaluation performed	Year of publication of research findings	Year of program evaluation
Treatment	Evaluation of National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDCA)'s Drug Treatment Programme	Not Published	2019

Jamaica has not carried out impact evaluations of its prevention or treatment programs.

The country has mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of the following programs and services in the public health and/or social protection network:

Programs/ Services	Have mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results?		Name of the mechanisms
	Yes	No	
Care	X		Substance Use Information System (SUIS Database)
Treatment	X		
Rehabilitation	X		
Recovery and social integration	X		

OBJECTIVE
3

EXPAND AND ENHANCE THE COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON ILLICIT DRUG PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING, AND RELATED ISSUES, THROUGH THE USE OF SOUND, SYSTEMATIC DATA COLLECTION PRACTICES, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND STANDARDIZED METHODOLOGIES.

Priority Action 3.1: Generate information on illicit drug production, trafficking, drug markets, and related issues, using systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and wherever possible applying comparable methodologies.

Jamaica has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. The Ministry of National Security and the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) participate in these mechanisms.

The country has the following information related to supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes:

Supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Quantification of illicit crop cultivation including crops grown indoors		X	
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production		X	
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized	X		2022
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products		X	
Quantities of seized pharmaceutical products		X	
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2022
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2022
Number of laboratories producing illicit plant-based drugs detected and dismantled		X	
Number of laboratories producing illicit drugs of synthetic origin detected and dismantled		X	
Chemical composition of seized drugs		X	
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)		X	
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering		X	
Number of persons convicted of money laundering		X	
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials		X	
Number of persons convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials		X	

Supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances		X	
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances		X	

Jamaica does not carry out periodic studies and research on the illicit drug market.

The country does not carry out studies on the medical and scientific use and other legal uses of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to international control systems.

Priority Action 3.2: Conduct studies on the price, purity or concentration, and chemical profile of drugs.

Jamaica does not collect information for the development of studies on the drug price, purity or concentration, or chemical profile of drugs.

The country conducts chemical characterizations and tests of purity for substances that may or may not be subject to international control. Jamaica has mechanisms through which substances that have been identified as not being under international control can be placed under control through the scheduling of substances under the Food and Drugs Act.

Priority Action 3.3: Establish and strengthen the relationship between the NDOs, or similar technical offices, and national, and when applicable, local, or sub-national forensic laboratories to bolster the collection of data on the chemical composition of substances and precursors seized.

In Jamaica, the Institute of Forensic Science and Legal Medicine is responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances.

The country participates in the following periodic training program for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances:

Implements or participates in the program	Type of Training	Targeted institutions	Year when training was last done
Participates	Drug Identification	Forensic Labs, Law Enforcement Organizations	2022

Priority Action 3.4: Strengthen drug information networks in member states by improving the mechanisms used to gather and analyze data to inform the development of public policies that control the illicit supply of drugs.

Not applicable.

OBJECTIVE

4

PARTICIPATE IN AND STRENGTHEN THE MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM) PROCESS, CONSIDERING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

Priority Action 4.1: Regularly collect information and data to evaluate implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action.

For the eighth round of evaluation of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), Jamaica collected information on the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 and submitted it in a timely manner for evaluation by the Group of Governmental Experts (GEG) in the following thematic areas:

- Measures of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support (2021)
- Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences (2022)
- Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; and International Cooperation (2023)

Priority Action 4.2: Support and facilitate active and timely participation in each of the MEM activities agreed to by member states.

For the eighth evaluation round of the MEM, Jamaica designated delegates for the following MEM groups, actively participating and contributing to the evaluation process:

Thematic evaluation	National Coordinating Entities (NCEs)	Governmental Expert Group (GEG)
Measures of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support (2021)	Yes	Yes
Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences (2022)	Yes	Yes
Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; and International Cooperation (2023)	Yes	Yes

Priority Action 4.3: Disseminate MEM evaluation reports by member states among national stakeholders, other pertinent organizations, and the general public.

Jamaica has not carried out periodic activities to promote and raise awareness of the MEM Drug Policy Evaluation Reports aimed at national institutions.

Priority Action 4.4: Promote use of the MEM’s findings to identify technical assistance needs.

Jamaica has promoted the analysis of the findings of MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies for national institutions to identify areas where technical assistance is needed to improve national drug-related policies and programs. In this sense, in June 2022 the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS) conducted a training Workshop in Jamaica in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national drug policies. Local participants included critical stakeholders. Out of this Workshop, Jamaica was selected for assistance in the updating of its National Drug Plan and CICAD/OAS committed to assisting through funding technical assistance.

Priority Action 4.5: Increase hemispheric cooperation and partnerships among member states and sharing of best practices and lessons learned. (Question 31)

(Question 31) Jamaica has reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies and identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states and share best practices and lessons learned (horizontal cooperation). In that sense, in June 2022, CICAD/OAS conducted a training workshop in Jamaica in the area of implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national drug policies. During this training Workshop, Jamaica took the opportunity to share best practices, as well as to gain knowledge and know-how from other participants from other OAS member states. Out of this Workshop, Jamaica was selected for assistance in the updating of the National Drug Plan.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

OBJECTIVE

1

PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN COOPERATION AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS TO FOSTER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, IMPROVE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES, AND SHARE BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED ON DRUG POLICIES.

Priority Action 1.1: Develop and implement a plan for promoting and strengthening technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs.

Jamaica develops and implements a plan for the promotion and strengthening of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside the Western Hemisphere, as well as with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs. In this sense, the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) continues to honor existing agreements with counterpart countries and establish new arrangements. Particular reference is made to the Japan Grant Aid.

In March 2020, the Government of Japan offered a Grant Aid to the Government of Jamaica in the amount of Four Hundred Million Japanese Yen (¥ 400,000,000), under its Economic and Social Development Programme, purposed for contributing to Maritime Security and Disaster Response. In this regard, the Grant will purchase multiple marine vessels to enhance the government’s efforts in bolstering its border security and maritime architecture, particularly in fostering a greater level of efficiency in our detection and response capabilities. The vessels are to be used to patrol Jamaica’s borders to detect and intercept illicit activities including contraband, smuggling of guns and ammunition, as well as trafficking in persons and human smuggling. Considering this, funds have been ear-marked to supply the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) and the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).

Additionally, through participation in Cooperation Programme between Latin America, Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD), Jamaica has benefited from initiatives to strengthen demand and supply reduction policies and programs - specifically, membership on and co-leading working groups to build capacity for scientific data gathering and dissemination, developing research agendas and advisory mechanisms to inform drug policy development and early warning system development, enhance gender, human rights, and sustainable development.

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS) is assisting through funding technical assistance for the development of the National Drug Plan.

Jamaica has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control through established relationships among international intelligence agencies to include the United States Drug Enforcement Administration

(DEA), the United States National Security Agency (NSA), the United Kingdom National Crime Agency, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), with whom intelligence and information is shared via private, secured emails, which are encrypted end-to-end.

The country also has a well-established National Central Bureau (NCB) that serves as the Special Point of Contact for International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) activities. Recognizing that NCBs are the lifeblood of INTERPOL, the office is staffed with highly trained detectives, supporting cross-border investigations, operations, and arrests. The NCB team can be contacted 24 hours. Further, INTERPOL through the local NCB disseminates relevant intelligence/information with other INTERPOL offices with regards to drug interdiction and cross border investigations.

Jamaica has access to the web-based Regional Clearance Information System, which captures customs clearance information for pleasure crafts sailing through most ports in the Caribbean. The system also monitors the movement of small vessels throughout the Caribbean and is supported by the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the European Union (EU). Presently, Jamaica customs staff enters the requisite data manually from the inbound and outbound clearance documents. The information is uploaded onto the system and becomes available to other participating countries.

The country promotes the exchange, with member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, of best practices on training, specialization, and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing the national drug policies and strategies. In this sense, one such exchange activity was held in June 2022, hosted by the CICAD/OAS where member states within the region met in Jamaica to undergo training in the area of implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national drug policies.

In June 2022, members of the JCF participated in a one-week Advanced Narcotics Investigations Course, conducted by the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA). During this one-week course, participants were exposed to traditional and specialized investigative techniques for advanced level drug investigations. Emphasis was placed on supervision and management of the full range of complex counter-drug investigations against transnational drug organizations. Participating countries were The Bahamas, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Suriname, and El Salvador.

In May 2022, Jamaica hosted the Regional Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) operations at the Norman Manley International Airport. Officers from AIRCOP Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITFs) from the Grantley Adams International Airport (Barbados), the Norman Manley International Airport (Kingston, Jamaica), the Sangster International Airport (Montego Bay, Jamaica) and the Piarco International Airport (Trinidad and Tobago) took part in joint operations aimed at exchanging best practices and strengthening operational collaboration across the AIRCOP network in the Caribbean. These JAITFs were also joined by an analyst from Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) Joint Regional

Communication Centre (JRCC) for the week of operations, which targeted regional and international flights with a focus on passengers and air cargo.

The country participates in the Seaport Cooperation Program (SEACOP) V, for which a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed on April 26, 2022, between the EU and the Ministry of National Security. Under SEACOP, trainers from the JDF Coast Guard have delivered a number of mentoring courses to other countries of the region in areas of maritime and border security. Since the signing of the MOU, participants from Jamaica and the region have participated in Maritime Intelligence Unit (MIU) Training in Barbados in May 2022 and the SEACOP - Multi-Country Border Security Programme (MCBS-MIU) Regional Seminar in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in August 2022.

Jamaica participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, and corruption, among others. In this sense, in an effort to deter and prevent criminal activities in the region several joint cross border operations were planned and executed particularly, drugs and firearms trafficking. The viable drugs for guns trade between Jamaica and Haiti demand constant collaboration through information sharing and strategic operational output. This has resulted in the seizure of several outgoing and incoming shipments between the two countries.

The country is a participating member of the CARICOM Advance Passenger Information System (APIS). The APIS is facilitated by the CARICOM IMPACS, through the JRCC. The Access to passenger information to assist with Jamaica's border security and strengthen regional security in the fight against transnational organized crimes is shared.

In April 2022, Jamaica, along with representatives from 25 Caribbean nations, participated in a meeting on the drafting of legislation to counter migrant smuggling aimed at meeting regional and local needs. This meeting was organized with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in collaboration with the IMPACS. In advancing compliance with the Global Compact on Migration (Objective 9: Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants) and Sustainable Development Goal 10.7 (facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies), the Counter Smuggling of Migrants in the Caribbean Model Legislation was presented by the IOM.

In Jamaica, there are bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes. The GOJ continues to honor bilateral relations with our counterpart countries, and establish new arrangements where needed via legislation and MOU, includes some of the following:

- Jamaica has the Jamaica/US Maritime Counter Narcotics Cooperation Agreement commonly called the Ship Rider Agreement with the United States, which provides for cooperation in deterring the movement of illicit drugs through Jamaican territorial waters from South

America to the United States. It allows for cooperation in ship boarding, ship riding and over flight. Additionally, the United States Coast Guard Law Enforcement detachments can board/interdict suspected vessels in Jamaican waters. The Protocol also includes opportunities for technical assistance amongst other things

- Joint investigations between local law enforcement bodies and international law enforcement partners (United States, United Kingdom, and Canada) targeting narcotics traffickers
- Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) is a tool of cooperation used by Jamaica to assist other countries in the investigation and prosecution of criminal offences or proceedings that extend beyond its national borders. MLA is mainly used where assistance cannot be obtained through law enforcement to law enforcement cooperation that is through police to police cooperation. MLA can also be used to obtain assistance to investigate the proceeds of crime and extends to making, restraining and forfeiture of applications. It should be noted that the Mutual Assistance (Criminal Matters) Act (MACMA) represents the main piece of legislation that governs mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. Under the MACMA, a country requesting assistance from Jamaica should either be a designated Commonwealth country or a treaty country

These mechanisms are used on a need basis. For example: the Mutual Legal Assistance is used based on requests; then joint investigations between local law enforcement bodies and international Law Enforcement partners (United States, United Kingdom, and Canada) once cases arise with international connections.

Priority Action 1.2: Promote technology transfers and information sharing among and between member states and international organizations.

Jamaica has not promoted technology transfers among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations.

The country has promoted information sharing among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations. In this sense, information sharing among OAS member states is facilitated through INTERPOL. The local NCB routinely shares information by way of bulletins to other INTERPOL offices regarding drug concealment methods, smuggling trends, and modus operandi.

Priority Action 1.3: Promote the dissemination of good practices and exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations.

Jamaica promotes the dissemination of good practices and the exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations on drug policies. In this sense, the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) conducted multiple presentations on the Jamaican context at events convened to disseminate research experiences

and results with respect to the National Household Survey and the National Secondary School Survey.

OBJECTIVE
2**STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AS DEFINED IN THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM, MAINTAINING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.****Priority Action 2.1: Strengthen regional and international cooperation by competent authorities to investigate and prosecute criminals on drug-related offenses.**

The competent authorities in Jamaica carry out cooperative activities at the regional and international levels to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. In this sense, the country cooperates and participates at the regional and international level in investigations and prosecutorial procedures for drug-related offenses. These cooperation activities are facilitated through the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty and applicable memorandum of understanding (MOU)'s and/or letters of understanding.

The country takes human rights of individuals who are subject of investigation and prosecution into account when carrying out these activities. Due care is taken to ensure that information being shared does not breach the individual's human rights. Individuals are afforded the opportunity to challenge the legality of extradition requests.

Priority Action 2.2: Strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate, where appropriate, mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses.

Jamaica carries out activities to strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate, where appropriate, mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses. In this sense, the country facilitates mutual legal assistance, extradition, and the transfer of proceedings through bilateral and regional agreements. These activities are further facilitated by domestic legislation such as the Sharing of Forfeited Property Act, the Mutual Legal Assistance (Criminal Matters) Act (MACMA), the Maritime Drug Trafficking (Suppression) Act, the Extradition Act, the Proceeds of Crime Act, and the Financial Investigation Division Act.

Also, the MACMA represents the principal piece of legislation that governs mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and its enactment is in fulfilment of the obligations set under the 1988 United Nations Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances ('The Vienna Convention').

In relation to the Extradition Act, extradition for drug trafficking and related crimes is permitted along with the establishment of extradition agreements with other countries. This is illustrated by recent collaborative investigations between Jamaica and the United States which culminated

in the extradition of five Jamaicans, two for drug-related offenses and three for money laundering in the United States.

Priority Action 2.3: Enact national legislation and/or take administrative actions, as appropriate, to more fully implement the obligations set forth within these legal instruments.

Jamaica has adopted, during the evaluation period (2019-2023), the following administrative measure to improve implementation of obligations set forth within international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality:

	Enacted	Adopted	Name of the legislation / administrative measures or actions
Legislative Actions/ Measures			
Administrative Actions/ Measures		X	On July 21, 2021, a MOU was signed for a three-year extension of the Drug Treatment Court Programme. The MOU was executed among the Ministries of Health and Wellness, Justice and National Security, as well as the National Council on Drug Abuse.

Priority Action 2.4: Promote the accession, ratification, and implementation of the international legal instruments related to the world drug problem and related crimes.

Jamaica has ratified or acceded to the following international legal instruments:

Conventions and Protocols		Yes	No
United Nations Conventions	Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000		
	Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	X	
	Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air	X	
	Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition	X	
	Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961	X	
	Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971	X	
	Convention against Corruption, 2003	X	
Inter-American Conventions	Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials (CIFTA), 1997		X
	Convention against Corruption, 1996	X	
	Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 1992	X	

EVALUATIVE SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Objective 1

Establish and/or strengthen national drug authorities, placing them at a high political level and providing them with the necessary capabilities, resources, and competencies to coordinate formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national drug policies.

CICAD notes that Jamaica has national drug authorities, which have a legal basis. Moreover, CICAD observes that, in the country, there is an annual budget for the national drug authorities. Moreover, CICAD notes that Jamaica has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government (national and subnational) to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update national drug policies or strategies and that the national drug authorities coordinate the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory, international cooperation, and program evaluation, but do not coordinate comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs.

Objective 2

Formulate, implement, evaluate, and update comprehensive national drug policies and/or strategies that promote balanced, multidisciplinary, and evidence-based approaches, while fully respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, under the principle of common and shared responsibility, consistent with obligations of parties under international law, and take into account gender, age, community, cultural context, and socially inclusive development.

CICAD notes that Jamaica collects and uses evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and strategies. Additionally, CICAD observes the involvement of relevant actors from the priority areas in the development, implementation, evaluation and update of national drug policies and strategies; however, the country's regional and/or local government and private sector are not involved in these activities. However, CICAD notes that Jamaica has not delegated responsibilities on drug issues to local/sub-national governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies and strategies. On the other hand, one of the country's national drug authorities has, in its central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, train, and provide technical support to local/sub-national governments or agencies on drug-related issues. However, the national drug authorities do not have coordinators, offices, or representatives in the sub-national or local territories, as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level to respond to the drug problem. Additionally, Jamaica does not have a specific and ongoing mechanism to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects carried out by municipalities or local governments. Moreover, CICAD observes that Jamaica does not engage private sector entities to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country takes into account the OAS 2020 Hemispheric Drug Strategy

and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies. Moreover, these policies and strategies take into account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, CICAD observes that Jamaica's national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights and the social inclusion approaches, but not the gender perspective. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country has the necessary resources to implement drug policies and programs.

Objective 3

Design and coordinate national drug policies, that can be harmonized across related government policies and/or strategies, that address the fundamental causes and consequences of the drug problem.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Jamaica has interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms to address the drug problem in a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, including its causes and consequences. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has concrete multisectoral plans and programs to address the causes and socioeconomic consequences of the drug problem based on the principles of human rights, public health, and development. Additionally, CICAD notes that Jamaica participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, and institutions and their internal processes. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country promotes comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption. Also, CICAD notes that Jamaica implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country implements measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion.

Objective 4

Design, adopt, and implement alternatives to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug or drug-related offenses, while taking into account national, constitutional, legal, and administrative systems, and in accordance with relevant international instruments.

CICAD notes that Jamaica's law provides for alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, which respect human rights and take into account the gender perspective in accordance with relevant international instruments. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country develops mechanisms to monitor and evaluate these measures, but these mechanisms do not involve academic, research, and civil society institutions. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country promotes a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration.

Objective 5

Promote and implement, as appropriate, in accordance with the policies, laws and needs of each country, comprehensive programs that promote social inclusion, especially to those at-risk populations.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Jamaica has inter-agency and multisectoral programs that promote the social inclusion of individuals, families, and communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of vulnerable populations. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country disseminates best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of people in at-risk situations.

Objective 6

Promote proportionate sentencing for drug-related crimes that provides for penalties commensurate with the relative seriousness of offenses, in line with the international drug conventions and respecting the principles of due process, with gender perspective, age, community, and a human rights approach.

CICAD observes that Jamaica promotes legislation that provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offences, in accordance with domestic law and has special courts for these offenses. However, CICAD notes that the country does not promote legal reforms regarding proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses.

RESEARCH, INFORMATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION**Objective 1**

Establish or strengthen national observatories on drugs, or similar technical offices, strengthening national drug information systems, and foster scientific research to generate, collect, organize, analyze, and disseminate information to inform the development and implementation of evidence-based drug policies and strategies.

CICAD notes that Jamaica has the National Observatory on Drugs (NDO), which was created through a legal basis and has been assigned financial and human resources to carry out its functions. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has established and maintained working relationships with academic and research institutions and has carried out a study on the drug problem through them. Additionally, CICAD notes that Jamaica has developed and adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries using CICAD's standardized indicators for drug information networks to collect, analyze, and report national drug-related information. The country also carried out a study using methods that are non-representative of the population to obtain information on drugs that can be shared with other countries that have carried out studies with similar methodologies. However, CICAD notes that Jamaica's observatory does not have a national drug information network (DIN) and does not have an early warning system (EWS) to

identify NPS or other emerging drug-related threats. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country's observatory does not carry out training sessions with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management, however, it does convene meetings and other workshops where the results of studies and other information gathering activities are shared with local stakeholders. Additionally, CICAD observes that Jamaica has established forums that allow drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country's observatory does not promote or disseminate good practices or the exchange of successful research experiences among member states.

Objective 2

Expand access to information on drug use and related issues through the use of sound, systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and standardized methodologies, ensuring that countries have the information necessary to develop sound demand reduction programs and policies.

CICAD notes that Jamaica has carried out and published two demand reduction studies during the evaluation period (2019-2023). Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has a national system for the collection of data on the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, and available information on treatment outcomes. However, CICAD notes that Jamaica has not conducted studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs or interventions, nevertheless, it carried out a process and intermediate outcome evaluation of a treatment program, but not for prevention programs. Moreover, the country has not carried out impact evaluations of its prevention or treatment programs. On the other hand, Jamaica has mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery and social integration programs and services in the public health and/or social protection network.

Objective 3

Expand and enhance the collection and dissemination of information on illicit drug production, trafficking, and related issues, through the use of sound, systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and standardized methodologies.

CICAD notes that Jamaica has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs and has information related to supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes. However, the country does not carry out periodic studies and research on the illicit drug market or on the medical and scientific use and other legal uses of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to international control systems. Furthermore, CICAD observes that Jamaica does not collect information on the drug price, purity or concentration, or chemical profile of drugs, however, the country conducts chemical characterizations or purity tests of substances that may or may not be subject to international control. Moreover, the country has mechanisms through which substances that have been identified as not being under international control can be placed under control. Additionally, CICAD notes that Jamaica has an institution that is responsible

for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances, and participates in a periodic training program for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances.

Objective 4

Participate in and strengthen the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) process, considering its recommendations.

CICAD notes that, for the eighth round of evaluation of the MEM, Jamaica collected information on the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 and submitted it in a timely manner for evaluation by the Group of Governmental Experts (GEG). CICAD observes that, for the eighth evaluation round of the MEM, the country designated delegates for all the MEM groups, actively participating and contributing to the evaluation process. However, CICAD notes that Jamaica has not carried out periodic activities to promote and raise awareness of the MEM Drug Policy Evaluation Reports aimed at national institutions. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has promoted the analysis of the findings of MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies for national institutions to identify areas where technical assistance is needed to improve national drug-related policies and programs. Additionally, CICAD notes that Jamaica has reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies and identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states or share best practices and lessons learned (horizontal cooperation).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Objective 1

Promote and strengthen cooperation and coordination mechanisms to foster technical assistance, improve exchange of information and experiences, and share best practices and lessons learned on drug policies.

CICAD notes that Jamaica develops and implements a plan for the promotion and strengthening of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside the Western Hemisphere, as well as with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs. Additionally, the country has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. Moreover, Jamaica promotes the exchange, with member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, of best practices on training, specialization, and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing the national drug policies and strategies. Additionally, the country participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, and corruption, among others. Moreover, Jamaica has bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes.

However, CICAD observes that the country has not promoted technology transfers among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations; on the other hand, the country has promoted information sharing among them. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country promotes the dissemination of good practices and the exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations on drug policies.

Objective 2

Strengthen international cooperation as defined in the international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, maintaining respect for human rights.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that the competent authorities in Jamaica carry out cooperative activities at the regional and international levels to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country carries out activities to strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate, where appropriate, mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses. Additionally, CICAD notes that Jamaica has adopted, during the evaluation period (2019-2023), administrative measures to more fully implement compliance with the obligations established in international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has ratified or acceded to all the international legal instruments of the United Nations and most of the OAS Inter-American legal instruments regarding the world drug problem and related crimes.



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