

## JAMAICA



**Jamaica** The United States will strengthen its partnership with Jamaica by providing assistance to address key social and economic issues that contribute to high levels of violent crime and transnational criminal activity. Priority goals are supporting anti-corruption; promoting greater transparency and good governance practices; fostering Jamaican participation in regional security, particularly in the counter-terrorism and counternarcotics areas; investing in people; promoting economic prosperity and sustainable development; enhancing the Jamaican Defense Forces' (JDF) capability to protect its national territory, including its maritime borders; and countering organized illicit activities, including narcotics trafficking.

### **FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Jamaica has diplomatic relations with most nations and is a member of the United Nations and the Organization of American States. It was an active participant in the April 2001 Quebec Summit of the Americas. Jamaica is an active member of the British Commonwealth, the Non-Aligned Movement, the G-15, and the G-77. Jamaica is a beneficiary of the Cotonou Conventions, through which the European Union (EU) grants trade preferences to selected states in Asia, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

Historically, Jamaica has had close ties with the U.K., but trade, financial, and cultural relations with the United States are now predominant. Jamaica is linked with the other countries of the English-speaking Caribbean through the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and more broadly through the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). In December 2001, Jamaica completed its 2-year term on the United Nations Security Council.

### **U.S.-JAMAICAN RELATIONS**

The United States maintains close and productive relations with the Government of Jamaica. Former Prime Minister Patterson visited Washington, DC, several times after assuming office in 1992. In April 2001, Prime Minister Patterson and other Caribbean leaders met with President George W. Bush during the Summit of the Americas in Quebec, Canada, at which a "Third Border Initiative" was launched to deepen U.S. cooperation with Caribbean nations and enhance economic development and integration of the Caribbean nations. Then-Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller attended the "Conference on the Caribbean--A 20/20 Vision" in Washington in June 2007.

The United States is Jamaica's most important trading partner: bilateral trade in goods in 2007 was over \$2 billion. Jamaica is a popular destination for American tourists; more than 1.2 million Americans visited in 2006. In addition, some 10,000 American citizens, including many dual-nationals born on the island, permanently reside in Jamaica.

The Government of Jamaica also seeks to attract U.S. investment and supports efforts to create a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). More than 80 U.S. firms have operations in Jamaica, and total U.S. investment is estimated at more than \$3 billion. The Political/Economic section assists American businesses seeking trade opportunities in Jamaica. The country is a beneficiary of the Caribbean Basin Trade Partner Act (CBTPA). The American Chamber of Commerce, which also is available to assist U.S. business in Jamaica, has offices in Kingston.

U.S. Agency for International Development (**USAID**) assistance to Jamaica since its independence in 1962 has contributed to reducing the population growth rate, the attainment of higher standards in a

number of critical health indicators, and the diversification and expansion of Jamaica's export base. USAID's primary objective is promoting sustainable economic growth. Other key objectives are improved environmental quality and natural resource protection, strengthening democratic institutions and respect for the rule of law, as well as family planning. In fiscal year 2006, the USAID mission in Jamaica operated a program totaling more than \$21 million in development assistance.

The Peace Corps has been in Jamaica continuously since 1962. Since then, more than 3,300 volunteers have served in the country. Today, the Peace Corps works in the following projects: Youth-at-Risk, which includes adolescent reproductive health, HIV/AIDS education, and the needs of marginalized males; water sanitation, which includes rural waste water solutions and municipal waste water treatment; and environmental education, which helps address low levels of awareness and strengthens environmental nongovernmental organizations. The Peace Corps in Jamaica fields about 70 volunteers who work in every parish on the island, including some inner-city communities in Kingston.

Jamaica is a major transit point for cocaine en route to the United States and is also a key source of marijuana and marijuana derivative products for the Americas. During 2006, the Government of Jamaica seized narcotics destined for the United States, arrested key traffickers and criminal gang leaders, and dismantled their organizations. Jamaica remains the Caribbean's largest producer and exporter of marijuana. The efforts of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and Jamaica Defense Force (JDF) enabled cannabis seizures to increase by over 200% in 2006. In 2006, the JCF arrested 5,409 persons on drug related charges, including 269 foreigners. Additionally, more than 20,000 kilograms of marijuana were seized, and 6,300,000 marijuana plants eradicated in 2006. In August 2006, two priority targets associated with major cocaine trafficking organizations were arrested in Jamaica and await extradition to the United States where they are charged with conspiracy to import illegal drugs. Jeffrey and Gareth Lewis (father and son) allegedly transported cocaine shipments from Colombia to the United States. Operation Kingfish is a multinational task force (Jamaica, U.S., United Kingdom, and Canada) for coordinating investigations leading to the arrest of major criminals. From its October 2004 inception through December 2006, Operation Kingfish launched 1,378 operations resulting in the seizure of 56 vehicles, 57 boats, one aircraft, 206 firearms, and two containers conveying drugs. Kingfish was also responsible for the seizure of over 13 metric tons of cocaine (mostly outside of Jamaica) and over 27,390 pounds of compressed marijuana. In 2006 Operation Kingfish mounted 870 operations, compared to 607 in 2005. In 2006, through cargo scanning, the Jamaican Customs Contraband Enforcement Team seized over 3,000 pounds of marijuana, ten kilograms of cocaine, and approximately \$500,000 at Jamaican air and seaports.

**Peace and Security:** U.S. assistance in Jamaica aims to advance peace and security by reducing the endemic crime and violence on the island. Assistance will be used to increase U.S. domestic security by improving Jamaica's capacity to counter transnational crime and terrorism. One goal is to increase the professional capacity of the Jamaican law enforcement and security forces so that Jamaica can become a regional leader for security. U.S. agencies will continue to address the conditions that undermine peace and security by providing training, technical assistance, equipment, and materials to the appropriate security elements in Jamaica. Broader U.S. assistance efforts will include interdiction; building investigative capacity to protect Jamaica's borders; improving Jamaican law enforcement, counter-narcotics, and counter-terrorism capacity; and supporting Government of Jamaica (GOJ) anti-corruption efforts. Building on considerable traction with its community policing initiative and having developed strong partnership with the Ministry of National Security, the United States will continue to make substantial investments in building the capacity of both police and citizens to develop problem-solving partnerships. The United States will work collaboratively to assist the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) in implementing the government's police reform priorities, which in turn will bolster the prospects of the sustainable adoption of community policing. U.S. programs focused on crime will engage communities and encourage them to increase their role in crime prevention. Assistance will strengthen civil society's

role in community transformation and in fostering partnerships with the police to manage conflict and fight crime at the community level. Security assistance will provide training and equipment to support the JDF's efforts to secure its maritime borders, and enhance its interoperability with U.S. and international forces in order to participate in peacekeeping and coalition operations.

**Governing Justly and Democratically:** U.S. assistance, in partnership with Jamaica, will focus on combating corruption and crime, which fuel social instability. U.S. programs will contribute to enhancing the capability of key Jamaican agencies to investigate and successfully prosecute public and private sector corruption. The U.S. will provide critical assistance to the GOJ's efforts to introduce and implement anticorruption reforms. Support for key short-term technical assistance in the GOJ's Directorate of Public Prosecutions, the Customs Department, or the Anti-Corruption Branch of the JCF will take place as the opportunities arise. Anti-corruption assistance will also focus on raising corruption awareness and promoting a culture of lawfulness within society. Initiatives will include a public education campaign targeting youth populations through an integrated civic education program, which will build on current efforts to integrate civic education into the primary and secondary school curricula. The United States will explore possibilities of harmonization with other donor's justice system efforts. Specific institutional capacity support may include training for judges, prosecutors, and police, as well as technical assistance to the Office of the Public Prosecutor, police, and other key elements in the judicial system. Further U.S. assistance may include training to successfully prepare and prosecute cases, with a focus on improving legislation regarding forfeiture of criminal assets. As the main perpetrators of crime are Jamaica's youth—particularly boys and young men—U.S. assistance will support programs that emphasize a youth-centric approach to crime and violence prevention, aimed at reversing the acceptance of violence and providing concrete alternatives to criminal activities. Specific activities will address at-risk youth populations starting at the elementary level, drawing on other activities in education and economic growth. The United States will partner with the GOJ, non-governmental organizations, and community-based organizations to implement programs that reawaken citizenship, promote a culture of lawfulness and compliance, enable and encourage youth to take on leadership roles within communities, and improve parenting skills. This will be complemented by programs that create positive social space for youth within vulnerable communities.

**Investing in People:** The United States will collaborate with Jamaica's Education Transformation program, aimed at reforming the educational system through increasing quality, efficiency, and equity across socioeconomic strata, between genders, and between mainstream and special needs students. U.S. assistance will contribute to a series of policy studies, public consultation, and workshops to forge a national consensus. The United States will capitalize on the strengths of its Expanding Educational Horizons and Centers for Excellence in Teacher Training programs by providing training, technical assistance, and commodity support for rolling out proven educational technologies (especially for reading and math) across the island. In addition, U.S. assistance will support the Ministry of Education efforts to decentralize education administration and improve the quality of school management and classroom instruction at the primary level. In order to sustain momentum gained on stabilizing the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate among at-risk groups, U.S. assistance will focus on prevention programs by bolstering the capacities of key civil society actors. In addition, U.S. assistance will aim to strengthen coordinating mechanisms within the GOJ and among donor groups as well as support behavior change and outreach programs that target high-risk groups.

**Focus on Performance:** U.S. community policing activities complement the Government of Jamaica's Strategic Review Implementation Plan, which aims to reform the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) to meet demands for citizen-focused and professional policing services. Additional FY 2010 funds will enable the mission to provide broader support, increasing reach and effectiveness of the JCF. Since a new five-year strategy to begin in FY 2010 is still in the design stage, indicators for FY 2010 have not been defined, and hence the target provided here is provisional. Higher results in 2007 were due to a differently

structured program at that time, in which training aimed to expose a large number of police officers to basic community policing principles. Subsequent targets reflect changes in the program structure whereby more intensive, in-depth training is provided to a smaller group of dedicated officers in key rollout communities, increasing the capacity of the JCF and contributing to sustainability.

**Economic Growth:** U.S. assistance will support technical assistance that aims to reduce bottlenecks within the legislative and regulatory environment. Within the new political context, opportunities exist for funding activities that specifically address land policy and titling, tax policy and administration, access to credit for micro-, small, and medium-sized enterprises, and tourism competitiveness. Continued streamlining of the approval process, as well as ensuring that the time and costs to starting a business remains competitive within the region, will be a focus of U.S. assistance programs. Complementing the policy reform agenda process will be initiatives that strengthen private sector competitiveness and reduce costs associated with doing business in Jamaica. Reducing the cost of energy will be a critical factor in ensuring that Jamaica is able to attract and retain foreign investment. The United States will leverage assistance packages to promote the further development of alternative and renewable energy resources. The declining importance of agriculture within the economy is an indication that the sector is under performing and not taking full advantage of the production potential of strategic high value crops. As a result, U.S. assistance will seek to develop programs that diversify production towards alternative staples, high value vegetables, condiments, and selected cash crops such as coffee and cocoa. This process will require activities that focus on increasing access to market information and financial services, in addition to exposing Jamaican farmers to improved production, value-added, and disaster mitigation practices. U.S. assistance will also contribute to the expansion of improved production technologies across the island as a means of increasing production and discouraging environmentally damaging hillside farming practices. U.S. programs will seek an integrated approach in key sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and bauxite mining aimed at achieving sustainable development through environmentally friendly means.