



# 2016 ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES IN JAMAICA



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American States

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# Executive summary

The following report provides a detailed overview of the activities of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) executed in Jamaica in 2016. The GS/OAS programs and projects in Jamaica are developed and implemented in accordance with specific mandates given by OAS member states, as well as Jamaica's specific needs and requests. Considering that OAS member states have common interests and face similar challenges, many OAS programs and projects implemented in member states are of a regional or multi-national nature and some are implemented over a number of years.

The report is divided by the key pillars of the OAS and the work areas responsible for the implementation of the various OAS activities implemented in Jamaica in 2016.

In the area of integral development, the OAS supported human capacity development in Jamaica through its Scholarships and Training Programs, its interest free loan program, the Educational Portal of the Americas and the Inter American Teacher Education Network. Additionally, specific training was offered through a Corporate Social Responsibility Train the Trainer Workshop and a Sustainable Cities course. Jamaica participated in horizontal and bilateral cooperation initiatives through the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL) to learn about U.S labor rights for people with disabilities and share its experiences with Grenada on its labor market information system. The OAS also provided support through projects in: Sustainable Destination Management and Capacity Building (specifically in Falmouth), developing a Green Cluster Economy, Craft Enhancement, Bamboo pre-processing (specifically in Peckham). The estimated budget spent on development programs in Jamaica in 2016 is US\$598,451.

The largest OAS program currently being implemented in Jamaica is in the area of security, namely: "A New Path: Promoting Productive Alternatives for Juvenile Remandees and Offenders in Jamaica". This project seeks to improve the lives of at-risk youth and youth in conflict with the law by addressing their emotional, social, educational, and economic challenges and enabling the successful economic and social reintegration of these youth.

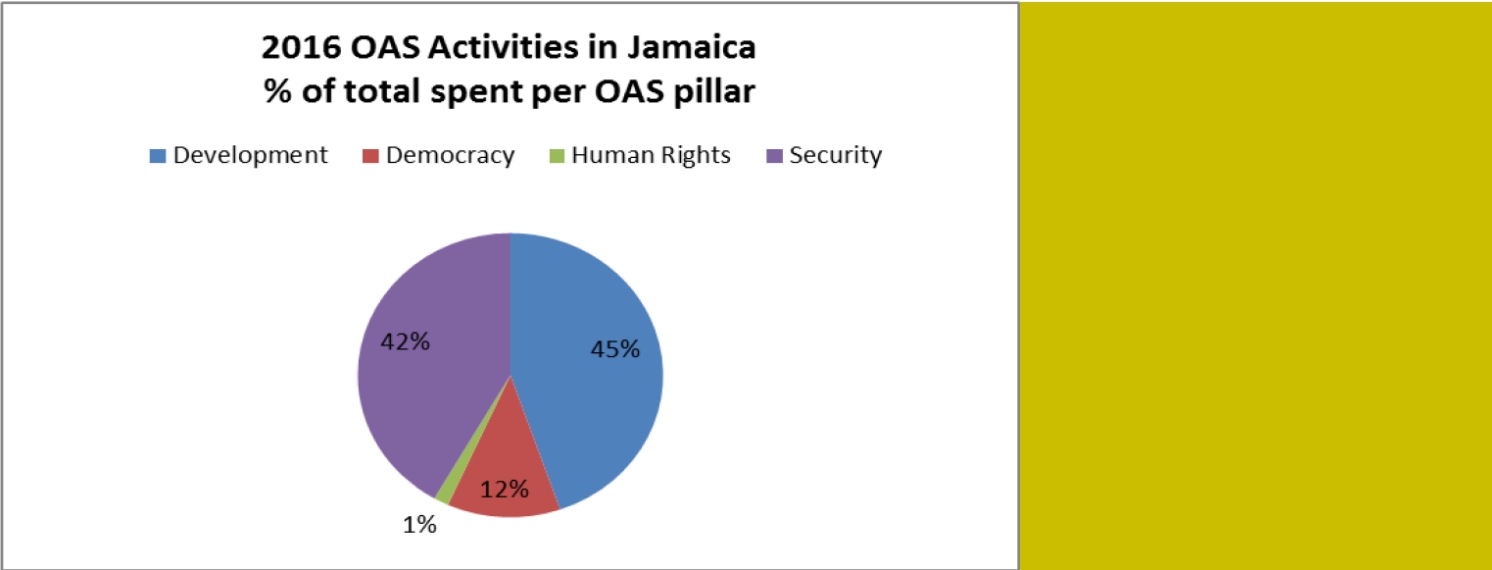
Additional support offered in the area of security includes: Assistance with a Household Drug Prevalence Survey to provide information to policy makers about the extent of substance use in the country to help develop drug prevention policies; Evaluating Problem Solving Courts for Drug-related Offenses; Preparing a Draft Tourism Security Plan, focused on Montego Bay and Maritime Security, specifically Maritime Domain Awareness. The estimated budget spent on security programs in Jamaica in 2016 is US\$558,093.

In the area of democracy, the OAS Electoral Observation Mission observed the 2016 Parliamentary Election in Jamaica and in the area of human rights, the Technical Secretariat of the Inter American Commission on Human Rights organized a seminar on Citizen Security and the Inter American Human Rights System. The estimated budget spent on activities in Jamaica in the areas of human rights and democracy in 2016 is respectively \$21,199 and \$160,728.

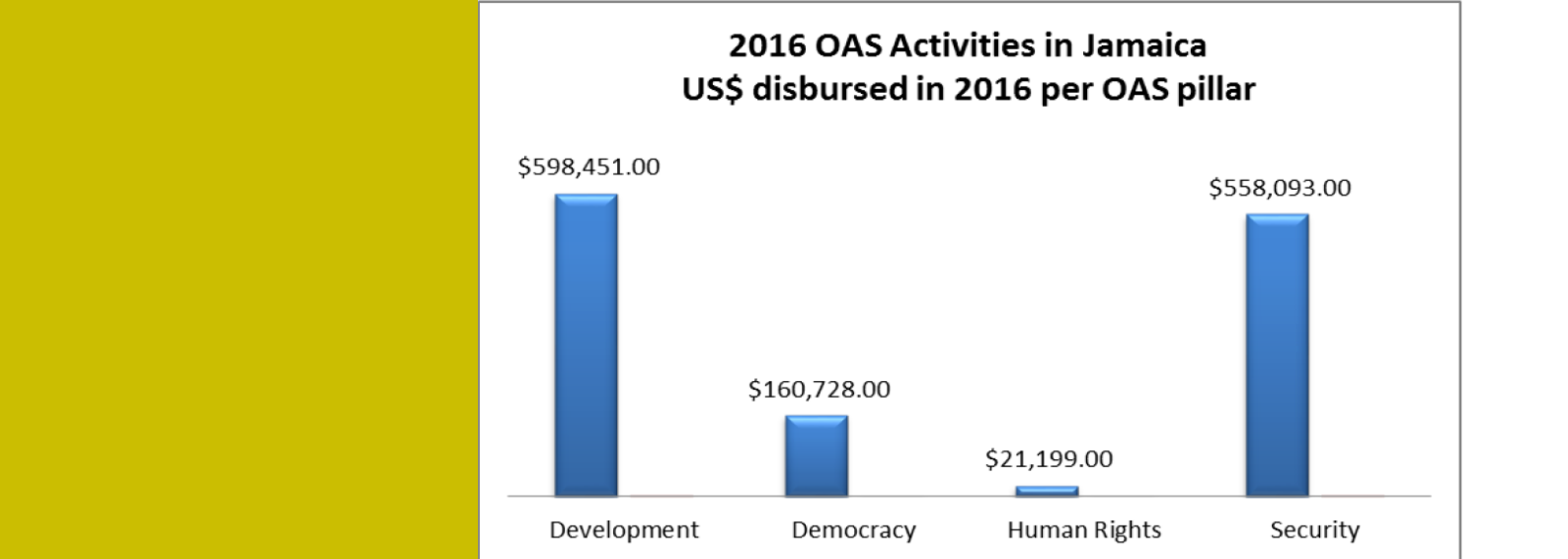
The total number of OAS activities in Jamaica in 2016 is 26:13 of those are ongoing activities, while the remaining 13 were completed. These activities include information sessions, programs, projects, conferences and educational and training opportunities under the OAS' four main pillars, namely: integral development, democracy, human rights and multidimensional security. Due to the inconsistency in data storage and thus information received for this report, the summarized data in the following charts and tables reflects only rough estimates and not exact numbers.

OAS pillar	Amount spent in 2016	% of total spent
Development	\$ 598,451.00	45%
Democracy	\$ 160,728.00	12%
Human Rights	\$ 21,199.00	2%
Security	\$ 558,093.00	42%
Total	\$ 1,338,471.00	100%

GS/OAS spent approximately US\$1.3 million on programs in Jamaica during 2016.



For Every US\$1 contributed by Jamaica to the OAS Regular Fund, approximately US\$23 was spent on projects in Jamaica by the GS/OAS and its Partners in 2016



# Office of the GS/OAS in Jamaica

“The Organization of American States is the hemispheric political forum inclusive of all the countries of the Americas, committed to the strengthening of democracy, the promotion and protection of human rights, the advancement of integral development and the fostering of multidimensional security, all equal and interdependent, with justice and social inclusion, for the benefit of the peoples of the Americas.” (AG/RES. 2814 (XLIV-0/14))

Jamaica has been a member of the OAS since 1969, collaborating with other Member States to achieve the lofty goals set by OAS member states for this Organization. The Office of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States in Jamaica was established on March 12, 1971. Since its inception in 1971, the Office of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) in Jamaica has worked assiduously to support the OAS General Secretariat in achieving its mission, mandates and to strengthen its four pillars- democracy, human rights, integral development, and multidimensional security.

Nowadays, the OAS Office in Jamaica has an active role in maintaining an institutional presence for the OAS in Jamaica, as well as promoting specific activities of the various organs of the General Secretariat. In particular, the Office collaborates with other Inter-American institutions, international and regional partners to increase development partnerships and forge synergies on thematic areas in accordance with the four main pillars of the OAS. The Office of the General Secretariat of the OAS in Jamaica actively collaborates with the Government, private sector and civil society organizations in Jamaica, as well as specialized organizations and other entities, to implement OAS policies, programs and activities based on Jamaica’s development needs and the OAS Strategic Plan for Partnerships for Integral Development. To get maximum benefit out of our work in Jamaica, the GS/OAS, through its Office in Jamaica, seeks to extend the technical expertise and training opportunities provided through its various activities in Jamaica to as many of its projects in Jamaica as possible.

The Office of the GS/OAS in Jamaica provides office space to the local consultants of “A New Path” Project that is currently being implemented in Jamaica by the OAS Department of Public Security with the Trust for the Americas and funded by USAID. As part of the support provided to Jamaica through policy dialogue, capacity strengthening and technical cooperation activities, the GS/OAS Office in Jamaica processed over US\$30,000 in payments to cover the cost of Jamaican nationals, who participated in various OAS activities outside of Jamaica in 2016.

The following are the OAS activities implemented in Jamaica in 2016 by the Office of the GS/OAS in Jamaica, as well as the technical areas of the GS/OAS with the support of the GS/OAS Office in Jamaica:

## 1 Work area: Office of the General Secretariat of the OAS in Jamaica

Activity: Pan American Day celebration – scholarships information session and exhibit

### Description:

In celebration of Pan American Day on April 14, 2016 and to promote the work of the OAS, the Office of the GS/OAS in Jamaica, in partnership with the University of the West Indies, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, IICA, PAHO and the Embassies/High Commissions of: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama and the United States of America in Jamaica organized an information session on international scholarships opportunities and an exhibit to promote the Inter American System, the countries and cultures of OAS member states, as well as programs that would be beneficial to youth, support integration and a better understanding of our countries and cultures.

### Major achievements/ Concrete benefits for Jamaica:

Jamaican participants got an opportunity to interact with ambassadors and representatives of the countries and organizations within the Inter American system represented in Jamaica and learn more about the countries and cultures of OAS member states, programs that would be beneficial to youth and support integration. Through the information session, interested scholarship applicants were informed how they can make themselves more competitive applicants for OAS and other international scholarship opportunities.

**Current status:** completed

**Duration:** April 14, 2016

**Budget:** approximately \$5000 (in kind)

**Contact:** Jeanelle van GlaanenWeygel, OAS Representative in Jamaica



# Fostering Integral Development and Prosperity

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Department of Economic Development, Secretariat for Integral Development  
Project: Increasing Tourism Competitiveness through Sustainable Destination Management and Capacity Building in the Caribbean and Central America



Work Area: Tourism

## Description:

The Sustainable Destinations Alliance for the Americas (SDAA) is the first-ever large-scale multisector initiative for sustainable tourism destinations in the Caribbean and Latin American regions. The initiative aims to improve the way tourism is managed and to enhance the global competitiveness of the region, by embedding sustainability into the day-to-day management and marketing of destinations throughout the region.

The first phase of the initiative involved seven participating destinations from the Caribbean and Latin America. Jamaica, specifically the town of Falmouth, is one of the first seven destinations that the SDAA supported. While the geographic focus for the first two years of work is the Caribbean and Central America, our shared vision is to expand the initiative, over time, to encompass more than 30 tourism destinations in the Americas.

The full list of SDAA partners include the Organization of American States (OAS), the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat (SITCA), Sustainable Travel International, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. (RCL), and the United States Government through the United States Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States

### **Major achievements/ Concrete benefits for Jamaica:**

- An evaluation of (Falmouth) the destination's performance around key elements of sustainable destination management including establishing a destination sustainability;
- Development of a two year destination sustainability action plan including at least one quick win priority project for improving destination sustainability;
- The formation of a multisectoral Destination Stewardship Council (DSC) to guide implementation of the destination action plans and sustain cooperation and collaboration beyond the time horizon of the project;
- 16 Jamaicans successfully participated in the online sustainable tourism course designed for micro, small, and medium sized tourism enterprises (MSMEs), women entrepreneurs and tourism decisionmakers from the private and public sectors on sustainable tourism practices hosted on the OAS Educational Portal of the Americas in 2016.

**Current status:** Completed. The first phase of the twoyear project was completed in June 2016. A second phase of the project was approved by the OAS Project Evaluation Committee on January 12 2017. The second phase contemplates continued assistance to the original destinations including Falmouth, Jamaica and will build on the outcomes of the first phase with continued assistance to the DSC, face to face training and other knowledge sharing activities. During the first phase of the project site visits to Jamaica were completed in March 2015, November 2015, and March 2016.

**Duration:** March 2014 to June 30, 2016

**Budget:** Total Project Budget is USD 654,342.96 for four countries. There is not a specific amount allocated to Jamaica, but considering that the above amount is for 4 destinations, approximately one quarter of the funds is estimated to cover the project cost in Jamaica (estimated budget for 2016: \$81,792).

**Contact:** Richard Campbell, Chief Culture and Tourism Section: [Rcampbell@oas.org](mailto:Rcampbell@oas.org)

### **Department of Economic Development, Secretariat for Integral Development**

**3** Program: The OAS Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Program promotes CSR awareness among small and mediumsized enterprises (SMEs) and fosters information exchange and capacitybuilding in private sector communities, including local organizations dedicated to CSR. Furthermore, it raises awareness about CSR among parliamentarians and fosters multistakeholder dialogue.

The specific objective of the workshop held in Jamaica was to provide intermediary organizations that support SMEs with the knowledge and tools needed to help SMEs integrate CSR into their business models and develop innovative CSR solutions. A total of 29 participants took part in the four day CSR train the trainer workshop. The participants were from the following institutions: the Office of the Contractor General and the MSME Alliance. Of the 29 participants, 21 were women and 8 were men.

**Work Area:** SMEs



**Description:**

Hands on, interactive workshop that provided intermediary organizations that support SMEs with the knowledge and tools needed to help SMEs develop innovative CSR solutions to make them more competitive. The train the trainer initiative builds capacity in the region by training SME support institutions and local CSR organizations. The “train-the-trainer” methodology builds on the lessons learned from the methodology implemented in the SME workshops and is adapted to reflect the unique reality of Caribbean and Latin American countries.

**Major achievements/ Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** Strengthened SME support institutions and increased capacity of SMEs to implement responsible practices become more competitive and access new markets. Workshop participants gained in depth knowledge about the concept of CSR in order to begin implementation within government entities and in Jamaica as a whole.

**Current status:** completed

**Duration:** March 21-24, 2016

**Budget:** US\$11,000

**Contact:** Maryse Robert, Department of Economic Development

**4 Department of Economic Development  
SEDI/DED/RIAC Technical Secretariat**

Activity: Follow up video conference of the Sixth Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, hosted at the High Commission of Canada in Jamaica, in collaboration with the Office of the GS/OAS in Jamaica, the Permanent Mission of Canada to the OAS and the OAS Department of Economic Development. The first follow up event in Jamaica was a pilot for future similar activities, as part of the follow-up to ACE, in an effort to keep the momentum and build on networking and collaboration opportunities. The purpose of the follow up session was to share information on 6th ACE and its successes with interested applicants in Jamaica who did not participate in the event, as well as with the 6th ACE participants from Jamaica.



**Background:** The ACE invites key business leaders and policy shapers to share knowledge and best practices and to learn how these practices have helped shape the way that Canada is transforming its economic competitiveness. The ACE is an important mechanism to promote trade and investment throughout the region. The 6th ACE took place in Ontario, Canada from September 25– October 1, 2016. The follow up video conference was held on December 9, 2016. 2 (female) participants from Jamaica participated in the 6th ACE.

**Major achievements/ Concrete benefits for Jamaica:**

- Exposure to Southern Ontario’s innovation ecosystem, one of Canada’s key innovation regions.
- Opportunity to learn from some of Canada’s best practices and lessons learned in: 1. Advanced Manufacturing; 2. Information Communication Technology (ICT); 3. Clean Tech; 4. Life Sciences; 5. Agri–food; and 6. Financial Technology.
- Opportunity to learn about major innovation, entrepreneurship and commercialization investments in Canada.
- Opportunity to explore technical cooperation and businesses opportunities with more than 25 countries of the Americas and other countries outside of the region, such as Germany, Israel, and Korea.
- Opportunity to learn more about how Canada is:

- o Investing in its innovation networks and clusters;
- o Creating a world–leading science base with a strong focus on commercialization;
- o Building the labor force of the future;
- o Strengthening its incubators and accelerators and helping high–impact firms scale up;
- o Creating programs and regulations, developing new infrastructure, and expanding into new markets to help business innovate and grow; and
- o Collaborating with partners from within the hemisphere to expand its presence in regional and global value chains.

**OAS Contact:** Adriana Bonilla, Competitiveness Forum & ACE Coordinator, Department of Economic Development, Secretariat for Integral Development.

**Department of Sustainable Development, Secretariat for Integral Development**

Program/project/activity: Closed Loop Cycle Production in the Americas Program: Jamaican Green Cluster Economy



**Jamaica Green Cluster Economy Workshop**

Tuesday, August 30, 2016 | 1:00 - 5:00 pm  
 JAMPRO Business Auditorium  
 18 Trafalagar Road, Kingston 10

The objective of the workshop is to understand the possibilities for developing green industries for export in Jamaica.

**Highlights for the event:**

- Overview of Circular and Green Economies
- Closed Loop Cycle Production in the Americas Programme: Colombia, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago
- Discussion panel on Jamaican Green Cluster Economies.

For further information contact:  
 Tristan Alleyne  
 Consulting Officer, Special Projects  
 978-3337 ext 2188  
 talleyne@jamprocorp.com

**Description:**

The Closed Loop Cycle Production in the Americas Program was launched in 2009 and has focused on increasing awareness in participating countries of the relevance and viability of innovative closed-loop cycle design and manufacturing methods in facilitating sustainable production practices in small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) to increase their productivity, competitiveness and sustainability. The program aims to promote and facilitate the transition toward a sustainable and circular economy that employs renewable energy, eliminates the use of harmful chemicals and materials, and eradicates waste at all stages of the value chain.

**OAS Initial Support for Jamaica:** The OAS through the DSD will provide technical support in the implementation of agreed select activities outlined in Jamaica Promotions Corporation’s (JAMPRO) Green Cluster concept, in the first instance relating to Light Manufacturing and Standards and Quality.

**Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** Through the use of innovative closed-loop cycle design and manufacturing methods in facilitating sustainable production practices in small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), Jamaica can increase its productivity, competitiveness and sustainability.

**Current status:** Execution (on Aug. 30, 2016 a workshop on Jamaica’s Green Cluster Economy was held in Jamaica)

**Duration:** 6 months (August 2016- January 2017)

**Budget:** \$30,000

**OAS Contact:** Cletus Springer, Director of the Department of Sustainable Development

**Jampro contact:** Marjory Straw, Manager, Special Projects, JAMPRO

**6 Department of Sustainable Development, Secretariat for Integral Development**  
Program/project/activity: Sustainable Cities Course, Montego Bay, Jamaica



**Description:**

The Sustainable Cities course provides an integral overview of the different aspects that contribute to building sustainable communities, targeting different topics emanating from the First Summit on Sustainable Development in the Americas held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in December 1996.

**Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** Participating government officials, members of NGOs and civil society in Jamaica involved in planning processes and urban development benefited from theoretical and practical knowledge shared on issues such as waste and water resource management, sustainable transport solutions and mobility, resilience to natural disasters, renewable energy and energy efficiency that contribute to the development of sustainable cities

**Current status:** completed

**Duration:** December 6-9, 2016

**Budget:** \$32,160

**OAS Contact:** Richard Huber, Chief, Sustainable Communities, Hazard Risk and Climate Change Section, Department of Sustainable Development

**Local contact:** Chinyere Nwaogwugwu, local course coordinator; Director, Solar Market Ja

**7 Development Cooperation Fund (DCF), Secretariat for Integral Development**  
Project: Craft Enhancement and Business Planning Training to Support Human Capacity Building in the Public and Private Sectors



**Work Area:** Capacity Building in the area of Tourism

**Description:**

This OAS/FEMCIDI craft project sought to enhance the human capacity within the tourism industry through the provision of more extensive training opportunities and is strategically aligned not only with Jamaica's national priorities, but also the national priorities of neighboring Caribbean islands and the OAS strategic priority outcome: "to improve product and service quality through specifically designed training programs for MSMEs"

**Major achievements / Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** In an effort to provide growth based on a sustainable market position, enhance visitor experience, support community-based development, build an all-inclusive industry and enhance environmental sustainability, the craft enhancement project met the following targets:

- demonstration videos and manuals were developed for artisans and library resources;
- A Virtual Resource Centre for Artisans and the general public was created: [vrc.thingsjamaicanshopping.com](http://vrc.thingsjamaicanshopping.com);
- Craft producers from most of the parishes in Jamaica benefitted from the training offered through the Craft Enhancement Project in the following (5) media: Fiber, Recycled Material (Coconut Shell, Plastic Bag), Papier Mache, Bamboo, Textiles (Hardanga, Tinting);
- Two exhibits of the products produced by the artisans that were trained, one in Dec. 2014 and one in Aug. 2015;
- 21 new product lines were certified for the International market (of the 70 items that were selected for assessment by JBDC, 21 were considered market ready);
- To ensure sustainability, a Craft Council was created;
- "Authentic Jamaica" brand was created.
- The craft producers, who were trained under the Craft Enhancement Project, graduated at a Recognition and Awards ceremony at the New Kingston Business Centre on July 12, 2016;

**Current status:** Completed. The project closing ceremony took place in Aug. 2016.

**Budget:** US\$139,826 (Disbursed in 2016: \$14,472.18)

**Duration:** 2014-2016

**OAS Contact:** Isabel Zuluaga, FEMCID: izuluaga@oas.org

**Local Contact:** Violet Crutchley, Tourism Product Development Co. Ltd. (TPDCo)

## **8 Development Cooperation Fund (DCF), Secretariat for Integral Development**

Program: The Peckham Bamboo Pre-Processing Project  
Work Area: Capacity Building in the area of agro-processing



### **Description:**

The Peckham Bamboo Pre-Processing Project seeks to promote the creation of opportunities for productive employment, particularly among vulnerable groups; thus contributing to the growth of Jamaica's productive sector through the development of the viable bamboo bi-product industry by:

- Utilizing technology to increase the supply of pre-processed bamboo for the market;
- Consistently supplying a good mix of much needed raw material to the domestic, tourism, wholesale and export markets;
- Successfully applying good business and marketing strategies and principles to ensure utilization of Jamaica's highly productive under-utilized resources

**Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** By 2018 Peckham aims to produce and export at least one bamboo bi-product (bamboo charcoal) by:

- putting into production 40 hectares of land;
- Training and providing employment for 80 young persons.

#### **2016 Achievements:**

1. 15 trainers being used as mentors
2. 6 of 15 trainees now employed by the Peckham Development Committee to manage the harvesting and production of bamboo.
3. 1,000 lbs. of Charcoal produced and sold to local business entity
4. A Business Model for the Peckham Bamboo project has been developed by the Social Development Commission (SDC).
5. Development of 5 National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) plans and 10 job qualification plans for Bamboo Fabrication Industry
6. Establishment of the Bamboo Industry Association of Jamaica
7. Identification of 4 Bamboo bi-products enterprises to be developed through Municipal Corporation (LED Office)

**Current status:** On-going

**Budget:** US\$130, 000.00 (disbursed in 2016: \$15,680.74)

**Duration:** 2015-2018

**OAS Contact:** Isabel Zuluaga, FEMCID: izuluaga@oas.org

**Local Contact:** Charmaine Brimm, Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)



**OAS**  
Scholarships

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#### **Department of Human Development, Education and Employment, Secretariat for Integral Development**

Program: Academic Scholarship Program (Graduate and Undergraduate)

Work Area: OAS Scholarship and Training Programs / Access to Education – Capacity Development

#### **Description:**

Academic scholarships for undergraduate and graduate studies in OAS member states (other than sponsoring country). On an annual basis, each OAS member state is allocated a specific number of scholarships through the OAS Academic Scholarship Program; in 2016, a total of 47 graduate scholarships were awarded to OAS member states and a total of 8 undergraduate scholarships were awarded to the English-speaking Caribbean member states and Suriname.

**Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** The OAS supported human capacity development in Jamaica through its Scholarship and Training Programs. As such, Jamaica benefitted from 2 graduate scholarships for a total amount of US\$ 78,465.39, while no undergraduate scholarships were awarded for the 2016 OAS Academic Scholarship Cycle.

**Current status:** CIDI/RES.316 (LXV-0/16) dated 13 December 2016 established an immediate and temporary pause in the awarding of new graduate scholarships in 2017 in the framework of the Academic Scholarship Program and authorized the use of up to US\$300,000 to finance students under the Special Program of Undergraduate Scholarships for the English-speaking Caribbean states; a selection committee shall be convened during the first quarter of 2017.

**Budget:** US\$ 300,000 for undergraduate scholarships in 2017

**Contact:** Patricia Quiroz, Specialist, Academic Scholarships Program, Department of Human Development, Education and Employment, Tel. 202.370.5452, Email: pquiroz@oas.org

Carmen Loreda, Program Officer, Academic Scholarships Program, Department of Human Development, Education and Employment, Tel. 202.370.4547, E-mail: cloredo@oas.org



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Program: Partnerships Program for Education and Training (PAEC)

Work Area: OAS Scholarship and Training Programs / Access to Education – Capacity Development

**Description:**

Academic scholarship for graduate and undergraduate studies in OAS member states (other than sponsoring country) and observer states.

**Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** The OAS supported human capacity development in Jamaica through its Scholarship and Training Programs. 19 scholarships were awarded to Jamaicans in 2016, with an estimated cost of USD \$300,000, for degree programs and certificate courses offered online in Costa Rica, Peru and the United States and onsite in China and The Netherlands; 10 scholarships were awarded to citizens of Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Grenada, Mexico, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia to pursue a Sustainable Cities course in Jamaica; 1 scholarship was awarded to a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda to pursue a Master's degree at the University of the West Indies at the Mona Campus in Jamaica; and, 4 scholarships were awarded to citizens of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Saint Lucia and St. Kitts and Nevis to pursue a Master's degree at the University of Technology, Jamaica.

**Duration:** Ongoing

Current Status: The call for applications for 2017 PAEC scholarships was opened in December 2016 and extends throughout 2017. The OAS will offer over 1700 scholarship opportunities in over 41 programs for studies in OAS Member and Observer States (Barbados, Belgium, China, Costa Rica, Guyana, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Peru, The Netherlands, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, Spain, Mexico, Chile, among others.

**Budget:** US\$650,000 (Scholarships are awarded based on eligible candidates selected by an Ad-Hoc Selection Committee)

**Contact:** Nelly Gochicoa, Coordinator of Latin American Cooperation, Department of Human Development, Education and Employment, Tel: 202.370.4939, Email: ngochicoa@oas.org

Patricia Quiroz, Specialist, PAEC North America, the Caribbean and OAS Permanent Observer Countries, Department of Human Development, Education and Employment, Tel. 202.370.5452, Email: pquiroz@oas.org

Nichole Duncan, Program Officer, PAEC North America, the Caribbean and OAS Permanent Observer Countries, Department of Human Development, Education and Employment, Tel. 202.370.4954, Email: nduncan@oas.org



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Program: Professional Development Scholarship Program (PDSP)

Work Area: OAS Scholarship and Training Programs / Access to Education – Capacity Development

Description: Professional Development Scholarship Opportunities to pursue online or onsite courses in OAS member and observer states

**Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** The OAS supports human capacity development in Jamaica by offering scholarships for participation in professional development courses in priority development areas identified by OAS member states. Scholarship opportunities to participate in 109 courses were offered in 2016; at least 20 of those courses were offered in English. 4 applications for Professional Development scholarships were received from citizens of Jamaica in 2016 and 4 scholarships were awarded to citizens of Jamaica; amount disbursed US\$4,000.00.

**Duration:** On-going

**Current status:** Scholarship opportunities for participations in 37 PDSP courses will be announced in the first quarter of 2017. Scholarship opportunities to participate in more than 112 PSDP-PAEC courses will be offered throughout 2017. For 2017, the PDSP selected the onsite course Street Law: Community Legal Education for Sustainable Economic and Social Development, to be held in Kingston, Jamaica from May to July, 2017 as one of the professional development courses for which scholarship opportunities for participation will be offered through the OAS PDSP. The course is offered through the UWI, Mona, Faculty of Law, Law Institutes Unit. 5 scholarships will be awarded for up to US\$1,350.00 for travel to participate in this "Street Law" course.

**Budget:** US\$ 150,000

**Contact:** Patricia Quiroz, Specialist, Professional Development Scholarship Program, Department of Human Development, Education and Employment, Tel. 202.370.5452, Email: pquiroz@oas.org

Lucrecia Zea-Yonker, Program Officer, Professional Development Scholarship Program, Department of Human Development, Education and Employment, Tel. 202.370.4918 – Email: LZeaYonker@oas.org

Carmen Loredo, Program Officer, Professional Development Scholarship Program in the PAEC modality, Department of Human Development, Education and Employment, Tel. 202.370.4547 – E-mail: cloredo@oas.org



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Program: Educational Portal of the Americas

Work Area: Cooperation for Human Development and Education

Description: Online courses developed in English targeted to English Speaking countries of the Americas. Courses in Sustainability Practices for Tourism Leaders and Training in Virtual Tutoring;

**Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** The OAS supported human development in Jamaica in 2016 by offering 16 full scholarships to citizens of Jamaica; for the first edition of the course Sustainability Practices for Tourism Leaders and Training in Virtual Tutoring Course delivered through the virtual classroom of the Educational Portal of the Americas.

**Current status:** Ongoing– Additional courses and scholarship offers will be announced at the beginning of 2017. New courses to train leaders in Leadership and Management of Projects for Innovation in Education and the Training in Virtual Tutoring Course will be offered in the first and second semester of 2017 with 150 scholarships covering 40% of the tuition fee targeted to English speaking countries in the Caribbean. A new Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) about STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Education will be launched in May 2017 with free enrollment and a USD \$35.00 certificate cost for more than 200 participants.



**Budget:** USD \$ 3,882 (Scholarships are awarded based on the closed edition established with the OAS Department of Economic Development)

**Contact:** Nelly Gochicoa, Coordinator of Latin American Cooperation, Department of Human Development and Education, Tel: 202.370.4939 | Email: ngochicoa@oas.org

**13 Department of Human Development, Education and Employment, Secretariat for Integral Development**  
 Program: Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund  
 Work area: Access to Education – Capacity Development]



**Description:**

Interest-free loans granted to citizens of OAS member states to finance studies in the United States.

Concrete benefits for Jamaica: The Rowe Fund granted 3 new interest-free loans to Jamaican nationals in 2016 and 1 educational loan to a Jamaican OAS staff member.

**Current status:** Ongoing—applications for Rowe Fund loans are accepted throughout the year.

**Budget:** \$27,000

**Contact:** Lina Sevillano: lsevillano@oas.org

JAMAICA - 2016	GRANTED IN 2016	MANAGED THROUGHOUT 2016	PAID IN FULL DURING 2016
Interest-free loans for studies in the United States	3 loans for \$22,000 (all for Master degree programs in US universities)	47 loan accounts with pending balance of \$256,927 as of 12/31/16; total granted \$425,556	12 loans were paid in full during 2016
Subsidies educational loans for GS/OAS staff and dependents	1 loan for \$5,000	1 loan account with pending balance of \$4,713	0
Sum	4 loans for \$27,000	48 loan accounts with balance of \$261,640	12 loans were paid in full during 2016

**14 Department of Human Development, Education and Employment, Secretariat for Integral Development**  
 Program: Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN)

**Work area:** Cooperation for Human Development and Education

Description: ITEN works with Ministries of Education of OAS member states to aid them in the advancement of the teaching profession.

Concrete benefits for Jamaica: ITEN contributes to the improvement of the quality of education in Jamaica by promoting knowledge exchange, capacity building and technical assistance, through the use of virtual tools and in-person activities for teachers and policy makers.

**Current status:** Ongoing

- Jamaican teachers and those interested in the teaching profession are invited on a continuous basis to join the ITEN Virtual Community of Practice and view its online Webinars on topics of interest to teachers and policymakers. As of December 2016, Jamaica had 94 teachers participating in the ITEN Virtual Community of Practice and 51 had registered in its online webinars.
- ITEN’s Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) to foster the teaching of critical thinking in sciences with a focus on sustainable energy was launched in January 2016. 384 participants from Jamaica registered in the MOOC and 192 earned their certificate in 2016. (The completion rate of 50% is well above the average rate of 5% to 15% for MOOCs in general.)
- In ITEN’s online knowledge bank, the Inter-American Collaboratory on the Teaching Profession (Co-TEP), there are 72 documents referring to Jamaica’s teacher-related policies and practices. Jamaicans have also been using Co-TEP to retrieve information—since 2013, Jamaica is among the top 10 countries with most visits to CoTep.

- Jamaica was selected to participate in two ITEN Technical Cooperation Missions, in one case to offer assistance and in one case to receive it. Jamaica and three other OAS member states will share their knowledge and experience with officials from seven Eastern Caribbean member states, as those countries work to improve their initial teacher education, as well as administrative and examination practices. The first of three visits for this mission took place in 2016. Jamaica will receive assistance from the Ministry of Education of Ontario, Canada, to design and implement a comprehensive appraisal system for educators emphasizing teacher development. This mission will take place in 2017.
- Mr. Bladimir Ortiz, ITEN team member and a consultant in teacher education and technology gave a presentation via webcast at the EduVision e-LJam ICT in Education Conference on October 28, 2016. As there was interest among the audience in the ITEN initiatives he presented, ITEN is currently in conversation with Jamaica's Ministry of Education, Youth, and Information in hopes of offering a webinar for Jamaican teacher education faculty and other education leaders in early 2017.

**Budget:** Participation of Jamaican teachers and policymakers in ITEN activities is funded by the overall ITEN budget. No specific budget for ITEN activities such as the Virtual Community of Practice, Webinars, MOOCs, and Co-TEP is allocated to individual OAS member states. However, ITEN Technical Cooperation Missions are funded on a country-need basis and based on the quality of proposals sent by interested countries.

**Contacts:** Daniel Pier, ITEN Coordinator: [dpier@oas.org](mailto:dpier@oas.org)

Nathalia Khayat, ITEN Technical Cooperation Missions Consultant: [naraujo@oas.org](mailto:naraujo@oas.org)

Valentina Pernet, Webinars Consultant: [dpernett@oas.org](mailto:dpernett@oas.org)

Bladimir Ortiz, Teacher Professional Development Activities Consultant: [bortiz@oas.org](mailto:bortiz@oas.org)

Maria Jose de Leon, Partnerships and Outreach Consultant: [mdeleon@oas.org](mailto:mdeleon@oas.org)



**15** Department of Human Development, Education and Employment, Secretariat for Integral Development  
Program: Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL) Bilateral Cooperation

**Description:** This bilateral cooperation activity is part of the 9th Call for Bilateral Cooperation of the RIAL, which is the mechanism for cooperation and technical assistance of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) of the OAS. This bilateral cooperation is one of five being held, and consists of an on-site visit to the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MLSS) to learn from Jamaica's experience with the Labor Market Information System (LMIS) with the goal of improving Grenada's own LMIS. The activity took place from September 26 to the 30th, 2016 in Jamaica.

**Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** Jamaica's MLSS got an opportunity to share its successful experience with the LMIS and to contribute to the institutional strengthening of Grenada's Ministry of Labor.

**Current status:** Completed

**Duration:** 5 days

**Budget:** US\$ 8,244.00 (disbursed to Grenadian participants)

**OAS Contact:** Maria Claudia Camacho, Chief, Labor and Employment Section & RIAL Coordinator: [Mcamacho@oas.org](mailto:Mcamacho@oas.org)

**Government of Jamaica (GoJ) contact:** Andrea Patterson-Morris, Planning, Research and Monitoring Unit, MLSS ; [apmorris@mlss.gov.jm](mailto:apmorris@mlss.gov.jm)

# Ensuring a Multidimensional Approach to Security



16

## The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

Work area: CICAD, Inter-American Drug Observatory (OID)  
Project: Household Drug Prevalence Survey

### Description/objective:

- determine the prevalence of psychoactive substance use in Jamaica and the socio-demographic characteristics of substance users;
- determine the patterns, if use of various substances;
- describe aspects related to the use of substances:
  - o exposure to supply and use;
  - o risk perception;
  - o Exposure to talks or courses on prevention, among others of interest.

**Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** This study will provide information to policy makers and other stakeholders about the extent of substance use in the country, which they can use in the development of drug prevention policies. This information is timely, because there is a need for a national survey to gauge consumption and perception of risk/harm of both licit and illicit drugs nationally, as the last national study was done in 2001.

**Outcomes:** On November 15, 2016 preliminary results were disseminated to stakeholders from health, education and law enforcement sectors, as well as other representatives from national agencies and departments. OAS Country Representative Jeanelle van GlaanenWeygel, as well as Specialist within the Inter-American Drug Observatory, Mr. Pernell Clarke, participated in this event.

**Budget:** \$97,020

**Duration:** October 2015- June, 2016

**Current status:** completed

**OAS Contact:** Pernell Clarke, Specialist, Observatory Section, CICAD

**Local contact:** Uki Atkinson, National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA)



17

## The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

Project: Evaluating Problem Solving Courts for Drug-related Offenses in the Caribbean and Central America

**Description/objective:** Problem Solving Courts for drug related offenses are crucial in Preventing Crime in member states. After discussions with the Minister of Justice and the Chief Justice of Jamaica, CICAD plans to start this initiative in 2017. By going to the nature of the problem, analyzing and confronting the very cause of the offense, and not only the offense, the justice system, in cooperation with the rest of the participating agencies, is able to provide individuals with more effective holistic approaches than imprisonment. The Drug Treatment Court (DTC) model, which already in place in four parishes in Jamaica, as well as other problem solving courts, such as the Community Court model, or any diversion model (pre-adjudication and post-adjudication) are preventing drug dependent offenders to relapse and re-offend. These approaches not only prevent crime, but also provide a restorative solution that observes the rights of the victim, as well as the offender's. At the end of the day, drug dependent and other minor drug offenders who end up in prison, go back to their communities after completing their sentences, but without treating the underlying problem that brought them to the judicial and prison systems.

**Objectives:** (1) Evaluating what has been done in adult Drug Treatment Court (DTC) projects in Jamaica (monitoring and evaluation of the various Jamaican DTCs in four Parishes – pending Manchester as the new upcoming court); (2) exploring the feasibility of the Juvenile DTC model; and (3) exploring the feasibility of the Community Court model (through diagnostic studies and gap-analysis).

**Concrete Benefit to Jamaica/Ultimate outcome:** Support the reduction of drug related offenses, the improvement of neighborhoods and communities, and the reduction of risk of relapse into drug use, and overall improvement of social integration strategies in cooperation with the justice system.

Intermediate outcomes: 1) Improved evaluation strategies in problem solving courts models 2) Increased number of Drug Treatment Courts have operational monitoring and evaluation systems in place, and M&E capability within participating member states.

**Budget/Funding Source:** \$100,000 (portion related to Jamaica).

**Duration:** Ongoing/ December 2016– June, 2018

**Contact:** Antonio Lomba, Project Manager and Acting Chief of Institutional Strengthening Unit, CICAD [alomba@oas.org](mailto:alomba@oas.org)



## 18 The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

Activity: Preparation of the Plan of Action 2016–2020 of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy

Work Area: Drug control policy

**Description:** A Working Group for the Preparation of the Plan of Action 2016–2020 was established in early 2015 to draft a new Plan of Action for the 2010 Hemispheric Drug Strategy. This Working Group was set up to include delegates from the 34 OAS member states. Most of the member states are actively participating and Jamaica is among them. In 2015, the Working Group had two meetings, one in Washington, D.C. and the other in Mexico City, Mexico. Another meeting was scheduled to take place in early 2016. The work of the Group is ongoing via an online platform and it's expected to conclude by mid-2016.

**Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** Jamaica forms part of the key drafting process that will lay out a new plan of action for the 34 OAS member states of this Hemisphere to follow in the area of drug control policy for the next five years (2016–2020).

**Current status:** Ongoing

**Duration:** 2015–2016

**Budget:** Approximately US\$200,000 (which includes the two meetings in 2015 and one proposed meeting in 2016. Each member state is expected to fund their respective delegates' travel to each Working Group meeting).

**OAS Contact:** Sofia Kosmas/Angela Crowdy, CICAD



## 19 Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

**Work Area:** Tourism Security.

**Activity:** Needs Assessment Mission to prepare a Draft Tourism Security Plan focused on Montego Bay.

**Description:** 2-day stakeholder preparatory mission to gather information from public and private officials to begin the process of drafting a national tourism security plan. CICTE's project team will conduct the assessment with input from local officials in order to develop guidelines for the development and implementation of the draft plan, as well as to schedule the follow-up exercises which will be conducted virtually for a period of 15 weeks.

**Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** The drafting of a Tourism Security Plan and promotion of Public Private Partnerships in the Tourism industry. Approximately 15 officials from both sectors will be involved in the process.

**Current status:** First activity was executed on September 29-30, 2016. Next in-country activity is scheduled for March, 2017.

**Budget:** CAD\$2.8 million for the entire project; CAD\$66,060 for the Jamaica Tourism Security Plan component.

**Funding source/donor:** Canada (ACCBP)

**OAS Contact:** Paola Fernández (pfernandez@oas.org) and Andrea Rodríguez (arodriguez@oas.org)

**Local GoJ contact(s):** Tameka Bowes (Policy Manager, Organized Crime and Defense Unit, Ministry of National Security) and Charles Scarlett (Director of Visitor Safety, Tourism Product Development Co. Ltd., Ministry of Tourism)

## 20 Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), Secretariat for Multidimensional Security Work area: Maritime Security

Activity: Maritime Security Program/ Sub-Regional Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Workshop,  
November 29 – Dec. 1, 2016, Kingston, Jamaica



### Description:

Maritime Domain Awareness is the exercise of Port State Control (PSC), which provides guidelines and best practices for the inspection of foreign ships in national ports to verify that the condition of the ship and its equipment comply with the requirements of international regulations and that the ship is manned and operated in compliance with these rules.

Concrete benefits for Jamaica: The project will help raise the level of awareness on the threats, risks and vulnerabilities and international good practices related to the maritime domain, –especially those related to the cargo and tourism sector industries, particularly in securing port facilities, commercial activity conducted through maritime transport in the Americas and Caribbean, by increasing security in ports and maritime domain. This should have an immediate and positive impact in securing the interests and active businesses in and around the maritime domain and ports.

**Current status:** completed

**Duration:** Two days

**Budget:** \$ 73,225.47

**OAS Contact:** John Grajales ([jgrajales@oas.org](mailto:jgrajales@oas.org)), Omayra Chuquihuara ([OChuquihuara@oas.org](mailto:OChuquihuara@oas.org)),  
Maria Fernanda Sarmiento ([MFSarmiento@oas.org](mailto:MFSarmiento@oas.org)).

Local contact: Mrs. Norma Brown Martin, Policy Manager, Ports of Entry, Ministry of National Security  
(754-0121 or 619-6066, [norma.brown@mns.gov.jm](mailto:norma.brown@mns.gov.jm))

**21** **OAS Department: Department of Public Security (DPS), Secretariat for Multidimensional Security**  
**Work Area: Violence Reduction Unit**  
Activity: Firearms Marking Assessment Visit with Small Arms Survey

**Description:**

DPS has partnered with the Small Arms Survey in order to conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of firearms marking efforts of Member States assisted through the project “Promoting Firearms Marking in Latin America and the Caribbean” and to determine their ongoing needs for support. The assessment visit to Jamaica was one of approximately six visits conducted.

**Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** Jamaica’s ongoing needs for support in their firearms marking and record keeping programs have been identified.

**Current status:** Firearms Marking Assessment Visit to Jamaica was completed.

**Duration:** 3 days (from February 16–18, 2016).

**Budget:** The budget of the project is entirely managed by Small Arms Survey and they are funding the project as well.

**OAS Contact:** Maria Rosa Meza Moreno (mrmeza@oas.org ; +1(202) 370-0837 ).

**Local contact(s):** Mr. Lincoln Allen, Director of Protective Security, Ministry of National Security

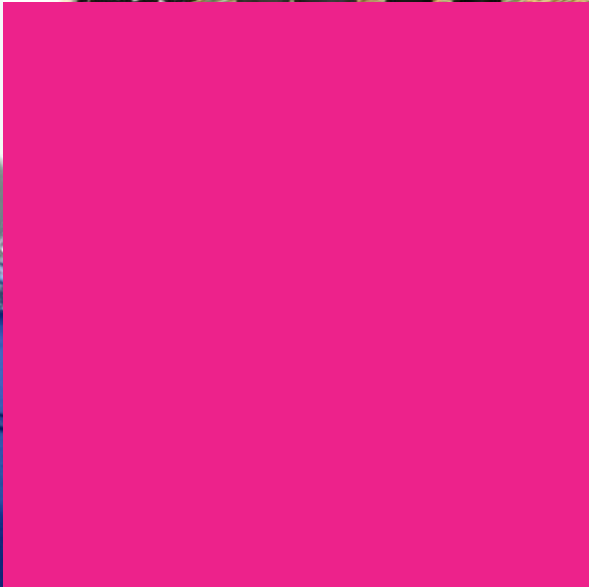
**22** **Department: Public Security**  
Project: A New Path: Promoting a Healthy Environment and Productive Alternatives for Juvenile Remandees and Offenders in Jamaica

**Description/objective:**

“A New Path: Promoting a Healthy Environment and Productive Alternatives for Juvenile Remandees and Offenders in Jamaica” is a project implemented by the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS), through its Department of Public Security (DPS), in cooperation with its affiliate, The Trust for the Americas (“The Trust”), with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The project activities began in September 2014 and were scheduled to end in January 2017. A second phase of the project was recently approved by the donor, with the extension of the activities until September 2019. Originally, the project focused its activities on the juvenile population of South Camp and Metcalfe. For Phase II of the project, beginning in February 2017, the activities of the project will be expanded to include the juvenile offenders placed at Hill Top and Rio Cobre, the two other juvenile institutions in Jamaica.





“A New Path” is a project designed to improve the quality of, and access to, reintegration services (educational, vocational, and internship/employment opportunities), technical training (marketable technical skills, life/social skills), as well as individualized psychosocial/emotional services for juvenile remandees of both South Camp and Metcalfe correctional facilities in Jamaica. Although the program has a nationwide impact, it places emphasis both in Kingston, where three of the juvenile centers are located, as well as on regions to which the majority of juvenile remandees and charged offenders return after being released.

The project comprises two distinct tracks, each with its own objective: Track 1 prepares young detainees at South Camp Juvenile Remand and Correctional Centre, Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Remand Centre, Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Centre, and Hill Top Juvenile Correctional Centre with marketable technical skills, life skills, and individualized psychosocial attention to enable their successful reintegration into society. Track 2 assists the releasees from South Camp Juvenile Remand and Correctional Centre, Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Remand Centre, Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Centre and Hill Top Juvenile Correctional Centre in accessing educational, vocational, and internship/employment opportunities, while providing comprehensive case management for at least six months after release.

**Major achievements/ Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** The project will promote healthy emotional environments within correctional facilities, and increase economic prosperity for youth who are currently incarcerated as key strategies to reducing recidivism, and, ultimately, crime and violence. The project focuses on improving the quality of, and access to rehabilitation and training services for juvenile remandees and charged offenders in the areas of life skills and emotional wellbeing, education and technical skills, and vocational training. The project will enhance the case management system of the Department of Correctional Services and systematize follow-up by parole officers, social workers, and local civil society organizations following the detainees’ release.

#### **Results Achieved – Up to December 2016:**

- Approximately 950 youth received some kind of assistance through the project;
- 385 girls and boys have successfully completed educational, recreational, and vocational courses that range from classical music, life skills to crafts and yoga;
- Post release support to 580 boys and girls released from Metcalfe and South Camp, with the assistance of 17 social workers across the country, who provide guidance and assistance to the youth in their reintegration process;
- 42 young people were offered apprenticeships or jobs, through partnerships with the private sector;
- 111 releasees and at-risk youth participated in the Pitch It!: Learning and Investing in Your Future event. 51 received extensive training in entrepreneurship during a one-week residence program, 21 of which were awarded micro-grants to start their own business;
- 106 officers and staff of the Department of Correctional Services participated in a series of Training-of-Trainers;
- Case management framework, including (i) policy framework for intake, initial assessment, and case management approach; (ii) work flow charts (intake, case management, and case management initial meeting); and (iii) standardized forms (Youth Admission Interview Tool, Reintegration Plan, Immediate Release Community Plan, Risk Needs Assessment Tool, Medical Admission Questionnaire; and Psychological Assessment) standardized forms, for juvenile facilities developed and approved by the Department of Correctional Services and the Ministry of National Security

**Budget:** GS/OAS received USD\$1,936,542 from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), for a period of 28 months (September 2014 to January 2017) to implement the project. In December 2016, the project was extended for an additional 32 months, which increased the project duration to a total of 60 months, until September 2019. An additional US\$2,500,000 will be provided for this extension. Amount disbursed in 2016: \$379,795.08

**Duration:** 60 months – October 2014 to September 2019

**Current status:** on-going

**OAS Contact:** Cristian Gabriel Taboada, Chief, Security and Justice Section, Department of Public Security, Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**Local contact:** Laura Plunkett, Ministry of National Security

# Defending Human Rights



## Work Area: Training and Dissemination Section, Technical Secretariat of the Inter American Commission on Human Rights

23

Activity: Seminar for CARICOM Ombudspersons on Citizen Security and the Inter American Human Rights System

### Description:

The overall objective of the seminar was to contribute to the improvement of citizen security in Caribbean countries. The specific objective was to strengthen the capacity of ombudspersons in the CARICOM region by sharing the experience and knowledge of other ombudspersons in the region that have functioned in similar, difficult contexts, with limited resources, and by showing how international human rights standards and mechanisms may be used to improve their effectiveness.

**Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** 15 Participants (from Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago, Puerto Rico and Costa Rica) benefited from the seminar, which included sharing of good practices among other regional ombudspersons and CARICOM ombudspersons. The exchange also promoted the development of professional relationships of ombudspersons in the region with one another and with the IACHR. This exchange offered an opportunity to focus on integrating international human rights mechanisms into the due process of domestic law within OAS member states.

**Current status:** Completed

**Duration:** May 19 – 20, 2016

**Budget:** 20,000

**OAS Contact:** Hilaire Sobers, Human Rights Specialist, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

**Local contact:** Tracy Robinson, UWI, Faculty of Law

# Promoting Democracy

24

**OAS Department: Department for Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO), Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy**

Work Area: Democracy/Elections

Activity: Electoral Observation Mission Jamaica 2016



## **Description:**

An Electoral Observation Mission of 23 members was deployed to Jamaica to observe the General Parliamentary Election held on February 25, 2016. The Mission was headed by former Attorney General and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Mrs. Janet G. Bostwick, who was assisted by Deputy Chief of Mission, Melene Glynn of the OAS Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation. The Mission included experts in electoral organization, electoral technology, political financing and gender

During the pre-electoral period, the Mission met with a wide range of stakeholders, including the Electoral Commission of Jamaica, the Electoral Office, Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller, Minister of Foreign Affairs A.J. Nicholson, Attorney General Patrick Atkinson, Political Ombudsman Donna Parchment, representatives of political parties, civil society organizations, trade unions, youth organizations, the media and other electoral observation missions, who shared their perspectives regarding the electoral process.

On Election Day, OAS observers were present at polling stations in 13 parishes across the country prior to the opening of the polls and up to the counting of the votes, visiting a total of 367 polling stations.

The day after the election, in a press conference, the Chief of the Mission presented a Statement with preliminary findings and recommendations. Mrs. Bostwick presented a more detailed report to the OAS Permanent Council in Washington DC, on July 27, 2016.

## **Major achievements / Concrete benefits for Jamaica:**

- Demonstration of international support and inter American solidarity for the strengthening of Jamaica's electoral process.
- Contribution to the creation of an atmosphere of public trust.
- Strengthening of Jamaica's electoral system.

With the purpose of strengthening the electoral system in Jamaica, the Electoral Observation Mission offered the following recommendations:

### **Campaign Finance**

The OAS Mission urged Jamaica to prioritize implementation of the Act to Amend the Representation of the People Act 2015 as a first step towards the strengthening of the political finance system. The Mission also recommended that Government consider introducing additional qualitative measures, including granting the Electoral Commission of Jamaica (ECJ) meaningful oversight of the campaign finance system and establishing adequate penalties for non-compliance with reporting requirements.

### **Electoral Technology**

The OAS Mission once more applauded Jamaica's initiative and innovation in the use of EVIBIS technology in the voter verification process. Recognizing that the technology has improved substantially and continues to be an important tool to avoid multiple voting, the OAS Mission recommended that the ECJ continue to work to perfect the technology, while incorporating appropriate quality controls and procedures to ensure its proper application and performance.

### **Gender Representation**

The OAS Mission called on political parties, civil society organizations and the ECJ to work together to develop affirmative actions that might help to increase the participation of women in the electoral competition. The Mission also recommended that the ECJ intensify its efforts to publish existing data on voters and candidates disaggregated by sex and age, while obtaining, analyzing and publicizing similar information for poll workers, electoral officials and party agents. Introducing this data into the public domain will assist the process of properly analyzing and promoting women's political participation in the electoral process.

### **Media Monitoring Unit**

The Mission was pleased to learn of the establishment of a Media Monitoring Unit (MMU) by the Jamaica Broadcasting Commission (JBC), as the creation of such a Unit was one of the recommendations issued by the OAS in its report on the 2007 General Elections. The Mission commended the work of the JBC and the MMU to monitor political broadcasts and advertising during the electoral period, particularly the voluntary agreements negotiated by the JBC with political parties and media organizations to regulate such broadcasts in the 24 hours prior to the start of voting day.

## Political Ombudsman

The OAS Mission commended the institution and the work of the Political Ombudsman and encouraged the people of Jamaica to continue to work with this important national institution to embed a positive, inclusive and peaceful ethos in the country's political process.

## Voter Participation

The OAS Mission recommended that the ECJ, the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ), the Political Ombudsman and other stakeholders re-double their voter education and public awareness campaigns to inform and energize new voters, while encouraging the participation of the general electorate in the national electoral process.

## Electoral Organization

The OAS Mission recommended that the electoral authorities consider provisions to facilitate voting by qualified voters, whose names appear on the voters' list, but who are unable to attend their designated polling division on Election Day, including Jamaicans residing overseas, persons in hospitals or nursing homes and eligible voters on remand or serving terms of imprisonment. Noting that the location of some polling stations presented difficulties for access by physically challenged and elderly voters, the Mission also reiterated past recommendations that the ECJ ensure that all voters have the same opportunity for access and participation on Election Day. In this regard, the Mission suggested that the ECJ consider allocating at least one accessible polling place at every voting location, for use by voters with special needs.

**Current status:** The Electoral Observation Mission left the country upon the conclusion of the electoral process. As indicated above, a report was presented to the OAS Permanent Council in Washington, DC, on July 27, 2016. A final report will be published in due course.

**Duration:** 4 months (14 days on the ground)

**Budget:** \$ 160,565

**OAS Contact:** Melene Glynn, Deputy Chief of Mission and Jeanelle van GlaanenWeygel, OAS Representative in Jamaica

**Local contact(s):** The Honorable Mrs. Dorothy Pine-McLarthy OJ, Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Jamaica (ECJ) and Mr. Orrette Fisher, Director of the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ)

## 25 Work area: Summits of the Americas Secretariat, Secretariat for Hemispheric Affairs

Program/Project title: Summit Information Session



### Description:

In preparation of the VIII Summit of the Americas, the Summit of the Americas Secretariat started information sessions with civil society organizations (CSOs) and social actors in OAS member states, via video conference, to provide a better understanding of the Summits Process and the diverse mechanisms of participation available. The first information session in preparation of the VIII Summit was held on Wednesday, December 14, 2016.

### Objectives of the Info session:

- Explain all components of the Summit Process and their relevance, including the actors that participate in the Process;
- Continue promoting the participation of a wide range of stakeholders in the Summits Process; and
- Strengthen the interaction between the Summits Secretariat and stakeholders, the Summit host-country and government officials.

**Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** CSOs and social actors in Jamaica will have a better understanding of the Summits of the Americas process and will be better able to participate in the summit process.

**Current status:** Completed

**Duration:** December 14, 2016

**OAS Contact:** Jane Thery, Summits of the Americas Secretariat, Secretariat for Hemispheric Affairs

## **26** Work area: e-Government Program, Department for Effective Public Management, Secretariat for Hemispheric Affairs

Activity/Program: XII Annual Conference on Government Procurement in the Americas

### Description:

The Annual Conference of Government Procurement in the Americas was held for the first time in an English-speaking Caribbean country – Jamaica (Montego Bay). The conference theme was: “Public Procurement – a Tool for Economic Development”, as such, the importance and complexity of the public procurement function in light of the sizable market share it commands (anywhere from 10–30 percent of a country's GDP) was emphasized.

The Conference was organized by the Government of Jamaica in cooperation with the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, the Strategic Public Sector Transformation Project of the World Bank, the European Union, the Petro Caribe Development Fund, and the National Works Agency of Jamaica. The event drew over 350 participants, including representatives from all 24 INGP member countries, as well as representatives from new and prospective member countries, experts from international organizations such as IDB, OAS, OECD, UNEP, USTDA, IISD etc., academics and civil society. The conference provided an important platform for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and lessons learned in the ongoing effort to modernize public procurement in the Latin American and Caribbean region and beyond.

The OAS, as technical secretariat of the Inter American Network on Government Procurement (INGP), presented the annual activity report of the INGP. Chile was selected to host the XIII Annual Conference of the INGP, to be held in October 2017.

**Concrete benefits for Jamaica:** Jamaica had the benefit of hosting the hemispheric dialogue on public procurement, discussing strategic development issues, as well as getting extensive commentary and pragmatic advice from international experts on how to develop policies and adopt good practices for increasing transparency and efficiency in Jamaica's public procurement system, while recognizing the importance of public procurement to economic development. In the margins of the Conference, Jamaica, Chile and the Dominican Republic signed a technical cooperation agreement to promote the participation of women in public procurement.

**Current status:** Completed

**Duration:** November 29 to December 1, 2016, Montego Bay, Jamaica

**Budget:** \$350,000 (conference budget)

**OAS Contact:** Helena Fonseca, Regional Coordinator, Inter American Network on Government Procurement (INGP), e-Government Program, Department for Effective Public Management, Secretariat for Hemispheric Affairs

**Government of Jamaica (GoJ) contact:** Cecile Maragh, Director Procurement and Asset Policy Unit, Ministry of Finance: [cecile.maragh@mof.gov.jm](mailto:cecile.maragh@mof.gov.jm)