



THE STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA

Strengthening Migration Statistics

Side Event -49th Session of the UNSC

Statistical Institute of Jamaica



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Background

- ❑ International migration has always been an integral part of the development of Jamaica
- ❑ Importance of migration to its development is reflected in Jamaica's National Development Plan – Vision 2030 Jamaica
- ❑ Among the strategies under the Plan is the *Maintenance of a Stable Population*
- ❑ *The development and strengthening of systems and mechanisms to measure international migration flows for monitoring demographic statistics* is seen as important in achieving this strategy



Background

- ❑ Emigration of managerial, technical and highly skilled persons which results
 - in loss of critical human resources
 - add to the large Diaspora stock
 - source of large amounts of remittances. Remittances account for a significant portion of foreign exchange flows into Jamaica

- ❑ Seasonal labour migrants to USA and Canada – ease unemployment



Development of Migration Statistics

- ❑ Jamaica developed a draft policy on International Migration
- ❑ Policy seeks to
 - ensure that international migration is adequately measured
 - develop policies to limit the negative impact of migration
 - garner possible benefits – from the large diaspora population and from remittances. Areas of possible benefits are in investment and in the reduction of poverty



Development of Migration Statistics

- ❑ A Mainstreaming Migration Project was developed with assistance from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNDP
- ❑ Critical output was the development of a migration database
- ❑ Provide a repository for migration data to facilitate research and provide statistics for the Migration Profile of Jamaica
- ❑ An oversight committee made up of Government agencies who have links with international movements of Jamaicans was established



Development of Migration Statistics

- Outcome was below expectations, as the project experienced difficulties in accessing data from the agencies
- A significant amount of the data was in paper format
- Data was available only as tables and not disaggregated
- Some agencies did not see themselves as data providers
- No common identifier among data sets to allow for linking
- Issues with quality as the data are not always compiled for statistical purposes



Strategies for Improvement

- Issues associated with the provision of Migration statistics are not unique
- Same issues affecting the production and dissemination of statistics generally including the SDGs
- Development of a National Statistics System (NSS) is critical
- Area of assistance from the International Development Partners (IDP)



Strategies for Improvement

The NSS will allow for:

- ❑ Coordination among data producers and users
- ❑ Standardisation in classifications and ensure methodology conforms to international standards
- ❑ Reduction in costly duplication of efforts across agencies
- ❑ The integration of statistics into national planning



Strategies for Improvement

- Need to establish legal and Institutional frameworks for guiding the development of statistics
- Improvement in the production processes including the use of technology to make processes more efficient
- Capacity Building is critical but must go beyond simple training. This must be sustainable. Encourage south/south cooperation. Collaboration with local universities
- Need political commitment



Thank You