



Open
Government
Partnership



OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP) PRESENTATION

Summary Presentation on OGP Process in Jamaica – Background, Status and Next Steps

Ministry of Finance and the Public Service

August 2021



Strategic Public Sector
Transformation Project

OVERVIEW OF OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP)

Open Government Partnership



+ International multi-stakeholder platform to make governments more accountable, inclusive and responsive to citizens



+ Founded in 2011 by eight governments and nine civil society leaders



+ Now involves 78 national and 76 local governments, and 3000+ civil society organizations - who have together developed over 4,500 commitments



+ Governed by a Steering Committee composed of 11 governments and 11 civil society leaders

OGP VALUES

The OGP process is guided by the values of:

- Access to Information
- Civic Participation
- Public Accountability
- Technology and Innovation for Transparency and Accountability

REQUIREMENTS FOR OGP MEMBER COUNTRIES

Participation in the OGP requires countries to:

- Endorse a high-level Open Government Declaration
- Deliver a National Action Plan (NAP) developed with public consultation with civil society with commitments that advance the OGP Values
- Commit to independent reporting on implementation of the NAP, including through the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM)

CONTEXT OF OPEN GOVERNMENT IN JAMAICA

- Passage of the Access to Information Act in 2002 and establishment of the Access to Information Unit;
- Passage of the Public Bodies Management and Accountability Act (2001) and the Corruption Prevention Act (2002);
- Launch of the Open Data Portal (2016);
- Passage of the Integrity Commission Act (2017);
- Signature of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters, also known as the “Escazu Agreement” (2019);
- Publication of annual Citizen’s Guide to the Central Government’s Budget commencing with Financial Year 2019/2020;
- Passage of the Bank of Jamaica (Amendment) Act (2020) which modernises Jamaica’s central bank (December 2020);
- Tabling of Bill to establish Jamaica’s Independent Fiscal Commission (December 2020).

JAMAICA AND OGP PROCESS - BACKGROUND

- In December 2016, the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) submitted to the OGP a Letter of Intent (LOI) signed by Prime Minister Andrew Holness committing to joining the OGP
- Two (2) Cabinet Decisions in June 2018 and February 2020 approved the preparation of Jamaica's National Action Plan (NAP) and establishment of a Multistakeholder Forum (MSF) in keeping with the OGP's Participation and Co-creation Standards
- Letter by Minister of Finance and the Public Service to OGP in February 2020 reaffirming Jamaica's commitment to preparation of NAP
- Deadline for preparation and submission of Jamaica's first NAP extended to August 2021, with additional four (4) months to December 31, 2021 before Jamaica would be designated as inactive in OGP

GOJ LEAD STRUCTURE FOR OGP PROCESS - MOFPS OGP LEAD MINISTRY

- OGP Ministerial Focal Point
 - Hon Nigel Clarke DPhil MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service
- OGP Government Point of Contact
 - Mrs Lorris Jarrett, Deputy Financial Secretary, Public Expenditure Division, Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS)
- OGP Technical Support
 - Mr Richard Lumsden, Director, Economic Reform Monitoring Unit, Ministry of Finance and the Public Service
- OGP Funding Support
 - Mr Othneil Hemans, Project Manager, Strategic Public Sector Transformation Project, Ministry of Finance and the Public Service

JAMAICA OGP PROCESS – CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

- Civil society engagement in OGP process commenced in 2018
- Civil society OGP workshop held on May 9, 2019
- Civil society working group has continued meeting during 2019-2021

ROLE OF MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUM (MSF)

- Provides oversight and guidance to the co-creation process for the development, submission, implementation, monitoring and reporting for each National Action Plan (NAP)
- Equal numbers of government and civil society members with a GOJ Co-Chair and a Civil Society Co-Chair
- The civil society representatives of the MSF have been appointed based on a self-selection process developed, agreed and executed by civil society organizations (CSOs) and stakeholders

KEY DECISIONS FOR MSF

- Election of MSF Civil Society Co-Chair by MSF civil society members
- Finalization of MSF Terms of Reference (TOR)
- Determination of publication of key OGP documentation
- Finalization of Schedule of Timelines and Methodology for Co-Creation of OGP National Action Plan
- Review and provide feedback on Draft and Final OGP National Action Plan

JAMAICA OGP PROCESS – MAIN EVENTS HELD IN FY2020/2021 and FY2021/2022

- OGP Orientation Briefing for GOJ Stakeholders held on November 25, 2020
- Formal Launch of OGP Process in Jamaica held on January 15, 2021, with main address by Minister of Finance and the Public Service
- OGP Webinar on Open Response and Recovery to COVID-19 held on February 19, 2021, in collaboration with civil society working group
- OGP Multi-Stakeholder Forum established and first OGP MSF meeting scheduled for August 12, 2021

JAMAICA OGP PROCESS – PROPOSED TIMELINES

KEY ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME
Maintain and update national OGP Open Government Repository (OGR) and email address on MOFPS website	February – November 2021
Establish Multistakeholder Forum including government and civil society representatives	July – August 2021
Conduct stakeholder consultations for recommended actions/commitments for inclusion in the NAP	August – September 2021
Prepare and finalize NAP based on feedback from MSF and stakeholders	October 2021
Submit final NAP to Cabinet for approval	November 2021
Submit/upload final approved NAP to OGP	November 2021
Implement, monitor and report on final approved NAP for Jamaica for 2021 – 2023	December 2021 – August 2023

BENEFITS OF OPEN GOVERNANCE TO JAMAICA

- Better access to information on the performance of government ministries and agencies and on matters of public interest;
- Greater transparency on the allocation and expenditure of public resources;
- Strengthened mechanisms to detect and address corruption in the administration of government and public bodies;
- Enhanced ability to hold government and public officials accountable for the efficient and effective use of public resources and the achievement of targeted results;
- Greater opportunities for citizens to participate in the determination of government priorities and the monitoring of outcomes;
- The OGP provides an international framework, technical support and a community of best practices within which participating countries including Jamaica are required to demonstrate and maintain commitment to the principles of open government.

MAIN OGP LINKS

- OGP Website: <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/>
- GOJ OGP Document Repository:
<https://mof.gov.jm/documents/publications/document-centre/category/294-open-government-partnership-ogp.html>
- GOJ OGP Email Address: ogp@mof.gov.jm
- OGP Informational Video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKp7mHeF-Bk>