

Additional Information
**Constructive Dialogue on Jamaica’s Combined Initial and Second Periodic Reports to the
Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their
Families**
09-10 April 2025

1. Please provide the number of Jamaicans in the Diaspora

The Jamaican Diaspora consists of Jamaicans who are born in the country as well as their descendants. The majority of Jamaican descendants reside in the US, UK and Canada and spread across the globe.

The exact figures of Jamaicans who reside abroad is not available, but estimates put the figure at approximately 3 million.

2. Please provide the definition of irregular migrant

According to the Glossary on Migration, International Migration Law No. 1 (IOM, Geneva, 2004b), as cited in the Jamaica Country Profile, 2018, an irregular migrant is defined as a person who, owing to illegal entry or the expiry of their visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country. The term refers to individuals who have breached a country’s immigration regulations and are not authorized to remain. Such individuals may also be referred to as clandestine, illegal, undocumented migrants, or migrants in an irregular situation (IOM, 2004b).

3. Please provide information on the monitoring mechanism that exists to ensure proper functioning of the ConnectMeJA App - Diaspora Registration Portal

ConnectMeJa was developed in 2024 in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and through the contracting of an application development company. The developer currently has responsibility for monitoring and updating the application in consultation with the Diaspora Affairs Department.

Following the launch of ConnectMeJa at the 10th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference in June 2024, there have been continuous upgrades.

The Ministry will be continuing the process of promoting and marketing the application. To this end, the Ministry held a sensitization session in March 2025 with its staff at headquarters and its overseas missions outlining the uses and benefits of the application.

4. Please provide details on whether there is coordination with the UNHCR with respect to the management of Cuban migrants

The UNHCR does not maintain a field office in Jamaica. Its engagement in the country is carried out on a needs basis through periodic missions, supported by other United Nations agencies.

There is no evidence to suggest that the UNHCR is directly involved in responding to the arrival of Cuban nationals by boat. The Government of Jamaica remains committed to upholding the dignity and human rights of all individuals within its borders, including Cuban nationals who arrive through unauthorized ports of entry.

In accordance with established procedures and humanitarian principles, Cuban nationals arriving by boat are treated similarly to any other foreign national entering without the requisite authorization. Upon arrival, they are first screened by the health authorities, their immediate needs are addressed, and they are then verified and interviewed, typically with the assistance of an interpreter, to ascertain the purpose of travel. Notably, in several cases, it has been determined that Jamaica was not their intended destination.

In regard to rescue cases at sea, appropriate humanitarian support is provided, including accommodation, meals, and eventual repatriation at the Government of Jamaica's expense. In instances where individuals express a need for international protection, screening is conducted in line with the relevant refugee policy.

Where the circumstances reflect a breach of immigration laws without claims for international protection, the matter is addressed in accordance with Sections 5, 6, and 20 of the Aliens Act.