

## EU ROADMAP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN JAMAICA FOR THE PERIOD 2024-2027

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Status: public

Date of approval:

Update of a previous RM: Y

Part of the Joint Strategy? N

Approved by (list of MS and possibly other donors endorsing the RM):

Belgium

France

Germany

Spain

### PART I – BRIEF ANALYSIS OF THE CONTEXT AND PAST EU ENGAGEMENT

#### A. THE STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY: BRIEF UPDATE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

*Key developments in the CS context (Enabling Environment for Civil Society<sup>1</sup>) over the past two/three years.*

Jamaica is a democratic country which enjoys freedoms of assembly<sup>2</sup>, of speech and the press. According to Freedom House's 2024 report on Jamaica: “**Jamaica has a robust and vibrant civil society** with many active community groups”. However, some struggle financially or have difficulty attracting volunteers, negatively impacting their levels of engagement. Others are funded by the central government, but for the most part act autonomously”.

Jamaica 2020 general election confirmed the **tradition of peaceful and well managed polls**. However, it also showed the lowest level of participation since independence with only 37% of electorate voting even if increasing satisfaction with democracy (45% according to LAPOP/Pulse of Democracy 2022). The February 26, 2024 Local Government elections further reflected an increase in voter apathy with a participation rate of 29.6%, but underlined the peaceful transition as Kingston & St. Andrew, the country’s most influential municipal seat, changed hands without event.

The country continues to enjoy significant **freedom of expression**, in-general respect for freedom of information, and continues to rank among the safest countries in the world for journalists. Despite having dropped 20 places, ranking 32 in 2023 compared to its 12th out of 180 countries in 2022 and ranking 7<sup>th</sup> place in 2021, Reporter Without Borders report showed that Jamaica moved up 8 places in ranking to 24 in 2024. The recent report still noted the growing mistrust between government officials and the media and that it has contributed to a decline in institutional respect for press freedom. It concludes that journalists must be careful about reporting on sensitive matters because of the risk of victimization, evidenced by the country’s high crime rate, but still mentions concerns about the Data Protection Act passed in 2020 - which seeks to protect the privacy and personal data of consumers.

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<sup>1</sup> Dimensions of enabling environment including: Access to information and to spaces for dialogue and partnerships with governments and other development actors; legal and regulatory frameworks that support and promote CSOs’ work, rather than constrain it; Funding mechanisms for CSOs that allow them to operate in a way that is responsive to the individuals and communities they serve or represent, and values, norms and attitudes in society that are conducive to civil society. Additionally, CSOs can contribute to an enabling environment by advancing their own accountability and effectiveness as independent development actors.

<sup>2</sup> Article 13 of the 1962 Constitution of Jamaica protects the freedom of assembly, subject to limitations on the grounds of defence, public safety, public order, public morality, and public health.

According to some civil society and media organisations, the Data Protection Act does not adequately distinguish gathering “data” for journalistic activities from gathering data for regular commercial purposes<sup>3</sup>. Jamaica’s Minister of Information was quoted by the Gleaner as attributing the fall in the country’s 2023 placement on the index to a change in the method of measurement by the RSF.<sup>4</sup> CSOs have however commented on their reduced freedom to comment freely on evolving social policies/issues as a result of verbal attacks (described as hate speech) by some politicians who use their social media influence to incite strong opposition to civil society commentary, making the social environment comparatively less inviting for them to operate in.

The **Access to Information** Act, that came into force in 2004, is an important element in the transparency toolkit. However, while the law provides journalists, civil society actors and the public at large with access to critical Government documents, there are no strict enforcement measures in place to ensure requests are granted in a timely manner. Excessive delays by government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) in their response to ATI requests was the most common violation of the law cited in consultations with civil society groups, but also mentioned by journalists and citizens<sup>5</sup>. Media and various CSOs stakeholders have repeatedly and increasingly requested an update to the law taking into account the lessons learned from two decades of implementation.

The UN Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group examined Jamaica’s human rights record in November 2020. Speakers encouraged Jamaica, among other things, to **abolish the death penalty, continue strengthening strategies for poverty reduction** and the public health sphere, especially with regards to sexual and reproductive health, tackle impunity for incidents of abuse by police and security forces, especially in the context of COVID-19, consolidate the national response to violence against children and address the concerns of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Other groups or **victims of discrimination** include incarcerated and detained people with mental illness as well as persons with disabilities. The Disabilities Act that was passed in 2014, came into effect only on February 14, 2022, providing an opportunity to bolster promotion and protection of the fundamental rights of persons with disabilities. Some Civil Society Organisations have a record of accomplishment of working with these vulnerable categories and advocating for their rights. However, CSOs interviewed explained that the GoJ still does not have institutional and predictable mechanisms to involve the disabled or their representatives in policy revisions and provide financial support.

Jamaica has risen one place, currently ranking 69th out of 180 countries on the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index for 2023. This makes Jamaica the fifth most corrupt country in the Caribbean. Public confidence in the Integrity Commission (IC), established in 2017 to tackle corruption with public officials, continues to be weak as the Integrity Commission Act prohibits the Commissioners from commenting on an investigation before it is tabled in both Houses of Parliament. Thus, the annual reports of the IC just reveals when MPs and ministers are linked to alleged acts of corruption, not who, and have recently been further limited by whether the Houses are willing to publish the findings. Anti-corruption advocates have decried the gag order imposed by the law on the Commission, and a recent ruling by the Supreme Court in November 2024 granting the Prime Minister leave to challenge a report on him by the IC is being eagerly watched by multiple stakeholders.

CSO are increasingly demanding the government to scale up legislation and enforcement initiatives to **reduce corruption and increase transparency** in public procurement. These initiatives, often facilitated by International Development Partners (IDPs) including the EU, complement bilateral dialogue and programmes in support of institutional reforms and improvement of public financial management. They have also triggered more frequent media coverage including on social networks, concentrated on raising awareness among citizens on how to demand more transparency and accountability from their representatives. Continued actions by political operatives to limit and

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<sup>3</sup> Also, Serious concerns have been raised about the overly broad powers of the Information Commissioner. Although the office of the Information Commissioner will now be subject to an oversight committee of Parliament, according to journalists this does not address the danger of the chilling effect of the office's decisions on the publication of news. This could outweigh the benefits that the Data Protection Act is supposed to produce. The Bill should take effect in 2022 following a public education exercise and the finalisation of its Regulations.

<sup>4</sup> <https://radiojamaicanewsonline.com/local/jamaica-slips-20-places-in-world-press-freedom-index>

<sup>5</sup> Other issues cited include an imperfect interpretation of the law and "unequal application" between different state agencies in particular of the 9 broad categories of exceptions allowed by the law. Many agencies hide or provide heavily obscured information, in violation of the act's guidelines. "

criticize the findings of the IC have done nothing to improve public trust and confidence, neither in the agency nor the political directorate.

Jamaica still ranks among the top five countries with the **highest homicide rates in the world**. However, violent crime is highly concentrated in specific communities. Even if security does not prevent some CSOs from implementing their mandate, in the most vulnerable and volatile localities, the capacity to reach out to the most vulnerable continues to be severely limited<sup>6</sup>. The governments' imposition of state of emergencies has provided access for some CSOs to a number of stakeholders in these communities who require their services.

Jamaica ranks high among the countries making **significant progress towards achieving gender parity**, at 37 out of 146 countries according to the Global Gender Gap Report (2024)<sup>7</sup>, although this represents a seven points fall from its 24 of 156 ranking in 2023. With the 2020 general election there was a noticeable change in the level of representation of women in Parliament. Of the 63 members elected to the House of Representatives, a record 18 are women (28%); and 8 of the 21 (38%) members appointed to the Senate were women, 33% overall. In 2018, Jamaica launched a 10-year National Strategic Action Plan (NSAP) to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Its aim is to prevent violence, protect and deliver adequate services to victims and deal appropriately with perpetrators. However, gender-based violence remains a major concern and Jamaica now has one of the highest rates per capita of femicide worldwide. The Ministry of Gender has established a mens' desk to address the perceived marginalization of men especially in the education sector and the increase in criminality among young men.

In 2022, Parliament passed the long-awaited **legislation aimed at tackling sexual harassment** in Jamaica. It also benefitted from the recommendations of a Joint Select Committee of Parliament, which received inputs from civil society organizations and individuals. The legislation addresses concerns and contains provisions for dealing with sexual harassment in the workplace, schools, correctional institutions, nursing homes, medical and psychiatric facilities, among other places. The recently concluded EU funded Spotlight Initiative programme provided valuable technical assistance, two national emergency shelters for victims of domestic violence and their families, and support to legislative reform, which contributed to the passage of this Bill.

*Brief analysis of CS involvement in domestic policies (with a special attention to the 5 priorities of the Commission or priority areas/sectors of EU engagement in the country) and key challenges and opportunities. In line with the Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025), please also pay a specific attention to CS involvement in favour of gender equality/women's rights and empowerment*

According to Vision 2030 – Jamaica National Development Plan “**strong and accountable institutions** [...] and a “vibrant civil society are fundamental to development” and Civil Society has an important role that “balances the power of the Government and holds it accountable for delivering better services and improving the well-being of all”.

This role has been acknowledged by the government on some important occasions. In 2013, the Economic Programme Oversight Committee (EPOC), monitoring the implementation of Jamaica's economic reform measures under its agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), comprised 11 persons from the private and public sectors and civil society. In 2016, the Government established the Partnership for a Prosperous Jamaica (PPPJ) conformed by representative from the State, represented by the Government and the Opposition, the Private Sector, the Trade Unions and Civil Society. More recently, in August 2020, by signing the National Crime Consensus, the PM, together with the Leader of the Opposition and representatives of the organised civil society, religious movements, private

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<sup>6</sup> Youth are accounted as the more frequent victims and perpetrator of violent crimes and as such are particularly at risk to be prevented to participate in social interventions and to be involved in shooting or other violent episodes. The presence of gangs limit the mobility of people between neighbouring communities. Sometime even within the same geographical demarcation it is possible to identify the presence of invisible borders that divide the turfs controlled by different gangs.

<sup>7</sup> The report's Gender Gap Index ranks countries according to calculated gender gap between women and men in four key areas: health, education, economy and politics to gauge the state of gender equality in a country. The report measures women's disadvantage compared to men, and is not a measure of equality of the gender gap. Gender imbalances to the advantage of women do not affect the score.

sector, Trade Unions, academia and others, accepted to place the work of the government in the security sector under the scrutiny of an **independent oversight** committee and to abide by time bound commitments and targets.

All these initiatives can be seen as a positive shift towards a **stronger commitment to the principles of social dialogue and partnership** and to further deepen democracy and participatory decision-making, encouraging meaningful participation of all partners in national development. However, government's consultation process with CSOs continues to be largely unregulated and ad hoc and there are few opportunities for CSOs to participate in the policy-making process without an invitation from government. Additionally, CSOs reported that making CSOs participation count in the national development process is a permanent struggle.

The Covid 19 pandemic heightened socio-economic inequities and **gaps in social protection in Jamaica**, further compounded by the negative effect on funding opportunities and limited resources available for civil society organisations. It also emphasised the current lack of the necessary CSOs platforms to facilitate the sharing of pertinent data and methodology, and opportunities for strategic engagement with government at national level. This situation hinders collaboration between government, civil society and the private sector to strengthen the national response to current and future pandemics with sustainable provision for social protection and other essential services. Post-pandemic recovery efforts, increased civil and political instability in several countries as well as a changing focus towards work on environmental/climate change issues have resulted in a continuation of reductions in available IDP funding for many CSOs.

According to the organisations surveyed by the EUD, the CSOs' **legal framework continues to be considered fairly enabling**, allowing for civil society organizations to enjoy relatively wide range of freedoms to engage in public activities. However, the prevailing socioeconomic conditions make their survival quite difficult, as they were heavily dependent on grant funding from private companies or international development partners. Moreover, CSOs denounce limited understanding and support by authorities of the role of CSOs, heavy and costly bureaucracy and red tape to maintain registration and functioning of the organisations, in particular for small and community-based entities.

**Social enterprises** represent an innovative and dynamic section of Civil Society. It represents organisations that have a defined social mission to contribute to solving problems in society, which includes foundations, associations, not-for-profit organisations and co-operatives. Since 2019, the Jamaica Stock Exchange opened the Jamaica Social Stock Exchange (JSSE) Website Platform, to assist Social Sector Organizations (SSOs) to attract long term funding to make their projects sustainable. Social enterprises have also shown increasing capacity to attract youth entrepreneurs in vulnerable communities to provide services in a more accessible and sustainable way. The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) has created the Social Enterprise Working Group of the National Policy Implementation Committee in order to promote the definition of a policy to support these organisations.<sup>8</sup> However, social enterprises still are not regulated by a specific law.

CSOs are **free to associate and freely<sup>9</sup> express criticisms and commentaries on government** decisions and lobby duty bearers on a range of issues. Domestic and international human rights groups generally operate without government restrictions, investigating and publishing their findings on human rights cases. However, there are persisting concerns that Human Rights Defenders who work on LGBT issues are vulnerable to crime and violence. Religious beliefs and the popular dancehall culture that strongly oppose same sex relationships make the work of these Human Rights Defenders more difficult.

Civil society **organizations engaged in human rights and democracy actions are highly visible** and over the years have had significant impact in increasing awareness, denouncing flagrant violation of rights and contributing to produce policy shifts and stronger intervention for specific vulnerable categories<sup>10</sup>. The current context of a weakened political opposition, due to the results of the last parliamentary elections, has placed a heightened societal demand for increased vigilance from civil society and the media to hold the government accountable.

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<sup>8</sup> Some progress has been achieved with the Draft Social Enterprise Legal Status Act that was funded by the EU under its Investment Climate Reform project; and also the draft Social Impact Measurement Framework, with support from the Jamaica Stock Exchange-Inter American Development Bank Innovating Social Sector Financing project.

<sup>9</sup> Within the evolving risks associated with online bullying and comments defined by them as 'hate speech' by certain political figures.

<sup>10</sup> Such as children and women victims of violence, persons living with VIH/AIDS, unattached youth among others.

The **government has embraced the digitalisation of the country** as a priority and the EU is a key player in this sector through the ongoing budget support programme in Digital Transitioning . The roles of CSOs, the private sector and government are inextricably linked, given the cross cutting nature of ICT across all groups. ICT is a sector in and of itself as well as an enabler of all other sectors within the economy and society. EU consultations so far reveal that whilst technology entrepreneurs are heavily vested and engaged in the digital transition efforts of the government (e.g. sitting on Committees and Task Forces; as well as collaborating with the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica), CSOs experience challenges in creating umbrella groups to better organize their presence and contribution.

Regarding gender equality and women's right and empowerment, annual consultations conducted with CSOs revealed that the key priority areas for urgent intervention remains ensuring **freedom from all forms of gender-based violence** against women & girls; and strengthening economic & social rights, while empowering girls & women. The main human rights challenges identified were high crime rate including increases in GBV and persistently high incidents of abuse of power by agents of the state, human trafficking, violent attacks against the LGBT community and unequal power relationships as a result of gender. Gender is considered a precursor for experiencing violence in Jamaica, as were social and economic status, educational attainment, age, sexual orientation and disability. Consulted CSOs suggested that the EU should support the government in prioritizing social protection programmes for women and children, provide technical and financial assistance that is targeted at challenging discriminatory laws/policies or harmful gender stereotypes, support mechanisms for redress against human rights violation, provide assistance to build a resilient, inclusive and democratic society, support programmes that provide income generating education/opportunities for women while building a sustainability framework to ensure intergenerational benefits. CSOs stood ready to support the implementation of programmes but recognized that until a multi-issues, structured system of CSO consultation is achieved with national and local authorities, community based entities will continue to be reactive to the ad hoc invitations for participation from the government and to the needs of their constituents.

***Brief reference to any update on Civil Society capacity over the past two years, also highlighting key challenges and opportunities.***

According to the 2021 survey conducted by the EUD and subsequent periodic and annual consultations, **capacity development for CSOs remain an urgent and pervasive priority**. Most of the survey responders and entities consulted identified weaknesses related to drafting position and policy papers, skills in advocacy and policy dialogue with the government, working with the private sector, fundraising with public and private bodies, among others. These issues are accentuate by the fact that the government does not have a framework for Civil Society participation in policy making. Instead, its involvement is taking place only on an ad-hoc basis. Authorities are perceived to not fully understand Civil Society's important role in contributing to good governance and service delivery to the most vulnerable groups. On the other hand, CSOs claim strengths in leadership, project and financial management, but this is variable within the sector and can represent an impediment for many in accessing EU support.

Responders to the EU survey highlighted the tendency for isolation and **scepticism among many CSOs** about the prospect for stronger sectoral coordination mechanism. This attitude seems to be reinforced by disillusionment related to past attempts to interface with the government, together with the competition over funds and financial sustainability. As a result Jamaica does not have a broad CSO platform or network that could lead to more effective influence and sectoral advocacy for recognition from the government. Despite the development of the Open Government Partnership within the Ministry of Finance for which many CSOs have registered, they report that their inclusion in discourse on public policy remains tokenistic and there ppears to be no real interest in CSO voice and participation.

Considered as part of civil society<sup>11</sup>, the **organised private sector** is a strong actor in digitalisation, resilience, economic growth and citizen security. The private sector is a key stakeholder in policy dialogue and public authorities oversight and have played, on various occasions, an important role in catalysing dialogue between government and the broader civil society on the most pressing societal and economic issues, such as crime and public debt. For the EU, the private

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<sup>11</sup> A definition of civil society for the EU can be found here: [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/our-partners/civil-society\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/our-partners/civil-society_en)

sector is also a necessary partner to accompany digitalisation, sustainable economic growth, to ensure that skills-trainings is demand-driven and supports the newest priorities around the Global Gateway Investment Initiative.

The organised private sector is recognised as an active stakeholder but its modality and objective are often not well understood or agreed upon by grassroots organisations and entities working on social issues. The EUD provided support to increase the number and capacities of CSOs and CBOs to access funding and improve management, as well as operational and advocacy capacities through support under the Civil Society Thematic instrument which promotes networking and cooperation. However, the need among CSOs continue to exceed the offer. The mentioned survey has highlighted a clearer understanding by CSOs of the necessity of alliances and networking at national and international level in order to advance on key development issues.

Forty-one percent (41%) of responders to the EUD survey were recognised to have **weaknesses in mainstreaming gender** in their work and in producing and using sex disaggregated data. On gender related questions, the EU supported the Spotlight Initiative in Jamaica since early 2020 which prioritised mainstreaming and strengthening of CSO work to eradicate gender based violence and violence against women and girls. Key amongst the achievements of the Spotlight Initiative was the establishment of a Civil Society Reference Group which provided guidance on the needs of its members to ensure relevance of support to the sector under the programme. Competition among its members however resulted in frequent changes in membership and this network did not significantly improve coordination and cooperation among CSO entities beyond the end of the programme in December 2023.

## **B. LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE PAST ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs**

*Key lessons, challenges and opportunities identified in the EU (EUD and MS/EU+) engagement with CSOs (i.e. in the involvement of CSOs in the political and dialogue the EUD has with the authorities, in the dialogue between the EU and Civil Society, in the EU operational support to CSOs, in the mainstreaming of CSOs into EU sectors of cooperation and trade, in the EU coordination and division of labour, etc.)*

The previous Roadmap has guided and influenced the EUD internal dialogue and the interaction with CSOs and contributed to shaping the priorities and support provided to CSOs within the **calls for proposals** both under the thematic instruments and the programmes funded by the bilateral envelop. However, it was not published locally therefore limiting the knowledge and dialogue on the EU approach and priorities to support the sector.

Civil society organizations have indicated that they **appreciated the fact that the EU values their voice** and experience as is evidenced in repeated consultations on a broad number of issues, ranging from violation of human rights, support to gender equality and women empowerment, reform of justice, crime and violence prevention, etc. Consultations have continuously actively taken place on the current priority sectors for EU cooperation, digitalisation, environment and climate change and citizen security & gender based violence. However, the dialogue has taken place mostly on an ad-hoc basis and would benefit from a more structured framework and predictability.

Ongoing dialogue and the 2021 survey confirmed that most entities' primary needs relate to funding and capacity strengthening. However, great value is assigned to being able to report to duty bearers that the EU or Member States support an initiative. The EU is also credited to have facilitated on a few occasions, the participation of civil society in policy dialogue and implementation, in particular through call for proposals launched within and outside bilateral programmes. As such the **EU continues to make public the fact that support for civil society is a key part of its cooperation with the country.**

An estimated financial support of **7.6 million EUR was made available to civil society** in the country between 2018 and 2023<sup>12</sup>. It was clear however that based on the resources needed to apply for and to manage large contracts; small entities were generally not able to compete for these grants. In response to this, call for proposals generally encouraged or mandated lead entities to provide third-party funding to smaller entities. This strategy has been successful in contributing to building capacity of smaller entities that could be better able to directly seek funding in the future.

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<sup>12</sup> This includes only amounts provided through call for proposals launched by the EUD in direct management. It does not include support provided through indirect management (e.g. thorough PIOJ and JSIF) and grants provided within regional or global programmes (e.g. Spotlight Initiatives) or call for proposals.

Larger entities have however registered a concern about the level of risk to be absorbed by themselves and the heavy administrative burden that supervision of the implementation of smaller projects places upon them.

Targeted support to CSO will be provided under the third priority area of the new Multiannual Indicative Plan 2021-27 (MIP) with an indicative amount of a minimum of 10% of the budget dedicated to support for civil society actions through calls for proposals and/or other appropriate funding modalities. Special consideration is given in the MIP to promoting women empowerment and gender equality, to reducing the digital divide between socio-economic categories and promoting digital skills & literacy, to issues of non-discrimination and to providing an inclusive environment for marginalized groups (e.g. children, youth at risk, LGBTI persons and disabled persons) in CSO support provided.

Key lessons learned from previous Roadmap implementation can be summarised as follows:

- The support provided by the EU to CSOs is generally considered by CSOs as timely, pertinent and relevant, representing a very important support for them to continue to play their role.
- The modality of consultation of the EU with Jamaican CSOs was not systematic and predictable and is organised for specific occasions upon EU request, mostly on the occasion of programming and formulation of new interventions or to update the design of internal strategies and reports. The thematic and territorial diversity of the CSOs consulted remain limited to the main cities and EU priority sectors. Many of the CSOs consulted are often already beneficiaries of EU grants.
- A more structured and predictable mechanism for dialogue between the EU, MS and CSOs has not been defined. Lockdowns and social distancing measures in response to the pandemic aggravated this situation. Post-pandemic, the situation has still not improved significantly.
- Previous Roadmaps have mostly been used as a reference to validate priorities within EU funding mechanisms. No time goal was defined for the implementation of planned actions. Specific roles and responsibilities were not defined for the EU, the Member States and the CSOs.
- The Roadmap has not been given sufficient visibility in the Jamaican context. In order to achieve its objectives, the document should be published and quoted as much as possible in documents and public speeches.

## PART II – EU STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN TO ENGAGE WITH CSOs

### C. THE STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOS AND HOW IT RELATES TO THE EU COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT AND AGENDA 2030/SDG

OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	RELATED SECTOR & COMMISSION PRIORITY	RELATED SDG
- To further improve the enabling environment for civil society to better contribute to the development and democratic governance in Jamaica	CSOs mainstreaming and enabling environment Governance, Peace, Security, Human Development Human Rights Gender equality and women empowerment	16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions 17 Partnerships for the Goals
- To promote a more meaningful and structured participation of CSOs in domestic policies to better contribute to the development and democratic governance in Jamaica	Human Rights Gender equality and women empowerment Sustainable growth and Jobs Green Deal	1 No Poverty 5 Gender Equality 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth 10 Reduced Inequalities

	Governance, Peace, Security, Human Development PFM, public procurement and accountability	11 Sustainable Cities and Communities 13 Climate Action 14 Life Below Water 15 Life on Land 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- To increase national and local CSOs' capacity to perform their roles as independent development actors in a more effective and sustainable way	Sustainable growth and Jobs Green Deal Governance, Peace, Security, Human Development PFM, public procurement and accountability Human Rights Gender equality and women empowerment	1 No Poverty 5 Gender Equality 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth 10 Reduced Inequalities 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities 13 Climate Action 14 Life Below Water 15 Life on Land 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

#### D. THE ACTION PLAN

OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	ACTIONS (including analysis, policy and political dialogue, operational support)	MEANS (EU programmes / instruments to implement the actions)
- To further improve the enabling environment for civil society to better contribute to development and democratic governance in Jamaica	<p>Studies/analyses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assess evolution and contribute to dialogue and reforms on the legal and regulatory framework for Civil Society through studies and assessments.</li> <li>- Monitor the quality and frequency of participation and dialogue spaces between CSOs and policy makers and evaluate the gaps to be addressed.</li> </ul> <p>Political/policy dialogue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contribute to facilitate a constructive and regular dialogue among stakeholders and Jamaica authorities about civil society space and role.</li> <li>- Contribute to create capacities, understanding and occasions for policy dialogue between Jamaica authorities and CSOs particularly within the EU supported sectors.</li> <li>- Promote with the GoJ enabling reforms for the Civil Society sector, including those that contribute to financial sustainability and capacity development for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CSOs Thematic Instrument grants and support measures</li> <li>- Human Rights Thematic Instrument grants</li> <li>- Cooperation facility 2021-2027</li> <li>- MIP's Bilateral programme CSOs component and/or policy dialogue</li> <li>- MIP regional envelope</li> <li>- Dialogue between EU, MS and CSOs and HR defenders and ad-hoc discussions with IDPs in Jamaica</li> </ul>



	<p>Civil Society to maximise their contribution to national development processes.</p> <p>Operational support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support and fund CSOs' joint initiatives to advocate and contribute to the improvement of their regulatory framework, particularly for grassroots organisations and emerging CSOs actors (e.g. social enterprises)</li> <li>- Promote and support the implementation of a more structured dialogue between the EU and CSOs as well as between CSOs and Jamaican authorities in particular in EU priority sectors.</li> <li>- Support Jamaican CSOs participation and presence in the regional fora that promote and debate the role and regulatory framework for civil society in regional institutions.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To promote a more meaningful and structured participation of CSOs in domestic policies to better contribute to development and democratic governance in Jamaica</li> </ul>	<p>Studies/analyses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring the evolution of the quality and frequency of the dialogue between CSOs and the Jamaica authorities as well as CSOs participation in policy making and implementation through analysis and assessments.</li> </ul> <p>Political / policy dialogue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote/broker or enable or facilitate policy dialogues between the Government of Jamaica and CSOs around issues related to: i) the green deal; ii) sustainable growth and jobs; iii) digitalisation; iv) democratic governance and citizen security; v) public accountability and fight against corruption; vi) gender equality and women empowerment; vii) human rights, viii) global gateway.</li> </ul> <p>Operational support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support and organise forums to discuss public policies, sharing good practices and knowledge on inclusive policy development and on civil society participation and oversight of public policy formulation and implementation.</li> <li>- Support the strengthening of CSOs networking and coalitions at national and regional level to better dialogue and advocate with the GoJ and regional institutions.</li> <li>- Increase financial support to CBOs and grass roots organisations through calls for proposals that strongly encourage third party financing.</li> <li>- Support initiatives that challenge gender norms and power inequalities, initiatives that empower women and contribute to eradicate gender based violence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CSOs Thematic Instrument grants and support measures</li> <li>- Human Rights Thematic instrument grants</li> <li>- Cooperation facility 2021-2027</li> <li>- MIP's Bilateral programmes CSOs component and/or policy dialogue</li> <li>- MIP regional envelope</li> <li>- Dialogue between EU, MS and CSOs and HR defenders and ad-hoc discussions with IDPs in Jamaica</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support and fund initiatives that promote CSOs meaningful participation and contribution to the following priority sectors: : i) the green deal; ii) sustainable growth and jobs; iii) digitalisation; iv) democratic governance and citizen security; v) public accountability and fight against corruption; vi) gender equality and women empowerment; vii) human rights, viii) global gateway.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To increase national and local CSOs' capacity to perform their roles as independent development actors in a more effective and sustainable way</li> </ul>	<p>Studies/analyses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring evolution and quality of national and local CSOs' capacity to perform their roles as independent development actors, through assessments of EU grantees performance and commissioning independent mapping and/or studies.</li> </ul> <p>Political / policy dialogue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contribute to enable a regular and structured dialogue with Jamaica authorities on strengthening national and local CSOs' capacities to perform their role of independent development actors.</li> </ul> <p>Operational support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide funding and capacity development opportunities (including proposal formulation and fundraising) to CSOs working on priority areas and especially strengthen their skills and adapt funding tools (e.g increase the duration for implementation) for more sustainable operations and impact.</li> <li>- Support to women's rights organisations, social movements and CSOs working on gender equality, women's empowerment, gender-based violence, Violence against Women and Girls, initiatives that increase CSO capacities to address the gender gap in the green and digital transitions as well as related to human development.</li> <li>- Support initiatives to empower human rights actors as well as CSOs to participate in the formulation, oversight, social audit and implementation of policies and plans that impact: green and digital transition, citizen security, good governance, human rights, access to information and fight against disinformation, fight against corruption, support equality, girls and women's rights, non-discrimination, including that on the basis of sexual orientation.</li> <li>- Provide funding and capacity development to CSOs on networking/alliance-building and policy advocacy skills to advocate for key issues related to the green deal, human rights, corruption, migration, digitalisation, gender, citizen security, human development and democratic governance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CSOs Thematic Instrument grants and support measures</li> <li>- Human Rights thematic instruments grants</li> <li>- Cooperation facility 2021-2027</li> <li>- MIP's Bilateral programmes CSOs component and/or policy dialogue</li> <li>- MIP regional envelope</li> <li>- Dialogue between EU, MS and CSOs and HR defenders and ad-hoc discussions with IDPs in Jamaica</li> </ul>

## PART III— FOLLOW-UP OF THE RM

OBJECTIVES FOR EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	OUTCOME INDICATORS	TARGET	BASLINE INFORMATION (if available)	SOURCES OF INFORMATION & MEANS OF VERIFICATION
- To further improve the enabling environment for civil society to better contribute to development and democratic governance in Jamaica	<p>Studies/analyses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of analysis or assessment reports on evolution of the legal and regulatory framework for Civil Society.</li> </ul> <p><i>Political / policy dialogue:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of meetings of the EU – CSOs structured dialogue on topics related to the enabling environment.</li> </ul> <p><i>Operational support:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of proposals for amendments to the legal framework formulated following initiatives supported by the EU policy dialogue</li> <li>- Level of improvement in the enabling environment compared to previous surveys or studies.</li> </ul>	<p>1 annual report</p>     <p>2 meetings</p>	<p>0</p>     <p>1</p>	Reports drafted by EUD / reports from EU funded projects and trainings, etc.
- To promote a more meaningful and structured participation of CSOs in domestic policies to better contribute to the development and democratic governance in Jamaica	<p><i>Studies/analyses:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of analysis or assessment reports on the evolution of the quality and frequency of the dialogue between CSOs and the Jamaica authorities and on CSOs participation in policy making and implementation</li> </ul> <p><i>Political / policy dialogue:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of political/policy dialogues promoted by the EU and within EU funded initiatives in which CSOs participate, including participants representing young people and women.</li> </ul> <p><i>Operational support:</i></p>	<p>1 annual report</p>     <p>2 dialogues within CSO projects</p>	<p>0</p>     <p>0</p>	Reports drafted by EUD / reports from EU funded projects and trainings, etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of EU funded projects supporting strengthening of CSOs networking and coalitions at national and regional level.</li> <li>- Number of call for proposals promoting financial support to CBOs and grass roots organisations through third party financing.</li> <li>- Number of EU funded projects to CSOs that challenge gender norms and power inequalities, empower women and contribute to eradicate gender based violence.</li> <li>- Number of CSOs call for proposals promoting CSOs' meaningful participation and contribution to the following priority sectors: i) the green deal; ii) sustainable growth and jobs; iii) digitalisation; iv) democratic governance and citizen security; v) public accountability and fight against corruption; vi) gender equality and women empowerment; vii) human rights.</li> </ul>	1 CSO project  1 call for proposal  1 human rights project  2 CSO projects	0  1  1  2	
- To increase national and local CSOs' capacity to perform their roles as independent development actors in a more effective and sustainable way	<p><i>Studies/analyses:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of analysis or assessment reports on the evolution and quality of national and local CSOs' capacity to perform their roles as independent development actors.</li> </ul> <p><i>Political / policy dialogue:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of policy dialogues with Jamaica authorities on national and local CSOs' capacities to perform their role of independent development actors.</li> </ul> <p><i>Operational support:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Level of capacity increase of CSOs that</li> </ul>	1 annul report  1 policy dialogue on CSO issues	0  0	Reports drafted by EUD / reports from EU funded projects and trainings, etc.

	<p>participated in EU funded training and capacity development opportunities to strengthen their skills for more sustainable operations and impact.</p> <p>- Level of capacity increase of CSOs that participated in EU funded trainings to increase capacities to address the gender gap in the green and digital transitions.</p> <p>- Number of EU funded projects supporting citizen and CSOs participation in formulation, oversight, social audit and implementation of GoJs' policies and plans that impact: green and digital transition, citizen security, good governance, human rights, access to information and fight against disinformation, fight against corruption, equality, girls and women's rights, non-discrimination, including sexual orientation.</p> <p>- Number of EU funded projects supporting CSOs networking/alliance-building and policy advocacy skills to advocate for key issues related to the green deal, human rights, corruption, migration, digitalisation, gender, citizen security and democratic governance</p>	<p>1 CSO capacity building event</p> <p>1 project</p> <p>1 project</p>	<p>0</p> <p>1</p> <p>0</p>	
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## PART IV - ANNEXES & REFERENCES

### ANNEX 1: THE PROCESS

How were MS/EU+ present in the country involved in the drafting of the RM?

EU MS were briefed about the RM drafting process during HOMs meetings. HOD and HOC presented the results of the survey and EU MS received the draft of the Roadmap for input and comments.

What mechanisms are set up to ensure the involvement of MS/EU+ in the implementation and follow up of the RM?	The HOMs monthly meeting is the main mechanism for keeping MS updated and to promote involvement in policy dialogue and in operational implementation. EU MS are invited to all events hosted by the CSOs receiving EU funding.
What consultations with CSOs were organised? What type of actors were involved? What mechanisms, if any, were used to ensure the inclusiveness of the process?	<p>A surveys was launched in March 2021. It included questions related to Assessment of the Civil Society environment, involvement in domestic policies and capacities; CSO contribution to gender equality and women empowerment; CSO involvement in EU Priority Sectors.</p> <p>The survey was answered by 74 Jamaica NGOs and 1 INGO.</p> <p>CSOs consultation were achieved on 8 occasions between 2022 and 2023. Bilateral interviews were held with 20 CSOs, both thos receiving EU funding directly and those who have received subgrants from direct recipients.</p> <p>Validation of the Roadmap was ensured by inviting individual comments on the CSO Roadmap Draft 3 between the period March 8 - 22, 2024. The document was sent to 30 CSOs who participated in the process inviting them to provide their comments and feedback on the version shared.</p>
What mechanisms, are set up to continue the dialogue with CSOs? What mechanisms, if any, will used to ensure the inclusiveness of the dialogue?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ad-hoc discussions between the EUD (CS Focal Point) and CSOs</li> <li>- Ad-hoc discussions between the EUD (Political Section) and CSOs/HRDs</li> <li>- Meetings in the framework of the CSO and HRD Call for Proposals</li> <li>- Regular meetings with grantees</li> </ul>
How is the RM integrated /coordinated with the JP process?	No Joint Programming process is possible in Jamaica because of no or limited presence of Member States's cooperation activities. The coordination is ensured through HOMs meetings.
How does the RM relate to other country processes including human rights and democracy country strategies, the gender action plan, etc.?	Being drafted and approved after the completion of the MIP 2021-27, the GAP and the Human Right and Democracy Country Strategy, the RM is well integrated with these processes.

## ANNEX 2: RELEVANT REFERENCES AND SOURCES TO DEEPEN THE UNDERSTANDING ON THE STATE OF CS AND EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY