

JAMAICA

Region: Caribbean (Global South)

Population (2022): 2.8 million (137th)

Life Expectancy at Birth (Women): 77.68 years

Governance System: Constitutional monarchy with democratic parliamentary system

Capital: Kingston

Land Area (km²): 10,830 (156th)

Major Languages: English, Patois

Select Global Rankings

GDP (2022): 129th (17,098 US\$ Millions)

Human Development Index: 110th (High)

Fragile States Index - Inverted: 72nd (Cat. 6)

Good Country Index: 93rd

Human Freedom Index: 52nd

World Happiness Ranking: 68th

Select Global Rankings (Gender-Focus)

Gross National Income Per Capita (Women): 96th

Gender Social Norms Index: no ranking

Women's Power Index: 78th

Social Institutions and Gender Index (World Cup rank): 19th

Gender Inequality Index: 80th

Global Gender Gap Index: 24th

Women Peace & Security Index: 43rd

Elite Sport System Rankings

2020 Summer Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): 7 (78%)

2022 Winter Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): no medals

Global Cup Ranking (Women): 27th

Football/World Cup Profile

FIFA Region: CONCACAF

FIFA Ranking: 43rd

World Cup Appearance: 2nd

Best World Cup Performance(s): Group Stage (2019)

Qualification: 2nd CONCACAF Group A

World Cup Group: F

Last World Cup Appearance: 2019

JAMAICA in International (Gender) Affairs

Christopher Columbus landed in Jamaica in 1494, upon arrival Columbus was met by the Arawak tribe. Columbus and the other Spaniards on the ship killed, tortured, and wounded many of the Arawaks to be able to claim the island. The Spaniards overworked and treated the Arawaks so poorly that they all had died in a short period of time. Under Spanish rule Jamaica remained poor. In 1655 England led a successful attack on Jamaica and the Spaniards surrendered. Under English settlers Jamaica was used to produce crops that could be sold in England. Sugar quickly became the main crop of the island and enslaved Africans were forced into labour. In 1808 the Abolition Bill was passed, stating that "trading in African slaves was declared to be 'utterly abolished, prohibited and declared to be unlawful'. Emancipation and apprenticeship came into effect in 1834 and full freedom was granted in 1838". In 1962 Jamaica was granted its independence from England developing its own constitution.

Jamaica today remains focused on agriculture, agriculture “employs about one-fifth of the workforce, and the major agricultural export is raw sugar, with molasses and rum as by-products”. [Tourism](#) is also a major economic driver for the island nation today. Jamaica has a strong developed sporting [culture](#) that has resulted in numerous successes internationally. One of the most popular sports in Jamaica is cricket a tradition passed down from British colonization, Jamaica is also recognized as a dominant force in athletics boasting both the fastest man and women, Usain Bolt and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce respectively.

Gender Equity

Jamaica continues to make progress towards gender equity, however, barriers to economic opportunity remain. Women’s participation in the labour force remains lower than men’s in part due social norms around unpaid housework and childcare reducing individual agency of women. One area in which Jamaica has made advancements is the legal framework for gender equality, however, room for improvement exists especially when it comes to sexual and reproductive [health](#).

Leading up to this Women’s World Cup members of Jamaica’s national team have voiced their concerns at the [subpar](#) support they have received from the Jamaican Football Federation. “The players said their focus has been hindered by a number of issues such as inadequate planning and access to proper resources in the buildup to the [tournament](#)”. Each player at the Women’s World Cup will be guaranteed at least \$30,000 as [FIFA](#) announced some of the prize money would go directly to individuals rather than national federations.