



# JAMAICA: OLD HARBOUR URBAN PROFILE



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UN-Habitat Regional and Information Offices or directly from:

P.O. Box 30030, GPO 00100 Nairobi, Kenya.

Fax: + (254 20) 762 4266/7

E-mail: [unhabitat@unhabitat.org](mailto:unhabitat@unhabitat.org)

Website: <http://www.unhabitat.org>

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Design and Layout: Eric Omayá

Editing: Olubusiyi Sarr



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# JAMAICA: OLD HARBOUR URBAN PROFILE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

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## FOREWORD



According to research published in UN-Habitat's<sup>1</sup> flagship report, *The State of the World's Cities 2010-2011*, all developing regions, including the African, Caribbean and Pacific states, will have more people living in urban than rural areas by the year 2030. With half the world's

population already living in urban areas, the challenges we face in the battle against urban poverty, our quest for cities without slums, for cities where women feel safer, for inclusive cities with power, water and sanitation, and affordable transport, for better planned cities, and for cleaner, greener cities is daunting.

But as this series shows, there are many interesting solutions and best practices to which we can turn. After all, the figures tell us that during the decade 2000 to 2010, a total of 227 million people in the developing countries moved out of slum conditions. In other words, governments, cities and partner institutions have collectively exceeded the slum target of the Millennium Development Goals twice over and ten years ahead of the agreed 2020 deadline.

Asia and the Pacific stood at the forefront of successful efforts to reach the slum target, with all governments in the region improving the lives of an estimated 172 million slum dwellers between 2000 and 2010.

In sub-Saharan Africa though, the total proportion of the urban population living in slums has decreased by only 5 per cent (or 17 million people). Ghana, Senegal, Uganda, and Rwanda were the most successful countries in the sub-region, reducing the proportions of slum dwellers by over one-fifth in the last decade.

Some 13 per cent of the progress made towards the global slum target occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean, where an estimated 30 million people have moved out of slum conditions since the year 2000.

Yet, UN-Habitat estimates confirm that the progress made on the slum target has not been sufficient to counter the demographic expansion in informal settlements in the developing world. In this sense, efforts to reduce the numbers of slum dwellers are neither satisfactory nor adequate.

As part of our drive to address this crisis, UN-Habitat is working with the European Commission and the Brussels-based Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group to support sustainable urban development. Given the urgent and diverse needs, we found it necessary to develop a tool for rapid assessment and strategic planning to guide immediate, mid and long-term interventions. And here we have it in the form of this series of publications.

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme is based on the policy dialogue between UN-Habitat, the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission which dates back to the year 2002. When the three parties met at UN-Habitat headquarters in June 2009, more than 200 delegates from over 50 countries approved a resounding call on the international community to pay greater attention to these urbanization matters, and to extend the slum upgrading programme to all countries in the ACP Group.

It is worth recalling here how grateful we are that the European Commission's 9th European Development Fund for ACP countries provided EUR 4 million (USD 5.7 million at June 2011 rates) to enable UN-Habitat to conduct the programme which now serves 59 cities in 23 African countries, and more than 20 cities in six Pacific, and four Caribbean countries.

Indeed, since its inception in 2008, the slum upgrading programme has achieved the confidence of partners at city and country level in Africa, the Caribbean and in the Pacific. It is making a major contribution aimed at helping in urban poverty reduction efforts, as each report in this series shows."

I wish to express my gratitude to the European Commission and the ACP Secretariat for their commitment to this slum upgrading programme. I have every confidence that the results outlined in this profile, and others, will serve to guide the development of responses for capacity building and investments in the urban sector.

Further, I would like to thank each Country Team for their continued support to this process which is essential for the successful implementation of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joan Clos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Dr. Joan Clos**  
Executive Director, UN-Habitat

<sup>1</sup> UN-Habitat - United Nations Human Settlements Programme

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme is an accelerated and action-oriented urban assessment of needs and capacity-building gaps at the city level. The European Commission's European Development Fund supports the programme, which is being implemented in 59 cities of 23 African countries, and 21 cities in 4 Pacific and 3 Caribbean countries. The programme uses a structured approach where priority interventions are agreed through consultative processes. The programme's methodology consists of: (1) a rapid participatory urban profiling at national and local levels, focusing on governance, local economic development, land, gender, environment, slums and shelter, basic urban services, waste management, and proposed interventions; (2) detailed priority proposals; and (3) project implementation.

In Jamaica the programme encompasses a national profile, as well as those for May Pen, Montego Bay and Old Harbour. Each is published as a separate report. This is the Old Harbour city report. The report constitutes a general background, a synthesis of the five themes: governance, slums and shelter, environment, urban safety, gender and HIV/AIDS, and disaster.

Jamaica has made good progress in eight of the 14 Millennium Development Goals targets for 2015. The country has already achieved the targeted reduction in absolute poverty, malnutrition, hunger, and universal primary education. The country is on track in combating HIV/AIDS, halting and reversing the incidences of malaria and tuberculosis, improving access to reproductive health, and improving provision of safe drinking water and basic sanitation. However, Jamaica is lagging in gender equality and environmental sustainability, and is far behind in reaching the child and maternal mortality targets.

Of great concern is the significant increase in the proportion of the urban population living in unacceptable conditions or slums. (Source: National Report of Jamaica on Millennium Development Goals for the UN Economic and Social Council Annual Ministerial Review Geneva, July 2009 Planning Institute of Jamaica in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade).

## BACKGROUND

St. Catherine, which lies west of St. Andrews and south of St. Mary and St. Ann, is the largest parish on the island with an area of 1,260 km<sup>2</sup>, and a population of 383,317 (2001 Population Census). A four-lane highway connects Spanish Town with Kingston, the nation's capital. On the southern road from Spanish Town is the town of Old Harbour which has a population of 17,883. On the coast, five kilometres from Old Harbour is Old Harbour Bay, the largest fishing village in Jamaica. It has a fine harbour with one of the best deep-water piers on the island. The main generating power plant of the Jamaica Public Service is in Old Harbour Bay.

The plains of St. Catherine, which provide numerous grazing pens, are largely used up for sugar and rice cultivation. The Rio Cobre Canal irrigates about 7,200 hectares of the St. Catherine Plains. The Bodles Agricultural Station lies between Old Harbour and May Pen. The Soya Bean Processing Plant is between Old Harbour and May Pen. (Source: Geography and History of Jamaica. Published by The Jamaica Gleaner).

With the agricultural collapse in the agricultural sector, there is evidence of a strong rural – urban migration. The planning and land management authorities in the urban centres will have to cope with this population influx by improving the provision of services such as housing, education and health services.

**TABLE 1: JAMAICA HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC UPDATE 2004 PARISH HIGHLIGHT.**

<b>TIME PERIOD</b>	<b>MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS</b>	<b>CHALLENGES</b>
1950's	Primary school name changed from Ludford Trust to Old Harbour Primary. Opening of the public clinic. Introduction of public health inspection. Establishment of housing development at Church Pen and Smith Avenue. The Sylvania manufacturing company started operation at Rhoden's Pen. The British Insulated Callender's Cables manufacturing company also started operation in this period.	The area had a lot of derelict buildings. There was only a small market area and very few business enterprises.
1960's	Opening of the Old Harbour High School. Relocation of the public clinic and its expansion to a health centre. The Marlie Acres Housing Scheme. The Old Harbour Community Centre was also built in this period. The Barclay's Bank was opened and the St. Dorothy's Anglican Church was established at Church Pen. Construction of the Lincoln Plaza began.	
1970's	Commencement of private dwellings at Marlie Mount. Building of Marlie Mount Primary. Renaming of Barclay's Bank to National Commercial Bank.  Opening of Davis Primary School. Closure of Bata shoe store. Opening of the soya and cotton polyester factories, and of the New Testament Church of God. Building of New Harbour subdivisions. Relocation of the library. Introduction of double shift at the Old Harbour High School.	
1980's	Relocation of residents from Kingston to Succaba Pen. Building of the Old Harbour Villa High School. Reopening of the Heart National Training Agency Vocational Centre. Closing of the Shell gasoline station in the town centre. Building of Glendon Court and Gillian Plazas. Relocation of Honey Crust Bakery.	Chinese close businesses.
1990's	Implementation of the National Works Agency. Relocation of Old Harbour Primary. Opening of the Heart National Training Agency Vocational Training Facility. Infant Department started at Marlie Mount. British Insulated Callender's Cables name changed to Caribbean Cable Company. Building of the Jehovah Witness complex at Marlie Mount, of the Claremont Housing Scheme, of the Old Harbour Glades, and of the Ministry of Education Region Six office. Closure of the theatre.	
2000 - 2003	Opening of the Old Harbour branch of the Portmore Community College. Demolition of the Marlie Great House. Introduction of route taxis.	



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## MIGRATION PATTERNS

Data gathered shows that approximately 66.9 per cent of the residents of Old Harbour were born in St. Catherine. Migration is quite uncommon in the community, as 88.6 per cent have lived in the community for 10 or more years.

## OLD HARBOUR

Old Harbour has one of the highest and fastest growth rates in Jamaica and is projected to remain so in the future. The population increased from 17,966 in 1991 to 29,835 in 2005. The population of Old Harbour is growing steadily and spilling over into Old Harbour Bay. (Source: Planning Institute of Jamaica, 2009).

The increase in population and its density is an important consideration in planning due to the following factors:

- Systems designed to accommodate waste streams may be overtaxed by population and planning for these changes will place responsible agencies in a crisis mode if unprepared,
- Demand for services such as housing, water, electricity and education will increase,
- There is also a strong correlation between urban density and energy efficiency.

(Source: Urban Development Corporation, 2005).



# BACKGROUND

## INTRODUCTION

### Urban Profiling

The Old Harbour Urban Profiling consists of an accelerated, action-oriented assessment of urban conditions, focusing on priority needs, capacity gaps, and existing institutional responses at local and national levels. The purpose of the study is to develop urban poverty reduction policies at local, national, and regional levels, through an assessment of needs and response mechanisms, and as a contribution to the wider-ranging implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The study is based on analysis of existing data and a series of interviews with all relevant urban stakeholders, including local communities and institutions, civil society, the private sector, development partners, academics, and others. The consultation typically results in a collective agreement on priorities and their development into proposed capacity-building and other projects that are all aimed at urban poverty reduction. The urban profiling is being implemented in 30 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, offering an opportunity for comparative regional analysis. Once completed, this series of studies will provide a framework for central and local authorities and urban actors, as well as donors and external support agencies.

## METHODOLOGY

**The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme** consists of three phases:

**Phase one** consists of the rapid profiling of urban conditions at national and local levels. The capital city, a medium-sized city, and a small town are selected and studied to provide a representative sample in each country. The analysis focuses on five themes; governance, slums and shelter, environment, urban safety, and disaster.

Information is collected through standard interviews and discussions with institutions and key informants in order to assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the national and local urban set-ups. The findings are presented and refined during city and national consultation workshops and consensus is

reached regarding priority interventions. National and city reports synthesize the information collected and outline ways to reduce urban poverty through holistic approaches.

**Phase two** builds on the priorities identified through pre-feasibility studies and develops detailed capacity-building and capital investment projects.

**Phase three** implements the projects developed during the two earlier phases, with an emphasis on skills development, institutional strengthening and replication.

This report presents the outcomes of **Phase One** at the local level in Old Harbour.

## URBAN PROFILING IN OLD HARBOUR

The urban profiling in Old Harbour is one of four similar exercises conducted in Malawi; the other urban profiling centres are May Pen, Montego Bay and nationally.

## REPORT STRUCTURE

This report consists of:

- A general background of the urban sector in Old Harbour based on the findings of the Old Harbour Assessment Report, a desk study and interviews.
- A synthetic assessment of the following five main thematic areas: governance, slums and shelter, environment, urban safety, and disaster, in terms of the institutional set-up, regulatory framework, resource mobilization, and performance. This second section also highlights agreed priorities and includes a list of identified projects;
- A strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis and an outline of priority project proposals for each theme. The proposals include beneficiaries, partners, estimated costs, objectives, activities, and outputs.

## GOVERNANCE



Governance is subdivided between the St. Catherine and Portmore parish councils. The St. Catherine Parish Council is the municipality that oversees the parish that includes the Old Harbour town and Old Harbour Bay areas.

The parish has two mayors. However, the study area of Old Harbour is aligned with the Spanish Town and St. Catherine Municipality for which Andrew Wheatley is the current mayor.

### PLANNING AND LAND USE DEVELOPMENT

The Town and Country Planning Act of 1957 empowers the Town and Country Planning Authority to prepare, in consultation with the Local Planning Authority, legal documents called Development Orders for specific areas throughout Jamaica. The aim of these documents is to regulate land use to avoid its misuse (Source: Presentation on the Planning Department, St. Catherine Parish Council, 2009/10).

Under the Act, development is ordered according to the designated areas. Outside those areas, the municipality finds it difficult to control “development”; it is within such areas that there is a proliferation of informal settlements.

Notwithstanding, the Planning Department of the parish municipality is responsible for the following services:

- Change/Retention of [Land] Use Applications
- Erection of Street Lights
- Development Control and Enforcement
- Land Use Planning
- Outline Application
- Change/Retention of Use Applications
- Subdivision Approval
- Cell Site Inspections
- Building Regulation/ Approval
- Regulation of Advertisements

The Department has a staff complement of four persons including a director of planning. There is a vacant position for physical planner.

## CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

The municipality works and partners with various civic organizations within St. Catherine Parish. Some of these include:

- Social Development Commission
- Jamaica Social Investment Fund
- Ministry of Labour and Social Security
- National Housing Trust
- Ministry of Agriculture - Fisheries Division
- Caribbean Coastal Area Management Limited

## MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT

One of the main challenges facing parish councils is the collection of fees to maintain infrastructure. There is very low compliance with property tax in the rural areas. According to the secretary manager of St. Catherine Parish Council, only 44 per cent of the owners of the 950,000 registered parcels of land in Jamaica pay their property taxes. In St. Catherine it is 3.8 per cent. (Source: Jamaica Information Service, St. Catherine Parish Council to establish hotline link with public. 26 March 2009.)

## SAFETY

TABLE 2: MAJOR CRIME DATA FOR OLD HARBOUR/OLD HARBOUR BAY POLICE STATION FOR JANUARY - 18 MARCH 2010, AND YEAR 2009

CATEGORIES	MURDER	SHOOTING	RAPE	CARNAL ABUSE	ROBBERY	BREAKING AND ENTERING	LARCENY	TOTAL
2009	Old Harbour Police Station	31	29	10	8	22	20	2
	Old Harbour Bay Police Station	1	3	0	1	0	1	0
2010	Old Harbour Police Station	6	5	5	1	9	7	0
	Old Harbour Bay Police Station	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Jamaica Constabulary Force, 2010.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Murder	214	244	195	231	235
Shooting	244	240	195	211	222
Rape	125	108	103	103	113
Carnal Abuse	59	50	63	74	67
Robbery	307	322	293	233	386
Breaking and entering	298	241	189	222	354
Larceny	34	27	16	14	47

Crime Statistics for the Parish of St. Catherine – NB. Statistics have been calculated with a plus (+) or minus (-) 4 degrees of error



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One result of the consultative process employed with the Urban Profiling was the opportunity to get the feedback of the residents and members of some of the informal communities within Old Harbour. The perspective on crime in the communities was derived from females and males separately in one such activity.

## SLUMS AND SHELTER



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There are two developments on the social agenda of concern to the Jamaica Constabulary Force: the spread of informal settlements and usurpation of power by individuals referred to as “Area Dons” in certain communities.

Informal settlements have various definitions. Here, the term refers to land, infrastructure and shelter development and land invasions that occur outside the land-use planning process and other government rules (Ferguson, 1996).

### SQUATTING OR INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

Historically, squatting on unoccupied or Crown land has been one of the ways the poor, economically marginalized and the landless has used to bring policy attention to the unequal distribution of land and other economic resources. Squatting is the “back door” entrance, so to speak, into establishing property rights. The measure finds some support in law that provides for the right of possession of land after seven years of undisturbed occupancy. Nonetheless, unlawful possession of land is a criminal act. However, the activity appears to be unregulated given its growing incidence. (Source: Schborough 2007.)

### LAND TENURE

A 2009 survey by the Social Development Commission in Old Harbour showed that 52.7 per cent of the respondents owned the land on which they occupied, while 17.4 per cent of respondents lived on family-owned land. Some 7.4 per cent of the respondents lived on informal (squatter) settlements.

Nationally, according to the Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions (2006), 60.5 per cent of Jamaican households lived in their own homes. The percentage of households living in their own homes has remained relatively unchanged since 1996, varying between 57 per cent and 61 per cent over the period, see table 3.

TABLE 3: JAMAICA HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC UPDATE 2004 PARISH HIGHLIGHT

TENURE	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2004	2006
Household	60.3	57.9	58.6	57.9	58.3	57.3	61.2	56.9	60.5
Rent-free	13.8	13.0	13.6	15.2	16.1	18.3	16.5	19.3	17.6
Rented/ Leased	23.3	27.1	25.8	25.5	24.5	22.9	21.6	22.5	20.7
Squatted	1.4	1.0	0.9						
Other									
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions 1996-2002, 2004

TABLE 4: MAJOR CHALLENGES OF RESIDENTS IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

COMMUNITIES	CHALLENGES
Bourkesfield	Land tenure, poor roads, lack of water, and poor garbage disposal facilities
Marlie Acres	Land tenure, poor roads, lack of access to water, and poor security
Africa	Land tenure, poor housing and street lighting, lack of water and of proper sewerage and drainage networks, and high illiteracy and crime rates
Burkes Road	Need for proper fencing and proper lighting
Terminal	High crime rate, lack of tenure and of drainage, unemployment, and poor garbage disposal facilities, road infrastructure and sanitation

The representatives were then asked to prioritize the challenges identified from the most to the least critical. Table 5 sets out the two most important issues for each community.

TABLE 5: LEADING ISSUES FOR EACH COMMUNITY

COMMUNITIES	PRIORITY # 1	PRIORITY # 2
Bourkesfield	land tenure	poor roads
Marlie Acres	land tenure	poor roads
Africa	land tenure	poor roads
Burkes Road	need for proper lighting	need for proper fencing
Terminal	crime	unemployment

The majority, therefore, saw land tenure as a concern, followed by the condition of roads in those communities. This gives credence to the fact that conditions within the informal settlements of Old Harbour are common to many informal communities with limited basic services and infrastructure.

## GENDER AND HIV/AIDS



In Jamaica, 12,520 persons were reported to be living with HIV/AIDS between January 1982 and December 2007. Some 27,000 men and women were living with HIV/AIDS by December 2008, accounting for an adult prevalence rate of about 1.5 per cent. There has been no significant change in prevalence for the past decade. At the end of 2007, males accounted for 55 percent of people reported to be living with HIV/AIDS. Prevalence, at 31 per cent, is highest among men who have sex with men.

Despite achievements, including a slowed prevalence rate and a high HIV/AIDS prevention knowledge level, exposure to risk during sex remains a challenge.

In Jamaica, HIV/AIDS prevalence is highest in areas which receive a large number of tourists such as St. Anne and St. James and large urban centres such as Kingston. HIV/AIDS transmission is predominantly through sexual contact and persons living with HIV/AIDS have been reported in all occupational groups and social classes. HIV/AIDS transmission is driven by behaviour, economics, sociocultural attitudes, and limited access to relevant social services (Source: HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy 2008- Cabinet Office).



**TABLE 6: JAMAICA HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC**
**SUMMARY OF HIV/AIDS CASES BY PARISH (BY DATE OF REPORTING) 1982 – JUNE 2004**

PARISH	CUMULATIVE TOTAL	RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION
Kingston and St. Andrews	3 594	547.4
St. Thomas	157	168.3
Portland	149	182.8
St. Mary	254	225.2
St. Ann	512	300.6
Trelawny	209	283.6
St. James	1368	766.7
Hanover	206	306.1
Westmoreland	395	279.5
St. Elizabeth	187	126.7
Manchester	215	112.8
Clarendon	310	128.0
St. Catherine	1090	224.2
Parish Not Known	19	0.0
Overseas Address	10	0.0
Total	8 675	333.7

## HEALTH

The Government conducts a broad public health programme involving epidemic control, health education, industrial health protection and campaigns against tuberculosis, venereal diseases and malaria. Because of the public health programmes, the death rate has decreased to 5.48 per 1,000 people and the infant mortality rate has decreased to 14.16 per 1,000 live births.

Tuberculosis, hookworm and venereal diseases remain the most prevalent diseases. Children up to one year old are immunized as follows: tuberculosis (97 per cent), diphtheria, pertussis (or whooping cough), tetanus (90 per cent), polio (90 per cent), and measles (88 per cent). In rural parts of Jamaica, however, children are unlikely to be immunized. Throughout Jamaica, there are 364 government operated primary health centres, 23 public hospitals, nine small hospitals, 517 doctors, and 1,836 registered nurses.

TABLE 7: HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS (CLINICS/CENTRES)

NAME OF FACILITY	TYPE (I,II,III,IV)	SERVICES OFFERED	CONDITION OF BUILDING (VERY GOOD, GOOD, FAIR, POOR)
Old Harbour	III	Curative Services, Dental Services, HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Infections, Counselling and Testing, and High Risk/Chronic Diseases Management	Average

## EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

### ST. CATHERINE

According to the Ministry of Education, there are 123 educational institutions, including 87 primary and All-Age schools and 22 secondary and technical high schools within St. Catherine Parish. The category with the most significant number of schools reflects the Government's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals in the area of education of children.

### OLD HARBOUR AND OLD HARBOUR BAY

There are 16 educational institutions within the Old Harbour and the Old Harbour Bay community. See Table 8.

**TABLE 8. PROFILE OF SCHOOLS**

**PROFILES OF SCHOOLS (2005 – 2006)**

NAME OF INSTITUTION	LOCATION	CONDITION	PERCENTAGE	CAPACITY*	ENROLMENT*
Old Harbour Bay Primary	Old Harbour Bay Proper	Good	72%	210	740
Baptist Bay Basic	Old Harbour Bay Proper	Fair	-	102	102
Blackwood Gardens Basic	Blackwood Gardens	Good	-	115	115
Old Harbour Bay SDA	Old Harbour Bay Proper	Good	-	40	33
Prophecy Basic	Old Harbour Bay Proper	Fair	-	100	86
Planters Hall All Age	Planters Hall Old Harbour	Fair	68%	155	179
Davis Primary	Bannister Old Harbour	Good	80%	190	713
Marlie Mount Primary and Infant	Sherman Terrace Old Harbour	Good	81%	970	1 603
Portmore Community College	Old Harbour	Good	-	-	-
Old Harbour Primary	Main Street Old Harbour	Very Good	78%	1 050	1 915
Spring Gardens All Age	Bushy Park Old Harbour	Fair	82%	400	660
Bois Content All Age	Bois Content Old Harbour	Fair	84%	185	187
Bayshore Preparatory	South Street Old Harbour	Fair	-	-	-
Old Harbour High	South Street Harbour	Good	97%	1 350	2 265
Old Harbour Preparatory	Old Harbour	Good	90%	120	85
Monsignor Colin Bryan	Old Harbour	Good	90%	230	210

Source: Schools Profile 2005-2006 Ministry of Education. Jamaica

Old Harbour Bay Primary School has enrolled more than three times the students it should accommodate, as shown in Table 8. This poses serious health, safety and sanitation risks in addition to a reduced quality of education. This also indicates that the population of the area has outpaced available social infrastructure and basic urban services.

## DISASTER



Jamaica is highly vulnerable to hurricanes, floods and earthquakes. In a 2005 World Bank ranking of natural disaster hot spots, Jamaica ranked third among 75 countries with two or more hazards, with 95 per cent of its total area at risk. Between 2004 and 2008, five major disasters caused damage and losses estimated at USD 1.2 billion. These events had a significant impact on human welfare, economic activity, infrastructure,

property, and natural resources. Outbreaks of dengue fever and leptospirosis experienced in 2007 were largely influenced by weather conditions. (Source: National Report of Jamaica on Millennium Development Goals for the United Nations Economic and Social Council Annual Ministerial Review, Geneva, July 2009. Planning Institute of Jamaica in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade).

# ENVIRONMENT



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## PHYSICAL FEATURES

The predominant terrain of the Old Harbour Bay community is flat. In times of heavy rainfall, the main conduits of drainage in the community are gullies and rivers. There are also storm water relief systems in place. Other natural features found in Old Harbour are forests, ponds, springs, and rivers that flow into the Caribbean Sea.

The community of Old Harbour falls within the Rio Cobre Hydrological Basin. The community also falls within the confines of the Portland Bights Protected Area. Natural features found in the community are swamps, mangroves, gullies, and the sea. (Source: Esquivel Port and Industrial Park Project Proposal, 2009).

Old Harbour is susceptible to flooding, storm surges and other natural disasters. Especially vulnerable are the residents of informal settlements.

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**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME**

P.O Box 30030 - 00100, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254-20-7623120

Fax: +254-20-7623426/7 (Central Office)

[infohabitat@unhabitat.org](mailto:infohabitat@unhabitat.org)

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