

Jamaica Youth Employment Network

Title	Jamaica Youth Employment Network (JYEN)
Coverage	Jamaica
Organization/enterprise	Twelve government organizations and the social partners in the Jamaica Employers' Federation (JEF)
Topic	Youth employment promotion
Target group and outreach	Disadvantaged young people, in particular youth in rural communities, youth with disabilities, youth living with HIV and AIDS, youth in inner city communities, early school leavers and young people working on the street
Purpose	The Jamaica Youth Employment Network (JYEN) was launched in Jamaica on 20 September 2005 under the aegis of the Jamaica Employers' Federation. JYEN facilitates social dialogue and the implementation of projects under the four focus areas of the JYEN, namely: employment creation, entrepreneurship, equal opportunity and employability.
Key features	(1) Includes 23 stakeholders, comprising government, employers, trade unions and youth (2) Pursues youth employment promotion through support activities targeting young people, advocacy, and knowledge building and sharing
Strategy and approach	<p>On an operational level the JYEN aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist young people in understanding and appreciating the concept of entrepreneurship, challenging them to become designers of their own destiny • Create avenues through which unemployed youth may connect with employment opportunities • Empower youth with the skills to start their own businesses • Create and identify avenues through which youth may become more employable • Ensure that all youth have equal access to employment, business and training opportunities • Promote greater relevance in, and a more coordinated approach to, the delivery of services that target youth • Develop four regional committees to facilitate the coordination of JYEN networks at the local level with youth as the membership base • Develop a communication strategy, including a website, brochures and tool kits. The purpose of the communication strategy is to ensure that youth have information on the facilities, services and opportunities available to them through the JYEN for accomplishing any or all of the four E's: employment creation, entrepreneurship, equal opportunity and employability • Host regional employment fairs and business development seminars, aimed at preparing youth for the job market as well as providing exposure and employment opportunities. <p>On an informational level JYEN aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information on best practices with other YEN lead countries

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benchmark, and adopt where possible, the best practices in youth employment and development of other YEN lead countries • Develop an employment/unemployment registry, which is intended to capture the status and demographics of youth employment in Jamaica, as well as to facilitate the connection of unemployed youth with employment opportunities
Partners	<p>The JYEN has the full support of the Government of Jamaica and has been constituted with the full participation of relevant government organizations and social partners, who have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).</p> <p>In 2006-2007 the JYEN programme activities were supported by the ILO-Bureau for Employers' Activities with funds from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).</p>
Major achievements	Public awareness concerning youth employment has risen. Tripartite initiatives allow greater visibility, both nationally and internationally.
Additional information	
Address	<p>Jamaica Employers' Federation 2A Ruthven Road Kingston 10 Jamaica Phone: +876-926-6762, 5524, 6908 Fax: +876-968-4576, 7542132 Email: jef@cwjamaica.com</p>
Internet link	http://www.jamaicaemployers.com

Source: Jamaica Employers' Federation (JEF)