

**REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND SYSTEMS
FOR PATH/STEPS-TO-WORK PARTICIPANTS IN JAMAICA**

The World Bank

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Project Summary: The Government of Jamaica requested that the World Bank prepare, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS), a possible new project aimed at enhancing social protection and employability of poor and vulnerable populations in the country (a proposed initiative referred to as “Skills for Inclusive Growth”). To provide important background information needed to start development of this social protection project and to identify the main areas that might be supported, the Bank contracted with Capital Research Corporation, Inc. (and a researcher at the George Washington University) for a quick-response assessment to review the workforce development system in Jamaica, as well as the support being provided by the Government of Jamaica for self-employment, including small business and entrepreneurship support. In addition, an important focus of this assessment was to review recent experience of the Steps to Work (StW) pilot project, designed to improve the employability of conditional cash transfer beneficiaries of the Programme of Advancement through Health and Education (PATH).

The findings presented in the final report to the World Bank were based on (1) a desk review based on existing information both available to the public and also specific information and materials provided by the Government of Jamaica and the World Bank focusing on the Jamaica’s social protection system, with a focus on its workforce development system, and (2) a field visit (of 3½ days) to interview government officials/staff involved in the oversight and delivery of PATH, StW, and a variety of other workforce development programs and initiatives aimed at helping unemployed, underemployed, and vulnerable populations in making the transition to long-term self-sufficiency. During this site visit, interviews were conducted at central government offices in Kingston and two Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) parish offices. At the end of this project, the research team briefed World Bank and Government of Jamaica officials.

Report: B. Barnow and J. Trutko, *Review and Assessment of Workforce Development Programs and Systems for Path/STW Participants in Jamaica*, prepared for The World Bank and Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Government of Jamaica, 2012.