

10 Things to know about

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WHO GETS WHAT?

MAPPING RIGHTS,
ACCESS, AND THE FUTURE
OF JAMAICA'S CITIES

A CAPRI Consortium Project



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1 WHERE YOU LIVE SHAPES YOUR ACCESS

Where you live determines access to services, safety, and governance. Informal neighbourhoods are underserved due to fragmented planning and inequitable investment.



2 INFORMALITY DEFINES THE URBAN EXPERIENCE



Over 60% of Jamaica's urban population lives in informal or semi-formal areas that are unplanned, under-served, and socially excluded.

3 FORMALISATION IS THE KEY PREDICTOR OF URBAN INCLUSION



Communities with secure land tenure are more likely to access infrastructure and services. In contrast, informal land holdings lead to instability and disinvestment.

4 STREET LAYOUT SHAPES ACCESS AND SAFETY



Irregular, narrow streets lead to higher crime, poorer services, and limited mobility. Reconfiguring streets and lanes to conform to grid-like patterns improve urban inclusion.

7 URBAN GOVERNANCE IS FRAGMENTED AND SILOED



Agencies responsible for housing, infrastructure, and social services tend to operate in isolation, with little coordination. This fragmentation leads to duplication, gaps, and inconsistent outcomes.

5 CIVIC LIFE THRIVES IN UNEXPECTED PLACES



Despite being underserved, some of Jamaica's poorest communities are also its most civically engaged, with high levels of local participation, measured by voter turnout and number of active community-based organisations.

6 POLITICS DISTORTS SERVICE DELIVERY



Political clientelism shapes who gets what. Informal communities often get short-term fixes, rather than long-term development.

8 QUANTITATIVE TOOLS ENSURE FAIR DEVELOPMENT



Quantitative tools, such as the Urban Integration Index allocate resources based on need, reducing political influence and providing transparency.

9 OPEN DATA CAN DRIVE CHANGE



Translating data into visible, accessible measures augurs well for exposing inequity while increasing accountability, transparency, and inclusive planning.

10 THE RIGHT TO THE CITY IS A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION



The Right to the City means urban residents, regardless of income, status, or address, have access to services, infrastructure, voice, and opportunity. The framework offers a roadmap for inclusion, grounded in land regularisation, data transparency, civic participation, and spatial justice.