

# LEADERSHIP-IN-ACTION 2023

## KINGSTON, JAMAICA



Access to quality education is a right that every child should have. Known as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), education is crucial in developing countries to break generational poverty and violence. This summer, I worked with Jamaica Partners for Purpose to implement a holistic educational program for “at risk youths”, aiming to provide them with marketable skills and critical thinking skills.

Self-initiated project with Jamaica Partners for Purpose

### Introduction



A significant part of Jamaica’s population is deprived of basic literacy skills. According to UNESCO (2015), Jamaica counts more than 161,000 males and close to 74,000 females who are over the age of 15 lack basic reading and writing skills. This phenomenon is translated into lower language, literacy and logical problem-solving skills - all of which hinders mainly boys’ access to higher education, and therefore reduces future career prospects. In turn, high rates of unemployment leads to increased poverty and high levels of crime.



Jamaica Partners for Purpose is a non-profit organization who's mission is to advance education in Jamaica through volunteer initiatives and events aimed at underprivileged youths.



The Young Men's Christian Association, located at 21 Hope Road, Kingston, Jamaica, is a brick and mortar educational establishment, welcoming at-risk male youths into their Youth Development Program, offering them another chance at education.

### SUMMER SCHOOL

I conceived the program around skills that are profitable to the boys on the long term, including: entrepreneurial development, basic computer coding on Scratch, hands-on electronics project, traditional Chinese painting, arts and poetry, emotional regulation/conflict resolution training, and guest speaker events.



One of the things that I appreciated the most was the way each day started with a moment of devotion. Even for a non-religious person, I think that taking time in the morning to give thanks, be grateful and mindful is a great habit that schools around the world should adopt. I think that a lot of school systems, especially in China, focus too much on academics and dedicate too little time to mindfulness, and being at peace mentally and spiritually. Working in Jamaica, a relatively religious country, made me realize that we don't make enough time to appreciate what life has given us, because we are too focused on negativity instead of being grateful for what we have.

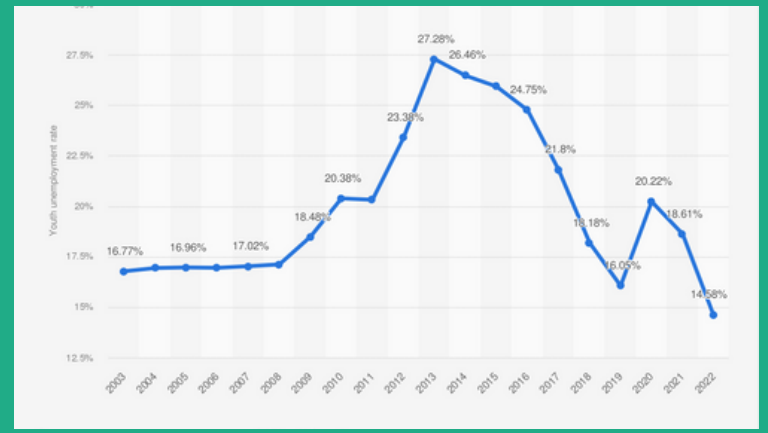
### Objective

To respond to the growing and urgent demand for quality education amongst Jamaican youth, the government has dedicated a section to address this issue in its Vision 2030 policy goals. My self-initiated Leadership-in-Action project and the JPP organization are all inscribed in this wave of efforts to provide every child with the necessary tools to develop critical thinking and skills to join the Jamaican workforce.

The Summer School was designed for at-risk youths to increase literacy levels, improve self-confidence, and heighten their enthusiasm for pursuing education and activities that could lead to successful careers.



Vision 2030: National Outcome 1



Youth unemployment rate in Jamaica (2003-2022)

### Life in Jamaica



Best Jamaican patties ever from Juici Patties



Popular district of Half-Way-Tree, Kingston



Sunday breakfast: ackee and saltfish, breadfruit, pear and fried plantains



Avocado (pear) the size of my head