

Improving Local Governance in Jamaica

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Strengthening Accountability through Fiscal Transparency Practices

& 2nd Co-creation Meeting: Citizen Participation Toolkit

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

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NIA's Vision, Mission, Activities

NIA was launched as a not-for-profit, non-partisan civil society organisation (CSO) in December, 2011 with support from UKDFID, USAID and Jamaican partners.

Vision

A Jamaica where government, businesses, civil society and the people manifest integrity in their conduct, are held accountable and apply proper sanctions for corrupt activities.

Mission

To combat corruption and build integrity in Jamaica through the persistent promotion of transparency, accountability in the conduct of government, businesses and the wider society.

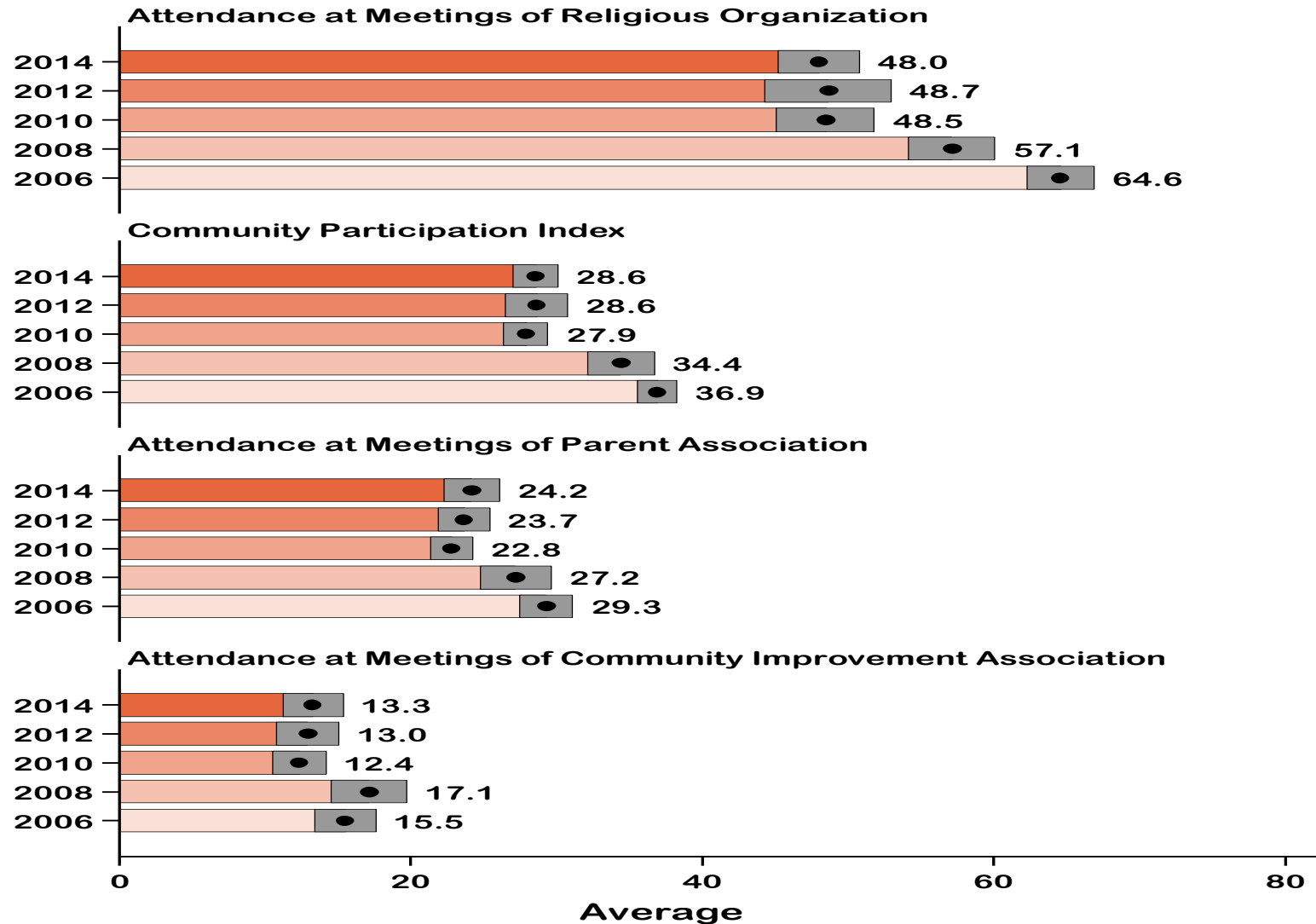
Activities: Public awareness building through media products, Town Hall presentations, legislation advocacy, partnership building - Transparency International (TI), training seminars and membership recruitment

Jamaica's Democracy is at Risk

According to the *Latin American Popular Opinion Project (LAPOP)* survey report published in the **2014 Political Culture of Democracy in Jamaica and in the Americas** which tracked democratic governance across 10 years from 2004 to 2014

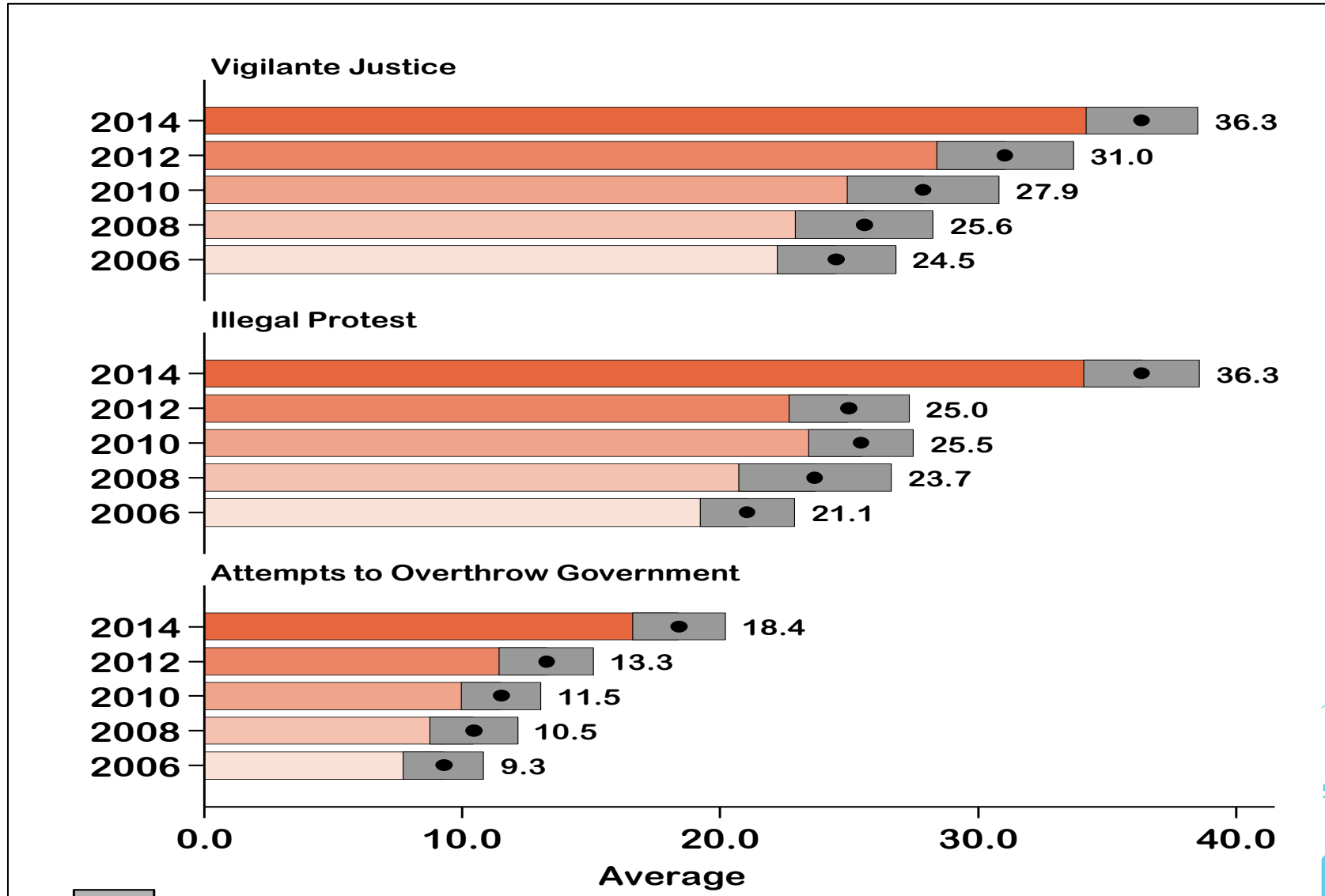
Democratic Deficit: Weak Governance

Declining Community Engagement



Democratic Deficit: Weak Governance

Negative Social/Political Activism



Democratic Deficit: Weak Governance

Declining Voter Turn-Out

Year of General Election	Total # of Voters	% Voters	Total # of Non-voters	% Non-voters	# Electors on Voter's List
2016	870,663	47.72%	953,747	52.28%	1,824,410
2011	876,310	53.17%	771,726	46.83%	1,648,036
2007	821,325	61.38%	516,821	38.62%	1,338,146
2002	768,282	59.02%	533,356	40.98%	1,301,638
1997	771,068	65.22%	411,224	34.78%	1,182,292
1993	675,296	67.36%	327,275	32.64%	1,002,571
1989	845,485	78.38%	233,275	21.62%	1,078,760
1983	26,543	2.68%	964,043	97.32%	990,586
1980	860,746	86.91%	129,671	13.09%	990,417
1976	742,149	85.21%	128,823	14.79%	870,972
1972	447,771	73.93%	157,891	26.07%	605,662
1967	446,815	82.24%	96,492	17.76%	543,307
1962	580,517	72.88%	216,023	27.12%	796,540
1959	564,071	66.09%	289,468	33.91%	853,539
1955	495,680	65.11%	265,558	34.89%	761,238
1949	477,107	65.16%	255,110	34.84%	732,217
1944	389,109	58.68%	273,960	41.32%	663,069

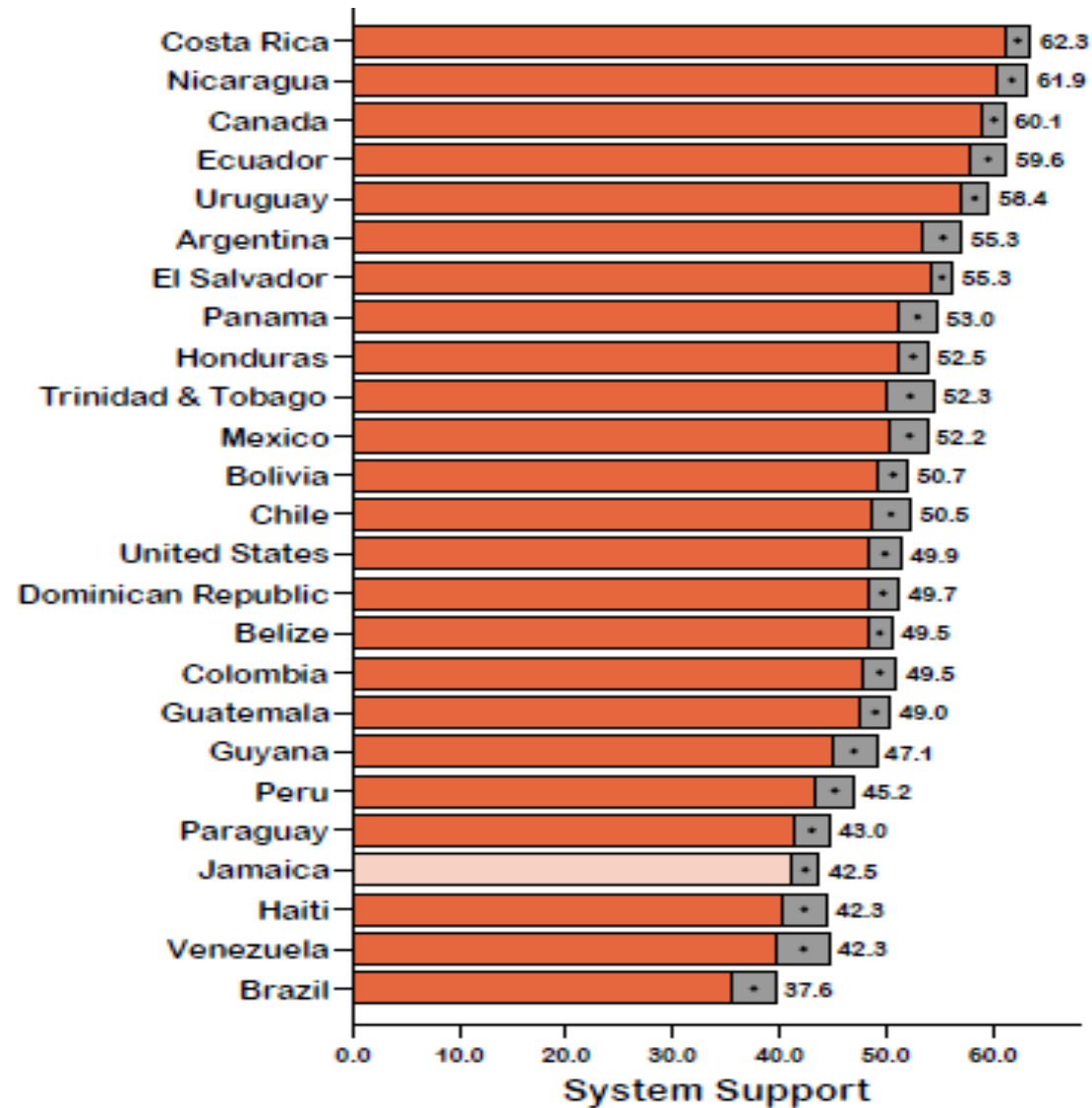
LOW VOTER TURNOUT

- **UTech, Jamaica Survey (2016)**
 - **60%** of respondents who **did NOT vote** in the last general election. They explained why:
 - ✓ **74%** reported: **I just wasn't interested in the election or in voting /just could not be bothered**
 - ✓ **72%** reported: **There is too much corruption in government; I have no confidence in the system**
 - ✓ **64%** reported: **Two main political parties are the same; no real choice**
 - ✓ **59%** reported: **I have no confidence in the Electoral Process**
 - ✓ **54%** reported: **Political and economic system is controlled by a few rich people and benefits them and not the majority of Jamaicans**



Democratic Deficit: Weak Governance

Low Degree of System Support



Democratic Deficit: Weak Governance

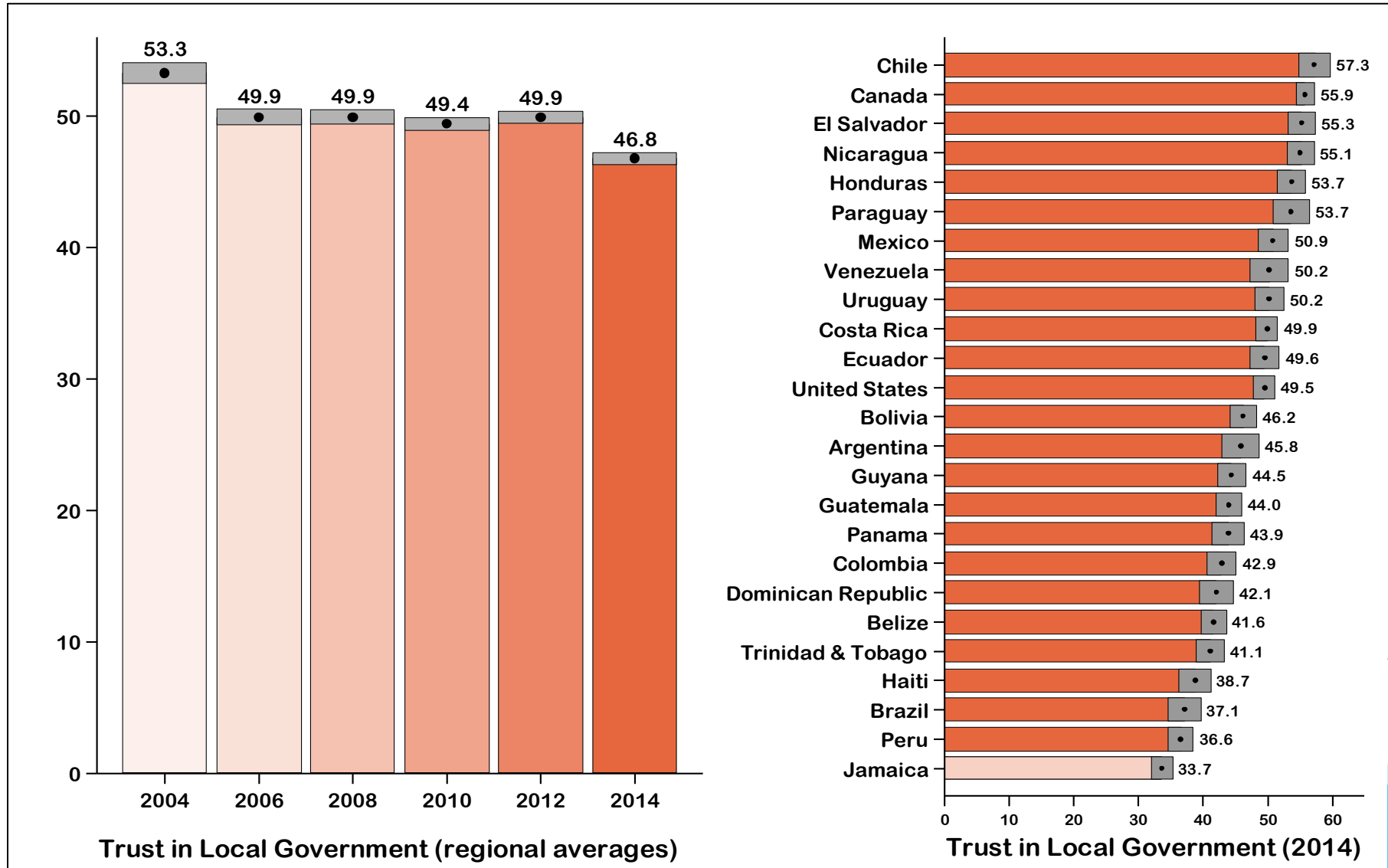
Declining Trust and Confidence

[between 2012 and 2014 on scale of 0 to 100 (LAPOP 2014)]

- ▶ In Political Parties - from 40.1 to 28.1
- ▶ In Parliament - from 45.9 to 31.9
- ▶ In Justice System - from 52.6 to 41.1
- ▶ In Elections - from 49.6 to 37.2
- ▶ In Police - from 48 to 38.3

Democratic Deficit: Weak Governance

Lowest Trust in Local Government



Overcoming Governance Deficit: Improving Citizen Participation

- **Building people's sense of their power to influence governments, socio-political events - 74% “not much you can do to influence governments”; 64% “no difference which party wins elections (LAPOP, 2010; UTech, Ja survey, 2016).**
 - ❖ Advocacy Training Workshops
- **Strengthening civil society organizations in combatting a culture of lawlessness. Example: Integrity Clubs in secondary schools & tertiary institutions; Youth Ambassador programme... *executed through Youth Crime Watch Jamaica and other sub-awardees***
 - ❖ In June 2017, 120 youth ambassadors were graduated from a 20 hrs training programme using NIA's Integrity Ambassadors Manual

Overcoming Governance Deficit: Improving Citizen Participation

- In 2013, NIA partnered with other organizations to undertake a **series of town hall meetings** to raise public awareness and to secure thousands of signatures for a **PETITION urging action on local governance reform.**

Overcoming Governance Deficit: Town Hall Meeting



- ❖ Mayor of Kingston, Senator Angela Brown Burke (centre); is in conversation with Parish Manager, Social Development Commission (SDC), Sandra Goulbourne (left); and Parish Development Committee Chairman, Joseph Cox; during the Conference of Community Development Committees (CDCs) on Feb 27, 2014 where community leaders call for the urgent passage of the Local Governance Act. Representatives from Kingston and St. Andrew CDC signed a copy of the petition at the conference held at the St. Andrew Parish Church Hall.

**“We strongly urge our
representatives in
Parliament to review
and pass the Act
forthwith.”**



The Town Hall meetings & petition speeded up action by Parliament to pass the **Local Governance Act 2016**

In January 2016, three (3) strategic Acts pivotal to the Local Government reform process were passed:

Local Governance Act
Local Government (Unified Service and Employment) Act
Local Government (Financing and Financial Management) Act

According to Minister of Justice, Mark Golding, the Acts will “give Local Government the modern legislative tools that are needed for optimal responsiveness to communities and citizens.”

Overcoming Governance Deficit: Civic Responsibility & Advocacy Workshops



Overcoming Governance Deficit: Participatory Budgeting

JAMAICA'S CITIZENS' BUDGET AND GUIDE

March 2016



Local Government (Financing and Financial Management) Act, s. 4:
“Prior to submitting any strategic plan and budget to the Minister for approval...the relevant Local Authority shall ensure that the public is given an opportunity to consider and give feedback on a draft of the strategic plan and budget to be submitted.”

Concluding Remarks

- Much more work is needed to improve citizen participation.
- Initiatives, such as the town hall meetings and petitions, not only contributed to strengthening governance institutions but also to enhancing NIA credibility amongst the people.
- **47%** of Jamaican people have heard of NIA...Of these **82%** are 'very' or 'somewhat' satisfied with their work. (*Preliminary unpublished findings LAPOP, 2017*)

Thank You!